



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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

Society News / Events

Hon. Secretary

David Harrison
125 Ashdown, Eaton Rd,
Hove, BN3 3AR
djh27@me.com

Our next event, **the December (Christmas) lunch with Paul Farbrace** takes place on 14th of December. There is still time to book a place, to book please contact Barbara Eagles (eagles202@btinternet.com, 01273 778988) by 5th December. (See the last newsletter for menu and booking details)

Newsletter, Membership

Chris Scovell
2 Herons Rye Pulborough
RH20 2DL
Tel 01798 875597
chrisscovell@live.co.uk

In the New Year comes our **January lunch (11th of January) with John Barclay** as the speaker. No need for introductions and surely an afternoon of much entertainment in store for those members and guests present. Again please contact Barbara, a booking form including menu is supplied with this newsletter. Applications can be either posted or sent by email to reach Barbara by 2nd January. The cost will be £27 with preferably payment by bank transfer.

Hon. Treasurer

Terry Burstow,
terryburstow@ntlworld.com

For this event only we have agreed, following a request from a few members, that members can attend simply for John Barclay's talk, even if not present for the lunch. If interested here you **must** contact Barbara by 2nd January, we need to know numbers in advance of the afternoon and make the necessary arrangements.

2022/2023 Society Programme

Parking for Society events. With limited parking inside the County Ground for our events, if you intend coming by car and aim to park in the ground please call in at reception / club shop to obtain a parking permit which needs to be displayed clearly in your vehicle.

2022

Oct 12 – Evening meeting
AGM followed by talk
from Jon Filby

November Lunch About 70 members and guests attended the first of our four lunches this winter season. An enjoyable social occasion with people meeting both existing friends, and also people they previously barely or did not know beforehand. After the meal which seemed to be well received by all, well of those I spoke to, we were entertained by Bill Athey.

Nov 16 – Lunch
Speaker Bill Athey

Bill Athey started saying how pleased he was to attend this function as he regarded Sussex as a "proper County Cricket Club"! Throughout his talk it was clear that Athey is a proud Englishman, proud Yorkshireman and proud to come from Middlesbrough, which he reminded us is on the south side of the river Tees and therefore in Yorkshire. He went on to outline his cricketing career from school days, Yorkshire, Gloucestershire where he was delighted to play in the same side as Zaheer Abbas, and finally Sussex. He recounted some of his experiences playing for England, his first Test being the Centenary test against Australia at Lords in 1980 facing Dennis Lillee, who Bill described as outstanding and batting briefly with Geoff Boycott. Bill was fulsome in praise of Boycott the batsman. We also heard about the 1986/7 Ashes tour to Australia with Martin Johnson's comment that England "could not bat, could not bowl, could not field", remarks that certainly encouraged England to perform well in the Tests. We also heard his first-hand account of the infamous Mike Gating / Shakoor Rana during a tour of Pakistan when England felt they were on the wrong end of various umpiring decisions, which he felt led eventually to "neutral" umpires in Tests.

Dec 14 – Lunch
Speaker Paul Farbrace

2023

Jan 11 – Lunch
Speaker John Barclay

Feb 15 – Lunch
Speaker, -
To be advised

Mar 22 – Afternoon Tea
Speaker Derek Pringle

Bill also told us about his time as cricket master at Dulwich College. During this spell he was heavily involved with developing a new scheme offering scholarships to boys from Barbados. In it's second year Chris Jordan was the recipient, and he proved an excellent acquisition for the school. Bill spoke very highly of Jordan not only his bowling and fielding but also his still sometimes underrated batting ability.

All dates are
Wednesdays.

In the questions that followed, he described the West Indies fast bowlers as the most menacing opponents he faced - combination of skill, pace and hostility. The final question concerned the future of County Cricket and here Bill was critical of the Hundred, not least for the impact it has on the English County season, these comments attracting much support from the audience. A fine end to the afternoon. Thanks to David Harrison and Barbara Eagles for organising the event.

Clubs – Society Awards. The Society instigated awards of £100 in respect of individual performances in the Sussex Cricket League starting in 2021. Not necessarily to a Premier league player, but for an outstanding individual performance, one batting one bowling throughout the League. This year the awards go to Matthew Wilkinson a teenager who opening the bowling for Littlehampton Thirds took 9 for 31 against Broadwater thirds including a hat trick in a Division 11 game which his side won by 152 runs. Of Matthew's wickets six were bowled and two lbw. The batting award goes to Tim Singer of Colemans Hatch for a mammoth 265 not out (37 4s and 15 6s) in a high scoring 40 over Division 8 match against Street and Westmeston, Colemans Hatch 400/5 (yes in 40 overs), Street replying with 324/8, a fine total, but not enough this day. Somewhat surprisingly this was not Tim's best in a career that has spanned over 15 years with Colemans Hatch - three years ago he made 313 in a League match against Three Bridges thirds. Congratulations to both Matthew and Tim.

World T20 - Congratulations to England on becoming World T20 champions beating Pakistan in a low scoring, but gripping final. Such games when quality bowlers are on show, getting some assistance from the surface (and a sizeable playing area) can often be more intriguing and enjoyable than many high scoring batting dominated games. England arguably had the strongest batting line-up over the tournament as a whole, and Pakistan arguably the best bowling attack, not least Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah constant threats. Though injury restricted Shaheen to bowl just two overs and one ball. It was interesting to note Ben Stokes' performance, not least leaving his first ball which was outside the off stump, more common in the longer game. This suggested that he was intent on a match defining performance and so it turned out. Also credit to England bowlers, notably Sam Curran and Adil Rashid. So England are now both T20 and 50 over World champions. White Ball dominance, well at least until next Autumn when the 50 over World Cup is contested in India.

England then quickly moved on to a three match 50 over series with Australia, albeit with a slightly different looking squad. The need to rotate players in such a hectic schedule, including the upcoming Test tour to Pakistan in December, demands such rotation and selection. I am pleased that Ben Stokes in particular seems to be rested from bilateral series such as this one with Australia, so saving him for the games that really matter – World Cups and Test series.

It is not just England facing these demands, India embarked on a series in New Zealand also in the week after the T20 final in Melbourne. Such are the demands of international cricket and a seemingly reduced time framework to schedule them (partly possibly to avoid the “franchise windows”). It does make me wonder about the future of bilateral series in the current schedule, yet to be fair Australia did play such a series in England in “covid year” to assist England finances.

Sussex Snippets

Ari Karvales has signed a “permanent” contract having been on trial from July 2022 when his performances in both Championship and Royal London 50 overs warranted this contract, but no news on the left armer Brad Currie who impressed many when also on trial in the same period.

With Ian Salisbury having left Sussex it seems that one Head Coach will be appointed for 2023 and cover the three formats, Championship, Royal London and T20 Blast matches. This reverses the earlier position of splitting the role. Will this also mark the end of what appears to be spilt teams / playing resources / ambitions between the differing formats? As yet the person has not been appointed / announced.

Mike Yardy, formerly the Academy Director has been appointed Head Coach to England's Under 19 men's squad – congratulations. So another important coaching position for Sussex to fill.

New signing – Fast bowler Jayden Seales, the 21-year-old West Indian for the first three months in the 2023 season, so for Championship and T20 Blast games in the first part of the season. I am guessing that possible West Indies and the Caribbean Premier League commitments could explain him not returning later in the season. Seales has to date played nine test matches, 36 wickets and a best of 5/55 versus Pakistan in Kingston in August 2021. In the three match Test series with England early this year he took eleven wickets. He is currently with the West Indies squad on tour in Australia. Regarded as a promising young bowler he could well prove a boost for these few months.

Rumour has it that the 2023 County Fixtures are likely to be announced around the end of November. Based on what was announced some weeks ago it seems likely that the basic (and rather disliked) 2022 schedule is likely to be repeated in 2023. And still no more news on the proposals in the Sir Andrew Strauss review, though some reports suggest that several Counties are not in favour of the overall package. How long will these discussions continue? I hope that if any changes are set for 2024, and beyond, will be agreed before the 2023 season starts so that Counties know what they are playing for in terms of promotion and relegation at the end of the 2023 season.