

SECTION 8 – WOMENS SENIOR TEAM

SUSSEX SENIOR WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM SEASON 2008.



This was a magnificent season for the Sussex Women's Cricket Team winning the 1st Division of the County Championships for the fourth time remaining unbeaten throughout the season. In addition Brighton and Hove Women won the National Premier League.

With Clare Connor standing down as Captain due to her appointment as ECB Head of Women's Cricket, Alexia Walker took over as Captain with Caroline Atkins as Vice-Captain. There were six scheduled matches where Sussex play Kent, Nottinghamshire and Berkshire twice.

Sussex opened the season away to the holders Kent. Sussex won the toss and put Kent into bat. Sussex bowled and fielded extremely well and bowled out Kent for 109 with England Captain Charlotte Edwards making top score with 28 before being caught and bowled by Charlotte Burton who finished with 4 for 24. Despite a loss of 4 early wickets a partnership between Alexia Walker 36 not out and Kate Oakenfold 33 not out saw Sussex home by 6 wickets.

Nottinghamshire at the County Ground at Hove was the next match which Sussex won by 7 wickets. Winning the toss Sussex put Nottinghamshire in and despite an excellent 68 from Australian test player Leah Poulton Nottinghamshire were bowled out for 125 with Alexia Walker taking 5 for 17. In reply Sussex made 127 for 3 with Caroline Atkins making 52.

Winning the toss Sussex batted first against Berkshire at Reading and made a very useful 229 for 7 with Rosalie Birch making 72 not out well supported by wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor with 52. In reply Berkshire was bowled out for 147 with Holly Colvin taking 3 for 22 and Charlotte Burton taking 3 for 25 Sussex winning by 82 runs.

It was off to Taunton at the end of July for three consecutive days of matches which was in some respect dominated by the usual English weather with the first two days keep going on and off through rain and the final day being washed out completely.

Berkshire batted first and were bowled out for just 94 with England player Clare Taylor making 49. Laura Marsh took 4 for 16. It took just 15 over's for Sussex Openers Sarah Taylor 49 not out and Caroline Atkins 23 not out to win the game for Sussex by 10 wickets.

Nottinghamshire put Sussex into bat on a very slow pitch and Sussex made 161 for 8 in their 50 over's with Rosalie Birch making 39. Sussex never looked in any trouble reducing Nottinghamshire to 126 for 8 with Alexia Walker taking 4 for 24 winning by 35 runs.

With Sussex being undefeated and Kent losing just one game the County Ground at Taunton was all set for a grand finale. Sussex was also ahead on bonus points. Kent won the toss and put Sussex into bat. Despite a battling 33 from Holly Colvin Sussex struggled to reach 135 for 9 in their 50 over's on a very wet ground However this was immaterial as down came torrential rain and the match was abandoned with Sussex .being crowned worthy champions.

Everyone of the squad has been with Sussex since they were under 11's of which ten have represented England at different levels. Charlotte Burton and Alexia Walker both finished in the top ten national averages for their bowling and Sarah Taylor for her wicket- keeping but this was an overall all round team performance for which each of the squad can feel proud.

Sussex Squad: Alexia Walker-Captain, Caroline Atkins, Vice-captain, Rosalie Birch, Charlotte Burton, Holly Colvin, Melissa Ferguson, Sara Lord, Laura Marsh, Clare Nicholson, Kate Oakenfold, Nicky Pym, Charlotte Russell, Sarah Taylor, Lucy Uncles

Sussex currently have four players representing England all who have been included in the World Cup Squad which is being played in Australia early next year. The four are opening bats Caroline Atkins and Sarah Taylor who is also the wicketkeeper and left arm spinner Holly Colvin and off spinner Laura Marsh.

So in November it's off to Buckingham Palace with the men's County Champions Durham as guest of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Lord and Lady Taverners. Next season the Women's County Championships are being changed so that there will be six teams in each division each team playing each other home and away. Sussex will be looking to retain the championship against Berkshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Somerset and Surrey.

Sussex is extremely fortunate to have such a good relationship with our sponsors RDF and also the support from the Sussex Cricket Board.



**Terry Burton
Senior Manager**