



SUSSEX CRICKET SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER.

FOUNDED: 1965

CHAIR: David Bowden MBE

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

www.sussexcricketsociety.org

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Dates 2026/7 Events

2026

Wednesday, October 7th
(1pm) AGM, speaker Ed
Warner, Chair, Sussex Cricket

**Thursday, November 12th
(tea) Sussex Back in the Day'
speakers Alan Wells, Ed
Giddens and David Smith**

Wednesday, December 9th
(lunch) speaker Henry Blofeld

2027

Wednesday, January 13th (tea)
Speakers Mark Robinson, Neil
Lenham plus one other

Thursday, February 11th (tea)
Speake to tba

Thursday March 11th (tea)
Speaker Adam Hollioake

The Society continues its 2026/7 programme on **November 12th, 2pm, an Afternoon Tea** (selection of sandwiches and cakes) when we will be entertained by a trio of speakers, all former Sussex players, Ed Giddens, David Smith and Alan Wells. The venue will be the Dean Wilson hospitality units in the south eastern corner of the County Ground, Hove.

Booking Details for the November Tea

Pre-booking including payment (**£25** per person) is essential. The Society no longer accepts payment on the day of an event.

Applications need to reach Jonathan Hyman by **Tuesday 3rd November** at the very latest (email scseventbook@gmail.com phone 01273 410682, Post 17 Brittany Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4PA). Early applications are recommended. **If applying by post, please post by 27th October and use first class mail to allow for any local postal delays.**

When applying please provide your name; and names of anyone coming with you. List any dietary / food allergy requirements for each person

Seating requests – please say who you would like to sit with. Every effort be made to meet requests; but they cannot be guaranteed. If booking for more than one person, please identify any of your party who are, and who are not, members of the Society.

Bank Transfer is the preferred method of payment (Account Name Sussex Cricket Society, Sort Code 60-13-09 Account No. 57843570). Please show **"NOV TEA and your name"** as the payment reference. If paying by transfer, you must email cricketso newsletter@gmail.com to confirm that you have booked and paid.

If paying by cheque, it should be made payable to Sussex Cricket Society and reach Jonathan with your application by **3rd November**. **See note above suggesting postal application should be posted a week before the close date to avoid a risk of it arriving too late to order your tea.**

After the cut-off date (**3rd November**) there will be no refunds for any cancelled booking (Reason: the caterers require the final numbers by the cut-off date and charge the Society for that number.)

Car Parking will be free within the Ground subject to availability with the normal parking warden being stood down. Members or guests must not leave their cars at the Ground post event, especially overnight

Society Officers Jonathan Hyman is taking over as Treasurer from Cliff Robinson, and Roger Dakin as speaker secretary from Martyn Levitt. Roger announced various speaker bookings see the left hand column.

Society Player of the Year – At the AGM Ollie Robinson was chosen for his performances both for Sussex and England in 2026. Henry Crocombe was also nominated and in a vote with both having their supporters, Ollie won the majority of votes from members present.

Sussex news. Sussex despite a poor white ball season very creditably came third in the county championship which to many like myself ranks as the most important of the competitions, though in truth the white ball competitions particularly the T20 generate more income. Looking back to the early spring with the financial news and the 12 point deductions there seemed to be an element of despondency at least among supporters for the season ahead. But once the season actually began the players and coaching staff (despite some knowing or expecting that they would not be retained come the season end) were nothing short of outstanding as both individually and as a group displayed determination to end the season on a high note and do the County proud. Third place at the end with seven wins, only champions Warwickshire (congratulations to them on that) had as many wins.

Third as I said was an impressive result and reflected great credit on captain Ollie Robinson (this role seemed to inspire him to even better performances), all the players, Paul Farbrace and the coaching staff to deliver a beyond expectations back in the spring.

By the end of the season 11 players left the staff, favourites such as Fynn Hudson-Prentice, Henry Crocombe John Simpson, batting coach Grant Flower then the surprise / disappointing news that Paul Farbrace has chosen to take up a position with Lancashire as their director of cricket. They will all be missed. These departures will surely ease the financial situation but will leave some big holes to fill and challenges to meet in 2027.

On a positive note, for me some personal highlights. Henry Crocombe two hat tricks and in two successive matches (Somerset at Hove, Essex at Chelmsford); the excellence of Ollie Robinson and Jaydev Unadkat (at the time of writing no indication as to whether he will be returning in 2027, let's hope finances allow him to do so); Tom Price's all round contributions in a season interrupted by injuries (7 games, 416 runs at 46 and 21 wickets at 21), Plus the ongoing development in the careers of Tom Clark, Charlie Tear and Sean Hunt. I am sure members will have their own recollections.

Very much to Sussex's credit four players, Ollie Robinson, Jofra Archer (though his County appearances are minimal) Henry Crocombe and James Coles were selected for England duty in 2026 with Robinson leading the England Test bowling line-up with potency.

Second Team last month mention was made that Sussex came fifth in their group in the championship. From what I saw it was a very young side some having played under 18 and school cricket in 2026. Three that stood out for me were George Thomas (who sadly has moved to Worcestershire), the Roffey seam bowling all-rounder Freddie Price and batter Joe Johnson. The latter two may be ones to watch in the future and both had good days in in 2026 Metro Bank games, Thomas made 122 against Warwickshire seconds on the day it was announced that he would be joining Worcester in 2027, and Johnson (21 and having also played National County cricket for Shropshire in 2026) impressed often, not least with 153 against Lancs including bowlers Tom Hartley and Jack Blackerwick both having considerable first class experience, in Hartley's case five Tests for England).

Roffey do the double After winning the Premier League on the last Saturday of the league season, Roffey clinched the Daniel Oliver T20 Cup beating Preston Nomads in the final held at the Hove County Ground. Roffey batting first started poorly losing their first five wickets for 51 before Frankie Cripps came to the fore making 126 in an incredible display of hitting from just 49 balls enabling, Roffey to end their 20 overs on 192/5 and then restrict Nomads to 135/8 – left arm spinner Oscar Harman taking 2/18 from his four overs to personally complete a good season. This Cup is for senior ranked sides not teams, the intermediate ranked T20 sides contest the Paul Baker Trophy saw Eastbourne's second eleven beat three Bridges second eleven. And for lower ranked sides the Plate was won by Brighton Malayalee Association CC beating Ifield Third Eleven. It was pleasing that a junior club who are based in Whitehawk had a glory day at the County Ground.