



The Martlet

Issue Number 6

March 2003



EDDIE HARRISON
(with his daughter Wendy on his 70th birthday)

I am very sad to have to report the passing of our President, Eddie Harrison, who died on 12th December 2002. Eddie did so much for our great club, serving as Secretary for 35 years, from 1950-85. We would not be in the strong position we are today, without his enormous contribution and terrific encouragement of so many – myself included. He gave so much to so many, and left many strong memories of great fun and friendship.

Eddie became President of the Martlets in 1984.

It was a fitting tribute that some fifty Martlets attended his funeral. It is wonderful that his wife and family have asked that any donations should be made to the Harrison Fund. This was set up by Eddie in 1980 on his 70th birthday, to provide funds for young Martlets.

The address at his funeral, which appears in full on the following pages, was given by Simon Rees, a Martlet and a close family friend.

Sandy Ross

EDDIE HARRISON
(1910-2002)

Funeral address given by Simon Rees:

Eddie was born at Westgate House, Chichester on May 25th 1910. The house was next door to the leather tannery, which was the family business owned by his father. There had been a tannery there for hundreds of years, even back to the Domesday Book, and the Harrisons had been involved in it since at least the seventeenth century. They also owned land around here on the coastal plain; in fact Eddie and his forebears were true Sussex men and he was always immensely proud of it. The family soon moved to a rather grand house, Buckingham Park near Old Shoreham, where his brother Peter was born six years later and the boys enjoyed a happy childhood in the country.

Their father was a close friend of Henry, 15th Duke of Norfolk, who had constructed the magnificent cricket ground at Arundel Castle. Although he and the Duke were too old to play cricket themselves, they were said to be wizards at croquet and the Duke loved making the house guests and local friends dress up as chess men or playing cards, so that they could play real live chess or bridge in the courtyard of the castle. Those were the days! So began the long connection, which Eddie was later to enjoy with Duke Bernard and Arundel Castle.

Eddie went to prep school at Cottesmore and on to Harrow in 1924, where he excelled at many sports: notably football, athletics, squash and of course, cricket. However, much to his disappointment, he never quite made the 1st XI because, as his housemaster put it, his cricket was "too agricultural!" When he left school at the end of 1927, his father decided he was needed in the business, so Eddie was denied the opportunity of going to university; something he always later regretted. The next year his father's failing health meant that the family moved again to a town house in Hove, and Eddie was to spend his early twenties enjoying the social and sporting life in and around Brighton and Hove.

Then in 1933 his father died and Eddie found himself at the age of 23 in sole charge of the business in Chichester: Gibbings Harrison & Co, Leather Tanners. He married Susan Hubbard in 1936 and they had a son, Martin, who tragically died earlier this year. Then the war came and leather production was deemed to be a vital industry – the army needed boots – so unlike almost all his contemporaries, Eddie did not join up, but stayed at home keeping the business going. He was, however, involved in night reconnaissance at a secret location on the Downs near Goodwood, which was of particular national importance in

1940, when the threat of invasion was at its height.

As life began to return to normal after the war, Eddie was fully back on the sporting scene and for several seasons played first class cricket, opening the bowling for Sussex, with his great friend Billy Griffith (later Secretary of the MCC) behind the stumps. He was known as Hurricane Harrison, so he must have been quite fast. He also represented England at squash, touring the United States and Canada, and was twice Amateur Doubles Champion.

Eddie had been a member of the Sussex Martlets since leaving school. Before the war, it had been a fairly low profile wandering club with a dozen or so fixtures. With his connections in county cricket, Eddie was an obvious choice in 1950 to succeed as Secretary, as by this time the club was rather run down and in need of a new broom. He set about recruiting new young players from the schools and universities, and enlarging the fixture list. So when Eve appeared and married Eddie in 1952, she can have been under no illusions about what she was taking on; when he was not managing the family firm, he was busy administering and of course playing cricket. In fact, they had to add an extra room to the house, so that Eddie was not disturbed by the new addition to the family, in the shape of Wendy.

The Martlets prospered, and by the 1960s the fixtures numbered well over a hundred, with annual tours to Oxford and Cambridge, designed to attract new members with Sussex connections into the club. Many of us have very happy personal recollections of the marvellous cricketing environment that Eddie had succeeded in creating, and the parties and dinners, which Eve organised so beautifully in the family home. Eddie soldiered on as secretary with the same enthusiasm for 35 years, and was afterwards made President of the club for life.

Eddie first played cricket at Arundel Castle in 1935, for the Martlets against the Duke of Norfolk's XI. I can only quote Eddie's own words as to what happened.

I was young and keen at this stage and could bowl reasonably fast. I see from the records I bowled a lot of overs (he actually took five wickets) and I was very happy when I clean bowled Lord Dunglass (later known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home), who was top scorer. The Duke was next man in. Totally oblivious of the unwritten rule that the Duke had to be allowed at least to get off the mark, I took an extra long run and bowled him all over the place, first

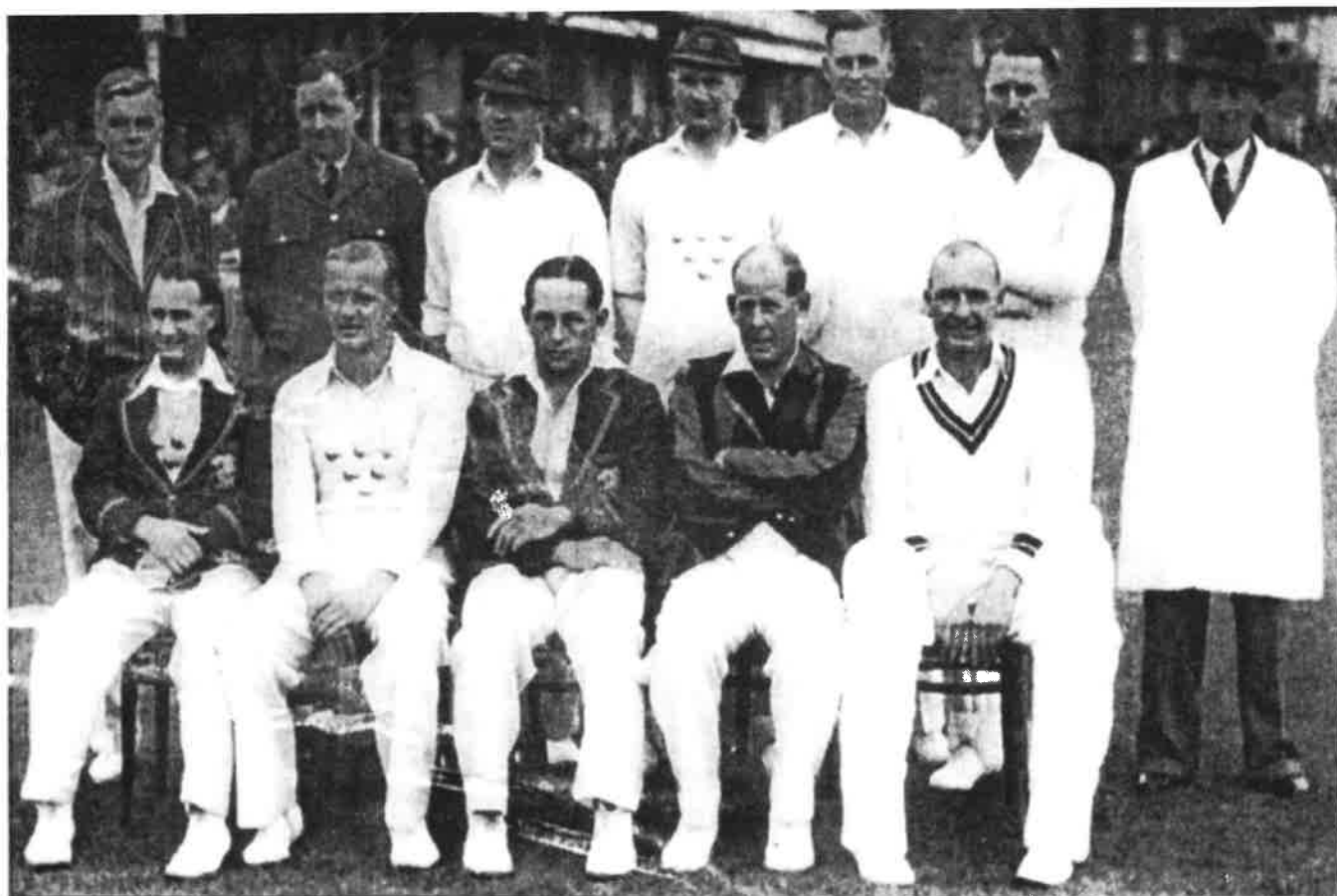
ball. I then stood on a hat trick and was feeling very pleased with myself. However, I noticed there wasn't much sign of celebration and I became aware of the captain bearing down on me. "That was the most appalling piece of bad manners I have ever seen. You must apologise to the Duke, and don't expect to play here again." The innings closed soon afterwards and I made haste to apologise. The Duke fixed me with his famous icy look and said, "You will never play against me on this ground again." My heart sank but then, thank God, a twinkle appeared as he added, "In future, you will always play for me on this ground."

And so it was. Over the next forty years, Eddie played in 79 matches for the Duke of Norfolk's XI, taking 172 wickets at 21 runs apiece. On the occasion of his 100th wicket, a violent storm broke as lunch was being taken in the marquee. Barely audible between the crashes of thunder, the Duke congratulated Eddie on his fine achievement and produced from his pocket a little black Labrador

puppy. They called him Storm and he was forever Eddie's favourite dog, who always accompanied him on shooting days.

Another love of Eddie's sporting life, after he gave up squash, was real tennis. Andy Dawson, who was a neighbour and friend in the late 1950s, set about starting tennis again in the court at Petworth House, which had been out of use for many years. With Eddie's help, the new club was formed in 1959, and matches were arranged at weekends. He subsequently became its Chairman and guided it towards the thriving institution it is today.

Eddie was a staunchly loyal friend, a devoted husband, father and grandfather. "All gentlemen should be players, and all players should be gentlemen" said the old Surrey poet. Eddie was certainly a fine English gentleman; he was also a very fine player and, I would add, a fiercely competitive one to the last.



A Sussex XI played the Australian Services at Hove on 12 September 1945, in a match that the visitors won by 3 wickets. Representing Sussex were, from left to right, standing: A.K. Wilson, C. Oakes (still not demobbed from the RAF), G. Cox, John Langridge, J.K. Nye, D.R. Fell (a South African who occasionally played for the county). Seated: James Langridge, H.T. Bartlett, S.C. Griffith (captain), E.E. Harrison, H.W. Parks.

OBITUARIES

JOHN FARRAR

(A Vice-President of the Martlets since 1966).

I first met John in 1938, when we were both playing cricket for the Prep School team, on Worthing Cricket Ground. I can't remember who our opponents were, but we did not win the match.

There was a gap after that due to Hitler, and we both joined the Navy and did not meet again until after the war.

John went to teach at Hurst Court near Hastings and our paths crossed again when I went to Glengorse in Battle in 1950 and our boys met to play matches against each other.

John was a fine cricketer and a very good coach of the game. He persuaded me to join Hastings Priory and we had some years of good cricket together against teams from London. It was always wise to be on John's side, as he was a very fast bowler.

John became Headmaster of Claremont School, which flourished and is still going strong. After he retired, he taught at nearby Skippers Hill until he finally gave up teaching.

John was a dedicated teacher of History, a born schoolmaster and a great gardener.

Derek Corbett

From the 1950 Sussex Handbook:

SUSSEX MARTLETS' WEEK

The Sussex Martlets had a successful week at the County Ground, Hove... They played three two-day matches, all of which were won and two one-day matches, both of which were lost.

There were three outstanding performances. J.C. Farrar took all 10 wickets in the Hampstead second innings including a hatrick....

Hampstead 149 (J.C. Farrar 5-30) and 71 (J.C. Farrar 10-26); Martlets 286 (M.M. Matthews 68, L.E. Hobbs 68).

DON LANGMEAD

Don was born in 1932 and was 15 months younger than me. He was a Martlet for many years – a useless cricketer like his brother, but he enjoyed the golfing society. He was never a single-figure golfer but was a great competitor. He & I won many a tight match over the years. A farmer all his life, he took over the family farm when Jack, our father, retired. He ran a successful fruit & vegetable business thereafter.

Don in his youth skied to a high standard and played good hockey for the Middleton Sports Club.

Don's death was very sudden – a heart attack which killed in seconds. Don's popularity was evident at his funeral, which was attended by over 300 people. He leaves his wife Judy, four daughters and four grand children.

Ian Langmead

Don & his father, Jack, reached the final of the Fathers & Sons tournament at West Hill in 1956. They were beaten by another Martlet combination: Pat Mathews & Son!

Ham Whitty

DICK BOWEN

Dick was born in Blackheath, but the family moved to Sussex when he was three. He went to school at Mowden, run at the time by Chris Snell's father, before moving on to Charterhouse. Up at Brasenose College in Oxford he read French and Spanish. He played both football and cricket for his college. In later years he enjoyed the annual Martlet tours to Oxford to play against some of the colleges.

After the war he settled in Henfield and went into the market gardening business. In addition, he was a stalwart of the Henfield Music Society and enjoyed playing both the piano and the flute.

Dick leaves his wife, Daphne and three children.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we move towards our Centenary in 2005, an exciting programme is being put together by your committee – launched with a pre-season dance, followed by golf, cricket at several exciting venues, including a short festival at Arundel to include some social activities, and a short tour possibly in Europe, to complete some very special celebrations for our great club. It should be great fun!

After our very successful and much enjoyed recent dinner, I feel that our centenary is only just around the corner – watch this space!

A plea from David Gibbs, who has very kindly agreed to compile an updated Martlet History for 2005: anyone who has any memory or item of interest, please either contact him at Chigwell School or via me. Money can change hands – for inclusion or exclusion!

My sincere thanks to all your officers: the hard working committee, especially Charlie Hartridge, Keith Manning, Richard Moore and John Bushell in their special roles, and to all our match managers, umpires and scorers, who have contributed so much to a happy and successful 2002.

Please try and join the Friends of Arundel C.C. and support cricket at this lovely ground.

Sandy Ross

MARTLETS CRICKET 2002

Despite some indifferent weather, there was much excellent cricket played in 2002, culminating in a highly enjoyable tour to Jersey, and a last over draw between the Seniors and Junior Martlets at Arundel in the last game of the season.

There were wins against Seaford College, XL Club, Yellowhammers and Jersey Island C.C., centuries from Ed McGregor against St George's Weybridge (148*), Richard Seager against Old Amplefordians (116*) and John Roycroft against the Band of Brothers (101), and 4 wicket hauls from Peter Riddy against St George's Weybridge (4-37), Ben Green against Lancing Rovers (4-46), James Lamb against Band Of Brothers (4-42) and Sandy Ross against Newick (4-38) in an exciting draw, where the Chairman's son followed in his father's footsteps by playing his first full game at the age of 16! There were also exciting finishes in the games with the MCC, St George's Weybridge, Bluemantles and the Frogs. 97 Martlets played with 19 year old Ed McGregor starring with 15 played, followed by Johnny Wills and Sandy Ross with 9 each. It was great to see Greg West featuring again after a spell away, Mike Murray (son of the famous West Indian 'keeper), Tiger

Jadeja (all the way from India), Alex Hoare, Ed Bowes, John Goodacre, Anthony McAlister and the evergreen Derek Semmence (who retires from Hurstpierpoint at the end of the 2003 season) all getting plenty of games – among many others of course!

As ever, we need to encourage new members and the young to play more, to secure the future of our great club – there is some fabulous cricket to be played – please spread the word.

There cannot be many clubs as fortunate as us, to be able to play on such a beautiful ground as Arundel – we are forever grateful.

Sandy Ross

RESULTS (P - 28; W - 4; L - 6; D - 9; NR - 9)

Brighton College – Match abandoned
 Martlets 243-2 dec (E.McGregor 148*)
 St George's Weybridge 139-9 (P.Riddy 4-37) DRAW
 Martlets 235-6 dec (G.Foster 86, E.McGregor 70)
 Christ's Hospital 205-3. DRAW
 Lancing College – Match abandoned
 M.C.C. 224-4 dec
 Martlets 220-8 (T.O'Gorman 63, J.Roycroft 41) DRAW
 Stragglers of Asia – Match abandoned
 Goodwood – Match cancelled.
 Free Foresters – Match abandoned.
 Martlets 195 (E.McGregor 68)
 Hurstpierpoint College 198-5. LOST
 Martlets 185 (G.West 61)
 Newick 175-8 (S.Ross 4-38). DRAW.
 Sussex under 19's 298-7 dec.
 Martlets 110. LOST
 Martlets 239-8 dec. (G.Skinner 65, A.Hoare 51*)
 Seaford College 151 (R.Walker 3-32). WON
 Eastbourne College – Match abandoned.
 Honourable Artillery Company – Match cancelled.
 Old Brightonians 271-7 dec.
 Martlets 249 (M.Murray 95) LOST.
 Lancing Rovers 238-7 dec. (B. Green 4-46)
 Martlets 170. LOST
 Martlets 259-9 dec. (R.Seager 116*)
 Old Amplefordians 260-6. LOST
 XL Club 257-5 dec.
 Martlets 260-5 (A.Yeats 86, G.Cole 80, R.Seager 43*) WON
 Martlets 234 (J.Roycroft 101).
 Band of Brothers 220-7 (J.Lamb 4-42). DRAW
 Yellowhammers 195 (J.Wills 3-32)
 Martlets 197-8 (C.Astridge 82). WON.
 Bluemantles 249-9 dec. (J.Wills 3-52)
 Martlets 207-9 (B.Green 43, M.Bush 41). DRAW
 Old Hurstjohnians 181-9 dec.
 Martlets 158-8 (P.Hess 58). DRAW

Cuckfield 230-5 dec.
 Martlets 40-0. MATCH ABANDONED
 Duke of Norfolk's XI 287-3 dec.
 Martlets 187 (Khan 70). LOST
 Frogs 201-6 dec
 Martlets 201-9 (J.Roycroft 48). DRAW
 Martlets 226-5 dec. (D.Semmence 72, M.Bush 55)
 Junior Martlets 224-7 (W.Bickett 3-36). DRAW

Jersey Tour Results

Martlets 164
 Jersey Island C.C. 101 (N.Creed 3-16, A.McAlister 3-17, S.Ross 3-19). WON
 Jersey Island C.C. 173 (B.Green 3-32)
 Martlets 50-3. MATCH ABANDONED

AVERAGES.

Batting (4 innings)

	I	N.O	R	H.S	Av.
R.Seager	4	2	218	116*	109.00
G.West	4	1	125	61	41.67
M.Murray	5	1	147	85	36.75
E.McGregor	15	2	472	148*	36.31
D.Jadeja	5	1	115	33	28.75
B.Green	5	2	80	34*	26.67

(Centuries – E.McGregor, J.Roycroft, R.Seager)

Bowling (5 wkts)

	O	M	R	W	Av.
A.McAlister	22	1	94	7	13.43
P.Riddy	30	8	73	5	14.60
S.Ross	89.1	17	266	16	16.62
D.Semmence	28	4	87	5	17.40
B.Green	68.4	13	270	14	19.29
J.Wills	81.3	9	354	15	23.60
D.Jadeja	53	12	230	5	46.00

(4 wkts – J.Lamb, B.Green, S.Ross, P.Riddy)

THE JUNIOR MARTLETS 2002

It was another good year for our Juniors with full teams and reserves to spare, not always the case last summer.

The results were reasonable, although the standard of cricket played was not quite as good as last year. This is mainly due to the younger average age of the team, a trend that is set to continue.

RESULTS:

Junior Martlets 212 (M. Thomas 56, A. Jeffreys 40)

Babes of Kent 215-8. LOST

A strong Babes team were always winning this game, but we fought well and the Seaford College pair, Matthew

Thomas & Ashley Jeffries batted very well, showing considerable promise.

Brighton & Hove C.C. (Under 15) 182-6 dec.

Junior Martlets 25-2. MATCH ABANDONED

A useful and popular fixture, well organised as ever by Derek Semmence, was spoiled this year by rain.

Junior Martlets 199 (A. Awcock 52, A. Collier 46)

Bluemantles 170-6. DRAW

Despite having six more overs than us, the Bluemantles never really had a go at the target and the game petered out. Tom Filby & George Martin both bowled well, however.

Junior Martlets 265-5 dec. (M. Duddy 68*, A. Jeffries 59)

Hampshire Hoggetts 168 (C. Blockley 4-47) WON.

An impressive performance with good innings from Michael Duddy & Ashley Jeffries, helped at the end by quickfire batting from Matthew Thorne & Charles Blockley, whose leg breaks later proved decisive.

Sussex Martlets 226-5 dec. (D. Semmence 72)

Junior Martlets 224-7 (E. Williams 68, A. Jeffries 50)

It took the senior side 55 overs to reach their score, with Ed Williams & Matthew Thorne bowling very steadily. The Juniors built on an opening stand of 71 from Ashley Jeffries & Matthew Thomas. Ed Williams made a noisy, exuberant 68 and Michael Duddy, a thoughtful captain, shared a quick stand of 60 with Charles Blockley. The Juniors couldn't quite make the total, but came away with great credit.

In conclusion, a plea again to members to forward names of young cricketers. With varied and at best limited support from the schools, personal contact is vital to maintain a supply of Juniors.

John Bushell

THE MARTLET TOUR TO JERSEY

The last bank holiday of the year and cricket was on the menu. A Martlet team arrived on the sunny shores of Jersey early that weekend. The traditional Martlet 'yahoo' from the club chairman greeted the locals, who obviously had not seen or heard foreign tourists before!

We negotiated the narrow roads on our way to the hotels. It's always handy to have an experienced navigator on board - a role that Anthony McAlister was not to repeat that weekend following our initial trip!

The rest of the afternoon was spent at the lovely home of Geoff and Molly Wills, who live in a converted farmhouse with a swimming pool and wonderful garden. We all tried to make sure that we were well behaved in the pool, but that notion was soon blown out of the water literally by Charlie Hartridge showing us all his new Olympic bombing technique! Pool cricket gave way to garden footy as



Back row: Mike Murray, Keith Manning, Ben Green, Ed Bowes, Sandy Ross, Anthony McAlister, Mike Charman.
Front row: Ed McGregor, Johnny Wills, Nick Creed, Alex Hoare, Charlie Hartridge

McAlister, Bowes, Green and McGregor dazzled the small crowd with twenty-touch football! The evening was then spent drinking, eating and viewing local specialities under the beady eye of the author's fiancée.

Sunday brought us to the main purpose of the weekend, two games against J.I.C.C at their ground. Having two players still stuck at Gatwick meant that we batted first on a dry cracking pitch. Runs were hard to come by as they bowled a tight line, and with lunch approaching we were 54-4. Hartridge and Green then put on a fifty partnership as the fielding team's chants of 'Sussex Tartlets' become less frequent. It was then left to Creed, Murray and Co. to score some quick runs as we reached 164.

We all knew that quick wickets were essential before tea. Nick Creed and Anthony McAlister then proceeded to blow away their top order with a hostile opening spell and as we walked off for tea, the score stood at 24-6, J.I.C.C were finding a 'Sussex Tartlet' difficult to digest! After tea they rallied with some aggressive shots, but Sandy Ross with three wickets and Ben Green with one wicket ensured that we won. Keith Manning, our skipper, did have a wicket with his first ball, but due to him shouting and apologising as he released what he thought to be a long hop, the batsman was recalled. The evening was spent at the Club and then on the town, where Ed McGregor displayed his keeping skills off the pitch by catching and holding onto a traffic cone for the night.

The second game was to be an overs game, with J.I.C.C changing their side, and us having a new skipper in Johnny Wills and also making sure that all of us got a game. We fielded first and the Chairman continued where he had left off. Along with Charlie Hartridge, he made sure that runs were difficult to come by. Keith Manning, Ben Green, and Johnny Wills shared the rest of the wickets, as J.I.C.C were bowled out for 173. The wicket of the day saw the Chairman take a running catch at deep mid-on, as the ball was heading towards the boundary. The locals were again treated to the 'Martlet Yahoo' as Sandy celebrated in style!

Unfortunately our innings and the game were curtailed by the weather, but not before Ed Bowes continued his good form with some positive strokeplay. The tour ended with a fantastic dinner at one of the local restaurants with much banter, laughter and the odd speech!!!

Many thanks must go to Keith and Johnny for organising/running/captaining the tour, Geoff and Molly Wills for their kind hospitality, Mike Charman for umpiring, the ladies for supporting us and Sandy for driving us about.

Here is to the Jersey Island Cream Cakes renewing the cricket rivalry very soon.

Ben Green

2002 GOLFING MEMORIES

The start of the year was saddened for Martlet golfers by the news of Don Langmead's sudden death. Don is remembered at greater length elsewhere, but he will be particularly missed by his many golfing friends for his warmth and friendship, his easy manner and a lovely dry sense of humour. He was a very good foursomes partner, a loyal lifetime Martlet and managed the Littlehampton match with charm and efficiency for many years. He is sadly missed on the golf courses of Sussex.

It is good to report that during the year we found some new golfing members to turn out, and in fact the number of active Martlet golfers is now up to 60. Not all play in matches, but the majority do and it would be good to see a few younger Martlets join our ranks to enjoy the fun and the golf with us on some of the best Sussex courses.

Statistically, this year was a little disappointing, the Martlets winning only two out of their eight matches, at Piltown and Seaford. However all the other matches were close, the weather was mostly kind and, as ever, we enjoyed wonderful hospitality and friendship from the members of all our host clubs.

We look forward to next year's golf, when we are delighted to have arranged a new fixture against our old cricketing friends from Kent, the Bluemantles. Andy Morgan will manage this match at Seaford in March.

Ham Whitty

THE MARTLETS DINNER

The 2002 Martlets Dinner at the Old Ship Hotel in Brighton was a memorable occasion for 147 Martlets and friends. The three guest speakers - a dream team if ever there was one: David Sheppard (retiring President of Sussex C.C.C.), Ted Dexter (retiring President of the M.C.C.) and Johnny Barclay (who like David Sheppard led Sussex to 2nd in the County Championship in his time) - were all leading lights of the county, spanning the 1950s-1990s. In their speeches they all displayed their love of Sussex cricket, and the evening was graced too by a number of former Sussex cricketers there to support them: Ian Thomson (who confided that he would have followed Sheppard anywhere), Kenny Suttle (who can forget that Oakman/Suttle Little and Large combination who displayed such enjoyment of the game), Don Bates, Denis Foreman, Richard Langridge, Peter Graves and Rupert Webb (who incidentally had a small part in "Four Weddings and a Funeral" - a bit of Sussex quiz trivia, if ever there was!)

Great credit must go to Chris Gray, Charlie Hartridge, Adrian Ford and in particular Sandy Ross. If the speakers represented the leading Sussex players of their time, Sandy can surely lay claim to being a leading supporter of Sussex cricket. His enthusiasm is boundless and all those present owe him a great debt of gratitude. It simply would not have happened without him.



THE SUSSEX MARTLETS ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 2nd November 2002

The Old Ship Hotel
Brighton

Ted Dexter
SANDY ROSS

Chairman of The Sussex Martlets
will propose a toast to our guests

Peter Graves
Response by *Sandy Ross*
TED DEXTER

Sussex & England
Immediate Past President M.C.C.

Denis Foreman
JOHN BARCLAY
Sussex

Director of Cricket Arundel Castle
will propose a toast to The Sussex Martlets

Response by

**THE RT. REV. LORD SHEPPARD
OF LIVERPOOL**

Sussex & England
President Sussex C.C.C.
David Sheppard

Ian Thomson

Kenny Suttle

Sandy Ross

John Barclay

A DISTRESSED MARTLET IN AUSTRALIA

There are plenty of worse places in the world than Australia to play cricket. The grounds are mostly pretty, enclosed by white picket fences and tall eucalypts. The wickets are hard, and full of pace and bounce. The sky invariably is wide and blue, and the sun warm. A cricketer's lot here is largely a happy one, although there are one or two peripheral issues that can present something of a challenge.

The first concerns the crisp-cold gaseous bilge that passes in Australia for beer. One of the abiding pleasures of Martlet cricket, for instance, was the half-pint of Harveys in the Frog and Firkin after a hard afternoon's graft on a sleepy village ground somewhere at the foot of the Downs. In Australia, the post-match dissection takes place on the concrete steps of a pavilion over a couple of bottles of amber pop that frankly tastes as though it might have passed through a cat. Nor is this an acquired taste: eight years after my arrival Down Under, the local brews still don't cut the mustard.

The curry situation is no less dire. In England it is part of a cricketer's staple diet. No names, no pack-drill, but some of the most cerebral and best thought out post-match analysis I have ever observed in Martlet circles has taken place around the table in a curry house – probably after an hour or two in the Frog and Firkin – assessing the relative merits of various field placings by strategically shuffling onion bahjis and pieces of Bombay aloo around on a linen tablecloth.

For reasons not entirely clear to me, there are not many curry houses in Australia, and certainly very few good ones. Accordingly, the sum of a cricketer's evening sustenance consists of nothing more appetising than a meat pie or two, suffocating beneath a thick dollop of tomato sauce. (This, admittedly, has the benefit of masking what little flavour there is of the gaseous bilge.)

Nothing in cricket, though, is more disconcerting than having to absorb the barrage of derision and scorn that coincides with the arrival of the England touring side every four years. When you're English and there's an Ashes series on, there is nowhere to hide.

At the start of every Ashes campaign Down Under, there is a hope even among Australians that the summer will produce some sort of contest. The Aussies love nothing more than beating England, it's true, but the cricket-watching public have been subdued by the one-sidedness of the past seven Ashes series over nearly 15 years. So every time the latest England team arrive, there is a misplaced hope that they will be better than their predecessors.

When Mike Atherton brought his team out for the 1994/95 series, the consensus was that England were at last a force to be reckoned with, much changed from the one humiliated at home in 1993. The teams went to Brisbane for the first Test in what was expected to be a real hum-dinger of a contest, but once Michael Slater had taken 16 or so from Phil de Freitas in the opening over of the first morning, it became apparent that England would come no closer to winning this series than they had the last.

Much the same anticipation ushered in the first Test of the 2002/03 series. For all the talk that England had found a couple of trusty openers and had improved their overall performance over the past year or so, there was an inescapable sense, as early as the first over in Brisbane on that sun-drenched opening morning in early November, that it was going to be a long, hot summer for the tourists.

Third ball of the morning, from memory, Australia scored their first run when Michael Vaughan let one go through him with a particularly ungainly piece of fielding that immediately handed the batsmen a psychological edge. By the end of the day Australia had passed 350; by the end of the fourth day they had won by an innings.

All the hard work that the Martlets had done in re-establishing England's reputation as a heartland of cricketing excellence during their 2000 tour of Australia was undone in four dismal days at the 'Gabba. Englishmen everywhere were ridiculed without mercy throughout the summer. It was all good-natured enough, but it was relentless and anyone from the Old Country was a target.

"The England football team would have done better," claimed one famously acerbic newspaper.

"They should send for the Royal family," said another. "Charles can't bat, but Camilla Parker-Bowles".

"What would Glenn McGrath be if he was a Pom?" asked a bloke at the bar. "An all-rounder." It would be funny if it weren't true.

Amazingly, England were even more feeble in the second Test in Adelaide than they had been in the first, and the worse they became the more they were lampooned – loud and long. And their compatriots took plenty of stick on their behalf.

There is a glimmer of hope at least that England can strike back against Australia, though not until February, when the two countries play each other at football in a friendly international at Upton Park. That should put the boot firmly on the other foot, unless of course No, let's not even think it.

Jamie Nicholson

THE SUSSEX MARTLET WINTER SURVIVAL KIT

Jamie Nicholson is the Sports Correspondent for the *Canberra Times* and also regularly contributes to *The Cricketer*. Older Martlets will no doubt remember his father David, and younger ones his brother, Tom. Jamie has also kindly provided the brain-teasers below.

THE MARTLET ASHES QUIZ

1. Who was the only Englishman in the 20th Century to take a hat-trick in an Ashes Test?
2. Which two brothers-in-law played against each other in the 2002/03 Ashes series?
3. Who played against England in the opening match of the 2002/03 tour, 25 years after making his Test debut?
4. Who took the first wicket of the 2002/03 Ashes series?
5. At which Australian Test grounds would you find the following:
i) The Cathedral End ii) The Great Southern Stand
iii) The Churchill Stand iv) The Vulture Street End
v) The Fremantle Doctor vi) The Victor Richardson Gates
6. Which 21-year-old Australian took 5 for 69 against England at the WACA in 1986/87?
7. Who were the opposing captains in the Centenary Test in Melbourne?
8. Who were the only two Australians to play Test cricket in the 1970s, the '80s and the '90s?
9. Who is the only Australian to have taken a hat-trick on Test debut?
10. Who is the only member of the 2002/03 England touring party to have played in the final Test of the 1994/95 Ashes series?
11. In relation to Australian cricket, what do Ian Botham, Viv Richards, Graeme Hick and Allan Border have in common?
12. Which Australian bowler clean bowled his cousin in a One-Day International?
13. Which Australian captain took 30 Tests to make his maiden Test hundred, then converted that hundred into a score of more than 300?
14. Which contemporary Australian Test players are known by the following nicknames:
i) Dizzy ii) Boof iii) Punter
iv) Pigeon v) Bing vi) Tugger
15. Which Australian Test captain had two grandsons who also captained Australia?
16. Which is the only Australian state never to have won the Sheffield Shield/Pura Cup?
17. Who holds the record for the most catches by a fielder in Test cricket?
18. What did Mike Brearley bring with him to Australia as England captain in 1979/80 that no other England captain had brought with him since WG Grace?
19. During the first Test in Brisbane in 2002, Matthew Hayden became only the fourth Australian in the history of the Ashes to achieve which feat?
20. Name the three former Australian Test cricketers whose surnames begin with Y.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 th May	Martlets v M.C.C
25 th May	Martlets v Duke of Norfolk's XI
20 th June	Martlet Fathers & Sons v. Newick
8 th August	Martlets v Old Hurst Johnnians

As always, Martlets are encouraged to come and support the Club at Arundel, particularly for the Duke's game. Lunches are available in the pavilion if you don't feel like picnicking.

The Fathers & Sons match is a 12-a-side game, the Martlet team consisting of Ross, Newton, O'Gorman, Seager, Semmence & Wills, all x2. The age range is 17-70!

DEREK SEMMENCE

Derek Semmence's long & glorious reign at Hurstpierpoint is finally coming to an end this summer. On his final day (August 8th), he is captaining the Martlet team against the Old Hurst Johnnians, who will be led by his son, Mark.

TO HELP YOU THROUGH TO THE START OF THE NEW SEASON

THE MARTLET SPRING CROSSWORD

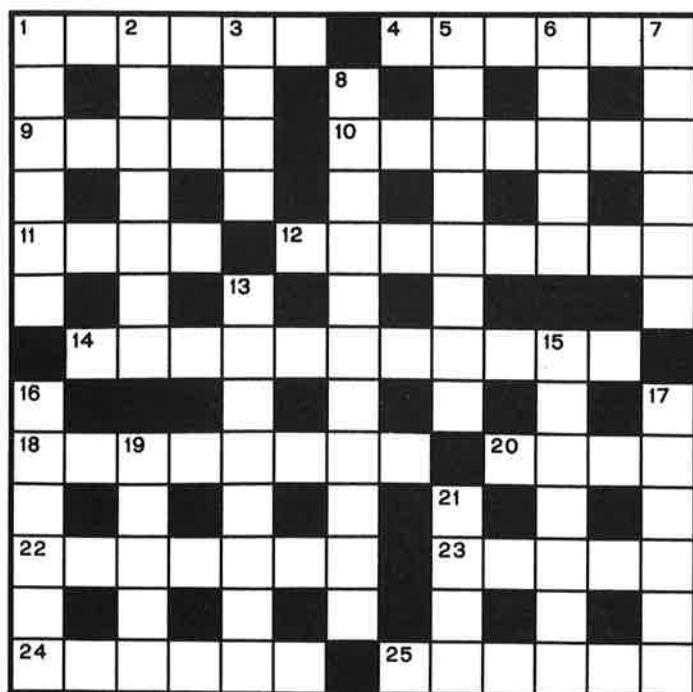
Dr. Jeff Aronson has again very kindly provided this crossword. Those of you who do the Daily Telegraph crossword may recognise the style...

Across

1. Martlet maiden has skill batting (6)
4. What'll we hear? A century twice then two singles (6)
9. It's hot here batting with damaged leg (5)
10. In trouble such as a golfer likes to be? (2,1,4)
11. Consumes tea about start of season (4)
12. A 1 across from Surrey, ringer, gets out to careless nick (8)
14. To whom Aunt Peggy is letting out? (6,5)
18. One getting bowled is then out - heady stuff!(8)
20. Foreign captain starts to get hundred in singles (4)
22. After 1 across journalist has high jinks about two of England's openers (7)
23. Doctor getting caught, trapped by cad coming back (5)
24. Is one's castle defended by this stonewaller? (6)
25. Actor, a 1 across, bowled (50) in a South Africa match initially (6)

Down

1. Girl that gives nothing away? (6)
2. In which a tar gets mostly involved? (7)
3. I'd got about 100 by end of game, then cooled off (4)
5. Posts the score, with sulk about man on the boundary (6,2)
6. A 1 across gets bird at end of game (5)
7. English to wear a medal - that's what I call getting on! (3-3)
8. Presenting Charles with English cap after... (6,5)
13. ...I begin so, organizing celebrity (3,5)
15. A 1 across from Kent droops about runs, say, coming up (7)
16. DJ, a boy, confused by what he did before the evening began? (3-3)
17. Depth of turf at home? (6)
19. Desert half of side in a burst (5)
21. Sports association introduces first two parts of legislation that'll bite! (4)



MARTLETS ON THE WEB!

The Sussex Martlets are now 'live' on the Worldwide Web and can be accessed through the following address:

sussexmartlets.play-cricket.com

Follow the self-registration instructions

We are in the throes of structuring the administration of our site and consequently you will not find much information there at present. However, over the coming months we will gradually develop the site.

The answers to the quiz & crossword will be posted there shortly.

AND FINALLY....

Derek Lattey reports that his "appalling behaviour" did not elicit the same response as Eddie's:

In 1962 I bowled 18 overs at Arundel for the Martlets against the Duke's XI, taking 3 wickets for 80 runs. I never played at Arundel again as, unfortunately, two of my wickets were the Duke and his son-in-law. In both cases I knew the rules and in trying to get them off the mark managed to york their leg stumps with my third attempt at a leg side full-toss. Neither of them got near the first two, which I bowled successively closer to where their bats appeared to flail. The Duke was overheard to remark to the umpire as he trudged off to the boundary tent. "This lad does not know the rules!"

In 1947, I was invited by Eddie Harrison to go on tour with Middleton to Devon and Dorset. I made up the numbers and only played one or two games for Middleton, but played for Torquay in their week. On the way home from an undefeated tour, we had a match at Seaton. Arriving at an empty ground, we were fortunate enough to find a member there who knew of no match against Middleton, but who agreed to raise a scratch team if we would lend him all the "extras" like me. Seaton then ruined the Middleton tour by winning, largely because I had an evil spell, ably assisted by an umpire who could not keep his finger in his pocket, including the much-dissented wickets of John Lock (Sussex 2nd XI) and Hubert & Peter Doggart. None of the Middleton members would talk to me on the way back to Sussex after the match.

Thinking of Eddie's aura, who can forget the booming voice of Chris Saunders from behind the wicket, berating a sloppy piece of Martlet fielding with the comment, "That's an hour's gardening duty at the Mill House!" Ed.

From Keith Jenkin

It has been a sad year for Martlets of my generation. My personal recollection of Eddie Harrison goes back to 1948 and the very forbidding sight of him thundering down the hill at Hurst., red-faced and looking very aggressive. However, I find that the only picture I have of him is in a cinefilm, shot in the Newlands changing room on the Martlets tour to South Africa in 1972, in which he appears smoking a cigar, wearing only a straw hat and jockstrap.

I first saw John Farrar at Hove in 1949. I think the Junior Martlets were at Hove for some reason and we were treated to the awesome sight of John, red hair flying, bowling at full speed and taking all ten Hampstead wickets. Has any other Martlet ever done the same? In later life he turned to crafty leg spinners and rather fancied his batting.

Dick Bowen decided on the rural life and ran a market garden, supplying fruit and veg. to local green grocers. He rarely wore anything other than a very faded Charterhouse cap.

Not so many Martlets will remember Jeremy Piersenne in the 60's. He bowled leg breaks and googlies and on his day was quite lethal.. Not only did the batsman not know which way the ball was going, but frequently neither did the keeper or slips.

I played golf many times with Don Langmead. In later years he only used woods in order to cure a nasty attack of the unmentionables!

On a lighter note, again in the 60's, does anyone remember Neil Bratten? I know he went off to the Middle East and the last time I heard of him was a letter he wrote to the R & A as Secretary of the Royal Kabul Golf Club. He was asking for a ruling on whether unexploded shells and bombs could be treated as immovable objects!

By the time this is published, England may or may not have avoided shaking hands with Mugabe. Maybe this is not quite in same league, but in 1972 certain Martlets shook hands with Ian Smith, at the time the head of a government in rebellion against the Crown!



Ian Smith talks to Martlet Nick Chamberlain (with Basil Woods about to swear an oath of allegiance? Ed).

As always, ideas and articles for *The Martlet* are gratefully received.

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