

SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



SCS Founded : 1965

Patron: John Barclay DL

President: David Bowden MBE

Chairman: Malcolm Griffin

October 2020 Issue 632

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Newsletter

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2020

2020/2021 PROGRAMME

(2020 dates cancelled, 2021 to be confirmed)

~~Aug 24th Garden Party~~

~~Oct 14th AGM (7pm) 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 Spence 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.

Society News

The County Ground facilities are still out of action to us, so not only the AGM, but other events scheduled for the rest of 2020, including our popular Autumn Lunch, are going to be lost. At the moment David is provisionally looking at 2021 as the earliest we can recommence, but who knows what 2021 will bring?

Congratulations go to David Bowden being awarded an MBE for services to cricket.

Although the AGM has been postponed, details of rescheduling to follow, once we know more, our Rules say it should be held within three months of the end of the cricket season, so by the first week in January. You will find with this newsletter both the Annual Accounts and Committee Review of the year. Sadly, Richard Barrow has decided to stand down from the Committee so if any member wishes to join the Committee please can they apply with a nominee, or to find out more, contact David Harrison or Malcolm Griffin. We have decided to nominate Roger Oakes to be a Vice President in view of his service to the Society over many years. Roger has agreed, with appointment subject to approval as and when the AGM can be held.

Now that we are at the end of the cricket season, one quite unlike any other, I wonder what members' experiences have been? For instance as we have been excluded from county cricket how, if at all, have people followed the game? Has it been via County streams; TV, mainly Sky also this year BBC not only had highlights of Tests and Internationals also showed a couple of T20s live; radio, both national for England games and local; attending recreational games; or possibly playing (although certainly in my case that stopped some years ago!). Please let me know and over the next few months I will try and include as many as possible. Contributions, say max 150 - 200 words, to show your name, initials or left anonymous, your choice. It might be an interesting topic for future newsletters.



In earlier editions, David provided some photos taken overlooking the County Ground, including from the start of the Bob Willis Trophy game with Hampshire. This one was taken late in the day of this year's final game at Arundel, September 15,

Sussex Martlets v Hampshire Hogs (the latter including Felix Organ and Harry Came who both played for Hampshire in BWT games). The Martlets hung on for a hard fought draw on an entertaining day. Other than for the two Hampshire Bob Willis games, spectators were allowed entry to the various "recreational" games at the Castle Grounds, so a welcome chance to see some cricket and meet cricket friends, many either Arundel, Sussex or Society members. Our Chairman was there each day taking contact details of spectators for "Track and Trace purposes"! I felt that the games I saw at Arundel proved decent entertainment in what is of course a beautiful setting, and with spectators having access to the Pavilion bar and of course the popular Tea Hut each day.

Sussex News

Sussex came bottom of their Bob Willis Trophy conference following a 24 points deduction after Mitchell Claydon was found guilty of ball tampering. Applying hand sanitiser to the ball in the match at Radlett against Middlesex. Film evidence from the streaming service was used to support the umpires. Claydon was suspended for nine matches. Sussex excluded him from their final BWT game and remaining T20 games once guilt was established, these counting against the suspension, but he will still miss two matches in 2021. A truly sad incident.

As for the T20 Blast, Sussex reached the quarter final stage then lost at Hove to Lancashire. Sussex did well to get that far as it appeared that at least in the later group stages the batting showed fragility. Though much credit to George Garton (and a real plus throughout the season) in these games. But to me the top order seemed too “gung-ho” even when chasing relatively small targets.

So a disappointing season overall and not the high note that Jason Gillespie would have hoped for as he ended his period as head County coach. He must have found it difficult with his family still in Adelaide, and that is where his immediate future lies. There seem to be mixed views on his years with Sussex, possibly the most positive has been the opportunities given to a number of youngsters and in time their performances may be the judgement.

The end of any season always sees some players depart or move on, and this year the turnover seems larger than usual. Departing in no particular order Luke Wells, Harry Finch, Danny Briggs (to Warwickshire), Laurie Evans (to Surrey), Will Sheffield and David Wiese (at least for first class cricket).

Wiese has suffered from the removal of the Kolpak regulations. For 2021 Counties will be allowed two “overseas” players. Sussex’s choice is for Travis Head and Stiaan Van Zyl to fill the overseas slots, which at least offers to strengthen and add experience to the youthful batting line up. Sad for Wiese as he has served Sussex well in all formats recently and he may return for the T20s replacing one of the two “overseas”.

Luke Wells and Danny Briggs were given no first class opportunities in 2020 which in Wells’ case prevented him for pushing a case for another County contract, though he has, as we have seen, County ability even if in 2019 not consistency. Left arm seamer Will Sheffield’s departure after one game in 2021 seems to be fitness related. A promising teenager a few years ago he has suffered from injuries which probably. We wish them all well.

Contract extensions were offered to Garton, Haines and Rawlins, with “rookie” contracts (Sussex’s description) offered to teenagers Henry Crocombe, Jack Carson (who impressed in 2020) and Jamie Atkins. The latter a right arm seam bowler with pace who comes from the Roffey club.

Women – Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy

Many congratulations to Southern Vipers on winning the RHF Trophy They beat Northern Diamonds in the final in fairly convincing style. Captain Georgina Adams making 80 then took a wicket, and Charlotte Taylor taking 6/34 in the final. Georgina was also the leading run scorer throughout the tournament.

Clubs - Sussex Cricket League

Despite not being able to start until August 1 SCL managed to put on two competitions, the 40 over August Cup, a league style event with finals in early September, and the Sussex Slam, a T20 tournament with the early stages largely played on midweek evenings before finals in September. Having not one, but two competitions was a credit to both League’s officials and the Clubs in trying to rescue as much as possible from the season.

August Cup

Eastbourne won the Sussex Cricket League’s August Cup Final beating East Grinstead by 12 runs, I was told that Eastbourne were more comfortable winners than the margin suggests. Eastbourne fielded a batch of promising youngsters, many in the Sussex Academy, namely two Lenhams (Scott and Archie), Alistair Orr, Oli Carter and Henry Crocombe who made his County first team debut in 2020. Scott Lenham, Orr and Carter shone with the bat, then Scott also took 3/22 and Archie 2/10. Only mid/late order East Grinstead resistance, led by Toby Pettman and Bradley Hatchett (Lewis’s brother) enabled East Grinstead to get close. good day for the Lenhams, a pointer to the future?

In the minor finals (for teams in lower groups) St Peters beat Bognor by just one wicket, the winning run coming off the last ball, and then in the next level Slinfold were dominant winners over Crowhurst Park reaching a target of 180 in just 14 of their allotted 40 overs.

Sussex Slam Slinfold also won the Slam beating Chiddingly in the final, given the success of the Slam the aim is to look to repeat it in 2021.

Sussex Friendly Club Cricket

After the piece in the last newsletter mentioning that fewer teams entered the SCL August Cup, Simon Wood has been in touch to say that “Friendly Cricket”, (or as I prefer to call it Non-League) did not see such reductions. Indeed, he tells me that the amount of “friendly cricket” played in Sussex in August and September could well have exceeded 2019 levels in the same period, both in terms of games and teams. His experience is based on playing locally for Brighton & Hove Crescent, and also involvement in running a Facebook page (SussexFriendlyCricket) which apart from being a vehicle for clubs to communicate with each other, also acts in effect as a fixture exchange service.

SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY COMMITTEE REVIEW 2019-20

What a year this has been - one that started with a bang and finished with a whimper. As I write this the Society's events for the autumn/winter of 2020 have all been cancelled due to a coronavirus and its subsequent covid-19 pandemic, but more of that for next year's Committee Report when it is to be hoped matters may have returned to something like normality.

At our AGM in October 2019 members voted for major changes to the Society's Committee. Our long-standing President Kathy Bennett decided not to stand for re-election; the membership wholeheartedly applauded Kathy and thanked her profusely for the duties for the Society that she had carried out with diligence and with much grace. David Bowden was elected unanimously. Earlier in the meeting Andrew Long announced that he had decided not to continue as Chairman and as a member of the Committee and he was thanked with special mention made of the long service that he had given to the Society. Andrew, and Geoffrey Runacres who had donated much to the Society over many years, were elected as Vice-Presidents. Malcolm Griffin was proposed and duly elected as Chairman. It should also be noted at this point that following the first meeting of the new Committee year Roger Oakes announced his resignation from the Committee. This decision was greeted with great disappointment and members individually thanked Roger for his extremely long service, first as Treasurer and then as Speaker Secretary.

Early in the 2019-20 year the Committee was delighted to acknowledge several major donations to the Society. Members Bernard Coleman and Peter Whenman made considerable financial donations and Geoffrey Runacres continued to support the raffle with a steady stream of major prizes. We are sure that all members will thank these generous gentlemen for helping to ensure the future of the Society and to enable us to give to the Sussex Cricket training pathway for girls at the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre at BACA's campus in Falmer a Lobster catching machine similar to that donated to the boys' pathway last year.

Our first member meeting of the year was to hear from Bob Taylor on 6 November. A one county man for Derbyshire and, of course for England, Bob was delighted to spot a photograph of Ken Suttle on the Long Room wall as Ken was Bob's first top class county victim! The Autumn Lunch guest on 20 November was Devon Malcolm and what a gentleman he turned out to be. Belying his record as a fast bowler, he is a relaxed man full of self-confidence and was a splendid speaker for us. Over 110 members and their guests heard how one of his first victims was Geoffrey Boycott which led to a full-time contract for Derbyshire, but his Test debut was not so successful - one wicket at a cost of 166 runs versus Australia at Trent Bridge in 1989. In December, we held two events the first being a talk by Mike Vockins, Chief Executive of Worcestershire from 1971 to 2001 and author of a biography of Arthur Milton, the last man to play for England at both cricket and football. We then joined with the Cricket Museum and Educational Trust in order to launch a new book by Andrew Bradstock *Batting for the Poor*, a biography of David Sheppard.

We opened 2020 with a detailed talk from Richard Halsall who in his role as Sussex Academy Director is responsible for bringing on such youngsters as James Coles, who at 16 became the youngest player to make a first-class debut for Sussex when he was selected for the Bob Willis Trophy match against Surrey in September 2020. Another speaking highlight came on 5 February when Luke Sutton in a highly personable manner told 70 members of the emotional ups and downs of playing first-class cricket as described in his book *Back from the Edge*. What a lovely fellow he is. He is now working in sports management with James Anderson and Dominic Bess amongst this clients. March saw us start with a talk from David Millns, a First Class Panel Umpire who played for Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire mostly in the 1990s.

And that was that! The government declared a "lockdown" in an attempt to stem the Coronavirus and we all missed our planned Spring Lunch. The Society continues its work with the excellent monthly Newsletters written and published by Chris Scovell and frequent posts on the sussexcricketsociety.org.uk website from Chairman Malcolm Griffin. Your Committee continue to plan for the future, usually meeting using the Zoom online facility and speakers are being lined up for the moment that matters resume normality, hopefully in 2021.

David Harrison