



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent Spitfires vs Gloucestershire

Wednesday 24 May
Match starts at 18:30

VITALITY BLAST

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury



www.kentcricket.co.uk

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



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Barretts



A man in a dark blue t-shirt and shorts, wearing a cricket glove, swinging a bat on a field. The t-shirt has a logo and the word 'Paradise' on it. The shorts have a crest on the left leg. He is wearing blue and red sneakers. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

WALKS' WELCOME

By Matt Walker
Men's Head Coach

Good evening everyone and welcome back to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the players, staff & supporters of Gloucestershire to Canterbury ahead of one of the most anticipated evenings in our season - our first T20 match of the Summer.

We go into this tournament after having welcomed Kane Richardson to the squad - he's fitted in really well with the rest of the boys since his arrival, and will be an invaluable asset to us across the whole tournament this year. After winning this competition back in 2021, none of us were pleased with how we fared in 2022. Changes over the Winter, including bringing in two new analysts that have a lot of expertise in T20 cricket, means that we're in a better place to compete at the level we know we can do than 12 months ago.

It'll by no means be an easy ride for anyone in this South Group - every team is strong in our division and anyone that qualifies for the knockout stages has done extremely well to get themselves in that position. It's up to all of us this year to do the simple things well, and to continue to raise standards in everything that we do, which will all contribute to getting wins under our belts.

I look forward to seeing you all here, getting behind the boys, tonight and across the other six home matches here at 'Fortress Canterbury' this season. Together, hopefully we can build something special again, just as we did in 2021.

Enjoy the match,

Walks



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KENT CRICKET LAUNCHES KENTCRICKETPLAY AHEAD OF T20 START

Kent Cricket is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new streaming service, KentCricketPlay, for all untelevised Kent Spitfires home T20 matches in 2023.

The launch of KentCricketPlay to host this season's T20 fixtures digitally is the first phase in the creation of a dedicated broadcast platform which will offer improved coverage, exclusive content and matchday features.

In this first phase, [KentCricketPlay](#) will offer high-quality streaming with multiple camera angles, all hosted by former Kent Cricket captain Dave Fulton alongside some special guest co-commentators. In time, more exclusive content will be released on the new platform.

[By signing up to an account on the new platform](#), all fans – Members and non-Members – will be able to watch Kent Spitfires' T20 home opener against Gloucestershire for FREE on Wednesday 24 May.

Excluding fixtures televised by Sky Sports, Kent Spitfires' remaining home T20 matches will be streamed in the same high quality. Each match will be priced at £5.99. Home and away supporters will be able to purchase each match individually using a secure on-line payment system.

The improved stream is included in all 2023 Kent Cricket Memberships and Life Memberships. [Members simply need to register for a free KentCricketPlay account](#) to gain free access to all featured T20 matches. Please note: free access is included in Membership packages only and not Six Pack Ticket Bundles. The change from a paid-for account to a free Members' account will take place over the coming week.



Kent Cricket's CEO, Simon Storey, said: "The launch of KentCricketPlay is a ground-breaking step forward for us as we look to continue to offer our high-quality streams of untelevised home T20 matches whilst also opening up an exciting new potential revenue stream for the Club.

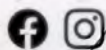
"There is no substitute to witnessing T20 cricket live at The Spitfire Ground, but this new pay-per-view service provides supporters unable to join us, and supporters around the world, with live access to the on-field action.

"With costs ever-increasing, this new platform will generate important additional revenue for the Club which will enable us to invest more funding into the development of the professional & recreational game in our county.

"The launch of KentCricketPlay is the next step in our ambition to grow the Kent Cricket brand at a local, national & global level."

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KANE RICHARDSON LANDS AT CANTERBURY



Australia international Kane Richardson has arrived in Canterbury - with eight days to go until the start of the Vitality Blast, the 32-year-old is glad to finally become a Spitfire after being announced as one of Kent's T20 Overseas Players back in December.

As he sits in the Media Room at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence looking out at the outfield in the sunshine, he reveals that this isn't his first time here, albeit his first visit was in cyber space.

"I was talking to Freddie the ops guy yesterday actually, I remember playing cricket 'here' on the PlayStation back in the early 2000s," he says.

"I remember there being a tree on the ground, so I actually feel like I know this ground pretty well!"

The famous Lime Tree may have a younger successor outside of the playing area at Canterbury now, but Richardson still gives The Spitfire Ground a glowing review.

"It's really unique here because of the slope and the setting - it's really nice to see it in person at last and the sun's shining here today so that always helps."

The bowler, known for his skill at bowling 'at the death' - during the final overs of the game in which saving runs is a precious commodity and taking wickets can turn the outcome of a match, is no stranger

to being an overseas player in another country.

When asked how he would sell himself, he gives the following explanation of what he will add to our talented group of players: "Without knowing what happened last year, with me you're bringing in an experienced overseas bowler.

"I want to contribute in the field and bowl some hard overs but also have an impact on the younger guys and help them too, hopefully I have an impact on and off the field.

"Ideally we dominate and win every game and have a great time, but there'll of course be ups and downs – hopefully I can be a calm and level head around the boys."

His impressive T20 CV includes stints in the Indian Premier League (IPL) with three different franchises, time with Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred & he is also a Big Bash League (BBL) winner with the Melbourne Renegades, also having played for the Adelaide Strikers back in Australia during his career.

"I know a few guys that have played here – I've chatted to Marcus Stoinis and to Adam

Milne who I know was here when we last won the tournament a couple of years ago.

"Obviously we have a strong white-ball pedigree and all the guys I've spoken to have said that they loved their time here.

"I already know a few of the boys from playing against them as well so it's nice to see some familiar faces here."

The right-arm-er is looking forward to his time as a Kent Spitfire, and when asked about who he's looking forward to playing against, he quickly sounds off who he's been told will be a big match for our supporters.

"I know that there's a rivalry with Essex! One of my good mates used to play for them and I know a few of the coaching staff there, they're Aussies from back home so there'll be a bit more on that one for me for sure.

"To be fair, I'm looking forward to every game really, it's going to be awesome. Hopefully the weather will be as good as it is today!"



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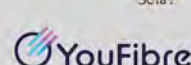
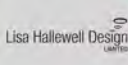
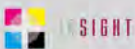
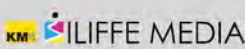
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