



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED : 1965

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CHAIR: VACANT

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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 Derek Pringle

All dates are
Wednesdays.

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

Society AGM. This will take place on Wednesday October 12th at 7.00pm. The venue will be the Long Room of the Spen Cama Pavilion, 1st Central County Ground, Hove. The formal notice, agenda, accounts, minutes from last year's AGM are issued together with this newsletter. The Committee review of the Society's year will follow with the next monthly newsletter.

Following the AGM, Jon Filby, Chair, Sussex Cricket Ltd will address members, no doubt reflecting on Sussex's 2022 season and possibly the broader involvement of Sussex Cricket within the community. We may even hear any updates on the future scheduling if anything has been decided or can be communicated.

Information on booking for the lunches should also follow in the next newsletter.

Further ahead for the March "afternoon tea" event, David has booked Derek Pringle who will present a slide show of cricketers he played with and against, along with tales of their cricketing exploits. So now all speakers for the 2022/3 schedule have been booked. Thanks go to David for his work here in lining up an interesting array of speakers.

Royal London One Day Cup - Sussex, less affected than some other Counties by Test or Hundred calls, progressed in some style through to a home semi-final where they came unstuck against Lancashire. The latter batting first declined to 67/5 against promising opening spells from the Sussex quicker bowlers, but from there led by Dan Villas with fine support from George Lavelle and towards the end a closing onslaught from Danny Lamb reached an imposing 319/8. In reply only really Orr and to a lesser extent the returning Haines made many. Even Pujara (who it transpires was making his final appearance for Sussex this season) was restricted then dismissed by controlled, disciplined Lancashire bowling. So sadly no final to look forward to but overall the tournament has had many positives for the young Sussex side as they progressed through the group stages.

In the group stages a number of massive scores not least 397/5 against Somerset and topping that 400/4 against Middlesex. Ali Orr has had a superb run including 206 at Taunton and other good scores. Tom Alsop almost matched this with an undefeated 189 at Hove against Middlesex, Tom Clark weighed in with a century against Surrey, and of course the sublime Cheteshwar Pujara, leading the side with Tom Haines injured, masterful as always with a series of large centuries. It is hard to get tired of watching Pujara manipulate the ball almost effortlessly to various parts of the ground, Sussex were certainly fortunate to recruit him and I hope he will be able to return next season if his commitments allow. The bowling was steady without real standout performances, with probably Karvales and Rawlins the leading performers, Rawlins has had a good all-round competition with some decent runs as well.

The final will see Lancashire face Kent for whom the evergreen 46 year old Darren Stevens was not only Kent's most economical bowler in the semi-final, but then hit a match winning 84 from just 65 balls to win the game. Kent seem likely to release him at the end of the season. Despite his age, he is still able to produce influential match defining performances.

The Royal London competition suffers in some ways with so many leading players elsewhere - Test calls and the Hundred meaning that in a number of instances Counties fielded very raw sides, but Sussex could only beat what was in front of them and until the semi-final for the most part did so emphatically. I certainly got the impression that the majority of the spectators appreciated watching the young side.

New Members – Welcome to Alan Pengelly, Horsham and John Stevens, Lindfield

County Championship – It seems quite a long time since the last Championship game at Hove (it actually ended on 14th July, though two games in late July were both played away). Now for the final three games, with two at Hove, the first starting on 12th September, after almost a two month gap. The final one starts nearer Christmas Day than mid-summer day! Remembering back to the season's start, Sussex hosted Nottinghamshire at Hove in early April, and before a relatively late Easter, when the temperatures were pretty cold and not very comfortable. Sussex seem likely to have Tom Haines back for the September games after recent run outs for Horsham and then in the Royal London semi-final but not Cheteshwar Pujara whose Sussex availability expired at the end of August, after his outstanding season in both Championship and Royal London games - his absence will be greatly missed.

We all want changes to the schedule, and I gather from media reports that for 2023 the schedule is likely to be fairly similar to this year, but then there may be changes depending on the results of the Andrew Strauss review for future years. Reports suggest that this will be due for consideration, and voting on, by the Counties in September.

Commonwealth Games Round-Up In the end England despite topping their group with three wins out of three lost to India in the semi final when three middle innings run outs did not help their cause chasing 165 to win. Then New Zealand won the bronze medal match restricting England to just 110/9 in the twenty overs and reaching their target with eight overs to spare, Sophie Devine leading the charge with an undefeated 51. A disappointing end for England who would have hoped for more. The Gold medal match was a fine encounter with Australia posting 161/8, the excellent Beth Mooney making 61 from 41 balls. In reply, India for a while looked winners with Harmanpreet Kaur matching Mooney in runs and with also style and effectiveness. In the end the Australian fielding (more run outs) and bowling saw the Gold medal heading "down under". So both the opening and closing matches were contested by India and Australia, with the Australians narrowly winning both to show their overall supremacy in the women's game. A surprise in the final was that the Australian Thalia McGrath was allowed to play by doctors and the organisers despite testing positive for Covid within 24 hours of the final, not that she shone on the day. Given that Australia had Ellyse Perry in their squad her inclusion seemed even more odd. A fine tournament but I thought lacking the coverage expected / hoped for with television coverage seemingly restricted to the "Red Button" and i-Player, my source for watching the final.

This exposure showed the steps forward in the women's game with some excellent players. No doubt they will also gain from the Hundred where the likes of youngsters such as the precociously talented Alice Capsey will enhance growing reputations. We will get the opportunity to see the state of the women's game when England Women play India (hopefully including the likes of Kaur and the equally elegant batter Smriti Mandhana) at Hove in an ODI on Sunday 18th September, part of a 6 match series including both 50 and 20 over games.

Men's Test Series – two tests against South Africa, two comprehensive innings wins to each side and both inside three days (in playing time just two days at Lord's once allowance was made for losing the better part of two sessions on the opening day). So Zeroes to Heroes or vice versa depending on which side you are talking about. I have been impressed with Ben Foakes, not just for his first-rate wicket keeping but also for sound batting. After a brief break from the two "back to back" Tests, it will be all to play for in the third at the Oval in September. With both Tests ending in three days it will probably have left a dent in ECB coffers and so likely also to the "dividends" paid to Counties. The Old Trafford Test also saw the recall of Ollie Robinson who having proved his fitness having by accounts having undertaken an intense fitness regime, it seemed to bear fruit as he bowled skilfully in both innings.

Clubs - Sussex Premier League. With just one round to go on Sat 3rd Sept., Roffey are still leading, now by 12 points ahead of East Grinstead and need only to win their final match at already relegated Hastings to clinch another title. And this despite losing to East Grinstead at the end of August on their own ground (so one win to each side when the top two faced each other). In this match, put in Roffey made 222/7, not being bowled out proved important given the way first innings bowling bonus points are accumulated - a maximum 10 if bowling a side out. Jagota making another important undefeated contribution of 55. East Grinstead with Leo Cammish carrying his bat for 114 enabled East Grinstead to win by 5 wickets with 7 overs to spare. But this win may not be enough to stop Roffey. News on the final round and end of season placings next month and hopefully some news from lower down the pyramid.

"Yes... No... Wait... Sorry" – A cricket quiz book written by Stephen Chalke and Chris Coley. We, along with other Cricket Societies, have been asked to make our members aware of this book where all proceeds (other than any postage costs) go to the Professional Cricketers Trust. The book can be bought via the website www.thecricketquizbook.co.uk, where more details of the book can be found. The cost is £11.99.