



# The Horse's Mouth

April 2020

## Welcome!

Spring has sprung and the 2020 cricket season is (possibly) approaching – and with that comes the latest edition of *The Horse's Mouth*!

Read on for club news, stories, dates for the diary, activities and upcoming events.

## Get Social:

Keep up-to-date with all things FCC by following our pages on Social Media.



@findoncc

*\*Did you know?\* There are only 8 teams in the Sussex Cricket League who have a higher Twitter following than us (currently 1,604)!*

*You spoke, we listened:*

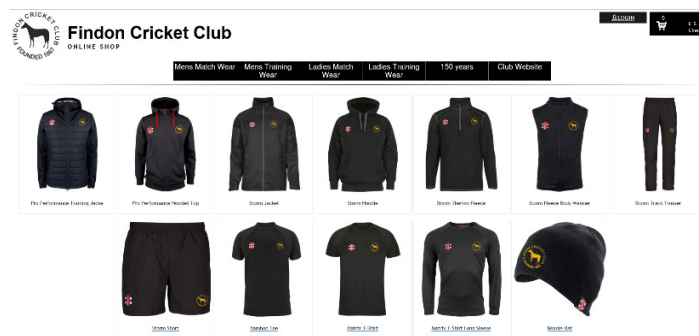
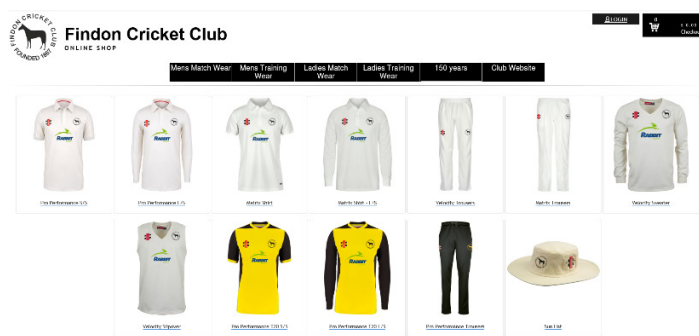
Following feedback from our members in a Club Survey over the winter, our website has had a revamp! Visit [www.findoncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.findoncricketclub.co.uk) to see the

shiny new site (thanks to Spider for his efforts!) and to keep updated with news & events.

## Club Shop

Get kitted up ahead of the 2020 season - Playing and training kit for both Juniors & Seniors is available to buy online at our Club Shop -

<https://www.gncricketshop.co.uk/FindonCC/CSmain.aspx>



[findoncricketclub.co.uk](http://findoncricketclub.co.uk)



## Covid-19...

### A message from FCC Chair, Mandy Bridson:

*As I write the sun is shining and there is a sense of spring being in the air. At this time of year we should all be excitedly anticipating the start of the cricket season, yet sadly at the current time we are experiencing unprecedented uncertainty.*

*First and foremost your FCC committee would like to wish you and your families all good health.*

*As a club we will, of course, be absolutely led by Government advice regarding the health protection of our members and no doubt in time the ECB and Sussex Cricket Leagues will filter down advice as and when appropriate to do so.*

*For the time being we have suspended all cricketing activities.*

*We will wherever possible utilise our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to keep in contact with members in the hope that in time we can do what we do best and offer a safe and friendly environment for members young and old to enjoy playing cricket and socialising with friends at Long Furlong.*

*Our team of ground staff will continue maintaining the ground as best they can and we will ensure that we are ready to commence cricketing activities as soon as it is safe to do so.*

*Due to the current uncertainties and travel restrictions we have agreed with Charlie Blacker, who was due to be our new overseas player from Australia this season, that he will remain safe at home, we hope to be able to welcome Charlie to the home of cricket next season.*

*To those of you that have already paid your 2020 membership fees we thank you. We have invested heavily in repairs and renovations in readiness for the new season and it is important for the club to maintain some form of cash flow where possible. Membership forms are available to download on the website and wherever possible we would like to encourage memberships to be paid if you feel able to do so. We*

*would of course look to carry forward memberships in the worst case scenario that there is no cricket this season.*

*Once again we wish you all good health, and look forward to seeing you all soon.*

*Kind regards,*

*Mandy Bridson*



*The Horses Mouth was almost ready to go to press just before the pandemic outbreak so we've had to tweak a few bits but still wanted to publish this edition to give you all some welcome relief from all things Covid-19. Things may seem a bit bleak at the moment but once this is all over, cricket **will** return and there will be plenty of drink to be drunk and laughs to be had in the clubhouse bar. See you all soon.*

## Horses On Tour

It's been a jet-setting winter – the Bridson clan, Elsie, Geoff & June Roan were spotted amongst the Barmy Army in Cape Town, Harry & Charl bumped into Curtis & former overseas player Mark Solway in Sydney and Mike & Jack Metters caught up at the Rugby World Cup in Tokyo!



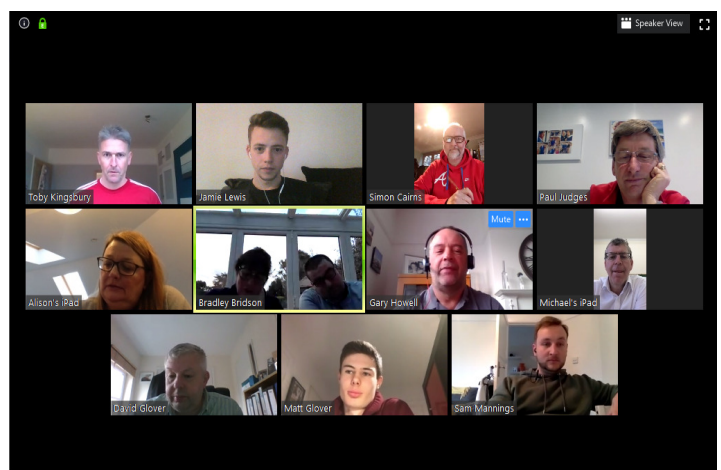
## A warm welcome...

We are delighted to welcome Medium-Fast bowler David “Kenny” Everett to FCC following his recent move to the local area. David comes with a wealth of experience having opened the bowling in Division 2 with Haywards Heath CC. *Welcome aboard, Kenny!*

Our overseas signing, Charlie Blacker, will sadly now have to wait for his move to FCC. Charlie is a left-handed top order batsman who also bowls some spin at his club West Warrnambool Cricket Club, near Melbourne, Australia. We look forward to meeting Charlie one day soon.

## Covid what...?

Not even the Coronavirus could stop April's FCC committee meeting going ahead thanks to Zoom (feat. DJ Growler)! How very 2020!



## Nets...

Please note, the nets at FCC are unavailable for use until further notice #StayAtHome

## Juniors Update

Our 'Friday Night Juniors' training sessions proved to be a great success last season and we hope to continue these nights once we are up and running again. The bar will be open and we'll have regular BBQ's throughout the season so bring the family and enjoy a well-earned drink in the Friday sunshine. We're always looking to recruit new junior players so tell your friends and bring them along. For more information about the junior section please contact Junior Manager, David Glover on 07720 849057 or by email at [djglover@btinternet.com](mailto:djglover@btinternet.com)

Matthew Glover continues as Junior Captain for the 2020 season alongside Sophie Whittington as vice-Captain.



A massive congratulations to Archie Cairns, Alex Stephens, Cal Nichols, Fin Roberts, Sam Mason & Sophie Whittington who have been training with Sussex Pathway Squads over the winter.

A big well done to Archie Cairns who picked up the Rex Knight Award for the Best Performance by a Junior in the West Sussex area at the WACA awards, for his 138\* vs Pagham. Matthew Glover also deservedly picked up the John Burroughs Award for Junior Clubman of the year for his efforts

with coaching and skippering the senior Sunday X1. Congratulations, boys!

## Get Social this Summer!

**FINDON CRICKET CLUB**  
**2020 SOCIAL CALENDAR**

<b>FRI</b> <b>APRIL 17</b>	<b>SIGN ON NIGHT FOR MEMBERS</b> catch up with friends at Gee Gee's Bar!
<b>SAT</b> <b>MAY 9</b>	<b>BEST OF BRITISH NIGHT</b> celebrate VE Day in style! *Fish & chips available*
<b>SAT</b> <b>JUNE 20</b>	<b>RETRO FOOTBALL NIGHT</b> wear your best retro football shirt!
<b>SAT</b> <b>JULY 18</b>	<b>MEXICAN NIGHT</b> get your sombreros out! *Chilli available*
<b>CLUB WEEKEND 2020 - FINDON FESTIVAL</b>	
FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST - ROUNDELS TOURNAMENT & QUIZ NIGHT	
SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST - BAVARIAN NIGHT *Bratwurst available*	
SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST - DOUBLE WICKET & TAKEAWAY NIGHT	
<b>FRI</b> <b>SEPT 18</b>	<b>JUNIOR AWARDS NIGHT</b> BBQ, games & awards!
<b>SAT</b> <b>OCT 17</b>	<b>THE ANNUAL DINNER DANCE 2020</b> @ Indigo Restaurant, Ardington Hotel Worthing

[www.findoncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.findoncricketclub.co.uk)

This **was** the plan for the socialites at FCC - regrettably, at least some of these events will have to be re-scheduled or cancelled.

*Bar income helps pay for the running of the club so your support in attending these events is always appreciated.*

[findoncricketclub.co.uk](http://findoncricketclub.co.uk)



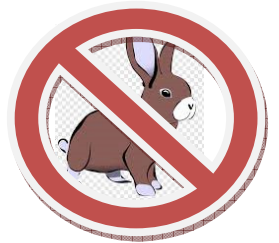
## News from the Committee

The club committed to over **£7,000** of expenditure this spring including net refurbishment, re-covering of the artificial wicket and a new batting cage for use on the square.



## Those pesky rabbits...!

In recent years there has been something of a rabbit epidemic at FCC headquarters, leaving the outfield with more holes in it than John Cox's cricket whites. A big thank you to our Club President, Alan Harris, for his hard work in installing specialist rabbit fencing around the border of the ground which will hopefully alleviate the issue. Fingers crossed for a bunny-free summer at Long Furlong this year!



## Membership

Like most amateur sports clubs, FCC rely heavily on membership fees. Without this vital form of income, the club would not be able to pay for important repairs and improvements such as those mentioned above. In these difficult times, the club is also reliant on membership to maintain sustainability and keep finances healthy and we would encourage payment if you are able to do so. Membership forms for 2020 have been sent out via email, or can be accessed by visiting

<http://www.findoncricketclub.co.uk/the-club/membership/>

## Team News

### 1<sup>st</sup> X1:

Bradley Bridson continues as Club Captain alongside Curtis Howell as his Vice. A disappointing season ended in excitement last year as the 1's

escaped relegation from Division 3 West on the final ball of the season; recovering from 187/8 to chase down 296 against

Stirlands. Archie Cairns & Graham Manser were the stars that day and Bradley will be hoping for more heroics from his squad this season to make sure his team are at the other end of the table this year!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI:

The 2's will be adjusting to life in Division 5 West after an unlikely promotion last year in Cameron Young's debut season as skipper. His side enjoyed a fine run of form in the second half of the season, led by Nick Hawke & Jon Flower's runs, eventually finishing runners-up in Div 6 which was a fantastic achievement. Cameron will be looking for more of the same as his side look to consolidate in Div 5, whilst enjoying



playing at grounds such as Horsham, Middleton & Billingshurst.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> X1:

A solid season for the 3's in Div 9 West resulted in a mid-table finish in Nigel "Lamby" Lambert's final season as Skipper. Happy retirement to Lamby – time to put his feet up after taking 190 wickets at an average of just 19 over the last decade. Harvey Keffert takes over the reigns as Captain, with Simon Wadeson elected as his Vice – best of luck guys.

*Keep up-to-date with fixtures & results for all teams (Junior & Senior) at*

<http://findon.play-cricket.com/matches>

## Outdoor Senior Nets

Dates TBC. One of the biggest things to come out of club survey in the winter was the wish for more coaching for Senior players. We are delighted to announce that (all being well), Brighton & Hove CC's Club Captain, Bryce Hounsome will be joining us as Club Coach.



## Sussex Slam

A new midweek 20:20 competition hits Long Furlong this summer (hopefully) in the form of The Sussex

Slam: an exciting cricket competition that's fun, fast and convenient - perfect for those who

struggle to find the time to play the longer form of cricket. Stand by for coloured kits, a pink ball and lots of fun as the newly branded "Findon Horses" take on West Chiltington Windmills and Watersfield Warriors in the Group Stage.



## Horses Down Under

FCC 1<sup>st</sup> teamers Curtis Howell, Harry Metters and Glen Bridson

will soon be returning from successful stints playing in Australia over the winter.

Curtis (Yallourn North CC) and Glen (Nichols Point CC) returned to

their previous clubs whilst Harry travelled out to play in his debut season down under for Mooroolbark CC. We'll hear from them in the next edition of *The Horse's Mouth*.



Club mascot, Finley the Penguin (pictured with Harry), also enjoyed an exotic winter and will be sure to have some stories to share..!

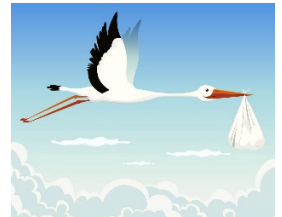
## Player Rep

Following the AGM in January, a new committee position of Players Representative was established. Sam 'Bernard' Mannings was voted into this role for 2020 so if you have any feedback or suggestions for committee, please feed them through Sam.

## A new arrival

A big congratulations to Josh Stephens and his partner, Jodie, on the birth of Freya Rose Stephens on 28<sup>th</sup>

February 2020. Josh was a member of the VKO team who played at Lords in 2007 and will occasionally be seen nowadays propping up the clubhouse bar.



## Remembering those we have lost...

The club flag flew at half-mast in February in memory of Tom Mitchell and Bob John, who sadly passed away during the winter.



## Club Welfare Officer...

A big thanks to Karen Whittington for her efforts over the last few years in her capacity as Club Welfare Officer. Karen will be stepping down from the role after the 2020 season – if you are interested in taking over this important administrative position in safeguarding our youngsters, please contact Mandy Bridson.

## FCC 150 Club

The 150 Club has been running for just over 2 years and is a great fundraiser for the club. **For just £3 a month paid by standing order you'll be entered into a monthly draw for cash prizes of up to £75!**

If you would like to join, please contact Bradley Bridson at [FCC150club@gmail.com](mailto:FCC150club@gmail.com).

Winners of the latest draws below:

### February:

1st Place – Bethan Norman - £75  
2nd place – Mandy Bridson - £25  
3rd Place – David Glover - £10

### March:

1st Place – John Rogers - £75  
2nd place – Harvey Keffert - £25  
3rd Place – Bethan Norman - £10

### April:

1st Place – Gary Howell - £75  
2nd Place – Ronald & Evelyn Cox - £25  
3rd Place – Toby Kingsbury - £10

*Sponsorship – we're always on the lookout for new sponsors. If you have a business or know someone who might be interested in sponsoring the club, please contact Paul Judges on 07966 265945.*

## Quarantine Quiz...

1) Find these cricket/FCC related terms!

### Findon Cricket Club

B	O	W	L	E	R	T	R	E	N	N	I	P	S
C	E	H	P	U	T	T	N	I	P	S	G	E	L
O	S	L	O	P	E	S	G	O	O	G	L	Y	G
B	G	N	L	O	K	X	W	C	B	I	O	X	B
W	C	R	F	S	S	R	H	R	A	S	N	G	R
E	A	T	O	T	S	I	E	N	T	U	G	O	A
B	P	D	E	U	N	C	G	U	S	M	F	T	B
C	T	N	U	A	N	X	I	S	M	P	U	H	S
O	A	H	M	T	E	D	E	R	A	I	R	I	E
R	I	A	L	T	L	O	S	E	N	R	L	R	E
N	N	R	U	N	O	U	T	M	S	E	O	D	G
E	R	E	G	G	O	L	S	A	A	N	N	M	E
R	I	C	R	U	O	F	A	G	T	N	G	A	E
N	O	M	O	P	T	E	K	C	I	W	I	N	G

BATSMAN  
COBWEB CORNER  
SLOGGER  
GROUNDSMAN  
BOWLER  
RUN OUT  
LONG FURLONG  
SIX  
SPINNER  
CAPTAIN  
GOOGLY  
LEG SPIN  
GEE GEES BAR  
UMPIRE  
CHINAMAN  
THIRD MAN  
NETS  
FOUR  
WICKET  
SLOPE

2) Which FCC 1<sup>st</sup> teamer is pictured below?  
(This is how cricket is viewed in Cobweb Corner after a few pints of Harvey's..!)



3) **Who Am I?** (according to Play Cricket) – no cheating!

- A) I've got 40 ducks for FCC – the most in the club's history
- B) I once took 8/20 – the best bowling figures for FCC since records on Play Cricket began..!
- C) After scoring 19 half-century's, I finally converted to score my first ever ton in the 2019 season

4) What had happened to Club Captain, Bradley Bridson, just moments prior to this photo being taken?

- a) Worn a bouncer
- b) Fell on his stumps
- c) Pulled a hammy



ANSWERS: 2) Glen Bridson; 3a) John Cox; 3b) Toby Kingsbury; 3c) Jon Flower; 4) C

findoncricketclub.co.uk

