



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chair: Vacant

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Website:

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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

Hon. Secretary

David Harrison
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Society Secretary – David Harrison intends standing down from some of the responsibilities as Honorary Secretary which have increased in recent years. Our thanks go to David who has taken on these responsibilities in an efficient manner. His current role covers various areas - Main secretary duties; Committee secretary (preparing agendas, minutes); Event responsibilities (so liaising with Sodexo/Sussex re venue and events) and recently added Speaker Secretary / liaison with the national Cricket Societies Association (twice yearly meetings) to his role. The intention is to split the role up with David continuing in the Speaker and CSA roles. Barbara Eagles has agreed to take on the Event Responsibilities role, and we are looking for someone to take on the remainder. If anyone is interested in taking on the role of main secretary including committee duties please contact David who can also provide more information.

Newsletter, Membership

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Other Society News – March Speakers

We are still to arrange the speaker for the “Afternoon Tea” event, details hopefully next month.

Hon. Treasurer

Terry Burstow,
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New Member – welcome to Michael Wilkinson from Brighton

2022/2023 Society

Programme

2022

Oct 12 – Evening meeting
AGM followed by talk
from Jon Filby

Nov 16 – Lunch
(Speaker Bill Athey)

Dec 14 – Lunch
(speaker Paul Farbrace)

2023

Jan 11 – Lunch
(Speaker John Barclay)

Feb 15 – Lunch
Speakers, Patrick Ferriday
and James Mettyear,
authors of “Field Of
Dreams”

Mar 22 – Afternoon Tea
Speakers tbc

All dates are
Wednesdays.

Sussex news Two very high scoring and not very exciting draws. First at Hove against Leicestershire, Sussex 558/9 dec & 210/1, Leics 756/4 dec (their fifth wicket pair adding an unbroken 477 with some rather horrible looking bowling figures from the Sussex bowlers.) A week later at Lord’s Sussex 523 and 191/9, Middlesex 485. Both games played on what appeared to be too batting friendly pitches. Then a heavy defeat at Trent Bridge where conditions gave the faster bowlers assistance, not that some, not excessive, help to bowlers is by any means a bad thing in my view. Some highlights, Pujara another double century and now past 1,000 runs for the season. Tom Alsop with his third century this year, is arguably having his best ever season after an indifferent start. The game at Trent Bridge also saw the return of Ollie Robinson contributing nine wickets in the match showing how much he has been missed this year and so pushing his claims for an England recall.

Two more newcomers described as “trialists” in the Middlesex game. Both seam bowlers. Firstly 28-year-old Aristides Karvelas born in Johannesburg who played first class matches for Gauteng (previously known as Transvaal) between 2018 and 2021 and also earlier in July this year he represented Greece in a T20 international against Italy. Looking back he has been playing club cricket in various English leagues since 2014. The second is Dorset born Brad Currie, 23, a left arm seamer. Both have played for a number of County second elevens, including for Sussex seconds in recent years showing their keenness to get a professional county contract. (Currie played at Horsham in a second eleven championship match also against Middlesex the week before his first team debut.) Both performed well at Lord’s, Currie with first innings figures of 6/93 and impressing many judges. Karvelas taking two wickets then contributed a valuable 57 in Sussex’s second innings. Both look decent prospects.

And now the Championship is put on pause for a month with the 50 over competition running alongside the Hundred before returning in September with the earlier 10.30 starts. This gap which will no doubt reignite the justifiable clamour for more championship cricket in summer / school holiday months.

Contributions To the Newsletter – If anyone would offer a piece of which they feel would be of interest for the monthly newsletter please contact me (details above).

England's International Cricket. Certainly the new Stokes, McCullum and Key regime has started positively both with results and in the style of play. Four matches, four times batted second four wins in exciting run chases. With all the talk of "Bazzball" and aggressive cricket I think that another key factor is selection, the best bowlers are playing when fit. Yet India strangely seem to ignore the all-round talents of Ashwin in England! Even with these wins England are positioned near the foot of the World Test Championship table, not helped by penalty points for slow over rates. South Africa, Test opposition later this season currently head the WTC table, though until all teams have played each other it will be hard to make much of the rankings. The white ball results, both 50 over and T20 were a different matter with England losing series to both India and South Africa, the latter included the hard-hitting Tristian Stubbs who a week or so beforehand played for Mumbai Indians' development side against Sussex Second eleven in a T20 at Horsham. To most spectators that day he was just a name on the team sheet and made a positive 30 with forceful straight hitting.

Commonwealth Games.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games is now underway. Women's cricket is included for the first time with eight competing nations – England, Australia, South Africa, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Barbados. (The competing countries must be Commonwealth countries / territories in their own right, hence Barbados not West Indies). The teams are taking part in a T20 tournament based at Edgbaston with England hoping no doubt for at least a medal, though beating Australia may be a tough proposition. While it will be the first-time women's cricket is included, the men competed in the 1998 Games in Kuala Lumpur - South Africa took the gold medal beating Australia. Including cricket should be a fine window for cricket in general (hopefully with some good television coverage) And will be a particular and deserved boost for the Women's game which is growing in popularity and quality, particularly at the higher levels.

Clubs – Sussex Premier League

July ended with Roffey having a 19 point lead over East Grinstead with Horsham another point behind, the latter two having shared a high scoring draw on the last Saturday of July. So with five rounds to go Roffey remain in pole position and still have to play both nearest challengers. Bognor Regis despite not having any "big names" in their line up are doing well in the first season back in the Premier League with a number of fine performances this year and stand fifth. They look as though they will avoid the quick relegation fate of many promoted teams in recent years. Eastbourne have climbed out of the relegation spots overtaking Brighton but Hastings are still bottom. In Division Two Cuckfield and Haywards Heath are currently in the promotion places.

Sussex v Surrey Fifty Years ago – the Pat Pocock Match

Another trip down memory lane. Sussex drew with Surrey at the Saffrons in mid-August 1972 and given that most of the first day was lost to the weather this may not be noteworthy, but the events as the game progressed to the draw were. Back to the beginning, Surrey on a truncated first day (Saturday 12th August) were just 38/1 at the close. When play resumed on the Monday they declared on 300/4 (Mike Edwards 81). Sussex, replying, declared behind as was often the custom in rain interrupted games, 226/5 (Roger Prideaux making an unbeaten 105), but with the declaration well into day three a draw looked likely. Surrey rattled up 130/5 from 34 overs with all these bowled by recognised bowlers. So Sussex were set 205 to win in what turned out to be 44 overs, almost straightforward by current standards and this led to an eventful conclusion. Despite the early loss of Graves, Greenidge and Prideaux took the score to 187 with three overs remaining, so Sussex needed just another 18 and looked on course for victory. But then Pat Pocock took centre stage. He took three wickets for just two runs in his penultimate over, Greenidge (68), Mike Buss second ball duck, Parks a second ball 2. So at the over's end 189/4, then Prideaux and Griffith took the score to 200/4 at the end of the nineteenth over. Now five to win from the final over, but a dramatic, historic over bowled by Pocock. Ball by ball details were Prideaux caught in the deep for 97 with the batsmen crossing; Griffith (6) succumbed to the second ball (so a hat trick), then Morley first ball so Pocock has taken 4 in 4. A single from the next ball then from the fifth Tony Buss is bowled, 201/8. Last ball three to win, Spencer and Joshi scamper one but Joshi is run out coming for a second. So Sussex end 202/9 and a dramatic draw. The five wickets in a final over is unique in first class cricket. A draw, but a dramatic afternoon that will long live in the memory of those like me present (though I needed to rely on "Cricket Archive" to fill in some of the precise details). The heroes on the day were Roger Prideaux (an outstanding player) with a typically commanding 97 to go with his first innings century and of course Pat Pocock figures of 7/67 and wicketless until his final two overs which included a hat trick extended to four in four, and all of his seven wickets. Without intending any disrespect to Pocock, Sussex entered a world of chaos when faced with victory and an outstanding bowler. I somehow wonder what would have happened had Pocock bowled a no ball at the end - in the chaos would Sussex have lost? A memorable day which remains in the mind even fifty years on.

Writing this also reminded me of the joy of County cricket at the Saffrons, particularly the three-day games with two in a week, often starting on a Saturday in August. Several Sussex members (and supporters of other Counties) would take a week's holiday, often staying in Eastbourne to make the week special.