



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

Work is in hand to plan the remaining 2024/5 schedule, both dates, and speakers.

More information will appear here when known.

Photographs – If you take a photo 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, email address above CS

On Sunday 7th July the Society will break new ground with an afternoon tea at 3pm with **Barry Richards** as the speaker, venue the Pavilion Long Room.

Richards as many of us will recall had a distinguished career mainly with Hampshire frequently opening the batting with Gordon Greenidge, a mighty and contrasting pair (elegance and power but both very correct), I remember them demolishing a Sussex attack at Hove on at least one occasion.

Richards played just four Tests for South Africa, all in the early months of 1970 all against Australia, so he was another who missed out due to South Africa's widespread exclusion from world wide sport. But these four tests saw him make 508 runs at 72.57 with two centuries, the first, 140, coming in his second test flaying the Australian attack making 94 of these before lunch on the opening day. And in the process he shared a century partnership with Graeme Pollock, which must have been something special to see. He added a further century later in the series. A few months later he represented the Rest of the World in England (a series replacing the planned South African tour) and later in the decade he joined the Kerry Packer World Series cricket making 554 runs at 79.14 in WSC "Supertests". It will be interesting to hear his views on this period and the quality/intensity of the "Packer" games.

He has been justifiably described as one of the finest talents of the 20th century and was chosen by Dickie Bird in his autobiography as a member of his Dream team from all players he ever saw. Barry Richards was also chosen by Sir Donald Bradman as a member of his 20th century team as an opening batsman.

In many ways he will be remembered most, at least in England, for his years with Hampshire, 204 first class games, 15,607 runs at 50.50. It was not just the volume of runs, but also the manner he made them, always elegant and so easy on the eye, a real pleasure to watch.

We are so fortunate to have attracted him to speak to us and we are sure to be in for an interesting afternoon. This special, extra event will be available to all members of the Sussex Cricket Family, but Society members will be given priority of booking.

The cost will be £22 per head. The event starts at 3pm with the tea following Barry Richards's talk. Tea will comprise sandwiches (either egg mayo, cress and cucumber or Roast beef and horseradish) followed by a selection of Mini lemon posset choux buns; sultana scones with clotted cream and strawberries and a selection of macaroons with pistachio, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, raspberry and lemon meringue, followed by tea/coffee.

Booking Details To apply please contact (this occasion only) Martyn Levitt either by phone 01903 495451, email martyn.levitt@hotmail.com (note the full stop between Martyn and Levitt) or post 29 Chute Ave, High Salvington, Worthing, BN13 3DX by 25th June at the latest. Along with a note of your name; names of anyone coming with you, any dietary requirements and who you would like to sit with and finally your selected payment method. Payment can be made by either cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Society sent to Martyn, or Bank Transfer (Sort Code 60-13-09 Account No. 57843570) please show "JUL TEA plus your name" as the payment reference. Transfer is our preferred method. Early booking is recommended.

The normal cancellation comment - if a booking is cancelled after 25th June any payment will not be refunded.

RENEWALS - Thank you to all those who have renewed already either via the website, cheque, transfer or standing order. And a gentle 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 details 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.)

Sussex CCC news. Writing this just after a tense victory at Hove over Yorkshire in a bowler dominated game. I enjoyed the quality duel between Robinson (pushing his claim for a Test place) and Root on day one. I also thought Sean Hunt in his first game of the season really bowled well, Tom Alsop made key runs in the second innings. Sussex's next game is against second placed Middlesex at Lord's which is likely to be underway, or even over by the time you receive this newsletter, rather fittingly this game takes place over the Spring bank holiday weekend reviving old bank holiday memories. That game will mark the halfway point in the Championship, Sussex topping the Division 2 table, before the T20 Blast break.

The T20 Blast session is interrupted in late June with a couple of championship games, one home, one away before the final championship rounds from late August, though at Hove three games are scheduled for after the August bank holiday.

The match at Lord's will be Cheteshwar Pujara's last for Sussex this season (the Australian Danial Hughes coming in for the T20 Blast and remaining championship matches). Pujara will be missed not only for his considerable runs but also his calmness and elegant stroke play.

Jayden Seales - the early positive impressions have been confirmed in recent games even though a slight injury ruled him out of the Yorkshire match, he is the leading wicket taker so far for Sussex. If fitness permits he is due to play against Middlesex at Lords's but that too will be his last Championship appearance this season as well. (Nathan McAndrew coming in for the months of June and July). It would come as no surprise to me if Seales is included in the West Indies Test squad for the upcoming series against England starting in July. He is not in the initial West Indies squad for the World T20 Cup, I suspect his pace bowling may be more suited to the longer format.

If Seales plays in the Lords Test match, he may well be opposed by James Anderson who it has been announced will be making his final test appearance in what would be Anderson's 188th Test in a 21 year glittering career for England, with so far 700 wickets. While about a dozen players in the history of the game have had longer careers in terms of either games or years no pace bowler has matched Anderson's longevity which is a testament to his continued fitness and of course skills.

25 years ago the ICC Mens World Cup (50 overs) was held in England The group games were shared around the counties with Sussex hosting the plum India v South Africa match, just the second of the tournament. A sell out crowd of around 7,000 was packed into the County Ground with quite a few watching from the overlooking flats. There were various temporary stands erected at the northern end (familiar now for the T20 but new at the time) And there was much media interest, written, radio and television based mainly at the sea end of the ground, the roof of the old Gilligan stand housing various TV and radio boxes. Both at the time and with hindsight it seemed odd that a match which was guaranteed to attract a vast crowd was allocated to Hove when it might easily have sold out at far larger venues and I doubt if such a fixture would be allocated to Hove, or other grounds with similar capacities in future.

As for the game India batted first and despite losing Tendulkar fairly early for 28, Ganguly and Dravid batted pleasantly but possibly not with great urgency adding 130 for the second wicket. It took a brief run a ball cameo from captain Mohammad Azharuddin to enable India to post 253/5 in their 50 overs, (Lance Klusener 3/66). In reply South Africa stuttered at first but were steadied by the excellent Jacques Kallis who really deserved a century but was run out for 96. He was the key figure in various stands in the middle of the innings (not least with Jonty Rhodes) Kallis finally fell with just 27 needed. Rhodes assisted by Klusener with three four's in four balls to finish the game saw South Africa to victory by 4 wickets with sixteen balls to spare.

South Africa went on to reach the semi final going out to Australia, both teams dismissed for 213 in their 50th over, Australia going through to the final based on a better record in qualifying, an interesting criteria for this stage, another strange tie breaker method (20 years later England were to win a World Cup based on "more boundaries") Australia duly beat Pakistan rather comfortably in the final. But Hove had its World Cup moment as I am sure those present will recall.