



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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dates for 2023 /4

Wed 19 October
AGM 2.15pm
followed by talk from Jon
Filby

Wed 15 November
Afternoon Tea, 2.15pm
speaker Mark
Ramprakash MBE

Thurs 14 December
Lunch, Speakers Patrick
Ferriday & James
Mettyear

Wed 10 January
Lunch, David Gower
OBE

Wed 14 February
Lunch, Speaker
Geoff Miller

Wed 20 March 2.15pm
Afternoon Tea Paul
Farbrace, Head coach,
Sussex Cricket.

Please note that the date of the **Society's AGM** has been changed to **THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER, 2.15pm**. Venue remains the Pavilion Long Room 1st Central County Ground, Hove. The agenda was issued with the last newsletter.

After the AGM Jon Filby, Chair, Sussex Cricket will address members with his review of the 2023 season.

The Society's "winter" series of event continues on **November 15, 2.15pm** an **"afternoon tea" with Mark Ramprakash** the speaker. An outstanding and elegant batter for Middlesex, Surrey and notably England, he made 114 first class centuries, one of only fifteen in the history of the game to reach a hundred hundreds and the most recent to do so. Since retiring he entered coaching with Middlesex and England in a batting coach capacity and has also performed various media roles, including recently as one of the Guardian's correspondents. A fascinating afternoon is in prospect.

Apart from the talk, there will be an "afternoon tea" - sandwiches, cake, scones with a choice of tea or coffee. The price will be £15.00 per person. (The Society will be partly subsidising the caterer's original cost price). Pre booking is essential. To book and pay please contact Barbara Eagles (4 Champions Row, Wilbury Ave, Hove, BN3 6AZ, Email eagles202@btinternet.com Phone 01273 778988) by 6th November 2023. When contacting Barbara please let her know any dietary requirements. Payment can be made by cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Society, or preferably bank transfer to Sussex Cricket Society, Sort Code 60-13-09, Account No. 57843570 using the reference *NovTea plus your surname*.

Please note that for any **cancellation of a booking** where the cancellation is advised to Barbara less than 7 days before an event any payment will not normally be refunded. (The reason here is that the Society has to provide the caterers with firm numbers seven days before an event and are charged for that number.)

Parking for Society events - as last year parking in the ground may be limited, if you do park in the ground itself, please call in at Reception / Club Shop to collect a parking permit.

February lunch – Geoff Miller, the former Derbyshire and England off spinner will be the speaker at our February lunch. Thanks to David Bowden for booking a well-regarded speaker for this event.

Jaydev Unadkat bowled impressively on the final day of the game with Leicestershire (6 for 94) mostly with an old ball and on a fourth day Hove pitch which offered little to other Sussex bowlers (much as has been the case throughout the season). No doubt his skills were developed in Indian conditions also offering little to seam bowlers. He has proved a positive acquisition even if only for three games. (Along with Cheteshwar Pujara he will not be available for Sussex's final match due to domestic commitments back in India.) He was certainly the substantial key in Sussex winning the match, even if much of the gloss was taken of the win with later announcements – points deduction and suspensions.

Jofra Archer Some positive news from Sussex with Jofra Archer signing a new contract. ECB have also announced that Jofra will accompany the England squad in India for the upcoming ODI World Cup as a “travelling reserve”. This suggests strongly that he is on the road to recovery after his fitness issues and I am sure we all hope to see Jofra back in fast bowling action. But with franchise and England commitments I wonder how much he will play for Sussex in future.

Sussex Second Eleven. After an almost two-month gap in fixtures, Sussex Seconds finished their season with two comprehensive victories. Firstly, over Northants seconds at Peterborough by 8 wickets. (Northants 111 and 360, Sussex 424 and 49/2). Then beating Glamorgan at Blackstone by an innings and 246 runs, Glamorgan 210 and 165, Sussex 621/8 declared. These two wins enabled Sussex to finish joint fourth with Yorkshire in the Second Eleven Championship, Sussex's eight fixtures resulting in four wins, two losses and two games rained off. Leicestershire won the title from second placed Hampshire, and Worcestershire third. An oddity with the Second Eleven Championship is that sides do not all play the same number of games, for instance Lancashire had twelve scheduled fixtures, whereas Durham only seven. The title decided is based on average points allocated per game across the season.

Some stand out performances in these two games. Against Northants Zach Lion-Cachet a century, wicket keeper Charlie Tear making 99 run out, an unfortunate end to Tear's innings. Bowling wise in the second innings spinners Bertie Foreman (4/78) and Archie Lenham (3/88). Then against Glamorgan, Ali Orr on his return made 65, Harrison Ward, coming in for Lion-Cachet, 113, Henry Rogers a dominant 140 and Archie Lenham 117 (Lenham impressed me with his batting early this season). Brad Currie's six second innings wickets sealed the win. So, there were many promising performances from some of the younger players which bode for future years. A person present for all of the Glamorgan game described it as “men versus boys”, this based on Sussex fielding eight contracted players and the quality they displayed.

Henry Rogers, (a product of Hurstpierpoint College and plays for Cuckfield Cricket Club and still a teenager), apart from the innings at Blackstone he has also played five times for England Under 19s this year making 56 against Ireland Under 19s in his second appearance, then three rather unproductive showings against Australia under 19s. A high point for Rogers this season was an outstanding performance at Lord's for England Schools Cricket Association in their recent fixture against MCC Schools. Although Rogers finished on the losing side, he made 166 from just 141 balls, described to me as both classy and forceful and batting while wickets were falling around him.

Clubs - Sussex Premier League As mentioned last month, Cuckfield, who were promoted from Division Two at the end of 2022 won the Premier League recording the most wins (eleven from eighteen games). These eleven wins being two more than second placed Preston Nomads and three more than third placed East Grinstead, though the latter did beat Cuckfield on both occasions they met. Cuckfield only lost one more game, going down to Horsham on the final day when the title was already won. So what were the reasons for what some may think was a surprise title win? Well overseas batter Wes Marshall was the second highest run scorer in the Premier League (behind Lachlan Walsh, the Bognor overseas opening bat, though Walsh had two more innings over the season). Possibly even more important, captain and left arm spinner Josh Hayward, finished with 50 wickets, the leading wicket taker throughout the Premier League and 16 ahead of any other bowler. Two key and vital performers backed up by a good team spirit with players all pulling together. Two go down, sadly Eastbourne and Mayfield finished in the bottom two. An unfortunate feature was the weather, some sides, East Grinstead, Horsham, Roffey, and Mayfield, all suffered wash outs in as many as five games from a possible eighteen, and all the others three or four.

In Division Two, a nip and tuck season saw Hastings eventually top the table, level on wins and points with Worthing and heading the table due to earning more points when the two met. West Chiltington were a close third and for the second year in a row just missing out on promotion. Promoted from Division Three are Rottingdean, Ifield and Preston Nomads Second Team replacing Chichester, Crowhurst Park and Brighton & Hove. Congratulations to all the Division winners, all thirty-eight of them, too numerous to mention here.

Welcome to a new member – Chris Bourn, Crawley.