



# The Horse's Mouth

November 2020

## Welcome!

With Lockdown 2.0 in full flow, now is a good time to look back at the 2020 cricket season. It wasn't quite cricket as we know it, with sanitation breaks every 6 overs and no changing rooms or teas but it was fantastic to have cricket back at Long Furlong and a return to a bit of normality after such a difficult and uncertain few months.

In 2020's final episode of *The Horse's Mouth*, we summarise the season as well as the usual news and events from the club and our members.

## Get Social:

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



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## A big thanks...

It was all hands to the deck on 17<sup>th</sup> October as a dozen or so members took to the end-of-season tidy-up, ensuring the ground and clubhouse are ready for the winter. Head Groundsman



Gordon Corree and his band of merry men including Dave Goodman, Ian Swalwell, Alan Harris & Simon Cairns have also been hard at work scarifying the square and fertilizing the outfield in preparation for next season. A big THANK YOU to everyone who gave up their time to help.



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## A Half Century for the Howells...

A big congratulations to Life Members, Peter & Dee Howell, who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Here's to many more happy years together!



## Dates for the Diary...

- Senior & Junior Awards – to be announced on Social Media during the week commencing 30/11/20.
- Christmas Curry – Date TBC (if Covid restrictions allow).
- AGM – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 on Zoom.



## A touch of wind at Club HQ...

Things got a tad blustery at Long Furlong in August resulting in the sightscreens and covers having a slight change of location!



## A review of the Senior cricketing summer – by Club Captain, Bradley Bridson

(pictured below demonstrating his textbook batting technique)...

"The summer of 2020 was like no other, and I really hope come April 2021 we are back to as much normality as possible. We ended up playing 31 senior games across 11 weekends, including for the first time in the club's history putting out a 4th XI on a Saturday afternoon, plus a further 6 midweek fixtures in the inaugural Sussex slam. It was a fantastic effort from everyone given at one stage it looked like we wouldn't get any cricket played with the ball being deemed a "Vector of disease." A huge amount of hard work went on behind the scenes to get the games on this summer, from the captains, to the groundsman, scorers, umpires, to getting the clubhouse Covid-secure, and most importantly getting the bar up and running! I would like to personally thank you all, as well as I am sure the whole playing membership would also like to.

On the playing front, all 3 league sides competed well this summer in the new August Cup, a 5 league game season organised by the Sussex Cricket League. The 1st XI finished 2nd in their group, missing out on progressing to the Play-offs only to Slinfold who were the only team we didn't play due to a washed



out game. Cameron Young's 2nd XI finished 5<sup>th</sup> with two wins, and the 3rd XI ended in 4<sup>th</sup>, also collecting two wins in Harvey Keffert's first 'season' as skipper. There was no village knockout run unfortunately either this summer, with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI losing away to a strong Liphook & Ripsley side in the West Area final.

It was great to see so many youngsters and juniors playing in all our senior sides and contributing to the various teams. Some notable performances for the year with the bat included Matt Glover 104 vs Littlehampton

(1st XI), Archie Cairns 82 not out vs Henfield (1st XI), Alex Stephens 82 not out vs Aldwick (2nd XI) and Matt Hawke's first senior half-century with a score of 54 v Chipps (3<sup>rd</sup> XI). With the ball, Alex Stephens 4/16 vs Arundel (2nd XI), Ethan Franklin 3/12 vs Rustington (3rd XI) & Oliver Wadeson 3/33 vs Rustington (3rd XI) were highlights.

We also welcomed some new and old faces back to the club this summer - we welcomed to Long Furlong, David 'Kenny' Everett (joining from Haywards Heath) and Tom Reading who had moved to the area for the summer who both added depth and quality to the 1st XI seam bowling attack. Gary Mason from Lancing Manor joined FCC to play with his son, plus a number of new juniors making the step-up to senior cricket this summer including Matty Hawke, Sam Mason, George Colbran, Cal Nicholls and Jacob Knowlton. We had a returning 1st XI captain, Barry Meaney, who played in the Sussex Slam side and then onto the 2nd XI before being hit by injury. Owen Cave also returned playing 7 games for the Slam side and the 2nd XI, scoring an impressive 270 runs including a maiden senior 100 for the 2nd XI. We also saw Callum Meeney and Brad Roberts for the first time in a few years along with Paul Cox, Grant Christie and Rob Whittington who played in the Sussex Slam.

Despite what was thrown at the club this summer, the club has done brilliantly to be able to adapt and offer so much cricket to our members and to compete well on all fronts despite missing a number of players due to situation. The hard work put in this summer has left us in a very strong position for next summer and beyond. I hope to see you all in 2021 and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I hope you all keep safe and well.

I would just like to add that 'The Horse's Mouth' is written by an absolutely top bloke and I would just like to publically offer to buy his beers for the entirety of next summer."

*Barrel*



## Sussex Junior Festival Round-Up...

It was a great week of cricket (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August) from our **Under-14's** in their Junior Festival, winning 3 games and drawing 1; finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a group of 19 teams.

The boys put in some really strong team performances with contributions from the whole squad.

Individual highlights with the bat included Sam Mason's 51 versus West Chilt and two scores of 57 from Matt Hawke against Pagham & Rudgwick.

With the ball, Fin Roberts impressed with figures of 4-5 (vs Eastergate) & 4-14 (vs Rudgwick). George Colbran also took 4-17 against Pagham, Matt Hawke 4-29 against Rudgwick and 3-12 from Jacob Knowlton versus West Chilt.

The **Under 13's** drew 2 and lost 2 games in a tough group against some strong opposition in their festival week (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August).

Shams Suddahazai struck a superb 117\* in a losing draw against Chichester Priory Park followed by an unbeaten 133 in a heavy defeat at the hands of table-toppers Preston Nomads. Hashim Khan struck 44 in a draw against St Peters as the team finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the Group.

Some good performances from the **Under 16's** resulted in a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in their group of 21 teams. The week started in defeat to Rottingdean, despite good knocks from Archie Cairns (46) & Drew Hammersley (41\*). After a washout against Stirlands, the

boys inflicted a 5-wicket defeat on Preston Nomads with Archie Cairns (4-0-9-5) starring with the ball. Alex Stephens scored his second junior century with 100\* in the final game against Portslade before Oakley Bird took 3-14 with the ball in a convincing victory.

The **Under 11's** enjoyed their festival week, finishing 12<sup>th</sup> from 21 teams after a win, a defeat and 2 draws. The week started with an abandoned match against Southwick who were bowled out for just 23. Dennis Woolridge led the way with the ball, taking 3 wickets for 3 runs but unfortunately the weather didn't allow for our reply. An excellent team bowling performance followed against Stirlands Girls, with wickets shared around between 7 players. Ruben Kingsbury struck a terrific 37\* as we chased down the total of 101 with the loss of just 3 wickets. Wickets were shared around again the following day as Stirlands were bowled out for 66 before we fell just 4 runs short of the total in a close and well-fought match. The week ended with a draw against West Chilt – Toby Quick returned figures of 3 for 11 before we reached 56/7 in response.

*A big thank you, as always, to all Junior managers, coaches, umpires, scorers & parents for all of their efforts to ensure that our Colts could enjoy some cricket this summer.*



## Sussex Slam

It's fair to say that the Sussex Slam was a fantastic success across the County, with 250 games being played across 10 weeks, with Slinfold Rams taking home the trophy on finals day in the men's competition and Eastbourne Renegades winning the ladies competition. Our very own 'Findon Horses' comprehensively won their Group with 5 wins and a washout after taking on Ferring Falcons, Lancing Lightning & LA (Littlehampton) Goats. It couldn't have been closer in the Round of 16 Knockout stage hosted by Aldwick as the Horses were beaten on the last ball of the game against eventual semi-finalists, 'The Mighty Bish Bash Bosh' (Bosham). The competition brought several old faces back to FCC and also allowed many youngsters an opportunity for some additional cricket this summer. Bring on next year!

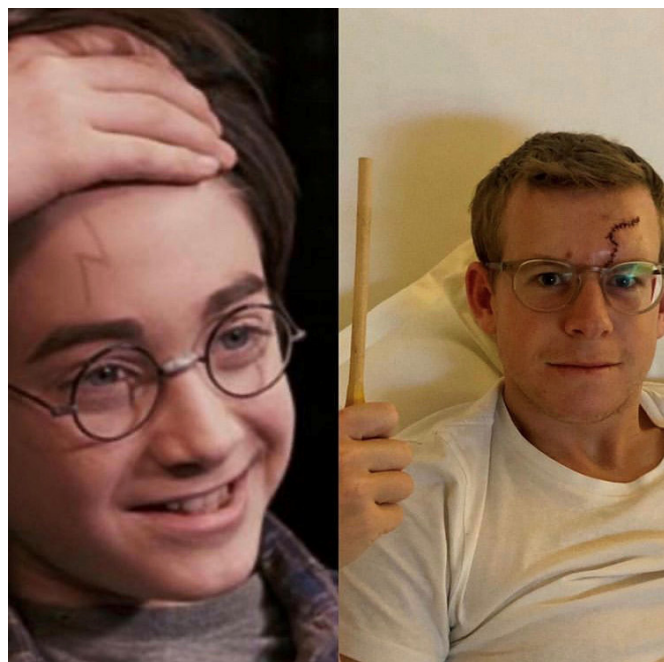


## Get Well Soon...

We would like to send our best wishes to Steve Chapman, Kat Chapman and John Rogers who are battling against some health issues at present. We hope to see all 3 of these very popular club legends in good health at the club next year.

## You're a Wizard, Harry!

1st X1 all-rounder Harry Metters has been in the wars recently after a nasty clash of heads playing football. Stick to cricket, Harry...or perhaps try your hand at Quidditch?



Club Captain, Bradley Bridson, also had a visit to A&E after shelling a catch off his own bowling in an early August Cup fixture. The x-ray (pictured) revealed a clear dislocation which thankfully healed quickly, allowing Bradley to get back on the pitch a few weeks later.



## Teams of the Decade...

Club Statto/Badger, Harry Metters, has been hard at work putting together the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Teams of the Decade for all seasons from 2010-19.

All Team of the Decade stats are for all league & cup matches and therefore exclude friendlies.

Great work, Haz!

TEAMS OF THE DECADE: 3RD XI TEAM, 2010 - 19

	GAMES	RUN @ AVE	WKTS @ AVE	CATCHES - RUN OUTS (STUMP)	CH'SHIP POINTS PER GAME
SIMON WADESON	26	890 @ 39	9 @ 27	11 - 3	45
JON FLOWER	56	1200 @ 23	2 @ 20	15 - 1	25
JAMIE LEWIS	35	1195 @ 40	-	14 - 1	39
MARK HIGGINS	32	976 @ 38	13 @ 29	7 - 1	39
BRADLEY BEALE	34	835 @ 38	24 @ 16	19 - 0	41
JAMES HENMAN	53	958 @ 25	50 @ 30	11 - 1	35
MARK BYERLEY (WK)	42	601 @ 24	-	25 - 1 (17)	27
PETE HUGHES	87	671 @ 14	122 @ 13	37 - 0	33
ALEX CAUGHLIN	51	405 @ 12	54 @ 28	14 - 1	27
NIGEL LAMBERT	66	339 @ 10	128 @ 14	22 - 3	38
MATT SPOKES	26	65 @ 7	46 @ 14	12 - 0	34

CHAMPION POINTS SCORING: 1 PER RUN; 15 PER WICKET; 10 PER CATCH; 15 PER RUN OUT/STUMPING

TEAMS OF THE DECADE: 1ST XI TEAM, 2010 - 19

	GAMES	RUN @ AVE	WKTS @ AVE	CATCHES - RUN OUTS (STUMP)	CH'SHIP POINTS PER GAME
BRADLEY BRIDSON	197	5205 @ 28	23 @ 34	63 - 5 (1)	32
JACK METTERS	88	2421 @ 30	36 @ 21	37 - 2	38
GLEN BRIDSON (WK)	215	4061 @ 25	-	177 - 4 (72)	32
FELIX JORDAN	128	3260 @ 31	88 @ 29	49 - 5	40
MICKEY DEMETRIOU	32	673 @ 37	50 @ 20	14 - 2	50
HARRY METTERS	163	2157 @ 25	212 @ 21	63 - 13	38
TOBY KINGSBURY	42	861 @ 25	50 @ 22	14 - 0	42
LIAM FREEMAN	38	670 @ 22	70 @ 17	17 - 0	50
GRAHAM MANSER	117	1168 @ 20	136 @ 22	37 - 1	31
CURTIS HOWELL	139	1473 @ 17	213 @ 19	54 - 2	38
JAMES IAGO	79	747 @ 16	183 @ 16	23 - 1	47

CHAMPION POINTS SCORING: 1 PER RUN; 15 PER WICKET; 10 PER CATCH; 15 PER RUN OUT/STUMPING

## STATS OF THE DECADE, 2010 - 19

**MOST APPEARANCES:** GLEN BRIDSON 262  
- followed by Bradley Bridson (248) & Curtis Howell (235)

**MOST RUNS:** BRADLEY BRIDSON 6,793  
- Glen Bridson 5,306 is only other player above 5,000

**HIGHEST BATTING AVE (min 10 innings):** JAMES OAKDEN 44.3 FROM 16 GAMES  
(all 2nd & 3rd XI league)

**MOST 50'S:** BRADLEY BRIDSON with a staggering 46 fifties including 34 in competitive games  
- 2nd Glen Bridson (37). A total of 486 senior fifties were scored in the decade.

**MOST 100'S:** HARRY METTERS 8, INCLUDING 3 IN LEAGUE GAMES  
With only 11 fifties he has the highest conversion rate for all players with more than 1 hundred  
- Jack Metters had 6, again with 3 in league matches. Jamie Lewis had the most competitive ton's with 4.  
A total of 68 senior ton's were scored in the decade.

**MOST DUCKS:** CURTIS HOWELL, SAM DUNKLEY & ROSS BALL all had 25 Ducks over the Decade  
- Joe Childs are notable mention with 20 from 32 dismissals.

**HIGHEST SCORE:** SENIORS: ANDY BOXALL 180 for the 3rd XI against St Mathias in 2015.  
JUNIORS: TOM LAWSON scored a double hundred with 200\* in 2013 in a Under 16 festival match against Goring CC - FCC won by 302 runs on this day!

**MOST WICKETS:** CURTIS HOWELL 301 with 252 in competitive matches  
- Harry Metters the only other player above 200 with 250 wickets, 212 of these in competitive matches.

**LOWEST BOWLING AVE (min 20 wickets):** PETER HUGHES 13.5 for 122 wickets in competitive 3rd XI matches.

**LOWEST BOWLING ECONOMY (min 20 wickets):** JAMES IAGO 3.0 for his 191 wickets.  
- Economy of 2.9 excluding the 8 friendlies. James Oakden & Simon Legge next best with 3.4

**LOWEST STRIKE RATE (min 20 wickets):** PETE HUGHES 23.5 for his 122 wickets for the 3rd XI  
- Ryan Meighan (23.7) & Liam Freeman (23.8) the only other 2 bowlers to get a wicket less than once every 4 overs.

**MOST 5FERS:** JAMES IAGO, 14 5fers in just 78 1st XI competitive games - this is a 5fer less than every 6 games!  
- Nigel Lambert (7), Curtis Howell (6) following this. A total of 97 senior 5fer's were taken throughout the decade.

**BEST BOWLING FIGURES:** JAMES IAGO 8-47 against Middleton for the 1st XI in 2011  
- Curtis Howell 7-9 for the 1st XI against Ifield in 2015 follows this.  
- Jack Peirce 7-20 for 3rd XI against Portslade 2nd XI is the best outside of the 1st XI.

**MOST CATCHES:** GLEN BRIDSON 197 with 177 of these in competitive matches  
- Curtis Howell is second with 113 with 72 of these in competitive matches.

**MOST STUMPINGS:** GLEN BRIDSON 74, with 73 in competitive matches  
- Mark Byerley with a very impressive 51 with almost as many stumpings as catches (54).

**MOST RUN OUTS:** HARRY METTERS 13, with all of these in competitive matches  
- Matt Glover 8, Simon Legge 7, Curtis Howell 7 & Bradley Bridson follow this.

TEAMS OF THE DECADE: 2ND XI TEAM, 2010 - 19

	GAMES	RUN @ AVE	WKTS @ AVE	CATCHES - RUN OUTS (STUMP)	CH'SHIP POINTS PER GAME
ANDY BOXALL	83	2480 @ 31	111 @ 21	29 - 0	53
JON FLOWER	65	1532 @ 25	1 @ 18	15 - 0	26
SIMON LEGGE	102	2377 @ 29	106 @ 16	56 - 5 (3)	46
JOHN COX	67	1498 @ 24	10 @ 33	29 - 1	29
NICK HAWKE	39	1141 @ 30	39 @ 18	8 - 0	46
CHRIS SMITH	52	893 @ 20	4 @ 39	24 - 0 (8)	25
CAMERON YOUNG	56	982 @ 18	11 @ 22	21 - 1	25
STEVE CHAPMAN	107	1079 @ 16	122 @ 21	32 - 1	30
MARK BYERLEY (WK)	65	407 @ 15	-	29 - 2 (34)	19
SAM DUNKLEY	68	474 @ 12	67 @ 29	19 - 2	25
GARY HOWELL	58	220 @ 12	66 @ 29	12 - 1	23

CHAMPION POINTS SCORING: 1 PER RUN; 15 PER WICKET; 10 PER CATCH; 15 PER RUN OUT/STUMPING

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## **FCC 150 Club**

The 150 Club has been running for 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).

The results of the latest draws are below – congratulations to the winners:

### **August:**

1st Place – Jason Nicholls - £75  
2nd place – Peter Howell - £25  
3rd Place – Malcolm Gill - £10

### **September:**

1st Place – Fran Higgins - £75  
2nd place – Mike Metters - £25  
3rd Place – Harvey Cairns - £10

### **October:**

1st Place – Jabe Rogers - £75  
2nd Place – Sam Anstee - £25  
3rd Place – Darren Wratting - £10

### **November:**

1st Place – Ronald Cox - £75  
2nd Place – Archie Cairns - £25  
3rd Place – Matt Glover - £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.*

## **See you next year...**

On behalf of the FCC committee, we hope all of our members and their family & friends stay safe and well over the winter and have a very Happy New Year. See you in 2021!

