



ARUNDEL CASTLE CRICKET FOUNDATION

REVIEW 2015



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Message from the Chairman

Colin Cowdrey, knighted in 1992 for his services to cricket, became a life peer in 1997. He spoke in the House of Lords on ethics in sport and society until his early death in 2000. Together with Sir Roger Gibbs, who became our first Chairman, Colin was instrumental in creating the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation in 1986. He appointed one J.R.T. Barclay, former Captain of Sussex, as the first Director of Cricket and Coaching. Today, Johnny is still the inspiration for the development of the charity. In acknowledging his achievements I can do no better than simply borrow one of his own favourite words “heroic”.

Colin’s portrait, on the opposite page, was commissioned by the M.C.C. in 1996 and painted by Bryan Organ. It hangs in the Long Room at Lord’s. Typical of his thoughtfulness, Colin presented me with a framed print, one of only 30, when I left my post as the Director of the Lord’s Taverners in 1997, while he was coming to the end of his third and final year as President. It is a prized possession but as Colin’s second spiritual home was Arundel, the refurbishment of the pavilion is the perfect opportunity for it to be displayed on permanent loan. His wise and kindly eyes and the background black and white photographs documenting his achievements, epitomise his crusade for the spirit of cricket. The Foundation practises the principles and values he set, as Johnny’s Review so eloquently explains.

Our own President, The Duke of Norfolk, gives the Foundation clear leadership and he is quietly determined that the cricket heritage must survive and thrive. After all, it is his ground and his walled gardens, as Johnny so vividly describes.

Mike Atherton, one of our trustees, is the chief cricket correspondent of The Times. He wrote recently from Cape Town about the exciting young South African cricketer, Temba Bavuma, who learnt to play in the chronically deprived Langa township: “where cricket was important, so providing just one of the preconditions

for success; an introduction to the game. The cricket club was the only place in the township that provides the other essential ingredient for success: space. Space and sunshine can make up for a lot of deprivation... Success was not an impossible dream.” He went on to quote a local sportsman: “There is a special spirit among the players and among the community – upon whose resilience and courage we can build a nation. It’s way beyond just cricket.”

All this is directly related to our aspirations at Arundel. What struck me throughout the year was the feeling of purpose, the willing commitment of supporters and staff alike and, above all, the palpable sense of achievement and integration from “the kids” and grown-ups too, who benefited from the space and even sunshine of their introduction to the Arundel experience. “Disadvantaged” and “disabled” are words that one can rather glibly roll off the tongue. “Troubled” is another. But we tackle these debilitating conditions head-on and it is hugely worthwhile.

Johnny starts his Review with a powerful quote from Churchill. I am tempted to close my message with another, as he was my family’s constituency MP and, as a cadet at Sandhurst, I marched in the great man’s funeral procession. But although this may be “the end of the beginning”, I simply wish to thank you, so many of you, for your encouragement throughout 2015. If, amongst your many other charitable priorities, you can continue or start supporting the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, your donation will be efficiently and effectively applied – and it may just tip the balance for improving the quality of so many young lives.

Patrick Shervington, MBE · Chairman of Trustees



Patrick Shervington; Johnny Barclay; Annie Atkinson; James Rufey.



Fifty years ago, in January last year, Winston Churchill died, and many will remember his funeral in London on a cold, bleak winter's day. Of the many profound and stirring words he left with us, few were more prophetic than those which he made in a speech in 1940. He said this, *'When this war is won, it must be one of our aims to work to establish a state of society where the advantages and privileges, which hitherto have been enjoyed by only the few, shall be far more widely shared by the many, and by the youth of the nation as a whole'*. Many have tried to pursue this

admirable aim with vigour in the last 75 years but the truth is that only a little, if any, progress has been made and much more needs to be done.

Since the **Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation** was formed 30 years ago, we have without doubt played our part, in a small way, but also with enough substance and commitment to make a real difference to thousands – no, tens of thousands – of young people for whom life has not been easy, and given them the inspiration to face up to things with greater confidence.

Sir David Attenborough's recent television series,

'The Hunt', illustrates most clearly, harshly and cruelly at times, the instinct we all have within us for survival – both the hunter and hunted – the need we have for food, water, shelter and companions. Few of us are seen at our best when thrown into survival mode where the power of ambush and subtlety of camouflage are potent weapons and much in evidence now as the world addresses the threat of terrorism.

For many years Arundel, its beautiful ground and castle, has made its contribution by giving the young, and especially those who have been dealt a poor hand, a better chance to succeed and fulfil their potential, indeed to survive. Amongst many examples of joy and happiness, I recall a special moment last year when I encountered a young Nigerian boy, aged 12, now living in North London who, since his arrival in England three months earlier, had scarcely spoken or communicated at all. He was a very troubled child – overweight and ungainly – who refused to run about or join in. So stimulated was he by the games and activities and gentle encouragement he received, that by the end of the day – a very hot one – he was laughing and smiling,

moving about and making friends – and, whilst speech still eluded him, he did come out with some expressive noises. Our energy and enthusiasm made a difference to him.



London Borough Community Development

I shall return to our Special Needs Programme in due course but, for now I would like to turn my attention to **Lambeth**, a borough in South London with which we have had a strong association for well over 20 years. The inspiration for this has come from a man called **Tony Moody** who, as a result of his work in Lambeth, has become a very firm friend. It is fair to say that Tony, with his West Indian background and consequent love for cricket, has had a most profound influence upon the primary schools of the area and the development of their children through an introduction to cricket. The game he invented, 'Catchy Shubby Cricket', is a great favourite and has made a noticeable difference to the social, educational and sporting welfare of the young.



Many children have visited us from Lambeth over the years and one of them I do especially remember. It has been something of a success story. Twenty years ago or so, a 10 year old girl called **Ebony-Jewel Rainford-Brent** visited us at Arundel. Although a fine athlete, running and jumping about all over the ground, I doubt whether she had ever played much cricket but, given the enthusiasm of Tony and all those involved at Arundel, it did not take her long to get into the swing of things. She absolutely loved it. However, Ebony had grown up in the precarious circumstances of South London where gang culture and violence were commonplace. When only five years old, her elder brother was stabbed to death. Indeed, Ebony might well have found herself in trouble too but what made a difference was cricket – sessions in the playground at school where she could show off her skills. From this unpromising start, her cricket began to develop. She read Chemistry at University College, London before going on to play for England with



much success. She has since become the first female summariser for Test Match Special and a great asset to The Lord's Taverners' Charity with whom she worked. Now she's back at The Oval, on home ground, heading up women's cricket for Surrey and South London. This is quite a C.V. for someone who, if we refer back to Attenborough, has not only survived but also thrived. Our aim is to give young people the confidence to do just that.

A word too about teachers. Without people of Tony



Moody's standing and many others in the world of education who visit Arundel, we would find it hard to fulfil our objectives. And yet, according to research, respect for teachers has been eroded somewhat, their status lowered over the years. Teaching is sometimes seen as a profession of last resort. This attitude surely needs to shift. We all know that a good or great teacher can be a priceless asset which has the power to inspire and enrich learning opportunities for millions. Perhaps teachers should be placed higher up the agenda.



Lambeth is just one of several London boroughs which visit us each year. In addition, we welcome children from **Hackney, Camden, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark and Brent**. They come under the banner of **Capital Kids Cricket** and are led by my friend, **Md. Shahidul Alam (Ratan)**, now living in Hackney but originating from Dacca in Bangladesh where I first met him in 1994. Since his arrival in the East End of London, he has devoted himself to the development of young people in that area and beyond and is now, to a large extent, responsible for keeping cricket going and helping it

thrive in that area. Last year, he brought some 250 children, girls and boys, to Arundel in May and July. They stayed, as usual, in **The Lodge Hill Residential Centre** nearby where I noticed, inscribed upon the wall of the dining room, a quotation from J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter, *'Working hard is important, but there is something that matters even more, and that is believing in yourself.'* Through living together, playing cricket and having fun, we want to encourage everyone to believe in themselves and return home with more self-confidence than before. It's rewarding to watch the young playing games and experimenting a bit – an element of

risk-taking – without constant close-up supervision from adults; they can then work out for themselves how best to share, communicate and even cope with disagreements when they arise. I am reminded of the advertisement, you may remember, with the slogan, *'Nothing works faster than Anadin'*; the old joke being that you would be better off taking nothing. The same might apply now, I suppose, if 'coaching' were to be substituted for Anadin. It's a delicate balance. In this regard two special messages came back from the boys last year. Jimmy said, *'I really loved to learn how to take care of myself'*, and from Marial, *'This trip has made me learn to do things without others telling me'*. That's what I like to hear. The girls were equally effusive, *'Arundel is so fun you go bonkers, if you get bored then roll down the banks. The grass is sort of long. Try this before you go home'*. *'Arundel makes me feel free'*. These instinctive comments are important and there were many more, but nothing strikes me as more relevant than the concept of freedom which can inspire vigour, diversity, generosity, hopefulness and excitement.



"I usually play rubbish at cricket and now I have improved my bowling."



It has always been important for us to progress beyond the initial stages of introduction and teamwork and encourage teenagers for whom opportunities are scarce to develop their skills at a higher level. In the past, **Alex Tudor**, who went on to play for Surrey and England, **Tony Palladino** and **Billy Godleman**, both now playing for Derbyshire, came to Arundel from London to play cricket. We certainly helped them on their way. This year, teams from Waltham Forest visited us twice to play matches against Croydon Schools and Newham in East London. The purpose was not to unearth top-class players for the future but to provide a wonderful chance for them to flourish in superb conditions and boost their morale as a result.

The same goes for the important initiative, inspired by the great support we have received from **Peter Davies**, for a three-way festival involving boys (Under 14) from **Yorkshire, London** and **the South**. The matches were brimming with competitive spirit and showed clearly that it is possible to combine unyielding toughness with goodwill and courtesy. England and New Zealand achieved this too in their Test Series

last summer and the matches were all the better for it – Federer-like ruthlessness, both within the letter of the law and spirit of the game. An example was set, emerging primarily from the Captains, and this sent out a strong message.

The Yorkshire team, managed and mentored by **Ronnie Hudson**, came from Bradford, Huddersfield and Wakefield – a rich source of players in the past and still a powerful nursery for the future. The London squad was selected from an assortment of its boroughs, players who were mostly meeting up for the first time.

The cricket was a joy to watch. One-sided it was on the first day when the Yorkshire players were slow to find their feet. But no harm was done. I remember, not that long ago, when some local authorities frowned upon the concept of winners and losers, the idea being that if you made everyone a winner, then there would be no losers and no disappointment. The notion didn't work of course. It is precisely because losers experience pain that winners feel joy. These emotions are inextricably linked and fuel the competitive spirit upon which sport is based. And Yorkshire did indeed bounce back

the next day with a thrilling 8-run victory with spirits un-dampened by the thick drizzle which enshrouded the ground by evening.

Rain set in and put paid to the final match but this venture was not all about cricket. It involved the sea-side, friendship, fish and chips and a visit to Hove as well to watch a floodlit match between Sussex and Northamptonshire. It was a thriller too, made all the more exciting by David Willey scoring 34 runs in one over bowled by Mike Yardy, (poor chap) – I used to coach him when he was 16!

There is no knowing how important this mix of experiences is for teenagers at such a formative stage, save to say that they will have taken away with them memories to savour for a lifetime.

"Everyone is welcoming and it's like being part of a massive family."

"I really enjoyed going on the trip because I love cricket and catching and the views were amazing."





"My time was fun because even though I came last year everything was a surprise."



Special Needs Programme

The walled gardens of Arundel Castle are a beautiful place to visit and many do so throughout the spring, summer and autumn. The flowers, water features and fruit trees are much loved and no more so than by those with a variety of disabilities and needs that require special attention. The gardens for them are a peaceful haven away from the noisy and sometimes frantic world from which they come. Just as the blossom in spring bears fruit in late summer, so we focus upon the abilities and potential of young people, for whom life has been neither kind nor helpful, and see them emerge and grow. Many of them need constant care; much wiping and tending required for dribbling mouths and noses. It can be quite raw at times – but we do make a difference and it's so worth it.

Around 1,000 people joined us for these days during the year; respite for family and carers. The majority have profound learning difficulties or behavioural problems and are generally aged between 7 and 19. Games, walks, picnics, visits to the Castle and seaside are



generally the order of the day although I feel that, more than anything else, it is the opportunity for them to stay overnight that most helps to increase self-esteem and belief.

Each year there are many heart-warming stories. A bright little girl, Rosie, whose brain tumour had resulted in a total loss of sight, summed up her day by saying, *'I'm having the best time of my life. It's like heaven here'*. **Woodfield School** from Brent in North West London brought groups of both boys and girls to see us, and so successful were the trips that the

school was presented with **The Chris Box-Grainger Award** by **The Cricket Society Trust** at their dinner last November. The support which the Trust has given us over the years knows no bounds and we are for ever grateful to **Ken Merchant**, both for his friendship and devotion to our project. A big thank you. Of course, the visits do have their moments. On one occasion I was chatting to a teacher who halted me in full flow and said, *'John, I'm so sorry, I'm afraid they're starting to hit each other. I shall have to intervene'*.



"Arundel is a lovely place to play cricket as the rollers keep the grass smooth so you can bat the ball and it will fly though the sky."



It's hard to describe in a few words, and illustrate clearly with photographs, the positive effect which these simple activities have upon those in need of special help. They shine, blossom and indeed bear fruit as a result – and yet it is not all plain sailing. Lord Rix, President of Mencap, wrote in a letter to *The Times* last summer, 'Expected cuts of £12 billion to the social security budget, combined with huge reductions in funding for local government, and therefore social care, are causing fear and anxiety among the 1.4 million people with learning difficulties'. He concluded by saying, 'If we make wrong decisions now, we threaten the basic rights of disabled citizens in a way that no civilised country should be willing to contemplate'. Take heed.

One teacher, from a special school that has visited us many times, sent a warning shot across my bows. She told me that trips away from school were often not considered to be of educational value and were a poor use of time and resources – and staff were frequently too busy and stressed to bother themselves with the extra work required. Numeracy, literacy and behaviour were right at the top of the agenda as the main priorities with all other pursuits secondary. I believe, however, that extra-curricular activities do as much as anything else to support the essential work in the classroom.

But let us not be too put off or distracted by educational trends, attitudes or indeed politics but rather

more rejoice at the outstanding abilities which disabled people display. This year we hosted two **international matches for the blind and partially-sighted between England and India**. Way back in 2002, I was privileged to manage the England Blind Cricket Team in its World Cup campaign in Chennai where we reached the semi-finals before Pakistan got the better of us. Since then much progress has been made. Fitness, mobility and agility have improved beyond measure. Skills, tactics and awareness now take centre stage. Great strides have been made in all areas which quite simply increase the motivation, joy and satisfaction for all involved.

Two further important matches took place later in

the summer at Arundel. First, the **England Learning Difficulty** representative team played against our Foundation XI and, a month later, the **England Physical Disability** side played two Twenty/20 matches. The games were both competitive and hard fought and showed clearly how much can be achieved by those who are fiercely determined, courageous and skilful. Indeed, the Physical Disability players departed shortly afterwards for Bangladesh where they won their World Cup and so demonstrated just how much can be achieved despite many obvious disadvantages.



"What I enjoyed about Arundel is that there's loads of trees and nature is beautiful."



"Arundel is a very huge and magnificent place."



Well, that's just about it for 2015. Arundel, on so many different levels, never fails to inspire but may I conclude with a quick mention of Afghanistan and its refugees who, for some years now, have visited Arundel from their base in Croydon. Rain sadly spoilt their day out with us last year but let's for a moment reflect upon the progress their cricket has made. Their national team, which has become a symbol of unity after the long war, played last year for the first time in the World Cup in Australia where they performed with great credit. Remarkably, Afghanistan's cricket, in a country still torn apart by conflict, has made huge strides but it does show that, even amidst the instability of this world, cricket (of all things) can be a unifying force.

Thank you all so much for reading this Review and giving us such heartfelt and generous support throughout the year – and none more so than **The Grocers' Charity** whose auction on our behalf in May became the backdrop for so much happiness and pleasure. How grateful we are to you all.

John Barclay

JOHN BARCLAY, DL • Director of Cricket & Coaching



THANK YOU

Without the support of so many generous people who give so much time and encouragement to all our activities, we would never have been able to achieve so much or help so many young people. We do appreciate enormously the dedication you have shown and the pleasure derived. Thank you so much.

During the course of 2015, the Foundation benefited from a number of fundraising events, notably a Charity Dinner hosted by The Grocers' Livery Company and an 8-a-side cricket day at Arundel. Together, they raised over £56,000. Huge thanks to everyone who helped ensure that these events were so successful and such fun.

The Foundation has also been supported by a number of generous private donors and many companies, institutions and charitable trusts:

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