



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent v Northamptonshire

Thu 3 – Sun 6 June 2021

Match starts at 11.00am



LV= INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury

www.kentcricket.co.uk

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



ELITE PARTNERS

WELCOME

By Matt Walker
Head Coach



I hope you, your friends and families are keeping well and staying safe. It was fantastic to see our Members back to see us face Glamorgan in Canterbury – to hear applause and the ‘hum’ of a matchday again was something that we had all missed and it was a real boost to the squad to have that real matchday feeling back after nearly two years.

On the field, we performed much closer to the high standards we set ourselves in that match – Darren Stevens produced another knock worthy of the legend status that our Members and supporters have given him, and I also thought that we bowled really well and tightly even though we weren’t given many overs with the ball. It was really unfortunate that we couldn’t get a result, we tried our best on the final day to set up an exciting finish but it was a shame that the weather brought an end to what would’ve been an enthralling day’s play.

I mention our bowling in that Glamorgan game – Matt Quinn ended with 3/24 from 14 overs in

that match. He has come in as a loan player and contributed for us, exactly what we asked from him when he joined us from Essex. This will be Matt’s final match for Kent during his loan spell, and I’d like to thank him for his efforts during his short spell here. We will also be saying goodbye to Miguel Cummins after this fixtures as he comes to the end of his eight-match spell with us, and I’d also like to thank him for his contributions in a Kent shirt this season.

Northamptonshire is another stern test for us in Group 3 of the LV= Insurance County Championship, and our drawn match back in April was a sign that we both have strong batting line-ups – this will be another test for both bowling attacks in our final red-ball match before the start of the Vitality Blast.

I hope you enjoy the match.

Walks

LAST TIME OUT



Kent and Glamorgan drew their LV= Insurance County Championship match at Canterbury, after rain thwarted their attempts to make a game of it on Day Four.

Glamorgan were 23 for one in their second innings when play was abandoned, after the teams agreed sporting declarations.

The visitors declared on their overnight score of 64 for 3, 243 behind, and Kent then declared on 60 for one, setting Glamorgan a target of 304 from a minimum 84 overs.

Just 38 balls were bowled on day three and with a draw effectively useless to both sides' Group C ambitions, they attempted to set up a finish.

Kent's only loss in their brief second innings was Ollie Robinson, who'd made 14 before he was caught behind, glancing Michael Nesar down the leg side. Jordan Cox was unbeaten on 27 and Zak Crawley 18 not out when the declaration came.

Glamorgan had made 22 for nought when rain forced an initial five-minute delay. Matt Quinn then bowled David Lloyd for 17, but a second, far heavier downpour led to an early lunch and with no prospect of the ground conditions improving, the sides agreed a draw at 1.45 pm. Joe Cooke was six not out and Marnus Labuschagne unbeaten on 0.

Kent collected 12 points and Glamorgan 11.

On Day Two, Darren Stevens hit a belief-beggar 190 to help revive Kent.

The 45-year-old smashed an astonishing 15 sixes and as many fours from 149 balls, as Kent recovered to 307 all out, having slumped to 92 for seven after Timm van der Gugten had taken four for 34 and Michael Nesar four for 67.

Stevens had a partnership of 166 for the ninth wicket with Miguel Cummins, to which the latter contributed a single, and he then removed Marnus Labuschagne as Glamorgan limped to 55 for two at stumps, a deficit of 252.

When Nathan Gilchrist was lbw to Nesar for 12, Stevens started swinging. He hit two sixes over fine leg to steer Kent to 150 for eight at Lunch, then flicked a third over square leg early in the afternoon session, before smashing a fourth over long on.

He plundered two more from Andrew Salter in the space of three balls, before driving Michael Hogan for four through long off to bring up his century, from 92 balls.

His ninth six brought up the 100 partnership and he was subsequently dropped on the boundary by Labuschagne, then again by Billy Root, who spilled the ball over the rope. A viscous square cut then knocked Richard Illingworth off his feet, but the umpire was unharmed and the two men bumped fists before play resumed.

Stevens finally holed out to Labuschagne and was caught by Kiran Carlson at long on and Cummins was bowled by Labuschagne for seven to end the innings.

Matt Quinn removed David Lloyd lbw for four and Stevens had a disgruntled Labuschagne leg before for 11, leaving Joe Cooke and Billy Root the not out batters on 10 and 21 respectively when play was eventually called off at 18:15 after a bewildering delay.

KENT V NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – THE HISTORY

Kent first played Northamptonshire in 1907. The first match at Northampton is famed for Colin Blythe's taking 17-48 on the same day., That match analysis included 10-30 in an innings, both still Kent records, probably unlikely ever to be beaten., The two teams have now met 140 times with Kent winning 60, Northamptonshire 34. with 45 matches drawn and one tie. Northamptonshire have played on no less than 13 Kent grounds. They have played at least one match on all the grounds Kent have used since 1907, including probably forgotten grounds like Catford and the then Royal Navy ground on Chatham Lines. At Canterbury they have appeared on 15 occasions with Kent winning 4, Northamptonshire 4, with 7 drawn.

Highest Innings Total	Kent:	701-7d	Beckenham	2017
	Northamptonshire:	568	Beckenham	2017

Lowest Innings Total	Kent:	67	Gravesend	1924
	Northamptonshire:	39	Northampton	1907

Highest Individual Score	Kent:	318	S.R.Dickson	Beckenham	2017
	Northamptonshire:	208	B.M.Duckett	Beckenham	2016

Best Bowling Analysis (Innings)	Kent:	10-30	C.Blythe	Northampton	1907
	Northamptonshire:	10-127	V.W.C.Jupp	Tunbridge Wells	1932

Best Bowling Analysis (Match)	Kent:	17-48	C.Blythe	Northampton	1907
	Northamptonshire:	13-196	W.Wells	Northampton	1921

Highest Wicket Partnerships - Kent:-

1st	230	L.J.Todd (87) & A.E.Fagg (167)	Tunbridge Wells	1948
2nd	382	S.R.Dickson (318) & J.L.Denly (182)	Beckenham	2017
3rd	283	R.C.Wilson (159*) & S.E.Leary (158)	Kettering	1963
4th	296	K.L.Hutchings (132) & F.E.Woolley (152)	Gravesend	1908
5th	227	M.C.Cowdrey (139) & R.C.Wilson (90)	Tunbridge Wells	1955
6th	219	D.P.Fulton (196) & M.A.Ealham (153*)	Canterbury	2001
7th	194	L.E.G.Ames (149) & T.A.Pearce (83)	Tunbridge Wells	1932
8th	122	G.C.Collins (80) & W.J.Fairservice (53)	Northampton	1912
9th	136	R.M.Ellison (71) & A.P.E.Knott (87*)	Northampton	1985
10th	63	D.I.Stevens (116*) & M.L.Cummins (24)	Northampton	2021

Highest Wicket Partnerships - Lancashire:-

1st	199	A.W.Snowden (84) & A.H.Bakewell (112)	Dover	1934
2nd	282	D.Brookes (138) & L.Livingston (200)	Maidstone	1954
3rd	179	D.S.Steele (130*) & Mushtaq Mohammad (86)	Northampton	1973
4th	167	R.J.Warren (104) & A.L.Penberthy (73)	Canterbury	2001
5th	239	M.D.E.Holden (153) & A.M.Rossington (112)	Beckenham	2017
6th	337	R.R.Montgomerie (192) & D.J.Capel (167)	Canterbury	1995
7th	150	G.A.T.Vials (93) & J.Seymour (83)	Tonbridge	1912
8th	127	A.J.Hall (146) & J.D.Middlebrook (74*)	Canterbury	2011
9th	123	D.W.Barrick (121*) & K.V.Andrew (39)	Rushden	1960
10th	49	O.P.Stone (60) & M.S.Panesar (17*)	Northampton	2016

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GLAD TO BE BACK, STEVO'S MASTERCLASS THE REWARD!

After 603 days I finally made it into The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence to watch some live cricket on Thursday 20th of May 2021. It was an emotional moment, but a huge tonic to the soul nonetheless after the fifteen months we have all had to cope with. The reward eventually came in the form of an innings from absolute Kent legend, Darren Stevens, that blasted away all the cobwebs for those lucky enough to witness it live.

Day One of the Glamorgan game saw me finally walking up the Old Dover Road, a little nervous about what I would find, all the covid rules and regulations upmost in my mind. I knew it couldn't be normal, but it was progress. I admit a tear welled up in my eye as I caught sight of the main entrance.

Numbers were reduced to 950 and the two halves of the ground split the crowd into two; with the Nackington Road End and Les Ames Stand marking the Glamorgan "bubble" and the Pavilion being the Kent "bubble". Getting in went smoothly, plenty of stewards and signage to point you in the right way, as I entered at the Nackington Road End for access to the hospital side of the ground.

Unfortunately, the weather didn't want to play ball, torrential rain in the preceding days had left part of the outfield too soggy to play. Even more frustrating than bad light for the loyal Members hunkered down for the long wait. To his credit Paul Downton chatted to fans from a distance on a tour of the boundary whilst many were happy to just meet up with and chat to their fellow Kent fans many of whom they hadn't seen or spoken to for well over a year. I was delighted to catch up with my usual group, the Nackington Road Grumblers. In the end we were rewarded with 90 minutes of play, Robinson made

a fluent 43 and van der Gugten bowled brilliantly to take 2-0.

Day Two will live long in the memory. It was the windiest I have ever known at cricket, it felt like November. The fold down chairs on the banking blew over, advertising hoardings at the Nackington Road end had to be corralled by the Glamorgan 12th & 13th men on the outfield, one umpire's hat blew across the square, a fielder's cap made it to the boundary! Layered up and wrapped in a scarf it was a bit of an endurance test, especially when Kent fell from 70-2 to 128-8. Enter Mr Stevens.

What happened next is well documented, but it was truly remarkable. 15 sixes and 15 fours later Darren Stevens had made 190 off 149 balls, he had added 166 for the ninth wicket with Cummings who scored precisely one! Some of the sixes were huge, over the Ames and into the hedge! They got into a deadly routine, 'Stevo' smashing the first three balls of an over to all parts, taking a single off the fourth and letting Cummins block the last two.

On and on they went as records tumbled. The modest crowd were in raptures, joyfully in thrall to the cricket for the first time in what felt like a lifetime. It was a truly remarkable innings and insane partnership. Sadly, the elements ruined any chance of a positive result, Day Three saw only a few overs bowled and then on Day Four after an old school declaration had set up a run chase perfectly the heavens opened and we were done. Thwarted by the elements. It will always be remembered for two things though, the return to live cricket at Canterbury and the brilliance of Darren Stevens. It had been a privilege.



By Eddie Allcorn



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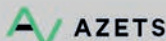
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