

SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



SCS Founded : 1965
Patron: John Barclay DL
President: David Bowden

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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Newsletter

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2020/2021 EVENTS PROGRAMME **(all events to be confirmed)**

2020

Aug 24th Garden Party

~~**Oct 14th AGM (7pm) followed by Evening Meeting - Postponed**~~

Nov 3rd Evening Meeting

Nov 25th Autumn Lunch 12noon

Dec 8th Afternoon Meeting

2021

Jan 12th Afternoon Meeting

Feb 10th Afternoon Meeting

Mar 2nd Evening Meeting

Mar 17th Spring Lunch 12noon

Speakers will be announced when booked.

Meetings take place in the Spen Cama Pavilion at the County Ground, Hove by kind permission of Sussex Cricket Ltd. Afternoon meetings at 2pm, Evening meetings 7.30pm apart from 7pm for the AGM

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

To start this month, a message from our Chairman, this includes an update on Society intentions for the coming months.

Dear Fellow members,

Will it be a season to remember or forget? We all have our own views, but one thing is for sure we are missing cricket!! Personally, I am finding it difficult to get into sport on TV when the stadiums are empty. It was so disappointing to see James Anderson take his 600th Test Wicket, such a fantastic performance, then hold up the ball to an empty stadium. Hopefully his performance will be recognised in the New Year's Honours!!! Sussex and their partners have done an excellent job bringing cricket to us, go to the Sussex County Cricket Club website, <https://sussexcricket.co.uk> and you will be able to watch all Sussex's games streamed to you at home.

Owing to the present situation we have decided to **postpone the AGM**, our rules state that it should be held within three months of the end of the season but I am sure that members would prefer it to be held when it is safe.

David Harrison keeps in contact with Mark Judges at Sussex Cricket regarding bookings of facilities for our events at the County Ground, but as yet has been given no firm view regarding any indoor bookings from October onwards, including ours. (Nationally, indoor meetings remain considered as highly susceptible to Covid19, at the moment only specific events are allowed and subject to various restrictions in terms of numbers attending and social distancing). Added to this uncertainty the catering staff at the ground have all been furloughed.

So for the time being our intended **programme has been put on hold**. David will be continuing his contact with Sussex concerning our use of the ground, and is also working very hard on our behalf trying to line up speakers for our meetings when we are able to recommence, a difficult task not knowing when we will be able to do so. The idea is to have events ready and waiting and possibly aim to keep to the dates we have previously agreed as and when Government regulations allow. So it is a case of watch this space for developments I am afraid.

David & I had a meeting with Bob Warren where he has offered all possible help and support in our drive to recruit new members. The County Club needs everyone's support and the SCS looks forward to playing its part.

We will keep you up to date with events as they happen by newsletter, facebook or on our website, and look forward to renewing friendship in the not too distant future.

Stay safe,
Malcolm, Chairman

Although the AGM has been postponed, the normal AGM documents such as accounts, review of the year and mention of officials standing for re-election will follow with the next newsletter. (CS)

Sussex News – In the past month or so the Group (conference) stages of the Bob Willis Trophy concluded with a young Sussex side having some good days but without challenging for a top spot. Too often it seemed that the side fell away in the latter part of games. Lack of experience to complement the youth possibly.

In addition to the three teenagers (Carson, Clark and Crocombe) mentioned last month two more made debuts. Firstly, against Middlesex Will Sheffield (left arm swing bowler who came through the BACA and Sussex Academy route to a County contract), then at the Oval James Coles, a right handed batsman from Oxford, and it transpired a left arm spin bowler (from various research I found numerous mentions of his batting performances, but not bowling). At 16 years 157 days he is the youngest player to represent Sussex in first class cricket and a product of Magdalen College School, Oxford, Oxfordshire and Sussex's link with that County at Academy level. His record as a schoolboy was outstanding, he won the 2019 "Sir John 'Jack' Hobbs Silver Jubilee Memorial Prize for the most outstanding under 16 schoolboy cricketer in England".

So a young Sussex side and all five teenagers impressed at times hinting a bright Sussex future assuming they all improve over the next few years. I wonder when (or even if) Sussex last gave first class games to five teenagers in the same season? With the exception of Coles, I have seen the others play on occasions and am certainly looking forward to seeing them in coming years.

The T20 blast has started, and here Sussex's results have been far better as befitting a side with a good recent pedigree in this form of the game. The likely return of Phil Salt from the England ODI squad will further strengthen the side and harbour hopes of a quarter final spot, even possibly Finals Day in October?

Clubs – The Club season continued with the August Cup organised by Sussex Cricket League. While all Clubs with just a small handful of exceptions entered the cup, many did not enter all of their League teams, resulting in the number of actual teams taking part being well down on 2019 levels, when Clubs entered in some cases as many as six teams in the League. I suspect that reduced entry reflected concerns in the current environment and the relatively late approval for Club cricket to go ahead. But for those that did enter it offered by all accounts some good competitive cricket as players made up as far as possible for missing the first half of the season. So credit the SCL for organising this competition at short notice.

As for the actual competition, Eastbourne topped the leading eastern group ahead of East Grinstead, and Preston Nomads the top western group ahead of Roffey. In semi finals, East Grinstead and Eastbourne reached the final and news on that next month.

Deaths Sadly two to report this month:

David Summerfield – David well known to many died recently after a period of illness. David, along with his son Keith, was a regular supporter of Society events for many years, as well as frequently being present at Sussex games whether at Hove or the outgrounds.

Margaret Miles. Margaret who died in the last month, and her late husband Brian, were loyal Sussex members helping at Supporters Club events that raised money for S.C.C.C. In recent years Margaret enjoyed watching County games from the benches near the players steps.

Our sympathies and condolences go to the family and many friends of both.

James Anderson – Malcolm rightly praised James Anderson's performance on reaching 600 test wickets, a remarkable achievement and fitting reward not only for his undoubted skills but also his fitness and durability in a Test career of seventeen years and 156 games, and quite possibly not finished yet. I suspect that certainly in recent years he has benefitted from not being part of the "white ball" squads (just for comparison since debut 194 ODI and 19 T20 England appearances). Added to which the "Central Contract" system has seen him play less than 100 first class games outside test matches. So he has been able to concentrate quite magnificently and with great effect on Test cricket. His colleague in so many games, Stuart Broad passed 500 test wickets this summer and being almost four years younger could well go on and also reach the 600 target. An outstanding pair of bowlers, key to many England victories, and helped I suspect this season with England's decision to rest / rotate the quicker bowlers in view of back to back Test matches which had the effect of maintaining fitness and freshness.

Any account of this **international season** should not go by without praise going to **West Indies** and **Pakistan** (and now Australia) for coming here and putting up with isolation in hotels for some time while leading up to and contributing fully to two riveting Test series. Their participation considerably eased worries over the finances of English cricket which facing considerable losses at least broadcasting revenues were protected.

With regard to West Indies and Pakistan wouldn't it be good if England could "return the favour" by agreeing to tour both as soon as feasible within the current schedule and while safe to do so, particularly Pakistan. (On this topic it is worth mentioning that MCC toured Pakistan earlier this year, and full credit to them for doing so.)

Footnote: There is still almost a month of the County season to play, County cricket in October, now that is a novel prospect reflecting this strange year.