



# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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Website:

[www.sussexcricketsociety.org](http://www.sussexcricketsociety.org)

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### **2021/2022 Society**

#### **Programme**

#### **Wed 13 Oct 2021**

AGM 7:00 pm followed by

Member Meeting,

Speaker Bob Warren

#### **Wed 27 Oct 2021**

Autumn Lunch 12 noon

Speakers Fred Rumsey

& Stephen Chalke

#### **Wed 3 Nov 2021**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker Sir Rod Aldridge

(see right hand column)

Venue : Pavilion, County

Ground, Hove

#### **Tues 7 Dec 2022**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Speakers Ian Gould &

Bruce Talbot

#### **Wed 5 Jan 2022**

2.15pm "Afternoon Tea"

Speaker Roger Knight

#### **Tues 8 Feb 2022**

Member Meeting 2:15 pm

Speaker Andy Mackay

#### **Wed 2 Mar 2022**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker Alexia Walker

#### **Wed 23 Mar 2022**

Spring Lunch 12 noon

Speaker Annie Chave

*Any views expressed in the newsletter are those of the writer, not those of the Committee of the Society.*

It is good to have Society events back again, but **please do not attend if you are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 or are required / asked to self-isolate.**

While seemingly obvious, this is being mentioned following a recent Covid instance possibly arising at a cricket club event in Sussex.

### **October Society Meeting – AGM and Bob Warren Presentation**

There were 36 attendees at the AGM and to then listen to Bob Warren and David Bowden's presentation concerning recent developments at Sussex Cricket Ltd.

**The AGM** heard a detailed report from our Chairman Malcolm Griffin who started by welcoming members back to the first Society event for 20 months. We remembered members who passed away since the 2019 AGM, in particular mentioning Kathy Bennett, Jim Grinstead and David John all former and respected officers. All AGM proposals from the agenda were approved, this included election of Jon Filby and Malcom Reid as Vice Presidents. Subscription increases were also mentioned, see below. Also an intended change to our annual events with the Garden Party becoming "Presidents' Day", (possibly with a single course hot meal), more information on this when details are confirmed.

**Bob Warren** started by saying that he will be retiring from the Board of Sussex Cricket Ltd next March. He reflected on a difficult year largely due to the pandemic. On the playing front he reiterated that Sussex are in transition with several young cricketers promising much for the future, and in particular praised Tom Haines. Whilst there was/is no intention to split the playing group into red-ball and white-ball squads, Bob mentioned that certainly in 2021 there were solid cores of 6 or 7 red-ball specialists, 6/7 white-ball players and 6/7 who excel at both. He thought that the new players signed in late 2021, Steven Finn and Fynn Hudson-Prentice should add experience and support to the younger members, as indeed Travis Head did.

Turning to ground developments, work on the Tate Residencies is proceeding on schedule, and already contracts have been exchanged on most of the apartments. This investment will be used for further developments within the ground, Bob indicated that there is no intention to remove the deck chair viewing area. In answer to questions from the floor about ticketing arrangements for 2022, he replied that this was in the hands of government advice, but that Sussex would be delighted to see a return to pre-pandemic arrangements as soon as possible.

**Membership Subs** The committee have decided, with considerable reluctance, to increase subscriptions from 1st April 2022 as follows:

- Single from £15.00 to £20.00,
- Family / Joint from £20.00 to £25.00
- Postage fee from £5.50 to £8.00

These increases will be the first since April 2013 and reflect various cost increases, notably this year the new "room hire" fee being charged by Sodexo/Sussex Cricket Ltd. (£192.00 incl. VAT per meeting). The postage element was set when postage costs for second class mail was 55p, whereas it is now 66p.

**Evening Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 7.30 Speaker Sir Rod Aldridge MBE.** Sir Rod, the current President of Sussex Cricket has devoted much of his resources to support youth education particularly for the less well advantaged. Notably locally the Brighton Aldridge Academy which includes a cricket Academy (BACA) which was recently recognised in the top 100 schools for cricket nationally. BACA also hosts the Sussex Women's teams. Another recent achievement has been his involvement in developing the Sussex Cricket Metal Heath Initiative. So a man of many achievements and an interesting and informative evening in prospect.

**Future speaker bookings.** Speakers have now been booked for all events this winter season. For the January afternoon meeting, Roger Knight, who played for Gloucestershire, Surrey, Sussex then Surrey again, followed by a period as Secretary of MCC and then in 2015 was MCC President. For the March evening meeting, Alexia Walker, the current Sussex women's coach and Director of cricket at BACA, will be the speaker.

Having "Afternoon Tea" at the January meeting is a new initiative, this will be free to members, but a £5 charge will apply to non-members / guests as a contribution towards the cost of the tea. The proposed format is 2.15 Roger Knight talk, 3.00 tea (probably sandwiches and scones) followed by a Q & A session.

**Car Parking for Society Meetings** As with the October meeting we hope to have a limited number of parking spots. For evening or afternoon meetings please park and come to the Long Room (where meetings are being held) and collect a permit from David. Complete the permit and display it in your vehicle.

**Venue / Room Hire** Barbara Eagles has been looking at possible alternative venues to the County Ground for meetings, still in my view the preferred and ideal venue, but we need to be aware of costs. She is concentrating on the central Hove area, so convenient for members either by car and / or public transport. So far some options have been ruled out as not suitable, and others have costs close to or higher than now being charged at the County Ground. Barbara is still investigating, we will keep you informed. If anyone has any possible venue suggestions, please contact either Barbara, David or myself.

### **Sussex News**

Massive congratulations to **Ollie Robinson**, named in England's Ashes touring party this coming winter and to **Tymal Mills** who has been selected by England for the upcoming World T20 Cup. Both are deserved selections based on performance in the 2021 season, we wish them well. Ollie has also been given an ECB central contract for 2022 which I suspect means that as in 2021 his availability for Sussex could be limited.

**George Garton**, the Society's 2020 Player Of the Season has signed a contract extension, so pleasingly another Sussex "produced" player committing a future to Sussex. I feel that he is the sort of player that Sussex will hopefully look to rely on in all formats barring any possible international commitments. 2021 saw him perform well in the T20 Blast, he was also a key member of the Southern Braves Hundred team. In recent weeks has appeared for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL and is due to play for Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash where he will meet up with Jason Gillespie and Travis Head. The latter I noticed started the Sheffield Shield season with an innings of 163 in a drawn game with Western Australia in Adelaide, so looks to be putting his poor first class returns with Sussex behind him, or possibly he finds the Adelaide air and conditions more to his liking.

**County Championship Format** – ECB have announced that for 2022 the Championship will revert to a two-division structure as opposed to the "conference style" format in 2020 and 2021. I understood that the intention was always to revert back to two divisions with the decision being when. The other debate concerned whether Counties would be placed depending on the 2019 table or 2021 standings, Counties opting for the former. This sees Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire in the first division, and Nottinghamshire despite coming third in the 2021 Championship in division 2 which may seem strange to some. As before, a 10/8 split of Counties, but this time the 10 are in Division 1 with 8 in Division 2, and still as far as I know two up two down. Sussex, in division 2, will be joined by Derbyshire, Durham, Glamorgan Leicestershire, Middlesex, Notts and Worcestershire. So the four sides Sussex faced the 2021 division 3 will again be opponents come next season. I know the Conference system had its advocates, but the two-division format seems simpler to plan for and follow during a season. The option of being able to push for the title, avoid relegation or gain promotion in the latter weeks of a season seems a compelling reason for the two-division system.

**Clubs – Sussex Cricket League**, Preston Nomads topped the Premier League with East Grinstead runners up followed by Roffey. Cuckfield despite winning at Nomads in the final week, week were relegated (though only 4 points behind Brighton & Hove) along with bottom placed Haywards Heath. Hastings's late run of victories saw them remain in the Premier Division where next year will be joined by promoted clubs Bognor (Division 2 winners) and Horsham. Further down West Chiltington, St Peters and Findon were promoted to Division 2. Congratulations to all the Division winners (all 36 of them and so too numerous to mention here) and commiserations to the teams relegated. Full credit to the League and all clubs on getting through the season despite the difficulties created by Covid.

**New Member** – Welcome to Tom Novis, Brighton.