



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 2023 /24

Thur 19 October
AGM 2.15pm
followed by talk from Jon
Filby

Wed 15 November
Afternoon Tea, 2.15pm
speaker Mark Ramprakash
MBE

Thurs 14 December Lunch,
Speakers Patrick Ferriday &
James Mettyear

Wed 10 January 2024
Lunch,
Speaker David Gower OBE

Wed 14 February, 12noon
Lunch, Speaker Geoff Miller
OBE

Wed 3 April 2.00pm
Afternoon Tea Paul
Farbrace, Head coach,
Sussex Cricket.

The Society's final event of the 2023/4 "winter season", the Afternoon Tea with Paul Farbrace takes place on Wednesday 3rd April, 2pm. Bookings are going well, though there is still time to apply. Price £19, booking details appeared in last month's newsletter. The cut-off date for applications to reach Barbara Eagles is Tuesday 26th March. Ian Waring has told the Society that as with the recent Geoff Miller lunch, the parking wardens in the County Ground will be "stood down" on the day from 9am to 6pm.

The Tea falls after a couple of two-day Sussex friendlies at Hove (both in March) and just before the first Championship game at Hove which starts on Friday 5th April. To me cricket in England in March and early April, particularly this year with the current cold damp weather seems odd, but no doubt some of the die-hard keen supporters will turn up for at least some days of the friendlies.

After the first Championship game at Hove, Hove hosts another later in the month, so two of the seven home games are in April, as does an away game with Leicestershire. Between the two home first team games comes a second team fixture with Surrey at Horsham, one of a few second team games to be played there this season. With so much cricket in March and April let's hope for some drier and warmer weather. Grounds surely need a drier spell, not just at the main county grounds often with good drainage, but also and possibly more so the recreational clubs.

The Sussex first team squad will face a climate difference in these early season fixtures having recently been in Bengaluru on a pre-season tour/trip when they would have enjoyed warm, sunny weather.

Committee Roles – As you can see from the left-hand column both the Honorary Secretary and Speaker Secretary positions have been filled - Richard Lintott and Martyn Levitt respectively being appointed after they responded to the item in the newsletter a couple of months ago.

RENEWALS - Thank you to those who have renewed already either via the website or by cheque, transfer or standing order. And a gentle reminder that renewals are due on 1st April see last month's newsletter for more information including the renewal form and return details. Subscription rates are £20 single, £25 family/joint with a further £23 due if you want the newsletter delivered by post. (Note that the renewal remarks do not apply to members who joined via the Society website, here renewals will be collected automatically, or to those who are Society members via the Sussex Cricket Foundation.)

New members – Welcome to David Bone, Hove, Brian Veasey, Shoreham by Sea, and Robert Whitelaw, Littlehampton.

Sussex News - Sussex recently announced that Indian left arm seamer Jaydev Unadkat will be returning to Hove for the final five 2024 Championship games (end August to end September). He impressed in a short spell at Hove at the tail end of the 2023 season, not least with what was arguably a match winning performance against Leicestershire (3/23 and 6/94). So, the "overseas" spots will be Pujara and Hughes batting and Seales, McAndrew and Unadkat bowling and as all spread across the season it looks as though each game could see Sussex field both an overseas batter and bowler.

World Cricket – For much of the winter months it seemed as though T20 franchise cricket held sway whether in Australia (Big Bash), South Africa (SA20) etc, but happily Test Cricket also came to the fore. Firstly, in Australia, the hosts beat Pakistan, then drew a two Test series with West Indies when West Indies had a dramatic win at Brisbane to tie the series. Here the previously little, if any known outside the Caribbean, Shamar Joseph shone with bat and in particular ball. His was a real good news story raising spirits, arguably the best in recent months. I read about his background from the small Guyanese town of Baracara and his seemingly innocence in world sport (even finding time when in Adelaide to buy a small cricket bat to take home to his two year old son). Pleasing he added that given a choice he would prioritize Test Cricket for West Indies over franchise cricket.

Then for England in India, true India won the series 4-1. India have been so dominant in home Tests in recent times and were the better side. Even without Virat Kohli India found newcomer Yashasvi Jaiswal the attacking left hand opener who amassed 712 runs at 89, ably supported by Shubman Gill. And with an impressive selection of bowlers – pace and swing from Jasprit Bumrah and three variations of spin, Ravichandran Ashwin (off spin), Kuldeep Yadav (left arm wrist spin) and Ravindra Jadeja (orthodox left arm spin) covered all bases. Defeat was no real shame on an England team who continued their aggressive brand of cricket which won England the first test. They also found three young spinners who despite little experience or exposure in English County Cricket not only promised much for the future, but also delivered results in this series. Whether more than one will play in England home Tests is another matter unless there is a move towards more spin friendly conditions (not something I would disagree with). We also need to acknowledge James Anderson's remarkable achievement of reaching 700 Test wickets, only the third to do so behind Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708). This emphasises Anderson's skills and not least durability in being one of the outstanding bowlers in the world today even at the age of 41. He could well overtake Warne this coming English summer.

And now the almighty all-consuming IPL takes over, well at least for those (not though myself) keen on T20 franchise cricket, And further ahead apart from the English summer with Tests against West Indies and Sri Lanka, there is the ICC World T20 being held in the Caribbean plus USA with games due to be held in Dallas, New York (including India v Pakistan!) , Lauderhill (Florida) as well as more familiar cricket playing centres in the Caribbean, a tournament consisting of fifty five (yes fifty five) matches running from 2nd June to 29th June. Allocating games to USA is an interesting move and could generate cricket interest in USA before the new USA Major Cricket League tournament later in the summer.

Not forgetting the women – India's women proved as dominant as their men in Tests with series victories over both England and Australia. A different story though in white ball series with England winning in India, as did Australia who dominated all opponents whether in T20 or ODI formats. The women's IPL having just finished with Royal Challengers Bangalore beating Delhi Capitals in the final. The WIPL featured many "Overseas" players.

Sussex players overseas – Apart from those on England duty, Brad Currie and Charlie Tear did well when representing Scotland recently. In Australia, Oli Carter and Dan Ibrahim played for Newcastle City, Carter captaining the side and leading them to a T20 tournament win. In Sydney, Bertie Foreman has shone for Manly Warringah in the New South Wales Premier Cricket First Grade helping them reach the competition knockout stages.