

# SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



SCS Founded : 1965  
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President: David Bowden

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

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## **2020/2021 EVENTS PROGRAMME**

### **2020 (provisional dates but all to be confirmed)**

#### **Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Garden Party**

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup> AGM (7pm) followed by Evening Meeting**

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Evening Meeting**

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Autumn Lunch 12noon**

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Meeting**

### **2021**

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Meeting**

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Meeting**

**Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> Evening Meeting**

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup> 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.*

The season at County level finally started some four months late with some friendlies at the end of July, then the opening round of the four day Bob Willis Trophy starting on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Three groups of six, each playing each other once, so some Counties will have three home games whereas others two then a Lord's final later in September. And of course, the opening games were played "behind closed doors", in "bio-secure" environments as I suspect will all remaining games unless there is a relaxation in restrictions.

Spectators were though allowed into the Surrey v Middlesex friendly as part of a Government trial to see how sports grounds could cope with limited numbers. 1,000 members a day were lucky to get tickets and all seated in a corner, under the gasometer, with players based at the opposite end in the pavilion. By all accounts, it was a joyous Sunday with people pleased to manage to see some cricket live, even if it was only a "preseason" friendly. I gather that Surrey had to employ 100 staff a day for duties I imagine such as stewarding, catering and gate staff - a high proportion of staff to spectators. The experiment and trial lasted only a week, not a reflection on Surrey's organisation which was deemed first rate but part of a wider re-application of regulations.

Thanks to David Harrison who lives in the Ashdown block overlooking the ground for the following two pictures from the start of the Sussex v Hampshire Bob Willis Trophy game on 1<sup>st</sup> August. They show some key elements so far not just from this game but also others. A bright, and from the second picture, sunny day, total absence of any spectators, a minute's silence then before the first ball players and umpires "taking a knee" in support of Black Lives Matter. The absence of spectators and the BLM support could turn out to be defining images of the cricketing year.



**SOCIETY NEWS** – no more news yet on a 2020/2021 winter programme. As mentioned last month the annual Garden Party has had to be cancelled. A feature of the Garden Party is the usual toast to the memory of George Cox. With this in mind I read with interest an article by journalist Paul Edwards on the "Cricinfo" website extolling Cox's virtues under the heading "Young George Cox, who made Hove his garden" A fine tribute to an outstanding Sussex cricketer who played 448 games for Sussex (and just 7 for other sides) from 1931 to 1960. He was born in Warnham like his father George Snr. who also played for Sussex (in his case 618 games). Pleasing from our point of view was mention of the Society and the George Cox garden which is now the narrow plot of land between the outdoor and indoor nets. Previously the garden was a larger area before developments to the players pavilion / indoor school. The current site may well be fitting given that in later years George Cox was a Sussex coach.

**Deaths** – It is with sadness to report the deaths of **Alan Ticehurst** and **John Head**. Alan was 93 and a long standing member of both the Society and County Club. Alan lived in Hailsham and would regularly make the journey to Hove to watch Sussex, and was a regular on Richard Barrow's annual tours to an away game. Alan was always very friendly. Our sympathies and condolences go to his family and many friends.

John, who died on 11<sup>th</sup> August, was also a long time member of the Society and a Life member of SCCC. Throughout his life from his playing days right through to his death he followed Sussex cricket and loved to be with his friends to watch Sussex matches. Society members may well recall that in recent years John regularly delivered the "grace" in advance of lunches, always with a good choice of words. He is survived by his wife Carol, son Jeremy and grandson Joe. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends, and our sympathies and condolences go to them.

Something that struck me about the first round of matches in the **Bob Willis Trophy** was the number of new or relatively new names included in county sides around the country. Sussex were no exception giving first class debuts to Jack Carson (an off spinner hailing from Northern Ireland - recommended to Sussex by Ed Joyce) and Eastbourne born seam bowler Henry Croombe. These two plus Tom Clark, playing his second first team game, were all born this century! Set against these three, seam bowler Mitchell Claydon close to his 38<sup>th</sup> birthday made his Sussex debut after spells at Yorkshire, Durham and Kent. But no Luke Wells, and news is that Laurie Evans has joined Surrey on loan before apparently returning to Sussex for the T20 campaign in September. So some changes, but nothing new with Ollie Robinson again the stand out bowler claiming 8 wickets in the win over Hampshire.

Ollie's immense value to the side stood out even more in his absence the following week at Canterbury (following his deserved call up to England's Test squad) with Kent making 530 for just one wicket in their allotted 120 overs. First innings are so restricted this year, otherwise who knows how many Kent might have made against what appeared from a distance rather threadbare Sussex bowling. So one fairly comfortable win followed by a heavy loss in the first two games as a young side learns its way.

**Clubs** - The club season started in July ahead of the Sussex Cricket League August Cup starting on 1<sup>st</sup> August. This sees clubs allocated into six team groups playing just five matches with the intention to have some finals in September. After two rounds Preston Nomads head the western group ahead of Roffey and Brighton, who tied their game, and in the east Eastbourne and East Grinstead their group.

### **1970 Gillette Cup**

Going back 50 years Sussex again reached the Lord's final. Starting at Chelmsford where Mike Buss starred with 2/25 then top scoring with 72 as Sussex chased down 174 to win by 4 wickets. Then came a victory over Kent at Canterbury. Batting first, Sussex could only amass 199, half centuries from Geoff Greenidge and Tony Greig. Kent in reply at one stage were 127 for 3 but then lost their last seven wickets for just 25, Greig taking 5/42 in all. So in the end a comfortable margin of victory that did not look the case earlier in Kent's reply.

Then to the Oval for the semi final, where a crowd in the region of 9,000 enjoyed a tense and absorbing affair. Despite a plumb Oval pitch and glorious weather, runs were hard to come by. Surrey batting first lost Edrich early on. Fellow opener Edwards made 50 (but took 13 overs over his first 4 runs). It required Roope (34) and wicket keeper Long (an invaluable 42) for Surrey to total 196, being bowled out in the final over (Snow 4/35). In reply Sussex made a slowish but steady start with 46 added for the first wicket, then a batch of middle order wickets and Sussex were soon 95/5 before Pataudi in fine form made 42 and Graves, 45 adding 63 in 13 overs. Eventually Sussex started the final over 193/7. With the time gone 7.30 and with tension in the air no runs came from Arnold's first two balls, Tony Buss was run out from the third. Mike Griffith got a single from the fifth leaving John Snow on strike for the final ball (and his first) which he drove to extra cover where Intikhab fumbled allowing Snow and Griffith to scamper two runs leaving the scores level. Critically Sussex having lost only 8 wickets won by virtue of losing less wickets with Snow man of the match.

Lancashire with a more comfortable win over Somerset in the other semi-final, seemed favourites for the final particularly as they clinched the John Player League title the Sunday before the Lord's final which was nowhere near as close or tense as the Oval semi final.

Sussex, minus Pataudi, got off to an apprehensive start in the final against steady seam bowling. Parks and Grieg went some way to rescuing the innings in the face of clever slow bowling from Hughes and Simmons allied to keen and well-placed fields which ensured that Sussex could not increase the scoring rate. Hughes took wickets of Parks, Greig, and Graves. Suttle was run out, one of three such dismissals late in the innings and Sussex could only manage 184/9. Lancashire too had difficulties on a pitch while true was slow losing their first two wickets for 37, then Clive Lloyd joined Harry Pilling in a partnership of the tall and short. When Lloyd on 29 fell to Mike Buss Lancashire had lost their third wicket at 86, but Harry Pilling was still there and his eventual 70 not out was crucial with the effervescent Engineer (31 not out) chipping in with some stokes of freedom. A convincing six wicket win for Lancashire who on the day batted, bowled and fielded better demonstrating why at the time they were regarded as "kings of one day cricket".