



# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



**Sussex CCC vs. Derbyshire CCC**  
**Specsavers County Championship - Division Two**  
**The 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground, Hove.**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018**

## Day One

Ben Brown doesn't play Vitality Blast cricket but he does everything else for Sussex – leading the side and keeping wicket in the other two formats and even turning out for the seconds when there is time.

He hadn't played first team cricket for a month before this Specsavers County Championship Division two fixture against Derbyshire at The 1st Central County Ground. But he found the form to revive his side with his highest score of the Championship season, an innings of 116, with his hundred coming from 155 deliveries and including a dozen fours.

He is the team's leading batsman in the competition, and went into this game with 526 runs. Here he scored his 15th first-class century to lead a recovery after Sussex appeared in some trouble at 111 for four.

Brown first put on 103 with Harry Finch and then added 142 for the sixth wicket with David Wiese to place his side in a commanding position.

It was a worrying day for Derbyshire without any Sussex batsmen getting in the way. Ravi Rampaul, their West Indies Test player, left the field complaining of breathing difficulties and went to hospital to be checked out. And just before play got under way wicketkeeper Harvey Hosein dislocated a finger in a pre-match warm-up. Wayne Madsen filled in behind the stumps until replacement keeper Daryn Smit arrived at the ground a short time before tea.

Derbyshire had come to Hove encouraged by their recent record at the ground. Since 1968 they had played Sussex on 12 occasions here, with eight victories, two draws and only two defeats.

But they are up against a Sussex side in a rich vein of form. They have won three Vitality Blast matches in a week, to reach this week's quarter-finals, in which they are away to Durham. And before the Derbyshire match they had won their previous three championship games, two by an innings. At the start of play they were second in the division, seven points behind leaders Warwickshire and six points ahead of Kent in third place.

But Derbyshire had the better of the early skirmishes on the opening morning. They had opted to field in overcast conditions and broke through in the sixth over when Phil Salt, playing well away from his body, fell to a juggling catch in the slips. That became 47 for two when Tom Haines was caught low down at third slip by Matt Critchley and five overs later Luke Wells was caught

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down the legside by Madsen. Just before lunch Michael Burgess edged Tony Palladino to Madsen to put the visitors on top.

Brown, however, relishes such situations. And he found a willing ally in Harry Finch, who hit Hardus Viljoen for two sixes in an over on his way to 82. Last season on this ground Viljoen had match figures of 15 for 170 (seven for 80 and eight for 90) in Derbyshire's victory.

Finch was bowled by Palladino at 214 - a superb away swinger - and Brown was finally out - lbw when he might have been forward - at 356. But then Wiese held the fort for Sussex with an unbeaten 89.

Speaking at the close of day one, Brown said: "I've had some time out and was desperate to get out there. I was really pleased to go on and get a hundred because I've fallen a bit short earlier in the season.

We've talked as a group about getting bigger scores, about sticking to our plans for longer, and today we did that really well. These are the kind of score that win matches."

There are a lot of good things happening here and hopefully we can keep going. We had the lights on all day today and batting conditions weren't easy. And we still have three wickets left in the hutch. And then we have a lively attack which has been bowling well."

## Day Two

Three late wickets gave Sussex a major boost after Derbyshire's batsmen had made the home side toil for much of day two of their Specsavers County Championship match at The 1st Central County Ground.

Visiting captain Billy Godleman made 122, his 11th century for the county, as Derbyshire replied with 315 for 5 after Sussex had been dismissed for 440 in the morning session.

The 29-year-old left-hander has had a disappointing season in red-ball cricket and came into the game averaging just 13 with a previous top score of 61.

But he put that behind him with a composed knock, made in 273 minutes off 196 balls with 14 fours - most of them cuts and square drives - and a six hoisted over the short scoreboard-side boundary off left-arm spinner Danny Briggs.

Godleman shared an opening stand of 70 with Ben Slater before Slater (24) played away from his body to Ollie Robinson and was held at third slip by Phil Salt.

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Godleman and Wayne Madsen then shared a fluent stand of 130 for the second wicket. Madsen hit ten boundaries in his first 50 and it was a major surprise when he carved the first ball after tea to backward point off Chris Jordan's loosener for an excellent 72 off 91 balls with 13 fours.

Jordan and Jofra Archer bowled good spells at the start of the final session and Derbyshire could only score 23 runs in an hour. Godleman also had a life on 92 when Michael Burgess put down a straightforward chance at point off Jordan. He celebrated his reprieve by cutting Jordan to point for the boundary that brought up his first century against Sussex.

His fourth-wicket stand with Alex Hughes was worth 85 in 22 overs when Sussex captain Ben Brown summoned leg-spinner Luke Wells as his seventh bowler. Wells duly bowled Godleman with a fizzing leg-break with his second ball as the centurion played a forcing shot off the back foot.

Hughes was troubled early in his innings by the pace and bounce generated by Archer in particular, but settled down to pass 50 for the second time this season. But Derbyshire lost Sean Ervine, who has joined them on loan from Hampshire, when he was run out by Robinson's direct hit from mid-on and night-watchman Hardus Viljoen, who was bowled by Briggs off the final ball of the day.

Earlier, David Wiese missed out on a hundred as Sussex lost their last three wickets for 40 runs.

Wiese, who began the day on 89, was bowled by Lockie Ferguson aiming to leg after adding four to his overnight score. He faced 136 balls and hit 11 fours.

That left Sussex 404 for 9 after Jofra Archer (14) had been dismissed by Ferguson in the third over of the day when he was caught at point off a leading edge after pulling out of a hook shot. Robinson and Briggs added 31 for the last wicket before Hardus Viljoen yorked Robinson for 15.

Speaking at the close of play, Wiese said: "The new ball is due after three overs in the morning and we've seen on the first two days that first up there is a bit of juice in the wicket and some assistance for the seamers. If we can get into their tail and get a lead we can push home our advantage. We were slightly off as a bowling unit but we have the chance to rectify it tomorrow.

"Danny Briggs bowled nicely and Luke Wells seems to have that knack of getting a wicket when we need it. There are some footholds created by their left-handers so our spinners could be important for us in the fourth innings. I think anything around 250 would be tough to chase.

"It was disappointing not to get a hundred but they were vital runs for the team which is the most important thing."

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## Day Three

Phil Salt played the innings of his young life at The 1st Central County Ground to place promotion-chasing Sussex in a dominant position in their Specsavers County Championship Division Two match against Derbyshire.

Salt, 22 next week, struck 14 fours and five sixes in his 138-ball 148 as Sussex pursued quick pre-declaration runs against a depleted bowling attack. They eventually declared on 353 for six to give themselves seven overs to bowl at Derbyshire, who had been set a total of 405 to win, more runs than they had ever made in a fourth innings. At the close they were six without loss.

Sussex were 25 for no wicket at lunch and in the afternoon session piled on another 191. Salt alone scored 108 between lunch and tea. Derbyshire were without the services of Ravi Rampaul, who had left the field with breathing difficulties on the opening afternoon.

Salt's opening partner, Luke Wells, could hardly be accused of slow scoring, after hitting ten fours and a six in a 102-ball 78 in a first wicket stand worth 191 in just 32 overs.

But Salt, who hit Tony Palladino for two fours immediately before his dismissal, one with a cheeky ramp shot, was the hero of the Sussex innings before he was bowled heaving across the line.

In a single over from New Zealand international fast bowler Lockie Ferguson he drove the fast bowler back over his head for four to raise the Sussex fifty before striking two sixes, one over square-leg and out of the ground into the adjoining flats and another top-edge over the third-man boundary.

Salt scored his maiden championship century against Durham at Arundel in June. Unusually for one so young his sporting hero is Sir Garfield Sobers. He lived in Barbados when a boy and admits to once picking up Sir Garry's Indian takeaway by accident.

In the morning Sussex had won a second innings lead of 51 after bowling Derbyshire out for 389. Derbyshire resumed on 315 for five, still 125 runs behind. Sussex took the new ball after just three overs and after a quick double strike might have anticipated had bigger advantage.

Ollie Robinson took the first wicket in the ninth over of the day when Matt Critchley chopped on for just eight and in the bowler's following over the other overnight batsman, Alex Hughes, edged to Salt at third slip.

Derbyshire's eighth wicket pair of Daryn Smit and Palladino added 41 before David Wiese wrapped up the innings with the wickets of Palladino and Ferguson in two balls. With Rampaul absent their innings was at an end. And then they had Salt rubbed into their wounds.

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## Day Four

Sussex regained second place in the Specsavers County Championship Division Two when they defeated Derbyshire by 243 runs at The 1st Central County Ground. It was their heaviest defeat of Derbyshire in terms of runs, beating their win by 169 runs in 1933. It was also their fourth win in as many outings.

With both Warwickshire and Kent winning Sussex needed to maintain their recent impetus. And it was a convincing victory after Derbyshire had batted so resolutely to almost match Sussex in the first innings.

Ultimately, Derbyshire were overpowered. But they had misfortune too. Already without Ravi Rampaul, who left the field on the first day with breathing difficulties and did not return – so Sussex needed just nine wickets for victory - they also lost the services of opening batsmen Ben Slater just before lunch.

Slater was struck on the head by a short delivery from Jofra Archer and retired with concussion. He was later replaced in the batting line-up by Anuj Dal. Dal had appeared in nine T20 matches for Derbyshire this season but this was his first-class debut.

Derbyshire had resumed on six without loss, requiring a further and unlikely 399 for victory. The worn pitch was still playing well and opening batsmen Billy Godleman and Slater suggested that survival, at least, was possible.

Slater square-drove David Wiese to raise the side's fifty in the 15th over of the morning. Derbyshire looked so comfortable that it was surprising when, in Wiese's next over, he flattened Godleman's leg stump.

In the following over Chris Jordan, in the middle of his best spell of the match from the Cromwell Road End, had Wayne Madsen lbw with one that nipped back into the batsman. That made it 59 for two in the 25th over. It was just before and after lunch that the match swung decisively against Derbyshire.

First there was the blow suffered by Slater. And then, after the interval, Sussex took three wickets in five overs. With the second ball of the afternoon session Danny Briggs had Sean Ervine lbw. Three overs later Matt Critchley edged Archer to the keeper and then Daryn Smit played across the line to Briggs and was lbw to make it 89 for five.

It was at this point that Dal came to the wicket. But by now Sussex had gathered a winning momentum. Ollie Robinson replaced Archer at the north end of the ground at 105 for five and with his third ball he moved one away from Alex Hughes to have him caught behind. Robinson dismissed Hardus Viljoen in similar fashion at 140. The seamer now has 47 first-class wickets this season, making this the best year of his career so far.

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The match was completed shortly after tea. Briggs struck in the first over after the interval once again when Dal was lbw to Briggs and three overs later Lockie Ferguson chopped Archer onto his stumps.

After the match, Sussex head coach, Jason Gillespie said: "I thought we were excellent in this game. Scoring those runs early on say one, after being put in to bat with overhead conditions, and the lights on all day, I thought it was a really good effort to get 440.

"We weren't at our best with the ball in their first innings but then we had that special partnership at the start of our second innings between Phil Salt and Luke Wells. Salt's innings was pretty special and it bought us time. The match could have potentially been heading towards a draw until then. We scored at six an over, which is virtually unheard of in first-class cricket."

Sussex take a maximum 24 points from the match, extending their lead over third-placed Kent to eleven points and closing the gap to leaders Warwickshire to four.

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