



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965
CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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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 Speaker, - Martin Richards, Vice Chair, Sussex Cricket

Mar 22 2.15 – **Afternoon Tea**
Speaker Derek Pringle

All dates are Wednesdays.

Next Society Event **22nd March, 2.15 pm** for our “afternoon tea with Derek Pringle”, when our speaker is likely to talk about players he played with and against. This should be an interesting way to end our “winter season”. Pre booking is required, cost £10 per person to cover the tea (sandwiches, cake and choice of tea or coffee) To book and pay please contact Barbara Eagles by 14th March, (4 Champions Row, Wilbury Ave, Hove, BN3 6AZ, Email eagles202@btinternet.com Phone 01273 778988). Payment by transfer or cheque (Transfer details: sort code 60-13-09 Account Number 57843570 with payment ref TEA and your name)

Car Parking for Society functions. If you aim to park in the ground, please call in at reception / club shop obtain a parking permit and display it clearly in your vehicle.

Annual Renewals – these are due on 1st April. A renewal form is supplied which includes payment and return details. Subscription rates remain at the 2022/3 levels including the postal element though here £8 no longer covers postage and other costs associated with this distribution method. For members paying by **Bank Standing Order** please check with your bank to ensure that they remit the correct amount – last year we had a number of standing order payments still at the old £15 level. (While the detailed schedule for 2023/24 has not been agreed it is likely that it will follow in outline the format in 2022/3, more news here when known.)

Thanks to Richard Barrow who supplied the following piece on one of the Society’s and Sussex’s most loyal and well-known supporters Brenda Lower:

“Brenda the ‘keeper of the balls’ and Sussex most iconic fan recently passed her eightieth birthday. The Cub recognising Brenda’s near legendary dedication and service couldn’t let this pass unnoticed and invited Brenda to host a lunch party in her honour on Friday 10th February in the Board Room. Brenda had free reign to invite her closest friends and this included Club President Johnny Barclay and our Society Chairman, David Bowden. Brenda was showered with gifts and birthday presents and a wonderful birthday cake.

I suspect there will not be many Sussex supporters who don’t know or who would not recognise Brenda. Her end of aisle seat in the centre of the Pavilion has been hers for the best part of sixty-five years. You can’t miss her; she is the one who is always laughing, incredibly enthusiastic and positive and constantly surrounded by her many friends and admirers. Brenda steadfastly refuses to hear a bad thing about any of the players or Club. Woe betides you if you try!

She told me she first came to the County Ground with her father as a twelve year old in 1955 and was hooked from day one. No one could have been happier in 2003 when Chris Adams lifted the Championship Trophy for the first time in Sussex’s history. It was a huge day for the Club and one suspects even bigger for Brenda.

Brenda’s youthful enthusiasm and constant optimism remains as strong as ever. I have known Brenda man and boy for well over fifty years; she never seems to age, she is exactly the same as when I first met her as a fourteen year old. Her effervescent excitement never dulls. She willingly and proudly confesses Sussex Cricket is her whole life. Her support for events off the field is unbridled, not least Sussex Cricket Society events. She attends virtually every lunch, talk and celebration and never ever complains about cost. Brenda has been a member of the SCS since the 1960’s.

Johnny Barclay presented on behalf of the Club a commemorative 2003 Championship winners County Cap to Brenda, which she tells me now has pride of place in her ‘Sussex Cricket Cabinet’ in her front room. Brilliant! Well-deserved Brenda. Head down for your hundred, you wouldn’t bet against her.”

Alistair Orr Society Player of the Year for 2022. Alastair having spent the winter in Australia has contacted David Harrison to express his gratitude for the award adding "I can promise you all I will be working as hard as possible to make further improvements to my overall game in the 2023 season".

February 2023 Lunch Review – Thanks to Ivor Evans for the following:

It was a truly glorious sunny day in Hove for the gathering of the Society for its February meeting. There were a lot of changes afoot. As you walked along Eaton Road towards the ground, the majority of the hoardings had been removed from the new 'Tate Towers'. Having missed the small notice, saying turn right as access to the Pavilion was via the outfield, a number of us turned left at 'Greig's' to be confronted with a large but neat pile of rubble – the club office block is no more. A machine was hard at work doing the same to the refreshment facility adjacent to the Pavilion.

Walking around the outfield, one could only admire the work the groundstaff had put into the outfield it looked absolutely superb; it was a stunning verdant green - Groundsstaff were going up and down with hand mowers. You cannot but admire the care and attention that is invested in ensuring a quality playing surface. The fanciful amongst us could think that it was April or May and that players were off the field for lunch rather than it being the middle of February.

Before introducing the speaker, our Chairman reported that he had received an e-mail from Gary Wallis-Taylor, Community Cricket Director to express his thanks for the £1,000 donated by the Society. It was being used to support three players, one each in the Under 14, 15 and 16's County Pathway programme.

Sixty people gathered once again in the Long Room to hear Martin Richards. The Chairman outlined his career being Chief Constable of both Wiltshire and Sussex; was awarded the Queen's Police Medal. Closer to home, Martin is a quizmaster for Sporting Memories that meets each week in the Sussex Library and is Vice Chair of Sussex Cricket and part of his brief is liaison with Members. The title of Martin's talk was three C's; Coppers, Cricket and Confectionary - I'll leave the last piece to the end.

Martin had been a policeman for thirty two years. He spoke about his early days in the West Midlands and as an enthusiastic young constable being sent up by older colleagues. Later on is his professional life, during a "Fathers for All" protest dealing with Batman and Superman on Clifton Suspension Bridge!

In his time, Martin had been a member of the Warwickshire, Worcester and Sussex clubs. At Worcester, in 1984, he saw one day's cricket, no sooner had the season began when the Miners strike commenced. Long days and sometime seven day weeks were the order leaving no time for cricket. On moving to Sussex, Martin joined the county cricket club and did what so many of us will remember doing in our working lives – leaving work on the dot to catch the last hours play.

Martin spoke about many of the similarities between Policing and Cricket and the importance of safe-guarding and individual emotional intelligence. From the police side, the missed opportunities of capturing a man who went on to kill his girlfriend. The tragic case of a young boy involved in the death of his own brother and the professional and emotional way a young constable, dealt with the boy. In cricket the example of a under ten boy using somewhat agricultural language to an umpire when given out. The boy being asked to comment on his actions and language, realising how wrong he had been and finally being asked to relay the conversation to his watching grandmother – something no one would do. He went on to talk about arriving at Sussex Police. Before him it was somewhat autocratic with the classic management pyramid of Chief officer at the top and other ranks below (which many people who had worked in the public sector could readily identify with). Martin strove to invert the pyramid; with the Public at the top and forefront with police ranks following and the Chief Constable at the bottom.

Martin said that Jon Filby and Rob Andrew worked hard on leadership throughout Sussex Cricket.

Martin listed his 'C's. He also has 'E's' for effort energy and entertainment. 'P's for people and passion. Also Humility, a Generosity of spirit and co-operation. He recommended that members look at Sussex Cricket Foundation 2022 Impact Report, where many of these themes are reflected and the success they the : https://sussexcricket.co.uk/sites/default/files/file-downloads/64080_sccc_2022_impact_report_v5-web_1.pdf

Going back to the start of his talk he noted the pedigree of the Society's two immediate past speakers, Paul Farbrace and John Barclay. Society members can now say that they have heard three excellent talks, all different, but each of the highest quality.

Lastly - the Chocolate 'C' in the title of Martin's talk related to his love of chocolate and sweets. To encourage members to follow suit if they were not already of a similar persuasion, he gave each member a bag of goodies.