



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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www.sussexcricketsociety.org

Hon. Secretary

Currently vacant

(While vacant the role will be split between committee members)

Newsletter, Membership

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Hon. Treasurer

Terry Burstow,

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dates for 2023 /4

Thur 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 tba

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

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

Upcoming events The Society has two events in the remaining weeks of this year. On **November the 14th an afternoon tea** with former England batter Mark Ramprakash as our speaker. Bookings are required for this event, there may still be time to book price £15 - contact Barbara Eagles (01273 778988, email eagles202@btinternet.com) by the 7th of November.

Then **on December the 14th our first lunch this winter**, with very much a pre Christmas theme as can be seen from the menu. The speakers for this event will be Patrick Ferriday and James Mettyear joint authors of the book Field of Dreams, recalling the history of the County Ground back to 1872 using old records and more recently memories in a thoroughly fascinating volume. This struck me as almost a "must have" book for any Sussex supporter keen on the Club's / Ground's history. I expect their talk will be equally interesting. Patrick incidentally also authored a highly acclaimed recent biography on Wilfred Rhodes.

Price is just £25 per head, which is based on the cost Sodexo the caterers are charging. Again, book via Barbara using the attached booking form and please return this to Barbara by the 5th of December.

Just to remind a couple of points. Firstly, 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.) Secondly, **Parking for Society events** - parking in the County Ground may be limited, if you do park in the ground, please call in at Reception / Club Shop to collect a parking permit.

The **Society's AGM** (9th October) and chaired by David Bowden was held in front of forty four members. Some of the key points included the re-election of the committee enbloc, likewise officers such as Treasurer, Chair, (David Bowden) Vice Chair (Ivor Evans), Accounts Examiner (Malcom Reid). But a key here is that David Harrison will be standing down as Secretary, we all acknowledge and thank him for his valuable contribution in a key society role. The Chair asked for any volunteers to take on the role, more news on this to follow. David Bowden read out the committee review of the year prepared by David Harrison.

Concluding the AGM, Fynn Hudson-Prentice was announced as the **Society Player Of the Year** for 2023. He came into the side as a concussion substitute for George Garton during the first championship game with Durham after the first two days play. He made an immediate mark taking 4/27 in Durham's second innings, these were to be his best bowling figures of the season in which he took 20 championship wickets. Crucially he went on to become an ever present in the Championship amassing 879 runs at 48.83 with a top score of 73, one of nine fifties showing consistency while batting in the middle order, often at number 7 and normally at a good rate. He finished as the leading run scorer in the Championship, and this no doubt contributed heavily to the Society award. He was also awarded his County Cap during the final home game of the season with Gloucestershire.

New members. Welcome to Cedric Spiller, Teresa Preece, Adrian Heft, Peter McQuade, Prof. V Kalidasan and Richard Walton

After the AGM, **Jon Filby, Sussex Chair**, addressed members present with his thoughts on the 2023 season mainly concerning Sussex. He started praising the Sussex Cricket Museum not least the various podcasts / talks, he recommended a recent one featuring John Barclay talking with Chris Adams. Then moving to the professional County side, while the original ambition of promotion to Division One was missed, he felt that considerable progress was made. Witness here three wins (only one in each of the previous two years) to go with just one loss. The season, Jon said started on a high when Sussex beat Durham the eventual champions in the first game, only then for a run of draws, in some cases when weather had a say. The two wins in September, both at home, earned Sussex third place which showed the improvement, not least some of the younger players, mentioning in particular Jack Carsen and James Coles and congratulating them on them on being named in an England Lions training squad. He felt that the white ball portion of the season was disappointing. We heard that in the near future Sussex aim to announce some new signings, including an experienced and possibly a captain for all formats.

He praised the Groundstaff for their work in producing good pitches and an excellent outfield earning them the Chairman's end of season award for 2023 which was announced during the season's final game at Hove. Touching briefly on finances the point was made that the new block of flats at the Eaton Road ground entrance will provide long term valuable regular income going forward as indeed will the office space in the block once populated,

Turning to involvement on ECB committees we heard that a key topic here lay with fixture schedules as Jon stated his disappointment with so little cricket played at Hove in July and in particular August. While keen to retain fourteen championship matches he seemed as keen to retain the current number of T20 Blast games (14 with 7 at home), even an increase given the finances they generate to a county such as Sussex while also fitting in the popular 50 over competition. He understood that some of the "bigger ground counties" may have different priorities. All of this is a challenge to address with ECB who he said were listening, though the likelihood is that for 2024 the schedule seems likely to look similar to 2023.

He also talked about possible worries of franchise cricket around the world (not just IPL) eating into schedules with the financial opportunities and decisions some players may face. For instance if say a Sussex player performed well could they be "lost" to a franchise? In all it was an interesting talk with Jon answering various questions and throughout showed his commitment and enthusiasm for Sussex cricket.

Congratulations from the Society to **Jack Carson** and **James Coles** on being selected as part of a twenty-one strong England Lions training squad going to Abu Dhabi in the second half of November with the aim of concentrating predominantly on red ball skills. This is another sign of their progress, potential and the regard both young players are held in, and give both an fine opportunity to develop and learn in conditions likely to be different to those they encounter in England.

Clubs – Sussex Cricket League. Throughout the season SCL ran three T20 competitions for teams playing in differing levels of the League with the finals all staged at the County Ground on Sunday 24th September. In the Cup, the senior competition, Preston Nomads beat Mayfield quite convincingly (Sussex youngster Zac Lion-Cachet starring with bat and ball). In the next tier, the Trophy Middleton's second team beat Hastings seconds.

Arguably the story of the day was not Preston Nomads, but rather in the Plate (for teams in the lower divisions). Here Mid Sussex Heathens from Division 11 beat Middleton's third eleven with captain William Glenn top scoring with 56. A few weeks earlier in the semi-final win over Felbridge Glenn scored a massive 156 (23 4's and 6 6's). After some brief research I found that Mid Sussex Heathens (an unusual name, well at least the last word) are based in Warninglid, From the Sussex World news website I gather that they were formed just three years ago, and this after a group of friends were walking around Lingfield's ground and came up with the idea of forming their own club and received assistance with of some practicalities from Sussex Cricket Foundation. Now three years on they have won a Hove final, topped their division and so have gained a promotion. Well done to all involved with the club. And credit to the League for providing the opportunity for lower teams to play on the County Ground in the Hove finals.