



# DEREK UNDERWOOD

1945-2024

DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



## Kent vs. Surrey

19-22 April

11:00 starts



**BLACK  
OPAL**  
TRAVEL GROUP

VITALITY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury

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

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# DEREK UNDERWOOD: 1945-2024



Kent Cricket is in mourning following the death of one of the icons of the Club, Derek Underwood, at the age of 78.

A staunch one-club man, Derek Leslie Underwood was born in Bromley, Kent, on 8 June 1945. In 1963, he made his first-team debut aged 17 against Yorkshire - finishing his first innings as a first-class cricketer with figures of 4-40. He went on to become the youngest bowler to take 100 wickets in his initial season.

He was awarded Kent Men's Cap number 141 in 1964 on the back of his achievements in his debut year and was named the Cricket Writers' Club Young Cricketer of the Year in 1966.

Derek would go on to make over 900 appearances for Kent across three decades, from 1963-1987, taking a remarkable 2,523 wickets at an average of just 19.04.

He captured his 1,000th first-class wicket aged just 25, and took 100 wickets in a season 10 times, notably 157 in 1966. He was the leading bowler in England on four occasions: 1966, 1967, 1978 and 1979.

According to Wisden, no nickname was better earned than the "Deadly" which Derek's Kent teammates conferred on him for the havoc he caused on rain-affected pitches. Such was his accuracy and, for a left-arm spinner, pace - either side of medium when the ball was really



biting - that when conditions favoured him, an avalanche of wickets was almost guaranteed for Kent.

Derek made 86 Test appearances for his country after making his debut against the West Indies at Trent Bridge in July 1966, taking 297 wickets for England at an average of 25.83. He is England's sixth-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket and is still the leading spinner in the list.

In One-Day International cricket, the left-armers made 26 appearances during the emergence of shorter formats of the game, taking 32 wickets at 22.93.

His wizardry brought England one of the most dramatic wins in the history of Tests when, with six minutes left against Australia in The Oval Ashes Test of 1968, he took his fourth wicket in 27 balls. It clinched a 226-run win which squared the series, even though a lunchtime cloudburst which flooded the ground had swallowed all but 75 minutes of the last four hours. Following on from his stellar appearances in the Test arena that year, he was named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year for 1969.

According to the retrospective ICC Men's Test Bowler rankings, Derek Underwood was ranked Number One in the world from September 1969 to August 1973.

At Hastings in 1973, Underwood demolished Sussex by taking 8 for 9 after a bare-footed Kent team helped the Fire Brigade mop up another flooded ground. Underwood's accuracy, intelligence and patience meant he was always a blessing to his captains.

He received two benefit seasons at Kent Cricket for his outstanding service to the Club, in 1975 and 1986 respectively, and was awarded an MBE for services to cricket in the New Year's Honours list of 1981.

Derek retired from the game in 1987, having won three County Championships, two One-Day Cups, three National Leagues and three Benson & Hedges Cups as a Kent cricketer.

He was named President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in 2008, after serving as Kent Cricket's Club President in 2006, and was inducted into the ICC's Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009.

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In 2011, the Annexe Stand at The Spitfire Ground St Lawrence was renamed the 'Underwood & Knott Stand' in recognition of his exploits for the county and highlighting the inspired partnership that he enjoyed for both Kent and England with another icon of the Club, Alan Knott.

Kent Cricket's Chair, Simon Philip, said: "The Kent Cricket family is in mourning following the passing of one of its greatest ever players.

"Derek was an outstanding contributor to both Kent and England, winning trophies for Club and country and etching his name in the history books forevermore.

"Watching Derek weave his unique magic on a wet wicket was a privilege for all who were able to witness it. His induction into the ICC Hall of Fame shows the esteem in which he was held in world cricket.

"An advocate for growing our game worldwide whilst protecting our sport's rich heritage, Derek also made substantial contributions off the field as well as on it, and he will be sorely missed by everyone at Kent Cricket."

The thoughts of everyone at Kent Cricket are with Derek's friends and family at this sad time.

SHEPHERD NEAME



# Spittfire

GOLDEN  
LAGER





## KENT v SURREY – THE HISTORY

The first recorded county match was Kent v Surrey on Dartford Brent in 1709. The first-class sequence for Kent records at least (but not Surrey) started in 1828 and the first county match at the Oval in 1846 was this contest. 288 matches have now been played with Kent winning 71, Surrey 107 with 108 drawn and two tied. Over the years most home matches (55) between the two have been played on the Rectory Field, Blackheath. On the Spitfire Ground the match total is 31 of which Kent have won 11, Surrey 7 with 13 drawn. Surrey's last visit here in 2023 saw them chase down a remarkable 501 to win.

<b>Highest Innings Total</b>	Kent:	620-7d	The Oval	2009
	Surrey:	673-7d	The Oval	2022

<b>Lowest Innings Total</b>	Kent:	20	The Oval	1870
	Surrey:	41	Sevenoaks	1828

<b>Highest Individual Score</b>	Kent:	229	F.E.Woolley	The Oval	1935
	Surrey:	263	D.M.Ward	Canterbury	1990

<b>Best Bowling Analysis (Innings)</b>	Kent:	9-32	D.L.Underwood	The Oval	1978
	Surrey:	10-54	G.A.R.Lock	Blackheath	1956

<b>Best Bowling Analysis (Match)</b>	Kent:	14-?	W.R.Hillyer	Aylesford	1847
	Surrey:	16-83	G.A.R.Lock	Blackheath	1956

### Highest Wicket Partnerships - Kent:-

1st	247	J.L.Denly (123) & R.W.T.Key (123)	The Oval	2009
2nd	219	A.E.Fagg (80) & F.E.Woolley (132)	Blackheath	1934
3rd	323	R.W.T.Key (189) & M.van Jaarsveld (168)	Tunbridge Wells	2005
4th	248	W.L.Knowles (124) & J.R.Mason (147)	The Oval	1900
5th	233	M.J.Walker (133) & J.M.Kemp (124)	Guildford	2005
6th	217	D.G.Aslett (111) & C.S.Cowdrey (95)	Canterbury	1985
7th	151	S.W.Billings (99) & C.J.Haggett (80)	The Oval	2015
8th	143	E.G.Witherden (125*) & W.Murray-Wood (93)	Blackheath	1953
9th	103	R.S.Ferley (29) & I.G.Butler (68)	Canterbury	2004
10th	141	J.R.Mason (141*) & C.Blythe (29)	The Oval	1909

### Highest Wicket Partnerships - Surrey:-

1st	280	S.A.Newman (167) & R.S.Clinton (105)	Tunbridge Wells	2005
2nd	260	D.J.Bicknell (146) & G.P.Thorpe (152)	Canterbury	1995
3rd	413	D.J.Bicknell (186) & D.M.Ward (263)	Canterbury	1990
4th	250	T.H.Clark (165) & R.C.E.Pratt (90)	The Oval	1953
5th	252	A.J.Stewart (158) & M.A.Lynch (115)	Canterbury	1985
6th	175	S.R.Borthwick (95) & W.G.Jacks (120)	Beckenham	2019
7th	262	C.J.Richards (172*) & K.T.Medlycott (153)	The Oval	1987
8th	182	W.E.Roller (142) & R.Abel (63)	The Oval	1883
9th	97*	I.J.Ward (168*) & J.Ormond (43*)	Canterbury	2002
10th	104	F.R.Brown (168) & J.F.Parker (12*)	Blackheath	1932

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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

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