



## Newsletter - January 2007

### Changing of the Guard...

Happy new year to you all, I trust you are wintering well. I for one am as my central heating has now been installed...the warm glow of satisfaction of a season well done can only last for so long!

What does the New Year have in store for us? The potential for more success, of course. To achieve this we need to consolidate our position as the premier club in Mid-Sussex whilst keeping the club on track in its continuing development plan. The primary focus for this year is to compete, consolidate and fundraise, which will require the efforts of all members if we are to achieve greater success.

There are a number of changes that were made at this year's AGM, the most notable being the Captains. Chris Mole (1<sup>st</sup> XI), Jack Waghorn (2<sup>nd</sup> XI) and Matt Temple-Smith (4<sup>th</sup> XI) all stand down after successful tenures. On behalf of the whole club, I would personally like to thank them for their services to the club and also wish the new captains as much success. Nick Patterson takes over as 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Club Captain (see this edition's player profile), and Cheg Abraham as 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain. Belinda Campopiano and Pete Widdup become the first incumbents of two new committee positions, Club Welfare Officer and Fundraising Manager respectively.

We saw last year how players benefited from innovative and enjoyable winter net sessions lead by club coach Alan Mansell. This year **men's net sessions** will be at **Great Walstead School** on Tuesday nights from **19:30 – 21:30** between **21<sup>st</sup> February** and **11<sup>th</sup> April**. Women's' training is due to start after Easter – please contact Sue Jackson for details on 01342 311586.

As ever John Mole and his team have carried out an extensive maintenance and renovation programme on both squares. The grounds need time to recover during the winter from constant use over the summer and in order to ensure that we continue to provide playing facilities of the highest standard, the Committee respectfully remind members that they may not use the playing surfaces before mid April, especially the squares, and that the squares must never be used without the permission of the Groundsman.

Lastly, a quick reminder that the AGM agreed **changes to the dates that subs are due**. Subs for Men, Over 40's, Women and Students are now due by 1<sup>st</sup> May this year in order to receive the maximum discount. Invoices will be sent out at the beginning of April.

**Tom Mole**

### A Bomb – It Might Bite Him

In November 2006, Groundsman John Mole was doing what comes naturally, digging whilst whistling, when he encountered a firmly embedded suspiciously 'bomb-shaped' lump of metal on the edge of the Square. Fearing an early ending to his innings (never did give it away easily!) he contacted the local police. They sent for a couple of knowledgeable officers to examine the evidence but they were also baffled, so the Bomb Disposal squad was summoned. They were equally baffled but decided it wasn't a bomb and kindly dug the object up and took it away. Although still mystified, Moley was well pleased at having got someone else to do the hard work for him. Bomb Disposal promised to let us know what the object was but, to date, have not contacted us. We in the editorial office prefer the rumour that it is the remnants of a donkey drop bowled by one of the club's specialist spinners in the moist summer of 1980 which was never found.



### GOLF DAY

Tom Mole is finalising plans for the successful annual Golf Day, which will be held on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April** at Singing Hills Golf Club. An email confirming the details will be circulated soon. If you would like more details and costs give Tom a ring on 01444 411397 or email [julietom@btinternet.com](mailto:julietom@btinternet.com).

### INDOOR CRICKET

What do John "No Spade" Mole and Jose Mourinho have in common? They both want a bigger title than just the league title.



Cuckfield have dominated both divisions of the Mid-Sussex indoor league for a number of years now and this year is no different. We currently top the league and look a strong bet to bring the title home again. It is therefore the Sussex title that "No-Spade" has set his sights on this year.

Cuckfield are amongst six teams to have made the Sussex finals which will be played at Portslade on 28th January 2007. Will they repeat their success of 2003/04 and reach the regional play-offs? We will let you know how they fair in the next edition.

**Ed**

# Cuckfield Academy

2006 was a great year for Cuckfield colts. We're looking forward to more success and enjoyment in 2007, beginning with **Winter Training for the Colts**. Arrangements for practice, matches and events will be similar to last year and details will come out in our pre-season newsletter. We have booked good facilities and the times are as follows:

**Under 7/8/9's:** St Paul's College, Burgess Hill, 3-4pm, Saturday 3rd February to Saturday 14th April.

**Under 10/11's:** St Paul's College, Burgess Hill, 4-5pm, Saturday 3rd February to Saturday 14th April.

**Under 12/13's:** Dolphin Leisure Centre, Haywards Heath, 7-8.30pm, Friday 16th February to Friday 13th April.

**Under 14/15/16's:** St Paul's College, Burgess Hill, 5-6pm, Saturday 17th February to Saturday 14th April.

Please wear cricket whites and indoor trainers. All cricket equipment and protective gear provided if you don't have any. Looking forward to a great season!

Although we have a staff of professional coaches, we really need more of our own coaches too, so parents, friends, players: **please volunteer!** You'll receive excellent intensive training and make a real difference to our youngsters' progress. Contact David or Nick for details.

David Fitt (14-16) 01444 461281; Nick Wisdom (12-13) 01444 881832; Rodney Candfield (7-11) 01444484111.

David Fitt



Cricket Force will take place on the weekend of **March 30-April 1** so please keep this free and we'll be back in touch with more information soon... Cricket Force encourages cricket supporters, their friends and families to give something back to their local community cricket club by volunteering to undertake major renovations to clubhouses and grounds. [www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/cricketforce/](http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/cricketforce/) It's a bit like Groundforce, but for Cricket clubs!

## DINNER DANCE

We hope that you will be able to join us at the **Ravenswood** in Sharpthorne on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. Tickets are £35. Contact Tim Mole on 413341 or email [tmm@gouldco.co.uk](mailto:tmm@gouldco.co.uk)

## Profile – Nick Patterson

Former Sussex Academy player, painter/decorator turned history teacher is this edition's player put on the spot. He is the club's new 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain.

**What does it mean to you to become Captain?** It is an honour to lead a team with such a vast array of talent. The players that we have at Cuckfield have experience at such a high level that I am relishing the challenge.

**Favourite Music?** Anything really. Reggae must come near the top.

**How do you celebrate a wicket?** Depends on how many overs I have bowled. I would love to say with grace but a cartwheel is normally the case.

**Have you modelled your bowling on anyone?** I grew up watching the West Indian bowlers of the 1980s so I would say Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Ian Bishop.

**Were you a good Ardingly schoolboy?** I managed to get into a bit of trouble, but I wasn't too bad, I was too busy playing sports. Also, with West Indian parents, phone calls home tend to lead to not being able to sit for a week.

**With a name like that you must have some famous relations...** That's true. There is a West Indian theme but it is not Patrick Patterson that I am related to. My granddad, Denis Atkinson, captained the West Indies in the 1950s and shared in a (still) test record partnership of 347 for the 7<sup>th</sup> wicket in 1955.

**Favorite/funniest memory?** Most moments of fondness have been with my family in Barbados. Whether it was drinking rum and talking cricket with my granddad or sitting on a beach. In Cricket terms, playing for Sussex C.C.C. juniors in the national final. I opened the bowling and bowled 7 overs taking 4 wickets. My replacement was Tom Flower – now also a Cuckfield cricketer.

**Any pet hates?** People who do not put 100% into everything they do. Success is measured in effort – it doesn't matter how talented you are.



**Favourite Film?** Top Gun, Braveheart, & American Pie: The Wedding. It's hard to choose, they are all classics.

**What advice can you give to a youngster with ambitions to get into the 1st XI?** Train hard and be determined. Even if you're not the most skilled player in the team, make sure that the effort in training and matches are there and you will be rewarded. Work hard on the basics because if they are not right the rest of your game will never fall into place.

**Where were you born?** Cuckfield born and bred.

**Superstitions?** Always put on my left pad before my right.

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



Cuckfield and Sussex young cricketer, Steffan Piolet, has followed the England team this winter and is playing a season down under in Australia. He tells us in his own words how he's getting on ...

"I'm having a real good time besides getting ruined by everyone about the Ashes!

Clarence (the club I'm at) is awesome. We are based at the Bellerive Oval so we train there which is amazing and are supposed to play home games there but not at the moment because of State cricket and the One Day Internationals that have just been on! The standard of players and coaching at the club is fantastic as well. Out of the first choice 1<sup>st</sup> grade team I would say about nine of them are rookie contracted to Tassie/playing for Tassie/or have played 1<sup>st</sup> class cricket. So I would definitely say I am improving quickly playing with these sorts of players...

On a personal level I started the first month of the season in the 2nd grade side as I had to earn my place in the first grade side. After getting a duck on debut (which was embarrassing) I put a few scores together including 68\* and 105 which finally got me a chance in the 1st grade side. Before my debut I was presented with my 'Baggy Maroon' cap in a presentation by the club captain which was a good moment! In only my second game in 1st grade I scored 134 against Glenorchy (the local rivals) opening the batting in a two day match and that has been my best performance since I've been out here. It is apparently a Tasmanian record for fewest first grade appearances to score a first grade ton and the local radio station interviewed me on the air which everyone at the club had a good giggle about and they have been quoting the interview in a mickey taking manor ever since!

Since then I have kept my place in the side. I am averaging 42 at the moment I think, but the funny thing about Australian cricket is I spend a lot of weekends without getting a hit because the two day games are played over two weekends which takes some getting used to. It is still good fun and to be honest is a real honour to play in this team even if we spend a whole day in the field chasing leather! We are currently 3rd out of 8 teams in the table, but it all seems irrelevant to me because at the end of the season the top four teams in the league go into a semi-final and then a grand final so you can finish fourth and still win the league. Stupid Aussies!

I also trained with England the other day which was an awesome experience. I reckon I got Vaughany caught in the slips!

I am staying with the club President's family in a suburb of Hobart called Lauderdale. There is an awesome beach pretty much in the back garden! The family I am staying with consists of a Mum who is the best cook and does all the washing! GET IN! A Dad, the club president who is one of the funniest blokes ever! And two sons: Matt who is 23 - lifts everywhere! and Liam who is 15 and is an absolute legend as well as a really good young player. He'll be over at Cuckfield in 3 years! But they are real good and generous people and have really looked after me!

I have made some really good friends and Hobart itself is beautiful, my family loved it when they came out over Christmas. I will be sad to leave at the end of March but also looking forward to winning the Premier League with Cuckfield next season!

And as far as the stories go, there are some horrendous ones! Probably not best suited to the Club Newsletter, but more to the changing rooms or the warm ups next season... Hahaha..."

**Steffan Piolet**