



# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

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www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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## Draft dates for 2023 /4

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep Goodwood

Wed 11 October  
AGM followed by Jon  
Filby

Wed 15 November  
Afternoon Tea, speaker  
Mark Ramprakash

Thurs 14 December  
Lunch, Speaker tba

Wed 10 January  
Lunch, Speaker tba

Wed 14 February  
Lunch, Speaker tba

Wed 20 March  
Afternoon Tea Speaker  
tba

All events will be held in  
afternoons with times to  
be advised

**Renewals** – thanks to all  
who have renewed so far.  
For anyone still intending  
to do so please contact  
Chris Scovell.

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

**Society News** – A note for members' diaries. The Society is planning a trip to Goodwood House and Cricket Club to coincide with their match against Chichester CC on **Sunday 3 September**. A tour of the House and Afternoon Tea will be available as well as time to watch the match and converse with the players and supporters. More details to follow soon. DH

Further ahead, David has secured the first two speakers for next winter, Jon Filby, Sussex Chair to follow the AGM and then Mark Ramprakash for the Tea in November. Remaining speakers will be announced here when known.

**New Member** – Welcome to Mary Lynch, Hove

**Sussex News** Well Steve Smith has come and gone after his three game spell, and until making 89 against Glamorgan in his last match, his performances had not set the world alight (though by accounts his contributions in assisting others was the real bonus). These games, all draws, reinforced the impression that Sussex's main need was on the bowling front not least as Nathan McAndrew had to stand down for Smith to meet the "two overseas players restriction". These three games were all drawn despite Sussex being in good positions late in each one, they were unable to bowl the opposition out in time to win. (I accept that the weather and injuries did not help but opportunities were there to win these games).

A real highlight has been the growing development of James Coles batting in a manner combining elegance with power, witness the delightful cover drive to bring up his maiden hundred against Glamorgan, surely the first of many. In his four first class matches this year he has two 70s and a century from just four innings.

Ollie Robinson - What was of concern for both Sussex and England were the two instances when Ollie Robinson was unable to finish a game, different reasons. (cramp at Worcester, then an ankle issue in the Glamorgan match) The good news is that ECB medics believe that he will be available for the Ashes series starting in June, though he like James Anderson (another who picked up an injury) will be rested for the Test against Ireland. Robinson outstanding at Worcester taking 14 wickets in the match (7/59 and 7/58) before cramp struck. Hopefully Robinson will have a good Ashes series, before Sussex hope for his possible return for what could be crucial Sussex Championship matches in September.

With the first batch of Championship games having concluded the season moves into T20 Blast mode with Sussex starting with a loss at home to Somerset followed by a win over Surrey at the Oval with key performances in the latter match from Tom Alsop and Michael Burgess, the latter re-joining Sussex from Warwickshire for the T20s. Nathan McAndrew and Shadab Khan had a nasty looking collision in the Somerset match, hopefully both will be available in future games.

The Blast side have been warming up with many using the County Second Eleven T20 competition (something several Counties do) and have produced some fine performances, notably against Middlesex at Old Deer Park, Richmond racking up an incredible 324/7 in 20 overs – captain Ravi Bopara 144 from just 49 balls! Bopara followed this up with 4 wickets as Middlesex were dismissed for 130 runs. A day or so later Sussex (with virtually a full Blast team) beat Essex at Horsham with Shadab Khan displaying his quality with both ball (3/21) and bat (an entertaining and brisk 42). Middlesex reversed the Richmond result when the two met at Horsham, though this time Sussex had few of the first team Blast regulars. On both Horsham occasions good-sized crowds, well by second eleven standards, were present. Sussex currently top the group but face a key match with second placed Hampshire on 6<sup>th</sup> June. "Finals Day" is on 15<sup>th</sup> June at Wormsley.

**Sussex Cricket Museum News.** Thanks to Nigel Tarr for the following

As you are reading this you will most certainly be a supporter of Sussex cricket, a member of the Cricket Society and possibly even a Friend of the Sussex Cricket Museum (but if not the latter, why not?).

Much has changed in the Museum over the recent winter and even the visibility of the place itself has improved following the demolition of the former County office block and the Wilbury Stand / bar / book stall buildings. A new, more “corporate” logo will follow soon and may already be visible by the time this article is published. New signage will help to increase awareness of the Museum for those in the ground. But what of those who cannot get to Hove, and follow from a distance? Or those who may be new to cricket and to Sussex Cricket in particular? How do we begin to make them aware of, and interested in, the Museum?

Well firstly there is our comprehensive website [www.sussexcricketmuseum.org](http://www.sussexcricketmuseum.org) which gives lots of information about Sussex cricket and has photographs of many of our exhibits. To complement this, we have just started to produce a series of podcasts, some on exhibits within the Museum and some “discussions”, the first of which is now live and features a visit to the Museum by Adrian Harms (BBC Radio Sussex) in conversation with Jon Filby. Jon is of course Chairman of the Sussex Cricket Museum and Educational Trust and has a secondary role as Chairman of Sussex Cricket! But his knowledge of Sussex cricket history is encyclopaedic, and he quickly turns Adrian from a museum sceptic into an enthusiast. It is well worth a listen...you are guaranteed to learn something new! More episodes will follow and in due course there will be podcasts on a range of topics and individuals. How do you listen? Well, our podcasts are hosted on a platform called Podbean. You can search for this online, but the easiest way is to click the link at the bottom of the Home page on the Museum website.

Next time you visit the Museum, let one of the volunteers know what you thought of our efforts. And when you visit, if you are not already a Friend or Patron of the Museum, please take the opportunity to join. (This can also be done on the About Us page on our website). Your membership will really help SCMET continue its work. You can become a Friend for less than the price of 3 pints. And if you would like to join our band of happy volunteers, we would be delighted to have you. Winter Wednesday working in the Museum might involve researching, cataloguing, helping to create new exhibits or recording new acquisitions. In summer there are match intervals to “steward”, with an opportunity to meet fellow cricket enthusiasts by assisting visitors to the Museum. If you are a DIY type of person we would welcome you with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Well actually not....but you get my drift as to how welcome you would be! Nigel Tarr

**Sussex Cricket Foundation.** On the second day of the Glamorgan game they hosted upwards of 900 school children from parties around Sussex. The children were based in the recently erected temporary stands (intended for upcoming T20 games) at the north end of the ground, they also visited other parts of the ground including the museum. Certainly their enthusiasm was obvious even from the Sea end of the ground! It was good to see them swarming on the outfield during the lunch interval indulging in their own games. A week or so previously the Foundation held their annual Discoverability Day with a record 650+ involved.

**International Cricket** – June and July sees a hectic Test schedule for both England and Australia. England started it all on 1<sup>st</sup> June with a one-off 4-day Test against Ireland at Lord’s, then Australia face India in the World Test Championship final at the Oval on 7<sup>th</sup> June and all this before the five Test Ashes series starts on 16<sup>th</sup> June ending by the end of July. Rarely if ever can there have been such a hectic, high-profile, high-pressure Test schedule. The Australia v India WTC final seems bound to be a highly competitive and engrossing climax to the current WTC cycle, not least given that India have won recent series between the two both in India (largely due to their spinners) and significantly in Australia where more all-round qualities were on display. Then comes the season’s main course, what promises to be a mouth-watering Ashes series when Ben Stokes’s England no doubt playing their new aggressive brand of cricket aiming to reclaim the urn. Players involved in most, and in some cases all, of these matches could be pretty exhausted come August.

**Clubs** - After clubs had spent months getting ready for the opening Saturday of the League season (6<sup>th</sup> May, Coronation Day) rain spoilt plans causing all fixtures to be cancelled. Even a week later despite some bright weather wet grounds saw the cancellation of more games, including Premier Division clashes Three Bridges home to Horsham and Roffey home to Middleton. Now after four rounds in the Premier Division East Grinstead and Cuckfield top the table ahead of Horsham and Preston Nomads. East Grinstead at this early stage currently look the best side after comprehensive wins over Eastbourne, Bognor and Roffey based on a well-balanced bowling attack led by Lewis Hatchett, allied to experienced batting - Harry Finch has contributed two centuries in three innings.

**National Village Cup** – Glynde & Beddingham (previous Village winners at Lord’s) beat West Chiltington in the Sussex final at Glynde on 4<sup>th</sup> June by one wicket, with a last wicket stand of 63. Glynde will now have a home tie against Hertfordshire winners, Redbourn on 18<sup>th</sup> June according to the Village Cup website.