



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



## Kent vs. Somerset

5 – 8 April

11:00 starts



VITALITY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury

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

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# WALKS' WELCOME

By Matt Walker  
Men's Head Coach

Good morning everyone and welcome back to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. For the first time this season, I'd also like to wish a warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of our opponents - Somerset.

As with all opening matches, I'm sure you're with us in having that twinge of excitement about the year ahead - thoughts can quickly turn to the 'what if's and dreaming of winning every competition we're playing in.

We need to make sure that we use this feeling in the right way - yes, we're excited to get underway but we must also attack every match, every session on its own merit. Somerset are a very good side and we need to be at our best collectively to get the best we can out of this match.

I'm very pleased with how our squad is shaping up going into the season. Changes at all levels, Cookie in as our new Director of Cricket, DBD in as Captain, has really breathed life into the squad and we're excited to be going down a new direction led by Deebbs on the field.

I hope that all of you, our Members, our supporters, our partners and stakeholders, will enjoy this season amongst a stacked Summer of sport. It's a EUROs year and an Olympic year, and all of us are excited to be a part of your sporting Summer in 2024.

Thank you to everyone that has joined the Kent Cricket Family for 2024 by becoming a Kent Member - it's not too late to join us for this season and get guaranteed entry to all of our home matches even if they sell out, and details are on the Kent website.

As I always sign off my programme notes, get behind the lads - the boys feed off your energy and creating a home advantage can make the difference.

Enjoy the match,

Walks



## WEST INDIES TO PLAY TEST MATCH WARM-UP IN BECKENHAM THIS JULY

Kent Cricket is excited to reveal that the touring West Indies Men's Test team is coming to the Club's flagship Beckenham venue in South East London in July.

Members of the West Indies Test team will take on a First-Class Counties Select XI in a four-day match at The County Ground, Beckenham on Wednesday 3, Thursday 4, Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July 2024.

This red-ball showcase match will take place just one week before the start of West Indies' Test Series against England which starts at Lord's on Wednesday 10 July.

[Tickets for each day of the match are on sale now](#) and are priced at £16 for adults, £7 for 14-17 year olds, and £5 for 5-13 year olds. Under 5s are free.

Entry to the FCC Select XI vs. West Indies is also included in all 2024 Kent Cricket Memberships.

This is the first time that a touring full West Indies Test side has played at Beckenham and offers sports fans in South East London a great opportunity to watch West Indies international cricket stars in action.

Kent Cricket's Community Team, working in partnership with the ACE Programme & Cricket4London, will be running a variety of activities around the ground during the match.

The County Ground, Beckenham will continue to cement its reputation as Kent's cricketing stronghold in South East London this coming year, sharing hosting duties with The Spitfire Ground for Kent Spitfires' home Metro Bank One Day Cup group matches in high Summer in August. Two home group One Day Cup matches will be played at each venue.



The South East Stars will also be competing at The County Ground, Beckenham all Summer, with nine matches scheduled across both the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy one-day competition and the Charlotte Edwards Cup T20 tournament.



SHEPHERD NEAME



# Spitfire

GOLDEN  
LAGER



## KENT v SOMERSET – THE HISTORY

Kent first played Somerset in a first-class match in 1884. Since then they have met 167 times, Kent winning 80 and Somerset 41. 46 matches have been drawn. Somerset has appeared on no less than 13 of the 18 home grounds used by Kent since 1870. 19 matches have been played at Canterbury since 1894, Kent winning nine and Somerset five with five drawn. The infrequency of these matches meant that Kent's win at Canterbury on the west country county's last visit was their first for twenty years (2002). In Somerset it is a remarkable 46 years (1978) since the county has come away with a win.

<b>Highest Innings Total</b>	Kent:	616-7d	Canterbury	1996
	Somerset:	503	Taunton	1898

<b>Lowest Innings Total</b>	Kent:	55	Tonbridge	1926
	Somerset:	50	Tunbridge Wells	1910

<b>Highest Individual Score</b>	Kent:	275 *	M.J.Walker	Canterbury	1996
	Somerset:	222 *	P.B.Wight	Taunton	1959

<b>Best Bowling Analysis (Innings)</b>	Kent:	8-29	J.R.Mason	Taunton	1901
	Somerset:	8-23	B.A.Langford	Bath	1956

<b>Best Bowling Analysis (Match)</b>	Kent:	16-80	D.V.P.Wright	Bath	1939
	Somerset:	14-141	A.E.Lewis	Tunbridge Wells	1910

### Highest Wicket Partnerships - Kent:-

1st	219	H.T.W.Hardinge (82*) & J.L.Bryan (128)	Taunton	1927
2nd	261	E.W.Dillon (124) & J.Seymour (131)	Taunton	1905
3rd	228	H.T.W.Hardinge (154) & W.H.Ashdown (112)	Taunton	1927
4th	237	L.E.G.Ames (129) & A.P.F.Chapman (141)	Taunton	1928
5th	241 *	F.E.Woolley (148*) & D.W.Jennings (104*)	Tunbridge Wells	1911
	241	M.H.Denness (178) & M.C.Cowdrey (123*)	Maidstone	1973
6th	163	J.R.Mason (65) & K.L.Hutchings (106)	Taunton	1903
7th	248	A.P.Day (118) & E.Humphreys (149)	Taunton	1908
8th	140	T.T.N.Perkins (62) & F.H.Huish (78)	Taunton	1900
9th	94	F.H.Huish (93) & W.J.Fairservice (40)	Gravesend	1906
10th	98	W.J.Fairservice (26) & C.Blythe (70)	Taunton	1904

### Highest Wicket Partnerships - Somerset:-

1st	215	F.S.Lee (83) & H.D.Burrough (133)	Bath	1937
2nd	132	A.Young (44) & M.D.Lyon (87)	Taunton	1926
3rd	190	H.Gimblett (146) & H.F.T.Buse (102)	Bath	1953
4th	253	A.V.Suppiah (125) & J.C.Hildreth (151)	Canterbury	2010
5th	172	C.A.Barnard (79) & S.M.J.Woods (111)	Tonbridge	1899
6th	201 *	R.J.Harden (102*) & V.J.Marks (89*)	Bath	1989
7th	240	V.T.Hill (144) & S.M.J.Woods (116)	Taunton	1898
8th	125	A.E.Lewis (201*) & M.R.H.Herbert (55)	Taunton	1909
9th	179 *	N.F.M.Popplewell (135*) & D.Breakwell (73*)	Taunton	1980
10th	112	J.W.Lee (135*) & W.T.Luckes (59)	Taunton	1934



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Gladstone Small



David Gower

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## What to look for when booking a hosted cricket tour

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As sports tour specialists, **Black Opal Travel Group** know a thing or two about creating the best possible hosted tour experiences. If you are considering booking a hosted cricket tour then there are a few important factors that you should look out for.



Managing Director, Jamie Smith discusses how to make sure you are in safe hands when booking a hosted cricket tour

### Make sure it's official

"All major sporting events will be run by an official body who will allocate tickets to a certain number of tour operators. It is important that you check if your tour provider is one of the approved vendors, otherwise you could be in a situation that your ticket is not actually valid or you could be paying over the odds. An official tour operator will be given a logo which they can use on their marketing material but if you are unsure whether you are speaking to an official provider you can always get in touch with the official body.

At Black Opal we are proud to be working with Cricket West Indies and provide 100% official tickets. We also never markup the ticket price as you will see when you receive your official tickets."

### Experienced tour managers and hosts

"If you are attending a hosted tour it is the tour managers job to make sure that everything goes to plan and you have the best time possible. An experienced and efficient team should be available throughout the tour to make sure all your needs are catered for and all you have to worry about is having a good time, and of course whether your team is going to win!

Each of our tour coordinators have 20+ years experience so are well prepared for any situation that may arise."

"Many of the official operators will also have expert hosts, usually former players, who will also attend the tour, but I would suggest checking how much time you

will actually get with the host as sometimes they may only attend certain events and not be present for the entire time you are out there.

We are so lucky to have David Gower and Gladstone Small as part of the Black Opal team and we are proud to be able to say that they are with us for every part of the tour offering camaraderie and plenty of insider insights along the way."

### Making sure the tour fits with your requirements

"Many hosted tours will have a fixed schedule and accommodation that you will need to sign up to as part of the hosted tour experience. I think it is important that you check all details of the tour to make sure you are happy with all arrangements and also check any flexibility there may be.

One thing I have learnt from my experience is that one size does not fit all and that is something that we consider for all Black Opal tours, we will have planned itineraries, but we can tailor any tour to fit with your requirements such as different travel dates, accommodation etc. My advice is to always ask what options you have instead of just agreeing to a fixed tour schedule which might actually not be 100% your preferred choices."

### A personal service

"A sports tour can be the best holiday you have ever been on, but you want to be a person and not just a number and this service can start right at the point of booking. As a family run business it is important that we get to know our guests. The person you book with will be your contact throughout and you will also see them out on tour at some point.

It may sound corny but we genuinely feel that after a tour you are no longer a guest but a friend."

*Jamie*

Jamie Smith  
MD of Black Opal Travel Group

Call our experts on **0330 041 4888** or visit **blackopal.uk.com** to learn more

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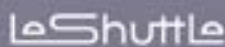


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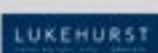
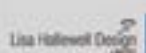
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