# SUSSEX IN THE SECOND ELEVEN CHAMPIONSHIP: SOME RECORDS

# by David Jeater and Kevin Jones

Sussex, like most other first-class counties, have taken part in every year of the Second Eleven Championship, the red-ball 'reserves' competition, since it started in 1959. The 2020 competition was cancelled, so that gives a total of 63 seasons, during which (by the end of 2022) the club had played 718 matches.

Over that time the club has taken the title in three seasons, in 1978, 1990 and 2007. These sides were captained by Chris Waller and Ian Greig in 1978, by Keith Greenfield in 1990, and by various players in 2007. As at the start of the 2023 season, it had won 192 (27 per cent) of its matches, drawn 322 (45 per cent) and lost 204 (28 per cent). A further 21 have been abandoned without play.

In its matches, Sussex have fielded 848 players – a rate of thirteen new players a season and more than one new player per match. Of those 848, 58 have also played Test cricket - for nine countries. In 2003 the club fielded 44 players, its most in a season, to fulfil its twelve fixtures: the lowest total was 22 in 1976, a season with ten matches. Nationally there has been a player of the season award since 1989; to date the only Sussex player to win the trophy has been Will Beer in 2012.

Most of the players have, of course, been candidates for first-team places. But there have also been hopeful club cricketers (some just 'filling in'), coaching staff and first-team regulars recovering from loss of form or injury, and thence all the way up to potential and real international superstars. As can be appreciated from the tables, there are plenty of instances of good players being 'promoted' out of the side into the first team, just when for Second Eleven record-making purposes, a statistician might like them to stay put. The tables also show how a special niche has been kept for reserve wicketkeepers.

There has been considerable variation in the shape and size of the competition. In its earliest form, two-day matches were the rule with wide differences in the number of matches played by sides: league positions were determined by average points per match. Most matches were of three days from 1977 until 2000: in the nineties, Sussex often played all the other seventeen participants. Four-day matches, fewer in number, have been played in several seasons since, and the sides involved were split into North and South Divisions from 2009 to 2019. So far the county has scored 282,820 runs in its matches, losing 9,936 wickets at an average of 28.46 per wicket; its opponents have scored 286,109 runs, losing 9,691 wickets, making an average of 29.52.

All this, of course, amounts to a whole lotta cricket, so your authors thought it high time that we publish some records of individual achievements in the competition. As far as we know, no other county has published similar records. Enjoy.

## **APPEARANCES**

### **Most matches**

Pos	Matches	Player	Seasons
1	118	K.Greenfield	1986-2001
2	105	S.Humphries	1992-2000
3	80	C.C.Remy	1989-1996
4	75	C.P.Phillipson	1970-1986
5	73	J.A.North	1989-1995
6	72	T.Gunn	1960-1968
7	71	J.J.Groome	1972-1982
	71	K.Newell	1990-1996, 1998
9	69	D.J.Foreman	1959-1969
10	67	T.J.Head	1975-1981, 1983, 1984, 1986
11	65	J.J.Bates	1995-2000
	65	A.M.Green	1977-1984, 1987-1989
	65	P.R.V.Ledden	1960-1969

Notes: The table lists all players making 65 or more appearances. Matches abandoned without a ball bowled are excluded. George Cox is the oldest player for the side: he was 59 years 9 months in the match v Middlesex, Hove, 1971. Neil Lenham is the youngest player: he was 14 years 8 months in the match v Surrey, Cranleigh, 1980.

## BATTING

# Most runs in an innings

Pos	Runs	Player	Match
1	258*	C.A.L.Davis	v Glamorgan, Abergavenny, 2016
2	239	K.C.Wessels	v Kent, Eastbourne, 1976
3	231	K.C.Wessels	v Middlesex, Harefield, 1976
4	229*	D.R.Law	v Lancashire, Hove, 1990
5	227	Javed Miandad	v Hampshire, Hove, 1975
6	215	C.D.Hopkinson	v Hampshire, Hove, 2002
7	212	G.P.Burnett	v Derbyshire, Hove, 1990
8	208	L.W.P.Wells	v Surrey, Hove, 2017
9	207	R.K.Rao	v Kent, Hove, 1998
10	201*	W.J.House	v Northamptonshire, Hastings (HP), 2002
	201	G.P.Burnett	v Northamptonshire, Northampton, 1990

Notes: The table lists all innings of 200 runs or more: asterisks indicate not-out innings. Javed Miandad was playing in his first match in the competition. House scored 130 in the first innings in the 2002 instance, thus totalling 331 runs, the most for Sussex in a match.

## Most runs in a partnership, by wicket

Wkt	Runs	Players	Match
1	291 346	J.J.Groome & K.C.Wessels G.P.Burnett & K.Greenfield	v Middlesex, Harefield, 1976 v Derbyshire, Hove, 1990
2 3	340 244	J.Hall & K.Greenfield	<i>v</i> Warwickshire, Studley, 1996
4	278	W.J.House & C.D.Hopkinson	v Northamptonshire, Hastings (HP), 2002
5	192	C.M.Wells & M.T.E.Peirce	v Glamorgan, Pontardulais, 1993
6	233	R.K.Rao & A.A.Khan	v Somerset, Middleton-on-Sea, 1998
7	229*	B.T.P.Donelan & M.P.Speight	v Surrey, Hove, 1993
8	154	G.L.Hayes & A.C.S.Pigott	v Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, 1977
9	163	M.J.T.Gould & T.M.J.Smith	v Somerset, Hove, 2007
10	110	P.D.Edwards & T.E.Linley	v Warwickshire, Birdham, 2006

Notes: Asterisks indicate unfinished partnerships. There have been three other partnerships of 250 runs or more. These are:

2	324	C.F.Jackson & M.W.Machan	v Middlesex, Hove, 2014
4	255	A.R.Cornford & P.W.G.Parker	v Leicestershire, Hove, 1989
1	253	K.R.Singh & N.R.K.Turk	v Yorkshire, Hove, 2005

## Most runs in a season

Pos	Player	Season	Mtch	Inns	Runs	Avge
1	G.P.Burnett	1990	16	28	1,433	59.70
2	T.A.Radford	1996	14	26	1,038	45.13
3	N.J.Falkner	1989	14	26	1,011	42.12
4	K.C.Wessels	1976	9	16	1,007	67.13
5	R.Hanley	1990	13	20	992	58.35
6	K.Greenfield	1992	11	20	933	58.31
7	C.C.Remy	1992	13	25	900	39.13
8	M,Newell	1996	16	29	820	29.28
9	D.J.Foreman	1965	16	30	824	31.69
10	K.Newell	1994	16	19	817	31.42
11	S.A.Heather	2006	8	13	816	74.18
12	K.Greenfield	1993	10	17	814	58.14
13	R.K.Rao	1998	7	12	806	73.27

Notes: The table lists all batters scoring 800 runs or more in a season. Burnett was playing in his only season for the county.

# Most runs in a career

Pos	Player	Seasons	Mtch	Inns	Runs	Avge
1	K.Greenfield	1986-2001	118	191	6,241	37.59
2	J.W.Hall	1985, 1987-1996	64	112	3,858	37.45
3	D.J.Foreman	1959-1969	69	126	3,839	32.81
4	M.T.E.Peirce	1989, 1991-2000	60	102	3,745	42.07
5	C.C.Remy	1989-1996	80	140	3,647	27.42
6	K.Newell	1990-1996, 1998	71	122	3,580	32.54
7	A.M.Green	1977-1984, 1987-	1989			
			65	116	3,243	29.75
8	N.J.Lenham	1980-1989, 1991-	1996			
			49	84	3,242	43.81
9	J.A.North	1989-1995	73	115	2,989	30.50
10	L.J.Lenham	1960, 1964, 1965,	1967-19	73		
			63	104	2,928	34.85
11	M.Newell	1993-1998	58	98	2,811	33.46
12	J.R.Carpenter	1997-2002	53	89	2,750	34.37

Notes: The table lists all batters scoring 2,750 runs or more. Greenfield scored 15 hundreds, the most for the side: Hall scored ten hundreds.

## BOWLING

# Most wickets in an innings

Analysis	Player	Match
12.4-1-35- <b>9</b>	J.A.North	v Derbyshire, Heanor, 1991
26.0-5-60- <b>9</b>	J.J.Bates	v Surrey, Kennington, 1998
20.2-9-33- <b>8</b> 31.5-11-40- <b>8</b> 23.0-13-42- <b>8</b> 17.0-4-59- <b>8</b> 14.2-2-64- <b>8</b>	J.A.Voros B.T.P.Donelan H.Newton V.C.Drakes C.R.Edwards	<ul> <li>v Middlesex, Southgate, 2001</li> <li>v Middlesex, Hove, 1990</li> <li>v Essex, Hove, 1967</li> <li>v Surrey, Banstead, 1994</li> <li>v Surrey, Sutton, 2005</li> </ul>
46.2-22-65- <b>8</b>	O.P.Rayner	v Middlesex, Horsham, 2006
25.0-9-73- <b>8</b>	D.R.Doshi	v Middlesex, Hove, 1972
34.1-8-80- <b>8</b>	D.J.Semmence	v Essex, Corringham, 1967

Notes: The table lists, in runs-conceded order, all instances of bowlers taking nine or eight wickets in an innings. The first column, headed Analysis, gives overs bowled, maidens, runs conceded and wickets taken, in that order. Edwards was playing in his first match in the competition. The best seven-wicket return is by L.J.Hatchett with 11.5-4-15-7 v Hampshire, Birdham, 2010. Donelan took 15 wickets for 142 in the 1990 instance above, the only bowler to take fifteen wickets in a match for the side.

Pos	Player	Season	Mtch	Overs	Mdn	Runs	Wkt	Avge
1	V.C.Drakes	1994	14	405.2	87	1,150	65	17.69
2	H.Newton	1966	15	495.1	150	1,254	64	19.59
3	R.J.Kirtley	1995	15	404.1	86	1,313	58	22.63
4	D.R.Doshi	1972	11	347.5	110	1,025	55	18.63
5	H.Newton	1965	16	505.1	162	1,176	53	22.18
6	R.G.L.Cheatle	1976	9	347.1	130	755	50	15.10
7	C.E.Waller	1978	7	317.2	132	568	47	12.08
8	R.G.L.Cheatle	1975	9	260.2	85	719	46	15.63
	B.T.P.Donelan	1990	13	363	114	919	46	19.97
	J.J.Bates	1996	16	468	112	1,340	46	29.13
11	A.Willows	1983	11	390.3	137	978	41	23.85

#### Most wickets in a season

*Notes: The table lists all bowlers taking 40 wickets or more in season.* 

## Most wickets in a career

Pos	Player	Seasons	Mtch	Overs Mdn	Runs	Wkt	Avge
1	H.Newton	1959, 1961-1967	60	1,817.1 546	4,488	208	21.57
2	R.G.L.Cheatle	1971-1983	47	1,451.2 529	3,362	198	16.97
3	W.A.T.Beer	2006-2021	64	1,371.4 258	4,308	177	24.37
4	R.J.Kirtley	1993-1997, 2006-20	010				
			53	1,272 272	3,816	169	22.57
5	J.J.Bates	1995-2000	65	2,014.1 471	5,883	168	35.01
6	C.P.Phillipson	1970-1986	75	1,288.3 362	3,107	155	20.04
7	B.T.P.Donelan	1988-1993	44	1,554.2 417	4,341	151	28.74
8	A.Willows	1978-1984	55	1,645.5 499	4,681	144	32.50
9	O.P.Rayner	2002-2011	43	1,148 258	3,292	142	23.18
10	N.C.Phillips	1991-1997	60	1,704.1 492	4,484	126	35.58
11	D.L.Bates	1959, 1960, 1963-19	972				
			34	795.1 214	2,130	123	17.31
	M.R.Strong	1994, 1996-1999	39	1,009.1 213	3,140	123	25.52

Notes: The table lists all bowlers taking 120 or more wickets. Cheatle took five wickets or more in an innings 13 times, the most for the side.

## FIELDING

## Most catches in an innings

Pos	Catches	Player	Match
1	5 5	R.J.Langridge C.A.L.Davis	v Gloucestershire, Eastbourne, 1966 v Glamorgan, Abergavenny, 2016
3	4 4 4 4 4 4	D.J.Foreman L.J.Lenham J.J.Groome C.P.Phillipson M.W.Pringle L.W.P.Wells H.Z.Finch	v Kent, Broadstairs, 1965 v Essex, Walthamstow, 1968 v Middlesex, Harefield, 1976 v Middlesex, Harefield, 1983 v Warwickshire, Horsham, 1988 v Surrey, Purley, 2014 v Middlesex, Richmond, 2015

Notes: The table lists all fielders making four or more catches in an innings. There have been eleven instances of fielders taking five catches in a match.

Pos	Player	Season	Matches	Catches	Avge
1	D.J.Foreman	1965	16	24	1.50
2	K.Greenfield	1990	14	20	1.42
3	D.J.Foreman	1968	14	19	1.35
4	J.J.Bates	1996	16	18	1.12
5	K.Greenfield	1998	10	17	1.70
	K.Greenfield	1994	13	17	1.30
	K.S.McEwan	1972	12	17	1.41
8	S.J.Hoadley	1975	10	16	1.60
	C.P.Phillipson	1985	12	16	1.33
	M.A.Thornely	2007	11	16	1.45
11	H.Z.Finch	2015	9	15	1.66

### Most catches in a season

Notes: The table lists all fielders making 15 or more catches in a season. The figures exclude catches made when players were wicketkeeping. Column six, headed 'Avge', gives the average number of catches per match for each player.

## Most catches in a career

Pos	Player	Seasons	Matches	Catches	Avge
1	K.Greenfield	1986-2001	118	128	1.08
2	C.P.Phillipson	1970-1986	75	82	1.09
3	D.J.Foreman	1959-1969	69	71	1.04
4	0.P.Rayner	2002-2011	45	53	1.08
5	N.C.Phillips	1991-1997	60	49	0.81
6	J.J.Bates	1995-2000	65	47	0.72
7	H.Z.Finch	2011-2017, 2019	39	43	1.10
8	R.G.L.Cheatle	1971-1983	47	41	0.87
	P.R.V.Ledden	1960-1969	65	41	0.63
10	P.J.Graves	1962-1967, 1969, 1	971, 1974, 1	975, 1977	
			42	40	0.95

Notes: The table lists all fielders making 40 or more catches. The figures exclude catches made when players were wicketkeeping. Column six, headed 'Avge', gives the average number of catches per match for each player.

### WICKETKEEPING

### Most dismissals in an innings

Pos	Total	Ct/St	Player	Match
1	6 6	6/0 5/1	A.J.Hodd C.F.Jackson	v Yorkshire, Hove, 2006 v Hampshire, West End, 2015
3	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	4/1 5/0 3/2 4/1 4/1 5/0 5/0 5/0 5/0 4/1 5/0	P.Moores M.P.Speight C.H.H.Pegg S.Humphries S.Humphries S.Humphries T.R.Ambrose C.F.Jackson C.F.Jackson J.W.Jenner	<ul> <li>v Essex, Eastbourne, 1985</li> <li>v Surrey, Banstead, 1988</li> <li>v Derbyshire, Hove, 1990</li> <li>v Warwickshire, Hove, 1993</li> <li>v Essex, Eastbourne, 1996</li> <li>v Warwickshire, Horsham, 1997</li> <li>v Kent, Hove, 2002</li> <li>v Northamptonshire, Horsham, 2013</li> <li>v Glamorgan, Fulking, 2015</li> <li>v Hampshire, Newport (I.o.W), 2017</li> </ul>

Notes: The table lists all wicketkeepers making five or more dismissals in an innings. Hodd's six catches in the 2006 instance are the most catches for the side. H.J.Kasey made three stumpings in an innings v Surrey Hove, 1989 and S.Humphries three in an innings v Nottinghamshire, Horsham, 1996, the most stumpings for the side. C.F.Jackson made a total of eight dismissals (7ct, 1 st) in the 2015 instance above, the most dismissals for the side in a match.

## Most dismissals in a season

Pos	Player	Season	Matches	Ct/St	Total	Avge
1	S.Humphries	1996	17	40/10	50	2.94
2	S.Humphries	1997	17	34/8	42	2.47
3	S.Humphries	1995	17	39/2	41	2.41
4	S.Humphries	1993	17	32/8	40	2.35
5	S.Humphries	1994	17	31/4	35	2.05
6	T.J.Head	1978	11	26/8	34	3.09
7	C.F.Jackson	2015	9	29/4	33	3.66
8	S.Humphries	1992	12	27/4	31	2.58
	R.T.Webb	1959	10	22/9	31	3.10
10	P.Moores	1985	11	25/3	28	2.54
11	J.N.Smith	1991	13	24/3	27	2.07

Notes: The table lists all wicketkeepers making 25 or more dismissals in a season. The figures exclude catches made when players were fielding. Column seven, headed 'Avge', gives the average number of dismissals per match for each player. Humphries' 40 catches and ten stumpings in 1990 are both the most for the side in a season.

## Most dismissals in a career

Pos	Player	Seasons	Matches	Ct/St	Total	Avge	
1	S.Humphries	1992-2000	105	220/36	256	2.43	
2	T.J.Head	1975-1981, 1983, 1984, 1986					
			67	146/23	169	2.52	
3	T.Gunn	1960-1968	72	131/24	155	2.15	
4	A.J.Hodd	2002, 2003, 2006-2012					
			40	84/6	90	2.25	
5	A.W.Mansell	1968-1975	48	71/18	89	1.85	
6	B.C.Brown	2004-2011, 2013-2015, 2019, 2021					
			40	69/15	84	2.10	
7	C.F.Jackson	2011-2015	33	77/5	82	2.48	
8	N.J.Wilton	1996, 1998-2001					
			32	68/7	75	2.34	
9	D.J.Smith	1979-1984	42	56/12	68	1.61	
4 5 6 7 8	A.J.Hodd A.W.Mansell B.C.Brown C.F.Jackson N.J.Wilton	2002, 2003, 2 1968-1975 2004-2011, 2 2011-2015 1996, 1998-2	72 2006-2012 40 48 2013-2015, 20 40 33 2001 32	131/24 84/6 71/18 019, 2021 69/15 77/5 68/7	155 90 89 84 82 75	<ul> <li>2.15</li> <li>2.25</li> <li>1.85</li> <li>2.10</li> <li>2.48</li> <li>2.34</li> </ul>	

Notes: The table lists all wicketkeepers making 50 or more dismissals for the side. The figures exclude catches made when players were fielding. Column seven, headed 'Avge',

gives the average number of dismissals per match for each player. Humphries' 220 catches and his 36 stumpings are both, respectively, the most for the side.

The figures in the tables above derive largely from three sources. These are (a) the CricketArchive database which now contains details of all Sussex matches in the competition; (b) the 38 editions of the First-Class Counties Second Eleven Annual, published by the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians; and (c) the Sussex County Cricket Club's own annuals and scorebooks. Our thanks our due, in particular, to the scorers who stand behind all this data; they have ranged from committed, dedicated experts through to twelfth men and even schoolboys pressed into service in the scorebox! As this is the first time these tables have seen the light of day, there is a likelihood of errors and omissions; we'd appreciate it if readers would bring these to the attention of the Sussex Cricket Museum.

D.J./K.J. 28.v.2023