



SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Sussex v. Durham
Specsavers County Championship - Division Two
Arundel Castle Cricket Ground
Wednesday 20th – Friday 22nd June 2018

Day One

It was late on Tuesday evening when Sussex Academy graduate Tom Haines received the unexpected call to play in the Specsavers County Championship Division Two match against Durham.

He had played only two championship matches before, both in 2016, when he scored 12 runs in three innings as a 17-year-old, so he must have felt he was making his debut all over again. But the 19-year-old left-hander – called in to replace England Lions call-up Chris Jordan - responded by scoring a memorable maiden first-class century at Arundel Castle Cricket Ground, featuring in a record second-wicket stand of 244 in 54 overs with Phil Salt as Sussex piled up 439-5.

Salt also scored his maiden ton at this level as the pair celebrated beating Sussex's previous record second-wicket stand against Durham of 196 between Bill Athey and Alan Wells at Hove in 1996 - before either of today's centurions were born!

Before the match the Sussex head coach Jason Gillespie has asked his top five to improve on what had been a disappointing start to the season. "We haven't quite nailed it in the top five," he said. Sussex went into this game with their batting averages led by all-rounder David Wiese. And they were also without highly rated Stiaan van Zyl, who is missing this match with a knee injury. But Gillespie could not have envisaged this response from a Sussex side, even though they were batting on a relaid and flat looking surface.

Durham looked in the mood to make the most of the uncontested toss when they took the field under sullen skies. And they made a quick breakthrough when Luke Wells was caught by Tom Latham at second slip off Matt Salisbury for eight in only the fourth over.

Haines and Salt could have been forgiven for playing cautiously. But instead they took the attack to the Durham bowlers. Salt is well-known for his attacking style, but Haines matched his tempo.

Haines was second out at 253, caught low down at slip by Paul Collingwood for 124 from 167 balls, with 19 fours. Salt followed in the first over after tea, caught at third man for 130 from 175 deliveries, with 18 fours and a six.

After that Harry Finch, with a rapid 56, Luke Wright (32), Ben Brown (50 not out) and Michael Burgess (30 not out) all enjoyed themselves in the afternoon sunshine.

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Collingwood and Chris Rushworth are the only survivors from the Durham side who last played here – and won – in 2015. Here, Collingwood returned to the side after injury, and Stuart Poynter also came in after his duties with the Ireland team. But Durham still looked decidedly second best on the opening day.

Speaking at the close, Haines had this to say about his day: "It was an unbelievable day. I was in New Malden for a second team match last night. I was in the hotel when I got the call at 9.30 from Jason Gillespie. I don't drive so mum picked me up this morning and drove me down to Arundel, so it was a busy morning.

"I put in so much hard work in the winter, in the indoor school and in South Africa, so I'm absolutely chuffed. And both my parents were here. I feel a lot more ready now than I was in 2016. I was only 17 then. Today I had a good rhythm."

Phil Salt added: "It was a pretty special day for myself and Tom and the team. Two maiden first-class centuries in a day is very special. I don't know how often that has happened. And to do it the way Tom did it as well; he didn't know he was playing last night but he came here and put the right head on and does it like that."

Day Two

Michael Burgess made 96 on day two of the Rathbones Arundel Festival of Cricket as Sussex were eventually bowled out for 552, a record total for the club in first-class matches at the ground.

In reply, Durham reached 202-4 thanks largely to an unbeaten 90 from Will Smith, with Luke Wells taking two wickets with his leg-spin.

This is a transitional Durham side and their target to avoid the follow-on, 403, looked improbable as they slid to 96-3 in the 36th over of their innings.

Sussex broke through in only the third over of the innings when Tom Latham fended a rising ball from Jofra Archer to Harry Finch in the slips. Then, at 43, Cameron Steel cut Danny Briggs to Archer at point for 20. Earlier in the day Steel had been removed from the attack after being no-balled for his second delivery above waist height.

Graham Clark was third out when, attempting to pull, he had his off-stump knocked back by Luke Wells for 27. But then the experienced pair of Smith, 35, who is in his second spell with the club, and Paul Collingwood, 44, pulled the innings round with a stand of 82 in 28 overs.

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Collingwood, returning to the side after a calf injury, hit eight fours in his 81-ball 44 and played with confidence against the spin of Briggs and Wells. He appeared a little surprised when he was given out lbw to one from Wells that hit him high on his front pad.

But Smith's vigil continued and he had batted for four hours for his unbeaten 90 from 216 deliveries, with ten fours. Durham are halfway to ensuring Sussex bat again.

Sussex's bowlers and fielders stuck to their task well on a wicket offering few surprises for the batsmen, a fact illustrated by comparing Durham's scoring rate of 2.7 runs per over to Sussex's 4.6.

Earlier, Sussex had resumed on a daunting overnight score of 439-5 but Durham were given early encouragement when Chris Rushworth took two wickets with successive deliveries in the third over of the day.

First Ben Brown, who had added just two to his overnight 50, skied to the keeper as he attempted to hit the ball over midwicket, before David Wiese was lbw next ball.

Archer was eighth out at 500 when he got a very thick edge to extra-cover for 17, giving Rushworth his third wicket.

The bulk of the Sussex batting on the second day was performed by the impressive Burgess. He was 30 not out overnight and as wickets fell at the other end he took the attack to the Durham bowlers.

He hit Rushworth for three fours in an over, a lofted drive over extra-cover, a straight drive and a cut and when he reached 91 he became the county's leading scorer in the Championship this season. He was eventually caught at backward-point four runs short of his century.

Speaking at the close, Burgess said: "I was four short of my century but it was nice to contribute to a big score, and hopefully a winning score. It's a pretty good wicket. We have played on some tough pitches in April and May so it's nice to have a flat one. The ball is coming off the pitch at a pace you can adapt to. They batted well today but if we're patient the chances will come."

Sussex's mammoth innings was concluded when Ollie Robinson was bowled by Clarke without any addition to the score.

The new ball will be available to Sussex's seamers six overs into what should be an enthralling third day tomorrow.

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Day Three

Sussex won their second Specsavers County Championship match of the season at Arundel when they defeated Durham by an innings and 64 runs 12 minutes before the scheduled close of the third day.

It was a deeply impressive performance by Sussex, with a spirited bowling and fielding performance building on the maiden century heroes of their solitary innings, Tom Haines and Phil Salt.

On a fine batting track, Sussex took seven wickets for 65 runs in the morning session and then, having enforced the follow on with Durham 341 runs behind, a further five wickets fell for 95 runs in the afternoon session to leave victory in sight.

When Durham resumed on 202-4 the overnight pair of Will Smith (90) and Gareth Harte (12) were still nurturing hopes of avoiding the follow-on. On an unhelpful surface Sussex were hoping they would be able to make a breakthrough with the new ball, which would have been available six overs into the morning session.

But they didn't need it. Durham collapsed, losing their last six wickets for just nine runs in 10.5 overs in only 43 minutes. Danny Briggs took the key wicket of Smith – lbw sweeping - with the fifth ball of the day. David Wiese then broke the innings with three wickets in seven deliveries. He bowled Stuart Poynter and then Josh Coughlin, shouldering arms, first ball. Then he had Nathan Rimmington caught down the leg-side in his next over and Durham had lost four wickets for one run.

Harte, who had scored one run in half an hour as he watched miserably from the non-striker's end, was caught behind off Briggs and, finally, Wiese bowled Matt Salisbury for eight.

Sussex struck five overs into Durham's second innings when Cameron Steel shouldered arms and was bowled by a fine nip-backer from Jofra Archer.

Durham were unable to turn the tide. At 61, Tom Latham was bowled by Ollie Robinson through the gate when he might have been forward.

At 77, Smith – again a most important wicket – was brilliantly caught by Harry Finch at wide second slip, low down and right-handed off Wiese. Four balls later Paul Collingwood, playing across one from the same bowler, was lbw and it was 88-5 when Harte was sharply caught down the leg-side by Ben Brown off Briggs, who then had Graham Clark lbw to make it 137-6.

A fighting 84 from Poynter, off 109 balls with 11 fours, ensured Sussex took the new ball. Robinson soon bowled Salisbury and Archer completed the match when he caught and bowled Rushworth.

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Speaking at the close, Sussex's victorious captain, Ben Brown said: "I thought it would be a long day in the field today, and possibly a long day tomorrow. But to take wickets like that in the morning, with David [Wiese] and Briggsy bowling fantastically well, was a great boost and a shock for everyone on the ground, with so many wickets falling on a flat, flat pitch.

"It's still early in the season but I'm delighted with the win. We worked really hard in the first batch of games but the weather was tricky for us and we missed out on a couple of wins. But this has been a special week for us, with the two young kids getting their first hundreds and then for the bowlers to find 20 wickets on that pitch was an amazing effort. And I was delighted with the fielding too. Finchy took a catch which changed the game."

Sussex take a maximum 24 points from the match and now turn their attention from the longest to the shortest format.

They conclude this year's Rathbones Arundel Festival of Cricket with a T20 against Ireland on Sunday as part of Ed Joyce's Testimonial year, before getting their Vitality Blast campaign underway with a trip to Chelmsford to take on Essex Eagles on 4th July.

Sussex Sharks play their first home match in the Vitality Blast against Surrey at The 1st Central County Ground on Friday 13th June. Tickets are on sale now!

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