



The Martlet

Issue Number 5

April 2002



SUSSEX C.C.C. ACADEMY & YOUTH CRICKET

Our sponsorship of the Academy at Hove continued in 2001. This support enabled the Academy to play a variety of fixtures ranging from three day matches against other academies such as Yorkshire and Somerset, to matches with clubs like ourselves. Our match with the academy was the first Martlets fixture at Hove for several years and the youngsters won a close, high scoring match.

The Academy has attracted substantial support from the ECB for 2002 and has become a regional centre of excellence. Keith Greenfield has been appointed to take charge of this new development. The Martlets will continue to support youth cricket in Sussex by sponsoring a program of coaching sessions for cricketers just outside the Academy, but who have the potential to become professional cricketers.

Finally, earlier this year the Martlets made a donation of £1000 to the Cricket Year Zero appeal. This is the project to create a new outdoor youth cricket facility at Blackstone, near Henfield, that will become a centre for youth cricket in the county. About £500 was raised directly from members and £500 was donated from Club funds.

Charlie Hartridge.

Message from David Gilbert

.... The experience at Sussex was a tremendous one and has prepared me greatly for my new challenge with NSWCA. It was a nice way to bow out. Promotion to

Ben Green presenting Ian Waring of Sussex C.C.C with the Martlets sponsorship cheque for the Academy

Division 1 was satisfying and winning the Division was the icing on the cake. Best of luck with the Martlets and thanks again for your fantastic support.

MARTLETS IN THE NEWS

Tim O'Gorman was responsible for assessing the security arrangements for the England Tour to India. He was sent on behalf of "Team England" at the request of the cricketers from that group who wanted a lawyer to check the security arrangements independently of the ECB. His 25 page report was positive and concluded that provided certain recommendations and safeguards were implemented, the tour would be able to proceed.

Alex Halliday has recently been selected for the MCC "A" tour to Malaysia & Singapore in June 2002. Also in the party are Mark Crawley (Lancs and Notts), Simon Ecclestone (Somerset) as well as the Australians Darren Berry and Joe Dawes. It is his first such tour and we wish him every success.

Sandy Ross has been appointed to run his second MCC "C" tour, this time to Italy in September 2002.

FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIRMAN:

The last three years have flown by and the time has come for me to pass the mantle of Chairmanship to a most worthy successor in Sandy Ross. I know that under his stewardship, the Club will flourish and he is already putting forward progressive ideas in his own inimitable, enthusiastic manner!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people for their unstinting support of me over the past three years during which it has been my honour and privilege to serve as Club Chairman.

Our Honorary Secretary, Charlie Hartridge, has been outstanding, not only in support of me but also the Club. His dedication, loyalty and hard work have created a professional image for the Club and has assisted me enormously in my term of office. Thank you Charlie very much indeed.

To the Committee go my sincere thanks for their hard work and loyalty. Our meetings have been great fun as well as being most productive. Attendance has been higher in the last three years than ever before and we have got through a substantial amount of Club business.

To all Officers of the Club I pass my grateful and sincere thanks for their on-going service and for supporting me as Chairman. They serve the Club year by year with little public acknowledgement by way of praise for the splendid jobs they do. Keith Manning, in his role as Honorary Fixtures Secretary, does a magnificent job in putting our fixtures together every year. This is an onerous task and yet he has done it for many years without complaint, with great efficiency and much enthusiasm. Richard Moore has been our Honorary Treasurer for more years than he may wish to admit to but again, he displays calm efficiency in all that he does on our behalf. John Bushell, Honorary Secretary of the Junior Martlets has done a splendid job over the past few years in creating a strong 'nursery' of talent and the largest pool of Junior players that we have ever had. The Juniors' results reflect the encouragement and coaching provided by John and his team.

To Match Managers, Umpires and Scorers without whom the Club cannot operate, may I thank you all for the time and effort you put in on behalf of the Club. The future of Wandering Cricket will be dependent upon Match Managers and their ability to take on the responsibility for which they have been appointed and ensure that they produce strong balanced sides on all occasions. This is so vital for our future. Special thanks

must go to Richard Gutteridge for all his tireless work supporting the match managers throughout the season.

To all the above go my sincerest thanks. The Club is in very safe hands!

Adrian Ford

FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN:

What a wonderful time to be taking over as Chairman of our famous club - and when Sussex sport is on such a "high": Sussex promoted to Division 1 of the County Championship and Brighton riding high in Division 2 after being promoted as Division 3 champions.

For my part, I am greatly honoured and very proud to be your Chairman for the next two years, when I shall be handing over to Nigel Russell. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Adrian Ford - what a splendid job he has done as Chairman for these last four years; he is going to be a very difficult act to follow. He has raised the standing of the club immensely due to an incredible amount of hard work coupled with charm and courtesy. He must take particular credit for the Martlets' Tour of Australia in 2000, which was such a success.

We had quite a good 2001 season. E-mail helped considerably with getting sides together. We still provide a terrific alternative or extra to League Cricket - as I know from my own experiences. For 2002, we must try and raise the QUALITY of our sides and to this end I must ask our Match Managers to be more proactive. Better sides means better cricket means wins means more want to play and so on. I must also ask our cricketers to find suitable replacements if they ever have to cry off. It is just not fair on match managers to find they are short on the eve of a game.

In case I sound as if I am getting too intense, Diana and I are hosting a couple of parties this winter for Vice Presidents, committee members and match managers. If these prove successful, maybe we'll move on to batters, bowlers and even fielders!

We are now starting to plan for our Centenary in 2005 - a small committee of myself, Adrian Ford, Nigel Russell, Ham Whitty, John Goodacre and Alan Wadey has been formed. Please contact any one of us with your ideas and thoughts: a dinner/ball/ tour etc.

We shall all try to continue to do our bit to support Sussex cricket, which is so dear to us all.

Sandy Ross.

MARTLETS CRICKET 2001

The early part of the season saw a familiar challenge - the weather. The terrible outbreak of foot and mouth also cast a shadow over our fixtures, as grounds such as Goodwood and Fletching were affected.

The fixture list this year was also shorter than ever before with the aim of consolidating our position. In addition, in order not to compete with club or Old Boy cricket, we tried to avoid Saturdays in favour of mid-week or where possible, Sundays. This proved successful.

We were delighted to be guests at the County Ground this year for our annual game against the Sussex County Cricket Academy. It was an extremely close game and was an experience many Martlets present had not had before and it is a real feather in our cap that we have been able to reinstate this venue on our fixture list.

It is impossible to mention all the highlights, but the Brighton College match stands out. John Goodacre reported that Grant Skinner and Alex Halliday could only occasionally be glimpsed at the wicket through the drifting fog. "Reports of the wreck of the Marie Celeste drifting past in the fog were interspersed with canon balls peppering the pavilion and adjoining buildings and misty figures in white holding up both hands, no doubt whilst walking the plank! Little did we in the warm confines of the pavilion realise that Halliday was on his way to an unbeaten 158 and similarly, Skinner to 81". The school were left to chase 261 and got them with 4 overs to spare!

Our thanks must go to Keith Manning, who again organised the fixture list. In between rounds of golf at Gleneagles, Keith is always almost one season ahead of us. Next year Keith is organising and managing a four-day tour to Jersey at the end of next season. Phone him now to avoid disappointment!

The greatest problem we face each year is communication and John Goodacre's addiction to the e-mail has been most beneficial. Our greatest strength is our band of match managers. However, it would help them considerably if there were more members who actually applied for games. It would also be good to see one or two old faces that we haven't seen for some time...

Our thanks go to the umpires and scorers who contribute to the smooth running of our games and indeed also to the groundsmen who allow us to play on some of the

best grounds in Sussex. Charlie Hartridge's immense work as secretary must again be emphasised and appreciated. Lastly, Adrian Ford must take credit for building up our relationship with everyone at Arundel Castle and helping reinstate the fixture at Hove. Both these venues are key to the Martlets' future and we are indebted to Adrian for all the time and effort he has put in on our behalf.

Richard Gutteridge

2001 GOLFING MEMORIES

After such a dismal wet winter, it was good to get out onto the golf course on April Fools' Day that, despite everything, was in wonderfully good condition. A narrow loss by one hole was repeated at West Sussex a week later, though the margin was a little larger, and sadly over 18 holes only, as the weather put paid to further golf after the customary gourmet lunch. Nigel Smith was manager for the day, Geoff Seaton being away on County Cricketer duty as Captain of their golfing society for the year, a singular honour upon which we congratulate him.

The fourth annual golf day at the Mid Sussex Golf Club took place in mid-April, excellently organised again by John Whittaker. This is a fun day for all "golfing cricketer" Martlets to get together for a round of golf and a good lunch; it was good to see such old friends as Adrian Ford, Ted Lewis, Nigel Russell and Brian O'Gorman among the 18 competing for the Martlets Trophy, and **I do urge any and all golfing Martlets to turn out next year on 19 April.** The Spring fixtures were completed with another splendid win at Hankley Common, a great favourite with all golfers.

The rain did its best to spoil the Autumn programme, particularly at Brighton & Hove and Cooden Beach, the latter game being halved as was an exciting match at Seaford, when it only rained for the last hour. We narrowly lost a close and enjoyable game at Piltdown by one match, were not quite good enough for Littlehampton (despite Simon Morgan turning out "a brilliant side on paper"), but ended the season with a famous victory at Rye. Well played Warwick!

For the 2002 season we welcome three new match managers. John Guess, who played in every 2001 match, takes over from Gordon Smyth at Hankley Common, Charlie Hartridge inherits Cooden Beach from John Whittaker and Neil Bushell will manage the Brighton & Hove match. We would all like to thank Gordon and John for their enthusiastic and dedicated leadership over many years, and wish all Martlets happy golfing in 2002.

Ham Whitty

Welcome to The Middle Page Spread - a collection of odds and ends: some fact and some fiction (can you tell the difference?). Please feel free to contribute questions, answers, pearls of Wisden (?), anecdotes, complaints, moments of mirth on or off the field of play.

MARTLETS ON LINE....

This year many a Martlet team has come together thanks to e-mail. John Goodacre has led the way and Patrick Goodwin passed on this antidote to cricketing depression following the First Test against the Australians:

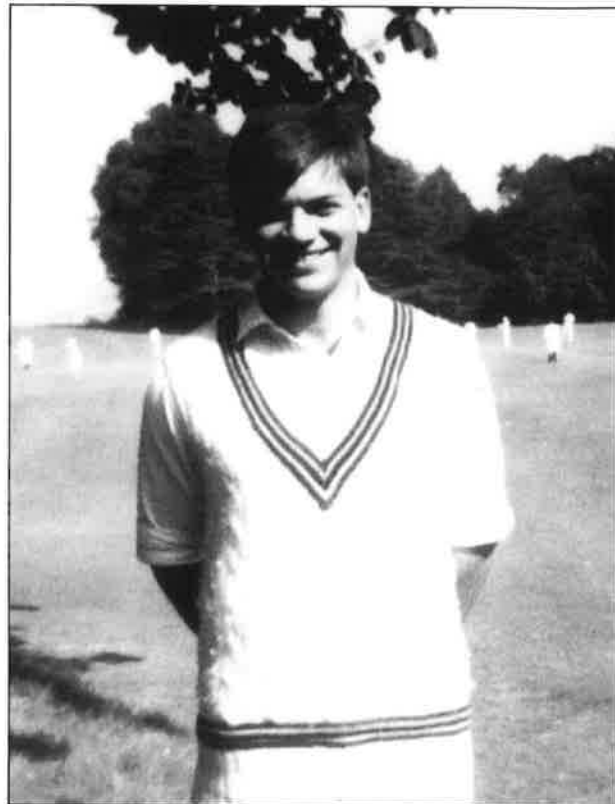
London , Sunday : Following the crushing defeat of England in the First Test, the International Cricket Council has imposed a new set of rules to make the contest more even. The new rules were formulated in conjunction with James Miller, aged 9, of Enfield and his school chums .

1. England has been granted an electric wicket, freeing up wicketkeeper Alex Stewart to defend the boundary. Under the rule, Australian batsmen will be deemed out "caught behind" if the ball snicks their bat and lands in the immediate area behind the wicket.
2. In addition, Australia is under strict "tip and run" restrictions, which require they take a run off every ball they hit.
3. Following his performance in the First Test Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist has "six and out" restrictions imposed on him. As well, following complaints from English fielders, Gilchrist will have to get the ball if it goes across the road.
4. Instead of using a bat, Slater will now be obliged to use his arm with jumper wrapped around it.
5. New rules for England include "one hand, one bounce" while they are fielding, and the provision for "last man carries" when they are batting.
6. A spokesperson for the ICC also announced that following six successive ducks "from now on Craig White can't get out for a duck". The English medium pace bowler will also be allowed to wrap the ball's seam with electrical tape when he's bowling in the second innings.
7. The spokesperson added there will be "no LB" for English batsmen unless "it is really, really obvious."
8. Shane Warne has conceded that its "fair enough" that he has to bowl underarm (but not molly grubbers) to the English tail end.

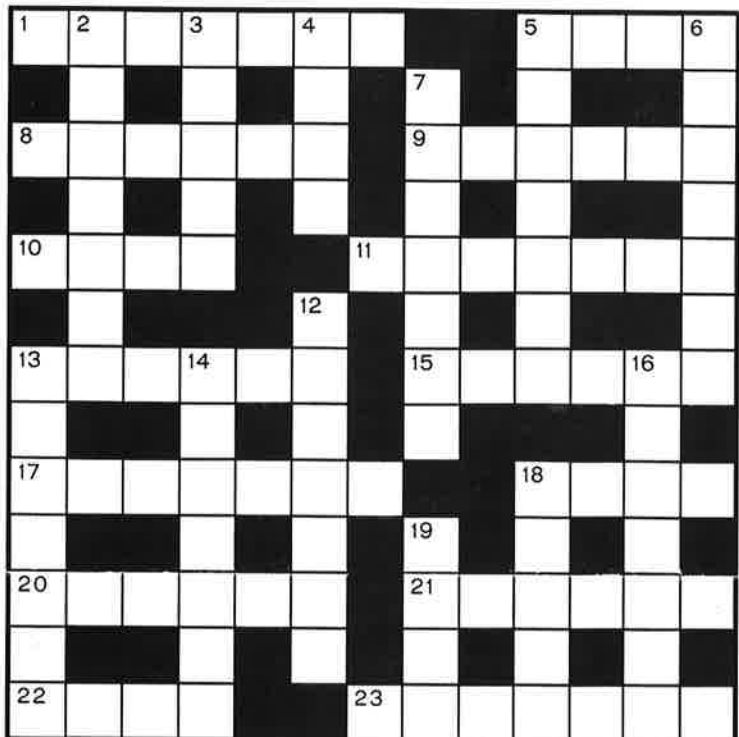
NOT THE SUSSEX ACADEMY....

Umpire: Are you going to bowl over the wicket or around the wicket?
Small boy: (looking at the umpire as if he was a complete idiot) Well actually I was thinking of bowling AT the wicket.
(Is this where English cricket has been going wrong?)

T H E M I D D L E



**Sandy Ross Arundel 1978 (above)
 Chairmen Past & Present (above right)**
*How does Sandy Ross still look so young?
 Is it thanks to a) his short run-up (b) Grecian
 2000 (c) good clean healthy living or (d)
 something else...?*



PAGE SPREAD



This crossword has very kindly been provided by Dr. Jeff Aronson. When not working at the day job or playing cricket, he regularly compiles crosswords for the Daily Telegraph. **The first correct grid returned to the editor wins a free lunch at the Martlets v The Earl's game at Arundel on August 19th.**

Across

- 1 Bird, second of umpires with skill, to suffer (7)
- 5 Crossing, fellow's run out returning and departs (4)
- 8 A striker gets directions and lets up (6)
- 9 1 with judgement (6)
- 10 Came into sight on the South coast (4)
- 11 Duchess gets 50 in a burst, including a six (7)
- 13 1 right-handed bat? Right! (6)
- 15 Ecstasy—chaps get 500 at start of season—but that changes (6)
- 17 Thrilling six, then refuse to bat at last (7)
- 18 1 fast bowler, a bit slow at present? (4)
- 20 Having run back, led perversely to push the ball about (6)
- 21 Is mid-on mostly making peculiar expressions? (6)
- 22 1 run out on square at start of session? (4)
- 23 Did sin with bit of grass maybe? (7)

NOT QUITE CRICKET....

There was a time when the captain of a Martlet team would turn up about an hour before play, in order to talk to the groundsmen, post the batting order in the dressing room, individually welcome each of his players as they arrived and effect the toss. Dressed in immaculate whites and resplendent in Martlet, MCC or FF blazer, he would stride to the centre, toss and shake hands with his opposite number. If he won, he batted; if he lost he was required to field.

"Disgusted" of Tunbridge Wells has informed your editor that standards are slipping. One of our esteemed captains whose name should remain anonymous (but was in fact Jonathan Wills) experienced a "puncture" on his way to the Lancing Rovers game. "Disgusted" was surprised that neither Mr Wills or his driver was able to fix the problem or find a taxi. He was horrified to learn that our captain therefore resorted to a new-fangled device known as the "mobile telephone" in order to conduct the toss from the kerbside.

At least at this point some old-fashioned decency prevailed. The opposition captain happened to be a decent chap (i.e. a fellow Martlet - Jon Carr). The toss took place over the phone and Jon kindly conceded that the Martlets had called correctly. Our captain should not have needed to trouble his phone bill further, but he felt it necessary to enquire as to the state of the pitch and the Martlet dressing room (i.e. how many Martlets were on the ground). The answer was "flat and four". We batted first and lost by 6 wickets (which is NOT the point).

(Question: In his entire career, how many times has Johnny actually been on time? Ed)

Down

- 2 Fast bowler, one with sombre bent? (7)
- 3 Lord's for example? Bird gets 50 with Yorkshire at last (5)
- 4 Direction taken by Essex bowler? (4)
- 5 Joyful fellow I've set about (7)
- 6 Lowers average with Devitt going about (7)
- 7 Set wear, perhaps, on cricket field? (7)
- 12 1 plays here; was first to turn up after one run (7)
- 13 One who foretells splendid end to tour (7)
- 14 Tired, as upset by sledgings (7)
- 16 "Through the gate." He's in control there! (7)
- 18 Runner with 23 hit the ball high in the air (5)
- 19 New Zealander, knight, gets one wicket then another one (4)

THE JUNIOR MARTLETS 2001

It is a pleasure to report that the Juniors enjoyed an excellent season. Good results were combined with enthusiasm, humour and good behaviour.

A strong pool of young cricketers of diverse ages, backgrounds and schools achieved what I believe in modern terms is called "bonding", but which the old-fashioned amongst us would call "team spirit".

The Babes of Kent were beaten by 203 runs with Alastair Awcock taking 6-15 (including an all-bowled hat-trick), following some excellent batting from Oliver Cove (85) and Alex Collier (54). We drew with Brighton & Hove in a tight finish with the Juniors finishing just 4 runs short of victory, and also with the Junior Bluemantles. The Hoggetts were defeated by 9 wkts and the season ended with an excellent game against the Club at Arundel. Having restricted the Martlets to 190-7 with some excellent bowling and fielding, the A level results, which came out that morning, went to their heads and wickets fell to the wiles of Sandy Ross, Johnny Wills & Simon Doggart. The final wicket fell in the last over, nine runs short. In the tea interval, Sussex Martlet ties were awarded to Alastair Awcock, Oliver Cove and Ed Williams in recognition of their contributions to Junior Martlet cricket over the past two years.

The enforced policy of playing much younger boys, which started four years ago has certainly paid off. Those who started with the Junior Martlets two or three years ago were undoubtedly the engine room of this team's success. There is still no guarantee that they will continue in the game, yet alone in our form of wandering cricket. The lack of encouragement for cricket in state schools is put forward as one of the root causes of the weakness of our test teams compared with say Australia or South Africa. I believe the problem is deeper than that. The clubs at all levels throughout the land have thriving youth sections, particularly up to the age of 16, but far too many drop out of the game altogether, never mind progressing towards the national team. Somehow an incentive must be found to keep young people in the game. It is a vicious circle, as a truly successful national team such as Australia has provides just that incentive. The Junior Martlets have a pool of young players to carry forward to next season, but this constantly requires renewing. The response from members this year for names of young cricketers has been very disappointing and I must ask you all to make greater efforts to put forward names of boys from the age of 14.

Thanks are due to the supportive parents who helped with transport, particularly Trevor Thorne, David Cove and Lorraine Awcock. Thanks are also due to Derek Semmence for organising and running the under 15 game against Brighton & Hove and to Dennis McAlister for all his help.

John Bushell

JUNIOR & YOUNG MARTLETS (UNDER 23)

The committee decided at their last meeting that next season the cost of the **match fee (£3) + lunch & tea** (now often in excess of £10) will be capped for you at **£10**. Any amount over £10 will be paid by the Club.

NOT SO JUNIOR MARTLETS....

Brian O'Gorman - 50 years a Martlet

Just think how much the game of cricket has changed in the last fifty years. The end of the amateur/professional divide, the ICC, the TCCB, the World Cup, Kerry Packer's circus, coloured clothing, white balls, the ECB, two divisions, central contracts. The list is endless. The cricket world is a changing place and one wonders if the Sussex Martlets has changed as much. Perhaps it has not changed, perhaps it has simply been a rock of stability, but Brian would be better placed to judge this than any one because in 2002 he will complete a remarkable 50 years as a playing member.

He made his debut for the club before any of these were even dreamed of and is still playing long after many have been forgotten.

His debut was for the Junior Martlets in a one match trial. MD Nelligan, the great doyen of the club who ran the Junior Martlets, allowed him just the one game. He believed in breaking his charges in slowly. If they did all right, if they looked the part, they could join the following year.

Brian played his trial and a full fixture list duly arrived before the next season began and he was allowed to join in 1952. Just imagine the enthusiasm with which that card was received by a fifteen year old boy. Just think; when the school term was over, there would be cricket every day. And then, consider how many cards have fallen on the mat since. It is a sizeable post bag but, to appreciate the man, then understand that this enthusiasm and excitement has never diminished. Each card and each new season has been received with equal delight and anticipation.



Brian O’Gorman (centre) flanked by Geoff Wills (left) & Derek Semmence (right). A combined total of nearly 200 years of experience!

He announced his arrival on the scene by taking 3 for 9 for the club against Horsham. As a schoolboy, it was one of his first men’s matches and it ushered in an extraordinary career. In sporting colemanballs it was a career of three halves, first as young leg spinner; then, after national service in Africa, as an opening bat and latterly as a canny off spinner.

His best score for the club is 131* at Hove against the Harrow Wanderers in 1966. But if you ask him, he thinks his 113 vs The Buccaneers in 1962 was a better innings. “The bowling was more testing and the wicket more difficult” he muses. Who would disagree? He knows his cricket, he discusses it regularly and as he often says, “you can exhaust yourself, but never your subject.”

He is an inexhaustible font of knowledge. He can remember people and matches from long ago as if they happened yesterday. He simply loves cricket in general and playing for the Martlets in particular. In the summer holidays, he regularly used to travel to Hove to open the batting and who can blame him; fantastic team mates, a first class pitch, usually excellent weather and competitive but friendly opponents.

He remembers the Martlets tour to South Africa in 1971 with particular fondness. It was one of the most testing he had ever been on. The South Africans had been expelled from international cricket, their tour had been cancelled and the D’Oliveira affair was fresh in the mind.

It was a country with wounded pride and everything to prove. In almost every game there was a Springbok racing in to prove a point. It was high class club cricket at its very best. Each side was laced with first class players (Mike Griffiths captained the Martlets) and success was well earned but hard to come by. It was, he remembers, a great learning experience and a real challenge.

With the perspective of history it was certainly a high point, but it would be wrong to single it out because there have been plenty of others. As his batting declined his bowling improved. Ying and yang if you like. It has given him a completely new lease of life and while most of his contemporaries have long since retired, he now picks up regular hauls of five wickets. His best figures for the club were 7 for 50 against the Flycatchers at Arundel Castle in 1986. Arundel is always a difficult place to bowl and wickets are a highly prized commodity, but with patience, experience and guile he gets more than his fair share.

Who knows how long he will continue, but as he says, “As long as the wickets keep coming and I can still cope in the field, I’ll keep going”

We hope he does, as we celebrate a wonderful career of a great servant of the club.

Derek Lattey replies to Keith Jenkin's article on the Club in the 1950s in last year's Martlet:

(Derek claims he still holds the record for the highest individual score made by a Martlet since the war: 176 against the Old Brightonians - whether this was another foggy day I'm not sure! Ed).*

I once played in a match at Hove in which all three of those sixty-year-old "gentlemen of leisure" (Bill Kenning, Leslie Beeson & Cecil Somerset) were playing. Bill bowled a very slow and rather wide offering to an opposition player of similarly advanced years. The batsman lunged at it and got an edge. The ball slowly struck Cecil on his chest and then even more slowly rolled down his tummy to the ground. Bill collapsed in laughter, Leslie grinned and the brash young man fielding at deep mid-on wanted the ground to open up as he thought such a scene should not have taken place on the County ground.

I think Keith is slightly wrong about the demise of Bill Kenning. He was the self-appointed scourge of crows in the Ditchling area and he went up the trees to destroy the nests and rookeries. On one of these occasions he had a heart attack and died. He then defied many attempts to get him down. I believe the Fire Brigade had to be called in the end. As I remember, he is buried in the Ditchling churchyard beside the ground and endowed his grave so that any batsman who hit a six past his grave would receive a bottle of champagne. I suppose that has been long forgotten. *(Time to revive the fixture? Ed.)*

Another character in the Martlets then was Peter Murray-Willis, who had been a fine cricketer until he had a dreadful accident playing cricket when he collided with some enormous fast bowler and broke his neck. This left him very handicapped, but he continued to run matches. My brother John recounts the time he turned out to play for Peter and found the team consisted of two batsmen, seven fast bowlers, a wicket-keeper and Peter. *(Rather reminiscent of turning out for David Nicholson at Hurstpierpoint as one of five wicket-keepers in the side. Ed)*

**SUNDAY 18th AUGUST 2002
MARTLETS v EARL OF ARUNDEL'S XI**

This is the showpiece match of the year. Come and support the club. Picnics on the bank or lunch in the pavilion - take your pick. For the lunch option, please ring GEOFF WILLS on 07797.711413 or 01534.285192, who will be in touch with the caterers.

Wisdom

SPORTS

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I am sure fellow Martlets would like to join me in expressing thanks to Nick Wisdom for the way he has supported the Martlets over the years. He has just opened a new specialist cricket floor at his shop. If you are in need of a new bat this season, be sure to introduce yourself to Nick as a Martlet for not only an excellent bat selection but also a favourable price!

Having just taken over the production of this cricketing best seller, I would be most grateful if you could give me a few words/lines on anything of interest that crops up during the 2002 season.

And then what happens in the match itself would possibly be of interest too.

Please contact Desmond Devitt (dpdevitt@aol.com) or at Flat 3, 15 Rawlinson Rd., Oxford OX2 6UE).