



Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club

Autumn Newsletter

by Alan Wadey, Chairman

A Summer to Celebrate and Remember Fondly



With the final International Cricket Match now only just a memory, we cricket lovers can reflect on a wonderful past six months and enjoy the fact that English cricket is once again a force to be reckoned with. Building on the triumphs of last winter 'Down Under' and this summer's successes has made us the number one team in the world and we can all be proud of 'Team England'. This means everybody involved from players, Andy Flower, the specialist coaches, all the backroom staff from physio to baggage manager, security men and to ECB itself for sticking to a plan (regardless of press comments) and making a very professional, strong and focused unit. For the first time in a long period I believe that this cricket body is the envy of many other sports.

What is also so gratifying, unlike in other countries, is that our cricket loving crowds, plus 'Mr Joe Public' went along to watch all these matches and joined in with the atmosphere and celebrations. The only thing that must be monitored is, with the amount of 'pressure' cricket played, that the players are not pushed too far as we are starting to see that their bodies cannot continually take these pressures. If we want the best players to be fit and playing regularly I believe their work loads must be monitored closely or two very different teams should be picked for test and one day cricket. What exciting times we are in to have so many options with our players and well done to them all.

We too at Arundel can celebrate an enjoyable and successful season both on and off the field. Sadly rain was a dampener for a number of games and we actually lost four complete matches of **MCC**, **Northern Suburbs CC** from Australia, **Arundel Town** and the first of the **Under 19 ODIs** against South Africa. There were two others interrupted, **Combined Services** called off at half time and **Sir Tim Rice's Heartaches** curtailed to a twenty three over game. The rest went as follows:

The **Universities** both had very strong sides this year. **Oxford** won by ten wickets and **Cambridge**, finishing early, won by 105 runs having only lost four wickets. In both matches the cricket was of the highest quality and showed just how much cricket is improving in all levels of the game.

The **Arabs** made 310 and in the last over we were bowled out when we should have drawn the game. **Quidnuncs** won easily against the **Harlequins**, (the old boys universities match) and again a good game but the Harlequins declared too early and paid the price on a wonderful Arundel pitch. Sunday 19th June saw the annual match of **IZ** against **The Duke of Norfolk's XI** played with terrific spirit and with wonderful hospitality, both sides and his guests enjoyed the day but again sadly the Duke's side lost. This match took place on 'Fathers Day' and it was lovely to see him surrounded by all his children.

I end with my usual list of 'thank yous' but this does not mean that any I have missed are taken for granted. In fact as you all know without you we could not function and we owe you a great deal of gratitude so thank you:

Scorers, Umpires and Rob Sisk, who monitor the matches

Stewards, shop helpers and Peter our maintenance man, who all make the club function

All the **match managers** who raise the teams and maintain the 'spirit of cricket' and our Club's ethos

Fran and Chris Smith with all their staff who feed and water us to such a high standard

Bill Rice, a long standing trustee, who continually gives me such wonderful advice and support

Johnny and Annie for their unfailing help through The Foundation and especially with the coaching scheme they run for us

My **Committee**, who have stated that we should be looking to recruit some new blood, but who give me so much support both on and off the field

Vanessa for the computer skills she brings to us, as well as her calm and professional approach to the job of assistant secretary to The Friends

And of course to **Joe** who continues to strive for perfection for the club and to the cutting out of waste, all of which shows his love for the Arundel experience

Finally to **you, the Members**, for your support, generosity and kindness in what we do for you but please remember if you have a problem or a worry then come and see me and state your case

So with good memories of 2011 I wish you well and hope you have a happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing some of you at the **Christmas lunch on Friday 9th December** when we will be delighted to have **Jim Carter** - the Chairman of Hampstead Cricket Club as well as the renowned actor, currently playing Mr Carson the butler in the ITV period drama *Downton Abbey* - as our guest speaker.

Alan Wadey

My special thanks must go to **Berry Bros & Rudd** for their contribution both to this function and others during the year, to **Lizzie Jefferson** for the balloon trip and all her help in organising the evening, to **Mark Semmence** and **Harry Steel** for the Bill Maclaren memorabilia picture, to **Susan-Ann Dowle** for her help in obtaining from Goodwood Racing a hospitality box, as well as for all the work she continually does on club raffles, and finally to **Janet and John Garner** who won the Jeroboam in the raffle and then so generously gave it up for auction.

Now to next year and as promised I have started to try and find more ways to generate income and this is being done with advertising, and obtaining more cricket that will attract ground fees and be of a calibre that should inspire new membership. We are in discussions with **Sussex CCC** and want to thank them for their support and valuable advice so far. I also especially want to thank **David Collier** of **ECB** over possible new and additional fixtures, along with assistance with some essential improvements to the ground generally. All of this is with the aim to get more people to come and visit our wonderful venue and so support us. I will be in a position to give you more details in the spring news letter but I hope it will be cause for further celebration.

On a different note it is with great sadness that I have had to accept **Dick Clarke's** resignation as treasurer due to poor health. Dick has been on the committee and as Treasurer for over sixteen years and has been a guiding light to all of us, as well as always demanding care in how we ran the Club's finances and his attention to detail is legendary. His wisdom, calming influence and friendship will be sadly missed. We have been fortunate that **Mark Harrison** who has been on the committee for over three years and is the finance director for Caffyns Plc is going to take over from Dick and we are grateful to him.



There have also been a number of our members who have sadly passed away but I should like to mention two in particular, **Jean Love** who was a great fund raiser for the club and then a wonderful supporter and regular visitor of the club for many, many years **Roy Allin**. We send our condolences and good wishes to Jackie Allin and all the other families of those who will no longer visit Arundel.

We then had a series of overseas visitors' matches with the **South African Leopards** drawing a late started match due again to rain, and although it was low scoring it was a tight fought match. This was followed by another draw against the **Australian IZ** side, which was a lovely day of cricket played in great spirit. In fact we were unlucky not to win but the **IZ** last three overs were bowled so well that we finished fourteen short with four wickets still standing. This then brought us on to the bi-annual match against **Swan Richard's Australian Crusaders** side and this is always a fine and hard fought match and it again lived up to its reputation. The visitors were bowled out for 209 and we were looking and feeling good but don't underestimate Swan's side and they finally bowled us out for 161 and celebrated well but with real humility and we will look forward to seeing them again soon for the rematch.

MCC Young Cricketers are the future of cricket and showed again how strong youth cricket is in this country and we were beaten by three wickets in a high scoring game and they looked a great prospect for the years to come.

Lady Mary Mumford's XI suffered badly due to the London riots and because her captain James Pyemont and most of his police colleagues in the team were held on duty. So at short notice a somewhat random side was cobbled together but from which Ed Towner finally made a 100 and this was following on from the 81 he scored against **IZ Australia**. Ben Fulton also made 110 and with the score at 288 for 3 Lady Mary's side declared. **The Martlets** fought extremely well and won with three balls to spare at 292 for 8 and it was yet again another great game.



Our matches ended with a fixture against the **Woozlers** on the bank holiday weekend and in its usual great atmosphere but the season sadly finished with a white wash as we lost by four wickets. Despite the results it was a good summer and I hope that players, members, spectators, staff and officials enjoyed the fixture list and games as much as

I did and that next year will hopefully see a reverse in fortunes.

Of course there was a lot of other 'cricket at the castle' that was played. Our ground has been hired by various people and the **Private Eye** game against **BBC Radio News** was different with a four innings match in a day but organized so well by the two captains and I *think/understand* it ended in a draw but the result was not really the issue! Everybody had such fun and **Ian Hislop** performed well and celebrated his 50th birthday and it was a day to remember and we hope it will be repeated in the future.

We were also delighted to host, for the first time, the **Mellor Practice Village Cricket Tournament finals day** when the best of **Arun Wanderers, Ashling, Beeding & Bramber** and **Chidham & Hambrook CCs** thrashed out their differences on the first, happily sunny, Saturday in September—we all had a truly enjoyable day and as with Private Eye's event, it would be gratifying to see this as a regular fixture.

Sir Tim Rice's game against **The Rain Men** (an apt name), was as mentioned a shortened affair but as they say 'it all turned out nice' and again great fun was had by all, with a win for the **Heartaches** which I hope will mean that Tim will also want to come back again next year.

The **Five Day Sussex Festival** was its usual success with good crowds and cricket. Sadly in the four day game **Sussex** lost to **Warwickshire** by 8 wickets but beat **Gloucestershire** by six wickets in the T20 match. We now go into negotiations with them for a new contract and initial conversations look to be going very well.

England U19s were well and truly beaten by **South Africa** in their second match on the ground by some 150 runs and only facing 38 overs. England were not at full strength and were also a very young U19 side who are being prepared for the World Cup at the end of next year.

We ended the season's programme with two T20 finals competitions. The first being the **National Schools U18s**, under the banner of **MCC** and a very strong **Shrewsbury School** side finally won, which was the correct result. This was followed by the **ECB/ESCA U15s finals** with a very well drilled **Whitgift School** finally beating Shrewsbury School and again it was the correct result. The boys from all the four teams were extremely well coached by the likes of Martin Speight from Sedbergh and David Ward for Whitgift and both of them have played a lot at Arundel and it was lovely to see them again. For those members who were unable to come to see these games I will just say you missed two really wonderfully entertaining days.



This brings me to **Martlets** cricket played at the ground and again this year we saw some good sides, competing well, producing high class cricket and exciting finishes, which resulted in everybody enjoying the days and giving the home side some well deserved victories.

So all in all it was a good season with cricket coming out the winner, which is the way it should be and hopefully will bring everybody back again next year.

We at Arundel have also had other things to celebrate and the first is to tell you that this year we have returned The Club's financial status back into the black. This has been due to several things that include the fact that **Sir Ron Brierley** kindly renewed his very generous donation to The Friends. There were a number of, what I would like to call, corporate days cricket when the ground was hired out to **Private Eye**, and the **Heartaches** and **Nigel and Tess Wood** took on the sponsorship of both the **Arundel Town** and part of the **Woozlers** matches, all of which really helped and we thank everybody involved with these actions. If you then add to this the Foundation decided that the various private youth coaching weeks should be under the banner of the club so it could also produce some extra funding, and finally that fees were received for the T20 finals days at the end of the season, things took a real turn for the better.

Of course the next celebration was the marking of 35 years of The Friends where we held a **fund raising dinner** in the indoor school, with **Lady Mary Mumford** as our guest of honour. The evening was to remind people of how lucky we are that the late Bernard Duke of Norfolk left such a wonderful ground and that his wife Lavinia, with her family, then wanted it to be carried on for all those who loved the Arundel ground and so formed The Friends that we all now love and try to nurture for us and for future cricket lovers.

In a candle lit indoor school and after a delicious dinner, **Graeme Fowler** entertained us with fun stories of cricket and sincere words of why we were all there... *'the need for a new tractor'*... AND WE MADE IT with the generosity of you all. Many of those who could not attend gave us donations, as did some who actually attended the dinner, and we started the evening already up £12,000. Add a raffle and an auction and we reached our goal of over eighteen thousand pounds to replace our 25 year old tractor and I am humbled by your kindness and support and this is one more reason why we will remember this year with fondness.





Enclosed with this Newsletter:

Christmas Lunch Application

200 Club Application Form

2012 Membership Renewal

Cover photograph by M J Harris