



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent Spitfires vs Surrey

Friday 2 July

Match starts at 19:00

VITALITY BLAST

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury



www.kentcricket.co.uk

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Barretts



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WELCOME

By Matt Walker
Head Coach



Good evening everyone and I trust that you are all keeping safe and well.

We can all feel a real sense of anticipation ahead of tonight as we welcome our oldest rivals, Surrey, to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. There have been some great matches between us over the years, some of which, of course, I have been involved in, our former players in our coaching and support staff have been involved in, and the vast majority of our current playing squad know full well what it means to face Surrey as a Kent Spitfire.

One of the most-used clichés around rivalry matches across sport is that 'the form book goes out of the window' for these clashes – whilst that's partly true, we've put ourselves in a strong position for qualification from

the South Group of this year's Blast home and away, and we go into matches with that confidence that we can beat anyone on our day.

Though we suffered defeat in our last home match, we are all looking ahead to securing qualification into the Quarter Finals of this tournament – something that I'm pleased to say that we have done consistently in the past few seasons, and really something that we expect from ourselves with the talent we have on display.

I know how much matches with Surrey mean to you all, and I personally am excited to experience the atmosphere inside The Spitfire Ground on nights like this.

Walks

KENT VITALITY BLAST TWENTY20 RECORDS

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTAL:

For	236-3	v Essex	Canterbury	2021
Against	250-6	by Surrey	Canterbury	2018

LOWEST INNINGS TOTAL:

For	72	v Hampshire	Southampton	2011
Against	82	by Somerset	Taunton	2010

MOST RUNS IN A MATCH:

457	v Somerset	Canterbury	2018
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BIGGEST WIN BY KENT:

81 runs	v Essex	Beckenham	2008
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HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL INNINGS:

For	127	J L Denly	v Essex	Chelmsford	2017
Against	151*	C H Gayle	for Somerset	Taunton	2015

CENTURIES FOR KENT:

To date six players have scored nine centuries Kent in all Twenty20 matches for Kent:-

4 J L Denly

1 Azhar Mahmood, D J Bell-Drummond, Z Crawley, S A Northeast, A Symonds

BEST BOWLING:

For	5-11	A F Milne	v Somerset	Taunton	2017
Against	5-17	G M Smith	- Essex	Chelmsford	2012

RECORD WICKET PARTNERSHIPS-KENT:

To date 18 players have taken four wickets in an innings a total of 25 times in all Twenty20 matches for Kent.

5 D I Stevens

2 M T Coles; A F Milne; Yasir Arafat

1 C R Brathwaite; M E Claydon; M J Dennington; D A Griffiths; F J Klaassen;
R McLaren; M E Milnes; M M Patel; V D Philander; I Qayyum; A E N Riley;
M P Stoinis; J C Tredwell; Wahab Riaz

FOUR WICKETS IN AN INNINGS FOR KENT:

1st	207	D J Bell-Drummond & J L Denly v Essex (Chelmsford)	2017
2nd	151	D J Bell-Drummond & S A Northeast v Surrey (Tunbridge Wells)	2016
3rd	130	Azhar Mahmood & M van Jaarsveld v Leicestershire (Leicester)	2011
4th	106	S W Billings & M P Stoinis v Essex (Canterbury)	2018
5th	123	J A Leaning & J M Cox v Middlesex (Canterbury)	2021
6th	108*	S A Northeast & A J Blake v Hampshire (Southampton)	2015
7th	62	R W T Key & T Henderson v Hampshire (Beckenham)	2006
8th	52	F K Cowdrey & J C Tredwell v Lancashire (Canterbury)	2015
9th	33*	R McLaren & S J Cook v Surrey (Beckenham)	2007
10th	30	S J Cook & M Davies v Sussex (Hove)	2012

RECORD WICKET PARTNERSHIP-OPPONENTS:

1st	187	J J Roy & A J Finch - Surrey (The Oval)	2016
2nd	150*	M E Trescothick & R E van der Merwe - Somerset (Tunbridge Wells)	2011
3rd	119*	T Westley & R S Bopara - Essex (Canterbury)	2016
4th	131*	R S Bopara & A Zaidi - Essex (Chelmsford)	2016
5th	95	S I Walters & A Symonds - Surrey (The Oval)	2010
6th	79*	Z S Ansari & Azhar Mahmood - Surrey (The Oval)	2013
7th	80	D T Christian & T S Roland-Jones - Middlesex (Canterbury)	2014
8th	49*	A D Mascarenhas & D G Cork - Hampshire (Southampton)	2009
9th	37*	S D Udal & D Evans - Middlesex (Lord's)	2009
10th	38*	Abdur Rahman & A C Thomas - Somerset (Canterbury)	2015

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THE CHAPS FROM THE OVAL

If the Kent rivalry with Essex is keenly mutual and most certainly reciprocated, the one with Surrey has often been more nuanced. To be honest growing up watching Kent in the 1980s it was Middlesex who were often the villains of the piece from the 'Big Smoke'. Surrey? Well, we tended to beat them, they were harmless...

That changed in the mid 1990's, they got good and they also got rich and were often perceived as 'arrogant'. The Oval was gradually refurbished and the Test coffers were filled. The Hollioake brothers (Ben and Adam) led the charge as they reinvented themselves as a cricketing powerhouse. As the poorer country cousins, the rivalry began to develop between us and we took great delight in beating them when we did. Sadly, their new golden age ('96-'03) was partly kick-started at Lord's when they thrashed us in the 1997 B&H Cup Final at Lord's by eight wickets. A sobering day where Kent could only muster 214-9 off their 50 overs thanks in part to Mark Ealham's defiant 52. The Oval mob romped to victory with five overs to spare, Ben Hollioake making 98 and Alec Stewart 75*. It was official, I no longer had a soft spot for them!

Curiously though for all their international stars and big bucks, Kent have enjoyed plenty of remarkable moments against the "Brown Caps" often in front of a 20,000 crowd and a partially inebriated Oval. We might moan about the Friday night office drinkers and beer snakes at the T20, but it is the Oval where I have been part of the biggest crowds I have ever seen Kent win in front of. It can be rather like Christians venturing into the Lion's Den but often up to a fifth of the crowd appear to be up from the Garden of England and we love to let them know it when we're winning!

In 2014 we beat them in the T20 by 21 runs, Stevens the star with a 38 ball 67 including 7x 6s. In 2015 we thrashed them at the Oval, a certain Mr. Stevens making 90 off 39 balls and then taking 4-39! Oh boy did we enjoy that night! In 2017 we won a classic, set 206 to win Kent managed it by eight wickets with

three balls to spare, Joe Denly eviscerating them with 116 off 63 balls. Another bonkers night for the legion of delirious Kent fans.

In 2018 Kent won another classic, this time by six runs. Kent posted 173-6 (Denly 102) and then Joe took a remarkable hat-trick as Surrey crumbled from 98-1 off 8.2 overs to 167 all out with seven balls to spare. We haven't always come out on top in the thrillers though. In the 50-over One-Day Cup QF at the Oval in 2015 Surrey made 273 (Roy 112) and Kent were on the brink at 101-7 and 169-9 but Matt Coles launched into a one-man mission to save the day adding 67 for the final wicket (Matt Hunn 1*) and making a stunning 100 before we fell short by 17. The best individual knock I have seen vs Surrey.

The thing about Surrey though is going to the Oval is really rather pleasant. A huge contrast with the stuffy and exclusive Lord's where unless you're wearing an egg and bacon tie and went to the "right" public school you feel excluded like a second-class citizen. By contrast for Championship and 50 -vers games Kent Members are welcome in the historic pavilion at the Oval to enjoy the facilities and peruse all the historical memorabilia.

I also have to add that my favourite ever Kent game at Canterbury features a sensational win over Surrey in the B&H Cup semi-final in 1992. The St Lawrence was heaving with over 10,000, the atmosphere febrile. Surrey made 198 all out (Thorpe 82). The brilliant Kent side of that era, (Hooper, Fleming & Ealham etc) then looked like they'd messed up the chase once Hooper had gone for 50. In a classic nerve-wracking finale Kent snuck through to another Lord's Final by two wickets with a ball to spare. The place went mental. The highlights are on YouTube, well worth a look. So I can't really hate them? Of course, the current Surrey squad is packed with proper pantomime villains, the Curran brothers, Rikki Clarke and the perpetually grumpy Gareth Batty(!), but unlike the Essex rivalry, it is more tongue in cheek, more jovial, more fun. But we still do love to beat them!

Eddie Allcorn



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THE 'OLDEST RIVALRY'



On 27 June 1709 a cricket match was played at Dartford Brent between teams representing Kent and Surrey. It's generally recognised as the first "inter-county match" ever played in our sport.

Thus began the oldest rivalry in county cricket, one that epitomises the game and what it means to the supporters of neighbouring counties. In the 300 years since that first encounter, there have been well over 300 matches played.

On 19 July 1776 at Carshalton a match between the two sides ended abruptly owing to a dispute "about one of the players being caught out, when Surrey was 50 a-head in the first innings; from words they came to blows".

Kent were also the first county side to face Surrey at The Oval in 1846. Championship meetings between the two sides in both

1906 and 1970 were decisive in Kent winning the County Championship, with the visitors celebrating a league title at the home of their rivals.

Since the advent of T20 cricket in 2003, Kent and Surrey have played each other 35 times, with Kent winning 16, Surrey 18 and one no result.

Kent's current highest recorded T20 total against Surrey was 231/7 at The Oval in 2015, with Darren Stevens scoring 90 from just 39 balls. Kent won that match by 54 runs, with four wickets from Stevens in the second innings.

Surrey also recorded the second-lowest team total for any team facing Kent in T20s in 2012, again at The Oval, when the 'Brown Caps' were dismissed for 88 chasing Kent's total of 136/8, Azhar Mahmood taking 3-12 for the Spitfires.



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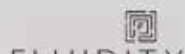
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