



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chair: Vacant

July 2022 Issue 653

Website:

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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

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2022/2023 Society Programme

2022

Oct 12 – Evening meeting
AGM followed by talk
from Jon Filby

Nov 16 – Lunch
(Speaker Bill Athey)

Dec 14 – Lunch
(speaker Paul Farbrace)

2023

Jan 11 – Lunch
(Speaker John Barclay)

Feb 15 – Lunch
Speakers, Patrick Ferriday
and James Mettyear,
authors of "Field Of
Dreams"

Mar 22 – Afternoon Tea
(Speaker tba)

All dates are Wednesdays
with details of the lunch
arrangements to follow.

Society News As you can see in the left hand column David has arranged speakers for most of the 2022/23 winter season starting with Jon Filby set to address us after the AGM in October. But we still have to fill the March Afternoon Tea event. The November, December, January and February events will all be lunches, booking arrangements to come in due course. I am sure many will agree an attractive line up and thanks to David for putting this together.

And before these comes our summer event on **Tuesday July 12th** in the Museum, an "open day" style event during the lunch interval of the Championship game with Leicestershire, all welcome but please note no food or drink can be consumed in the Museum.

Sussex News The 20 campaign is virtually over, no chance of progressing even before the last two games. Not advancing to the quarter finals must be regarded as a disappointment given the emphasis and recruitment aimed at the Blast. Rizwan stood out and as with Rashid Khan his presence was missed for many games due to other commitments. I suppose the comings and goings of overseas players did not help, though Obed McCoy looked more than useful in his few appearances. Tom Alsop and Ali Orr had some fine displays adapting to short format demands (and more on Orr later). The highlight of the Blast was possibly being the first team to lower Surrey's colours in the 2022 Blast

In the Championship, one defeat at Cardiff, then glory be a win at home against Derbyshire (the first home Championship win for a couple of years.) Starting with the Glamorgan game massive credit to Oli Carter with a debut century, 185 no less. And this after coming in with Sussex having lost both openers for just 29. Then firstly with Clark in a century stand and then going on to enable Sussex to total 376. In all Carter batted for over seven hours showing admirable concentration, it is good to see a young batter able to bat for this sort of time, and produce such a fine innings. He appears confident but not arrogant at the crease with a fine range of strokes, not only hitting boundaries but importantly keeping the scoreboard ticking over with ones and twos. Nimble on his feet as befits a wicket keeper, he added another 83 in the second innings, a major step forward in his career. Sussex may have lost but Carter did not deserve to be on the losing side.

Then to the Derby game where despite Mohammad Rizwan making a century Sussex trailed by just over 200 on first innings yet Derby did not enforce the follow on (Why not enforce a follow-on when on top ???) And by not doing so they had to bat in the often tricky third innings only to see loanee (yes another) Jack Brooks take 5/46 to get Sussex back in the game, with what seemed like an outside chance of chasing down 342 in 76 overs (marginally more generous than the target Middlesex chased down in the previous Hove game). This was Ali Orr's afternoon, 141, 15 fours and 6 sixes. Previous championship matches had indicated a sensible batter able to bat time and build innings, but now crisp ball striking particularly to leg, but also fine cutting dominating the Derby bowlers. He was admirably assisted by Mohammed Rizwan in the run chase, a situation made for Rizwan.

Not only a win, but importantly another major contribution from a Sussex youngster indicating some progress, development and reward for persevering with them.

Large fourth innings run chases are becoming more successful. Many possible reasons, not least pitches that do not deteriorate later in games as was often the case in years gone by; shortish boundaries; fast outfielders and not least the growing influence of T20 batting skills.

Remembering Jim Parks, who died at the age of 90 at the end of May 2022. He had a County career which ran from 1949 to 1976. For Sussex he played 563 first class matches making 29,138 runs with 42 centuries, (top score 205 against Somerset at Hove in 1955) in addition he played in 42 Test matches and had a short stint with Somerset after being released by Sussex.

His early career was almost entirely as a batter and a fine cover fielder, but in 1958 he took up wicket keeping, a switch that worked well for both Sussex and soon England. I suppose it is this role of batter / keeper that he is now best remembered to go with his attractive stroke play with the bat. Although not included in the MCC team to tour West Indies in 1959/60 he spent part of that winter coaching in Trinidad and was called up for the final Test match ahead of Roy Swetman who like Parks' predecessor at Sussex, Rupert Webb, contributed far less with the bat. The call up proved a success - Parks making 101 in the second innings, one of his two Test centuries.

Some personal recollections of his batting, which was certainly his strongest suit, are of a very open stance, a long-handled bat held at the top of the handle, and as a fine, attractive stroke player with shots all around the ground, a real joy to watch. He was never afraid to hit over extra cover in days when the aerial route was less popular than today. Another recollection I have is an innings of 91 against West Indies (Hall, Griffith, Sobers, Gibbs) in a Test at Lord's in 1966, the first Test I saw at Lord's. His breezy, free batting was ideal for the limited over competitions introduced with the Gillette Cup in 1963. His contribution to Sussex's early success here was not to be underestimated.

When Sussex for whatever reason did not re-engage him after the 1972 season he joined Somerset for a couple of years before finally retiring after the 1976 season but happily returned to Sussex taking the position of Marketing Manager and later had two spells as Club President and was regularly seen at the County Ground and always with a smiling face greeting members.

In later years he was heavily involved with the Old England eleven which played various matches around the country, mainly for charities, and fittingly it seems that his actual final match would have been for Old England at Haywards Heath in 1997 when his son Bobby also played.

His funeral took place at Worthing crematorium on 25th June with a reception held at the County Ground in the Jim Parks Bar of the Long Room that afternoon with, I was told, some former Sussex colleagues present.

Clubs – Sussex League East Grinstead and Roffey still head the Sussex Premier League table, but for both it has been an eventful and not always plain sailing month. Roffey started the month losing at home to Horsham by just one wicket, Roffey could only manage 124, Horsham had to thank some late order batting to squeeze home. Later in the month East Grinstead only just hung on for a draw against bottom placed Hastings then on the last Saturday in June the top two met at East Grinstead, the home side batted first making 250/8, Harry Finch with a century, but it was not enough with Rohit Jagota (so often a key man) making 118 as Roffey won in the final over. All of which leaves East Grinstead and Roffey at the head, though now Roffey trail by 17 points with Horsham after another couple of tense wins third. Still at the foot come Eastbourne and Hastings.

Division 4 West saw an amazing game on 18th June, certainly score-wise between Middleton's second team and Goring at Middleton. In a 45 overs a side match Middleton batted first making 350/8 (Rocco Gamblin 105) which surely was a winning score, but Goring's openers had other ideas passing Middleton's score without losing a wicket and with five overs to spare. Ben Cartwright was unbeaten on 98 and fellow opener Alex Maynard, Goring's captain who has a reputation of a being a hard-hitting batter, a massive 233 not out with 25 fours and 14 sixes. Middleton usually provides a good pitch and a smallish field, but still a remarkable achievement by Goring and Maynard in particular.

Second Eleven T20s – In the end Sussex did not reach "Finals day" after being docked two group points for playing two overseas players (Rizwan and Phillipe) in the game at Horsham mentioned last month. Disappointing and careless to be eliminated in this manner. As for "Finals Day" (two semis plus the final) a good crowd at Arundel saw Glamorgan win the trophy beating Leicestershire in the final quite convincingly. More interest came in their semi-final win over Middlesex with an incredible display of hitting from 22 year old Thomas Bevan, 132 from just 69 balls including ten fours and nine sixes. Glamorgan totalled 212, Middlesex fell just short and their final overs saw the unusual sight of Glamorgan wicketkeeper Tom Cullen dispensing with firstly his gloves, then pads, and field on the 30 yard circle behind the stumps rather than standing up, doing this to restrict scoring, and by law he had to dispense wearing gloves, an interesting and imaginative ploy. It was a pleasure that day to be at the Arundel Castle ground, as always attractive and with admirably efficient local organisation on the day.