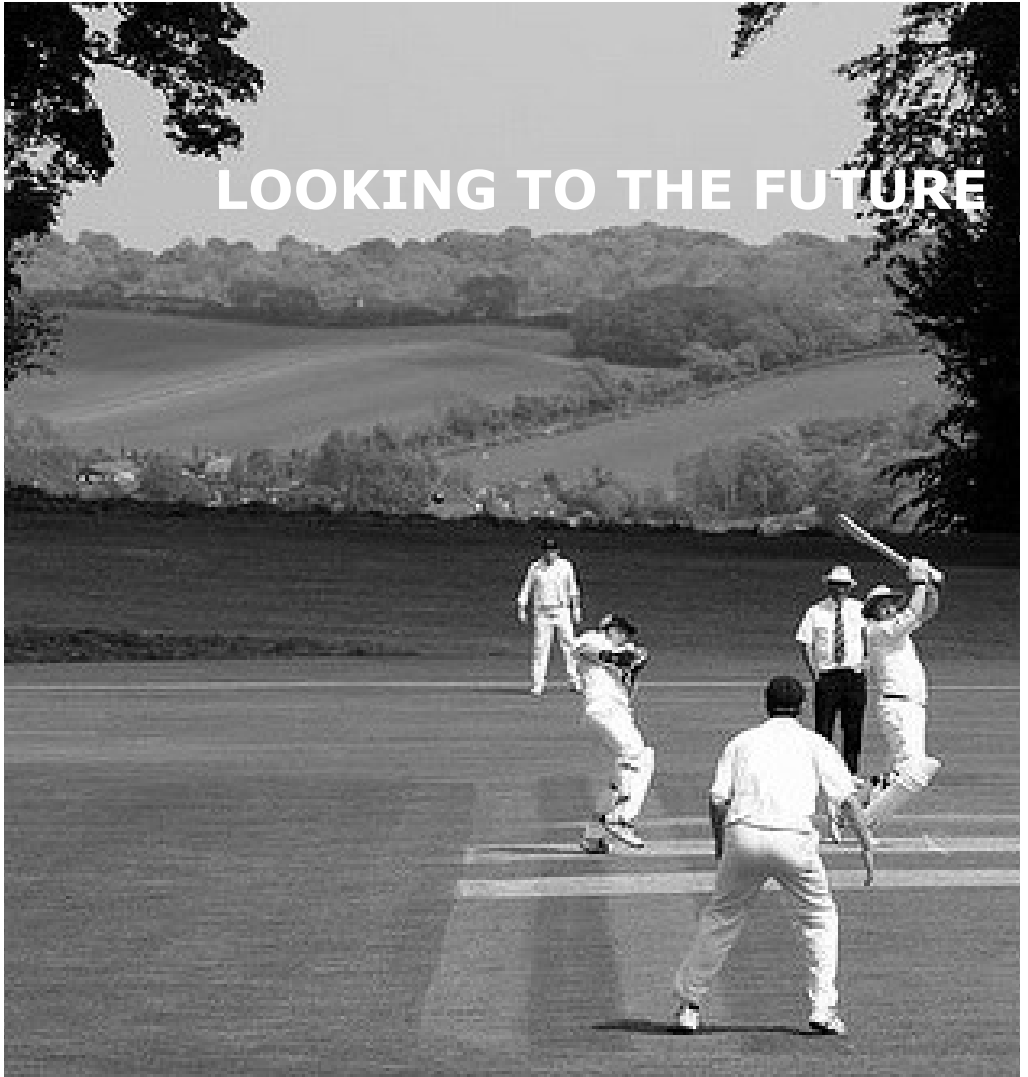


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Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club

Spring Circular

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Let me start by wishing you all a Happy New Year and stating that 2012 looks to be a very exciting prospect in world sport. In fact by inspecting the unbelievably full schedule, the Sports Personality of the Year - on television next Christmas - could run for at least three hours as there will have been so much going on.

It is actually 2nd January 2012 and I have to write my pre season letter to you all very early, as Georgie and I leave for New Zealand in three days time and will not be back until 22nd March. We are off on our 'trip of a lifetime', with stopovers for a couple of days in Dubai and Sydney, and then on to Christchurch (subject to the earthquake situation), where we will pick up a car to explore the South and North Islands. During our trip Sacha, our number two daughter who is in New Zealand and half way through her two year tourist/working visa, will join us for part of the time. There are many things we want to see and experience over the nine weeks but we will also be making contact with **Sir John Hansen**, who sits on the **NZ Cricket Board** as well as being heavily involved with the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal, and hope to persuade him to encourage '**The Black Caps**' to come and play a 'Fund Raiser' match at Arundel Castle at the start of their tour in 2013. So please keep your fingers crossed. When we leave Auckland we return via Brisbane and Singapore and again have good stopovers in each spot. Cricket will be watched, golf played, and (although I cannot possibly commit myself to this thought) we will be testing the wine as we travel through the different regions. All in all we should return with some wonderful memories for our old age, and yes retirement is turning out to be wonderful.

This means that for once I am not currently in a position to give you the exact format for the season as, whilst I write this, we still do not have the fixture list anywhere near finalised.... so forgive me if anything I now tell you fails to come to fruition but again please keep your fingers crossed.

2011 was an interesting and transitional year for the Friends as it was very obvious to everybody involved that there had to be some changes to the club format so we could move forward. Together we have achieved some great things which I list below for you to see and understand what has been going on:

- **Sussex has renegotiated their 'Festival'** and we may be having an extra One Day game this year. They are also bringing 2nd XI cricket to the castle for the first time. In discussions to make some improvements to facilities we have been requested to extend and reform our sight screens and provide extra and upgraded covers for the square, but the main request is for two new pitches, to be formed by us, over the next three years so that some extra pace and bounce can be produced for the first two days of a championship game. To push this forward Sussex is prepared to help with labour and contribute financially to the improvements and all this is very exciting for Arundel.

MEMBERS' SPRING LUNCH
Friday 30th March, the Indoor School

Tickets are now on sale at £25.00 a person and cheques made payable to F.A.C.C.C. or credit/debit card details (card number, expiry date, 3 digit security security code from the back) should be sent to the Secretary together with any details of seating or dietary requests. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope for the return of your ticket.

*We are delighted that our **Guest Speaker** at the **Spring Lunch** this year will be **Martin Richards, Chief Constable of Sussex Police** for the last 5 years. Martin was an avid cricketer in his heyday as a player when working for Warwickshire police, and he has now become a great friend and keen supporter of Sussex Cricket. Martin loves Cricket and we love that! We extend the warmest possible welcome to both Martin and his wife **Judith** and thank them so much for helping us get the Season underway.*

JRTB

F.A.C.C.C.
50 CLUB

If you are currently enrolled as a member of the 50 Club and pay by standing order you need take no further action and your membership will continue through 2012.

Otherwise, if you wish to **become** a member and enjoy the chance to be one of the monthly £500 winners and at the same time help the F.A.C.C.C.'s finances, please complete and return the enclosed form for the 50 Club.

The first draw of 2012 will be in April and will continue for 12 months to the end of March 2013. You may pay by monthly Standing Order or by cheque or credit/debit card in advance when you will enjoy 12 monthly entries for the price of 11, ie £275.

New Membership Cards /Fixture Lists

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your new style Membership Card.

If you are **Life Member**, please note that you will not be re-issued with a new card on a yearly basis. If you should lose your card please just contact the office.

If you pay on a **yearly basis**, either by Direct Debit or cheque/cash, you will be issued with a card annually. Please destroy your previous card on receipt of your new one.

PLEASE SIGN THE BACK OF YOUR CARD ON RECEIPT.

If any of your details on the card are incorrect, please let Vanessa know and a new card will be issued to you.

As the Fixture Lists no longer form part of your membership passes, as they did previously, you will find one enclosed with this Newsletter.

Please also note that changes beyond our control can always occur, but the Fixture List and any notices can be found on our website, www.cricketatrundelcastle.co.uk

SUSSEX C.C.C. v DURHAM C.C.C.
Wednesday 18th July to Saturday 21st July
and
SUSSEX C.C.C v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE C.C.C. CB40
Member Information

Gates will be open at 09:30 for the LV County Championship Match and at 11:45 for the Clydesdale Bank 40.

Entrance to the Ground is free for F.A.C.C.C. Members A £5 per day parking fee will be charged by Sussex C.C.C. for all members' vehicles. Car parking will be in Arundel Park and the route will be signposted, please follow the Stewards' directions.

For details of prices and regulations for guests and the public please apply to Sussex County Cricket Club on 0844 2640202. Please note that Sussex C.C.C. reserve the right to restrict the number of Members' guests allowed into the Members' enclosure if the area becomes too full.

Catering will be provided for Members in a bar and lunch marquee in the Members' Enclosure. Reservations for a buffet lunch at £21.00 per person can be made by ringing the office on 01903 882462. The Tea Hut will be open as usual.

- **The England and Wales Cricket Board** were then approached by me for some additional assistance with these matters, along with the need for a new boundary rope and for forming some new drainage to each end of the square to help speed up the disbursement of water at the areas where the bowlers make their final delivery strides, something which the umpires have been encouraging us to do. After discussion with David Collier he persuaded the ECB Trust to provide a grant of twenty five thousand pounds to help with all these projects. We also hope that there will be a little spare money left over, from this unbelievably generous funding, to purchase a new laptop for Vanessa as The Friends is in serious need of an upgraded system to accommodate her numerous skills.
- **Whilst talking with David Collier** we also discussed the effect and problems that were financially created by no longer having the ‘Tourist Match’ and he has come up with the proposal to hire the ground for ECB fixtures over the next four years. He hopes to provide England Ladies games, England U19 matches and will try to get the England Lions down with us for some form of encounter. He has guaranteed eight days as a minimum and for that we have received ‘up front’ the sum of forty thousand pounds. If the amount of fixtures increases then funding will be adjusted accordingly. I cannot thank David and the ECB enough for their help, both with the type of matches to be played and for the extra funding for the Club – it is such a life line. On top of this he is also looking into some types of ECB community cricket that can be hosted at the ground and this is all with the aim of upgrading our fixture list over the next few years.
- **We also felt it was time to start tidying up** the affairs of both The Friends and The Foundation, as we found that after thirty five years some anomalies existed with the original ‘paper work’. Initially I took advice from a cricketing friend, John Stapleton of Thomas Eggar, and then after considerable discussions between ALL parties the decision was taken that both sections of Arundel Castle Cricket would become individually ‘Incorporated Associations’. This basically means that the Club and those who run it will be ‘limited by liability’ and that both organisations will be overseen by Directors rather than by a committee or trustees. This we have been advised and agreed is the best way forward and most advantageous for everybody. The Duke of Norfolk agrees with us that this is the right thing to do and as the MCC is also in the process of Incorporating we feel that we are on the right track to modernise the Club. It also makes it possible for the Friends to act as a trading arm for the Foundation and so allow us to take full advantage of certain tax legislations as they now stand. This will hopefully be a win-win situation for both parties.

- **These changes also mean that the two existing** leases will have to be re-written, and again The Duke feels this is a very good idea so that everything is up to date with the 'paper work'. It will also mean that those who follow us (from both sides) will have an easier job when the negotiations for future renewals take place. All this has been long overdue but is now underway and hopefully will be sorted out by early summer.
- **Now moving on to 'In House matters,** with help from **Geoffrey Frankcom** and **Andrew Long**, and implemented by Vanessa, the membership card has been modernised, as you will see from the enclosed and I hope this will be easier to use and for the Club to monitor. This now means that the fixture list has been expanded and will be very much more important for you to use throughout the season and will include some of the major items where the Foundation uses the ground and this will hopefully encourage you to come and watch some of these additional events. We have also upgraded the score cards for easier use.
- **We are also endeavouring to get** some more 'corporate' cricket fixtures where a sensible and realistic ground fee can be charged, and the marketing package can be seen or requested at or from the office. Hopefully all the above will attract our members to the ground and allow us to start finding additional members, along with some new and extra advertising and sponsorship. I hope you will all be as pleased and excited as we are with all this as it is hopefully the start of further ventures for the years to come.
- **Finally, I am hopeful that the England Ladies** side will play at Arundel in September in a T/20 match against the West Indies Ladies. The Bunburys are making a long overdue and welcome return on 24th July and although not yet confirmed, we have been asked to protect Friday 15th June for the County 2nd XI T/20 Finals. These, along with a Sussex Academy Match and the Sussex 2nd XI 3 day match against Kent will make 2012 a bumper year for fixtures!

As I mentioned to you in the Autumn News Letter we have in 2011 returned the Club to a profit for the year. It is small but it is a turn around from a loss of £15,000 last year and we are delighted with this reversal. I must thank everybody from office and ground staff, sponsors, loyal friends, members, benefactors and all those who have chosen to come to Arundel and so help us with the running costs of the Club. With everything I have stated above we should now have the basis for keeping the Friends solvent in the foreseeable future and this pleases me greatly.

There will be a replacement tractor for you all to see in May and due to **Mr & Mrs Wood's** generosity there will also be a new 'sprayer' to go behind it. The sight screens will be in place, we already have the new boundary rope and the new covers are in our stores. Arundel is going to look so smart. As you can see the Club is progressing having taken some necessary initiatives and I therefore hope that some of you may be inspired to think of other ideas that might benefit the future of Arundel cricket. We are looking for additional sponsorship, whether it be for a match, cricket balls or through advertising on the new score card and we are very open to any suggestions.

It seems no time since the Christmas lunch but I thought you would like to know that we were royally entertained by **Jim Carter** and his wife **Imelda Staunton** who told stories of their life, various anecdotes about Downton Abbey and their love for cricket and we hope Jim might bring his **Hampstead Cricket** side down to Arundel in 2013. In true Downton style Jim summoned us all into lunch and served wine to some people, so basically lived up to his well earned reputation as the man in charge of the household!

As general information I would remind any of you who have not yet renewed your membership that the frozen subscription would be gratefully received. **The AGM will be on 28th March at 6.00 pm**, due to the fact that our new Treasurer, Mark Harrison, is not able to make the first Wednesday in April and so this will be the form for the future.

The office has asked that I remind you of the rules regarding guest passes as there has recently been a little misuse. We will, during this year, start to examine the Club's rules and make some necessary up dating to this booklet.

Please remember the 'Pavilion Bar' is open on all match days and members are welcome and encouraged to use this facility but please be aware that at the start of the lunch interval it can become rather crowded.

FINALLY in an effort to save money we would like to use email for some of our correspondence and as you have our email address arundelcastlecricket@yahoo.co.uk I hope you might contact us with yours in order that records can be updated. This would help greatly with the new approach to communication.

I look forward to seeing you at the **Spring Lunch on 30th March**, the AGM and or during the season and I send you all my kind regards

Alan Wadey

Chairman



Enclosed with this Newsletter:

**New Style Membership Card & Car Pass
Fixture List**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting
Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation Annual Report
50 CLUB Application Forms**