



# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



## Sussex CCC vs. Leicestershire Specsavers County Championship - Division Two The 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground, Hove Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Day One

Four half-centuries from Sussex's batsmen put them in a decent position against Leicestershire at The 1st Central County Ground on the opening day of their Specsavers County Championship second division match.

Sussex had made a positive start after winning the toss. Their new-look opening partnership of Phil Salt and Tom Haines put on 79 for the first wicket at virtually four an over.

After last week's defeat on a difficult pitch at Lord's third-placed Sussex picked an unchanged side – but pushed regular opener Luke Wells down to No 3.

Salt scored a typically expeditious 44 from 60 balls, with eight fours, before he was well caught and bowled by Ben Mike, low down to his right. Mike is making his first-class debut and impressed with his action and pace bowling downhill from the Cromwell Road end. He finished with three for 57.

Leicestershire, whose own promotion bid had fallen away after defeats by Kent and Gloucestershire, were fielding weakened attack without the injured Gavin Griffiths and Zak Chappell.

Haines reached his fifty when he guided Mohammad Abbas to the third man boundary for his tenth and final four. On 56 he was caught in the same area as he attempted a square drive. Sussex were 126 for two in the 37th over.

Wells looked comfortable at number three, including coming down the pitch to drive spinner Callum Parkinson back over his head for a flat six. But Leicestershire hit back at 140 when Harry Finch was lbw to Raine for four.

Wells reached his fifty from 96 balls, with four fours and a six. But he was fourth out at 188 when he pushed forward to Neil Dexter and was caught behind.

Luke Wright, with some forceful drives, was his usual busy self at the crease. There were four fours in his pugnacious 27 but then he was bowled attempting to pull a ball that kept low. When David Wiese was well caught in the gully for a second ball duck Sussex were 204 for six Sussex had not made the most of their early advantage.

### Major Sponsors





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



But then captain Brown and Jordan came together to provide the most resolute batting of the innings. They put on 110 for the seventh wicket.

Brown made 60 - his seventh score of fifty or more in this year's competition - before he eventually feathered behind off Ben Raine.

Raine picked up his third wicket of the innings soon after when he had Jofra Archer lbw for one, before Jordan (52 not out) and Ollie Robinson (2 not out) saw Sussex through to the close, which came seven-and-a-half overs early due to bad light.

## Day Two

Sussex are on course for a vital victory in their second division promotion bid after taking a first-innings lead of 240 on an extraordinary second day of their Specsavers County Championship against Leicestershire at The 1st Central County Ground.

Ollie Robinson and Jofra Archer were devastating as Leicestershire slumped to 49 for 9 in reply to Sussex's 373 before a last-wicket stand of 84 between Mohammad Abbas and Callum Parkinson took the visitors to 133.

Sussex had a lead of 240 but decided not to enforce the follow-on and when bad light brought an early close with 18 overs not bowled they were 100 for 6 in their second innings, an overall lead of 340. Eighteen wickets fell in the day.

Leicestershire's top order was wrecked by a superb spell from Ollie Robinson, who took four top order wickets in 18 balls to reduce the visitors to 10 for 5.

Paul Horton was caught at slip off his second ball and in his second over Robinson trimmed Colin Ackerman's off bail and then had Mark Cosgrove leg before playing deep in his crease.

Ned Eckersley became his fourth victim – and 50th of the season - courtesy of another good slip catch by Chris Jordan while Jofra Archer picked up a wicket when Harry Dearden was caught behind off a brutish lifter.

Robinson was celebrating his second Championship five-for of the season and the fifth of his first-class career when he caught Ben Raine in his follow-through and it was later announced that the 24-year-old seamer, who has taken 169 wickets in 65 appearances, had signed a new contract with Sussex.

Archer picked up two wickets and Jordan one to leave Leicestershire 49 for 9, but Parkinson and Abbas counter-attacked effectively once Robinson and Archer had been withdrawn from the attack. Parkinson hit five boundaries in his season's best 48 off 52 balls while Abbas smashed left-arm spinner Danny Briggs back over his head for a straight six as the stand blossomed.

## Major Sponsors





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



The pair batted for 18 overs before Parkinson was caught at mid-off off left-arm spinner Danny Briggs, leaving Abbas unbeaten on 32.

Sussex decided against enforcing the follow on, opting instead to make sure they did not have to bat last on a deteriorating pitch. But Leicestershire had gained confidence from the efforts of Parkinson and Abbas and Sussex lost six wickets after tea.

Ben Mike, who took 4 for 57 in the first innings, picked up Harry Finch (35) and Luke Wright (1) in the same over after Ben Raine and Abbas had struck once each with the new ball.

Dieter Klein had Phil Salt caught behind for 35 – only his second wicket of the season – and before the close David Wiese was lbw in Raine's second spell.

At the start of the day Sussex had added 53 runs for their last two first-innings wickets before being dismissed for 373. Jordan made 64, the fourth half-century of the innings.

Speaking after play, Robinson said: "It's been a great day for the team and for me personally and we're pleased with the position we've put ourselves in, although the job's not done yet.

"To be honest, when we went out to bowl I expected the pitch to be a bit flatter than it was. But we tried to be patient, hold our lines and when the nicks came we held our catches.

"As a team, with input from Dizzy we decided not to enforce the follow-on. We think the pitch is getting worse and we feel it is going to be easier to score runs on days two and three than chasing, say, 150 on the last day. And it also means us bowlers can get a good night's kip tonight and come back fresh tomorrow."

## Day Three

Sussex moved into second place in division two after a ruthless 274-runs win over Leicestershire at The 1st Central County Ground.

Fast bowler Ollie Robinson took the first five wickets to fall as Leicestershire, chasing 451 to win, were bowled out for 176.

Sussex have now won five of their last six games in the Specsavers County Championship and, on this evidence, look capable of filling one of the two promotion places and returning to the top flight after an absence of three years.

Robinson, who signed a new contract yesterday, finished with career-best match figures of 10 for 67 while the excellent Jofra Archer picked up 3 for 44 from 20 overs as Leicestershire folded after tea, losing their last seven wickets for 55 as they were condemned to a third straight defeat.

## Major Sponsors



**PARAFIX**  
Engineered Adhesive Solutions





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Robinson started his spree when he had Paul Horton leg before half-forward for ten. Two balls later Harry Dearden (21) was caught behind off an inside edge and before lunch Mark Cosgrove (5) lost his off stump, pinned on the crease by the effervescent Robinson.

There was some resistance by Colin Ackerman, whose 52 was the only half-century by a Leicestershire batsman in the match. He put on 59 either side of tea with Neil Dexter for the fourth wicket but when Robinson returned for his second spell he found late movement to trap Ackerman leg before deep in his crease after the South African hit nine fours in 101 balls faced. Robinson struck again two balls later when he plucked out Ned Eckersley's off stump.

There was no way back for the Foxes from 121 for 5. Archer had bowled superbly without luck but was finally rewarded when Dexter's obdurate vigil ended on 30 with a thin nick to a ball which left him off the pitch at pace.

Ben Raine (22) hit out once too often and was taken at mid-on to give left-arm spinner Danny Briggs a wicket before Archer picked up two of the last three wickets. Ben Mike (4) was well held by the diving Harry Finch at second slip and Dieter Klein yorked in the same over for a duck. David Wiese finished things off when he bowled Mohammad Abbas for four with 16 overs of the third day to be bowled.

Earlier, Chris Jordan had scored his second half-century of the match before Sussex were bowled out for 210 in their second innings.

Sussex were 103 for 7 after the early loss of Ben Brown (10) but Jordan and Archer put on 70 for the eighth wicket before young seamer Mike swept away Sussex's tail.

The 20-year-old took the last three wickets to fall including Jordan, who was bowled for 54, to finish with 5 for 37 and match figures of 8 for 110 on his debut.

Speaking at the close, victorious captain, Ben Brown said: "I'm really delighted. There are still areas where we can improve but we bowled fantastically. We slammed the wicket, were patient when we had to be and it's a great position for me as captain when our two new-ball bowlers Robinson and Archer are bowling so well and our change bowlers are on song as well.

"I'm really pleased for Ollie Robinson. He was arguably the difference between the sides in this game but Jofra bowled really well too, he could easily have picked up five wickets. The bowling unit are putting in a great shift.

"It's been a fantastic season so far with a lot to play for. Lots of good things are happening and we want that to continue all the way until the end of the season. We're in the hunt for two trophies and we've just got to keep going."

## Major Sponsors

