

SECTION 7 -SUSSEX 50+ AND 60+ AND SUSSEX/SURREY 70+ CRICKET

Sussex 50+ County Championship Side



Sussex won the south eastern group of the National 50+ County Championship in 2008 and in so doing was awarded the Wasim Raja Trophy. The improvement over the 2007 season was quite marked with the side only losing one game against Buckinghamshire. Batting was more consistent than in 2007 with Andy Meads (Three Bridges) top run scorer with an average of 50.6. Meads also top scored with 68* against Essex. Tyrone Wildman (Sidley) and Neil Chitty (Arundel) both took a total of 9 wickets. Chitty had the best economy rate of 4.31. Neil Budden (Chichester) had the best bowling average with 24.86. Hugh Milner (Littlehampton), who helped out in an emergency against Hertfordshire at Bishops Stortford had the best return with 4 for 15 in 9 overs. The best and most exciting result was the win against Kent at Three Bridges. Chasing 283 runs in 45 overs Sussex scored 12 runs in the last over thanks to hard-hitting by Richard Seager (Lewes) to secure a win off the last ball. Despite winning the Group, Sussex fell at the first knock out hurdle by losing to Cheshire in a rain affected game by 8 wickets. This was despite a good 62 by skipper Andy Barnes (Chichester). The eventual winner of the National 50+ County Championship was Oxford who beat a strong Lancashire side on the Nursery Ground at Lord's.



Sussex 50+ Home Counties 2nd XI Side

The Sussex 50+ 2nd XI ended the season, once again, in 5th place in the Kreed Home Counties Seniors Championship. The team won only two games against Berkshire, Kent and Middlesex. Once again consistency in availability was the major problem. Top run scorer was Peter Goodsell (Robertsbridge) with 181 runs at 60.33. Highest score was David Collins (Robertsbridge) 105* against Kent at Hastings. Top wicket taker was Bob Daisley (Horsham) with 7 wickets at 18.0. Daisley also had the best return with 6 for 21 in 9 overs against Buckinghamshire at Eastbourne. David White (Tunbridge Wells Borderers) was the most economical bowler at 2.56. The best win was against Buckinghamshire when the visitors were bowled out for 114 chasing the Sussex total of 192. The winner of this competition was surprisingly Hertfordshire who beat the favourites, Surrey, by 23 runs.

Sussex 60+ Championship Side

This Competition has been running for five years and Sussex 60+ has figured as one of the top two Counties in each of these years. In 2004, Sussex was undefeated in the League stages but lost against Essex in the Final at Dorking. In 2005, once again Sussex was undefeated in the League but lost once more to Essex in the Final at Radlett. The tide turned in 2006 and despite losing to Essex in the League, Sussex beat Kent in the Final staged at Brentwood. In 2007, Sussex came second in the League but again beat Kent comprehensively in the Final. However, in 2008 Sussex could only manage 8th position out of the 10 counties participating. It was difficult to field a consistent side and on many occasions the side was woefully weak with batting. Andy Meads topped the batting averages with 282 runs at an average of 94.0 and a top score of 124*; with Bob Phillips (Hastings) scoring 279 runs at 46.5 and a top score of 128. Ted Elsey (Three Bridges) took most wickets with 10 at 29.7. Top of the bowling averages was Mark Shimmons (Willingdon) at 17.56. Opening bowlers Andy Shanks (Fletching) and Hugh Milner took a total of 15 wickets both at economy rates of less than 4. In the match against Hertfordshire at Cheshunt, Meads (124*) and Phillips (128) figured in an opening partnership of 210 runs. In the same game, Bob Phillips achieved a hat-trick in taking 4 for 35. The Final was between Hampshire and Essex. Hampshire scored 189 for 7 and Essex was 100 for 2 when rain stopped play. According to the Rules, Hampshire was the winner by 9 runs but agreed to share the Trophy.

Sussex 70+

Hertfordshire and Kent combined to play three matches at over 70s against a joint Surrey and Sussex Over 70s side. The Surrey/Sussex team, under the captaincy of Derek Semmence, was undefeated. It is hoped to form a Sussex Over 70s side for 2009.

Sussex 50+ Friendlies

It is becoming increasingly difficult to field sides for friendlies and in future early season and end-of season friendlies only will be arranged. Of the games played Peter Grey (Seaford) was the top run score with 151 at 37.75. He also top-scored with 85 in the game against the New Forest Over 50s. Top of the bowling was Ken Fisher (Tunbridge Wells Borderers) 12 wickets at 19.83. His best spell was 4 for 16 against the New Forest Over 50s. The final friendly of the season was against a touring side from Philadelphia (USA) which Sussex won.

Tours

Apart from the annual New Forest Tour which has taken place in August Bank Holiday week for the past 14 years, Sussex 50+ toured The Gambia early in the year under the leadership of Andy Shanks. The Gambian tourists battled against the African sun - temperatures in the 90s every day, and not a cloud in sight - and opponents far younger and fitter, but experience shone through in the end and they came out on top 3-2 in the "series" of games against both African and Asian opposition. Other aims of the tour were to renew interest in the game of cricket among schoolchildren of The Gambia, and to visit schools being aided by charities based in Sussex. In fact, there were two highly successful coaching mornings at the July 22nd Square ground in the heart of Banjul, and visits to schools in Tujereng, Janyang and Kotu South. A Tour is being planned by Andy Shanks to Lanzarote in March 2009 and Hugh Milner is investigating the possibility of taking a Sussex 50+ side to Philadelphia in September/October 2009.

Interested in Playing

Playing seniors' cricket is regrettably a short career. There is a need for new players to come forward. Anyone interested in playing for the Over 50s; the Over 60s; the Over 70s; or any of the tours please contact Hugh Milner with details including age, address, telephone numbers, email addresses and details of Clubs played for on 01903 530688 or by email to hugh@inducker.fsnet.co.uk.

History of the Sussex 56+

Peter Hartland has written a short book on the Sussex 50+ and 60+ history since the first games in the early 1980s. Copies are available from Hugh Milner (hugh@inducker.fsnet.co.uk) at a cost of £5.00 - cheques made payable to Sussex 50+ a/c.

Hugh Milner
Manager