



The Horse's Mouth



October 2021

Welcome!

And just like that, another cricket season has come to an end. It's been a busy year down at Long Furlong with lots going on and plenty to shout about.

Welcome to the final edition of *The Horse's Mouth* of 2021 - Read on for the usual news from around the club, a season review and some dates for the diary.



Get Social:

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



@findoncc

1st Team



2nd Team



3rd Team



findoncricketclub.co.uk

Club Weekend

After limited social nights this year due to Covid, it was fantastic to be able to host the first 'proper' Club Weekend since 2019.

Over 80 children & parents enjoyed the Rounders evening on the Friday and an amazing £400 was raised towards the cost of a defibrillator for the club.

Saturday saw an Olympic themed night with some great fancy dress and lots of fun & games!

Nick Hawke & Cal Nicholls beat George Green & Ethan Franklin in the final of the Double Wicket on Sunday - congrats to the winners and well done to everyone who took part.

A few thank you's - Mr Sourdough & Elsie's Cakes for catering for over 100 members on Friday and to The Village House for providing some outstanding Thai Curry & Beef Chilli for 60 people on Saturday.

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers behind the bar and for serving food, as well as the rounders coaches on Friday and the ground staff who had the ground in immaculate condition, housing 20+ tents.

Finally, thank you to Harry Metters for all of his efforts and hard work in organising the weekend, fantastic job.

Here's to Club Weekend 2022!

Fabulous Darling...

There was a familiar face in attendance at the 1st XI's game at Broadwater Green in July as Craig Revel-Horwood stopped by to watch some cricket. Rumours that he was touting club captain, Bradley Bridson, as a new Strictly Come Dancing professional cannot be confirmed or denied...



Thank you...

A massive thanks to all of our volunteers this season – our Umpires, Scorers, Ground staff, bar staff, coaches, Junior Managers – the list goes on.

Sadly our Wine Chairman, **Alison Howell** will be stepping down from her position at the end of this year. Ali has done a fantastic job in running the 'Gee Gee's Bar' for the last 5 years, committing a lot of her time to make sure our members are suitably refreshed. Thank you for all of your hard work Ali, your friendly face will be missed behind the bar!

Senior League Cricket Review...

The **1st team** sealed promotion into Division 2 with victory over Rye CC in a play-off match. It was a brilliant second half of the season for Bradley Bridson's team, who went on an 11 game unbeaten streak to finish league runners-up. Highlights included a dramatic 1-wicket win over Worthing, a thumping over Ansty and a double over Goring.

Bradley Bridson finished the 3rd highest run scorer in the league with 605 runs at an average of 37.81 whilst **Harrison Grayston** was the 8th highest wicket taker with 28.

Glen Bridson also finished top for Wicket-Keeping dismissals in the whole of the Sussex Cricket League, taking 19 catches and 14 stumpings as well as scoring 427 runs at an average of 30.50.

In the aftermath of the Play-Off win, skipper Bradley had the following to say: *"It was a great day for the club – we've been on an unbelievable run. It's 11 games unbeaten now, which is phenomenal.*

Everyone's been putting there hands up with match winning performances across the season. It's been a great season, one I've enjoyed immensely and one we can be very proud of.

We know how tough it will be next year. But we have a great squad depth, with lots of younger lads who will only better and better. We're all looking forward to the challenge."

The **2's** got off to a flyer in their first year back in Division 5 West following promotion but their season fizzled out as the summer went on, eventually finishing in a respectable 8th place. Doing the double over Worthing 2's was one highlight but the stand-out performance was an outstanding victory away at eventual runners-up, West Wittering, where Cam Young's team chased down 235 in the penultimate over by 1 wicket. **Cam Young** (309 runs) and **Drew Hammersley** (16 wickets) were the team's stand-out performers.

The **3rd XI** finished in an excellent 4th position in Division 9 West, winning 8 games out of 18. Skipper **Harvey Keffert** (407 runs) and **George Green** (378 runs) featured in the top 10 run scorers in the league and both registered their maiden league centuries, whilst **Simon Wadeson** also hit a ton. **Fin Roberts** impressed with the ball, taking 15 wickets at an average of 16.67.

The **Sunday 2's** won 7 of their 10 games with many younger players putting in strong performances.



Senior Training Review...

At the beginning of the season, Ben Coulson & Harry Metters joined together as club coaches to work with Skipper, Bradley Bridson.

The 3 objectives the coaches wanted to achieve was to improve the following:

1. Individual player development
2. Playing & training experience
3. Social interaction and togetherness across the teams

Structure and focus to training sessions, a few specific skill sessions, encouraging 'double FCC logos' and the introduction of Spond & 'country teams' are a few examples of changes that have been introduced to help achieve the objectives.



It's been great to see 83 players play across senior cricket with us successfully putting out 3 teams each Saturday. 49 different players turned up at least once to training this season with 15 players attending more than 10 sessions.

Training intensity seemed to incite improvements in performances throughout the season and there were some fantastic team and individual performances on the pitch throughout the season.

The coaches feel they have just scratched the surface and they are looking to build on the foundation set this season. Keep your eyes peeled for a player's survey that will be released soon to receive feedback and ideas for how further progression and improvements can be made for all senior players.

A massive **THANK YOU** to Ben & Harry and the other support coaches for all of their hard work and dedication this year.

2021 Senior Coaches

Ben Coulson

- Driven Worthing College to become the Top FE for Sport in the UK
- Over 20 years experience coaching & playing Rugby at high level for Worthing Rugby Club & others



Harry Metters

- Over 200 1st XI appearances, 1 league promotion, ECB Level 2 Coach
- Led Mooroolbark CC to the finals as Player Coach down under in 2019/20



Player of the Week...

This season we partnered up with The Village House Pub in Findon, who kindly provided us with £10 food vouchers for each Player of the Week which was voted for by playing members on Spond. We thank Ollie Silverthorne and the Village House for their Support – best pub in Findon! The prize winners were as follows:

Wk1 - **Toby Kingsbury**

Wk2 - **Harrison Grayston**

Wk3 - **Sam Mannings**

Wk4 - **Dave Everett**

Wk5 - **Jabe Rogers**

Wk6 - **Josh Lambert**

Wk7 - **Bradley Bridson**

Wk8 - **Graham Manser**

Wk9 - **Drew Hammersley**

Wk10 - **Lewis Franklin**

Wk11 - **Bradley Bridson**

Wk12 - **Matt Hawke**

Wk13 - **George Green**

Wk14 – **Alex Stephens**

Wk15 – **Simon Cairns (Volunteer of the Week)**

Wk16 – **Harrison Grayston**

Wk17 – **Harvey Keffert**

Wk18 – **Sam Mason**

Wk19 – **Bradley Bridson**



Junior Update...

Our **Under 11s** performed brilliantly in the Sussex Junior Cricket Festival last week, finishing third out of 25 teams and narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Maiden

50s for Billy Rivers and Brook Smith were two of many highlights



across the week with victories against West Chiltington, Stirlands and Bosham (conceded) and a winning draw against Preston Nomads. Well done boys!!

Unfortunately the **Under 12s** had their festival week cancelled due to Covid cases



within the squad but they did finish 6th in the league which included an excellent win over Bognor – Joe

Miller top scored

with 58 runs in the season and both he and George Garner took 5 wickets each.

It was a great season for the **Under 15s**, who topped their league group with 3 wins out of 6. Sam Mason (86 league runs) & Cal Nicholls (84 league runs) impressed with the bat whilst Matt Hawke scored a half-century against Arundel in the Knockout cup. With

the ball, Sam Arengo-Jones & Dan Fullbrook took 4 wickets apiece.

The **Under 16s** struggled a little in their festival week with a draw and 3 defeats. There were some fantastic individual performances though, with Alex Stephens (55), Ethan Franklin (57) & Zach Blake (66) all raising their bats.

The **Under 17s** finished 4th in their league group with the highlight being a great win over Littlehampton – Alex Stephens was the standout performer with bat & ball (55 runs & 5 wickets).

The **Under 18s** did brilliantly to beat a strong West Chiltington team by 6 wickets in their festival, with Archie Cairns scoring 80. Unfortunately matches against Stirlands & Horsham were washed out and the game against Worthing was a draw, leaving us in 9th out of 20 teams.

The **Under 19s** narrowly missed out on progressing from the T20 group stage after a great win and a tie against Middleton.

The club ran another successful **All Stars** programme, introducing lots of youngsters to the game and to our club. Thanks to Dave & Matt Glover and the other coaches involved for their hard work with this.



Cricket Camps...

In early August, the club enjoyed hosting 42 primary school children - including 25 non-members - at the FCC Summer Camp. This followed another successful camp in May half-term.

The boys & girls enjoyed making new friends, whilst learning the skills of the game and realising how fun cricket can be!

Massive thanks to our excellent team of 10 coaches, who delivered a brilliant programme for the 2 days and to Harry Metters for organising.

We hope these camps will become a regular event at Long Furlong as we look to introduce local children to cricket whilst also raising vital funds for the club.



Junior Awards...

The season ended with a Junior Awards night in September which was well attended by our Juniors and their families. Thanks to Ali G for running the bar, Dave Young for his hard work on the barbeque and to Junior Manager, Dave Glover, for organizing. Well done to all the award winners and thank you to all the coaches, managers and parents who make our Junior Section tick.



Friends of Findon Match...

The first day of August saw the 1st XI & a Friends of Findon team battle out a low-scoring game.

The purpose of the day was to put on a show as a thank you to the Vice Presidents who provide fantastic support for the club.

There was an entertaining 30 over match, with the Friends of Findon team made up of various strong players across the county, all of whom have a strong relationship with players from our club.

The Horses trickled over the line by 1 wickets, chasing 101.

A big thank you to Alan Harris & Carol for providing a splendid tea for all invited guests and players (the first FCC tea since the 2019 season due to covid restrictions) and to our Vice Presidents for their continued support for our club.



Sussex Slam...

Following the success of last year's Sussex Slam, we entered 2 teams into this season's two-tiered competition with Findon Horses taking part in 'The Cup' and Findon Foals in 'The Plate'.

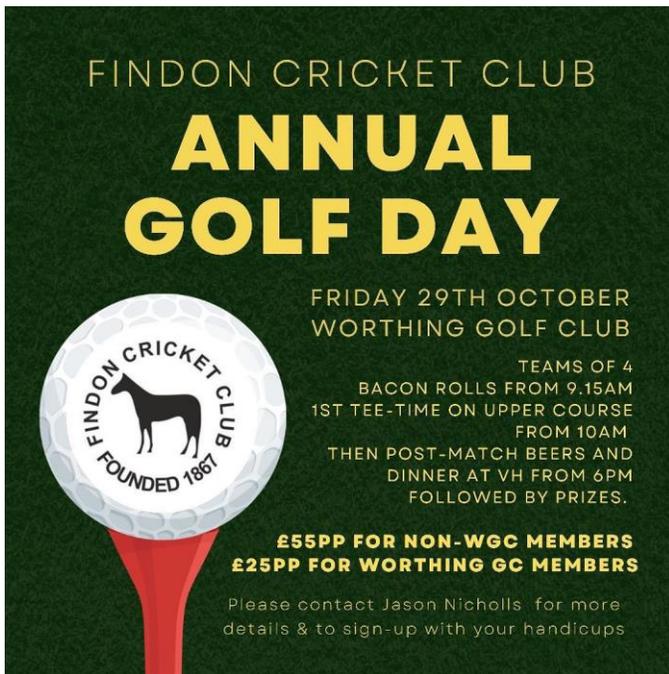
The Horses won 4 out of 4 games in the group with victories over Watersfield, Goring Pathfinders & Littlehampton Goats before being knocked out in the second round to Shoreham Swingers. Sam Dunkley, Lewis Franklin & Owen Cave all struck half-centuries in the competition whilst Sophie Whittington took 6 wickets.

The Foals entered the less competitive competition, with the focus being on developing some of our youngsters in adult cricket. The young side (pictured below) did well to progress through to the second round after finishing runners-up in the group with 2 wins, a loss and a washout before succumbing to defeat against Southwick.

The Sussex Slam provides an exciting 20/20 style cricket competition that is fun, fast and convenient - perfect for people who struggle to find the time to play the longer form of cricket, but don't want to leave the game all together. Why not get involved next season?



Coming Up...



- Dinner Dance – Date & Venue TBC
- AGM – 28th January 2022, venue TBC

Keep an eye on Social Media for further updates and events!

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.

FCC 150 Club

The 150 Club has been running for over 3 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.**

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

April:

- 1st Place – Neal Grayston - £75
- 2nd place – Emma Cairns - £25
- 3rd Place – Rob Hansford - £10

May:

- 1st Place – Francis Fahey - £75
- 2nd place – Mike Metters - £25
- 3rd Place – Sam Dunkley - £10

June:

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

July:

- 1st Place – Evelyn Cox - £75
- 2nd Place – Bradley Bridson - £25
- 3rd Place – Alison Howell - £10

August:

- 1st Place – Elaine Judges - £75
- 2nd Place – Mark Higgins - £25
- 3rd Place – Tracey Cole - £10

September:

- 1st Place – Alan Higgins - £75
- 2nd Place – Francis Fahey - £25
- 3rd Place – Toby Kingsbury - £10





Remembering those we have lost...

Sadly within hours of our 1st XI gaining promotion we learned of the tragic passing of former FCC player John Iago. John was a good friend to many at the club, a former 3rd XI player, and part of the Iago family who've been an intrinsic part of the FCC family for over 30 years. Our thoughts are with John's wife Lucy and all his family and friends. RIP JPI.

The flag at Long Furlong sadly also flew at half-mast back in April in memory of Gill Rogers, wife of former club stalwart Gordon. Gill is sadly missed and our thoughts were, and still are, with Gill's family who remain an integral part of FCC. RIP Gill.

See you next year...

On behalf of the FCC committee, we hope all of our members and their family & friends winter well and have a very Happy New Year. See you in 2022!

