



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SCS Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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Website:

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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Newsletter

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Hon. Treasurer

Vacant at present

2021/2022 Society Programme

Proposed Dates:

Garden Party cancelled.

Wed 13 Oct

AGM 7:00 pm followed by
Member Meeting

Wed 27 Oct

Autumn Lunch 12 noon

Wed 3 Nov

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Tues 7 Dec

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

2022

Wed 5 Jan

Member Meeting 2:15 pm

Tues 8 Feb

Member Meeting 2:15 pm

Wed 2 Mar

Member Meeting 7:30 pm

Wed 23 Mar

Spring Lunch 12 noon

Please note that all dates are still to be confirmed, likewise speaker bookings.

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

Jim Grinsted – We recently wrote to members mention the very sad death of our treasurer, Jim Grinsted. This note was primarily simply to inform you, but I feel that more can be said about Jim. His death certainly came as a sudden surprise to me and other members of the Society. Jim was a conscientious and efficient Treasurer handling our finances in a professional manner and contributed fully to committee discussions. Jim had been Treasurer for over ten years. To me Jim was a friend, and it will be as such that I and other Society members will really miss him. His funeral is on 16th June, numbers are of course restricted. The Society will be represented on the day by David Bowden, Roger Oakes and myself.

Our thoughts and sympathies are obviously with his family, friends and of course to his father Jack who many of us know.

Turning to the **Treasurer** position, I am pleased to say that we had some positive responses and hope to announce a successor shortly. But as David Harrison suggested there will still be vacancies for committee posts, any offers to join will be welcome

Society News – future events. Sadly the Garden Party has had to be cancelled for this year, mainly due to the unavailability of a venue at the County Ground. I hope members will understand that circumstance beyond our control have forced the cancellation this year.

Further ahead, while our provisional dates for “winter meetings” and lunches are as mentioned in the left-hand column, speakers still have to be confirmed. David has some names lined up, mainly local, and these will be announced as soon as possible.

Spectators return!

Along with many other spectators I was able to attend (well for me the first three days) of the match with Northamptonshire, and lucky to be greeted with fine weather. True the experience differed compared with 2019, pre booked tickets, possibly not sitting with friends, face masks being required to be worn when not in your allocated seat, the need to remain in one's allocated stand / area. Only part of the Pavilion and South West / Shark stand was open. Whatever, it was for certain far, far better than not being permitted to attend at all as in 2020 or the early weeks of this season. About 800 a day were allowed, and with members not taking up all tickets, a number of Northants supporters were present, which retained the spirit of supporters from both Counties being present. For Sussex, a major achievement in meeting the various Government requirements and saw many more stewards than usual on duty each day. It was good to be back!

The north end was completely devoid of spectators, I presume the “temporary stands” now present were only installed after numbers for this game were set. I suspect that they were erected for use for the T20 games, and if so will generate much needed revenue and extra atmosphere.

Ollie Robinson's excellent bowling this season, earned him a Test place at Lord's where his bowling performance fully warranted his selection, and of course he also provided key runs. Only then as we now know for events from eight / nine years ago to cause a suspension to his international career. I cannot help but think that it was unfortunate that these issues were not identified and completely addressed at the time.

Sussex's Championship results continue to disappoint, in many ways due to the youth and inexperience in the side (eight of the players used this season were born in this century!). They were also not helped by recent performances of the two overseas batsmen. On a positive note, in the Northants match Haines made a fine century, well supported by Ben Brown and I thought Jamie Atkins bowled with genuine pace. Against Yorkshire debuts were given to Ali Orr (20) and Daniel Ibrahim (just 16). Both recorded half centuries, Ibrahim became the youngest player to make a championship fifty (for any county). So more promise and potential.

The first two T20s saw two wins with an experienced side, even so Sussex included another young debutant, Archie Lenham, just 16 (son of Neil) who bowls leg spin. As the journalist David Hopps remarked, Lenham had not been born when the County T20 competition began! Most of this side had some warm-up T20 matches playing for Sussex Second Eleven in the Second XI T20 competition. Here not surprisingly Sussex, with likes of Salt, Wright, Wiese, Head, Garton, Beer, Jordan, Mills, top their group and seem on course to reach the Second XI T20 finals to be held at Arundel on June 24th. What eleven players will appear if Sussex reach these finals remains to be seen. There is uncertainty about spectators being allowed that day, so it may be worth checking either the Sussex and/or Arundel website (www.cricketatrundelcastle.co.uk). I believe Arundel asked their members a week or so ago to register interest in attending.

Clubs

After the first five games in the **Sussex Cricket League** Roffey head Preston Nomads and Eastbourne but not many points between them. Early in May Eastbourne had a 2 wicket victory over Roffey, Joe Pocklington batting at 8 made 42, then numbers 9 (Borosi) and 10 (Plumley) added 22 to seal the win. A week later East Grinstead bowled out Roffey for just 121 only for rain to prevent any further play, resulting in an abandonment. Eastbourne continued their winning way until their only loss to date on 5th June at Cuckfield where the hosts won by 38 runs largely due to a century from the Nipun Karunanayake who has played first class cricket in his native Sri Lanka.

National Village Cup, West Chiltington won the West Sussex group final beating Ifield and now play Surrey group winners, Valley End at home on Sunday 20th June. In East Sussex, Crowhurst Park beat Outwood in their Regional final and now play Kent opposition, Linton Park on June 20th. News on both games next month.

Books

Tommy Cook: The Double Life of a Superstar Sportsman by Philip Dennett. David Harrison provides a review of this book about the life of Tommy Cook, the former Sussex cricketer and Brighton footballer. It can be obtained from Jon Filby at Sussex Cricket Museum (£18 including postage)

Tommy Cook and Brighton & Hove Albion were born in the same year, 1901, 62 years after the formation of Sussex County Cricket Club. Cook, from Cuckfield, went on to become a star player for both cricket and football clubs, this fascinating book recounts his life story. Tommy's parents were neither well-off nor poor, both coming from a long-established Cuckfield families. Tommy grew up well-built and strong and showed himself as a talented sportsman from an early age, playing both games at school and then with village teams. Eventually getting noticed first by Albion scouts and later by Sussex, alert to his dual talent with bat and ball, he was offered professional terms for both clubs in 1922. Dennett is careful to describe the social and economic background to playing professional sport in the 1920s and 1930s. Houses were in short supply and although most working people rented, to purchase a small semi-detached house in Sussex at the time would cost the equivalent of two years' annual pay for a professional footballer. Fortunately for Tommy, he had summer income from SCCC to supplement his wages from Albion, whereas other footballers would mostly have to rely on manual labour.

Crowds at the Goldstone in Tommy's time were between 6,000 and 10,000, with major games attracting 15,000 or more, his first sporting love was cricket. "He insisted on an arrangement whereby he would always be available for Sussex County Cricket Club, which meant he sometimes missed Albion matches" Dennett informs us. His career statistics are impressive, scoring 169 goals for his professional football teams, 20,198 runs in first-class cricket, with a highest score of 278 v Hampshire at Hove in 1930.

Tommy's life met with a sad end. Having had less than successful periods in football management, Cook suffered serious injuries in the Second World War when part of the South African Air Force. His health deteriorated rapidly, both mentally and physically, and he died ten days after his 49th birthday. DH

"A Treasure Trove at Hove", by David Stoner is also being produced by Sussex Cricket Museum. This recounts the transformation of the Sussex club library from the old pre-war cricket library into the fine museum of today. David tells me that it includes several historical facts and occurrences from the post war years which cricket lovers will find interesting and entertaining. Publication is likely to be either later this month or in July. As yet the price has not been set, David would welcome expressions of interest if thinking of purchasing as this will assist in determining the print run. (Please contact me if interested, I will then contact David). CS