



The Horse's Mouth

September 2022

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 2022 - 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.

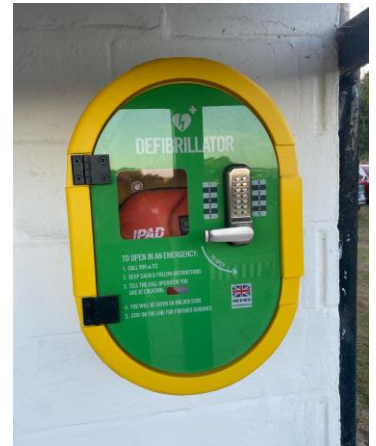


@findoncc

A new addition at the club...

Thanks to some investment by the club alongside a great fundraising effort in 2021, earlier this year we installed a Defibrillator on the front of the clubhouse.

A defibrillator is an advanced medical tool that delivers a high energy, electric shock to the heart through the chest wall. It is essential for those suffering a sudden cardiac arrest and can mean the difference between life and death. If used within the first minute of a cardiac arrest taking place, the survival rate can be as high as 90%.



We hope this never needs to be used at FCC but if it does, there are clear instructions on the front.



findoncricketclub.co.uk

Club Weekend

The August bank holiday weekend saw another fantastic Club Weekend at FCC. We had Rounders, Cricket, Fancy Dress, games, happy hour and more.

A massive thank you to Harry Metters for all of his hard work in organising the weekend. A big thanks on Friday night to Dave & Lisa Young for sorting a fantastic bbq, the coaching team for running the rounders and Elsie Metters (Elsie's Cake) for providing the sweet treats. On Saturday, thank you to The Village House for the delicious food, Neil & Clare Hogan for washing up for all of us and everyone who made great effort with the fancy dress. Thanks also to Toby Kingsbury for arranging the cricket on Sunday and everyone who helped out behind the bar and in the kitchen over the course of the weekend.

In the cricket, we even brought home 3 wins for the only time this season - what a Saturday to do it!



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.

Bat wizardry...

All 3 are legends of the modern game and top quality batsmen, but who did it better – Coulson, Kohli or Root??



Go well, Glenda...

Good luck to 1st XI wicket-keeper batsman, **Glen Bridson**, who heads back down under to Australia for the winter. After several spells with Nichols Point CC, Glen makes the move to play for Boneo Cricket Club who are situated around 40 miles from Melbourne in Rosebud, Victoria. Not too far from FCC team-mate Curtis Howell in Ellinbank so no doubt they will be meeting for a beer or 3..!



Senior Cricket Review...

After being promoted last season to the dizzy heights of Division 2, unfortunately the **1st team** were relegated this year. Despite a strong finish to the season, we couldn't quite avoid the drop in a very strong league packed with high-class teams and players. Highlights included a brilliant victory away at Haywards Heath and thumping wins at home to Mayfield & Chichester. **Alex Stephens** finished as our top run-scorer with 401 runs including a great knock of 95 against St James'. Our South African, **Johann De Jager**, topped the wicket takers for the 1's with 24 wickets.

In the National Village Knockout Cup, we progressed past Liphook & Ripsley and West Chiltington into the last 32 of the competition before being beaten by Stoke Green.

The **2's** recovered from a poor start in Div 5 West to avoid relegation, eventually finishing 8th after winning the 3 of the final 4 games. Successful run chases against Chichester, Barns Green, Stirlands and Rustington were the highlights. Skipper **Cam Young** was the side's top run scorer with 261 whilst **John Cox** rolled back the years to score 235 runs at an average of 39. With the ball, **Carrig Connolly** burgled 14 wickets with **Alex Caughlin** just behind with 13.

The **3rd XI** also avoided the drop, finishing 9th in Div 10 West, winning 6 games. **Simon Wadeson** was consistent with the bat,

scoring 401 runs at an average of 40, whilst **Pete Hughes** took 20 wickets, averaging just 10. The stand-out performance was most definitely **Ethan Franklin's** incredible figures of 6/15 in a brilliant win over Portslade 3's as we bowled them out for just 62. The 3's have seen lots of encouraging performances from several junior players including **George Colbran, Dan Wadeson, George Garner, Fin Roberts** and **Will O'Brien**.

The **Sunday team** won 7 of their 14 games with some strong performances throughout the season. Skipper, **Matt Glover**, scored 813 runs (including 10 half-centuries and 1 ton) and **Johann De Jager** impressed with bat and ball with 493 runs & 28 wickets.



The end of an era...

The 1st XI's last game of the season marked Bradley Bridson's final game as Club Captain after 8 years in charge. His loyalty, hard work and commitment to the cause and to the club has been unwaivered and he has played a leading role in the club's progress on and off the pitch. **Thank you Bradley** and we still look forward to seeing you slog it around next season.

The Horse's Mouth caught up with Bradley at the end of his 8-year campaign as our leader...

Have you enjoyed skippering the team for the last 8 years and why are you stepping down?

"It's been a great pleasure to captain this club and to play with some of my best mates and both of my brothers over the years. The first few years were tough, but a few of us stuck at it and the last 2/3 years have been great and we're in a good place going forward. It was a tough decision to step down as the club/squad is looking extremely strong but after 8 years it's time to move aside and for me to focus on just playing, particularly with a nipper on the way in November."

What sticks out in your mind as the highlights of the last 8 seasons?

"There's been a few moments - stand outs have to be Graham and Archie putting on a hundred partnership for the 9th wicket at Stirlands in 2019 to keep us up (we probably wouldn't be where we are now if it wasn't for that!). The Play-Off win and that promotion season in 2021 is another, we had some great wins that year. We've also had a few good VKO wins – the Rottingdean tie to go through is a stand out, we've probably not got as far as we should have a few times but hopefully we can have a great run in that competition again soon. Finally, watching some of the younger lads come through, that's arguably been the best outcome of my captaincy. Alex Stephens, Archie Cairns, Jabe

Rogers, Matt Glover, Drew Hammersley plus some others have made some great contributions already and hopefully have years of playing and contributing for the club ahead."

What are your plans for future - what next?

"I'll still be around – I've hopefully got a few more runs and the odd wicket in me still, I just can't commit as I have done in the past with myself and Elsie expecting our first child in November."

Any tips or advice for the next skipper (whoever that may be)?

"Do it your way and enjoy it, hopefully there will be some great moments to come with this bunch of lads."



"Top man, gives more than most will see or appreciate. Thanks for all the work and support skipper" **Ben Coulson**

"Captain, leader. Legend" **Curtis Howell**

"Go Well Skip, congrats on the 8 years. Was a pleasure to play a few games under you!!" **Mickey Demetriou**



Player of the Week...

This year we again 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 – Carl Broad

Wk2 – Glen Bridson

Wk3 – Sophie Whittington

Wk4 – Graham Manser

Wk5 – Drew Hammersley

Wk6 – Alex Stephens

Wk7 – Jabe Rogers

Wk8 – Felix Jordan

Wk9 – Ethan Franklin

Wk10 – John Cox

Wk11 – Alex Roberts

Wk12 – Dan Wadeson

Wk13 – Felix Jordan

Wk14 – Harry Metters

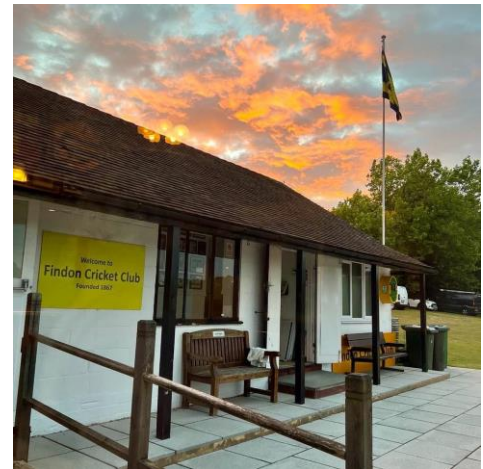
Wk15 – Bradley Bridson

Wk16 – Drew Hammersley

Wk17 – Finn Roberts

Wk18 – Drew Hammersley

Wk19 – Pete Hughes



Junior Update...

The **Under-10's** had a brilliant season, winning 9 out of their 12 friendlies in their first introduction to soft-ball, pairs cricket. Some great performances throughout the season and lots to build on next season.

Our amazing **Under-11's** flew through to the Sussex Junior Festival Shield Final.

A mixture of Under 9's, 10's & 11's, Ben

Coulson's

team beat
Ditchling,
Burgess

Hill,
Rudgwick

& East

Grinstead
(conceded) to set up a Final at Haywards Heath CC against Brighton & Hove where unfortunately they were well beaten. What a great achievement to finish runners-up though!



Congratulations to our **Under-12's** who brought home some silverware, winning the West Area League – well done boys! They also performed well in their festival week, finishing 3rd out of 23 teams in the Shield. Noah Kingsbury, Brook Smith and Samuel Metcalfe and hit 50's, whilst Ruben Kingsbury (17 wickets) and Austin Broad (13 wickets) impressed with the ball.



The **Under-16's** came 6th from 18 teams in their festival week with 2 wins, a draw and a loss. There were 50's for Cam Ward, Vieran Austin, San Mason and George Colbran whilst Matt Hawke hit a brilliant 102* against Glynde.

The **Under 18s** finished 14th in their Festival group after winning and drawing once, and losing twice.

Well done to Alex Stephens who scored 120 against



Worthing and there were also 50's for Sam Mason, Archie Cairns and Matt Hawke. Archie Cairns also took 6 wickets at an average of 13.

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...

Following the success of the newly introduced cricket camps last year, we ran further sessions in May and August which were enjoyed by all involved.

It was a sea of yellow at the club as 23 kids were in attendance of the FCC Summer Camp.

The boys and girls enjoyed being active as they developed their cricket skills and making new friends.

A massive thanks to Archie Cairns, Drew Hammersley, Ben Coulson and the 6 other coaches that provided a fantastic experience for the kids and parents involved. And the biggest thanks of all goes to Harry Metters for his tireless efforts in organising and running these events. We look forward to building on this further next year.



Junior Awards...

It was our annual Junior Awards evening on 16th September and what a night it was!

Around 200 people were in attendance to celebrate our youth teams and their achievements this season. The future of FCC is most definitely bright!

A big thanks to those who did a stint behind the bar and Dave Young on the coals.

Lastly, thank you to our Junior Managers, coaches and parents for all of their dedication and hard work this season, we couldn't do it without you!



Thank you Johann...

849 runs (including 6 half-centuries) and 55 wickets at an average of 19 was a great return from our South African all-rounder this season. We caught up with **Johann De Jager** at the end of his Summer in England...



Have you enjoyed your English summer?

“Yes I have enjoyed it a lot. Thank you to everyone at Findon for welcoming me, to my team-mates and of course to Mandy & Don and Lindsay for allowing me to stay with them.”

Favourite ground you have played at?

“Long Furlong of course!! Other than that, when I played at Hove County Ground for Brighton Brunswick”

Favourite game you played in?

“My favourite would be when we played Mayfield at home. We’d had a really tough start and were on the back of a few losses in a row. To get our first win of the season against a really strong side who were eventually promoted was great. And I took 4 wickets too which helped!”

What are your personal cricketing highlights of the summer?

“Scoring a 50 at Arundel Castle, a 100 at Lancing College and when I took 4 wickets against Mayfield.”

Is English Cricket what you thought it would be?

“Yes and no, didn't know there is so much passion in each club.”

What next for you?

“I'll go back to South Africa to work, study and play more cricket.”



Sussex Slam...

It was the third season of the Sussex Slam which turned out to be our most successful yet.

The Horses had plenty of luck on the way and Dave Glover (and his rulebook) was certainly the man of the tournament but we progressed through to finals day before succumbing to defeat against eventual winners, Horley Hackers. **Jabe Rogers** was our top run scorer in the competition with 193 runs, whilst **Johann De Jager, Nick Hawke & Matt Glover** also struck fifties. **George Garner** took 6 wickets and **Bradley Roberts** produced a match-winning bowling spell of 5/23 against Pagham to send us through to finals day.

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...

📅 DATES FOR THE DIARY 📅

Fri 30th Sep - DINNER/DANCE & AWARDS - contact Mike Metters asap if you want to attend

Sat 1st Oct, 10.30am - END OF SEASON TIDY UP AT THE CLUB

Fri 21st Oct, 7pm k/o - LITTLEHAMPTON CCFC VS FINDON CCFC - friendly 11-a-side football

Fri 28th Oct - GOLF DAY (further details to follow shortly but contact Spider to book your spot)

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:

May:

- 1st Place – Colin Dand - £75
- 2nd place – Harvey Keffert - £25
- 3rd Place – Wayne Hardie - £10

June:

- 1st Place – Alan Harris - £75
- 2nd Place – Simon Cairns - £25
- 3rd Place – Chris Smith - £10

July:

- 1st Place – Don Bridson - £75
- 2nd Place – Bradley Beale - £25
- 3rd Place – Toby Kingsbury - £10

August:

- 1st Place – John Rogers - £75
- 2nd Place – Alan Higgins - £25
- 3rd Place – Jason Nicholls - £10



Remembering those we have lost...

Sadly in August, the flags at Long Furlong flew at half-mast as a mark of respect at the loss of our good friend and former player James Hawke, taken far too young.

James played junior and senior cricket at Findon as well as for Pathfinder. The thoughts of all at FCC remain with James' mum Sheila, brother Nick, and all of the family at this saddest of times. RIP Hawkey



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 2023!

