

SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



SCS Established 1965
Patron: John Barclay DL
President: David Bowden

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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Contact us at
www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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

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2020/2021 EVENTS PROGRAMME

2020

Aug 24th Garden Party

Oct 14th AGM (7pm) followed by Evening Meeting

Nov 3rd Evening Meeting

Nov 25th Autumn Lunch 12noon

Dec 8th Afternoon Meeting

2021

Jan 10th Afternoon Meeting

Feb 12th Afternoon Meeting

Mar 2nd Evening Meeting

Mar 17th Spring Lunch 12noon

Speakers will be announced when booked.

Meetings take place in the Spens Pavilion at the County Ground, Hove by kind permission of Sussex Cricket Ltd. Afternoon meetings at 2pm, Evening meetings 7.30pm apart from 7pm for the AGM

Normally at this time of year coming out of winter into spring we would be looking forward to the new cricket season, yet this year it is shrouded in uncertainty. Coronavirus (COVID-19) casting its shadow across our daily lives. What this means for cricket in 2020 is not certain yet, other than the **County season** has been put on hold until at least 28th May. No doubt there will be further announcements before then. Some suggestions are that T20 and the Hundred along with International cricket may well have preference in a new schedule, obviously for very valid financial reasons. Counties rely on the ECB dividend, in Sussex's case in excess of £1m resulting from the successful 2019 season with the World Cup and Ashes series. This forms a key element of Counties' cricket related income boosted of course by the T20 Blast where Sussex have already sold a substantial number of advance tickets. So no real preview of the County season at this point, possibly in a later edition.

Clubs too face delays and uncertainty with a difficult time in planning and financing. All preseason matches and training have been put on hold. The Sussex Cricket League have announced three possible League start dates, early May for a full season (sounds unlikely given the First Class delay), June and July 11 (the League's half way point which may well seem a sensible point assuming conditions permit) and have also set a timetable for deciding on each one.

And what impact on the Society? Well we had to cancel what promised to be an enjoyable **Spring Lunch** and contacted members who had booked at short notice. Jim Grinsted has refunded members' booking fees either by bank transfer or cheque.

Looking ahead, the **Annual Garden Party** has been booked for Monday 24th August, second day of the Championship match with Worcestershire at Hove, although this may change depending on any alterations to the County season's structure. Other Society dates are shown in the left hand column, David is working to book speakers for these and will be advised as soon as they are known.

Also postponed was the event at **All Saints Church** advertised last month, though here the hope is to reschedule it later in the year (possibly September or October). Any tickets should be retained and will be valid for the new date.

We were also going to work with the Museum as part of the launch of **Ian Gould's biography, "Gunner"** at Hove in April, this seems to be another cancellation. Other joint Society and Museum events will be mentioned in future newsletters. You can pre-order a signed copy of "Gunner" for £18 plus £2 postage by sending a cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Museum to Jon Filby, 19 Ellerton Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7TY or by Bank Transfer (email jon.filby@sussexcricket.co.uk for the bank details.) All profits from these sales will go to Sussex Cricket Museum.

Annual Renewals – A reminder renewals fall due on 1st April. Thanks to those who have renewed already, if you have not renewed yet please send your renewal subscription, (£15 single, £20 family, plus the £5.50 postal surcharge if requiring the newsletter by post) together with the renewal form to Jim Grinsted – see the last newsletter.

David Millns Evening

The last evening meeting of the 2019/2020 season saw over 50 Sussex Cricket Society members attend a most interesting talk and Q&A with recently appointed ECB International Umpires panel member David Millns.



The quality of his bowling soon came to the notice of Nottinghamshire officials who immediately signed him up! So his county career had started and whilst never

letting Nottinghamshire down he could never get regular county cricket there so moved on to Leicestershire where he regularly played county cricket in a very successful side. When he returned to Nottinghamshire his body told him it needed a rest after playing cricket around the world for most of the year, every year, for over two decades.

After some years away from first class cricket while listening to an Ashes commentary on his car radio he decided that he wanted to get back to the game he loved. His career then went in the direction of umpiring. He soon gained recognition as a good, fair umpire and his popularity grew along with his status, now marked by appointment to the ECB International panel of umpires.

His reminiscing, stories of venues and players brought smiles and laughter to all attending. The Society wishes him a successful season not least on his appointment to the ECB International Panel and thank him for a most enjoyable evening.

My thanks go to Malcolm Griffin for the review and Stuart Ashby for the photo. CS.

Ollie Robinson on England Lions tour to Australia

Ollie played in the three "first class" matches on the Lions tour to Australia. At Hobart, he took 0/89 against a Cricket Australia XI in a high scoring draw. A week later he shone along with Dominic Sibley (116) and Dan Lawrence (125) in the Lions' nine wicket win over a strong looking Australia A side. Ollie, opening the bowling in both innings took 3/66 and 4/81 (latter including wrapping up the tail). Finally against a New South Wales XI another high scoring, but rain interrupted draw, he again opened the bowling taking 2/64. In this game the Kent wicket keeper Ollie Robinson also played. (To help scorecards at least their second forename differs, the Kent player Graham, and Sussex's Edward.) Sure enough, and to my delight, they combined, NSW opener Ryan Hackney (95) fell, caught Ollie Robinson bowled Ollie Robinson!

Overall, a successful tour for the Lions as they also won the 50 over series two nil with one abandoned with Laurie Evans part of the 50 over squad.

Women's T20 World Cup

In the end victory for Australia who rather comfortably beat India in the final. England went out in the semi-final to India, the game washed out and India going through to the final courtesy of having topped their group whereas England came second in their group. Unfortunate exit definitely, and possibly unsatisfactory, but the regulations were agreed by all competing countries before the tournament started. Also galling was that both semi-finals were set for the same day at the Sydney Cricket Ground with no reserve day. England's game was due first and washed out, only for the weather to relent allowing Australia to beat South Africa in a truncated game. Ironically had this game also been abandoned then South Africa not Australia would have advanced to the final using the same basis as India's advance. Looking at the Tournament as a whole, probably the best two teams contested the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of an outstanding attendance of 86,174.



The 34th ECB David English Bunbury

Festival is currently scheduled to take place at Eastbourne College from 2nd to 7th

August (COVID-19 permitting) and will be dedicated to the memory of former Eastbourne College student the late and much missed Matthew Hobden. The Festival is for Under 15s with four teams representing North, Midlands, South & West and London & South East competing in a mixture of T20 and 50 over games. So, some of the best boys at that age level in the Country. David English CBE (one of our members) started the Festival back in 1987, and since then I understand that just over 1,000 "Bunburys" (boys who have taken part in the Festival) have gone on to play First Class cricket and 109 of these have also represented England at senior level, including all eleven of the England team that beat South Africa in Cape Town this January. Quite an achievement, and a credit to David English and his team.

In 2006 the Festival was held in Sussex with Preston Nomads hosting the week. That year the likes of Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Jack Leach, Sam Billings and Zafar Ansari were among those that took part. At the 2019 Festival James Coles starred during the week. James, although coming from Oxfordshire is now part of the Sussex Academy and he was highly spoken of by Richard Halsall at the Society's January meeting. Thanks to David English for prompting this piece and for supplying much of the information.

As a sign of the ECB's commitment to the Festival, Ashley Giles, himself a former "Bunbury" and now ECB Managing Director of Men's Cricket will be on hand to present Bunbury caps to the boys.

This Festival is really a good chance to spot some future stars if past Festivals act as a guide and well worth a visit.