



## DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



# Kent Spitfires vs Durham

Thursday 22 July

Match starts at 11:00

ROYAL LONDON CUP  
THE COUNTY GROUND, BECKENHAM



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

### PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



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# WELCOME

By Interim Head Coach,  
Simon Cook



Hello everyone and welcome to The County Ground, Beckenham for our first match of this year's Royal London Cup. I'd also like to welcome the players and staff of Durham to Metropolitan Kent.

I'm honoured to be the 'Interim Head Coach' of the Spitfires for this tournament. I really enjoyed playing 50-over cricket during my career, and it's actually one of the more underrated forms of the game - England are, of course, World Champions in this format.

I'd also like to formally welcome Harry Finch, Joe Gordon and George Munsey into the squad for the Royal London Cup - all of whom performed admirable under very testing circumstances this past month. I'm sure you'll be supporting them with as much gusto as you showed during the Championship and two Vitality Blast matches.

Jack Leaning has been announced as skipper for this tournament with Ollie Robinson as vice-captain - two very strong choices to lead us in 50-over cricket this year. They have both become huge parts of the dressing room here, and not only is this a great opportunity to take on a bigger role amongst the playing staff, but it again shows the fantastic strength in depth that we have at the Club.

This is our first match at Beckenham this season, and I know a lot is said about our 'Fortress Canterbury' in the Vitality Blast, but we'll be hoping to make The County Ground our 'Fortress Beckenham' during the Royal London Cup.

I hope you enjoy the match.

Simon

# BECKENHAM BECKONS



**After the rather astonishing win at Lord's to secure top spot in the Vitality Blast South Group and an August home QF against the Bears, Kent now change formats and home venue from Canterbury to Beckenham for the next few weeks in the 50-over Royal London Cup.**

Jack Leaning has been a revelation thus far, Stevens remains a totemic presence and of course the likes of Robinson, Finch, Logan and O'Riordan will be keen to grasp further opportunities. With every other county also denuded of their regular white ball starters the competition will certainly be up for grabs, particularly as weaker counties will have lost fewer players!

As a venue, Beckenham has evolved since it first joined the Kent out-ground rota in 2003. Initial teething problems were ironed out and it now boasts a splendidly steep 2,048 seater stand (something the St Lawrence could do with). It also boasts a square that tends to produce belting pitches suited to high scores. Ideal for T20 and list A games.

Statisticians will point to the remarkable Championship match in 2017 when Kent made their second highest ever first-class score ever vs Northamptonshire. The 701-7d included a Kent record partnership for any wicket of 382 between Denly and Dickson. Dickson went on to make 318, the second highest ever Kent score.

In the T20 format there have been plenty of memorable games at Beckenham, Surrey being put to the sword always proves popular, but in 2011 a game against Gloucestershire was rather splendid. The visitors made 166 with Wahab Riaz taking 5-17 including a hat-trick before Azhar Mahmood struck a blistering 106\* to bring Kent victory by 8 wickets with seven balls to spare.

In the one-day format the venue has often been kind. In 2008 the big Friends Provident QF was moved from Canterbury at short notice due to heavy rain, but Kent went on to beat Somerset by 37 runs on their way to the final. Neil Dexter was the main man making 101\* out of 259-5 (50) and the visitors were bowled out for 222 thanks in part to 3-23 by Arafat.

In 2018 Kent racked up their equal highest ever List A score with a stunning 384-8 against Surrey. Kuhn made 117 and was assisted by Denly (78), Blake (59 off 26 balls) and Bell-Drummond (48). In total the Surrey bowling attack was thrashed for 44 boundaries (11x 6's) with the bowling figures being especially cruel on Batty (1-96) and Rikki Clarke 1-84). Even Tom Curran disappeared for 75! Roy hit a belligerent 68 but the nearest and dearest neighbours folded for 164 in 30.1 overs giving Kent an incredible winning margin of 220 runs. Darren Stevens cleaned up with 6-25!

I doubt that carnage will be repeated this year, but as a fan of the 50 over format I do look forward to seeing plenty of runs made. Sadly, I will miss the first game vs Durham having been "pinged" by the NHS app and am currently at home in "Covid prison" in sympathy with some of the Kent players from last week! With no Lord's Final hoodoo baring our path I now fully expect us to win the Royal London One-day Cup... so Come on Super Kent!





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# ROYAL LONDON CUP SQUAD CONFIRMED



**Kent Spitfires have named a playing squad of 16 for the upcoming Royal London Cup, beginning with the visit of Durham to The County Ground, Beckenham on Thursday 22 July.**

Their ranks have been bolstered ex-Sussex batter Harry Finch, former Kent Academy scholar Joe Gordon, and current Scotland international George Munsey.

Harry Finch impressed for the Second XI before signing up to play in the COVID-affected LV= Insurance County Championship fixture against Sussex. The right-hander scored a match-saving 115 in the fourth innings as Kent salvaged a draw with a team that featured six debutants.

Current Scotland international George Munsey featured in the final two Vitality Blast fixtures, helping the Spitfires qualify for a home Quarter Final. The left-hander has played in 27 ODIs, most famously being part of the Scotland team that defeated England at the Grange in 2018. Munsey hit 55 off 51 balls as Scotland secured a six-run victory.

His current List A high-score of 96 came against Oman for Scotland in 2019, and he has most recently scored 79\* against Fred Klaassen's Netherlands in May of this year.

Joe Gordon has been featuring for the Second XI regularly this year; his high-score in white ball cricket coming against Essex in the Second Eleven Twenty20, as he hit 53 off just 27 balls.

Kent's Director of Cricket, Paul Downton, said: "With a number of Kent players having earned the opportunity to play in The Hundred, this gives a great opportunity for some of our younger players and some new faces to impress wearing a Kent Spitfires shirt.

"This will be an exciting tournament that every county will feel that they have a chance of doing well in. We are really looking forward to playing our Royal London Cup games at Beckenham, a ground that has hosted some fantastic white-ball matches over the years."





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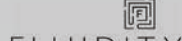
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