



The Horse's Mouth

October 2023

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 2023 - 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.



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Isle of Wight Tour...

The club embarked on it's first tour for several years as the Sunday Team travelled 'overseas' to the Isle of Wight. Matt Glover and his team took on Ryde, Cowes and Ventnor, winning 2 out of the 3 games. It was a great few days away – stay tuned for Amsterdam 2024...!



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Club Weekend...

The August bank holiday weekend saw another fantastic Club Weekend at FCC.

A massive thank you to the Social Committee for all of their hard work in organising the weekend and to everyone who did a stint behind the bar or on the barbecue.

We had a family Rounders night on the Friday, followed by live music and fancy dress on Saturday night. In the cricket, we even brought home 3 wins for the only time this season - what a Saturday to do it!



An Ace night in July...

A great time had by all at our Wimbledon-themed social night - thanks to the organisers and to all those who attended!



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.

Matt Rivers (Clubman of the Year) put an enormous amount of effort into the clubhouse works & behind the bar and **Claire Thompson** provided food on our very busy and successful Friday Junior nights. **Elsie Metters** and **Lewis Franklin** put a lot of time and effort into Graphics and Video Edits, helping grow our Social Media presence in the process. Thank you, FCC family!

Harris on the box...

Our Club President, Alan Harris, turned into a celebrity this summer when he was spotted on TV at Lords for England's 50-Over match against New Zealand.



Good luck Down Under...

Best of luck to young 1st teamers, **Matt Glover** and **Alex Stephens** who head to Australia for the winter to play cricket. Matt will be travelling to the outskirts of Melbourne to turn out for South Belgrave CC whilst 'Stevvo' will join the 'Root Academy' in Adelaide and will find out which club he will be assigned to once he gets out there. Both fly out in early October – go well, lads!



Senior Cricket Review...

After relegation last season back into Division 3, the **1st team** narrowly missed out on promotion in the most cruel circumstances. Having been top of the league for most of the season, Glen Bridson's team lost the final game of the season in a winner-takes-all clash with Ifield and slipped down to third place, narrowly missing out on a play-off match. It was a harsh ending to an excellent season with 12 wins in 18 games. **Felix Jordan** finished as our top run-scorer (and 5th highest in the league) with 475 runs including a knock of 103* against Billingshurst. **Jabe Rogers** also had an excellent season, topping the wicket takers for the 1's with 20 league wickets.

In the National Village Knockout Cup, we progressed past Liphook & Ripsley before being beaten by Glynde & Beddingham in Round 2.

The 1's saved some of their best cricket for the T20 Cup, eventually being beaten in the Semi-Final by eventual winners, Preston Nomads. On route to the Semis, we overcame Div 2 side Haywards Heath and Premier League champions, Cuckfield, with some fantastic team performances and had Nomads worried, despite their side containing 2 current Sussex players. **Glen Bridson** scored the 2nd most runs in the whole competition with 155 at an average of 77.50.

The **2's** struggled in Div 5 West and unfortunately slipped to relegation, finishing

10th. 4 wins wasn't enough for **Cam Young's** side who will look to bounce back next season. Cam led from the front with 345 runs (5th most in the league) whilst **Fin Roberts** was a star with bat and ball 233 runs and 19 wickets.

The **3rd XI** finished in a respectable 7th place in Div 9 West, winning 4 games. **Mark Byerley** was the team's top run-scorer with 229 runs at an average of 38 and **Daniel Wadson** performed well with the ball, taking 16 wickets. The 3's have seen lots of encouraging performances from several junior players including **George Garner**, **Noah Kingsbury** (scoring his maiden senior half-century), **Ruben Kingsbury & Austin Broad**.

The **Sunday team** won 6 of their 16 completed games with some strong performances throughout the season. Skipper, **Matt Glover**, scored 666 runs (including 6 half-centuries) and **Johann De Jager** impressed with bat and ball with 528 runs & 11 wickets.



Senior Awards...

Our usual end of season dinner/dance had a bit of a makeover this year with the usual festivities being replaced by a Curry/Awards night at FCC. It was an enjoyable and successful night – thank you to the organisers and to Anaz for providing the food.

Our 2023 Senior award winners:

Clubman of the Year – **Matt Rivers**

Junior Team of the Year – **Under 11's**

Best Attitude for Junior Player – **George Garner**

Under 16 Junior Player – **Noah Kingsbury**

Junior Sportsman of the Year – **Fin Roberts**

3rd XI Best Performance – **George Green/Noah Kingsbury**

3rd XI Junior Player of the Year – **Noah Kingsbury**

Player with the most runs – **Matt Glover**

Duck Cup – **Wayne Hardie**

Most number of 6's – **Matt Glover**

Most Wickets – **Jabe Rogers**

Best Club Performance – **Drew Hammersley**

Sunday Player of the Year – **Tim Cocoron**

3rd XI Player of the Year – **Daniel Wadeson**

2nd XI Player of the Year – **Fin Roberts**

1st XI Player of the Year – **Felix Jordan**

FCC Fantasy Cricket...

Thank you to **Carrig Connolly** for organising another year of Fantasy League which made a decent amount of money for the Club. Rather annoyingly, **Matt Glover** retained the title, finishing top of the Team Standings out of 26 teams and finished top of the Player Standings too!

Fundraising for nets...

As the 2023 season comes to an end, so does the lifespan of our nets.

It is over 12 years since our 3-lane net facility was installed and after a lot of use, wear and tear is finally catching up on us.

The refurbishing and resurfacing of the facility is going to be very costly and whilst the club has some funds available, we are going to need a significant fundraising effort to assist. The nets have benefited the vast majority of our playing members over the years and are sure to play a part in developing future generations of FCC players. We need YOU to think about how funds can be raised to meet the costs – please contact Toby Kingsbury if you are able to help in any way with fundraising.



Junior Update...

The **Under-10's** had a great introduction to soft-ball, pairs cricket in their friendly matches and have lots to build on next season.

Our **Under-11's** were crowned winners of the Sussex Junior Festival Shield. Thumping wins in the group stage over West Wittering, Middleton and Horsham B set up a Final at Brighton & Hove CC against Three Bridges which we won by 100 runs. It was a fantastic team performance all week and a special mention for **Fraser Shakespeare** and **Oliver Coulson** who both hit their maiden centuries. The team also won 5 out of 7 friendly matches too. Well done, team!



The **Under-12's** had a successful league campaign, finishing 3rd with 5 wins out of 6. They also finished 16th in the Sussex Junior Festival Bowl, winning 1 in 4.

The **Under-13's** performed superbly in the league, finishing runners-up with 7 wins in 9 games. They also had a good festival week and were placed 7th out of 22 in the Bowl. **Ruben Kingsbury** led the way with the bat with 196 runs and **Austin Broad** was the top wicket-taker with an impressive 17 wickets, including figures of 5/14 in the festival against Balcombe.

The **Under-14's** struggled a little in the Festival week, finishing in 18th in the group. The league campaign was a lot more successful though, winning 3 games to finish in 5th place. **George Garner** and **Towhid Saymon** both hit half-centuries whilst George (12 wickets), **Dylan Ramsden** & **James Bashford** (both 9 wickets) and **James McKenna** (5 wickets) all impressed with the ball.

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 our cricket camps last year, we ran further sessions in May and August which were enjoyed by all involved.

We take pride in actively growing the game, both in terms of participation and coaching development. We are proactively thinking about how we can increase the diversity of those involved and reach families who are new to the sport.

The participating kids in were a mix of boys and girls, including 10 non-members, 5 of whom were brand new to cricket.

Alex Stephens developed his project management & communication overseeing the organisation of the camp, whilst experienced coaches Ben Coulson & Harry Metters guided and empowered 7 younger aspiring coaches to enhance their coaching techniques and experience.

A massive thank you to all the coaches for making it happen and providing such a wonderful experience.



Live Streaming at FCC...

A big thank you to **Class Technology Solutions** and **Young's Civil Engineering** for their kind sponsorship towards camera equipment and software which allowed us to live stream senior cricket at Long Furlong.

Our scorers (**Don Bridson, Simon Jordan, Debbie Demetriou & Karen Whittington**) did a fantastic job in scoring live on PlayCricket which synced with the live stream.



Sussex Slam...

After reaching the Semi-Finals last year, Findon Horses had another good run in the competition this season, and had 2 teams competing this time round.

After flying through the group with 4 wins in 4 games (plus 1 abandoned), we beat West Wittering, Chichester and Eastergate in the knockout stages before being overcome by Brighton Dome Mission in the Semi Final at Horsham.

We had a second Horses team compete in the plate competition which was a great introduction to lots of youngsters to this fast-paced format.

Matt Glover, Harvey Keffert, Matt Hawke and Cam Young all scored half-centuries whilst **Zach Blake (48)** and **William Budd (44*)** made their highest senior scores.

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 📅

Sat 7th Oct, 10.30am - END OF SEASON TIDY UP AT THE CLUB

Fri 27th Oct - GOLF DAY (further details below)

Fri 3rd Nov, 7pm k/o - LITTLEHAMPTON CCFC VS FINDON CCFC - friendly 11-a-side football

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 Mandy Bridson.



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FCC 150 Club

The 150 Club has been running for over 4 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 email FCC150club@gmail.com to register your interest.

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

July:

- 1st Place – Dave Young - £75
- 2nd Place – Don Bridson - £25
- 3rd Place – Carrig Connolly - £10

August:

- 1st Place – Jabe Rogers - £75
- 2nd Place – Steve Chapman - £25
- 3rd Place – David Everett - £10

September:

- 1st Place – Curtis Howell - £75
- 2nd Place – Bradley Bridson - £25
- 3rd Place – Katherine Chapman - £10



Remembering those we have lost...

Sadly in September, the flags at Long Furlong flew at half-mast as a mark of respect at the loss of long time member **Diana 'Dee' Howell**. The wife of FCC life member Peter, Dee is remembered fondly by all at Findon that knew her. Dee had a wicked sense of humour, which was on good form as recently as the Vice-Presidents lunch in August. As well as Peter, their son Matthew and Grandson Aydan also proudly represented The Horses. Our thoughts are particularly with Peter and the family.

In June, we mourned the loss of former player **Ivor Calder**. Ivor was a colourful character and a big part of the club in the 70's and 80's - 2nd XI player, table-tennis captain, notorious tourist and club auditor with a renowned sense of humour. RIP Ivor.

We are also shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of former-FCC 1st teamer, **Mark Stewart** following a short illness. 'Stewie' scored over 1,000 runs and took



240 wickets during the early 2000's with his big hitting and rapid leg-spin. RIP Stewie.

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 2024!

