



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent vs. Essex

20-23 April

11:00 starts



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

www.kentcricket.co.uk

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



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WALKS' WELCOME

By Matt Walker
Men's Head Coach



Hello everyone and welcome back to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. I'd also like to extend a welcome to the players, coaches, staff & supporters of Essex Cricket ahead of our LV= Insurance County Championship match.

It was fantastic to get off to a winning start last time out here against Northamptonshire. We bowled really well in that first innings & in the end, we were able to capitalise on our good start and come away with 19 valuable points.

By now it's no surprise to anyone to see Ben Compton collect yet another Championship hundred, but I thought everyone contributed to that victory really well.

We had a bit of a reality check with last week's visit to Warwickshire, but to have one win from our first two matches is a solid platform for us to build from going forward in the Championship.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Wes Agar – the Aussie quick has joined us for our next four matches and I'm really excited to see him in a Kent shirt. It's been well documented that we have been unlucky in recruiting an early season overseas player but in turn that means we've had the opportunity to get Wes on board, and he offers us extra pace alongside our other talented bowlers that we have here.

Essex provide a stern test for us as a very good red-ball side. There are no easy matches in Division One and we'll have to be at our best against a side that has been County Champions twice in the last five years.

I hope to see everyone lend their support to the lads and continue to get behind us – I hope you enjoy the match.

Walks

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LAST TIME OUT

Superb Kent rearguard action took things into near-darkness as Warwickshire toiled to claim a thrilling LV=Insurance County Championship victory in the final day gloom at Edgbaston.

The home side secured victory when Joey Evison edged Hassan Ali behind to fall heartbreakingly for 99 having taken his side so close to salvaging a heroic draw.

When the visitors, having followed on 295 behind, declined to 99 for seven in their second innings, an ignominious defeat beckoned. But opener Ben Compton (88, 185 balls) and 21-year-old all-rounder Evison (99, 161) added 100 in 25 overs to Hoover up much of the afternoon session. Then, after Compton fell in the first over after over Tea, Evison and loanee Conor McKerr added 74 in 27 overs.

Kent were within touching distance of a great escape when, with the light fading fast, Olly Hannon-Dalby returned to have McKerr brilliantly caught by Will Rhodes at fourth slip and then Ali sealed the win with a luscious outswinger to the heroic Evison.

For Kent, the final-day fighting spirit offered some consolation but defeat comes as a major jolt after their opening-round victory over Northamptonshire. They are at least likely to be boosted by the likely return from injury of seamers Nathan Gilchrist and Grant Stewart, as well as a debut for new signing Wes Agar, when they face Essex at Canterbury next week.

Kent resumed on the final morning 27 for one, needing to bat out the day, but plummeted to 51 for five in the first 12 overs. Warwickshire's seamers continued where they left off the previous day when they took 11 wickets in 52 overs.

Compton applied himself assiduously but saw a string of partners perish. Nightwatch Quinn had his off stump flattened by a Chris Woakes inswinger



before four wickets fell to smart work by the slips.

Rob Yates took two low catches to remove Daniel Bell-Drummond and Jack Leaning, Rhodes made no mistake to oust Joe Denly and Jordan Cox, having defied for just over an hour for 29, edged to Sam Hain. When skipper Sam Billings decided too late to leave a ball from Hannon-Dalby and deflected it on to his middle stump, it was 99 for seven.

Compton and Evison dug in deep, the former enhancing his remarkable first-class batting average of 58, but were parted in the first over after tea when Compton edged Rushworth and Yates took yet another excellent slip catch, this time fast and high and particularly impressive as he saw the ball very late with wicketkeeper Michael Burgess standing up to the stumps.

That left Kent's last two wickets with 36 overs to survive, and they came gallantly close to achieving it before the depth and quality of Warwickshire's seam attack had the final say.

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KENT VS. ESSEX: THE HISTORY

The “Battle of the Bridge” has a history long before there was a bridge or a tunnel connecting the two counties. The linking ferry is another matter. The first match was played in 1898 and overall Kent has had better of the contest winning 66 of the 193 matches, with 53 to Essex, 74 drawn and one abandoned. At Canterbury Kent have won ten of the 25 matches with 11 drawn. Essex have won on only five occasions, but on their last visits for a county match in 2019 they bowled Kent out for just 40, the lowest Kent score on the ground, and then last year triumphed by an innings and 260 runs. On the other hand, the greatest of all Kent record-breaking matches was at Brentwood in 1934, when the county scored 803 for four declared with Bill Ashdown making 332. It has long been assumed that these Kent records would stand forever. But after the high scoring season like 2022, can this assumption continue?

Highest Innings Total	Kent:	803-4d	Brentwood	1934
	Essex:	616	Chelmsford	1988
Lowest Innings Total	Kent:	40	Canterbury	2019
	Essex:	34	Brentwood	1969
Highest Individual Score	Kent:	332	W.H.Ashdown	Brentwood 1934
	Essex:	275	G.A.Gooch	Chelmsford 1988
Best Bowling Analysis (Innings)	Kent:	10-53	A.P.Freeman	Southend 1930
	Essex:	9-108	T.P.B.Smith	Maidstone 1948
Best Bowling Analysis (Match)	Kent:	16-94	A.P.Freeman	Southend 1930
	Essex:	13-155	J.W.T.Douglas	Leyton 1907

Highest Wicket Partnerships - Kent:-

1st	283	A.E.Fagg (202*) & P.R.Sunnucks (82)	Colchester	1938
2nd	352	W.H.Ashdown (332) & F.E.Woolley (172)	Brentwood	1934
3rd	268	M.R.Benson (159) & G.R.Cowdrey (116)	Maidstone	1990
4th	242	M.C.Cowdrey (250) & J.F.Pretlove (102)	Blackheath	1959
5th	211	S.E.Leary (116) & P.H.Jones (117)	Gravesend	1960
6th	256*	C.J.Tavaré (168*) & A.P.E.Knott (115*)	Chelmsford	1982
7th	222	G.R.Cowdrey (145) & S.A.Marsh (120)	Chelmsford	1988
8th	222	S.A.Northeast (166*) & J.C.Tredwell (124)	Chelmsford	2016
9th	115	R.M.Ellison (68*) & R.P.Davis (52)	Chelmsford	1990
10th	102	J.Seymour (218*) & A.Fielder (61)	Leyton	1911

Highest Wicket Partnerships - Northamptonshire:-

1st	316	G.A.Gooch (236) & P.J.Prichard (109)	Chelmsford	1994
2nd	243	T.Westley (116) & R.S.Bopara (162)	Canterbury	2014
3rd	343	P.A.Gibb (141) & R.Horsfall (206)	Blackheath	1951
4th	259	G.A.Gooch (275) & D.R.Pringle (128)	Chelmsford	1988
5th	194	M.J.Walker (98) & J.S.Foster (99)	Chelmsford	2009
6th	205	P.A.Perrin (101) & C.P.McGahey (101)	Tunbridge Wells	1906
7th	152	N.Shahid (132) & D.R.Pringle (80)	Chelmsford	1992
8th	184	M.S.Nichols (155*) & T.P.B.Smith (105)	Gravesend	1938
9th	131	T.N.Pearce (107*) & R.Smith (37)	Colchester	1938
10th	106	F.W.Gilligan (63*) & M.S.Nichols (57)	Canterbury	1926

Luxury travel from London to Lahore



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Many cricket fans know Black Opal for our specialised sports offerings. This winter, for example, we'll be following England to Pakistan for their three Test Matches against the host nation. On this sports travel experience, guests will be joined by ex-England international David Gower, who works with Black Opal exclusively as tour host. Indeed, our specialists have already been out in Pakistan visiting the luxury hotels and selecting event venues for the lucky guests who join us.

But did you know Black Opal's luxury travel expertise extends way beyond the world of sport? Our well-travelled experts can tailor a whole range of luxury holidays for the most discerning clients. Whilst gearing up for the Pakistan tour, we got thinking about all the incredible destinations between London and Lahore, and the range of unforgettable experiences the team can design. Here are just a few of our favourites; which would you pick for your next trip?

Black Opal are outstanding. All the arrangements made prior to travel and the care taken of us throughout our trip was superb.

DEREK & SHARON

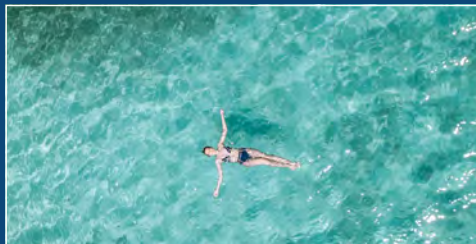


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A river cruise on the Danube

If the word 'cruise' conjures images of a colossal, crowded liner on the open ocean, then you might think it simply isn't for you. In which case, our team who love to introduce you to river cruises. Operators such as Scenic curate itineraries packed with the perfect balance of culture, relaxation and luxury. With regions such as Central Europe having so much to offer, it can be hard to pick just one destination. That's why a luxury river cruise is such a perfect option and a wonderful way to take it all in at your leisure. Days exploring in Vienna, Prague and Budapest; evenings sipping a cocktails and watching the breath-taking landscapes roll by; what's not to love?



Grecian indulgence

Prefer your luxury holidays on the beach or by the pool? We have you covered there too. Our specialists have first-hand knowledge of many luxury resorts, from Barbados to Bali. For a short haul break, though, it's hard to compete with the stunning surrounds of the Greek coastline. Our partners, Ikos Resorts, offer something to suit all holiday requirements. Stylish suites with private pools and romantic fine-dining charm couples, whilst family rooms and fun-packed kids clubs are perfect for families. All this is set alongside pristine beaches, of course, and if you'd like to explore the locality you can take the Local Drive Adventure, which is part of Infinite Lifestyle; Ikos's impressively generous all-inclusive offering.

Which holiday will you choose?

Sports tour, river cruise, luxury beach holiday or off the beaten track adventure: which would you choose? Perhaps none of those are quite what you fancy. You might want to ski in the Alps, Safari in South Africa or see the Northern Lights in Canada – whatever your holiday dream, we at Black Opal Travel are confident we'll make it come true.

I can't recommend them enough, not just for their knowledge, but also because they make life easy!

BRENDA

Uncover Uzbekistan

If you're someone who likes to follow the road less travelled, a touring holiday to Uzbekistan would be a great choice for your next adventure. The country's rich and varied history means you'll find a host of striking architecture, from medieval minarets and remnants the old Silk Road to stark Soviet structures that speak to the nation's more recent past. Fascinating cities and towns are dotted between majestic mountainous landscapes; another of Uzbekistan's attractions. We work with specialist tour operators who have decades of experience both leading groups tours and creating personal itineraries; whatever suits your needs. You could even visit this region of Central Asia as part of trip along the Silk Road route in a private train.

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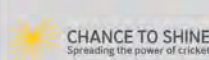
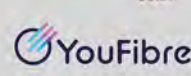
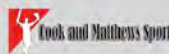
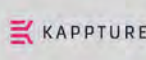
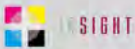
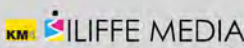
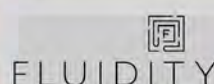
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