



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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Future Dates 2024/25

**January 15, speaker
Jonathan Agnew MBE**

**February 19, speaker
John Simpson,
Sussex captain**

March 19 speaker to be
advised

Previous 2024/5 speakers

July7 Barry Richards

Sept.25 Jeff Thomson

Oct 23 AGM plus Jon
Filby & Peter Fitzboyden

Nov 20 John Barclay,
John Snow &
Peter Graves

December 11 Christmas
lunch speaker Graham
Gooch OBE

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

Upcoming Events

After the successful Christmas Lunch (full review later in this newsletter) we start 2025 with an Afternoon Tea on 15th January when Jonathan Agnew will be the speaker. Although the close date for applications is 5th January there may still be time to apply (£22 per person, see details with the December newsletter.) If interested, please contact Ivor Evans (details below) by 5th January at the latest. It may be worth contacting Ivor before making a payment.

February 19th an afternoon tea. Sussex Captain John Simpson will be our speaker. Venue Cow Corner in the County Ground, Hove, starting at 2pm with the tea after the talk then a Q&A session.

John Simpson is the Sussex captain and led the side to promotion from Division Two of the Championship three months ago. Having made his debut for Middlesex in 2009 he remained with Middlesex until moving to Sussex in 2024. In all he has played in 215 first class games making 10265 runs at an average of 35.27. These include his Sussex 2024 return which was 1,197 runs at 74.81 with five centuries, a top of 205 not out. 2024 was by some way the best of his career. His performances in the middle order were a major factor in Sussex's success as was his captaincy and leadership. Members can look forward to an interesting afternoon.

Booking Details Pre-booking with payment (**£22 per person**) is essential To apply please contact Ivor Evans - email sussex.scs@btinternet.com (note the full stop between sussex and scs), phone 07976 754411, post Beauchamps, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, RH13 8JF, by **9th February** at the latest. Early bookings are recommended.

When applying please provide Ivor with the following details: your name; names of anyone coming with you; any dietary / food allergy requirements for each person; who you would like to sit with (see note below) and finally your selected payment method. Payment can be made by Bank Transfer to Sussex Cricket Society (Sort Code 60-13-09 Account No. 57843570) please show "FEB TEA and your name" as the payment reference, or by cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Society sent to Ivor with your application. Transfer is by far our preferred option.

Even if you pay by transfer, it is important that you let Ivor know that you have paid and booked. Members who pay by bank transfer are reminded to make the transfer at the same time as they book. When booking for more than one person, members are asked to identify who of their party are, and who are not, members of the Society. Seating requests - every effort will be made to meet your requests to place you with friends and associates, but this cannot be guaranteed.

The cut-off date for booking is 9th February 2025. After this date there will be no refunds for any cancelled booking (Reason: the caterers require the final numbers by the cut-off date and charge the Society for that number.)

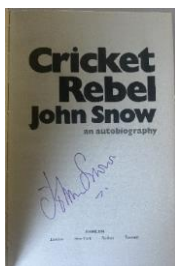
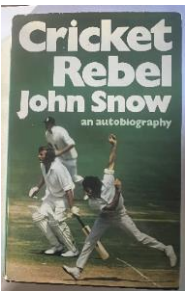
Car parking will be free within the Ground for the Tea subject to availability with the normal parking warden being stood down. Members or guests must not leave their cars at the Ground post event, especially overnight.

New members welcome to Rob Whitehouse, Martin Watts, Brian Slowly, Andrew Jones, Rodney Warren, Graham Tebbs, Nicholas Hole, Larry Dent, Charles Harrison, George Raubenheimer, George Lewis-Hall and Phil Barnes.

Review of the November Tea with John Barclay, Peter Graves and John Snow

There was an expectation that there would be a good turnout for this particular gathering, and it proved to be the case. Ninety people sat down to tea to listen to John Snow, Peter Graves and John Barclay. Due to fat fingers on the PC, some people found themselves sitting next to new associates, but in the main people were accepting of the situation and got on with each other.

To get things underway, the Society Chair presented John Simpson with the Player of the Season Cup. It had taken the committee the proverbial two seconds to reach its decision. The three main reasons 1) John's captaincy of the team, 2) his performance as a player and 3) his impact and the uplift he gave to both the players and supporters alike. John gave a very gracious and modest reply, feeling very honoured with the award. He said that he was looking forward to talking to Society members in February. Once again it is anticipated that there will be a high demand by members to attend this event.



Before describing proceedings, your reviewer would like to add a personal note. He has two all-time favourite players in his sporting universe. In football, playing for Brighton it was Kit Napier and in the cricketing world, John Snow - for the grace of action (no one finer in English cricket), the wickets he took and the atmosphere he could generate on the field. Forty eight years late! – John signed my first edition of Cricket Rebel (originally published in 1976 – price £2.95).

The talk took the form of a Q & A led by Roger Dakin. Each former player reminisced about their introduction to cricket. John Snow progressed through the junior sides, 2nd eleven and then the first team. Peter lived close to the County ground. He played both cricket and football. He played in the nets, progressed through club and ground sides, following a similar route to John to the first team. Aged nine, John Barclay, started at the County Ground during the Easter Holidays of 1963.

John Snow talked about Fred Trueman. They played one Test match together which was John's first and Trueman's last (2nd Test, New Zealand, 1965.) He also recalled a game against Yorkshire at Bradford where Trueman came into the dressing room and pointed at each player and told them how he would get them out. Of those he got out, his prediction wasn't too far wide of the mark.

Peter recalled the game against the West Indies at Hove in 1966 and facing Charlie Griffith. John Snow had been in superb form taking eleven wickets. In their second innings the Windies were bowled out for 67 leaving Sussex, 6 to win. Griffith decided that Sussex had to earn those runs and was on fire. Ken Suttle was hit on the jaw and had to leave the field. Peter was LBW for a duck

(though Peter did not mention that he top scored with 64 in the first innings - ed). It took 4.2 overs to get the six runs with Les Lenham on 4no and Jim Parks 1no.

John Barclay didn't mind the fast bowlers always preferring a quick death and out as opposed to a floundering one against spinners.

The Sussex players spoke about some of the Sussex greats they played with:

Ted Dexter – Dexter was Peter's first captain. Peter's first game was in 1965, being the junior pro he was in charge of the bags – he went up to Dexter who had no idea of who he was.

It is well known that Dexter had a fondness for the horses. In a game against Hampshire, their captain, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie was another horse lover. Dexter had a horse running at Brighton so during the game they contrived to disappear to watch it run – what you could get away with sixty years ago.

Tony Greig – An incredibly charismatic person with the ability to attract big name players. perhaps not the greatest tactician in the world, he was a great team builder. John Barclay remembering he convinced him to go out and face Andy Roberts in his pomp. Greig may not be thought of as a great, but people should look at his record – it is outstanding.

Imran Khan – He first came to Sussex attention in the 1970's bowling 'dobbles' for Oxford University. His timekeeping was erratic. Always arriving at the north-east gate a few minutes before the start of play having come down on the train from London. More often than not glamorous women accompanied him and on more than one occasion, Benazir Bhutto, the future prime minister of Pakistan.

John Barclay recalled Imran's tactical advice to him to put himself on early against Viv Richards in a game against Somerset at Taunton. He duly did and was summarily dispatched for twenty eight in one over with three balls landing in the River Tone.

Peter thought that Sussex turned Imran into the finished article recalling some of his truly amazing performances for the County in the 1980s and of course for Pakistan right up to them winning the World Cup in 1992.

There wasn't any serious intense rivalry with either Kent or Surrey. Hampshire wasn't even in the equation. If you had to name either one it was probably Kent. Also, year on year, the pre-season games were always against Kent.

All three players still go to Hove to watch cricket. Peter thought that the outfield bore no comparison to fifty years ago. Today it is absolutely superb – he would have loved to have played on it. In the County Championship, Sussex are now back where they belong in Division One. The Team is maturing nicely and should remain in the top-flight for seasons to come.

John Barclay was happy to come to Hove come rain or shine – preferably when the sun was out to watch the cricket, He recalled the amazing game against Leicestershire last season when Sussex started to get worried when Louis Kimber batting at No8 scored 243 from 127 balls. In what should have been a victory in three figures ended up being by 18 runs.

Heads and Tails raised in excess of £300. Monies generated are essential to help the Society help finance both the high profile players that have been coming to Hove in the last year or so and also make bequests to worthy causes.

Until the next time, Ivor Evans.

Review of the December Lunch with Graham Gooch – 11th December 2024



I don't know whether it had anything to do with the onset of Christmas and associated festivities or wanting to meet Graham Gooch or hunger, but your reviewer arrived well before the 12 noon pre-lunch drinks and Cow Corner was already well populated. What also caught his eye and something he hasn't witnessed before was the number of members and the volume of memorabilia they had brought with them for Graham to sign.

The Society Chair opened proceedings by giving a brief summary of Graham's career, he scored over 67,000 runs in first class and List A matches along with over 200 wickets. His 333 at Lords in 1990 made him one of only six Englishmen to have scored 300 or more in a single innings.

Graham is renowned not only for the runs that he accumulated on the pitch but also for the amount of training and preparation he put in off it, He said that attitude controlled everything. You can't say I'll take it easy today, in the expectation of doing well tomorrow. You had to go hard today, and it would be tomorrow could/might be easier.

Skills - you didn't have to be the best player; you had to be the smartest one. This was something Graham didn't think England were particularly good at against Australia last year. You have to consider the situation; you can't play the same way all the time.

You have to create good habits. You had to practice and try and eradicate the bad ones in the nets and not take them out on to the field. When you are playing well, you should never take your foot off the pedal - keep going. The most competitive advantage that you can have is to learn faster than the opposition.

You have to acquire knowledge; watch the opposition, take tips from the coaches, watch great players. You have to learn what works for you, what is effective and ignore the remainder if it doesn't work for you.

Graham's two favourite players were Barry Richards and Viv Richards. In a game against Hampshire, Barry Richards scored 150 plus runs. After every ball he marked out his line. Graham asked why he did that. He said, it was his way of 1) drawing a line under the previous ball; 2) concentrate on the next one; 3) cricket was a one ball game; 4) The next ball is the most important one. Graham adopted that approach for the rest of his career, and it helped him immensely.

Viv Richards was the greatest run maker of his era. He would impose himself on the opposition. Graham thought that he can't play like him, but he could carry himself like him; walk out like him, head held high. Look the opposition in the eye, no looking at the ground. All about body language and showing the opposition that he was up for the contest. You had to show the opposition that you were in the fight, you were going to give it your best and that there was no shying away or backing down.

Graham recalled the game against the West Indies in 1986, at St John's, Antigua, when Richards scored the fast century in fifty six balls. John Embury had a simple plan; bowl one ball to Richards and the remaining five to Larry Gomes. It didn't go quite according to plan. Embury's first over went for 4,4,4,6,6,4. In a following over Embury asked for someone to go in at bat pad. Gooch enquired of him whether he was mad? Embury's response that he wanted to create the impression of pressure. Graham took up the position and asked Richards whether we have going to hurt him. No came the reply, I'm aiming for row thirty four!

On concentration Graham said you have to learn how to switch on and switch off. Graham said that he was probably the only player to have scored 300 plus and received a rollocking from the coach. In this case from Mickey Stewart, England's coach at the time. He thought Graham should have gone on to break the record score of 365. A full and frank conversation ensued (perhaps there was a bit of 'tongue in cheek' was involved in this re-telling?).

Graham gave a humorous review of players in his era who might not have enjoyed Bazball.

Graham knew when Geoffrey Boycott was playing well – he would hit the ball hard enough to say wait.

Phil Tufnell – one advantage of having Tufnell bowling was that he wasn't fielding. In Australia going out to face the Australians and bat, he preferred to listen for the ball rather than face watching it heading towards him.

Last year, members heard David Gower's version of the Tiger Moth incident in Australia in 1991. This time it was Graham's turn. He said that the actual fly-by didn't really cause him too much bother, but the fall out was as result of Gower going back to the airfield in order for the press to take some photographs.

Graham recounted an event that would have caused palpitations to most members - Credit Card Roulette. Whilst coaching the England side in Australia, one evening he and the entire England side went out to dinner. At the end he got out his credit card to pay his share, however Graeme Swann had other ideas. He asked everyone for their credit card and the serving staff for sixteen napkins. The rules – the cards were put into a large pot and whoever's card remained would pay for the entire meal. Graham's and Kevin Pietersen's were the last two remaining. Graham had vision of his entire series fee being spent on one night out. The tension built and after twenty five minutes later, out came the penultimate napkin - it was Graham's – his relief was immense.

Graham finished off with one Ian Botham story. He lived by different rules, whilst captain of England, his mantra for off field activities was 'you don't come back the same day you go out.' In the West Indies, he imposed a curfew on the team; he wanted everyone back in the hotel by breakfast the following day. Surprisingly, on the tour, there was a practice match. Botham and Gooch were on opposite sides Gooch's side batted second and he scores a century. At the end of the day a celebration ensued. After a few beers, it was not unknown for Graham to close his eyes. At the next day's team meeting. Botham banned Gooch from early morning jogging. It thought it made him tired in the evening and it was unacceptable to Botham for anyone to fall asleep in a bar and miss the opportunity for socialising with the locals!

Heads and Tails raised in excess of £400. A winner generally emerges after no more than eight questions. This time it was down to two members, and it went on and on..... It ended up with three people including Graham Gooch asking questions. Finally, a winner emerged, and their prize was a large signed framed photograph of Graham Gooch.

Until the next time. Thanks to Ivor for this review.

Missing Coats. Following the Graham Gooch event on 11th December, one person took another member's coat from the rack in the corridor. The coat in question had blue and grey panels. The brand is 'Dare to Be' Whoever has the coat could they please contact Graham Tebbs on 07895 739600 to arrange its return. If you had non-member guests with you at the lunch could you please check with them as well. As this is not the first time such a situation has occurred, though on the other occasions it was rectified within an hour or so, could people attending Society events take care to collect their own coat. Thank you.

HELP WANTED BOOKING ROLE

The Society is looking for a person to replace Ivor Evans as Bookings Secretary from September 2025 and so to handle applications from members to attend society events. It is part of a small team that works closely together, bringing together the bookings / applications, the finance, table planning and resolving any membership issues.

The specific role is 1) take members booking for Society events. 2) liaise with the caterers booking rooms and agreeing menus and price. Only two skills are required, the ability to use a spreadsheet and a methodical approach.

Would anyone who is interested in this role or seek more information contact Ivor, either by phone: 07976 754411 or e-mail: sussex.scs@btinternet.com.

Womens - England's tour to South Africa would surely set them up well for the Ashes tour to Australia in January. In South Africa, England won all three of the T20s, two of three ODIs and the sole four day-test, that by 286 runs. In the Test there were first innings centuries from Maia Bouchier and Natalie Sciver-Brunt plus eight wickets in the Test for opening bowler Lauren Bell. Australia will prove a harder task but England will go with some confidence. The Ashes will be another series combining three ODIs, three T20s then a Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground which is set as a day/night pink ball test. As now common the series will be decided by points across all three formats

2025 Fixtures So the County fixtures for 2025 have been announced and my first thought was that as expected the basic format/schedule looks the same as in 2024 ,with the season spit into blocks. Again few championship matches set for June, July and August when the T20 and 50 over competitions hold sway partly no doubt to their popularity in terms of numbers attending. Though I note that this year Sussex will not as in recent years have home Championship fixtures in the first and final rounds.

With Sussex back in Division One this coming season, 10 teams 14 games so each team plays five others home and away and the other four just once (in Sussex's case Somerset, Warwickshire, Hampshire, Yorkshire and Worcestershire home and away, and Surrey, Essex, Notts and Durham just once) May seem odd, but over the years such oddities have been fairly common in the county championship. Still for Sussex supporters we will get the opportunity to see a number of counties in the championship that haven't played in Hove for quite a few years.

Much heralded news was that Sussex will play Kent in a One Day Cup match at Arundel (Thursday 7th August) which follows the success of last summer's 50 over game with Hertfordshire. Good to have an outground fixture and this comes in a short period when the womens and also the disability sides also have county fixtures at the Castle ground. The women's team play Leicestershire two days after the mens game. Otherwise the women's county side are set to play all their home T20 and 50 over games at the County Ground.