



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SCS Founded: 1965

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Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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2021/2022 Society

Programme

Wed 13 Oct

AGM 7:00 pm followed by
Member Meeting,
Speaker TBC

Wed 27 Oct

Autumn Lunch 12 noon
Speakers Fred Rumsey
& Stephen Chalke

Wed 3 Nov

Member Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker Sir Rod Aldridge

Tues 7 Dec

Member Meeting 7:30 pm
Speakers Ian Gould & Bruce
Talbot

2022

Wed 5 Jan

Member Meeting 2:15 pm
Speaker TBC

Tues 8 Feb

Member Meeting 2:15 pm
Speaker Andy Mackay

Wed 2 Mar

Member Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker TBC

Wed 23 Mar

Spring Lunch 12 noon
Speaker TBC

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

Speaker News

As you can see in the left-hand column David has booked a number of speakers for the coming "winter season" though some dates (most immediately to follow the AGM) remain with without a booked speaker - David is working on filling these slots and they will be advised to you as soon as possible in the newsletter.

The bookings so far looked both varied and interesting. At the Autumn Lunch (note a month earlier so in October this year) we look forward to hearing from Fred Rumsey in conversation with Stephen Chalke. This is a welcome "rebooking" from our March 2020 lunch which had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Based on a zoom talk I heard last spring with these two it promises to be an entertaining afternoon. In November Sir Rod Aldridge, current Sussex Cricket President, and founder / inspiration behind BACA, will address us. Then in December another double act, this time Ian Gould and Bruce Talbot, neither of whom need much introduction.

Looking into 2022, Andy Mackay, the former Sussex groundsman is booked for our February afternoon meeting, Andy is currently working with ECB as a Pitches consultant. The other 2022 dates are yet to be filled though David has some people in mind but not yet confirmed.

Events will take place as usual at the 1st Central County Ground, Hove thanks to Sussex Cricket Ltd. Evening and afternoon meetings in the Spen Cama Pavilion, lunches in the Cow Corner hospitality units.

An interesting series of Winter meetings and lunches looks to be in prospect.

Sussex News

The main news recently has been **Ben Brown's** demotion from captaincy for the remaining championship games. This came as a surprise to me, as while we all see emerging talent in the youngsters, in my view a senior head to guide them as captain is of value. Whatever Sussex's long-term future (which hopefully Ben is part of) it seems odd to this observer that a change is being made with just four Championship games to play this year. This season he has performed well with the bat, two centuries and a ninety in the last three Championship games he played (he missed the game at Canterbury when Ollie Robinson led the side. Robinson has now joined the England squad for the Test series with India, and assuming he is involved for the entire series he may only play Sussex's last Championship game, so not an obvious successor.) Tom Haines has led the side in the Royal London 50 over competition with Brown playing the last two matches making key contributions with the bat.

These RL50 games have seen Oli Carter starring with the bat, for instance his 59 off 48 balls against Gloucestershire almost saw Sussex win from a highly unpromising position (Archie Lenham provided good support with the bat that day). Carter's recent performances with bat and the gloves has earned him a Sussex contract – congratulations to him. These performances suggest Oli will provide entertainment and value in the coming years.

The RL50 campaign rather like the T20 Blast has been blighted by poor weather. Sussex eventually coming third in their Blast group, despite five wash outs and play an "away" quarter final with Yorkshire, to be played at Chester-Le-Street (Headingley is unavailable as it hosts a Test Match with India starting the following day).

Ian Thomson RIP. Sad to report that Ian Thomson, a stalwart of the Sussex side from 1952 to 1965 died on 1st August at the age of 92. He made his Sussex debut in 1952 when he played 19 games. He became a regular the following year taking 101 wickets and then took 100 or more each year for the following eleven seasons. (Not a Sussex record, Maurice Tate took 100 or more a season in 13 successive seasons). Overall he took 1,527 wickets for Sussex with his best famously 10/49 against Warwickshire at Worthing in 1963. Not only an important figure in Championship matches he was also a key member of Sussex's Gillette Cup winning sides in 1963 and 1964 his accurate seam bowling perfectly suiting Ted Dexter's game plan here. In 1964 he took 3/17 in the semi-final against Surrey then 4/23 in a Man of The Match performance against Warwickshire.

The following winter he toured South Africa with MCC playing in all five Tests, his only Tests. Back in England in 1965 he played 30 matches taking 82 wickets and retired at the end of the season at the age of 36. Six years later he played in 13 Sunday League games followed by two Championship matches in 1972 before entering teaching. My memories from only seeing him briefly in the sixties and then in the early 1970s was of a typical English style seamer who bowled with good control able to extract any movement that was available, largely in swing or in duckers.

In more recent years he was a regular visitor to the County Ground, not least at Former Players reunions. He will be much missed by his family, friends and all at Sussex Cricket.

Outgrounds. Although Sussex opted not to use any of their outgrounds in 2021, offering COVID requirements as the main reason, some other Counties have ventured into the shires. Cheltenham hosted its usual festival, Scarborough have hosted RL50 matches if not their scheduled Championship game, Surrey have used Guildford, Nottinghamshire Wellbeck, Middlesex Radlett, Kent Beckenham (RL50 only) and Lancashire are scheduled to use Liverpool for their final championship match, and best of all nationally played their RL50 game with Sussex at Sedbergh School, which from reports (notably Paul Edwards on Cricinfo and BBC Sussex's Adrian Harms) and photos is a truly stunning venue, and well supported. Incidentally former Sussex player Martin Speight is Director of Cricket at the school.

In some cases, but not all, outgrounds have been used this year with County headquarters being required for International matches or the Hundred (ah at last a plus for this tournament). Really good that some outgrounds used as they offer different and more "homely" atmospheres. Arundel will be disappointed that they did not host any First Class cricket in 2021 as this the first time they have not hosted a First Class game since they came onto the cycle back in 1990. (In 2020 they hosted two Hampshire "home" matches). Hopefully Sussex will return to their outgrounds next year.

County Championship. Sussex's four Division 3 games have been confirmed - Worcestershire at Worcester starting 30th August; Middlesex, Hove, 6th September, Leicestershire away, 12th September, then finally Derbyshire at Hove 21st September. Division 3 being for the teams finishing 5th and 6th in the initial conference groups. I understand that the same points system will be in place but as Sussex only play teams from the other groups will carry forward 50% of the points gained from the two Kent group games. So if my understanding is correct start with 12 points and could well be mid table with hopes of finishing high in Division 3. Oh for a nice simple format! It will be interesting to see how the young side performs against "weaker" opposition than they often faced in the initial stage.

Clubs - Sussex League. With five rounds of matches remaining and time to press for the title, Preston Nomads lead the Premier League table with what seems at present a comfortable lead over East Grinstead closely followed by Three Bridges and Roffey. Nomads had a convincing win over East Grinstead back on 17th July bowling East Grinstead out for just 132 (wickets shared around) and losing five wickets in achieving their target. A week later Nomads won again beating Middleton with young spinner Will Collard, who has been through the Sussex youth system, taking 7/22. Also that week Three Bridges beat Hastings with the 23-year-old New Zealander Will O'Donnell having a fine all round game, making 145 then taking 4/36. O'Donnell, a hard hitting batsman and off spinner, has played First Class, List A and T20 cricket for Auckland and is proving quite an addition to Three Bridges this year. The final week of July's fixtures were almost entirely wiped out by rain, only Eastbourne were able to get a win, all other games abandoned. Haywards Heath possibly unlucky having bowled East Grinstead out for 97 and standing at 48/2 when the rains came. This left Haywards Heath second from bottom, a couple of points behind Middleton, with bottom placed Hastings looking well adrift at present. Two clubs get relegated at the end of the season. In Division 2 Bognor having beaten Horsham in mid-July have a useful lead over St James and then Horsham. Mayfield are slightly further adrift, but have had more games abandoned, 5, than the others - Bognor are yet to be "rained off".

National Club Knockout. - Three Bridges are the only Sussex club left in the competition. They beat Reigate in the round of the last 16 and have a home quarter final against Brentwood on 8th August. News on that next time.