



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent Spitfires vs Yorkshire Vikings & Lancashire

19 & 23 August

Matches start at 11:00

ROYAL LONDON CUP
The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence



www.kentcricket.co.uk

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Barretts



ELITE PARTNERS

A photograph of Simon Cook, Interim Head Coach, in a batting stance on a cricket field. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a crest and the word 'barretts' in light blue, and dark blue shorts. He is holding a cricket bat and a leather glove. In the background, another player is visible, and the stadium seating is green.

WELCOME

Simon Cook,
Interim Head Coach

As we head into what is very much the business end of Group B in this year's Royal London Cup, I'd like to firstly thank you all for your support across this tournament.

Yorkshire Vikings & Lancashire are stern opposition and we will need to beat both of them and hope other results go our way to qualify. We know that we can only control the controllables, and our minds are firmly fixed on two victories without worrying about other teams' results.

We saw on Sunday at The Spitfire Ground what we're capable of - our victory over Northants came with individual contributions with both bat and ball, and we looked sharp in the field

- something we felt needed improving during this tournament. Despite a washout in Derby I'm hoping Sunday's result will give us a new confidence in ourselves.

I'd also like to call upon our '12th man' to spur the lads on - we all know the power of a partisan home crowd and in a sport based upon marginal gains, everything makes a difference.

Get behind the lads.

Simon

LAST TIME OUT



Kent Spitfires were washed out against Derbyshire at the Incora County Ground in the Royal London Cup.

The Spitfires will need two victories from their last two home matches and hope that the home crowd at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence creates 'Fortress Canterbury' to help them into the Quarter Finals of the tournament.

The abandonment of the Group B match against Kent at the Incora County Ground, Derby, left both teams chances in the balance with only two games remaining.

But Derbyshire have also been deducted two points for all-rounder Mattie McKiernan using a bat which failed a gauge test in the group game against Hampshire at Derby last Friday, and are now out of competition.

McKiernan was charged and accepted a breach of ECB Directives 3.2 and 3.3 after he used a bat which failed the test during

and after the match due to excessive tape being applied.

Even before the penalty was announced, Derbyshire and Kent needed a win but heavy rain throughout Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning left the outfield saturated and the game was called-off after a third inspection at 14:15.

Kent coach Simon Cook said: "You want to try and carry on momentum so it's very frustrating.

"But when you walk out there you can see the water coming up underneath your feet. It's an unusual situation where we've had that extremely dry weather for the last month, so the water is just sitting in that top inch of turf.

"We're in a position where we need results to go our way and we've got to win the next two home games at Canterbury. We'll be looking forward to Yorkshire and Lancashire."

DIRECTOR OF CRICKET Q&A

Following a request for questions in place of a Member's Forum during Kent's LV= Insurance County Championship match against Northamptonshire, Kent's Director of Cricket has answered queries submitted by the Club's Members.

Paul Downton has provided updates on a range of topics affecting the Performance Cricket department at the Club from Members' questions:

Q: What is the Club's current thinking on proposals from the ECB for restructuring of county cricket from 2023?

A: There are challenges across the game in terms of scheduling, as we have seen this year with the number of injuries we have sustained here at Kent.

We do not yet have any steer from the Performance Review lead by Sir Andrew Strauss on what will be proposed, but in due course the views of all 18 counties will be represented in discussions concerning scheduling.

Any potential changes will need to be voted through by the majority of counties.

Q: How happy are we that we are signing the best reasonably available overseas players to support our local efforts, and how happy are we with the young locally developed talent coming through?

A: Finding the best overseas player is a really important but complicated thing to get right. The biggest problem is availability due to the IPL and International series which are constantly being added to.



DIRECTOR OF CRICKET Q&A (CONTINUED)

For example, we originally secured Matt Henry for the second half of this season to play six Championship matches and the Royal London Cup. After we agreed the contract, New Zealand Cricket announced ODI and T20 series against Ireland, West Indies and Australia during the period we had signed him for. It makes life difficult when recruiting overseas players.

An enormous amount of work goes into trying to get it right. We look at our needs, which has generally been to strengthen our ability to take 20 wickets in Championship cricket, and wicket taking ability in T20 cricket. Our batting, on paper at least, has been our strength. Budget also comes into it – the highest paid overseas stars are sometimes out of our reach.

Regarding local talent; we have seen Zak Crawley, Ollie Robinson, Jordan Cox, Marcus O'Riordan and Jas Singh emerge over the last few years to join our professional staff. We also have some very promising 15 and 16 year olds at the Club, who we have high hopes for, and we continue to invest in our Talent Pathway.

Q: What efforts are being made to step up recruitment of additions to the bowling attack for the 2023 season?

A: We are continually trying to strengthen our squad of players. There is no football-style transfer market to dip into in our game, so it is about understanding who may be available and being as smart as we can regarding overseas players.

We are delighted that Joey Evison has joined as an all-rounder although we mustn't put too much expectation on a 20 year-old, and allow him time to develop into the exciting cricketer we believe he will become.

Q: Can Kent players who are in The Hundred and not selected be made available for the Royal London Cup?

A: No, it is a condition of The Hundred playing regulations that players are not allowed to be released to play for their counties whilst the competition is still going on.

It is a pity as, for example, Jack Leaning has not been selected for the Oval Invincibles when he could have played for Kent in all five of our matches in the Royal London Cup.

The next topic to be covered will be a Match Day Operations update from Director of Operations, Nimmo Reid, which will be published in the next week.

Following on from CEO Simon Storey's update previously published, applications for Members wishing to apply to be a part of the Members Working Group are still open.

Please e-mail members@kentcricket.co.uk with an Expression of Wish by Monday 19 September, and a member of the Membership Services team will be in touch and provide further details.



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We are delighted to be an official partner of Kent Cricket. We wish the club, the coaching team and all the players the very best of luck for the 2022 season.



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