



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



## Kent Spitfires vs Middlesex

Friday 11 June 2021

Match starts at 19:00

VITALITY BLAST

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury



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

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



ELITE PARTNERS



# WELCOME

By Matt Walker  
Head Coach



Good evening. I hope your friends and family are staying safe and keeping well, and if you're joining us tonight, welcome back to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. I'd also like to welcome the players and support staff of Middlesex to Canterbury.

Wednesday night was a fantastic way to get our Vitality Blast campaign up and running. We had three batters play important innings in the match, career-best bowling figures for Freddie Klaassen, and some absolutely outstanding efforts in the field. The squad excelled in the main three disciplines of T20 and I was so proud of the lads.

I'd also like to congratulate James Logan for taking a wicket on his career T20 debut. He has earned his short-term deal with us after impressing for our Second XI against strong opposition, and he's taking his chance with both hands.

Another special mention must go to Darren Stevens. To have made his way back into our T20 side and bowl so well is great to see. He's now the second man after James Tredwell to take over 100 wickets for Kent in T20s, and I know that he's hungry to keep performing in this format.

Middlesex represent another huge test for us as matches come thick and fast – they have some big hitters in their side, and particularly the addition of Chris Green makes them a difficult side to face.

The players really appreciated the fantastic support and atmosphere on Wednesday night, and if you're with us tonight, we'd love to feel that same energy from our supporters.

Enjoy the match

Walks

# LAST TIME OUT



**Kent Spitfires beat Hampshire Hawks by 38 runs in their Vitality Blast match at Canterbury.**

The Spitfires posted 176 for six, before restricting the Hawks to 138 for nine with a miserly display in the field. Fred Klaassen took four for 32 and Darren Stevens two for 22, claiming his 100th Blast wicket with his very first ball.

Ollie Robinson anchored Kent's innings with 48, after Joe Denly smashed 44 and Daniel Bell-Drummond 42 to get the hosts off to a blistering start, but they were hauled back as The Hawks' Mason Crane took three for 23, while Chris Wood two for 42 and Lewis McManus claimed two stumpings.

James Vince made 34, but the Hawks fell way behind the run rate, despite a battling 37 from Joe Weatherley.

After losing the toss, the Spitfires raced to 67 for nought at the end of the powerplay, before Bell-Drummond holed out to Crane and was caught by Vince.

When Denly was stumped off Liam Dawson in the next over, the scoring rate slowed drastically. Crane took two wickets in five balls, bowling Alex Blake for two and then getting Jack Leaning stumped

for one. Jordan Cox and Robinson put on 58 for the fifth wicket, before the former was caught on the boundary by James Fuller for 28 off Wood, with the first ball of the final over. Robinson was bowled with Wood's next ball, leaving Stevens and Grant Stewart as the not out batters on one and six respectively.

Vince and D'Arcy Short put on 51 for the first wicket, but Stevens had Short caught behind for 29 before Cox took two brilliant catches. He snared Sam Northeast for six at long off, to give James Logan a wicket only four hours after he'd signed a deal with Kent, before making a stunning catch at mid-wicket to get rid of Vince, off Stevens.

Klaassen took a steepling catch off his own bowling to dismiss Dawson for 9, then had James Fuller caught for one by Blake at long on. After 10 overs without a boundary, Weatherley hit Matt Milnes for six through cow corner, but he was lbw to Klaassen, who then had Ian Holland caught by Cox.

Needing an impossible 48 off Grant Stewart's last over, the Hawks lost Chris Wood for one and McManus for seven, both caught by Blake.



DISCOVER THE

# WHITSTABLE BAY

FAMILY



order yours today at  
[shop.shepherdneame.co.uk](http://shop.shepherdneame.co.uk)

Find us online @WhitstableBay



[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)  
for the facts

# THERE WERE PROPER CHEERS!



**OK, so it wasn't quite the Colosseum, but Kent's first Vitality Blast match of 2021 was another step towards hopefully more normal times. There were cheers, happy faces and most importantly a win! The first of the season, but also the first at Canterbury since Super Kent saw off Essex by 22 runs on Friday 26th July 2019! It felt like a lifetime ago.**

Fred Klaassen might have picked up the Spitfire Kent Player of the Match award for his four wickets but in truth it was a true team performance. The fielding was sublime at times, not just the catching, but the saving of runs, the athleticism and determination. That has not always been Kent's best feature, so it was great to see against Hampshire.

Kent were put in by Hampshire, never a bad thing if you're not sure about the bowling attack. Racking up runs and creating scoreboard pressure with something to defend can often give less experienced bowlers some wiggle room. Denly and 'DBD' got off to a flyer, 86-0 off a blistering first seven overs (10x4 4x6) included one six that had my name on it at midwicket on the Old Dover Road side. Had I stood up in the back row rather than ducked down it would have parted my hair! It would have been ironic if on the day I got my second vaccine jab I had then felled by a six! One fellow fan asked why I hadn't tried to catch it, but I like by fingers being intact thank you very much.

Mason Crane with his "frog in a blender" action then struck and the game changed.

From greedily eyeing over 200, Kent were restricted to 176-6 with Robinson (48) doing the hard yards. Was it a par score? Perhaps not.

The third over of the reply from Klaassen went for 17 and doubts crept in, the crowd were engaged but nervous, then enter Darren Stevens. Hampshire looked poised at 51-0 at the end of the power play. First ball and a wicket! "Stevo! Stevo!" rang round The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. The whole momentum of the match began to change. That and some eager, sharp fielding meant Hampshire didn't manage another boundary for nine overs. The squeeze was on. Debutant Logan snaffled Northeast in his second excellent over to general acclaim and from then on Kent bossed it.

Stevens picked up another wicket thanks to a second super Cox catch and the Hampshire wheels came off. Klaassen was the main beneficiary 4-32 and Stewart chipped in at the end to leave Hampshire on 138-9. A win for Kent by 38 runs. The home crowd cheered the players off, a special moment for both fans and players. Stevo had undoubtedly been the catalyst.

The one thing that surprised me was that the game didn't sell out. I guess public transport isn't functioning with a full timetable yet (quite a few headed to the exits in case we were required to leave block by block). Also, some will have been put off by not being able to sit with their mates or walk round the ground or mass in the Ames Stand lower balcony for a sing song. I get that but would say, yes, it is different, but even in its reduced form with covid measures, it was still good for the soul. If you are nervous about even modest crowds, I'd also add fans stuck to the rules, wore their masks when required and respected other supporters.

Eddie Allcorn





# 5L MINI KEGS

*The perfect party pack!*

ORDER YOURS TODAY AT  
[SHOP.SHEPHERDNEAME.CO.UK](http://SHOP.SHEPHERDNEAME.CO.UK)



/SHEPHERDNEAME

[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)  
for the facts



**SPITFIRE**

**WORLD CLASS BEER.**  
*Made by Britain's oldest brewer.*



**TROPICAL FRUIT &  
CITRUS AROMAS**  
*with a subtle bitterness*

**TOFFEE & SPICE AROMAS**  
*Hoppy, bitter finish*

**LIGHTLY HOPPED**  
*for a smooth, refreshing finish*







**Air Ambulance**  
Kent Surrey Sussex



# Join our life-saving lottery

With your support Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex will be there for you, your loved ones or anyone who needs our life-saving care every hour of every day.

**Please help us to save lives. Join our lottery today.**  
**Visit [aakss.org.uk/lottery](https://aakss.org.uk/lottery)**

T&Cs apply. 16+ UK only. **BeGambleAware.org**





# IN CONVERSATION WITH... IMRAN QAYYUM



Back in May, left-arm spinner made the difficult decision to retire from cricket after a shoulder injury. The 27-year-old joined Kent in 2014, and went on to make 82 appearances for Kent across all formats across his seven-year professional career.

We caught up with Imran about his plans for the future, and his predictions for Kent's Vitality Blast campaign – although he'd much rather be pulling on the now iconic RADAR jersey tonight.

"I'm going to miss the team greatly. Playing cricket with these great bunch of lads has been a pleasure. There's no better feeling than playing and performing in front of crowds. That atmosphere and buzz is going to be missed dearly."

"I've been very lucky and grateful that I've been a professional cricketer for seven years but now it's time for me to take on a new challenge. I feel like I want to explore a career outside of cricket, something new and different."

Looking back on his career, Immy tells us that one thing in particular spurred him and the players on.

"The home crowd has always been fantastic. The support we get is second to none, and the atmosphere that it is created is thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the whole Club."

A white-ball specialist for Kent, Qayyum was a mainstay in the Spitfires' Vitality Blast side. Although he won't be on the field for Kent this year, he's still very much part of the team.

"Like every season we believe we can compete and have the ability required to win the competition. There's plenty of young talent and experienced quality players in the squad to go all the way.

"From last year, everyone is more experienced. I believe Kent have a great chance to go one step further and make it to that elusive Finals Day."

When asked who he feels is Kent's most underrated answer, there was one name that came back straight away.

"Fred Klaassen. He's been a bowler that's always had to always bowl the tough overs in the powerplay and the death. He's bowled some great spells and in crunch moments has held his own; sometimes it's overlooked a bit, how hard it actually is to bowl in such situations.

Kent signed James Logan on a short-term deal to help deal with the impact of losing Qayyum, and before the game, Immy was there to speak to 'Logie' ahead of his career T20 debut.

"We just spoke about the ground dimensions and how it is bowling from either end of the ground, my experiences of bowling at Canterbury and what has worked for me in the past.

"Being a bowler in T20 cricket is tough, as it's designed for high scoring games, so as a bowler we're always looking for the subtle things that we can do to come out on top.

"He clearly bowled very well and didn't look out of place at all. James was very impressive with the way he controlled his length and executed his skills."

And Immy's thoughts on Darren Stevens' comeback to T20 cricket as a Spitfire on Wednesday night?

"I think we're running out of words to describe the unbelievable performances Darren keeps putting in. It'd been a few years since he had played for Kent in T20 cricket but he showed that class is permanent and he can still perform outstandingly, no matter what the format is."

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR PARTNERS  
FOR THEIR SUPPORT:



## PRINCIPAL PARTNER



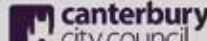
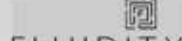
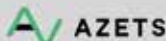
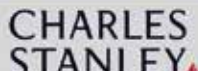
## ELITE PARTNERS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## TEAM KENT PARTNERS



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

[www.kentcricket.co.uk](http://www.kentcricket.co.uk) | Tel: 01227 456 886

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/KentCricket) @KentCricket [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KentCountyCricketClub) @KentCountyCricketClub