



DIGITAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Kent Spitfires vs. Surrey Kent Spitfires vs. Middlesex

Platinum Jubilee Weekend
June 2022

VITALITY BLAST

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury

www.kentcricket.co.uk



PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Barretts



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WELCOME

By Matt Walker
Men's Head Coach



Hello everyone and welcome to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence this Bank Holiday weekend as we welcome everybody connected to Surrey & Middlesex to Canterbury across three days.

This long break for everyone hopefully means that as many of you as possible are coming down to support us this weekend. I won't hide away from the fact that our beginning to this year's T20 competition has been far from where we expect ourselves to be, but it's in times like these that all of us - players, coaches, staff, Members & supporters, need to rally around each other and get wins under our belt as one team.

I don't need to add any more to the importance of matches against Surrey, a lot has already been written about our rivalry and the history we both share. They are an excellent side on paper, but as T20 cricket shows time and time again, matches aren't won on paper, they're won out on the field. I firmly believe that if we execute our skills and our plans as well as

we know we can, we're more than in with a chance of picking up the victory.

Middlesex, too, are tough opposition. Their very strong start to this year's Vitality Blast shows that they're a side to be reckoned with in the South Group as we all chase qualification to the knockout rounds. There is a lot of cricket left to be played in the Blast this year, and everyone can still get in those top four positions. We need to make sure that we're there again, and to get there everyone knows you have to beat the teams also vying for qualification.

As I've said, it's great to be able to be a part of a weekend full of celebration by hosting two teams from the capital at The Spitfire Ground. I hope to see many of you as possible at Canterbury enjoying what look to be two exciting matches of Vitality Blast cricket.

Back the boys.

Walks

LAST TIME OUT

Kent Spitfires were beaten in the final over by Essex Eagles in a close Vitality Blast derby match at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence.

Paul Walter top-scored with an unbeaten 47 as the visitors closed on 188 for six in reply to Kent's 184 for four, hitting the winning runs with two balls remaining.

Will Buttman was the Eagles' next highest scorer with 37, while Fred Klaassen took two for 35 and was the only bowler to take more than one wicket in the match.

Sam Billings was Kent's top scorer with 48 not out, while Zak Crawley made 40. Matt Critchley had Essex's best bowling figures with one for 16.

Kent won the toss in what was billed as "The Battle of The Bridge" and chose to bat, making one change from the side which lost to Somerset on Wednesday night, Matt Quinn coming in place of Grant Stewart.

Zak Crawley was on just two when he was dropped by Matt Critchley at the start of the second over and Kent raced to 60 without loss at the end of the powerplay.

Daniel Bell-Drummond produced a succession of elegant cuts but he was bowled by Aron Nijjar for 31 and when Crawley was then lbw to Simon Harmer for 40 the scoring rate slowed.

Joe Denly was the third top order batter to get out after making a start, when he swiped Daniel Sams for six but he hit the next delivery almost vertically and was caught and bowled for 35.

Jack Leaning made just two when he hit Harmer to Critchley, but the 17th over, bowled by Harman, went for 19 and some violent hitting by George Linde saw him finish on 23 not out from 11 balls.

It looked a competitive total, but Essex took 17 from Denly's opening over and



Adam Rossington blasted 29 from 16 balls, until Fred Klaassen made a mess of his stumps.

The visitors were 66 for one at the end of the powerplay, but lost Michael Pepper for six when he spooned Linde to Klaassen at point.

Buttman then pulled Qais Ahmad to Crawley and Matt Milnes ripped out Critchley's middle stump after a quickfire 18.

Sams was reprieved after an excruciating drop by Quinn when he was on one, but he added just two more to his score when he floated Klaassen to Leaning and the run rate climbed above ten for the first time.

With the noose tightening, Essex took 17 from the 16th over and 13 from the 17th, tilting the equation back in their favour.

Tom Westley was brilliantly run out for 15 by Billings at the start of the 18th, the skipper throwing down the stumps as he chased a single, but Harmer then struck successive fours off Quinn to leave the Eagles needing six from the final over.

Harmer, who finished on 21 not out from 11 balls, took five from the first three balls, leaving Walter to smear Milnes for four to clinch the win.



KENT STARS PAST & PRESENT TO TAKE PART IN FESTIVAL OF CRICKET

The Professional Cricketers' Trust has announced the first set of players that will contest the second edition of the charity's Festival of Cricket.

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This year's event takes place on Friday 29 July with the PCA England Legends taking on a Kent XI, with the day being held in memory of former Kent legend Alan 'Iggy' Igglesden.

Both teams have announced some worldwide names that will be playing in the T20 fixture. Former England batter Ian Bell and Kent skipper and England wicketkeeper Sam Billings bring plenty of international pedigree to their respective teams.

Representing his country in 118 Test matches, Bell knows a thing or two about playing for England. With more than 13,000 international runs and five Ashes wins, the former Warwickshire man brings plenty of experience to the side.

The inventive Billings has made a name for himself in the shorter formats of the game, scoring more than 4,400 runs in T20 cricket across the world, as well as representing his country across all formats on 63 occasions.

Former Kent and England favourite Geraint Jones will represent the England side against his former county. Playing in 34 Test matches and being part of the infamous 2005 Ashes winning side, Jonesy brings a vast knowledge of the game to the PCA England team.

With more than 450 career wickets, the England side will be captained by fast-bowling all-rounder Alex Tudor, many will remember him for his batting accolades

in 1999 when he scored 99 not out as night-watchman against New Zealand at Edgbaston.

Opening batter Daniel Bell-Drummond will also be representing the Kent side. 'DBD' had a fantastic 2021 finishing as top batter in the Vitality Blast MVP Rankings and second on the overall table to Vitality Blast Player of the Season, Samit Patel.

Jordan Cox and Jack Leaning will join their current teammates on the day. In 2020 they broke the record for the highest partnership for any wicket for Kent with an unbeaten 423 in the Bob Willis Trophy.

They both have pedigree in the shorter format of the game as well. Cox won the Match MVP in last year's final scoring 58 not out off just 28 balls as Kent won the Vitality Blast and who can forget his superman-like effort in the field with 'that' catch. Leaning has shown his T20 skills already this season picking up the Match MVP for his 72 not out against Somerset.

The Festival of Cricket returns to Wormsley in Buckinghamshire for a day of T20 fun, sun, food and drink all in memory of Iggy.

Doors open at 10:00, followed by a warm-up T20 fixture an hour later, with a showcase match between the PCA England Legends and a Kent XI rounding off the day.

Ticket options:

Adult – £30

Child (5-16) – £10

Child (Under 5) – Free

On-site parking – £2

Tables in the VIP marquee are also available, and you can contact our Head of Fundraising Bee Ford at bee.ford@thepca.co.uk for more info.



The Trust supported Iggy and his family during the final years of the former Kent man's life, and continues to support PCA members and their immediate families thanks generous donations.

Kent Captain, Sam Billings, said: "It's going to be a great day of fun for all involved but most importantly we'll be raising funds in memory of Iggy.

"We saw the incredible work the Trust did in supporting Iggy and his family and this is why the work the players' charity does is invaluable.

"The more money we can raise for the Trust, the more they can help current and former players that are in desperate need."



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