



(Picture courtesy of Roger Ockenden/S.C.C.C)

John Barclay celebrates at the County Ground, Hove, September 2003.

IN CELEBRATION OF SUSSEX'S SUCCESS

What a thrill it was in October to travel with the Sussex Championship teams, both men and women, to Buckingham Palace. Here the Duke of Edinburgh presented the trophies to the team captains and medals to all the players before joining the happy throng for photographs and conversation. It was a marvellous occasion and certainly worth the long wait.

How extraordinary that it should have taken Sussex so long. We have come mighty close on a few occasions and no more so than in 1981 when, with my biased eye, I would suggest we came within a whisker of triumph.

I am not too good on hard-luck stories but, my word, I do remember a couple of close L.B.W. decisions, which the umpires turned down at crucial moments. How they would have made a difference.

The first was in the closing stages of a match against Gloucestershire, when Sussex needed just one wicket for

victory. I was bowling to the left-handed John Childs, who was defending staunchly until, unexpectedly, he made a misjudgement with only three balls remaining. He padded up to my swinger, essentially my stock ball. Despite my appeal and howls of premature delight, the umpire would have none of it and the match was drawn. How that decision would return to haunt us in the years to come.

Our second moment of near triumph came at Nottingham in August, during a match which was subsequently seen as the crucial game. Nottinghamshire were just a few points ahead of us and victory for either side would have probably clinched the championship title. In their second innings, Nottinghamshire had made something of a mess of their run chase, and with only five overs remaining, Mike Bore, their number eleven batsman, came to the crease. He survived for a short while before Imran Khan struck him a withering blow on the back leg. The whole Sussex team went up together with a shout, which would

have stirred the hearts of Nottingham's commuters leaving their offices on a Tuesday evening. The umpire pondered long and studiously over his decision before giving the benefit of the doubt to the batsman. It was another fish let off the hook.

But now, twenty-two years later, we have made it and in great style too. Never before, may I suggest, has Sussex cricket combined so much individual talent with fine organisation and effective teamwork.

John Barclay

(Mike Bore having been hit by Imran, presumably was incapable of any movement, but clearly John Childs should have walked, and I hope John will be prepared to name and shame these umpires in the next issue. Ed.)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Sussex – 2003 County Champions! What a great summer, never to be forgotten. Our sincere congratulations to everyone involved at Hove.

2003 has been a very happy year for the Martlets too. However, TWO hugely important innings have come to a close: our past Chairman, Adrian Ford has retired from Hardy's and emigrated to Australia with his wife Liz and daughter Emma; and Derek Semmence retired as Cricket Professional and Head Groundsman at Hurstpierpoint College after 29 years. Our game against the Old Hurstjohnnians and a farewell dinner afterwards made it a very memorable occasion for everyone present.

As always, we owe a great debt of gratitude to our officers – especially our wonderful Secretary, Charlie Hartridge, your Committee, the match managers, umpires and scorers. They are all part of a tremendous team without which the club could not function.

We announced our new President during the summer, and it was with very great pleasure that we all welcomed Chris Saunders as our new leader. His term of office will include our centenary in 2005, which promises to be a very memorable year. Please do support these celebrations in any way you can.

As some of you may know, I was lucky enough to manage (and play in!) a recent MCC 'B' Tour to Athens and Corfu, returning in early October. Two of the Sussex squad were in the team and we had so much fun and made so many new friends. Some good cricket was played as well, summing up precisely what our great game is all about.

Shortly afterwards I attended the Sussex League Dinner, and was delighted to see several Martlets present, including Dominic Clapp. John Barclay spoke, and Mike Harrison as captain collected the Second Division League Championship for St. James Montefiore. The mix of playing league cricket and Martlet cricket is definitely one I should like to see encouraged more and more. It certainly worked for me. Please encourage your cricketing friends to join us and enjoy some terrific cricket – remember under 25's enjoy a special fee deal.

Finally, as always our very sincere thanks to everyone at Arundel; we cherish our special relationship – please do join the Friends of Arundel C.C. if you haven't already.

Sandy Ross

CENTENARY PLANS FOR 2005.

Please try to support the following events:

- April 15th Dinner Dance at the Grand Hotel, Brighton.
- May 20th Golfing Day at Mid Sussex Golf Club.
- August 5th Martlets v Junior Martlets (Arundel).
- August 6th Six-a-side Tournament followed by a social evening (Arundel).
- August 7th Martlets v Duke of Norfolk's XI (Arundel).
- Aug/Sept Tour to the South of France (see page 3)

The committee is also hoping to arrange matches at Hove, at Wormsley against a Getty XI, and at Lord's against the Cross Arrows.

CAN YOU HELP? YES!! It is proposed that we run a small but select raffle throughout 2004 in order to raise funds. Does anyone have access to prestigious prizes, or could you make a small contribution or provide some form of sponsorship? For example, we shall be hiring a marquee for the Arundel Cricket Festival, at a likely cost of £1000. If you can assist in any way, please contact me.

Sandy Ross

The History of the Martlets by David Gibbs
(to be published by January 2005).

PLEASE LOOK OUT ANY OLD (OR NEW) MARTLET PHOTOS, STORIES, SCORECARDS, DISTANT MEMORIES THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO DAVID GIBBS – please contact Sandy Ross if you can help in any way.

TOUR TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

In December a small sub-committee met to discuss the idea of a short tour to France (Dordogne) in August 2005 to mark the occasion of the Club's centenary.

It was felt that whilst the focus for the year should be on events in Sussex, a modest tour would be entirely appropriate. The Dordogne has been a popular venue for English clubs for some years now and confirmed tourist and Francophile, not to mention Old Haileyburian, Colin Oliver Redgate recommends the area, the standard of cricket and above all the hospitality we might expect. The intended base is Le Manoir de Longeveau (www.longeveau.com) but we need to act quickly if we are to get a party reservation in, even at this early stage of proceedings. The approximate cost per head would be £400.00, which would include accommodation, and possibly travel as well. The intended length of the tour would be 9 or so days with three or four fixtures with time enough for enjoying the delights of the Dordogne. Wives, partners, girl friends and children will of course be welcome, nay encouraged. The tour and itinerary, dare I say, may well appeal to the 'older' Martlet (opportunity to enjoy the wine, food, bird-watching, golf, white-water rafting and bungee-jumping).

As the Club needs to make some commitment to the Tour in the form of accommodation reservations and organising fixtures, it is important that we have a positive response from would-be tourists. We would expect to take 14-15 players. **The sub-committee would like to hear from you by Easter if you are interested.**

Please contact Chris Gray on 01444-411472 or by e-mail on Chris.gray@hppc.co.uk or via his address (see the handbook).

OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

Following the sad passing of Eddie Harrison, the committee has asked Chris Saunders to take on the role of President of the Martlets. He has accepted and his term of office runs for three years until 2006.

Chris played cricket for Cambridge University, under Mike Brearley in 1962, and Tony Lewis in 1963. In 1963 he transferred to Oxford for his doctorate (or so he claimed in an Archerous moment at the recent Martlets' Dinner, but was in fact for his PGCE). He won blues for both football and cricket. As a Sussex Young Cricketer he captained both the Nawab of Pataudi and a promising no. 4 batsman by the name of John Snow. He later kept wicket for Berkshire.

Chris was Mark Nicholas's housemaster at Bradfield before becoming headmaster firstly of Eastbourne College and then of his old school, Lancing College. For his sins – presumably many – he has been a lifelong supporter of the Seagulls (Brighton & Hove Albion, for the uninitiated) along with our current Chairman. He is one of six Vice Presidents of the F.A.



I am both delighted and honoured to have been elected your President, especially as my tenure coincides with our Centenary Celebrations in 2005. Our dynamic and ebullient Chairman and his energetic and proactive committee are working extremely hard to organise a number of attractive cricket and golf fixtures, while plans are already well advanced for a Centenary Dinner Dance on **Friday 15th April 2005**. All of us have gained so much from our association with The Martlets and we must make sure that this very special year is well supported – so plan ahead and enjoy celebrating with fellow members the centenary of our great club. I much look forward to seeing you at the various events listed and to exchanging anecdotes and memories. It has the makings of a marvellous year with your input and support.

Chris Saunders

MARTLETS CRICKET 2003

2003 has been a most successful season, accompanied as it has been by the most marvellous weather. Here are some of the highlights:

- An opening partnership of 188 between Ed McGregor and William Ross against Seaford College
- a tie against the Cryptics engineered at Ardingly by Chris Gray.
- A big win against the Bradman Foundation XI at Arundel, managed by Adrian Ford.

- Figures of 9-43 by Robin Frean against the Stragglers of Asia.
- An exciting win against the Old Brightonians with a captain's innings of 62* from Mike Harrison.
- Another memorable finish at Cuckfield – ask Patrick Jackson – and a win by 5 wks.
- A special day at Arundel against the Lancing Rovers, celebrating their 75th anniversary.
- A monumental clash of the titans: Derek Semmence captaining the Martlets against the Old Hurstjohnnians under his son, Mark.

RESULTS (P - 29; W - 7; L - 9; D - 9; NR - 3)

Martlets 250-3 dec. (E. McGregor 128, W. Ross 40)
 Seaford College 105 (J. Barclay 3-26). WON
 Lancing College 185-5 dec.
 Martlets 136 (N. Hewitt 47). LOST
 Martlets 145
 St George's Weybridge 113 (S. Ross 4-24). WON
 Martlets 140 (J. Abeed 50)
 Brighton College 144-4. LOST
 Bradman Foundation XI 197 (B. Green 5-40, C. Borgas 4-35)
 Martlets 198-4 (E. McGregor 80). WON
 M.C.C 196-9 dec. (J. Wills 4-53)
 Martlets 177-8 (E. McGregor 59, G. Jones 64). DRAWN
 Martlets 205-5 (S. Carter 100*)
 Stragglers of Asia 139 (R. Frean 9-43). WON
 Duke of Norfolk's XI 135-1. MATCH ABANDONED
 Martlets 131-8 dec.
 Goodwood 132-8 (J. Lamb 4-24). LOST
 Martlets 154-8 (40 overs)
 Lancing Rovers 155-1 (26.5 overs). LOST
 Martlets 266-3 dec. (S. Maddock 138*, D. Semmence 98)
 Hurstpierpoint College 236-8. DRAWN
 Martlets 210-9 dec.
 Christ's Hospital 141 (N. Hewitt 4-44). WON
 Newick XII 177-5 dec.
 Martlets 133-9 (M. Semmence 79). DRAWN
 Old Brightonians 169
 Martlets 172-7 (M. Harrison 62*). WON
 Martlets 229-8 dec. (E. MacGregor 82, B. Green 52)
 Old Amplefordians 231-1. LOST
 XL Club 243-9 dec. (P. Fielding 5-60)
 Martlets 237-9 (G. Cole 96). DRAWN
 Martlets 191 (N. Creed 75)
 Yellowhammers 60-2. MATCH ABANDONED
 Bradfield Waifs 240
 Martlets 120. LOST

Cryptics 287-7 dec
 Martlets 287 (C. Grave 149). TIE
 Bluemantles 245-8 dec.
 Martlets 184 (E. McGregor 58). LOST
 Old Hurstjohnnians 292-3 dec.
 Martlets 290-9 (D. Semmence 85, C. Hartridge 60, M. Speight 57). DRAW
 Cuckfield 244-8 dec.
 Martlets 245-5 (R. Iago 64, J. Roycroft 49). WON
 Martlets 255-8 dec. (J. Wills 54, R. Iago 47, L. Atkins 48)
 Willow Warblers 260-4. LOST
 Martlets 210-6 dec. (J. Cruickshank 74, B. Green 59)
 Hampshire Hogs 211-5 (S. Ross 3-38). LOST
 H.A.C 227-9 dec. (G. Brown 3-43, B. Green 3-56)
 Martlets 216-9 (E. McGregor 55, P. Jackson 49*, R. Gutteridge 45). DRAWN
 Martlets (v. Juniors) 39-5. MATCH ABANDONED

AVERAGES.

Batting (4 innings)

| | I | N.O | R | H.S | Av. |
|--|----|-----|-----|------|-------|
| E. McGregor | 12 | 0 | 551 | 128 | 45.92 |
| M. Harrison | 4 | 1 | 131 | 62* | 43.67 |
| S. Carter | 4 | 1 | 126 | 100* | 42.00 |
| D. Semmence | 5 | 0 | 195 | 98 | 39.00 |
| A. Yates | 4 | 1 | 117 | 42 | 39.00 |
| B. Green | 6 | 1 | 161 | 59 | 32.20 |
| J. Wills | 11 | 6 | 152 | 54 | 30.40 |
| (Centuries – E. McGregor, C. Grave, S. Carter, S. Maddock) | | | | | |

Bowling (5 wks)

| | O | M | R | W | Av. |
|---|------|----|-----|----|-------|
| R. Frean | 15.3 | 4 | 43 | 9 | 4.78 |
| C. Borgas | 23.5 | 8 | 50 | 7 | 7.14 |
| S. Funnell | 14 | 3 | 42 | 5 | 8.40 |
| R. Hickman | 14 | 1 | 71 | 5 | 14.20 |
| P. Fielding | 24 | 4 | 100 | 7 | 14.29 |
| B. Green | 74.5 | 18 | 217 | 12 | 18.08 |
| P. Goodwin | 43 | 10 | 93 | 5 | 18.60 |
| (4 wks – P. Fielding, B. Green, S. Ross, N. Hewitt, R. Hickman, J. Wills, C. Borgas, R. Frean, J. Lamb, S. Funnell) | | | | | |

DEREK SEMMENCE

In his final match at Hurstpierpoint, Derek Semmence led the Martlet team against the Old Hurstjohnnians, captained by his son Mark. Surely, this script could have been written in advance: Mark Semmence made 113* in the OHJ's score of 292-3 declared – obviously no favours being shown there! In reply, Derek fell only 15 short of his century. The highlight of the innings was a

partnership he had with perhaps his most famous protégé, Martin Speight (Sussex & Durham).

As the game entered the final over, all results were possible, but despite his considerable expertise in the art of galloping, Michael Wingfield-Digby was unable to conjure an all-run 4 off the final ball.

Derek was surprised in the evening by 200 apparently uninvited guests appearing from all corners of Sussex and beyond – as far as India in fact – to salute the end of his remarkable reign at Hurstpierpoint. Amongst the many tributes, Sandy Ross presented him with an engraved silver salver from The Sussex Martlets.



Captains Mark & Derek Semmence with Martin Speight behind his mentor...

PARALLEL LIVES

I was ten years old when I was selected for the Sussex under 11's winter training squad in September 1978. The net sessions were four weeks apart and my father decided that would never be enough to develop my cricket. He used to drink down the "local" with the woodwork teacher from Hurstpierpoint College and enquired whether the resident cricket coach would be prepared to coach me once a week. And so started my relationship with Derek Semmence, originally as teacher but quickly as mentor and friend.

In between the four squash courts there was a damp, dark and dingy net, often so cold that I used to wear two pairs of tracksuit pants, and every week without fail Derek and my father bowled at me for an hour. Sometimes one of Derek's friends would "test" me out – Sandy Ross used to get me out for a pastime – but one day after Christmas, several "suited and booted" men stood at the end of the net and watched. Several days later I was offered a sports scholarship to the college, an offer my parents felt was too good to refuse, and the rest is history.

During my seven years at the college I continued my weekly coaching sessions with Derek, but as the years passed, so did the balance of power. When I was young Derek told me that one day, when we were both a lot older, I would dominate his bowling. Anyone who has seen me bowl will know that I would never dominate his batting, but playing last August with Derek for the first time for many years, I realised that finally the balance of power had truly shifted.

No longer was there the seam bowler who tied the batsmen down and made the odd one bounce steeply, but a cricketer bearing the scars of over fifty years in the game. The knees were a bit wobbly and the bowling arm was almost horizontal, as his son Mark nudged his bowling all around the park. The nip off the pitch had gone and maybe, my old mate, it's time to develop the off-spin!

I cannot say that it was a privilege to field in the heat, on a flat Hurst wicket and lightning outfield, as the ball whistled all around the park, but it was a pleasure to have a bat with the old boy once again. Although lacking some of the power that he used to possess with the willow, his brain was still sharp and his shots still as well executed as ever.

Anyone who has ever seen me bat will know about my penchant for the sweep, and not just off the spinners. If you wondered where I got that from, you only had to watch Derek. Despite not wearing a helmet – he stubbornly refuses to wear one even as the eyes grow dimmer – Derek swept the first ball from Dicky Smart to long-leg.

And that is not the only similarity between Derek and myself. I do not know too much about Derek's First Class career, but I do know that he is still the youngest player to score a century for Sussex. Although I scored a few more runs, and whilst I am at it, for the record, I took one more wicket than Derek, I have been told that the style in which we both played was similar – not

always the most consistent or orthodox, but usually entertaining and exciting.

We both had the dubious pleasure of making a pair for Sussex and whilst I am not particularly pleased about mine, Derek seems to be proud of his! I have banished the memory of mine to the deepest recesses of my mind, whilst Derek shows everyone remotely interested in cricket a framed photograph of his two dismissals!

We both played for more than one First Class County, and at the end of our First-Class careers both became club professionals in the North East. Last winter I was coaching a lad called Christopher Dolder, and after the session his father told me how great it was that his son had the chance to learn the basics of the game at such a young age and it was only when he was much older that Derek Semmence had taught him similar lessons.

Over thirty years previously, Derek had coached and played at the same club as me. I was shocked that Mark Dolder so clearly recalled the great times he enjoyed under the wistful eye of Derek, but then we can all remember a favourite teacher from our school days.

The similarities do not end there, because Derek also coached at Mowden Hall School, where I now coach, and if I had returned to work at Hurstpierpoint College last September, the circle would have been completed. That was not to be, but I hope that when I retire from "The Game" I will be as fondly remembered as Derek. I wonder how many cricketers, not just from Hurstpierpoint College, will always remember Derek Semmence. A fair few for sure, and that is a great testament not just to the cricket coach but the man himself. He is and will remain a friend to us all.

Best wishes on your retirement, old boy,

Martin Speight

Playing cricket with Derek has been a great pleasure, indeed a privilege, for so many Martlets over the years. He is threatening to play more next year in his retirement, and there can't be a Martlet manager who won't be delighted to hear that. His continued ability to regularly outscore his age makes him the envy of us all!
Ed

MARTLETS WEBSITE.

Apologies for all those of who have seen searching www.play-cricket.com for the Martlets. We have instead decided to have our own site. John Goodacre is on the case!

THE JUNIOR MARTLETS 2003

This year's squad was one of the strongest for years. The welcome availability of senior boys, some with representative recognition, added experience to the skills of talented younger players.

The results, although satisfactory, did not reflect the quality of the team. The lack of a quality spinner, a shortage sadly endemic throughout English cricket, and a combination of inexperienced and quixotic captaincy in the opening matches were contributory factors in this.

Cricket captaincy, that hardest of sporting management skills, coupled with intelligent field placing, are vital ingredients for a successful side (and indeed a spin bowler). Involvement in Junior cricket over a long period has not convinced the writer that sufficient attention is given by coaches to these aspects of the great game.

A brief summary of results:

Junior Martlets 193-9 dec. (Casey Lee 68)

Babes of Kent 195-5. LOST.

At 18 for 3, having elected to bat on a wicket with variable bounce, things looked grim. A splendid stand by Casey Lee and Chris Hammond righted the ship and an eighth wicket partnership between Alex Warner and Freddie Berthon ensured a reasonable score. The Babes, always a formidable batting side, got home with wickets in hand, but the field placing and two dropped catches rather aided them.

Junior Bluemantles 170 (Chris Hammond 5-15)

Junior Martlets 158-7 (Harry Jupp 74). DRAW.

At 72-5 with all their best players out, the Bluemantles were in trouble. Our captain for the day, a good cricketer and a delightful young man (and also a Bluemantle) took his foot off the pedal and their final score represented a good recovery on a helpful wicket. A variety of florid strokes reduced the Junior Martlets to 98-5, but thanks to a sterling and intelligent innings from Harry Jupp, the Martlets finished only just short of the required total.

Hampshire Hoggetts 125 (Casey Lee 4-36)

Junior Martlets 127-4 (Nick Campion 45) WON

A sparkling performance in the field with all the bowlers doing well and the side led with intelligence and aggression by George Martin, set up an easy win with Harry Jupp and Nick Campion playing well.

Junior Martlets (u.14) 176-6 (Matt Parnell 74*)

Brighton & Hove (u.14) 147-4. DRAW.

Rain brought an end to this valuable fixture organised by Derek Semmence, but not before Matt Parnell had shown his skill with an excellent innings.

Sussex Martlets 39-5. MATCH ABANDONED.

The Senior side had a taste of the potential of the Juniors, but sadly we had chosen about the only day in August that saw any significant rain.

A promising season overall with a good squad of players who seemed genuinely to enjoy old-fashioned cricket. A thank you to schools and members who helped with players' names, particularly Colin Oliver Redgate, and to supportive parents, particularly George Hammond.

John Bushell

THE MARTLETS DINNER

The 2003 Dinner was designed as a more low-key affair and was held at the Brighton & Hove Golf Club. Forty Martlets attended. Sandy Ross and Chris Saunders spoke. Sandy had recently returned from managing the MCC 'B' Tour to Greece, with Sussex players Matt Prior and Carl Hopkinson in his team. Chris recalled playing prep school soccer and the competitive spirit, which led a headmaster of a school they visited to be so unamused by the defeat of his team, that he took the captain to one side and ceremoniously beat him with the corner flag. He also recalled the anguish of being responsible for a young Ed Giddins, who apparently preferred the surroundings and wider education available in the nearby Grand Hotel to that of Eastbourne College.



*Peter Moores & Nigel Russell advertising Harvey's
(Peter rather more impressively than Nigel!)*

The highlight of the evening was a question-and-answer session held by the Sussex coach, Peter Moores. It provided a fascinating insight into the characters and abilities of the County team. Matt Prior and Tim Ambrose were compared and contrasted; key moments of

the season were highlighted, together with an emphasis on it being a team success and that Mushie's contribution, whilst of Wilkinsonian proportions (except, I might add, this was on the eve of the World Cup Final!) would not have been sufficient without such a fantastic team effort. Peter's comments were backed up by those of Keith Greenfield, who is in charge of the Sussex Academy.



Keith Greenfield with Dominic Clapp

Peter Moores was clear that in order to establish fully their newly won reputation, Sussex has to maintain their position at the top. There is no reason why they should not do so, provided the team continues to be hungry for success.

The addition of Ian Ward will further strengthen an already impressive batting line up (with Goodwin doing another season), but there were some fears aired about the bowling depth following the departure of Billy Taylor, Paul Hutchison and Shaun Rashid. Since the dinner however, Mohammad Akram has now been signed, together with the relatively inexperienced Jason Voros.

THE SEARCH FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

At last! A Championship title in the bag – and after a mere 164 years of waiting! In the aftermath of a glorious season, Sussex cricket lovers have enjoyed nothing more than a detailed analysis for this historic title. Was it a surprise? Yes and No. Yes, because at the beginning of the season most cricket writers had Sussex earmarked for relegation. No, because in truth, the road to victory has been a long one, tracing its path back to the "Great Revolution" in 1997. The usually phlegmatic Sussex membership had had enough: bottom of most competitions in 1997, together with the Committee's perceived lack of vision for the future, recognised by 6 departing players, were reasons enough for a *coup d'état*. Robin Marlar, became Chairman and appointed "Lester"

Pigott as Chief Executive. Their first act was to bring Chris Adams to the south coast from Derby. In those early days Chris had much to learn about captaincy, but his ambition and leadership potential were clear for all to see. Adrian Ford and I were lucky enough to be invited to a meeting with Marlar, Pigott and Adams, intended to galvanise the Martlets, amongst others, to support the new regime. We were thoroughly impressed by the new management's vision, although everyone present recognised that its delivery would take some time. Since then progress has been steady, but the one defining landmark that accelerated achievement was the appointment of Peter Moores as coach. Peter brought qualities that have lifted the team from mediocrity to superiority: an infectious enthusiasm, the establishment of a professional training programme, a tough mental approach, thorough team preparation and penetrative analysis of the opposition. He delivered motivation and a squad ethos, qualities that were previously missing. As time went by, Adams and Moores worked out their areas of responsibility more clearly, and this partnership has been the bedrock of Sussex's success.

Two other factors stand out as key, the first being talent spotting. The blend of youth and experience has forged a competitive balance in the squad; the signings of Ambrose, Prior, Yardy and Innes to complement the experience of Montgomery, Goodwin, Cottey and Davis, imported to strengthen the home-grown talent of Martin-Jenkins, Lewry and Kirtley, have been distinctive in producing depth whilst encouraging young talent. The second element saw the building of confidence around a strong team ethos; during my stint at Hove, I was struck by the depth of support players displayed for one another, particularly during the most difficult of situations. This culture encourages a strong bond, which develops self-belief. It also creates an environment tolerant of experimentation and moulds potential into productive talent. There is no question that over the past five years Sussex have possessed players who could perform at the highest level on the County circuit, but fruits borne of the Adams-Moores partnership have sharpened the team ethos to the point where they *believed* they could win.

But what of Mushtaq Ahmed and his place in Sussex history? During the Surrey match at Hove in 2002, Peter Moores and I had been chatting about selection options for the second overseas player to be allowed from 2003. The players themselves felt that their strength was batting, and despite an excellent combination in Lewry and Kirtley, they wanted another strike bowler who could win matches. Harbhajan Singh had been singled out as the target, unsuccessfully as it transpired, and the

shopping list was revisited. A number of us at Hove had felt that the ability to take the ball away from the bat would be an option preferable to that of another finger spinner, as Davis was already performing well. Chandana and MacGill were scrutinised but discarded, the record of one being too mercurial and the other pricing himself out of contention.

As Peter and I were watching Mushtaq Ahmed, a temporary Surrey replacement for Saqlain, being terrier-like around the wicket whirling, pleading with the umpire repeatedly and noisily, I casually remarked to Peter that our answer perhaps lay with this master of wrist spin; he still displayed energy and guile, was clearly keen to compete, and, given his current situation, could prove to be affordable and available. At that stage Peter was not entirely convinced that "Mushie", with a colourful past career at Somerset, would be a realistic option. A week later however, the coach had done his homework on Mushtaq's recent statistics in the Staffordshire League and in Pakistan, and was suitably inspired by his current form to recommend a meeting with his agent. The rest, as they say, is history. Mushtaq came to see us on two occasions thereafter, during which we were impressed with his desire to perform, his ambition and not least by his conviction that the past was well and truly behind him. We had decided that players needed to be properly and realistically incentivised, and Mushtaq was offered an appetising deal that would fully test his desire and commitment. As we sat in the September sunshine in a Brighton restaurant on the sea front, Mushtaq leaned across the table and said, "I'm going to get you 100 wickets next year." Peter laughed and said, "If you can do that, we'll win the Championship!" A prophetic lunch indeed, but was Mushtaq the catalyst for this epic result?

At the start of the 2003 season, I rang Chris Adams to wish him well, and asked him what his realistic target was. "I think we are genuinely a top three side" was his reply, and I would have agreed with his assessment. There is no doubt that Mushtaq, with his own self-belief and with the confidence he imbued in others, helped to convert "top three" to "top place", but essentially this was a whole team effort, encouraged by coaching of the highest order. The batting side averaged over 400 runs in their 1st innings throughout the season, and against these high totals, Mushtaq, Kirtley, and the other bowlers ran through the opposition time after time.

But where now? The players have succeeded emphatically on the pitch; and now is the time for the Club's administrators to ensure that not only does the team receive support essential to maintain its new found

position at cricket's high table, but also, and more crucially, that First Class cricket continues to thrive and prosper in Sussex. Spen Cama's legacy, reported to be around £7m, will have to be wisely and prudently employed to ensure the sustainability of cricket in the County against a declining ECB annual grant and cries from all quarters for an urgent, radical reform of the English system. The disappearance of poorly organised and administratively weak county clubs, whatever strengths may be displayed on the field, is a very real threat to all, particularly those who do not host Test Matches. Qualities that have transformed our cricketers must be replicated elsewhere to secure cricket's future in Sussex.

However, caution is not the thrust of this piece; celebration is, and all Sussex supporters will rejoice in the players' and the coaches' efforts to bring such a resounding success to the County. At last!

Nigel Russell

OBITUARY

JOHN STEVENSON

was best known as the Secretary of the MCC (1987-93). He was very much a Sussex man, born at Warnham and educated at Christ's Hospital in Horsham. He served in The Royal Sussex Regiment and from 1973-76 he commanded The Queen's Regiment.

His diplomacy defused many a problem whilst he was at Lords – the accusations of ball-tampering against the Pakistani bowlers in 1992, for example. There were moments of amusement too. He once instructed the stewards on how to deal with streakers: "If you see anyone taking her clothes off and about to run on the pitch, jump on her." He is also remembered for remarking, "When I was a boy, we had capital punishment, and I can tell you bluntly it never did me or anyone else any harm at all."

John was a member of the Sussex Martlets for many years and often played for the club and remained a non-playing member to the end.

YEAR OF THE DEBUTANT - GOLF IN 2003

2003 has been a great golfing year, and one when many of the headlines have been made by the debutant. Europe retained the Ryder Cup when that winning putt was holed by newcomer Phillip Price. A young GB and Ireland team won the Walker Cup (again) and our European ladies inflicted a heavy defeat on the Americans to win

the Solheim Cup. All four majors were won by rookies or debutant winners, and who will forget the heroic deeds of young Ben Curteis in holding his game together to win our British Open at Sandwich in July.

I would not be so presumptuous as to suggest that the Martlet golfers achieved quite such heights of excellence on the sun blessed courses of Sussex in 2003! But never mind, we won five out of our nine matches, including a famous victory at West Sussex in April after a drought of seven years. Other wins were at Hankley Common, Littlehampton, Piltdown and Cooden. Our debutant match against Bluemantles at Seaford in March was a great success, much enjoyed by all and will be repeated next year on 18 March.

The Stragglers of Asia kindly invited us to enter a team in their annual golf day at Caversham Heath in September. Messrs Scrivens, Whittaker and your Hon. Sec duly obliged, enjoyed an excellent day's golf, met a number of old cricketing chums and, much to their surprise, won the prize for the best non Straggler team!

One of the happiest features of the year has been the debutant appearances of five new and young(er) golfing Martlets, Simon Baillie-Hamilton, Garri Jones, Hugo Morris, John Nixon and Keith Silk – and they all won the majority of their matches. We were delighted to welcome them, hope they enjoyed themselves and will continue to play next year, along with two or three other newcomers to Martlet golf who have expressed a wish to join us. They will be most welcome as will any other Martlet, so do please give me a ring or contact match managers – and why not come along to the always enjoyable Golf Day at the Mid Sussex Club near Ditchling on Friday 7 May, run by John Whittaker.

Which only leaves me to thank the match managers for all their efforts and hard work, without which we would not be privileged to enjoy such good golf in such happy company on the best courses in Sussex. And finally – a big thank you to Charlie Hartridge who will be giving up the management of the Cooden match in 2004 after running it happily and successfully for the last few years. Welcome to Adrian White who has agreed to take it over.

Ham Whitty



Martlets talking a good game? (Ruari McLean)

THE MARTLETS GOLF DAY.

The Martlets' Golf Day was once again a success, thanks to the Match Manager John Whittaker, who organised the day with his usual amiable efficiency. Fifteen golfers assembled at the well-appointed venue at Mid Sussex G.C. from 10.00 a.m. to the appetising smell of bacon rolls and coffee, as the sun shone through the lounge windows to herald a fine day's golf. The golfing format was individual 'Stableford', over 18 holes, with a maximum handicap of 24.

The players teed off in threesomes from 11.00 a.m., with golfers from varying vintages of Sussex Martlet cricket. The eventual winner was that fine batsman of yesteryear, David Scrivens, whose control and timing with the bat continues in impeccable fashion with the golf club.

During the very welcome three-course evening meal, David was presented with the winner's trophy by John Whittaker, who asked those present to spread the word for more golfers to come along to the pre-season golf-day in April, and to take many past friendships from the cricket square to a friendly reunion around the gentle, but testing fairways of Mid Sussex G.C. in the Spring of 2004.

Colin Oliver Redgate

OBITUARY

TED MORGAN (d. 3/1/04 aged 68)

For the last few years his health had prevented him from playing golf, although he still kept a vested interest in the Martlets through his sons Andy & Simon. Ted first played cricket for the Martlets back in the late 50's & 60's. He will be best remembered for his fast and furious bowling. Ted then turned his attentions to golf and the art of socialising with his father-in-law and mentor, Jack Langmead. They were renowned for leaving a bottle of brandy on the bar and taking bottles of Champagne on the course. He later became Match Manager for both Hankley Common & Piltdown. He could hit the ball out of sight – not always in the intended direction, but to within 30 yds. of the green, and his chipping and putting won him many memorable matches.

Simon and I believe he will be best remembered for being a larger than life character, who had a great sense of humour and after many a liquid lunch followed by arousing speeches, the port and kummel would flow and the tee time would come and go. Ted was the life and soul of any gathering, but also kind and thoughtful with it. He will be sadly missed by us all.

Andy Morgan

FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT...

Adam Mynott in Kabul, December, 2003.

There is no excuse for coming to India and then not playing cricket. I knew how passionate Indians are about the game long before I came here to Delhi to work for the BBC two and a half years ago. But it's only when you live in this vast, perplexing, enchanting country for a while that you realise how it dominates every aspect of life.

It's a bit of a cliché to say that cricket is played on every street corner, but in common with many clichés, it's true. A patch of bare, dusty land, a pile of half a dozen bricks, a stick and a ball; these ingredients will keep a group of boys happy all day. Cricket is on the front page of the newspapers every day of the week, whether there's a match going on or not.

At the moment the big cricket issue is selection, and allegations against a young cricketer from Maharastra, Abhjit Kale, who's accused of trying to bribe the Indian selectors to get him a place in the Indian 'A' side. It has since emerged that money is constantly changing hands to influence selection. State sides are full of the sons of the wealthy and the powerful, not necessarily the talented. Maybe this is the answer to something that has puzzled me over the past couple of years. Why, when it is the ambition of every young boy to be the next Sachin Tendulkar, in a country with a population of 1.1 billion, are Indian cricketers not the unchallenged world champions? Perhaps the country's best cricketers are not in the team.

So what is my excuse for playing only a handful of games? I blame Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and George Bush. They have kept me away from home too much and allowed the moths to feast almost undisturbed on my cricket sweaters for the past 30 months. So my

ungainly swish across the line, and 'scantily clad' pace off a long run, honed on the Memorial Ground in Eastbourne, have been largely untested in the sub-continent. I have played a handful of games, including what I believe was the first cricket match in the Afghan capital Kabul, after the fall of the Taliban. I'd been in Afghanistan when the Taliban were defeated and I was back early last summer reporting on the country's faltering steps towards recovery after 25 years of civil war. I joined a team of journalists, aid workers, diplomats and military personnel matched in a 40 overs game against a team of Afghans. It was played in the notorious stadium in the centre of Kabul, where the Taliban carried out executions and punishments during their repressive regime. Our opening batsman, a doctor with *Médecins Sans Frontières*, made the macabre discovery, as he was taking guard, of what he was convinced was a piece of a human heel bone.

We won the game, but I couldn't fail to be impressed by the opposition. Defence is not part of the Afghan make-up. Half of their total of 172 was made up of sixes clubbed over mid-wicket into a vegetable market. This was all much to the delight of the small crowd of boy spectators who, screaming with delight, retrieved the ball from in among the cauliflowers and radishes.

Cricket is not the favourite Afghan sport. It comes third behind football and buzkashi: a game played on horseback, which involves two opposing teams fighting over a headless goat carcass, trying to get it from one end of a large field to the other. I was invited to join in, but politely declined on account of my lack of horsemanship and cowardice.

I do resolve in my remaining time in South Asia to accept more invitations to play cricket. My early tuition on the immaculately tended, green Sussex wickets may not have been the ideal preparation for the rolled mud and dust tracks out here. But I am hoping at least my children will return to England able to play spin with the best of them.

Adam Mynott

Having been a BBC Sports Correspondent for 8 years, Adam moved into News reporting. Currently living with his family in India, he is the BBC Correspondent for South-East Asia. During the Iraq War he was attached to the American Forces based in Basra. More recently he has been reporting on the aftermath of the war in Afghanistan.

Like his brother Tim, an Old Eastbournian, he played Martlet cricket in the 1980's as a more than useful opening bowler – and thus was much in demand! Ed

THE MARTLET SPRING QUIZ by Jamie Nicholson

1. Who was the first batsman to reach 1000 first-class runs in the 2003 English season?
2. Who, in 2003, became the first batsman to score a Championship century against all 18 counties?
3. Who was elected president of MCC in 2003?
4. The 2003 edition of Wisden is distinctive (and unique) in what respect?
5. Who gave the 2003 Cowdrey Lecture, lamenting the poor standards of on-field behaviour and deploring the practice of "sledging"?
6. Who was the last right-hander to make a triple-century in a Test match?
7. Who was the first player to make a hundred against all nine other Test teams?
8. Which two fathers and sons opened the innings for England on their Test debuts?
9. Which former England captain had a brother who played football for Arsenal?
10. Which former England captains were born in:
a) Sydney b) Madras c) Bombay
d) Milan.
11. Which Cambridge captain failed to lead his side in the University match due to his selection in a Test match?
12. Which New Zealand international cricketer played for the All Blacks in the 1999 rugby World Cup?
13. Who played for England against Australia in Australia in three separate series, but never played a Test against Australia in England?
14. Whose first-class career spanned five decades, from the 1940s to the 1980s?
15. Who wrote the following cricket books:
a) Opening Up b) The Art of Captaincy
c) A Sort of Cricket Person.
16. Who is the only batsman, other than Bradman, to have made three double-centuries in his first 12 Test matches?
17. Who are the only two batsmen, other than Bradman, to have made more than five double-centuries in Test cricket?
18. Which Test cricketer played in the same side as his father in a first-class match in 1996?
19. Which Test batsman famously riled Dennis Lillee by singing *The Sun Has Got His Hat On*, on his way out to bat.
20. What was the occasion of the following quotation: "And now, after comment by Trevor Bailey, it will be Christopher Martin-Jenkins."

To finish, in recognition of Sussex CCC, who finally broke their Championship duck by winning the title for the first time in their history last summer, five questions with a local flavour.

1. Who pulled whom for four to clinch Sussex's first ever Championship?
2. The last time Sussex finished runners-up in the Championship, the side contained an Etonian and a Harrovian. Name them.
3. Name the three former Sussex players to have played Test cricket for Australia since the Second World War.
4. Who captained Sussex to their first ever title in a commercially sponsored competition?
5. Name the former Sussex cricketers who also played for:
 - a) Gloucestershire and Yorkshire
 - b) Gloucestershire and Surrey
 - c) Hampshire and Surrey.

AND FINALLY....

I was very sad to see that Eddie Harrison and John Farrar had died. Eddie was the Martlets when I first played for them and I enjoyed bowling up-hill and into the wind with John Farrar at the other end. I got wickets as a result of the batsman's relief at getting away from him. (Eddie would usually want the wind and slope to help him bowl, and so would come on at John Farrar's end unless he felt that the conditions would assist his swing up-hill/into the wind!)

I have, however a minor worry or two over the last issue. The first is that you have attributed my letter to my brother Derek (*Apologies. Ed.*) and the second is that I find it hard to believe that Pat Matthews could have a golfing son in 1956 – I was at Clare, Cambridge, with Pat in 1950 and suggest that it might have been J.K. Matthews and Pat who beat the Langmeads.

I played in a Martlet game at Eastbourne with J.K. at mid-off, and requested the Martlet Captain to move him because I was having to do all the fielding and running for him when I was bowling. I was politely told to get on with doing J.K.'s fielding and running because he would not field anywhere else. He opened the Martlet innings and made 30 runs before losing his wicket, probably because he was tired, and said that if he could make 30 by playing from memory, the rest of us should find it easy to score the runs required!

JOHN Lattey

In his 'lighter note' Keith Jenkin mentions one Neil Bratten (sic). I am sure this is Neil Bratton (as spelt in the Worcester College *Who's Who*) who was at Oxford at the same time as myself and indeed Jonathan Watt, Alastair Morton and possibly other Martlets. Whether we both opened the bowling for the college I cannot recall, but stories of Neil abound. The last time I met him, at a fairly recent reunion, possibly a gaudy, he hailed me in lines of Anglo Saxon from Beowulf. As far as I remember, he was teaching at the university in the Lebanon.

Robin Williamson

Morning. Wake up. Excited. Head off to Arundel Castle to play for the Duke of Norfolk's XI against the Arabs. Good morning session. Rain. Early lunch, very nice too. Heavens open...game over. Bummer.

What to do? Ponder. Phone rings. Lambie: Martlets v Goodwood...still on...Martlets one short...Willsy delighted!

Head off for Goodwood. Ground slightly damp, but game on. Get a bat...enhance all-important average with red-inker. Have best tea in the county. Martlets lose with two balls remaining at 8.15pm. A great day out.

Moral of story: when the rain gets going, the Martlets keep playing. Marvellous!

Hope this may be published in *The Martlet* and is considered worthy of Editor's prize of bottle of Champers in the readers' letters draw. (*In your dreams. Ed.*)

My next aim is to try for three games in a single day....including dinner!

Jonathan Wills

(*The lad clearly has rain on the brain. Match Managers, please ensure he pays three match fees AND buys the drinks. Ed.*)

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

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