



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY. NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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Dates for 2024/25

JULY 7 Sunday afternoon
Tea with Barry Richards as
the speaker

October 23 AGM followed
by speakers Jon Filby &
Peter Fitzboydon

November 20 speaker tba

December 11 Christmas
lunch speaker Graham
Gooch

January 15, speaker
Jonathan Agnew

February 19 speaker John
Simpson

March 19 speaker to be
advised

New Member – Welcome
to Sheona McArthur, Hove

Winter 2024/5 schedule Dates appear in the left-hand column, along with speakers already booked, the intention is to announce the remaining speakers in the next newsletter. All events will continue to be held in the afternoon, a standout looks to be the December event - a Christmas Lunch with Graham Gooch as the speaker. This will be the only lunch – the rest “Afternoon Tea” style events.

Members may wonder why there has been a move away from lunches and towards teas for the 2024/25 programme. In one word, cost. There has been a significant increase in costs quoted by the caterers. Your committee is very conscious of the increased costs of everyday life for everyone. It would be very much regretted if any members thought the cost of the lunches were beyond their budget and miss the opportunity of hearing the speakers – and in 2024/25 we hope to have some very well known former cricketers coming to Hove to speak to the Society.

The committee would be very happy to hear members thoughts and views about catering and lunches versus teas. Anyone can contact Ivor Evans at sussex.scs@btinternet.com.

RENEWALS - Thank you to all those who have renewed already either via the website, cheque, transfer or standing order. A reminder to those who have yet to, that renewals were due on 1st April. See the March newsletter for more information including the renewal form, payment and return details. Subscription rates are £20 single, £25 family/joint. A further £23 is due if you want the newsletter delivered by post. (Note that these remarks do not apply to members who joined via the Society website, where renewals will be collected automatically, or to those who are Society members via the Sussex Cricket Foundation.)

Photographs – We would like to include photographs from Society events in the newsletter. So if you take one at a Society event say of the speaker or a general view and would like it included in the newsletter please send it to me by email - address above, Chris Scovell

Cheteshwar Pujara signed off for Sussex this season in the game against Middlesex at Lord's at the end of May (seems an odd comment to make that someone signs off so early) - his final innings was another century, 129, his tenth since joining Sussex in 2022. In just 22 games during which he has amassed 2,244 runs at an average of 74.80 with a top score of 231. On top of this he's played 16 50 over games with another thousand runs as an average of 80.84 including five centuries. (No T20s, somehow I cannot imagine him as a T20 player in these days). These three seasons have been remarkably productive for Pujara and beneficial to Sussex. His style of batting, careful, considered and elegant has entertained so many Sussex supporters and possibly supporters of other Counties.

The last Championship game at Hove against Leicestershire was in the end a very close win for Sussex. At the end of the third day with Leicestershire 5 down for 139 in their second innings pursuit of a distant victory target of 464, a seemingly hopeless position, many, including myself, thought the game was virtually over and did not bother to go to the final day. Hearing that two early wickets fell on the final morning reinforced my opinion, but how wrong I was as an exciting day lay ahead. The star for the visitors was Louis Kimber (just one previous first class century and that also against Sussex back in 2022). Batting with freedom and powerful striking he went on to make 243 including 21 sixes, a record for first class cricket in England. Not just a record of sixes but reaching his double century in 100 balls was the second fastest ever double century in terms of balls faced in the history of the game – The only faster came from Shafiqullah Shinwari in 2018 for Kabul Region v Boost Region at Asadabad in an Afghanistan first class game. But Kimber was finally dismissed, by Nathan McAndrew leaving Sussex victors but by the narrow margin of eighteen runs.

Another record and not one Sussex will cherish was the 43 runs conceded by the otherwise excellent Ollie Robinson in one over – two sixes, six fours, a single plus three no-balls in a nine ball over, the most runs conceded in an over in an English first class game. (Not a good couple of days for England hopeful bowlers as the previous day Shoaib Bashir conceded 38 which at the time was the record.) It needs mentioning that Robinson, this over apart, bowled well in the game and has been a key member of the Sussex attack this year.

It would be amiss not to record John Simpson's third century of the season and a key 94 from Oli Carter opening the batting. Carter's knock was particularly creditable given that Sussex at one stage were 20 for three and Carter had made few runs for either the first or second team this year. He had an excellent 2023 both as an improving wicketkeeper and batsman, hopefully this could be the start for many good days ahead. Sussex after nine games lead the division by 23 points from Middlesex and with two to be promoted, 27 ahead of third place Yorkshire with five games to play. The next game at Scarborough could be pivotal as could be the final game at home to Middlesex.

Also noteworthy was Jack Carson receiving his county cap reflecting his contributions not just as a spin bowler but also valuable lower order runs. Congratulations to Jack.

In the T20 Blast at the break for two Championship matches Sussex are second in the Southern group to Surrey. Six games remain to be played, so there will be plenty of interest in the second part of the group stages. The best performances were creditable away wins over Surrey and Hampshire.

Sussex Cricket Foundation Schools Day 2024. This year the school day was held in late June, this time at a women's match between Southern Vipers and South East stars which the Vipers won by 113 runs. Previously these days were held during a men's County Championship match but holding it during a Vipers game did by all accounts create a special atmosphere which was welcomed by players and spectators. Well over 3000 school children from around Sussex were present filling by various accounts the "Shark" stand and much of the temporary stands erected for T20 Blast games, with the children enjoying their day immensely. So another successful schools day and a credit to the Foundation on a day which hopefully will spread the interest in cricket for the children.

CLUBS With the Premier League season at its halfway point (9 games), Cuckfield last year's champions narrowly top the table from Preston Nomads. Cuckfield lost their first game of the season to Bognor, their only loss. but since then have earned six wins and a couple of draws. Early on it looked as though Preston Nomads were the pace setters with their batting in particular being strong - the likes of Zac Lion-Cachet, Danial Ibrahim and Jonty Jenner scoring heavily, the latter when not on Jersey duty. Nomads suffered a loss to East Grinstead then in the bottom 2 in week eight which handed Cuckfield the lead, a position they reinforced in the ninth round getting the better of a draw with Nomads. For Cuckfield there are similarities with last year in that it is very much a team effort, though on the batting front the "overseas" player Wesley Marshall and the highly promising Sussex youngster Henry Rogers both scoring heavily, and on the bowling front Ben Candfield and William Goss their leading wicket takers. At the other end of the table Worthing trail the rest having sadly lost all nine of their games (even rain which caused some abandonments elsewhere has not benefited Worthing). Hastings despite some good results early on are also now in the bottom two. In Division Two Haywards Heath lead the way.