



# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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## Dates for 2024/25

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

More information will appear here when known.

**New Members** – Welcome to Allan Chidley, Hove; Alan Browning, Haywards Heath; Anthony Burstow, Worthing, and Dorian Leddon, Saltdean.

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

The Society's 2023/4 "season" concluded with the Afternoon Tea with Paul Farbrace as the speaker on Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to Martyn Levitt, the Society's new Speaker Secretary for the following review.

Paul Farbrace had a very modest playing career with Kent and Middlesex, though later he was to make a significant mark in the field of coaching (not least as the audience knew in his current role as Sussex Head Coach). Going back to his playing days, his early Coach at Kent, Colin Page, apparently greatly encouraged him and taught him the lesson that "even the best Cricketers need some love sometimes".

Following a spell running the Kent Academy he was appointed as the Assistant Coach to Trevor Bayliss for Sri Lanka in July 2007. Paul explained how Politics played a massive part in Sri Lankan Cricket with Government Ministers sometimes picking members of the Team.

Paul also recounted how he had sustained a minor injury when the Sri Lankan team bus was attacked by terrorists in Lahore in March 2009. Paul also memorably recounted his experiences of dealing with the rather complicated individual Muttiah Muralitharan.

He was named as the First-team Coach of Kent for the 2010 season. However, Kent were relegated from Division One in his first season and then had a rather difficult season back in Division Two, after which Paul left his role. Upon leaving Canterbury Paul was appointed as the Second X1 Coach for Yorkshire for the 2012 Season. Paul recalled how Geoff Boycott had memorably participated in the interview process when not being a formal member of the Interview Panel.

In December 2013 he was momentarily named as the Coach of the Sri Lanka national team. During which he secured their fifth Asia Cup title overall but their first since 2008. Sri Lanka also won the 2014 Twenty20 World Cup for the first time by beating India by six wickets. Thereafter he resigned in April 2014 to become the Assistant Coach of England under Peter Moores.

When Peter Moores was subsequently sacked in 2015 by Andrew Strauss, the new ECB Director of Cricket, and replaced as the England Coach by Trevor Bayliss, Paul would remain as Trevor's Assistant Coach, as he had done previously with Sri Lanka.

In February 2019 it was announced that Paul Farbrace would be leaving his England post to join Warwickshire as their Sporting Director. He left the Club at the end of the 2022 Season. Paul Farbrace was appointed as the Head Coach of Sussex on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

Most interestingly, Paul Farbrace performed his presentation without notes or a handheld iPad and answered his questions in a truly spontaneous style.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 renewal 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.)

**Society 2023/4 winter season.** Looking back the Society's series of events was by all accounts highly successful and well attended. The speakers were both varied, interesting and entertaining. Some top quality speakers such as Mark Ramprakash, David Gower OBE, Geoff Miller OBE along with Sussex connected speakers, Jon Filby, Patrick Ferriday and James Mettyear and finally Paul Farbrace spoke at our events. So, an outstanding array of speakers, and I wonder if the Society has ever had such a selection in previous years? Yes in the past we have had some outstanding speakers, but I doubt if we have had such a winter season, other members could offer different views here.

With the numbers present at these events it is another sign of the success of moving to afternoon events with the provision of lunches or teas. So, many thanks to the two Davids, Harrison and Bowden for booking the speakers and to Barbara Eagles for handling member event applications/requests and for her organisation.

**Some Sussex CCC reflections.** One of my abiding memories from the early games was the cold weather. On the field Sussex played three games, one win and two draws, in both draws Sussex looked the more likely winners had not a combination of rain and bad light interfered during and at the conclusions, but such is a peril of playing so early in April. Most if not all of the players have performed well. Two centuries so far from Tom Haines, I was impressed with Jayden Seales's pace in the first game. It seems that the additions of Danny Lamb and captain John Simpson has added both experience and depth to the batting middle order. Simpson and Lamb both recorded their highest first-class scores, 205\* and 134 respectively, in a stand of 255 at Leicester. Together with Fynn Hudson-Prentice, the numbers 6, 7 and 8 batting as they are, not only have good totals been made but also at speed.

The next home game against Yorkshire should be a good test for Sussex not least if the visitors have Joe Root and Harry Brook available as they have been for a couple of games so far, though England calls could alter this.

The Second eleven game scheduled for Horsham in mid-April was abandoned with the ground not having recovered from all the rain in the last few months. The second team have some T20s set for Horsham, and one at Arundel from mid-May onwards.

Jofra Archer has been included in England's T20 provisional squad to contest the T20 World Cup (June) and before that a short series with Pakistan in May when he will be able to prove his fitness. This must be good news, as Jofra is an outstanding and potential match winner. Whether we see him for Sussex this season, or even in red ball cricket may be another matter.

I read that 19 year old Bertie Foreman (another product of the an increasingly productive Sussex Academy) has been offered a full County contract having previously held a "rookie" contract. Good luck to him and it will be interesting to watch his progress. He had a fine winter playing for Manly Warringah in the New South Wales Premiership taking 50 wickets helping Manly reach the First Grade Premiership final though there they lost a three-day final to St. George, who topped the ladder (or League Table as we might call it). Foreman did earn personal recognition being named joint winner of the prestigious Bill O'Reilly Medal for the outstanding men's First Grade player of the season, voted on by the umpires.

Also in Australia, Western Australia beat Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield final. Why mention this in this newsletter? Well there is the Lord Sheffield connection (he was a great supporter of Sussex CCC in the 1890s and ran his own side frequently at Sheffield Park in Sussex. In 1891/2 he took his side captained by W G Grace to Australia and included three "test matches" along with other games. He left a sum of money to the Australian cricket authorities who in turn used part of it to purchase the Shield which is still contested each year by the various states. Then the two captains, Sam Whiteman (WA) and Jordan Silk (Tas) have had recent year long spells with Cuckfield in the Sussex Premier League, also 22 year old Jayden Goodwin, (whose father Murray Goodwin was one of the leading lights of the Sussex side in the Sussex Championship winning side) at 3 for WA. So some Sussex interest/connection.

**Women** – Disappointing news for Sussex not being selected as one of the eight counties to host a team in the new women's county competition starting in 2025. So despite the strength of women's cricket in the county, being surrounded by three equally strong potential counties may have counted against Sussex. Equally I imagine that some of the Sussex players will migrate to another team. This year Southern Vipers will still have some home games at Hove and also Arundel.

**Disability Cricket** – on the weekend of 11 and 12 May The 1st Central County Ground will host two Sussex disability matches - on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> against Northants, then the following day Lancashire.