



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent Spitfires vs Sussex Sharks

Friday 30 June

Match starts at 18:30

VITALITY BLAST

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury



www.kentcricket.co.uk

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



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Barretts



WALKS' WELCOME

By Matt Walker
Men's Head Coach



Good evening all - welcome back to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. A warm welcome too to our neighbours from Sussex.

6 from 6. A fantastic run of form that has seen us push our way back into the mix for qualification for the Quarter Finals with contributions from everyone on the field - as a coach, you can't hope for much more from the squad. Our emphatic win over Middlesex here last time out, in front of a sell-out crowd, will hopefully live long in the memory for those in attendance.

With the bat, DBD now leads the tournament with runs scored, after his brilliant hundred here last week. Daniel has shown the best of his ability this year in T20 cricket & has led the line to both set high targets & chase down high run totals - helped along by the exciting talent we have here in Tawanda Muyeye, Jordan Cox & our more experienced batters.

Michael Hogan has also shown his class with the ball - our top wicket taker so far & one of our most economical. It was also great to witness Grant Stewart's hat-trick on Friday,

coming off the back of a difficult over for him - exactly the type of resilience that can win you matches. His 20 wickets overall have also helped us get to where we are now in a big way. Our seam attack has shown that it can take vital wickets if needed, & our spinners have been able to build pressure from both ends.

We now welcome the Sharks to Canterbury for a crucial fixture in terms of qualification hopes. We have seen how good they can be over the last couple of seasons, and this will be no easy task. We have, however, put the work in to ensure that the 11 Spitfires on the field will be best placed to get us the two points that we need.

Be loud, be proud - let's hear your voices of support right the way through the match tonight.

Enjoy the match,

Walks



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KENT SPITFIRES VS MIDDLESEX



A euphoric 111 from Daniel Bell-Drummond and a Grant Stewart hat-trick helped the Kent Spitfires to an emphatic 55-run win over Middlesex in the Vitality Blast at Canterbury. Bell-Drummond's joyous innings lasted 58 balls and included four sixes as for the second consecutive evening Middlesex shipped way in excess of 200.

Kent posted 228 for three, but having stunned Surrey with a Blast-record run chase the previous evening, this time Middlesex subsided to 173 all out, with George Linde and Joey Evison also

claiming three wickets apiece. Luke Hollman was the visitors' top scorer with 48 from 20 balls, but the required rate became unmanageable and they were all out with an over to spare.

The Spitfire Ground was sold out on a sweltering Friday night, with over 5000 packed into the ground to watch the hosts, resurgent after five consecutive wins, take on a Middlesex side who were still bottom of the South Group, despite Thursday night's miracle.

The memory of that staggering performance may have explained the visitors' decision

to field, but the same mixture of buffet bowling and Tufnellesque fielding they'd offered at The Oval saw Kent race to 72 without loss by the end of the powerplay.

An early chance went begging when Tawanda Muyeye, who was on eight, holed out to Toby Greatwood, only for Luke Hollman to miss an over-the-shoulder catch. Muyeye smote the next ball for six and the openers put on a stand of 127 before he was bowled by Josh de Caires for 50.

The run rate slowed slightly and Joe Denly was on 12 when Martin Andersson missed a difficult chance to catch him off Hollman, but it picked up again as Bell-Drummond reached his second Blast century with a classic cover drive for four off Greatwood and when Ryan Higgins' 17th over only went for three it felt like a minor triumph for the visitors.

Bell-Drummond was one short of his best Blast score when he hoicked Max Harris to Jack Davies at square leg and he departed to a standing ovation.

Denly went for 30 driving Higgins to Andersson at long on but Sam Billings smashed 22 off the final over, meaning Middlesex had conceded exactly the same number of runs they did a week ago when Kent won the reverse fixture at Lord's.

Hopes of a second miracle in 24 hours dimmed when the first three overs went for just six and Joe Cracknell swept Linde to Bell-Drummond in the fourth. Although Max Holden initially carried on where he'd left off against Surrey, with 10 off his first two balls, he was bowled for 11, playing on to Evison. Linde then took two wickets in the eight over. Higgins then played on to the first ball before John Simpson fell to a diving catch by Evison on the boundary.

Stephen Eskinazi went for 32, flicking Evison to Grant Stewart and Davies rattled off a quick 24 before he was lbw to the same bowler. Hollman and de Caires went down fighting, plundering 23 from Michael



Hogan's 14th over and putting on 60 for the seventh wicket, but a nightmarish 16th over for Stewart ended with Hollman caught in the deep by Jordan Cox off the tenth and final delivery. At the start of his next over Stewart had de Caires caught on the boundary by Jack Leaning and the bowler's redemption was complete when Harris was taken just inside the rope by Cox.

The rout was sealed when Greatwood chipped Agar to Evison and Kent, having seemed dead and buried little more than a fortnight ago, stand every chance of reaching the knock-out stages.

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KENT CRICKET LAUNCHES KENTCRICKETPLAY

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 all non-televised home Kent Spitfires' T20 Vitality Blast Matches.

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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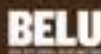
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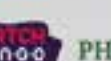
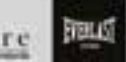
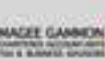
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