



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chair: Vacant

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2021/2022 Society

Programme

Wed 13 Oct 2021

AGM 7:00 pm plus talk
from Bob Warren

Wed 27 Oct 2021

Autumn Lunch 12 noon

Speakers Fred Rumsey

& Stephen Chalke

Wed 3 Nov 2021

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker Sir Rod Aldridge

Tues 7 Dec 2022

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Speakers Ian Gould &

Bruce Talbot

Tues 8 Feb 2022

Member Meeting 2:15 pm

Speaker Andy Mackay

Wed 2 Mar 2022

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker Alexia Walker

Wed 23 Mar 2022

Spring Lunch 12 noon

Speaker Annie Chave

Wed Apr 6, 2.15pm

"Afternoon Tea"

Speaker Roger Knight,

OBE note that this is a

pre booked event

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

Spring Lunch David Bowden chaired the event and started by saying that chairman Malcom Griffin has decided to step aside due to personal reasons which Malcom feels prevent him devoting enough time do the role justice. David thanked Malcolm for his period as Chairman and asked for others to come forward as committee members to assist the Society in coming months. So we have the Chairman's position to fill.

Then after a pleasant lunch we heard from Annie Chave who started by saying that not only was this her first visit to Hove (she admired the ground) and that this was also her first speaking engagement to a group such as ours. Not that the latter was at all obvious from her assured talk which was thoroughly enjoyable and well received by those present.

Annie talked about her life following cricket starting young when her father who took her to club matches on beautiful grounds in Devon. Annie at first just enjoyed just the outdoors but soon got interested in cricket and got involved scoring for Erractics Cricket Club, She added with pride that in later years her husband and son also played for the club.

With her interest in cricket growing, she started following Somerset and soon became well versed in social media which enabled her to expand her contacts. In recent years the advent of the Hundred saw her develop concerns about the future of County Cricket. All of which promoted her to instigate the County Cricket Matters magazine which over its few years has become very readable with a wide spread of respected writers in addition to Annie's pieces. (CCM website www.countycricketmatters.com for those wanting to know more or purchase / subscribe). She has done various cricket commentaries, firstly on Guerrilla Cricket (internet radio coverage) then during England's last tour of West Indies working for a Caribbean Radio Station with the likes of Roland Butcher and Vic Marks. There she also met Sir Garfield Sobers, a real highlight in her life.

She supported her talk with a series of slides of key moments.

In the following questions the topic of the future of County Cricket was raised. Annie expressed a serious concern of the possibility of the number of Counties being reduced, she feels strongly that keeping the 18 in all three county formats is vital, not least as some of the so called "lesser" counties (whoever they may be) offer much. So a low, but serious, note to end on, but a talk that entertained those present and was well received. Thanks for coming Annie.

We were somewhat fortunate that Sussex were playing their first 2022 friendly in front of us so that both before and after the lunch and talk we are able to witness some live cricket, unusual for many to so early in a year, even before the start of Summer Time! Tom Haines made a century reaching it just after our event so witnessed by many of the Society members and what appeared to be a healthy attendance no doubt the excellent weather.

County Ground 150 Years Old The coming season will see the 150th anniversary of Sussex playing at the Eaton Road ground after earlier venues in the Brighton and Hove area. The first game on the current ground started on 6th June 1872 against Gloucestershire (including W G Grace), records show this ended as a draw after the final day was lost, presumably to weather. The ground's centenary was highlighted with a Sunday one-day game with Australia which also suffered from rain leaving a no result but not before spectators witnessed an opening spell from Dennis Lillee. This special game was played in the middle of a standard three-day tourist game, one that Sussex won by 5 wickets so continuing the centenary celebrations! A victory which owed much to Geoff Greenidge (99 and 124) who with Peter Graves shared century opening partnerships in both innings.

March Evening Meeting The Meeting on the evening of Wednesday 2nd March was sadly poorly attended. The non-attendees missed an excellent talk by Alexia Walker, who besides being Director of Cricket at the BACA, oversees all of the cricket played by Sussex Women and Girls. She started by thanking the Society for the generous donations of a Lobster Machine and some Deck Chairs. She continued with her own story, which started in 1993 when England won the Women's World Cup and she became hooked on Cricket. She was involved firstly at Leicestershire and then moved to Loughborough University as Cricket Performance Manager, where she learnt so much from Graham Dilley. When she left Graham's present to her was his Kent County Cap!!

In 2009 she was appointed as Cricket Director at Brighton College, a co-educational private school and became the first woman cricket director at an English private school. Then in 2010 she became one of only three women to pass the ECB Level 4 Coaching Certificate and was believed to be the youngest candidate of either sex to gain this coaching level. Her amazing journey finally took her to her present position at the BACA. Besides her own career which included three ODIs for England as well as representing Sussex from 1998 to 2015, Alexia took us through nearly 30 years of Women's cricket praising Clare Connor for her work particularly in the last few years with the advent of Professional Contracts for Women and the 'Hundred' which had really brought Women's Cricket to the fore. All in all a fascinating tale. (Thanks to Terry Burstow for this review.)

Renewals – Thanks for those who have renewed so far, the renewal date is 1st April, renewal forms and payment should be sent to Chris Scovell as per the renewal form.

Society Club Awards. As part of the Society's desire to support cricket throughout the county, we are going to make annual awards for Sussex Cricket League individual performances, not just in the Premier Division but throughout the League. For the 2021 season the League recommended six players for consideration and from these the Society committee decided on two, Iden McCleave (Hastings 3s) just 16 years old who made 218 v East Dean 2s. Also the more experienced Adam Selves (Bosham 2s) who returned 9-20 v Chichester 5s which was also the 18th best League figures nationally. Well done to both who will receive £100 in vouchers.

Sussex 2022 - A Personal preview Ahead of the season Sussex have been forced into making changes to the Captains (Championship captain Travis Head now not coming and T20 skipper Luke Wright, surprisingly in my view, wishing to step down) and also to Overseas players. Head's reason - Australian commitments (the current tour to Pakistan plus another to Sri Lanka in June and July allied by a wish to support his partner ahead of childbirth later in the season. The captaincy has yet to be announced, but as a player he will be replaced by Cheteshwar Pujara (95 Test caps for India but not part of the current Test side). A possible issue for Sussex is that if Pujara goes well in the early championship games then India may recall him for a one-off Test against England at Edgbaston in early July.

Mohammed Rizwan, who I am really looking forward to watching, will miss the initial Championship game and also the latter part of the T20 Blast - a rearranged West Indies tour to Pakistan. The Australian Josh Phillipe will replace him. Phillipe, a top order batter / keeper made his name with Sydney Sixers in the Big Bash and has represented Australia in white ball matches. These relatively late changes emphasise the difficulties of recruiting overseas players these days.

Two loan signings, Tom Alsop for the full 2022 season (a batter and occasional keeper from Hampshire) and George Burrows for a month (a right arm seam bowler from Lancashire). Alsop, I note was an ever-present last year for Hampshire in Championship cricket, as well as playing a fair number of white ball games. Plus of course Steve Finn joining on a permanent basis as announced late last season. Finn's bowling and experience should be valuable, he seems to have spent much of the winter in various broadcasting roles whether for BBC or BT creating a good impression possibly hinting at a future career (well hopefully not for a few years)

The progress of the batch of youngsters we saw last year will be interesting to follow, now guided by some more experience in the side. Arguably their progress could be the most important red ball goal for Sussex in 2022 and beyond. Whether the side is currently good enough to contend for promotion is debatable. Nottinghamshire Sussex's first opponent look favourites for one of the places to me. Will we see much or anything of Jofra Archer or Ollie Robinson? A bonus if we do.

"The Sussex Cricket Museum", a book by Nicholas Sharp. Nicholas has produced a fine 61 page book looking at the history of the museum mentioning some of its contents. It starts with the sad auction by Sussex in 1980 of many valuable items, and the determination of some members to protect and develop the museum to its current status. Apart from the text there are also several well taken photographs of artefacts and pictures, arguably highlights of a well-produced book which supplements David Stoner's account last year of the earlier days of the library. It will be available from the Museum (£12) or by post from Nicholas (£14 incl postage – contact me and I will put you in touch with Nicholas). I found it worth reading and likely to interest those interested in the museum or history of the club.