

THE FRIENDLIES 2026



Five Stalwarts of Friendly Cricket

Nominees:

1. **Callum Smith – The Hand in Hand Corinthians CC**
For inspiring new players, organising charity matches and Wicket Wednesday, and linking players with clubs across Sussex.
 2. **Kevin Ives – Lewes Priory CC**
For his boundless energy promoting local cricket, creating the SussexCricketGrounds4hire network, and expanding opportunities for all ages.
 3. **Dominic Heater – Buxted Park CC**
For being “Mr Cricket” at Buxted Park — organising 30+ friendlies, running fixtures, and keeping the spirit of the game alive.
 4. **Nick Waddington – Horley CC**
For his commitment to arranging friendly fixtures and ensuring matches go ahead, even at short notice.
 5. **Tony Rawbin – Balcombe CC**
For always upholding the spirit of friendly cricket and helping clubs like BN3 Casuals find fixtures.
 6. **Rizwan-ul-Haq – Headliners CC**
For his inspirational comeback from serious illness to play cricket again, showing determination and love for the game.
 7. **Andy Clarke – Zambuca Tigers CC**
For masterminding 60 fixtures (including tours to France and Malta) and giving opportunities to countless players.
 8. **Alasdair Murray – Dormansland CC**
For his leadership and good spirit as Dormansland’s Sunday XI captain.
 9. **Tom Simpson – Worthing CC**
For welcoming opposition clubs and ensuring enjoyable, good-spirited games.
 10. **Mark Pankhurst – East Dean CC**
For his enthusiasm in organising matches, including new veterans’ mid-week fixtures.
 11. **Bruce Talbot – Headliners CC**
For tirelessly running Headliners CC, keeping fixtures going, and maintaining the social heart of the club.
 12. **Chris Corin-Worthing PathfindersCC**
For doing everything to keep Pathfinders CC continuing especially in tough times.
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Friendly Cricket Club of 2025

Nominees:

- **Zambuca Tigers CC** – For playing 58 friendly matches, embracing all abilities, and embodying the essence of friendly cricket.
 - **Rodmell CC** – For being a joy to play against.
 - **Southwick Wanderers CC** – Longstanding friendly stalwarts since the 1920s.
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Best Teas of 2025

Nominees:

- **Streat & Westmeston CC (Sue Marshall)** – Home-made walnut cake legend and 15–20 teas a season.
 - **Dormansland CC (Carol Tribe)** – Multiple nominations for spectacular, photo-worthy teas!
 - **Jevington CC** – Delicious traditional teas, with honourable mentions to Brighton & Hove Crescent CC and Southwater CC.
 - **Chailey CC** – Consistently good teas.
 - **Watersfield CC** – Proper village cricket teas, lovingly prepared.
 - **Preston Nomads CC** – Excellent teas *with pudding* at Fulking!
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THE FRIENDLIES – THE NOMINATIONS

Five Stalwarts

Callum Smith – The Hand in Hand Corinthians CC

Callum is the main organiser behind The Hand in Hand pub team from Kemp Town. He organises a few friendly games with a couple of Bank Holiday charity games. His big tour de force is his Wicket Wednesday at East Brighton Park when any number of players that would not normally have been involved in cricket have been inspired, persuaded or dragged along. As a consequence, any players who discover the love for cricket are given links to other more regular clubs by Callum. Callum also helps out any club that asks him if they are short of players.

Nominator – Simon Wood – Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Kevin Ives – Lewes Priory CC

Kevin Ives is a force of nature within local cricket. As well as his role with Lewes Priory CC and the Sussex Cricket Foundation, Kevin has set up the Facebook page,

SussexCricketGrounds4hire, to help with the great increase in demand for cricket pitches. Kevin has organised a number of additional Saturday friendly games in Sussex to help with the demand within Lewes Priory, especially for the younger player. Kevin has also set up a Lewes Priory Veterans XI to play mid-week cricket, also including some lady players.

Nominator – Simon Wood – Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Dominic Heater – Buxted Park CC

Dominic Heater is Buxted Park's Mr Cricket. He can't help himself. He has played and organised a huge amount of cricket outside of the League structure. Dominic is a lifelong member of Buxted Park and is the epitome of dedication and passion for cricket. His tireless efforts and commitment to growing the game make him an exceptional candidate under the category 'Five Friendly Stalwarts'.

Dominic plays an indispensable role in ensuring the smooth running of Buxted Park CC, especially in managing the club's fixtures. He is responsible for organising and administering pre-season fixtures, The Oakshot Cup, The Sussex Slam, and friendly fixtures on a Wednesday — and quite often two friendly sides on a Sunday.

In total, Dominic organised over 30 friendly fixtures, mostly on a Sunday. He consistently demonstrates an ability to handle last-minute cancellations and re-arrangements to ensure games proceed as planned — "Get The Game On." His responsibilities include the timely posting of team sheets and ensuring that all logistical arrangements are in place. His organisational skills and commitment are invaluable assets that have contributed directly to the club's success and enjoyment of players and spectators alike.

Dominic is, without doubt, the heart of Buxted Park Cricket Club. His contributions extend far beyond his formal responsibilities, creating an environment where cricket thrives. His unwavering support, organisational expertise and commitment to fostering community through sport are unparalleled.

Buxted Park CC's MR CRICKET

Nominator – Mark Buttifant – Buxted Park CC

Nick Waddington – Horley CC

We have always played Horley CC twice a year on a Sunday for many years now. In the 2025 season, we played each other a record three times as they kindly made arrangements to host us at their second ground when we had an away game cancelled at the last minute – all organised through the SussexFriendlyCricket Facebook page, of course! All games were cracking matches going down to the wire with tight run chases and wickets falling.

Nick is always proactive, scheduling games with Southwater CC well before the season starts and making sure that friendly Sunday games are scheduled in Horley's very busy list of fixtures. This is a massive effort considering the large number of teams and the amount of cricket going on at his club, brilliantly navigating a complicated calendar. He and his teammates have no shame in knowing the standard of their game might not be the highest, but they know exactly how to play cricket on a Sunday.

Nominator – Gary Moore – Southwater CC

Tony Rawbin – Balcombe CC

I would like to nominate Tony for the Spirit of Friendly Cricket category. He always makes sure the Sunday games that we play against Balcombe CC are played well, fair and enjoyable for everyone. He has always backed my club, BN3 Casuals, and has helped us find additional fixtures, often commenting on our post on SussexFriendlyCricket and vouching for my club.

Nominator – Jake Smallwood – BN3 Casuals CC

Rizwan-ul Haq – Headliners CC

I would like to nominate my younger brother Rizwan. I am Islam-ul Haq and we both play for Headliners CC, a team founded by Bruce Talbot.

In 2023, after the last game of the season against Horsted Keynes, Rizwan was feeling very unwell and when we finally took him to hospital we found out that he had a stage 3 brain tumour (aged 29 at the time) which required a life-saving operation. Doctors at the time said even if successful, his cricket playing days would be over.

Fast forward to 2025 and he has opened the batting for Headliners CC. Although he has not returned to his best, he has averaged 20 with the bat and taken a few wickets with his left-arm slowies. It's almost a miracle that he is playing at all.

I wanted to put forward a nomination in recognition of his determination to overcome his situation to play cricket. He has practised tirelessly at home and wherever there was a field with a bat or a ball which meant he could get back to enjoying his Sundays playing with Headliners CC.

I also wanted to give a special mention to Bruce Talbot, who has created the platform for a great team atmosphere where even debutants have said how much they enjoyed playing for Headliners CC — often becoming available to play regularly. Also, for keeping the tradition of having teas.

Nominator – Islam ul-Haq – Headliners CC

Andy Clarke – Zambuca Tigers CC

Andy is the tireless organiser of Zambuca Tigers and in particular the fixture list. Zambuca Tigers are probably not the most well-known club in Sussex recreational cricket but they should be. In 2025, The Tigers played nearly 60 friendly games of cricket which included tours to France and Malta. With a large playing squad that has given so many players an opportunity to get involved with a cricket club, they occasionally even put out two teams on the same day. The Tigers, and Andy in particular, are the kings of the Friendly Cricket jungle.

Nominator – Simon Wood – Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Alasdair Murray – Dormansland CC

I would like to nominate Alasdair Murray, the Dormansland CC Sunday XI captain. Just a top all-round bloke.

Nominator – Anthony Pamnani – Dormansland CC

Tom Simpson – Worthing CC

Tom always gives the Sunday Seconds CC a good day. Even though Worthing CC are a County League club, he recognises and accepts our strengths and weaknesses and we enjoy our cricket there.

Nominator – Steve Grantham – Sunday Seconds CC

Mark Pankhurst – East Dean CC

Mark is always a pleasure to deal with and to play against.

Nominator – Steve Grantham – Sunday Seconds CC

Mark is always enthusiastic about organising matches at East Dean CC. East Dean have also started playing some mid-week veterans matches and Mark is at the forefront of this initiative.

Nominator – Simon Wood – Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Bruce Talbot – Headliners CC

Bruce is a tireless worker for Headliners CC, organising matches, sorting teams and additional fixtures, keeping cricket alive at Colemans Hatch CC.

Nominator – Andy Clarke – Zambuca Tigers CC

Chris Corin-Worthing Pathfinders CC.

Chris has been a member of Pathfinders for decades, introducing his sons to the club who have both held committee positions. Chris once took a 10 wicket haul and whilst on 9 victims, one of his sons dropped a catch off his bowling. Chris prevailed to take the 10th wicket. Since hanging up his boots he has continued to be a club stalwart in doing everything possible to keep the club functional. Through some times when folding seemed inevitable, we have come out the other side thanks to him.

Nominator-Matthew Dumigan-Worthing Pathfinders CC



Friendly Cricket Club of 2025

Zambuca Tigers CC

Any team that plays 58 games of friendly cricket during a season must be included in any list of Friendly Club of the Year. I have been playing against The Tigers for a number of years now and without exception each match has been played in a great spirit. Brighton & Hove Crescent CC members always look forward to our matches as The Tigers understand the

essence of Friendly Cricket where you can play competitive cricket without the need for aggression or aggravation.

The Tigers also give opportunities to players who, whilst they are not the most talented, are an integral part of the club and the ethos of giving every member of the side an opportunity to perform.

Nominator – Simon Wood – Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Rodmell CC

As a whole, the lads at Rodmell CC are a pleasure to play against.

Nominator – Steve Grantham – The Sunday Seconds

Southwick Wanderers CC

Southwick Wanderers have been going since the 1920s and are friendly cricket stalwarts.

Nominator – Andy Clarke – Zambuca Tigers CC



Best Teas of 2025

Streat & Westmeston CC

Sue Marshall's teas at Streat & Westmeston are the best around. Her home-made walnut cake is wonderful. She makes the teas for all the home Wednesday and Sunday games which must amount to 15–20 games per season. I always take a Tupperware box to games and if there is any walnut cake left I grab it to share with my family at home. Sue's husband is Colin Marshall who is captain of the Sunday XI.

Nominator – Rob Eastwood – Streat & Westmeston CC

I didn't play that many away games in the 2025 season, dropping out for others more deserving. I would, however, like to nominate Streat & Westmeston's teas from our mid-week match in June. Our matches against Streat in mid-summer are always a highlight and the teas this year were really excellent with excellent sandwiches and home-made cakes.

Nominator – Simon Wood – Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Dormansland CC

By far the best tea would be Dormansland CC.

Nominator – Jake Smallwood – BN3 Casuals CC

The best tea that you will get anywhere is at Dormansland. I nominate Carol Tribe.

Nominator – Alasdair Murray – Sunday Captain of Dormansland CC

I would like to nominate Dormansland CC and the iconic Carol Tribe. She is the tea lady that takes teas to another level. In many games, the tea is captured by photos and video by the opposition.

Nominator – Dave Tribe – Dormansland CC

I would like to nominate the AMAZING and DELICIOUS Dormansland CC Sunday Friendly XI teas. I have never seen anything as good or as delicious.

Nominator – Richard Gallagher – East Grinstead CC

I would like to nominate Dormansland CC for the best teas I have ever witnessed including this season.

Nominator – Anthony Pamnani – Dormansland CC

Jevington CC

The best tea by far is at Jevington CC. Honourable mentions to Brighton & Hove Crescent CC and also to Southwater CC.

Nominator – Alex Fenton – The Mighty Greys CC

Chailey CC

Chailey CC always provide a good tea.

Nominator – Steve Grantham – Sunday Seconds CC

Watersfield CC

The lady at Watersfield provides a good tea and she is the only “tea lady” that we come across in our season. Proper village!

Nominator – Steve Grantham – Sunday Seconds CC

Preston Nomads CC

We played a friendly match at Fulking and the tea was excellent — and there was pudding!

Nominator – Andy Clarke – Zambuca Tigers CC

Seaford CC

Seaford CC – best tea in East Sussex

Nominator – Mick Hornsby- Seaford CC

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Brighton & Hove Crescent CC

Wonderful tea was had by us all on our recent visit so it gets The Pathfinders nomination.

Nominator-Matthew Dumigan-Worthing Pathfinders CC
