



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chair: Malcolm Griffin

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Website:

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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2021/2022 Society

Programme

Wed 13 Oct 2021

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

Wed 27 Oct 2021

Autumn Lunch 12 noon
Speakers Fred Rumsey
& Stephen Chalke

Wed 3 Nov 2021

Member Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker Sir Rod Aldridge

Tues 7 Dec 2022

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

Tues 8 Feb 2022

Member Meeting 2:15 pm

Speaker Andy Mackay

Venue: Dining Room,
Pavilion, County Ground, Hove

Wed 2 Mar 2022

Member Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker Alexia Walker

Wed 23 Mar 2022

Spring Lunch 12 noon
Speaker Annie Chave

Wed Apr 2, 2.15pm

"Afternoon Tea" Speaker
Roger Knight, OBE

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

Upcoming Society Events

February 8th 2.15pm.

Venue the dining room of the Hove Pavilion. Our speaker will be **Andy Mackay**, former Head Groundsman at Hove and now working for ECB with the title "Pitches and Grounds Advisor". No doubt he will explain what his new role entails, which may well be particularly important given some of the comments from principally members of the English press covering the current Ashes series, and also one current Test player, suggesting that County pitches do not prepare players adequately for Test cricket. It may also be interesting to hear his views on the art (or is it science?) of groundsmanship, and on topics such as "glued", artificial and hybrid pitches.

A few years ago when still working for Sussex, Andy addressed one of the Sussex monthly lunches speaking well and was well received by those present. So another interesting and informative afternoon is in prospect.

The "**Afternoon Tea with Roger Knight**" event postponed in January has been rescheduled for Wednesday 6 April, 2:15 pm. With afternoon tea involved we will need to know the numbers attending. Event will be free to members, but guests will be charged £5. More details next month including booking arrangements. Roger will be bringing copies for sale of his recent book "*Boundaries: a Memoir*".

Spring Lunch

The Spring Lunch is set for 23rd March when our speaker will be **Annie Chave**. Annie is the daughter of a cricket-mad professor and so her passion for the game was predetermined. Coming from the West Country she has centred her interest in Somerset County Cricket Club, but also has developed a name for herself in European cricket and the game in Sierra Leone. A frequent broadcaster on the sport, Annie's main job now is being Editor and Director of *County Cricket Matters*, a very readable and beautifully produced quarterly magazine which originated from a concern about the effect of the Hundred on our game. The publication does much as the title says. "Matters" in the title could relate almost equally to both "topics" and "importance". The publication's aims are to quote from its website (www.countycricketmatters.com) "*Cricket must evolve, but it must do so in ways true to the spirit and traditions of the game. A key part of this is continuing to base our national game around the county structure, as it has been for more than 150 years*" She cannot wait for the new season to start in April, and I hope that this lunch will be a fine starting point.

The price will be £25 which reflects the cost the Society are being charged by Sodexo. (This is higher than the Autumn Lunch price which was discounted from Society funds as a "welcome back" gesture). You will find with this newsletter a menu and booking form. Please note that bookings need to be made via David Harrison reaching him by 14th March.

Annual Renewals - Standing Orders

Annual renewals fall due on 1st April, a renewal form will be included with the next newsletter. As mentioned last Autumn, subscriptions increase this year. New rates are Single membership £20, Family/Joint £25 and the "supplement" for receiving the newsletter by post £8. For those who pay by Bank Standing Order, a reminder to please contact your bankers so that they remit the new amount. This is also a chance for some members to consider whether they want to continue receiving the newsletter by post as opposed to email, though I am aware that a number only have access to, or prefer, the postal version.

Society Player of the Year – Tom Haines

Thanks to those members who voted. Congratulations to Tom Haines who attracted over three quarters of the votes cast. Tom was the leading scorer nationally in the 2021 First Class County season. He is a deserving choice recognising his performances and improvement in 2021 as a regular opening batter, the way he accepted and responded to the extra responsibilities, and of course stepping up to captaincy for the Royal London and later 2021 Championship rounds.

Sussex News The County have announce that both Chris Adams and Tony Cottey will be joining the “Sussex Cricket Committee” which also includes Keith Greenfield, Rob Andrew and a couple of Board Directors. This sounds like welcome news adding two former players who gave much to Sussex Cricket, I am sure that the support they can offer to Ian Salisbury and James Kirtley and the players can only benefit the County going forward. And adding Grant Flower as batting coach is also a positive sign.

So the Ashes series in Australia is over and another disappointing 4-0 series defeat for England who have now lost thirteen of the last fifteen Tests in Australia (though to be fair England’s home record is far far better). Whether we watched on BT Sport, listened on TMS or followed in the printed press, the story for English supporters was gloomy, though I felt that the end result made a good Australia look better than they perhaps are. Some brief observations. Pat Cummins showed again what an excellent bowler he is and adapted well to the captaincy. Scott Boland coming into Test Cricket at 32 displayed the time-honoured virtues of bowling line and length with just enough movement. Travis Head contributed two near run-a-ball centuries batting with freedom we did not see in England last summer. If he performs like that for Sussex and can deal with the moving ball more often encountered in English conditions, he will be well worth watching. For England Bairstow’s forceful century at Sydney allied with some late order defiance (and a helpful rain interruption) enabled England to achieve their only draw. Wood’s pace and menace in the four games he played was finally rewarded at Hobart. The Hobart Test again made me wonder about day/night Test matches, the contrasting views of allowing people to watch at home on TV in the evening (or morning in UK) against the quality of cricket as batting was increasing difficult under lights and on a well grassed surface.

Overall England were not helped by the absence of warm up games (the one scheduled, an inter squad one involving members of the Lions team was heavily rain affected), and no State games before or between Tests. Possibly the absence of State games was due to Covid, but also seems to reflect the way most tours are going now, long gone are the longer tours involving Tourists playing several State / County etc sides in meaningful fixtures. International sides now seem to be going from one series / tournament (in this case the World T20) to another. The various “Franchise” tournaments around the world simply add to the complexity. All of which leads to the reduction in preparation time and non-international fixtures as part of tours. A shame in many ways, but the same seems to occur in England as well.

And with the series over comes the usual recriminations after an Ashes defeat, the same ones rolled out after the last three tours. Too many Counties? Too much cricket? and the domestic schedule. Personally I think returning to two divisions in the 2022 County Championship will be a boost with the domestic schedule as the key issue. I see that the 2022 fixture list offers some improvement with a few extra Championship matches in June and July. But half the matches are still scheduled for April and September, and no cricket other than County 50 over and the Hundred in August. So work is still needed for future seasons. I would like to see more first-class cricket in June, July and August. The difficult issue is how to fit extra Championship cricket into a crowded calendar where conflicting interests exist. So balancing the revenue Counties obtain from “white ball” cricket with a desire for extra mid-summer Championship matches.

Incidentally England is not alone in placing first class cricket at the extremities of domestic seasons. For instance in Australia the first-class Sheffield Shield takes a mid-season break when the T20 Big Bash takes centre stage. This year the Shield season started in late September running through to late November and is not due to restart until February though this did not seem a problem for Usman Khawaja who had not played for a month before the Sydney Test when he reeled off a century in each innings.

I notice on the schedule issued by Sussex last week that all games currently have Hove as the venue, though the county added “An update on out-ground cricket will be communicated in due course.” I really hope that Sussex do play some home games away from Hove, either at one or all of Arundel, Eastbourne and Horsham who all showed in pre Covid years that they could host matches and were popular venues not least in spreading the game around the County. The schedule may not help - just four home days from early July through to early September, likewise we do not know if Covid issues such as “bubbles” will still be in place. I hope that some out-ground cricket will be possible and await the further news. Time may be a factor as I suspect that host grounds may require time to put in place match day organisation and crucially finances.



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY SPRING LUNCH 2022

Date / Time: Wednesday 23rd March 12.00 for 1.00 pm,
Venue: Cow Corner Hospitality Unit, 1st Central County Ground, Hove.
Speaker: Annie Chave

Menu

Crispy skin chicken supreme stuffed with wild mushrooms and chicken mousse, rosemary and garlic parmentier potato, chunky pistachio pesto and confit tomato.

Or a Vegetarian Option – precise option to be announced in next newsletter

Dessert

Lemon and lime meringue pie, blueberry gel, raspberry sorbet.

Coffee & Mints.

Cost is £25 per person

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 with your menu choice and other etc from the below will suffice. Replies either post or email to reach David by Monday **14th March**

Booking Form

_Names of People attending

I / We would like Chicken / Vegetarian Option (delete as required)

Any Other Dietary Requirements

I / We would like to sit with

Cost £25.00 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.