



# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

October 2021 Issue 644

Website:

[www.sussexcricketsociety.org](http://www.sussexcricketsociety.org)

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### **2021/2022 Society**

#### **Programme**

#### **2021**

#### **Wed 13 Oct**

AGM 7:00 pm followed by  
Member Meeting,  
Speaker Bob Warren

#### **Wed 27 Oct**

Autumn Lunch 12 noon  
Speakers Fred Rumsey  
& Stephen Chalke

#### **Wed 3 Nov**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm  
Speaker Sir Rod Aldridge

#### **Tues 7 Dec**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm  
Speakers Ian Gould & Bruce  
Talbot

#### **2022**

#### **Wed 5 Jan**

"Afternoon Tea" Details to  
follow, Speaker TBC

#### **Tues 8 Feb**

Member Meeting 2:15 pm  
Speaker Andy Mackay

#### **Wed 2 Mar**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm  
Speaker TBC

#### **Wed 23 Mar**

Spring Lunch 12 noon  
Speaker Annie Chave

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

**Society Events** Two reminders. Firstly our **AGM** (members only) will take place on October 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.00. Venue Jim Parks Bar, Pavilion, County Ground, Hove. Related documents were issued with last month's newsletter. This will be followed by a discussion reviewing the past season - Bob Warren with David Bowden acting as presenter, followed by a Q&A session. This discussion will hopefully cover the playing side, and the challenges Sussex faced from Covid.

Then on **October 27th comes our Autumn Lunch**, always a highlight of our year. There is still time to book a place. The speakers are set to be **Fred Rumsey**, ex England opening bowler and founder of the Professional Cricketers Association along with author / publisher **Stephen Chalke**, they are likely to provide an interesting afternoon. Applications need to reach David Harrison by **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. The menu/booking form is attached again. If you are paying by bank transfer a simple email to David Harrison, djh27@me.com with menu choice etc (see booking form) will suffice as opposed to returning the form by post.

Further ahead, the **Spring Lunch** Speaker will be Annie Chave, a keen supporter of the County game. She edits the "*County Cricket Matters*", a quarterly publication doing much as the title says, concentrating on County Cricket with "matters" being both "topics" and "importance of". We hope to announce the January speaker in the next newsletter, and the other "speaker tbc's" as soon as possible. This winter season has presented David with a new mix of challenges in booking speakers in view of the various uncertainties until recently.

**Sussex News** Just a few brief personal reflections. As we know Sussex lost all four games in Division 3, the concluding stage of this year's Championship. A disappointing end to a season where many youngsters, a number teenagers, have been blooded with many showing signs of genuine potential though in need of more senior hands to guide / support them. Results may have been bleak, but there is the possibility of a bright future. Full credit to Ben Brown after losing the captaincy and wicket keeping and promoted to number 3 in the latter weeks.

On the T20 front Sussex lost in the semi-final on finals day to Kent, the eventual winners. So congratulations here to Kent, also to Glamorgan who won the Royal London Cup and of course to Warwickshire on winning the Championship, which in my view is still the premier County competition.

**Tom Haines** Congratulations to Tom, 22, on being awarded his County Cap in a season where he was the leading run scorer in the country and passed the 1,000 run mark for the season in just his twelfth game this year. He was also given the responsibility of being captain during both the Royal London 50 Over matches and the final four Championship matches. Tom came through the Sussex youth sides and plays club cricket for Horsham. He made his Horsham first team debut in the League a few weeks short of his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday making 57 against Preston Nomads whose attack that day included West Indian Carl Simon and Sussex pro James Anyon. His Sussex first team debut came at the end of the 2016 season, and despite a maiden century against Durham at Arundel in 2018 he only really got a regular place in the side in the five 2020 Bob Willis Trophy matches. Now this year in the Championship he has been an ever present and a key batsman expanding his range of strokes.

**New Society Members** Welcome to Charles Barker, Hove, Paul Bellringer, Horsham, and Richard Lintott, Brighton

## **Ted Dexter, CBE, RIP**

As previously reported Ted Dexter died in August at the age of 86. In a career that spanned 16 years he played 137 games for Sussex scoring 8,872 runs with a top score of 203. He captained the County from 1960 until his road accident on 1965. Add to this 62 Tests for England, captain on 32 occasions, including tours to India/Pakistan in 1961/2 (he made his highest score, 205 v Pakistan in Dhaka on this tour), and then Australia and New Zealand in 1962/3. The bare facts and stats do not tell of Ted Dexter the cricketer, the impact he had on the game and on cricket followers. So some personal recollections follow.

My first was when England were fighting to save the first Test at Edgbaston against Australia in 1961 Dexter scored 180 in a typical powerful manner. Why mention this? Well BBC television showed the latter stages of the Test instead of the usual children's programmes, such as his innings, that I just a young schoolboy with no more than an average passing interest in cricket at the time was suddenly "hooked" and had a sporting hero to follow. As luck would have it a few weeks later Sussex played a benefit game for Ted James at Three Bridges (close to where I lived at the time), from memory Dexter played and batted with the same clean powerful drives, so another massive impression. The purpose of these comments are to indicate the influence Dexter had on me, and quite possibly on many others, batting with style and power both attracting new followers to the sport as well as pleasing existing followers.

Fast forward a couple of years and Dexter led Sussex to be the first Gillette Cup winners. The combination was of a strong batting line up and accurate fast/seam bowlers backed up by fairly defensive fields which I suppose set a pattern for limited overs cricket for many of the coming decades, another Dexter influence.

1964 saw another Gillette triumph (the late Ian Thomson largely settling the final in his opening spell). For me the outstanding memory of that year was the semi-final at Hove against Surrey, (15,000 packed into the ground), Dexter dominated mightily with his all-round performance, an innings of 82 followed by three wickets and two catches. Man of the match and another real "Dexter moment".

He started the 1965 season with Sussex and played in the first two Tests against New Zealand, making 62 and 80 not out as England won the second at Lord's by 7 wickets. But then came the car accident which put a stop (though not completely) on his career.

The following years were mainly restricted playing for the International Cavaliers in televised Sunday afternoon matches against Counties which were in effect the forerunner of the Sunday League. In 1968 in addition to the Cavaliers, he also appeared in Sussex's Gillette Cup run, England came calling with a view to him playing in the last two Tests against Australia who at the time were leading the series 1-0. But first he had to play a County game to show he was ready, and how he did! The Sussex v Kent game at Hastings in July was chosen. Few present, including myself, can forget the day. Dexter rescued the Sussex innings from 27/4 with support from Parks, Griffith and Cooper and duly finished with 203 earning his place in the final two Tests. My memories are of him building a firm foundation then expanding with power and strokeplay to dominate a strong Kent attack. (So another of my vivid Dexter moments). Although his top score in the two Tests was just 38, England squared the series with a famous win at the Oval, Underwood bowling Australia out on the last day.

There have been a host of well-prepared obituaries, for instance Jon Filby's on the Sussex website, but I am drawn to summarise the words of the esteemed writer A. A. Thomson back in 1960 "Dexter played almost with sovereignty, defence firm and clean, but never dull, and in attack mixing power and style, and always with elan and panache" These words seem to sum up for me the manner of Ted Dexter the cricketer, well at least the batsmen. He was also of course a more than useful bowler, a player truly worthy of being called a "great", and an inspiration to many in the way he played.

Not just a cricketer, he was also a fine golfer, a Test Selector and always keen, even in recent years, on emphasising that technically cricket is a "sideways on" game.

**Kathy Bennett's Funeral.** Thanks to Barbara Eagles who attended Kathy's funeral for the following piece: "Kathy's funeral was held on Tuesday Sept. 21st in Shoreham. The service was well attended by friends and neighbours who knew Kathy well. Our Cricket Society was represented by Andrew Long and Barbara Eagles. Kathy's coffin had flowers, a Spurs scarf and a Sussex cricket bat displayed on it to celebrate two of her life-long interests. During the service I spoke about Kathy and our Society, Kathy was a founder member in 1965 and was our President from 2012 to 2019. Many Society members will have happy memories of Kathy and any donations in her memory are invited for the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home." Barbara Eagles.

I gathered from people present that Barbara's spoken tribute at the funeral was well received. CS



## **SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY AUTUMN LUNCH 2021**

Date / Time: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 12.00 for 1.00 pm,  
Venue: Cow Corner Hospitality Unit, 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground, Hove.  
Speakers Fred Rumsey and Stephen Chalke

### **Menu**

Poached Chicken supreme with Serrano ham crumb, caramelised carrot puree, beer braised shallots with a chicken and tarragon sauce

Or

Charred Hispi Cabbage, Ginger and Tomato Fondue, Parmentier Potato, crispy Shallots, Toaster Hazelnuts, and bay Herbs (v vg)

Dessert

Cinnamon Apple tart, Rum Raisin ice-cream, salted Caramel

Coffee & Mints.

Cost is £20 (Special price for this Autumn)

**To book**, please complete and send the below and return with payment to David Harrison, 125 Ashdown, Eaton Rd, Hove BN3 3AR. Though if you are paying by bank transfer a simple email to David, [djh27@me.com](mailto:djh27@me.com) with your menu choice etc from the below will suffice. Replies either post or email to reach David by Monday **18<sup>th</sup> October**

Names of People attending

I / We would like Chicken / Hispi Cabbage (delete as required)

Dietary Requirements

I / We would like to sit with

Cost £20.00 per person,  
paid by either cheque payable to Sussex Cricket Society, or bank transfer (delete as necessary)

For payments by Transfer, Bank details are:- Sort Code: 60-13-09 Account No. 57843570  
Please include as the payment reference "SCS Lunch" followed by your surname.

**Note** - Tickets will not be issued. Should you require acknowledgment, please provide a stamped and addressed envelope.