



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



# Kent Spitfires vs Hampshire

Sunday 8 August

Match starts at 11:00

ROYAL LONDON CUP  
THE COUNTY GROUND, BECKENHAM



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

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# WELCOME

By Interim Head Coach,  
Simon Cook



Good morning everyone and welcome back to The County Ground, Beckenham. I'd also like to extend a welcome to the staff and players of today's opponents, Hampshire.

There's no hiding that this has been a challenging period for us as a playing core. What has impressed me, however, is the attitude and application that the squad has shown. Ollie Robinson's comments after our match at Chelmsford, that "you don't learn if you don't lose", ring true - this tournament has given more competitive first-team opportunities to this squad, and the experiences that they are gaining can only help this group grow as players.

We now look ahead to striving for a strong finish to the Royal London Cup for us, with two home matches within a week, before attentions turn again back to our Vitality Blast Quarter Final, and our Divisional matches in the LV= Insurance County Championship.

I'd once again like to thank you for your support - it's extremely invaluable to everyone at the Club during what has been another turbulent season, with the Pandemic still being a part of all of our lives.

I hope you enjoy the match.

Simon

# LAST TIME OUT

**Kent seamer Nathan Gilchrist recorded his best List A figures of five for 45 as the Spitfires recorded their first victory in the Royal London Cup with a 21-run victory against Middlesex.**

Gilchrist's opening burst wrecked Middlesex's top order at Radlett, while off-spinner Hamid Qadri returned three for 47 to ensure the home side were bowled out for 196.

Half-centuries by Marcus O'Riordan – who reached that landmark for the first time in List A cricket – and George Munsey enabled the Spitfires to post 217 for nine after rain reduced the contest to 35 overs apiece.

Middlesex slid to 49 for four in reply and a valiant partnership of 57 from 44 balls between Josh de Caires and James Harris was not enough to complete the fightback.

The game eventually began just after 13:00 and Kent, having lost the Toss, quickly found themselves in trouble at seven for two.

Harris nipped one through to bowl Tawanda Muyeye first ball, while Ethan Bamber trapped Ollie Robinson LBW before the pugnacious Munsey and Jack Leaning rebuilt with a stand of 86 from 84.

Munsey cashed in outside his off stump, dispatching both Middlesex's opening bowlers for successive boundaries as he reached 49 before grinding to a halt while wickets fell at the other end.

Leaning was bowled swinging across the line at Thilan Walallawita, while de Caires collected his maiden first-class wicket when Harry Finch pulled him into the hands of deep square leg.

Nineteen-year-old debutant Toby Greatwood matched that feat, finding Munsey's outside edge to remove him for 59 and following up with the wicket of Grant Stewart to finish with two for 30.



O'Riordan took up the baton for the Spitfires, clubbing Martin Andersson for three leg-side fours as he added an invaluable 69 from 58 with Qadri, who hit an unbeaten 35.

O'Riordan was eventually run out for 60, attempting an ambitious second to long leg before Bamber picked up two late wickets in as many balls, returning three for 41.

Middlesex got off to a shaky start in pursuit of the target, with the in-form Stephen Eskinazi pulling Stewart's fifth delivery straight to deep square leg.

Stewart's first three overs went for just five, increasing the pressure before Gilchrist cemented the Spitfires' advantage with three quick wickets.

Varun Chopra nudged the seamer to slip and Middlesex skipper Peter Handscomb – who had started with a lively 17 from 10 balls – was adjudged lbw before Robbie White fell in the same fashion soon afterwards.

Max Holden batted solidly for 32 before he was bowled around his legs by Qadri, but Harris kept Middlesex in the frame, hitting a six and five fours in his brisk 34 until Matt Quinn had him caught behind.

Qadri collected the wicket of De Caires for 43 and also took a diving catch on the boundary to dismiss Walallawita before Bamber holed out to complete Gilchrist's five-wicket haul.





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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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# BACK TO BECKENHAM



**I hope to finally get to Beckenham this Sunday after two false starts in the Royal London Cup. For the first game against Durham I had the 'Wembley Way' COVID-variant and was stuck at home coughing and spluttering in isolation feeling rather knackered...**

The one saving grace was that I was able to watch the live feed online to keep me entertained. Whilst still fighting off the dreaded lurgy I also watched most of the epic game at Worcester. In an absolute classic of the genre Kent made a fine 322/7 thanks to Munsey (108) and Finch (84) and with Worcestershire reduced to 184-6 all looked rosy. Leach had other ideas in a compelling, but not the climax we had hoped for.

In these COVID-hit times, Clubs showing their games on streams has been a God send. Test and Trace had released me back into the wider population by the time of the Lancashire game but the forecast was horrendous and for once also accurate and so I gave it a swerve. Kent also looked well set at Hove to break their duck despite the high winds but were thwarted by the elements when well placed.

With only three teams going through to the next stage from each group, Kent really needed to win at Chelmsford, but the fact that they were now missing ten of their first choice white ball starting eleven against a side missing only three proved too much and a nine wicket defeat ensued.

Onto today's opponents - in 1992, Kent played Hampshire in the B&H Final having won a thriller against Surrey at Canterbury in the semi-final. Unfortunately the game was rain affected and went into a second anti-climactic day and a Hampshire side blessed with the likes of Smith, Gower and Marshall set Kent 254 to win and we subsided to 212 all out, Marshall taking 3-33 from his ten overs.

1983 was a far more enjoyable season against Hampshire in one-day cricket. The quarter final of the B&H Cup at Canterbury saw Kent grind their way to 198/9 in 55 overs. Rain meant it carried over into a day that helped make Richard Ellison's name. In ideal dank conditions for swing he turned the game on its head. Terry and Greenidge had Hampshire on 131-0 but in a remarkable collapse their innings was strangled, Ellison was almost unplayable and took 3-22 in his eleven overs, leaving Hampshire stranded five runs short!

In the 1983 NatWest semi-final at Canterbury, Kent struggled to 173 all out off 59.2 overs but then blew Hampshire away for just 102! Baptiste 5-20 and Chris Cowdrey 4-36 securing a Lord's Final which they subsequently lost to Somerset by 24 runs.

Come on Super Kent!

Eddie Allcorn



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KENT COUNTY CRICKET CLUB,  
THE SPITFIRE GROUND, ST LAWRENCE, OLD DOVER RD, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 3NZ

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