



# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



**Sussex CCC vs Kent**  
**2 Day Friendly**  
**The 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground, Hove**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

## Day One

Sussex's bowlers will take plenty of encouragement from the first day of their pre-season friendly against Kent after taking 13 top-order wickets at The 1st Central County Ground on Thursday.

In his first outing since undergoing hip surgery during the off-season, Ollie Robinson bowled ten overs without difficulty, picking up three for 18.

At one stage he had the remarkable figures of three for none from six overs as he wreaked havoc amongst Kent's batsmen, who it was agreed would bat for the entirety of the day's 90 overs.

Robinson struck with the third ball of the day, a length delivery that nipped back and sent Sean Dickson's off-stump cartwheeling.

Robinson had the ball moving the other way for his second dismissal, a full-pitched outswinger that made its move too late for Daniel Bell-Drummond to do anything about it crashing into his wicket.

A winter of recuperation in the groundsman's shed, the Hove off-stump was being given very little time to adjust to another season of battery from Sussex's leading wicket-taker of 2018.

Chris Jordan struck next - Adam Rouse caught down the legside by Ben Brown for a duck - before Robinson was at it again. This time it was a shorter delivery that did the business as Zack Crawley sent the ball ballooning off the back of his bat to Michael Burgess in the gully to leave Kent in dire straits at 19 for 4.

That became 20 for five two overs later when, bowling in a Sussex shirt for the first time this year, David Wiese lured Darren Stevens into a driving at an away-swing. A

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thick outside-edge headed straight to Danny Briggs at point.

Wiese had his second when Kent's Ollie Robinson's chopped on in the 15th over of the day to become the fifth Kent batsman to depart in single figures.

Alex Blake and Callum Haggett staged a recovery of sorts by adding 42 for the seventh wicket, before Haggett was bowled by a Luke Wells leg-break that turned dramatically out of the footholds.

Then seven runs later and with Kent having reached 78, Dickson faced the ignominy of being dismissed twice in a session when Danny Briggs had him leg before with the final ball before lunch.

After lunch, Blake and his new partner, the returning Crawley showed some resolve as they collaborated on a 114-run partnership.

The pair timed the ball sweetly on another remarkably flat wicket given the time of year and were adept in picking the gaps in an aggressively set field.

Crawley reached his fifty off 79 balls but departed three overs later. It was Luke Wells that broke through ten minutes before tea with a skilful leg-break that took Crawley's defensive edge and presented Jordan with a simple catch at first slip.

Blake brought up his hundred two balls before tea, which Kent reached at 200 for nine.

Abi Sakande was given the first over after the break and immediately looked threatening, bowling with pace and good control following a winter of hard work in the Aerotron Indoor School.

He was rewarded in his third over when he nipped one back sharply to remove Blake's off-stump and send Kent's centurion on his way for 105.

Sakande had another two overs later in his spell; this time a pitched-up delivery that appeared to beat Rouse for pace before pegging back his middle-stump and sending him back to the dressing room with a pair in the same innings.

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That made it 231 for 11, which became 245 for 12 when Stevens' second innings ended in similar fashion to his first as he carved one to Wells in the ring; Danny Briggs the bowler this time.

Spin brought the thirteenth and final wicket of the day as well, as Academy leg-spinner Will Collard beat the other Ollie Robinson's defence to trap him lbw for seven in his second trip to the middle with Kent finishing on 278.

Sussex will have their chance to bat all day when play resumes at 11am on Friday.

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## Day Two

Luke Wright's 110-ball century topped off an excellent team performance by Sussex as they finished their pre-season friendly against Kent as by far the dominant side.

Batting for 88 overs on day two, Sussex made 375 for seven on a pitch that a day earlier had seen their bowlers take thirteen Kent top-order wickets for 97 fewer runs.

That's two strong performances against division one opposition in a week, something that can only bode well for the season ahead.

Four Sussex batsmen made half-centuries on another glorious spring day at The 1st Central Ground, meaning almost all the squad – whether batsman or bowler – have now made pre-season contributions whether on tour in Cape Town or back on the South Coast.

With a hint of overnight dew yet to burn away, the new-ball caused problems again, although Sussex's top order, and in particular Luke Wells, proved more adept than their Kent counterparts at limiting the damage.

Phil Salt (16) and Tom Haines (26) got starts, the latter looking particularly organised when the ball was on or around off stump, but both were gone before the scoreboard had reached 50.

Stiaan van Zyl's departure soon after left Sussex in danger of heading the same way as their opponents on day one, but Wells' patient approach steadied the ship either side of lunch and allowed the new man on deck, Michael Burgess, to swashbuckle his way to a half-century.

Timing the ball impeccably off both front and back foot, Burgess' fifty came from just 56 balls and included nine boundaries.

The hundred partnership for the fourth wicket arrived four overs later with Wells beginning to free his arms and reap the rewards for his watchful start. He brought up his own half-century with a trademark cut to the point boundary off Callum Haggett.

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With the tea break approaching, Sussex’s serene progress was interrupted, however, when Burgess and Wells were dismissed within two balls of each other to make it 180 for five.

That brought Luke Wright and Ben Brown together. Brown raced ahead of his partner as he hit five of his first thirteen deliveries to the boundary, but the pair soon found an equilibrium.

Wright pipped his captain to a half-century, but only by three balls. Brown reached the milestone off 65 balls with seven fours, while Wright’s came off 56 balls and included six fours.

Soon after the pair notched up a hundred partnership, Brown called it a day, retiring on 62. Wright carried on, maintaining a brisk pace as he ran hard and latched onto anything off line or length.

David Wiese came and went for one, but Wright found solid support from Chris Jordan who was confident from the off and took a particular liking to the Kent spinners.

He had made 28 from 32 balls when his partner cut an Alex Blake long hop to the boundary to reach three figures. A single finished the over and the match, Sussex content with their day’s work.

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