



ARUNDEL CASTLE CRICKET FOUNDATION

REVIEW 2018



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SIR ROGER GIBBS*13 October 1934 – 3 October 2018*

Without the infectious enthusiasm of Roger Gibbs, as well as his extraordinary vision, cricket on the Arundel Castle cricket ground would have struggled to maintain the momentum set by Bernard, Duke of Norfolk, after the Second World War. He teamed up quite brilliantly with his great friend, Colin Cowdrey, to provide both the business and cricketing clout necessary to establish and chair a charitable trust which became known as the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation.



Motivated and stimulated by a generous donation from Sir J. Paul Getty Jr, the newly formed Foundation sat comfortably alongside The Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club which had been so successfully set up by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, ten years earlier in 1975.

The charitable objectives of 'Youth and Education' complemented the Club's charm and popularity as well as its fixture list, the famous match against the visiting tourists always a highlight and immensely popular.

Roger loved Arundel; he had played 'family' cricket on the ground many times and

expressed his optimism and zest for life with his elaborate batting style; forceful, unorthodox and not geared to be long-lasting but endearingly watchable. He was dead set on giving others, from all walks of life and backgrounds, the chance to enjoy the benefits of a ground that meant so much to him.

And all this was achieved amidst his leadership of the Wellcome Foundation, inspired to some extent by his own encounters with ill-health; his remarkable fundraising achievements for St Paul's Cathedral; and so many other interests ranging from the Cresta Run in St Moritz to Arsenal football club where he was a director for many years.

Roger was a risk-taker but never fool-hardy or reckless. His self-belief was such that he never gave the impression that any project he touched would fail. He combined, and I think this is quite rare, great foresight to see the bigger picture while, at the same time, paying remarkable and perhaps unexpected attention to detail.

He achieved all this by rallying everyone together with an easy charm that made use of all the available expert resources as fully as possible; he was a dab hand at delegation making all those he encountered feel relevant, wanted and part of the scheme. That, I think, was the secret and as a result Arundel and its cricket, Club and Foundation together, continue to thrive as strongly as ever.

JOHN BARCLAY



Since becoming Chairman, teachers, group leaders and the children themselves have told me, time and again, what an uplifting experience it is to visit Arundel. For many, it is the first time they have played on grass, run around safely, visited a Castle, gardens and a beach and stayed away from home. In addition, the wonderful Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation coaches impart life skills through the cricket.

The principal purpose of the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation is to enhance the education and development of young people through cricket, sport and recreation. We have focussed especially on children disadvantaged by domestic circumstances often living tough lives in the inner city. Many are disabled. In addition, we remain mindful of unmet needs within Sussex.

The Foundation's activities have withstood the test of time. For thirty two years, the Foundation and Arundel have hosted thousands and thousands of children, their teachers and group leaders, all with their own stories to tell. The letters and testimonies we receive, some of which Johnny has shared in his review, demonstrate the impact that the Foundation is having on lives.

None of this can happen without your support upon which we depend. The Trustees will never take this for granted and we will do all we can to manage our resources efficiently and effectively in line with our charitable objectives. This year an anonymous donor has pledged to match all unrestricted funding up to the value of £200,000. This remarkably generous offer will put the Foundation on the firmest possible financial footing and allow us to continue to make a difference to lives for many years to come. On behalf of the Trustees, thank you so much for your continued support for the Foundation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Bristowe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PETER BRISTOWE





Arundel Castle and its park, set amidst Sussex's rolling South Downs, has provided a backdrop for cricket ever since Henry, fifteenth Duke of Norfolk, planned to landscape his own ground just north of the Castle in the late nineteenth century. Beautifully crafted, with views over the Arun valley, it is here amidst the Downs with all its wild life, and not far from the sea, that cricket and our Foundation continue to thrive. This sets us apart and makes our work – the development and education of young people from less advantaged backgrounds – all the more special and rewarding.

It is now well over thirty years since Roger Gibbs, as our first Chairman, Colin Cowdrey and a small team of Trustees inspired this initiative and invited me to direct operations. Over the years thousands upon thousands of youngsters have benefited from the scheme and have had their lives enhanced, enriched and often substantially changed by the activities at Arundel. Encouraged initially by the generosity and heartfelt warmth of Sir J. Paul Getty Jr KBE, the Foundation had a good start, forming the platform on

which we have built. And so, by the early 1990s, we had four key strings to our bow:

- a wonderful ground;
- 'Youth and Education' as our purpose;
- an indoor centre opened by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales in 1991; and
- accommodation near Pulborough.

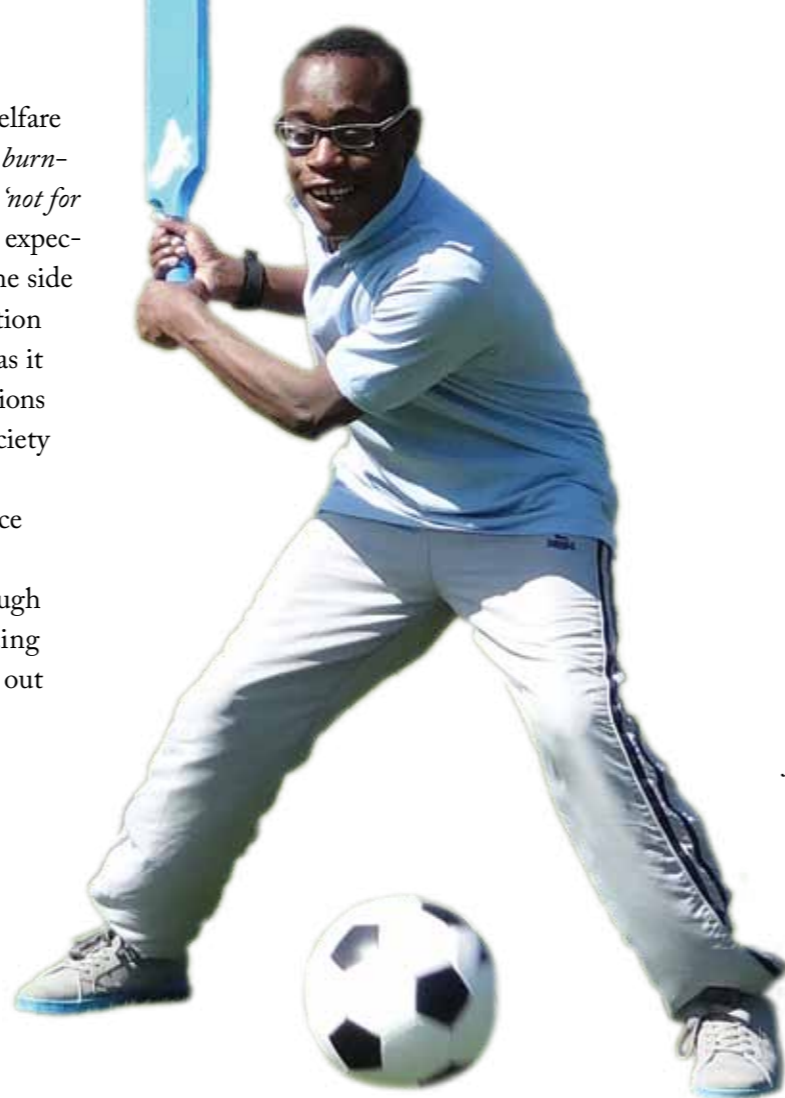
Last year as many as two thousand young people, mostly from inner city backgrounds, and many troubled with disabilities of one sort or another, had their eyes opened by visits to Arundel. Our mission is to give as many as possible the chance to view the future in a more positive light.



Over the years, the focus has become rather more about social welfare than cricket. Back in 2016 when the Prime Minister spoke of *'the burning injustices'* in society and the need to build a country that works *'not for a privileged few, but for everyone,'* there seemed to be some genuine expectation of reform. Much of that zeal appears to have been put to one side by a government that has been blown off course. I hesitate to mention the country's fractious relationship with Europe but I fear I must, as it affects us all, including small charities such as ours. Major distractions can lead to missed opportunities, and it is so often the poorest in society who suffer the most. Charities help to pick up the pieces.

As much as anything else, it is two powerful qualities – confidence and resilience – which we wish to imbue in all those who visit us. Confidence comes from trying something new, and resilience through failing at it. That process brings out the best in those experiencing difficulty, with depths of goodness, strength and endurance rooted out and used to good effect.

"Playing a cricket game was fun because it was a fair match and everyone had a big handshake and it was heart-warming."



Deaf or blind? If you had to be one or the other, which would you choose? Not easy. Over the years we have regularly been visited by young people who are profoundly deaf or have little or no sight. But, inspired by the Paralympic movement and, more recently the Invictus Games, I feel it is more important to stress what people CAN do and not those things that are beyond their reach. That is our intention at Arundel.

Achievements can be measured in so many ways. Early last summer, **Joseph Clarke School** for the blind and partially-sighted came to us for three days from East London. Inspiring it was, too. On arrival I gave them a tour of the ground, making special reference to the trees, Castle and wild-life: ravens (we have a pair) and buzzards - whose high-pitched mewing is audible to the well-tuned ear. *'Deer too, rabbits aplenty, foxes and the occasional stoat from time to time make an appearance'*, I said. This is all so different from inner city life. *'Is this paradise?'*, one asked, adding *'are you David Attenborough?'*

Their headteacher later summed it all up in a letter of thanks: *'Our pupils enjoyed playing cricket, something they will continue back at school. They loved the surroundings especially walking round and feeling the cricket pitch and visiting the Castle and its gardens. They enjoyed everything. Above all, they benefited from residential education. Most had never been away from their families before. And so they developed their relationships with each other as well as with members of staff. With their visual impairment they learnt to find their way around a new environment enhancing both independence and confidence.'*

One young boy called Kevin (aged 11), blind from birth, assumed the role of leader and, on behalf of his friends, thanked the staff at Arundel before setting off in the minibus for home. A few days later I received a letter from him in braille: *'Thank you for inviting me to stay. I really enjoyed playing cricket and learning the rules and thank you for paying a lot of money for me and my class mates to stay at the mansion. I will never forget your kindness. I will miss you a lot, from Kevin.'*



"On our last day, we played some really fun games and diamond cricket (my favourite) and I got to be the captain and we won twice. I got to meet new people and learn from them."





In all we hosted some fifty days for youngsters with special needs and disabilities and another twenty or more for inner city-based young people for whom days in the countryside are both a rarity and a treat – an eye-opener. We do all we can to convert the negative into positive. Trips to the seaside, identifying freshly caught fish on the slab and making new friends are all break-throughs. Then there are camp fires, toasting marshmallows, rock climbing and story-telling. Neville, from **Michael Tippett School** in Lambeth, discovered he could hit a ball and paddle in the sea too, with sand and sea water cooling his feet on a very hot day. He had never seen the sea before and stood in it for half an hour motionless. A new experience. Whatever origin or background, we find that everyone responds well to a generous smile – empathy makes all the difference and can heal a multitude of problems.

"I enjoyed the beach because it was fun. I like the camp fire and the climbing wall too."



Perhaps more emphasis than ever before has been given this year to mental health. As everyone knows, the resources of the National Health Service are far from limitless and the demands upon it go way beyond its capability to cope. Although nobody doubts that mental illness is a scourge and remains a mystery to most of us, nothing can be more mysterious than the strange world of autism, a condition that affects language and social communication; often silent and unpredictable, and sometimes hiding behind good looks and healthy coordination, it means so much to them and so little to us. Very deceptive. We see a lot of this at Arundel and, in our own way, do all we can to help and give confidence by just being us.

These days the word 'risk' brings a shudder to our spine; it connects us too closely and too quickly to fear and anxiety. This need not be the case, but it does have an influence upon all we do. It is, I believe, essential that a 'risk-free' society neither lets down nor impedes its children. I was much taken by the horrific story last summer of the young Thai footballers, boys of about 11 to 15 years of age, trapped in a cave for a fortnight

after a freak flood had left them stranded. There was no complaint about the coach responsible for them, with parents seemingly phlegmatic about their bad luck. Resilience was the key quality shown by all. Freedom and independence should be balanced with common sense and trust. Procedures must always be clear and well-defined but I would implore teachers and parents and all those responsible for the well-being of the young not to be too over-protective. The spirit of teamwork should never be far from the surface – the Thai boys and their successful rescue are proof of its power.






As we come to the end of another wonderfully invigorating and successful year at Arundel, as ever I find myself trying to measure the impact we have had upon the young and their lives. Quite simply, many many thousands have...

- learnt new skills and enhanced their confidence;
- had their eyes opened to a fresh culture of country and seaside;
- embraced teamwork;
- stayed away from home for the first time;
- shown resilience and determination;
- combined talents with commitment, giving them happiness, joy and success; and
- improved communication and social skills.

We intend to do more of this, learning from the past without dismissing it as irrelevant or living in it. To be at our best we must always look forward. Thank you all, as always, for the support you have given us over many years. This has given such wonderful experiences and fulfilment to a great many young people.



JOHN BARCLAY, DL · Director of Cricket & Coaching



THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH....

Your support for all we do has, as always, been invaluable.

As a result, more than 2,000, mainly young people and often from turbulent and troubled backgrounds, have visited Arundel and left us inspired and enthralled by the variety of activities on offer. Many have achieved things of which they never truly believed they were capable.

You have helped us raise £479,000 in the last year for which we are enormously grateful and so too are the youngsters for whom it makes the world of a difference. We receive so many generous donations and none more so than from the Cricket Society Trust whose support for our Special Needs Programme has been invaluable over many years.

The Foundation has been supported by a number of private donors who wished to remain anonymous and many companies, institutions and charitable trusts:

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