



# 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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## **Draft dates for 2023 /4**

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep Goodwood

Wed 11 October  
AGM followed by Jon  
Filby

Wed 15 November  
Afternoon Tea, speaker  
Mark Ramprakash MBE

Thurs 14 December  
Lunch, Speaker tba

Wed 10 January  
Lunch, Speaker tba

Wed 14 February  
Lunch, Speaker tba

Wed 20 March  
Afternoon Tea Speaker  
tba

All events will be held in  
afternoons with times to  
be advised

**Renewals** – thanks to all  
who have renewed so far.  
For anyone still intending  
to do so please contact  
Chris Scovell.

**Society news** The Society is arranging a visit to Goodwood House and Cricket Club on Sunday 3 September. A Tour of the House is being arranged for those who would like to know the place better, the cost of which is £12.50 per person. This will be in the early afternoon, after which people can watch Goodwood Cricket Club play against Chichester CC. Light teas will be available. You should travel to the House independently; however, those who would like lifts to be provided by colleagues should contact David Harrison. David also needs to know how many are coming, so please let him know by **Monday 31 July** - preferably email [djh27@me.com](mailto:djh27@me.com) or Tel 07496 260538.

We still only have two speakers lined up for the coming winter season, David is in touch with others and once confirmed they will be mentioned in the newsletter.

**Sussex News** The T20 campaign has been disappointing not helped by injury absences (Ali Orr plus Shadab Khan and Nathan McAndrew after the two suffered a nasty looking collision in an early game, Shadab missed a couple games, McAndrew more) But once back Shadab showed with both bat and ball his T20 skills and emphasised that he could have been a match winner.

In the Championship two draws since the last newsletter, an enthralling game with Worcestershire at Hove, then a dogged rearguard action at Glamorgan not least from Oli Carter and Henry Shipley in a final wicket partnership surviving the final twenty-two overs to earn the draw. Sussex lie third, still undefeated. I suspect that last year both of these games might have been lost, but that Sussex battled out for draws shows to an extent the improvement within the side, with a balance with the younger ones gaining in match experience, with some more experienced players, and this recently without Pujara's masterful contributions.

**Cheteshwar Pujara** – it seems as though he will be available again for Sussex earlier than previously thought, indeed in advance of the One Day Cup. This follows what was to some a surprise omission from India's test tour to West Indies in late July / August. This comes on the back of a disappointing world Test Championship Final, scores of 14 (bowled playing no shot) and 27 (caught behind from a strange scoop shot). If this does turn out to be his final test, it will be a sad final game, not least for the manner of dismissals for a batsman of his quality and contribution to the India Test team in over 100 Tests. Possibly India are looking to the future and with Ajinkya Rahane, a similar age and the best performing Indian batsman in the WTC final likely to be retained, and a desire to give youngsters such as Yashasvi Jaiswal (in just 15 first class games he has nine hundreds and an average of 80.21), so Pujara is the one to miss out. But all of this could well be Sussex's gain – more opportunities to enjoy this master batter particularly if he is keen to regain his test spot, runs for Sussex in the last two years got him back into the India side.

**Henry Shipley**, a 27 years old New Zealand seam bowler Sussex recruited to play initially four championship games. Previously he has played 22 first class games for Canterbury since 2016 and also represented the full New Zealand side in eight ODIs and five T20s, all in this calendar year. To date for Sussex he has made key runs against Worcestershire and of course his defiance at Cardiff enabled Sussex to draw. He looks a more than useful overall performer and is the fourth "overseas" player to play Championship cricket for Sussex this season.

**Women's Test** The Trent Bridge Test (the only one and to be followed by three T20s and three ODIs) was a fine game and good display of cricket. On most other occasions Tammy Beaumont's double hundred (the first by an Englishwoman in tests) or Sophie Ecclestone's skilful bowling earning her five wickets in each innings would have been match winners but Australia countered with batting from Ellyse Perry, Beth Mooney and their depth, witness Annabel Sutherland at 8 making 137. Ashleigh Gardner's twelve wickets in the match proved decisive, she was deservedly player of the match. Australia won by 89 runs though there were moments when the result could have gone either way. For once, well in recent years at least, the game was played over five days which was a genuine success allowing teams to build large scores and the game to develop and not fizzle out in a draw.

Should there be more Women's Tests? Yes of course, though notably finance worldwide will need to be addressed. I also feel that more domestic "red ball" two innings matches worldwide will assist in preparing players for Tests, for instance Sophie Ecclestone bowled over 76 overs in the game whereas normally she would be bowl to either 4 (in T20s) or 10 in 50 over games. And not just the bowlers but batters need to develop longer skills. But again, will finances and player availability in longer domestic games be possible?

True, England lost but there were obvious signs of much improvement and some younger players, such as 22 year old Lauren Filer on debut who looked a promising bowler, arguably the best and quickest seam bowler in the England team. The Womens' game is definitely on the up, and on this showing provides much entertainment. The Test warranted and received coverage in the media, Sky television, BBC (evening highlights and live Radio coverage). England women are set to play a T20 under the Hove floodlights against Sri Lanka on 31<sup>st</sup> August and just before then England A will play Sri Lanka at Arundel on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Sussex Premier League.** Approaching the halfway point in the League, Cuckfield with six wins to date including a six wicket win over Preston Nomads, and just one defeat (East Grinstead). Looking at Cuckfield's results they appear to be a well-balanced side, the overseas batter Wesley Marshall has made some useful scores and left arm spinner Josh Hayward who played a few games for Sussex Twos about a decade ago when a teenager continues to be a reliable and wicket taking bowler, a key component in the side. Oscar Jago-Lewis who has played for Sussex seconds this year (notably at Horsham a few weeks ago) appears regularly has made some useful runs. Nomads, in second place, seem to be on a bit of a roll having in recent weeks had convincing wins firstly over East Grinstead (by 9 wickets chasing 177 the only wicket to fall fell at 168), then a week later beating Horsham by 100 runs. On that day, having lost their first six wickets for 82 rallied with skipper Nav Patel batting at seven making 75 not out and with lusty contributions from the late order Nomads reached 257/9 before their bowlers continued the job with the ball this time. Nomads winning streak continued beating Mayfield in the last week of the month when third placed East Grinstead and fourth placed Horsham shared a high scoring draw. In Division 2 Worthing are having a fine season and head the table.

**National Village Cup** – Sussex's last remaining team Cup, Glynde & Bedingham were defeated in round 5 (the first "national" round). Glynde were bowled out for 154, Redbourn from Hertfordshire reaching the target in just 26 overs losing three wickets in the process.

**2023 sees the anniversary** of two significant years in Sussex's history, 2003 was the Championship win and further back 1963 saw the initial Gillette Cup, though known at first as the "Knockout Competition for the Gillette Cup" and played over 65 overs a side (reducing to 60 the following year). Initially intended to increase what some saw as the waning the popularity of County cricket it rapidly became a highly popular and key part of the English season. Ted Dexter saw this as a competition Sussex could succeed in, with the presence of attacking stroke players, a battery of accurate seam bowlers allied to use of more defensive fields before others used that tactic. (This was before fielding restrictions were introduced.)

Sussex started with a win over Kent at Tunbridge Wells by 72 runs after posting 314, then in round 2 beat Yorkshire in front of a packed Hove. Here Jim Parks made 90 in a Sussex total of 292, Geoff Boycott batting at six looked to be taking the game Yorkshire's way before being run out – an Ian Thomson throw from the deep, key towards to a Sussex victory by 22 runs. Sussex then beat Northants in the semi-final comfortably (coincidentally Sussex again batted first and again made 292). So to the Lord's final and this time on a damp pitch (Lord's suffered heavy rain in the week leading to the final, pictures show plenty of sawdust on the surrounds), a low scoring encounter ensued. Parks made 57 in a total of 168 before Tony Buss and John Snow took three wickets apiece with Worcestershire bowled out in gloomy light fourteen short. Sussex became the first Gillette winners. Over the course of the four games Jim Parks stood out scoring 277 runs.

The Gillette Cup went on to be a highly popular competition not least due to the knock-out element and increasingly so in 1964 with the inclusion of some Minor Counties.