



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

MAY 2023 ISSUE 663

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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Draft dates for 2023 /4

Wed 11 Oct AGM
followed by a speaker

Wed 15 Nov

Thurs 14 Dec

Wed 10 Jan

Wed 14 Feb

Wed 20 Mar

All afternoon events

Speakers yet to be
booked and will be
advised as soon as they
are known.

New Members

welcome to :

Mr E McLeish, Lewes
and Mr A Grey, Hove

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

Society News A draft schedule of dates for next winter's events appears in the left-hand column. The intention is for the AGM to move to an afternoon slot, and then hold a mixture of three lunches and two afternoon teas. So replacing one of the lunches from 2022/3 with a tea which reflects the popularity of the March 2022 afternoon tea event which was well attended (possibly more were present than for some of the lunches). David Harrison is in contact with potential speakers and once booked they will be advised in a future newsletter as part of the confirmed schedule.

Annual Renewals Thank you to all who have renewed so far and to those who also made a donation to Society funds. For those yet to renew but intending to do so a renewal form was included with the March newsletter. Subscriptions are £20 for a single member or £25 for a family member plus a further £8 towards postal costs if you wish to receive the newsletter by post. If paying by cheque please send the cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Society and the completed renewal form to Chris Scovell. If payment by Bank transfer, our preferred method, either post the form or send an email with your details to Chris. For transfers, the Society details are Code 60-13-09 Account No. 57843570, and here please show "Renewal and your name" as the payment reference.

Sussex News. Three games into the Division Two campaign, Sussex look to have started promisingly – one win, a close encounter with Durham (who followed up with two wins so as at April 30th head the table) and two rain impacted games with Yorkshire (Hove) and Gloucestershire at Bristol. Of the draws arguably Yorkshire were in a better position to force a win after being behind for much of the game before a late order flurry of runs (number 11 batter Ben Coad struck 5 sixes in a crucial 45) and rather as happened last year a poor third innings from Sussex in the match. Gloucestershire though were following on and four down at Bristol when rain finally won that match in a game where only 228 overs were bowled. The wet Bristol ground which prevented any play at all in Gloucestershire's previous game with Yorkshire also took time out of Sussex's visit. What would the position in the draws have been but for the weather, who knows for sure? Possibly a loss and a win. A good start.

Of the players well firstly Pujara, has as we have almost come to expect, has two centuries in five innings with calm assurance building to aggression once well set. Oli Carter has so far made important runs when needed, most notably in steering the side home to victory over Durham batting with the lower order. James Coles made a career best 74 at Bristol when batting with Pujara, so he is another to gain in this regard. Nathan McAndrew with seventeen wickets at 20.60 is the leading wicket taker and allied to a couple of useful scores down the order must be matching, even exceeding expectations (well certainly in my eyes). With Steve Smith arriving and due it seems to play this week at Worcester, McAndrew may seem unfortunate to be left out as only two "overseas" players can play and Pujara (until India commitments arise) must be a certainty with his current performances.

My other personal impression from my limited visits to Hove so far has been the weather not least temperatures very much on the cold side. Indeed the coldness reminded me of a photo I saw in the first-rate book of cricket photographs, "The Colours Of Cricket" by the award winning Philip Brown which shows a spectator wrapped up in a sleeping blanket while watching a county game from the old Gilligan stand!

Sir Andrew Strauss— In recent cricket news Sir Andrew Strauss has resigned from his ECB position. While most of the proposals from his "High Performance Review" have been accepted and likely to be implemented, those relating to County Cricket and in particular a reduction of Championship games have been reported as "dead in the water". Whatever happens to the Hundred (can it really be solely to blame for the current fixture schedule?) the challenge will be to squeeze three County competitions, the Championship, One Day Cup and T20 Blast into the English season. And somehow avoid the Championship "bookending" the season and feature more Championship games in what are normally regarded as the summer months. This pressure comes given the spectator popularity of the T20 Blast and to a lesser extent the One Day Cup. I wonder if a possible solution would be to alter the One Day Cup to a straight knock-out as per the original Gillette Cup which generated so much interest and almost gained interest in its second year when Minor Counties (as they were called then, now National Counties) were introduced and competed with, in some famous cases beating First Class counties, or at least try to condense the number of days allotted to the One Day Cup if it keeps its current format.

DIScoverABILITY Day. May 12th. Run by Sussex Cricket Foundation, this is an annual day aimed at providing young people with disability the opportunity to discover abilities with regard to cricket skills such as batting, bowling or catching, and takes place on the outfield at Hove. It regularly includes many from local schools and organisations. It may well be worth putting the date in a diary and go along and see the work the Foundation are putting in.

Club Cricket The Sussex Cricket League season starts on May 6 with Roffey again defending their Premier League Title which they have won seemingly endless times in the past decade, but this year they may be without Rohit Jagota who has been a key performer in their recent triumphant seasons. In some Premier League news concerning Sussex pros having moved clubs, I hear James Coles has joined Three Bridges and Horsham have recruited Bertie Foreman from Preston Nomads and also Charlie Tear from West Chiltington. But having a Sussex pro may not always be a significant bonus given their sometimes restricted availability with the County rightly having first call on them.

Overall the League has grown this year with 12 new teams having joined. 38 divisions covering virtually all the County and 361 teams (many clubs have more than one side) In addition T20 tournaments for SCL clubs. So a busy season ahead for the league clubs in the county, not forgetting of course the many others that play "friendly" matches often on Sundays and so there are many opportunities for our members to watch some club cricket.

Help please and a strange one. We have had a request from a Mr Hodges who says that his daughter already a keen Sussex supporter and the 4th generation Sussex supporter in the family lost her much liked "Sid The Shark" cuddly toy on the Hove seafront recently. Despite much searching it has not been found. And he tells me that the club shop no longer sells them. He has asked if one of our members has one they are willing to give / sell. Please contact Chris and I will put you in touch with Mr Hodges.

Errata in last newsletter. Firstly it was Jack Carson, not Jack Carter who performed admirably for England Lions in Sri Lanka during the winter (pleasingly Jack has continued in this vein so far this season). Secondly, I gather that the Second Eleven T20 finals day in June is scheduled for Wormsley despite one source suggesting the venue as the Aegis Bowl. While it is still a shame that Arundel which used to host this event has missed out this year, but at least it is moving to another attractive venue and not to a Test ground.