



# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Founded: 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

December 2021 Issue 646

Website:

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

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### **Hon. Treasurer**

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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  
Venue : Pavilion, County  
Ground, Hove

#### **Tues 7 Dec 2022**

#### **Member Meeting 7:30 pm**

**Speakers Ian Gould &  
Bruce Talbot**

#### **Wed 5 Jan 2022**

2.15pm "Afternoon Tea"  
Speaker Roger Knight

#### **Tues 8 Feb 2022**

Member Meeting 2:15 pm  
Speaker Andy Mackay

#### **Wed 2 Mar 2022**

Member Meeting 7:30 pm  
Speaker Alexia Walker

#### **Wed 23 Mar 2022**

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.*

### **THE SOCIETY WISHES ALL MEMBERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

#### **Upcoming Society Events – December 7<sup>th</sup> Ian Gould and Bruce Talbot**

Our next meeting comes on Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm when we are pleased to have Ian Gould and Bruce Talbot as speakers. The venue as normal will be the Long Room Parks Bar of the Spensers Pavilion, County Ground Hove. Ian is well known in cricket having played for Middlesex then Sussex, returning to Middlesex as coach before being appointed as a First Class then Test Umpire, a role which arguably has seen his greatest contribution to the game. As an umpire he combines the key qualities of good decision making with equally good relations with the players. Bruce Talbot, also well-known locally as a journalist covering Sussex, assisted Ian in writing his recent book titled "Gunner", published in the spring 2020. The book is a good read and no doubt an entertaining evening is in prospect.

For those coming by car, there may be an extra strain on parking in the ground for this meeting. The Sussex Cricket League are holding their AGM in Cow Corner at the ground at the same time. Otherwise the usual parking conditions will apply. The Long Room bar is due to be open and serving hot, as well as alcoholic, drinks.

Further ahead on **January 5<sup>th</sup>** we have the first of two afternoon meetings this winter, Roger Knight is the speaker. This will also include an "afternoon tea", a new initiative this year. Please see the enclosed important notice regarding the format and the booking arrangements which are essential for this event.

#### **Autumn Lunch – October 27<sup>th</sup>**

About seventy members and guests attended the Autumn Lunch on 27<sup>th</sup> October, our first lunch since the Covid break and also the first with what appeared to be a relatively new catering team under the Sodexo banner. The latter produced a fine meal with good service which all seemed to enjoy. After the lunch we then regally entertained by Fred Rumsey and Stephen Chalke, a first-class double act combining humour, enthusiasm and interest. Stephen largely prompting Fred along certain lines, while adding his own reflections, the star act of course was Fred.

Fred started by pointing out that he was wearing his England player's tie, dark blue with England motif on the front and complete with his England Test number, 425, on the reverse of the tie. This he said he is proud to wear. and invariably does when attending events such as this. Fred went on to talk about his career, including mentioning Test matches in 1964 and 1965 along with his county career at Worcestershire, Somerset, and Derbyshire. He mentioned that during the 1965 Lord's Test he met a lady in the team's hotel, Stephen interjected to say that they married shortly after and are still happily married!

Apart from his playing career, Fred talked about his personal involvement while with Somerset in setting up a national Players Association, now the Professional Cricketers Association, adding tales of early conflicts with officials at Lord's though added that his Somerset chairman supported him. An example he gave was his firm stance on negotiating a £400 per season increase for players when the Sunday League was introduced in 1969. His efforts did much to lift the financial rewards for professional cricketers and create a body which he is rightly proud of.

At the conclusion members gave both a warm and appreciative round of applause, followed by with a book selling and signing session of Fred's "Sense Of Humour, Sense Of Justice" which Stephen Chalke published via his Fairfield Books company.

**November Evening Meeting – Sir Rod Aldridge** Would you have known that whereas private school day fees average at £15,191 per pupil per year State school funding is £4k to £6k per pupil per year? Did you know that 90% of state schools in England no longer offer any form of competitive cricket to their pupils? Would you have guessed that only 37% of the current England squad were educated in the state sector?

These statistics indicate some of the reasons that Sir Rod Aldridge, following his retirement from Capita, had a mission to improve state school education by establishing academies in several areas in England, and having been a Brighton boy, particularly in Falmer and Portslade. The Brighton Aldridge Community Academy at Falmer has turned a failing school into one that is now rated “Good” by Ofsted and offers those girls and boys who want to play cricket an opportunity to combine high level sixth form studies with an intensive cricket development programme. 150 students have completed the programme under the watchful eye of Director of Cricket Alexia Walker and a team of top coaches/trainers. There is also a junior cricket pathway for 11–15-year-olds which started in September 2019.

In cricketing terms, the Aldridge Cricket Academy - which we will hear more about in March when Alexia Walker comes to talk about her work - has been supported by Sussex Cricket and is a Cricketing Hub appointed by the MCC. The three-lane indoor cricket school and accompanying outdoor cricket pitch is impressive and also provides facilities for “All Stars Cricket” (5-8 years) and “Dynamos” (8-11 years).

A fascinating and well received evening and many thanks to Sir Rod for taking time to talk to Society members. Thanks to David Harrison for this review

**Stuart Ashby, RIP** It is with great sadness to mention the recent death of Society and Sussex member, Stuart Ashby, no doubt a friend to many including myself. Stuart was a familiar face at both Society events and watching Sussex. He was a real Sussex “character” known by many at Hove, usually sitting on the west side of the sight screen at the northern end at Hove, taking photos of players and collecting autographs. Such was his enthusiasm for supporting Sussex that he was regularly seen on away grounds as well. I understand that his funeral will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30 at St Mary’s Church, East Street, Shoreham, BN43 5DQ (about a five-minute walk south of Shoreham station). Any donations will be as per the service booklet, but please “no flowers”. His absence will be much missed by his many friends.

**New members** – Welcome to Mary Gallivan, Hove and Cliff Robinson, Hove.

**Transport Needed**, one of our members Diane Patching needs transport to and from the Ian Gould meeting in December. Diane lives in Shoreham, if anyone can assist, please ring her on 07810034434.

**Society Player Of The Year Award for 2021**. Time for members to elect your 2021 Society Player Of The Year, an award that goes back to 1971 when Tony Greig won the award. Last year your choice was George Garton. To make your nomination please contact Chris Scovell either by email, letter or telephone with a note of your name (see page 1 for contact details). The aim is to announce the winner at our January meeting.

**Sussex News** - A number of appointments and announcements have been made recently. Not least Mike Yardy succeeding Richard Halsall in the key role for the Club’s future of Academy Director. Mike of course will be known by most if not all of us as a fine county cricketer and captain and has had recent coaching experience with both New South Wales and Kent.

The captaincy issues for 2022 seem to have been resolved, Luke Wright and Tom Haines continue as T20 and 50 over captains, with Travis Head appointed as captain to the Championship side. Three competitions, three captains. Head seems a sound, and to me not surprising, choice given that he offers experience and knowledge and from accounts was well regarded by the younger players. Hopefully he can produce his best batting form, and be available to Sussex throughout the season. I see that he has been selected for the first two Ashes Tests, and that Australia have a couple of tours lined up next spring, but his is often a concern when employing an “overseas” player not least for the key captaincy role. I wonder if his could be a short term / interim appointment with someone, possibly Tom Haines? lined up when ready.

At a junior level congratulations to both Dan Ibrahim and James Coles on selection in the 19-man squad for England’s under 19 tour to Sri Lanka - five one day internationals, the first being on 30<sup>th</sup> November. This tour is preparation for the ICC World Under 19 tournament to be hosted by West Indies in the new year.

By the time the next newsletter is issued the Ashes Test Series in Australia should be under way, it looks to me as though both sides seem stronger in bowling than batting, so an interesting series in prospect. I just hope that it is the actual cricket that takes centre stage.

## **Sussex Cricket Society Afternoon Meeting Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 2:30 pm Speaker: Roger Knight OBE**

The arrangements for this meeting will be slightly different from normal as we need to know how many members and their guests will be attending for catering purposes.

The event will commence with a light Afternoon Tea served from 2:30 pm with Roger speaking shortly after 3 pm. The Tea will consist of Sultana Scones with Strawberry Jam and Sussex Clotted Cream, a selection of Seasonal Cakes and a selection teas or filter coffee.

Before 20th December, those wishing to attend **MUST** contact the Secretary to indicate their wish to attend. Email [djh27@me.com](mailto:djh27@me.com), post David Harrison at 125 Ashdown, Eaton Road, Hove, BN3 3AR. Or leave a note with David or another committee member at the 7<sup>th</sup> December Ian Gould meeting.

No tickets will be issued, but a confirmatory reply will be sent to those using email. Those members who wish to receive a confirmation by post should include a self-addressed envelope with their application.

If you intend to bring a guest or guests please indicate that when notifying David and be sure to bring the correct amount of cash on the day. The charge for each guest is £5 to partly cover the catering cost.

**Speaker – Roger Knight** has had a full career in cricket whether as a player or later as an administrator. Playing wise, Cambridge University, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Sussex then Surrey again, this time as captain, leading Surrey for seven years. He passed 1,000 runs in thirteen seasons so was an outstanding County Cricketer. He also had a teaching career and on retiring from cricket was appointed headmaster at Worksop College. He later entered cricket administration and was MCC Secretary / Chief Executive for some years. In 2015 he was President of MCC. In 2007 he received the OBE for Services to Cricket.