



## FRIENDS OF ARUNDEL CASTLE CRICKET CLUB LIMITED



Dear Friends

I am sad to say goodbye to this season as it really has been one to remember. There have been so many fascinating things that have gone on in the cricketing world this season. I will now try to remind you in my own small way of what has happened, along with Arundel events.

It all started with the New Zealanders arriving to a spring that will have reminded them of their winters back home, with very cold and windy days and regular bouts of rain. This however, did not stop people coming out to see them during their short but jam-packed schedule... You see we all love the Black Caps.

England actually got their fingers a little burnt as they were put under serious pressure in the two tests and the two wins in four days were not really a true reflection of how they played and gave them a wake up call. This was then hammered home in the three One Day Internationals when England went down two to one and it could have so easily been three nil. This however gave us the chance to see New Zealanders at their best, especially in this shorter form of the game, and also to see their captain Brendon McCullum lead from the front.

Watching these encounters made it even more disappointing that we could not entertain the New Zealanders at Arundel, as had been requested when I met with the Black Caps the previous year.

As the New Zealanders tour came to an end the weather suddenly changed. We at last turned off the heating in our homes, put the umbrellas away and got taken over by the Champions Trophy and the County T/20 matches, BUT really all we were NOW waiting for was the start of the ASHES encounter.

Arundel then had a stroke of luck..... Out of the blue we had a telephone call from Tim Tremlett of Hampshire CCC, who sits with me on the ECB Cricket Disciplinary Commission, asking if Arundel could possibly host a two day 'Practice' game for the Australia A and U.19 sides. This was because Darren Lehmann, their manager and coach, did not want to play on the Isle of Wight because of travelling problems and time restraints. We could not say YES quickly enough and were then treated to two days of the most entertaining and fascinating cricket I have witnessed during my time of being involved with Arundel. There were seven potential Test Players and two other probable test squad candidates fighting it out for places in the Ashes team. The cricket was outstanding and so well run, overseen and controlled by Darren and Troy Cooley, but little did we know that five days after this game Darren was to take over as the Australian Coach. Interestingly the staff at Arundel were so impressed in how the squad respected Darren and how each and every member of their squad came and thanked the Groundsmen, caterers, the office staff and myself, that we actually commented on what Australia needed was a man like Lehmann in charge!!! Watch out this winter 'down under', after five months of new management we might just see a rather better and stronger team playing against England.

We all know the outcome of the Ashes contests and we know England were lucky not to have suffered more at their hands but they were in fact the better side in the Test Matches. I must, however, praise Michael Clarke for the way he played and for the way he conducted himself, particularly on the last day at the Oval. He made it a day for spectators to remember and he played to the rules of Test Cricket, (it was not a one day match), and England would have done the same, BUT the BOO's from the crowd were unacceptable and rude. He had played the game in 'The Spirit of Cricket' but the crowd did not and what a great shame that was for all cricket lovers and followers.

Now to Arundel and we have had a very full programme this year for both the Friends and Foundation and I will now just run you through the highlights of the Friends' aspect to give you a feel of the season. It all started on Sunday 5th May when we played Cambridge University on a bitterly cold day, due to winds from the north east, but a large number of Friends turned up. They were in an excited mood for the start of cricket at Arundel and were rewarded with the Duke's side winning by nine wickets. Jimmy Pierson made 127 not out, chasing a below par score, and there was an early finish, which meant that we could all get out of the cold.

One up, after one game, but four days later we took on University rivals Oxford and this was a very different story, we lost by ten wickets. We struggled to 193 all out and their openers Ben Jeffrey (116 not out) and Gus Kennedy (72 not out) knocked off the runs and it resulted in the game ending at teatime. All square!!

We then lost the corporate day's match between Private Eye and BBC Radio News, due to a complete wash out but they have promised to come back next year and we will as always look forward to seeing Ian Hislop at Arundel. The perennial fixture of Quidnuncs versus Harlequins did get off the ground, though again it was very cold, but we had a truly great game. Harlequins made 279 but the Quidnuncs won on the fifth ball of the last over by three wickets. Our sponsors for this match, Nigel and Tess Wood, were thrilled with such a fun day and everybody went home happy..... even those who lost as it had been such a great game. The following Sunday we were entertained by the Arabs who scored 290 and sadly we could only reach 233. In true style the Duke's side went for the runs, even when we were short of overs and left the field in good spirits having upheld the 'no draw' club rule!!

The Combined Services Match, sponsored by Thales UK, is always a lovely occasion and saw a cool but sunny day which allowed their guests to enjoy Arundel at its best. It all was looking grand and the Ground staff had yet again done us proud. Sadly though we did not cover ourselves with glory on the field but that had a little to do with the fact that the opponents batted a little too long and the match was a tame draw. The trouble is that the Services really only play limited overs cricket and do not fully understand declaration cricket matches but they say they will do better next year and I am sure that will be the case.



The Australian Practice Fixture then followed on the next day and I am only sorry that we had so little notice of the match and despite our best efforts of getting the news to more people we only had a very small crowd. This was probably the nearest we will get to a Tourist Match at Arundel.

June 12th saw the start of the Sussex Festival against Surrey in the LV. Championship and Northamptonshire in the YB40 on the Sunday. Sadly rain meant the whole of the first day was lost and made it almost inevitable that the match would be a draw, and that is exactly what happened. This was sad as Sussex had started the season so well and was looking for success at Arundel to boost their place in this table. Surrey are sadly in trouble as two days later they sacked two former Sussex stalwarts in Adams, their coach and Salisbury the bowling coach, and have now also been relegated to the second division. I do hope things can be sorted out quickly for Surrey and that they can use more home grown talent.



It did not get better for Sussex, as on the lovely sunny Sunday they then managed to lose the overs game and I think they were, for once, pleased to move on from their usually successful ground. Better fortunes for them next year we sincerely hope. Interestingly it was from now on that the weather changed and we saw the start of this old fashioned summer we have all enjoyed so much.

The following weekend was a family affair when Henry Arundel had his fixture on the Saturday, which was a happy day and then the Duke of Norfolk had his annual match against I Zingari on Sunday. The Duke's side lost by thirty five runs but it did not seem to matter and a party atmosphere prevailed all weekend and we thank him for his support in every way.

July now brought to the Ground some overseas teams. Firstly the South African Leopards came back to see us again and the day created an amazing game of cricket for everyone. The Leopards batted first and made a good steady 261 for 5 and when they fielded kept things quiet. So it looked as if a draw was on the cards but as the twenty overs began things changed, runs started to flow and we seemed to have a chance. Things progressed and as the last ball of the match was bowled and two runs were achieved, we found the score was 261 for 4 and we had a drawn match with scores tied. Honours even but the players all felt they were winners and yet again the Arundel magic won through and we all had another day's cricket to store in our archives.

Secondly, and three days later, we were up against the Australian Crusaders, the strong and highly organised side run by Swan Richards and his many regular administrators. We have had many a fight while playing for the Hubert Doggart Trophy on a bi-annual basis. This was a low scoring match due to a slow and poor start to our innings and then we declared too early at 157 for 8. We were soundly beaten by seven wickets by a much stronger side but as always had a splendid day with the usual wonderful friendliness shown on either side. We cherish this fixture as it is probably the toughest opposition we encounter and the characters we meet are all very special.

Over the next week the Ground was let out twice. Firstly to the National Schools Cricket Organisation for their T/20 Finals that was organised and overseen by Andy Whittall. This as always was an exciting day and competition, with lots of noise and youthful enthusiasm that saw Shrewsbury School coming out the winners. Then followed the County 2nd XI T/20 Finals, hosted by ECB for a second successive year, all due to help from the ECB's organiser Alan Fordham. We were treated to a truly great day of cricket and entertainment. During the three twenty over matches very nearly 1000 runs were scored, along with some remarkable bowling and fielding feats that would have equalled any First Class T/20 Finals Day. We saw Middlesex win against Durham and then Surrey beat Gloucestershire. What a long trip home it must have been for the Durham players after their defeat, as well as for their many supporters. I did talk to a number of people who had come down and was delighted by their comments that if they had to lose then being lucky to experience our famous ground did make up for the sadness. The final was just as enthralling and saw Surrey narrowly beat Middlesex by six runs off the last ball of the match.

The Duke's match against Arundel Town CC was again sponsored by our fantastic supporters Nigel & Tess Wood and they entertained everybody to a splendid day. The cricket was steady but very good, with the home side making 269 for 7 and The Town in reply made 229 for 8 during which fortunes changed for both sides and things ebbed and flowed several times, especially in the last twenty overs and the draw in the end was a very fair result.



The Friends will remember that I managed to get the ECB, through David Collier, to provide a Ground fee for certain matches that they specifically wanted to be hosted at Arundel and this year it was for two Disability fixtures. This also meant that we could combine the days with the Arundel Foundation, whose aim is also to support disability cricket, and so they were able to invite a number of guests to show them what Arundel is all about. The first of these games was against the England Association for the Deaf who are an extremely strong side and were about to leave for three weeks to play for England in South Africa. Our match was a warm up for them and the England Boys batted first and were bowled out for 217. We in turn started badly and then Sam Taylor, who made 73, turned the tide but in the last over we were bowled out for 211 and so we lost by six runs. This was yet again the ethos of Arundel, being a non drawing Ground, shining through.

Two weeks later we had the second ECB 'fee match' fixture and this time it was the England Disabled XI against a similar specially invited Disabled side. It was a 35 over game and we again saw the wonders of what has been done for the disabled and more importantly what the individuals have done for themselves. They might bat and bowl one handed or with a prosthetic limb, they catch with the same problem in the slips or running flat out in the deep, the wicket keeper was an amputee but still managed to stand up to the seamers, and none of them did anything but smile and say how lucky they were to be at Arundel. They did not want our tears but at the end of the day when I presented a small trophy I had wet eyes. Who won you ask and I say ALL of them and I look forward to seeing them at Arundel next year.



We now come to the match against Sydney Cricket Ground XI and what a happy group they were and why not having already played at three castles, Ripley, Pickford and Highclere, as well at Lord's. For their final game on their tour they came to Arundel Castle but sadly the day was washed out after they had scored 151 for 4 at lunch, but lunch ran into tea and two happy sides finally found their way home. The organisation of this touring side was special and Paula Booth should be praised but she has had training, she is the Operations Manager for the Sydney Test Venue.

The next day we then had MCC visit us and the sun shone all day and we had a lovely match that ended in a draw with MCC making 243 for 5 but having batted for well over half the time. We then struggled to make 237 for 6 and were in the end proud of how close we got. Two good sides on a good wicket find it difficult to bowl each other out.

Then followed the annual MCC Young Cricketers' visit to Arundel and as always with a fine side but ours was their equal. The young boys batted first and declared on 224 for 8, with Adam Hose making 71, and leaving us quite a lot of time to score the runs. As always there were ups and downs for our team, with no real stars but Travis Head made 58. Now let me set the scene for the last over..... We need six runs with two wickets left, first ball was a dot ball, and the second ball took a wicket, a four came off the third ball, then two more dot balls, so two needed off the last ball to win. The ball was struck to deep extra cover, they run, there was a fumble by the fielder, YES was the call for the second run but the fielder rifled the ball in and the batsman was run out ..... 224 for 9.....the match was drawn with the scores tied..... (the second time of the season). Frustration turned to acceptance and then to friendship between both sides and some lasting memories for everybody. This is what cricket is all about.

There was now another Sussex Festival at Arundel and a rematch versus Surrey but this time it was the 2nd XIs in combat. The one day forty over match on the Monday was won by Surrey on the Duckworth Lewis method by 14 runs, with Surrey having scored 230 for 3 and when rain stopped play Sussex were 179 for 7 after thirty-one overs.

The three day game started with Sussex batting first and not making as many runs as they would have liked. Wickets kept falling when batsmen had played themselves in and so only scored 267. Surrey however did not take advantage and only managed 121 and so Sussex went into the second innings feeling very confident but in fact only scored 171 with some careless batting. All to play for now. Then Harinath and Linley set to work and both made very fine hundreds and Surrey won by six wickets. It is good to see Second XI Cricket at Arundel and I was sorry not to see more of our members and those from Sussex as they missed some fine play.

We then moved on to Lady Mary Mumford's XI against the Martlets and as always this was a well attended match and once again our great supporter Mary made a major contribution to the costs of the day and we thank her most sincerely. The Martlets had a strong side and posted a good total of 233 for 7 and sadly Lady Mary's team only managed 141, with Ben Fulton making 64 but more importantly Michael Murray, of the Martlets, taking 6 for 13 and we lost badly. It was still a fun day with lots of friends to see on both sides and Mary was happy with the day which is what we really all wanted.

At this point it would be appropriate to refer to the seven matches that Sussex Martlets play at Arundel each year and again this has been a very successful season for them. The Friends enjoy their visits and the teams say how much they like coming to and playing at Arundel and we commend them for the respect they show the Club. The Martlets played against MCC and won, they also had matches against Brighton and Eastbourne Colleges, and Brighton Brunswick. They had a wonderful day with the Singapore Cricket Club and also enjoyed their match against the Yellowhammers. The President's Day match against the Junior Martlets was well supported and everyone had fun meeting up with old friends. The Seniors made sure that the 'Young Bucks' did not get too cocky and soundly beat them. Their new chairman, John Ashworth, has a good hold on and vision for the club and is hoping to be able to improve their financial support for Arundel and this will be most welcome. We look forward to seeing them all again next year.



Now we come to the last match of the season for the Duke's team, which was as usual against the Woozlers. It was a bit of a sad day as we all started to realise that cricket was fast coming to a close but that does not stop it being a fun day. The Hyde family ARE the Woozlers and they are another family that assist Arundel in so many ways and we thank them as well for all their support. There was good cricket from both sides with the Woozlers making 239 for 5 (Sam Grimshaw the captain making 85 not out) and the Duke's XI replying with 205 for 6 and Alistair Mordaunt was left on 81 not out, a very honorable draw.



It is at this point that I should like to sincerely thank all our umpires, scorers and in particular our dedicated score board operator Rob Sisk. I add to this my thanks to our many match managers who do sterling work in raising such good sides for the oppositions we play. We could not do without you all and we hope you enjoy your days at Arundel as much as we love having you with us.

There were now three matches left under the banner of the Friends, where we hire out the Ground to teams who want to use our facilities and these began with the two day ECB Under 17 County Championship Final between Durham and Kent. These 'hundred overs a day' games

are very interesting as they allow all aspects of the game to be fully used and exploited by each player. They use these matches to show off their skills, so possible contracts might be offered or at the very least make associations for the future when they are invited to play in representative matches. This means that they are all trying very hard and this produces very high quality cricket and so is great to watch. Durham won a hard fought encounter and I expect their journey home was really enjoyable this time!!

Sir Tim Rice then brought down his Heartaches side to play against the Rain Men and we all had a great day. Tim's team made 306 for 7 and if I'm honest they might have batted a bit too long but after a rather lengthy lunch and tea he extended the day's play by thirty minutes! This should have helped the Rain Men but they could only manage 189 for 7 and so the draw was a good result for everybody. I would like to also thank Tim for his kindness in the way he hires our Ground as it does help us greatly.

Sunday 8th September brought things to a conclusion at the Ground. It was our last fixture, it rained and the fixture had to be abandoned and it was Joe Hudson's, our Secretary's, final day at Arundel after thirteen seasons. This match was the ECB/ESCA T/20 Schools Finals Day where Shrewsbury was to play Sedbergh, and Exeter was competing against Whitgift. We got the first game in and Shrewsbury won and then it rained and rained and things then had to be rearranged, on another ground, at the soonest possible opportunity. A great sadness and I hope we will be able to host this event next year as we all so enjoy the day.... staff, the Friends, parents and teams alike.

However the rain stoppage allowed a group of the Friends to get together for a buffet lunch, to say goodbye and a thank you to Joe for all he has done for the Club. An odd tear was seen but the affection shown by his friends was a real mark of respect and we all wished him well in his retirement. We will be making a presentation to him at the Christmas Lunch and I hope some of you will be able to come along and say your good byes then as well.

This means I can now formally welcome our new Executive Secretary, JAMES RUFY, to The Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club and wish him every success for many years to come. James has a good knowledge of the game as a player, coach at Gordonstoun School and Gloucestershire CCC and as a representative for cricketing equipment. He is very personable and is very willing to learn and I hope the winter period will enable him to get his feet well and truly under the table and that you will all get to know him next season. Things I am sure will change a little under a new leader and so they should, as that is the only way to make our Club move forward and I wish him well with his ideas that he is already talking to me about. Not least of all he knows how to use modern day technology and that means he is streets ahead of me in communications by laptop..... Oh to be young.

No story is complete without the acknowledgement to the people who have made the show actually happen and so here goes..... Lee and Iain, well done for yet another year of true success on the Ground and surrounding parklands. It may have been a better summer but you both still had to put in the hours to make it all work and you really have. Everything looked wonderful and you should be proud of the end results, as you should also be with the square itself. We are all, in turn, proud of you both. Vanessa we cannot thank you enough for all your hard work in the office, especially on the accounts, and for always being so willing to sort out problems (but as you say 'we don't have problems we have challenges'), well done and my personal thanks. Annie Atkinson we also say thank you to you for the hours spent in organising the three coaching weeks for the Club, which are so successful and help dramatically with our cash flow. To Fran and her staff from Food for Thought, this was yet another year of wonderful food and thank you all for looking after us so well. Jim and Doreen, along with Susan-Ann, thank you all so much for all you do with your raffles in raising or making money for the Club. You are genuine stars. Peter, behind the scenes, you do so much to keep the public places clean, tidy and safe and all at such unbelievably early hours of the mornings. We thank you for your dedication and attention to detail, which is so often not seen or noticed by the public but it is by me. To my Board Members my thanks for all your support and wise words, I am lucky to have you on my side and so are the Friends. If any of you who help have not been mentioned by name, you are not forgotten, I say a blanket 'thank you', to you all.



That now brings me to the end of my newsletters and only leaves me to say a very big thank you to all you Club Friends for your wonderful support and continuing help to the Club. On a personal note I also wish to thank you all for the kindness you have shown to the Chairman over the years, it will not be forgotten.

With best wishes,

*Alan Wadey*