



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent Spitfires vs Gloucestershire

Thursday 12 August
Match starts at 11:00

ROYAL LONDON CUP
THE COUNTY GROUND, BECKENHAM



www.kentcricket.co.uk

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WELCOME

By Interim Head Coach,
Simon Cook



Good morning everyone and welcome to our final Group match of the 2021 Royal London Cup at The County Ground, Beckenham. I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to the staff and players of Gloucestershire, who have done extremely well to put together a competitive side for today's match.

As we know ourselves, it's an extremely challenging scenario for their backroom staff to organise a competitive team at such short notice, they deserve immense credit and we look forward to what will hopefully be an exciting day of cricket.

Looking back at this tournament, I'm not going to hide away from saying that this competition hasn't gone the way that we had hoped. Although we won't be using this as an

excuse, we missed a lot of our regular players, but I'm immensely proud of the squad we have had in this tournament, with players stepping up into leadership roles as well as increased gametime for our younger talented squad members, that have now had a lot more first-team experience than they may have expected to get this season.

Results have not gone our way, but these learnings will help them all grow as players and I'm sure we will see the benefit in the near future.

Thank you for your support during my period as interim Head Coach, and I hope you enjoy today's fixture.

Simon

LAST TIME OUT

Hampshire's hopes of qualifying for the knock-out stages of the Royal London Cup are still alive after they recorded a six-wicket win over Kent Spitfires at The County Ground, Beckenham.

Ian Holland got the better of Kent's top order with four for 12 as the hosts failed to bat out their overs, despite a rain-reduction to 24 per side. Scott Currie took two for four as the Spitfires were all out for 105.

The Duckworth Lewis Stern (DLS) Method pushed the target up to 107 and Hampshire chased it down, finishing on 107 for four, Tom Alsop the top scorer with 37 and Holland hitting an unbeaten 30.

The prospects of play looked remote as steady rain fell throughout the morning, but conditions improved and play started at 14:30, with the match initially reduced to 27 overs per side.

Kent's openers made a bright start after being asked to bat, but after moving to 42 without loss, Tawanda Muyeye was bowled by John Turner for 24.

Holland then instigated a collapse when he claimed two wickets in the twelfth over. Ollie Robinson was caught by James Fuller at deep square leg for 27 and Jack Leaning was subsequently caught and bowled for 11. In Holland's next over, Harry Finch chipped him to Nick Gubbins and was out for nought.

Kent had reached 70 for four before a shower sent the players sprinting to the pavilion, trimming the match by a further three overs per side, and if anything their batting got worse when play resumed. Darren Stevens made just eight when Holland had him caught by Felix Organ and Grant Stewart was run out for four, by a direct hit from Tom Scriven, chasing a single that could best be described as optimistic.



Joe Gordon made nine on his List A debut before he holed out to Scriven and was caught by Organ and Currie then bowled Harry Podmore for eight before getting Hamid Qadri lbw for five.

Kyle Abbott wrapped up the innings when Matt Quinn was caught by Tom Prest and Hampshire made short work of the chase.

The Spitfires' hopes flickered when Quinn took two quick wickets, strangling Prest down the leg side where he was caught behind for two and then bowling Gubbins, also for two, to reduce the visitors to 23 for two, but Hampshire put on 40 for the next wicket before Alsop chopped Podmore to Finch, who took a sharp catch at point.

By the time Joe Weatherley was caught by Muyeye off Podmore for 25 Gloucestershire needed just another 15 for victory with six wickets in hand and Fuller smacked Podmore for six to clinch the win with 34 balls to spare.



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Florida's Paradise Coast is supporting county cricket with an exclusive competition to win a family holiday of a lifetime to the sunshine state with specialist tour operator travelplanners. Open to Kent Members and supporters, the competition will run for six weeks.

In addition to the competition, travelplanners are also giving away £100 travel vouchers to redeem against a future booking to Florida's Paradise Coast.

Located in Southwest Florida along the Gulf of Mexico, Florida's Paradise Coast is made up of three distinct areas, including Naples, Marco Island and the Everglades.

A cultural gem nestled in nature, the destination offers visitors 30 miles of award-winning, white-sand beaches, endless outdoor adventure on and in the water, luxurious hotels and resorts, fresh off the dock seafood, an array of shopping options and world-class hospitality.

Not to mention over 90 golf courses with championship sporting events and concerts at the brand-new Paradise Coast Sports Complex.

"With our UK and Ireland operations based in Kent we have first-hand knowledge of how difficult the past 16 months have been for both sport and international travel – this is an amazing opportunity to connect both and inspire our communities", says UK & Ireland Director, Oonagh McCullagh-Boyle.

"We know how beneficial sport and travel is for our health and well-being – Florida's Paradise Coast has this at its fore and we are thrilled to be able to support Kent Cricket and build back a lost Summer for our local community. Visitors' health is our top priority, as a result the destination launched the Paradise Pledge in 2020 knowing when visitors can travel – Only Paradise Will Do".

Andy Griffiths, Kent Cricket's Director of Partnerships, said: "The unity between Kent Cricket and a destination that prioritises sport, health and wellness is huge. Being able to engage with the diverse audience county cricket attracts, we can inspire our Members and supporters to indulge in the Florida's Paradise Coast world-leading experiences and attractions including the brand new Sports Complex."

PRIZE INCLUDES:

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CRICKET IN AUGUST



The recent confirmation that the final group game in the 50 over cup against Gloucestershire at Beckenham will go ahead is great news for anyone wanting to watch a bit of live Kent cricket in the county in August. It should be highly competitive with Gloucestershire needing to win to retain any hope of qualifying for the last six.

Cricket might be “The Summer Game”, but somebody forgot to tell whoever was responsible for compiling the first class fixture list for 2021. Had Gloucestershire cancelled due to COVID or we hadn’t come in the top two in the Vitality Blast group then the only cricket at home this month would have been the rain abbreviated loss to Hampshire at Beckenham.

Interestingly attendances at the Royal London Cup have been pretty good nationally given many counties have had the heart of their usual white ball squads ripped out of them. To be honest I was wondering who Gloucestershire might have to recruit to fulfill the Beckenham fixture, Jack Russell, Mike Procter and WG Grace?

On a more serious note you have to ask why the finale of the 50 over competition is squeezed into just six days with the

eliminators, the semi-finals all together and then just two days until the final at Trent Bridge on a Thursday night!

Kent’s season now rests on the Vitality Blast QF against Birmingham Bears at Canterbury. It will be great to see 4,000 inside The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence although memories of home losses at that stage still smart. Especially THAT Lancashire game in 2015... 2007 and the sensational win over Gloucestershire in the Final at Edgbaston in 2007 is still one of my top three Kent memories ever since first watching them in 1979.

Interestingly, “minnows” like Leicestershire and Northamptonshire have been more successful than the likes of Surrey, Middlesex, Yorkshire and Lancashire which is refreshingly democratic. Kent, Somerset and Sussex represent the “have nots” in the last eight this year although with some many Kent players kicking their heels as bit-part squad players for a month in The Hundred plus the 50-Over hiatus.

The sport is wonderful, thrilling, brilliant, but you have to play more of it in August and less of it in early April and late September!

Eddie Allcorn



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