



"My real playing highlight was getting a 7 for 51 against Leicestershire, in 2002. But I never scored a hundred there, which was a disappointment."

Robin and his wife, Flora, now live in Hove. But Horsham was the family home – his father, Christopher, now president of the MCC, still lives there with his wife, Judy.

at other out grounds, like Scarborough. Everyone seems to be in a holiday mood.

"The smaller crowds often look bigger than they are and there is a special buzz. At Horsham it often felt like a big crowd because the ground is so compact."

It helped, of course, that Sussex have enjoyed regular success at the Horsham

"right" way round for an all-rounder.

"I had the great fortune to land at the right time. By that, I mean I played for Sussex when they had the best time in their history.

"From the history point of view that first championship in 2003 beat everything else. But the most exciting day was winning in 2007, when we had to hang around all

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"It's such a lovely, sleepy, peaceful town. It was voted one of the best places to live in the UK some time ago," said Robin. "And the club has been so well run over the years, largely because of the legendary Dr Dew. Hopefully his legacy will run for a good long time."

What Robin most likes about Cricketfield Road is the festival atmosphere. "When you play in these out grounds everyone seems in a better mood, for some reason. Not just the players but the umpires and the coaches.

"Everyone seems to cheer up because there is a lighter atmosphere about the place. The same applies when we play

ground. "I always enjoyed playing there and Sussex always seemed to do well. I can't remember losing there - I know we lost against Derbyshire one year, but I didn't play in that game.

"I quite enjoyed bowling there. It bounced, a tennis ball bounce, and carried more than it did at Hove. And it often turned on the third and fourth days, which was fun when we had Mushy around."

Robin played for Sussex between 1995 and 2010. He averaged 31.69 with the bat and 31.90 with the ball and the way he was playing at the end he needed only a few more matches to turn those figures the

day waiting for the Surrey game to finish at The Oval before we knew we had won the Championship for the third time.

"I haven't missed playing that much. I miss the dressing room side of things, to a certain extent. But I haven't actually missed the playing.

"I've been back to watch a few times but I haven't had the pangs to be out there again. So I think I made the right decision to stop when I did.

"I'm loving my second career, teaching. I come home every evening exhausted, but very happy. I haven't had to use my brain in an intellectual capacity before."