



# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: DAVID BOWDEN MBE

AUGUST 2023 ISSUE 666

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

## Hon. Secretary

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

## Newsletter, Membership

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

## Hon. Treasurer

Terry Burstow,  
terryburstow@ntlworld.com

## Draft dates for 2023 /4

Wed 11 October  
AGM followed by 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, Speaker tba

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.*

**Society News** – **Speaker bookings** As you can see from the left hand column speakers for January and March have been booked. For the December lunch the speakers will be Patrick Ferriday & James Mettyear joint authors of the excellent book *Field of Dreams: 150 years at the County Ground Hove*. Then for the March Tea Sussex Head coach Paul Farbrace will be the speaker no doubt looking back on his first year in the role and ahead to the 2024 season. The January and February speakers will be announced here once they have been confirmed. The formal notice for the AGM will follow next month.

Goodwood Visit – sadly this event has had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

**Renewals** – There is still time to renew if you have not done so yet. (contact Chris Scovell) From next month the newsletter will only be issued to paid up members.

**Sussex News**. Since the last newsletter two championship matches before August began (a month which is devoted to the Hundred and the 50 over cup running alongside each other). Both these games were drawn but in differing circumstances. The Derbyshire match at Hove was rather like the previous game with Worcestershire - a high scoring encounter coming down to Derbyshire being set 380 to win in 58 overs after a post lunch fourth day declaration which seemed a tough task, but possibly reflected a pitch that was again batter friendly even on day four plus a short Pavilion side boundary. In the end Derby finished 19 short and eight down. At times Sussex had all their fielders placed in the deep to defend the draw. While an enthralling ending, personally I would have preferred seeing if Jack Carson could have bowled a side out in the fourth innings had the pitch began to take spin, but there was no deterioration in pitch conditions, still suiting batters. Credit earlier to James Coles, again outstanding, with a career best 180. The other draw came at Leeds when rain came ruling out the final day when Yorkshire seemed ahead of the game.

Both Nathan McAndrew and Henry Shipley have come to the end of their contracts at Sussex, and it seems as though Sussex may be looking for another bowler for the championship run in – they currently stand fourth but have played one game less than the three above them, and may need to find some wins if promotion is to be achieved

The **50 over cup** is likely to be under way by the time you read this. This proved a popular competition last year with a number of youngsters around the Country being given first team opportunities with others away at the Hundred. Sussex could have Cheteshwar Pujara back and he will surely boost the batting. (In recent weeks Pujara has been playing for West Zone in India's Duleep Trophy, scores of 28, 133 in the semi-final, then 9 and 15 when West Zone were beaten in the final by South Zone). Hopefully Alistair Orr will also be available soon. It will be interesting to see what sort of side Sussex field, after giving opportunities to amongst others Henry Rogers who contributed 73 from 75 balls in the 50 over warm up game with Oxfordshire. Rogers, 17 years old, plays for Cuckfield and came through the Sussex age group and second eleven routes, Primarily a batter but can also offer medium paced bowling based on a recent second team game.

**The Ashes.** Both mens and womens saw drawn series. I am sure we have all enjoyed the riveting contests these last few months, with some controversy both on and off the field thrown in.

On the **Mens Ashes** front 2-2 seemed to me a fair reflection overall. All four wins so close the result of each of these four games could almost have gone a different way. So much quality Test cricket to enjoy. We saw contrasting approaches with England's attacking approach as laid down by Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes asking questions which Australia often struggled to resolve. The two leading run scorers, Usman Khawaja (496) and Zak Crawley (480) emphasised this difference, personally I enjoyed almost equally watching both. Crawley it must be said more than answered his critics, he is capable of match winning performances (and catches so well in the slips). Stokes, I thought was an inspiring and outstanding captain and contributed some key performances, his innings of 80 in the first innings at Leeds when England were struggling a prime example. The selection of Chris Woakes and Mark Wood for the final three games also master strokes. But for Stokes, Woakes and Wood Australia could have won at Leeds and gone three up in a series with many twists and turns. Stuart Broad and Moeen Ali ended fine Test careers on high notes. Can anyone have hit their last ball when batting for six and then taken a wicket when bowling with their last ball. I wonder who writes Broad's scripts?!

The **Womens Ashes** – Last month's newsletter mentioned Australia's victory over England at Trent Bridge in the only Test, but it turned out to be a different story in the following three T20s and three ODIs with England winning two in each of the "white ball" formats so winning both white ball "mini" series. Nat Sciver-Blunt with her powerful batting was the standout player in these six games. The overall Ashes series was decided on a points-based system, the sole Test, 4 points to the match winner, with 2 points to the winner of each of the ODIs and T20s, so reflecting the importance of the Test match. 8 points all at the end and a shared Ashes series with Australia retaining the Women's Ashes. England's performance throughout the series shows a real improvement closing, almost completely, the gap with Australia. The advancement of women's cricket in recent years reflects the increased investment not least at international level. The challenge now will be to build on this improvement and the media interest to grow the game from the bottom up. The women now can concentrate on the Hundred which surely has been beneficial for the women not least with the top players spread over just eight teams so concentrating the talent.

**50 over World Cup Qualifiers** held recently in Zimbabwe saw Sri Lanka (not surprisingly) and Netherlands (surprisingly) qualify to join hosts India, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa for the finals later this year. In these qualifiers Zimbabwe, West Indies and Scotland failed to progress. Some amazing results involving Netherlands. First in a group game against West Indies, the Windies amassed 374/6 in 50 overs, surely enough but no Netherlands 374/9, so a dramatic super over bowled by Jason Holder, with 32 year old Logan Van Beek, who batted at number nine first time facing. The over went for 30 – 6,4,6,4,4,6 (almost as one pundit put it a tennis score!) Then to cap Van Beek's day he bowled and took 2 wickets for 8 in 5 balls to win the game. Netherlands run was not yet over, in a semi-final they upset Scotland chasing down 277 to win (Van Beek again batted low down, faced just one ball but hit the winning run!) So well done to Netherlands. The tournament showed again the sad downward spiral that West Indies are going through. I feel world cricket is better with a strong West Indies team.

**Clubs – Sussex League** The weather in recent weeks was not kind to the League clubs. Two rounds, (22<sup>nd</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August) saw all Premier League games cancelled; the second week in July saw four out of five games drawn due to rain with only Horsham able to get a win at Mayfield between the showers. But for the cricket itself it was much as before with league leaders Cuckfield continuing their merry way at the head of the table winning their three completed games in the last five weeks (over Horsham, Mayfield and Three Bridges). They look a solid all-round side all pulling together and well led by Josh Hayward, no big name players likely to be called away elsewhere, though that can sometimes be a good thing. With now just four games to play Cuckfield lead the table having two more wins than their nearest rival, East Grinstead, the only club so far to beat Cuckfield – these two meets again in what looks a potentially key game at Cuckfield on 19<sup>th</sup> August. With the finishing line now almost in sight can Cuckfield (possibly surprising leaders) continue their current form? At the other end of the table Mayfield and bottom placed Eastbourne sit in the two relegation spots.