



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 2024/25

Wed Sept 25 afternoon Tea with Jeff Thomson as the speaker

October 23 AGM followed
by speakers Jon Filby &
Peter Fitzboyden

November 20 speakers
"Sussex Legends" John
Barclay, John Snow &
Peter Graves

December 11 Christmas
lunch speaker Graham
Gooch OBE

January 15, speaker
Jonathan Agnew MBE

February 19, speaker
John Simpson, Sussex
captain

March 19 speaker to be
advised

Future Society Events.

25th September sees the **Jeff Thomson afternoon tea**. There are still places available— if interested in attending please contact Barbara Eagles no later than 13th September (phone 01273 778988, email eagles202@btinternet.com, post 4 Champions Row, Wilbury Ave, Hove, BN3 6AZ). The price is £22 per person. See last month's newsletter for more information. Even if you pay by transfer please let Barbara know.

On October 23rd the speakers for the **Afternoon Tea event** will be Jon Filby, Sussex Cricket Chair, and Peter Fitzboyden Sussex Chief Executive. This will be held in the Long Room, Spen Cama Pavilion starting at 2pm.

Booking Details for the Tea Pre-booking including payment (**£22 per person**) **is essential**. To apply please contact Martyn Levitt either by phone 01903 495451, email martyn.levitt@hotmail.com (note the full stop between Martyn and Levitt) or post 29 Chute Ave, High Salvington, Worthing, BN13 3DX by **13th October at the latest**. When applying please provide your name; names of anyone coming with you; any dietary / food allergy requirements for each person: who you would like to sit with and finally your selected payment method. Payment can be made by Bank Transfer (Sort Code 60-13-09 Account No. 57843570) please show "OCT TEA and your name" as the payment reference, or cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Society sent to Martyn with your application.

Even if you pay by transfer, please let Martyn know that you have paid. Transfer is our preferred method. Early booking is recommended.

Those members booked for the Tea are strongly encouraged to attend the **Society's AGM**, which will commence at 1:00pm on 23rd October, also in the Long Room. As normal this is open to members only. More details on the AGM including the official notice agenda, reports and financial reports will be issued with the October newsletter in late September.

Car parking will be free within the Ground for both the AGM and the Tea with the usual parking warden being stood down. Members/guests must not leave their cars at the Ground post event, especially overnight.

Finally, the normal cancellation comment - if a booking is cancelled after **13th October** any payment previously made will not be refunded.

For the **November meeting**, Roger Dakin will be interviewing John Barclay, John Snow and Peter Graves as "Sussex Legends" so it is sure to be a very interesting and entertaining afternoon.

The March speaker is still to be booked and will be advised here when confirmed.

New Members Welcome to Alan Maltby and Martin Savill

Sussex News. The County Championship returned in late August only to be interrupted by a week in early September for the T20 quarter finals before finals day at Edgbaston on 14th September. Congratulations to Sussex, both players and coaching staff, on reaching T20 finals Day after a comprehensive win over Lancashire under the Hove lights on 4th September. As for the Championship, Sussex suffered a loss to Yorkshire at Scarborough, though bounced back with a win over Derbyshire when closest promotion rivals Yorkshire and Middlesex drew their game at Headingley. The latter two results suggest that Sussex are in a prime position for promotion heading into the final three rounds. In the final round at the tail end of September Sussex play Middlesex which could be decisive depending on other results. So, the duel for promotion looks close and potentially very interesting, the hope must be that weather in mid / late September allows issues to be decided in play.

Player news and here it all sounds good news for Sussex supporters with James Coles, Tom Alsop and Jack Carson having had their current contracts extended to the end of 2027. This reflects their current contribution to the County side and also what all three could well achieve in the coming years. Daniel Hughes who contributed so much to the T20 Blast this year and will feature in the remaining 2024 championship games has signed for 2025, all Championship and Blast games. Jayden Seales who impressed in the early months of this season for both Sussex and West Indies is going to be available for the first block of county championship matches in 2025

August was a good month for Tom Alsop even though he spent much of it sitting on the sidelines for Trent Rockets in the Hundred. Having not played in their early games, he was released by his franchise and played for Sussex in their only 50 over win, over Surrey making a century. That seemed to spur the Rockets to select him the next day when he made 51 v Oval Invincibles, then a couple of days later 41 not out in a win over Birmingham Phoenix. Two good scores in his only outings yet it seemed a waste with him sitting out early games. At the end of the month, he had a stand out performance making 86 not out and 61 when Sussex lost to Yorkshire in the championship. Alsop seems to be in rare form possibly the best of his career. Yet I wonder why if recruited by the Rockets he only had two games and sitting on the sidelines for the remainder when Sussex could have done with his services. I suspect that he might not have been the only county player to be treated in such a manner. (Ollie Robinson was another with Trent Rockets who played just one game)

With Alsop, Robinson plus James Coles away with Hundred teams, (Coles played more games than the first two) and allied to the decision by Sussex not to use an overseas player, and even rest on occasions some of the senior players, the 50 over One Day Cup side had the appearance of a development / learning side. This is rather similar to a number of other Counties. Sussex results were disappointing with just one win and some close defeats. Hopefully some of the younger players will have benefitted from the exposure and experience in first team cricket.

Womens Cricket The advance ECB 2025 international fixture schedule shows that Hove is due to host a floodlit T20 international with West Indies on 23rd May. And further ahead in 2026 England will be playing a Test match against India at Lord's, the first time a women's Test has been played at Lords. Though it should be added that women's Test matches world-wide tend to be a rarity. Womens cricket is improving in quality and is generating a significant amount of interest with an increasing profile. The womens game certainly seems to be benefitting from The Hundred not least with the leading domestic players being concentrated in fewer teams and boosted by some top international players, all of which increases the quality and entertainment on view.

Clubs - Premier Division There should have been 3 rounds of matches since the last newsletter however all matches scheduled for the 24th August were cancelled due to rain that weekend. Now with only two rounds remaining Preston Nomads despite recent stutters including a home loss to Horsham continue to head the table leading Three Bridges narrowly, and then Horsham followed by Middleton. The final round of games will be crucial in deciding the title. At the bottom Hastings now have a chance to avoid relegation and are in a battle with Bognor to avoid joining Worthing as the relegated clubs. In Division 2 Ifield went top overtaking long time leaders Haywards Heath, and significantly they play each other in the penultimate round on 31st August which could decide who tops the table. West Chilmington in 3rd place could nip in to one of the two promotions slots if either of the top two slip up in their remaining games.