

# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



SCS Founded : 1965  
Patron: John Barclay DL  
President: David Bowden

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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Contact us at  
[www.sussexcricketsociety.org](http://www.sussexcricketsociety.org)

### **Hon. Secretary**

David Harrison  
125 Ashdown, Eaton Rd, Hove  
BN3 3AR  
[djh27@me.com](mailto:djh27@me.com)

### **Newsletter**

Chris Scovell

### **Hon. Membership Secretary**

Chris Scovell  
2 Herons Rye Pulborough  
RH20 2DL  
Tel 01798 875597  
[chrisscovell@live.co.uk](mailto:chrisscovell@live.co.uk)

### **Hon. Treasurer**

Jim Grinsted  
26 Southdown Close,  
Haywards Heath, Sussex  
RH16 4JR  
Tel 07774 224410  
[jimgrinsted@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jimgrinsted@yahoo.co.uk)

## 2020/2021 EVENTS PROGRAMME

### 2020

**Aug 24<sup>th</sup>** Garden Party

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** AGM (7pm) followed by Evening Meeting

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>** Evening Meeting

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>** Autumn Lunch 12noon

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Afternoon Meeting

### 2021

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup>** Afternoon Meeting

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** Afternoon Meeting

**Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>** Evening Meeting

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup>** Spring Lunch 12noon

Speakers will be announced when booked.

Meetings take place in the Spen Cama Pavilion at the County Ground, Hove by kind permission of Sussex Cricket Ltd. Afternoon meetings at 2pm, Evening meetings 7.30pm apart from 7pm for the AGM

*Any views expressed in the newsletter are those of the writer, not necessarily those of the Committee of the Sussex Cricket Society.*

A message from our chairman, Malcolm Griffin: "The Committee wishes all Society members an enjoyable summer, albeit probably without County Championship cricket. We trust that everyone is keeping fit and healthy and avoiding the virus as we are. Your Secretary, whose flat overlooks the County Ground can report that on Friday 22 May, ECB organised a short training session at the ground for fast bowlers Ollie Robinson and Jofra Archer, possibly the only cricket he'll see this season. First Ollie came out with a coach and went through a warm up drill including some yoga exercises, then, off a short run, bowled half a dozen balls at medium pace on a prepared pitch. Some practice throws into the net followed then he was away. Ten minutes later Jofra appeared and warmed up with some impressive sprints, exercises, then about 15 deliveries at express pace, destroying the stumps several times. Then he too was off."

So this was the first actual bowling practice session for the two of them, all part of the lead up to the proposed 2020 international season while also keeping to the ECB guidelines in place at the time (late May) concerning "social distancing" and "one player one coach" in a session. Ollie and Jofra were included in England's training squad of 55 players for this year's Test and limited overs matches. Also named were Chris Jordan, Phil Salt and Laurie Evans, these three presumably for the short format games. Congratulations to all five.

As far as international cricket is concerned, the West Indians have arrived and are currently based in Manchester ahead of a three test series due to start at the Ageas Bowl in July. Full credit to them for agreeing to come. But for Counties at present the situation is less clear, certainly nothing until at least August. But there seem to be hopes of either an abbreviated four day "Championship" based on three localised groupings or a 50 overs competition followed by T20 cricket. Though quite possibly (and likely at least at first in my view) behind closed doors or with restricted spectator numbers, though by the time this is issued things could well have moved on. So it seems much as Malcolm hints at in his opening piece. This points to real doubts over this year's Society Garden Party unless regulations on crowds and hospitality change. More news on the Garden Party next month. Likewise there is no firm news to announce regarding the Society's winter programme at present.

**Zoom Cricket Talks.** Thanks to the Norfolk Cricket Society and Pitch Publications (publishers of many cricket books as well as other books) cricket talks have been available via the Zoom video conferencing system on recent Friday evenings, and will continue on a fortnightly basis through to late October. As Zoom operates over the internet sadly not all members may be able to tune in to talks. Access to the talk is by an invitation which we (SCS) issue by email a few days before each talk to members. If you have not received an invitation, please contact Chris Scovell. The first talk featured Ian Gould in a "question and answer" mode with BBC London's Mark Church and Bruce Talbot, Ian's main topic was his recent book, "Gunner". This was well received based on responses I received. We were able to watch from the comfort of our own homes, just missing the usual Society company, and of course the raffle, but certainly a welcome service.

Still on the subject of Zoom, Sussex have held a couple of Members' Forums using this tool.

**Keith Partridge**, who many will surely remember, died earlier in June after a period of ill health which prevented him attending either Society activities or matches at Hove. His funeral is set for later this month. Prior to this illness, although struggling with disabilities and partial blindness he was a regular at Society meetings. He was also a regular at Hove for matches for the better part of 60 odd years. Many will recall him going round the ground selling lottery scratch card tickets raising money for the County Club, though that activity stopped many years ago. He was also a great lover of opera and classical music and spent many a happy hour at concerts all over Sussex. A true "Sussex character" and friend to many, his memory will live on. Our sympathies and condolences go to his family and many friends.

**Clubs.** As at writing this there is still no definite date for cricket to start this year. Though the Sussex League and Foundation are hoping (possibly optimistically?) for a start at the beginning of July, and playing a half season with no promotion or relegation in 2020. Despite this ambition, the League are already considering various alternative options should that date not be possible.

**Gilligan / South Stand**, I came across this old photo taken from the top of the old stand, taken in 1975 or 1976 judging by the look of the parched outfield.



Amazing that at that time up to 400 spectators could sit there, in a variety of seating, wooden benches, plastic seats, their own

chairs or even deckchairs. So very much before health and safety restricted numbers and seating options. Never a pleasing building to look at, it looked even worse in later years when seats were reduced and TV scaffolding was erected on the stand. It did though offer a good spot to view the cricket, and the ground as a whole. The current stand while far less ugly often suffers appearance wise with many of the seats empty.

The line running north south appearing through the parched grass could be the hockey half way line. I think women's hockey was played on the south end of the county ground even in the 1970s.

Recently I was made aware of a relatively new website [www.thecountycollective.co.uk](http://www.thecountycollective.co.uk), (well new to me) which covers many aspects of the game, and includes an interview with Jason Gillespie where not surprisingly he discusses a range of issues around the current lack of cricket. This may well be of interest to Society members.

### **1970 Rest of the World Series**

After the heavy defeat at Lord's mentioned in the last newsletter, England levelled the series at Trent Bridge. D'Oliveira and Tony Greig, on his first England appearance, each taking seven wickets in the match. At Edgbaston ROW won by 5 wickets after eight of their batsmen passed 40 in the first innings including a century from Clive Lloyd. At Leeds an outstanding bowling performance came from Barlow whose bustling medium pace earned 12 wickets including four in five balls with a hat trick in England's first innings before ROW earned a 2 wicket victory. So, ROW won the series before the final game at the Oval but for England players a chance to push for a place on the winter tour to Australia.

England batted first, possibly with some trepidation given that in each of the previous four games the side batting first lost. Cowdrey top scored with 73, half centuries from Illingworth (his sixth of the series) and Knott as England managed 294. ROW lost their first four wickets for 96, then the crowd were treated to batting of the highest order as Graeme Pollock, after a lean run of scores, made 114 and Garry Sobers 79, added 165 for the fifth wicket. For once Sobers was outshone as Pollock displayed his full range of shots, either back or front foot. Memorably punching through the offside, straight driving, almost pushing the faster bowlers, relying on timing as the ball just beat fielders to the ropes. Even now I look back at the post tea session as one of the finest few hours of cricket I have seen, I suspect a feeling shared by others lucky to be present. Many would have turned up on the Saturday hoping for more of the same, yet early on Peter Lever, in his first England appearance, got through the defences of both left handers. After that Procter made 54, ROW finishing with a lead of 61. Lever with excellent control took seven wickets and probably this performance booked his place on the winter tour. Geoff Boycott then made an outstanding 157, not as exciting or memorable as Pollock and Sobers but equally effective. After a stand of 154 with Fletcher there were only small contributions as England made 344 leaving ROW 284 to win. A target reached with 4 wickets to spare, Rohan Kanhai making a skilful 100 before fittingly Sobers, the dominant figure all summer either with bat or ball, hit the winning runs.

So ended a fine series considered at first as Test matches but later downgraded by ICC despite the quality of play and intensity shown by both sides. Indeed Wisden said at the time "possibly only the Australian sides of 1921 and 1948 could have risen to the heights attained by The Rest, yet England over the series proved worthy opponents." So not an official Test series, but far from being "exhibition matches". Yet in 2005 a World XI played Australia in a fully recognised Test match. Was that World XI as good as the 1970 group? Debatable, possibly not. Some cynics could point to the 2005 game having been organised by ICC hence its status.