

# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



SCS Established 1965  
Patron: John Barclay DL  
President: David Bowden

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

February 2020 Issue 624

Contact us at  
scs.councilcricketsocieties.com

### Hon. Secretary

David Harrison  
125 Ashdown, Eaton Rd, Hove  
BN3 3AR  
01273 710500  
djh27@me.com

### Newsletter

Chris Scovell

### Hon. Membership Secretary

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

### Hon. Treasurer

Jim Grinsted  
26 Southdown Close,  
Haywards Heath, Sussex  
RH16 4JR  
Tel 07774 224410  
jimgrinsted@yahoo.co.uk

## 2019/20 EVENTS PROGRAMME

### 2019

- Aug 19<sup>th</sup>** Garden Party  
**Oct 16<sup>th</sup>** AGM at 7.00pm, followed  
By Dick Holste, MBE  
**Nov 6<sup>th</sup>** Evening meeting speaker  
Bob Taylor, MBE  
**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** Autumn Lunch, speaker  
Devon Malcolm  
**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** Evening Meeting, speaker  
Mike Vockins, OBE

### 2020

- Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** Afternoon Meeting, 2pm,  
Speaker Richard Halsall  
**Feb 5<sup>th</sup>** Afternoon Meeting, 2pm  
Speaker Luke Sutton  
**Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>** Evening Meeting, speaker  
David Millns  
**Mar 18<sup>th</sup>** Spring Lunch, speaker  
Fred Rumsey

Meetings take place in the Spens Pavilion at the County Ground, Hove by kind permission of Sussex Cricket Ltd. Meetings start at 7.30 unless otherwise mentioned.

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

We opened 2020 on 7<sup>th</sup> January for our fourth January afternoon meeting. **Richard Halsall, Sussex Academy Director** addressed a good number of members and thanked the Society for funding a "Lobster" machine, which has already been put to good use delivering balls for fielding and batting drills. Richard said that he saw his aim as not only preparing players going on professional contracts with Sussex, but also and importantly, capable of winning matches for the County. He quoted Tom Clark and Will Sheffield as recent Academy players going on to professional contracts, suggesting that both potentially have fine careers ahead of them. (Tom is currently representing England in the ICC Under 19 World Cup in South Africa but unfortunately in the three Group games scored just 51 runs. CS)

In judging and reviewing the progress of players, he stressed the importance of using data in addition to and support pure instinct. Richard added that the data results needed to be analysed to check for reasonableness. He thought that now new judgement measures are being used not just statistics, but for instance a young batsman may be judged on how often he "middles" the ball not just on runs scored, and suggested that this measure (middling the ball) would be an invaluable guide to long term success always supported by video analysis.

He ran through the 2020 Academy intake which includes two Lenhams, Scott and the younger Archie. Along with a broad range of skills: batting, 'keeping and bowling lacking just a left arm seamer. A name to follow he thought is batsman James Coles (who comes from Oxfordshire and is a product of Sussex's arrangement with that County). Richard thought that James could be a rare talent.

In questions, the topic of cricket not being played in many state schools was mentioned and Richard agreed that this is a problem for the game certainly here in Sussex and also nationally. He added that private schools help with bursaries for talented boys and girls, as of course does the Brighton based Aldridge Academy. Another question with a more positive response concerned the growth of white ball, shorter games and whether the financial rewards available in T20 will prompt youngsters down that route. Encouragingly he said that the boys regard Test Cricket as the pinnacle and they really enjoy the challenges of three day cricket at 16 plus. Overall an entertaining and highly informative afternoon that was well appreciated by members present.



Our next meeting is on **Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm**, so our second afternoon meeting. **Luke Sutton** is the speaker for what should be a fascinating afternoon on a topic which can affect many players, and not just in cricket. Luke played for Derbyshire and then Lancashire in a fifteen-year career ending in 2011 when he entered the world of a sports agent.

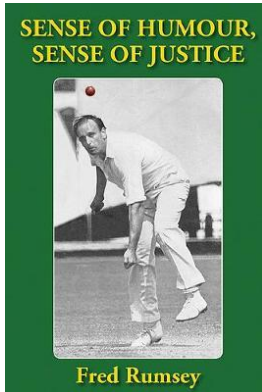
Recently Luke has written a book "Back From The Edge" which addresses problems of mental health and addictions which he personally encountered, along with his successful route back from a low moment. The book has been described as "brutally and refreshingly honest" and has been well reviewed in many quarters. No doubt this will be a major aspect of his talk. Luke will also have copies of the book available for sale on the afternoon at a price of £10.

**Sussex News** Sussex have announced the signing of 31 year old former Surrey bowler, **Stuart Meaker**, who at his best is capable of skiddy pace. In 89 first class matches he has taken 279 wickets at 31 apiece though has not played a first class game since July 2018. He has also represented England in both ODIs and T20s.

**England Ladies** will play two internationals at Hove in 2020. On 9<sup>th</sup> July (2.00pm), the fourth in an ODI series against India, then on 1<sup>st</sup> September (6.30pm) a T20 against South Africa, the first of a two match series. So, allied to the already announced Women's Hundred finals it cements Hove's position as a major venue for the Women's game.

**Andy Mackay** – Sussex's head groundsman has been "headhunted" by ECB to fill the post of ECB Pitches and Grounds Advisor. Andy says that he is looking forward to the new challenge, but no doubt will be missed by all at Hove and indeed at the various grounds under Sussex's control. No news yet on a successor.

**Spring Lunch** – Our Spring Lunch is on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> with Fred Rumsey as our chief guest. Fred has an interesting background in cricket having played as a left arm quick bowler for Somerset and Derbyshire as well as five tests for England in 1964 and 1965. Arguably, his biggest contribution to cricket was his role in founding the Professional Cricketers Association in 1967. He has



recently written a book "Sense Of Humour, Sense Of Justice" in which he looks back at his eventful life. The book was published by Stephen Chalke who has written or published a number of well received cricket books and has also been a past and very welcome Speaker at Society events.

Stephen will conduct an "interview style format" talk with Fred.

Details of the menu and booking details will follow shortly following a delay with the Caterers. We anticipate another interesting and entertaining lunch.

**2019 Society Player of the Year Award.** Congratulations to Ollie Robison on winning the 2019 award, Ollie received 44% of the votes, with David Wiese the runner up with 25%. In all six players attracted support. Ollie has now won the award two years in a row. The award goes back to 1971 since when only four others (Tony Greig, Paul Parker, Mushtaq Ahmed and Luke Wright) have won the award two years in succession, and no-one as yet three in a row.

**Deaths.** It is with great sadness that we announce the recent death of two long standing members – Neil Beck and David John, both good friends of the Society. The Society extend our sympathies and condolences to their families and many friends.

Neil will be remembered by many having for a number of years running a cricket bookselling stall at the County ground, invariably with his pipe.

David served the Society in various roles, Committee member, and in particular as Speaker Secretary, and Vice Chairman doing much for the Society as well as being a keen supporter of Sussex and regularly seen at the County Ground.

**England abroad** – After losing the series 1-0 in New Zealand before Christmas, England started their tour of South Africa with a defeat at Centurion in the first Test, but then came back with a close and thrilling win at Cape Town late on day five – a fine advertisement for five day Test matches. The final hours coincided with the Society meeting in January, and when news broke there was general clapping. Then a convincing win in Port Elizabeth and a series clinching win at The Wanderers in Johannesburg. So a massive turn around for both sides. It has been encouraging to see some of the newer England players contributing so well, the openers making good starts, Dominic Bess, the young off spinner (8 wickets in two games) and Ollie Pope (topped the batting averages) and seems to have taken to Test cricket as though born to it. Then of course, Joe Root and the incredible and so often match winning Ben Stokes. Jofra Archer's absence has not been missed; I am sure he will come again - a minor setback to his rapid progress in international cricket. The prospect of him and Mark Wood together will make for compelling viewing but possibly not for batsmen! South Africa though look to be on a downward spiral, this series loss follows another home loss to Sri Lanka a year ago. England's progress has been impressive and encouraging and now have a "white ball" series in South Africa before a Test series in Sri Lanka in the next few months, in what are bound to be very different conditions.

**Joint SCS / Museum Activities.** After the success of the Rev. David Sheppard book launch evening in December, Jon Filby has contacted the Society regarding possible future joint Society / Museum ventures. Given the crossover of interest between the Museum and ourselves this sounds very interesting. More news will be reported in the Newsletter as and when any specific events have been tied down.

**Newsletter** – This is your newsletter so I would be keen to hear from you about anything you would like covered and of course any contributions will be welcome. CS.