



# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



## Sussex CCC vs Glamorgan Specsavers County Championship – Division Two The 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground, Hove Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Day One

Opener Phil Salt scored his second successive century to put Sussex in a good position on day one of their Specsavers County Championship match against Glamorgan at The 1st Central County Ground.

Having made 122 against Northamptonshire last week, Welsh-born Salt reached the fourth hundred of his career in the final over of the day when he collected his 12th boundary courtesy of a mis-field by Charlie Hemphrey at mid-off.

But two balls later Salt was caught behind cutting at Dan Douthwaite for 103, made off 105 balls with 12 fours and three sixes. Sussex were 208 for 5 at stumps, a lead of 22.

Sussex have struggled to get good starts this season but Salt, who was called into England's T20 squad earlier this month, gave the innings a solid platform by putting on 85 with Luke Wells in 15 overs.

Wells (30) failed to control his hook shot when Douthwaite dug one in short then Glamorgan took three wickets in ten balls to reduce Sussex to 126 for 4. Australian leg-spinner Marnus Labuschagne picked up Harry Finch (31) and Stiaan van Zyl (0) with his first two deliveries as Finch missed a long hop and van Zyl was beaten by a googly. Timm van der Gugten then returned to the attack to bowl Laurie Evans (4) via an inside edge.

But Sussex skipper Ben Brown, who also made a century last week, and Salt took Sussex into the lead with a stand of 82 in 17 overs.

Salt wasn't the only opener to prosper with Glamorgan's Nick Selman carrying his bat for the second time in his career. The 23-year-old was left unbeaten on 79 when Glamorgan, who have only won once in the Championship at Hove since 1975, were dismissed for 186 in 55.2 overs.

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Sussex's seamers dominated apart from a period either side of lunch when Selman and Graham Wagg added 72 in 22 overs for the seventh wicket. Wagg contributed 44 before he was caught behind to give Chris Jordan, who regularly got the ball to bounce disconcertingly off a good length, his third success.

Jared Warner, who was making his first-class debut after joining on loan from Yorkshire, polished off the tail to finish with 3 for 35 leaving Selman, who passed 2,000 first-class runs when he reached six, high and dry on 76 not out from 156 balls with 11 fours.

Glamorgan had won the toss but were soon struggling at 44 for 4 after Mir Hamza and David Wiese took two wickets each with the ball. Hamza's late movement was too good for Hemphrey (0) and David Lloyd (6) while Wiese found some extra bounce to unseat Labuschagne (14) before angling one across Billy Root's defences.

When Jordan replaced Wiese, he picked up Kieran Carlson (12) with his sixth delivery and Glamorgan were 102 for 6 when Douthwaite (6) was bowled via an inside edge. Wagg and Selman showed what was possible once the ball lost its initial hardness, but Salt ensured it was a tough day for the visitors.

Speaking at the close, Salt said: "I am really enjoying my cricket at the moment, especially getting these hundreds when the team has needed them although obviously I was gutted to get out right at the end of the day.

"We had to do a bit of scrapping when we lost three wickets quite quickly but we've got ourselves a lead now and we have guys down our order who we know can contribute so we are in a good position to drive the game forward. Ben Brown is looking in really good touch so hopefully we can build a big lead tomorrow and build on the good work by the bowlers earlier in the day.

"I've got four hundreds now and they have all been different in terms of what I've got from them but I did enjoy that one. I'm in a good rhythm with my batting at the moment, I'm keeping it simple and it is working well."

## Day Two

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Glamorgan's Nick Selman and Marnus Labuschagne put together an unbroken second-wicket stand of 137 to frustrate Sussex on the second day of their Specsavers County Championship match at The 1st Central County Ground.

Already armed with a first innings lead of 234, after they had been bowled out for 420 in their first innings, Sussex seemed to be in control when Mir Hamza had Charlie Hemphrey lbw in the first over without a run on the board.

But the two Australians played with increasing authority during the final session with Labuschagne 77 and Selman 45 at stumps. After 15 wickets fell on day one the surface offered fewer problems for batsmen prepared to sit in and wait for the bad balls – a tactic the Glamorgan pair were happy to adopt as they reduced their arrears to 97, reaching stumps on 137 for 1.

Earlier, Sussex skipper Ben Brown had made 131 – his 17th first-class century – as he backed up his 156 in last week's drawn game against Northamptonshire with another chanceless hundred.

Together with David Wiese, he took the initiative away from Glamorgan in the first session when 140 runs were scored with the sixth-wicket pair putting on 107 in 25 overs.

Glamorgan used seven bowlers but struggled to stop Sussex progressing at nearly five runs an over, even after Wiese (34) was bowled by Timm van der Gugten via an inside edge for Glamorgan's only wicket during the morning session.

Brown then joined forces with Chris Jordan to add 55 for the seventh wicket after reaching his hundred from 146 balls with 13 fours when he took a single off Labuschagne in the 65th over.

After lunch he added a further four boundaries and a six off Marchant de Lange which Billy Root initially seemed to have caught only to step back behind the rope. In attempting a similar shot later in the over, Brown gave Root a more comfortable catch running in from deep mid-wicket. Brown struck 15 fours in total and faced 190 balls.

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Danny Briggs (24) was caught in the covers off Marchant de Lange who also picked up Hamza to finish with 3 for 89. Leg-spinner Labuschagne took 3 for 61 including Jordan (35), who was caught behind pushing forward when he appeared well set.

Glamorgan were immediately in trouble when they went in again 234 behind. Hemphrey was beaten by Hamza's late in-swing off the sixth ball of the innings to complete a pair.

But Selman, who carried his bat in the first innings, and Labuschagne took advantage of benign conditions after tea to take the fight back to Sussex.

Labuschagne took three boundaries in an over off Hamza to move to his half-century and none of the six bowlers employed by Brown could make a breakthrough in the final session.

The Sussex captain, who has made 347 in his last three innings, gave his thoughts at the end of the day's play: "I'm not doing a great deal different to the start of the season when I got a couple of good balls and suddenly found myself struggling a bit to get a score, which can happen in April.

"In those situations you have to trust your technique and your processes and believe that you will get a score. I felt in really good nick going into last week's game and got a hundred and a fifty and I've carried it on today. The pitch has probably been a little bit easier but we were really positive throughout and have got ourselves into a good position.

"As a bowling unit we probably didn't group enough good balls together after tea and have allowed them to build a partnership so that is something we need to address tomorrow. We're still in a good position with a lead of 97 but there is a lot of work to do over the next couple of days."

## Day Three

Australian Marnus Labuschagne scored his third hundred of the season for Glamorgan on a rain-shortened third day of their Specsavers County Championship division two match against Sussex at The 1st Central County Ground.

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Just 21 overs were possible before rain arrived with Glamorgan 218 for one in their second innings – still 16 behind – with Labuschagne 131 not out.

Labuschagne, who made his Test debut for Australia last October, has already made 121 against Northamptonshire and 137 against Gloucestershire during his stint as Glamorgan’s overseas player and the 24-year-old hasn’t offered a chance here on a pitch which has flattened out since 15 wickets fell on the first day.

Opener Nick Selman, who carried his bat in the first innings, has so far helped Labuschagne add 218 with the Glamorgan record for the second wicket against Sussex of 238, set in 1962 by Alan Jones and Tony Lewis at Hastings, now in their sights.

They resumed on 137 for 1 with Labuschagne quickly adding the 23 runs needed to lodge his seventh first-class hundred which he reached with a leg glance to the boundary off Chris Jordan. Labuschagne hit two boundaries in an over off four different bowlers and always looked to play positively.

Sussex skipper Ben Brown rung the changes, using six bowlers in the 80 minutes of play before the rain arrived but neither batsman looked troubled by either the four seamers or two spinners he employed.

While Labuschagne played with more freedom, Selman was happy to accumulate patiently as the partnership grew. When they came off he had faced 174 balls for his 64 with eight fours while Labuschagne has hit 22 boundaries from 190 deliveries so far. They added 81 runs in 21 overs before going off.

The rain intensified during the afternoon and after two inspections umpires Paul Baldwin and David Millns abandoned play for the day at 5pm. Glamorgan still trail by 16 runs but will fancy their chances of avoiding defeat now with a day to go and maintaining their unbeaten start to the Championship campaign.

Sussex batsman, Luke Wells, summed up the state of play: "It tends to be the way at Hove and around the country at the moment that once the balls gets a bit softer it loses its zip and there isn't much sideways movement either. I thought we bowled very well on the first day but since then we've thrown a lot at them and, to be fair, Labuschagne and Selman have played pretty well.

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"We have to give it everything tomorrow to try and get some early wickets and then who knows? With the firepower in our top order we would back ourselves to score quickly at a good rate and chase a target. If we have a fast run chase we'll definitely be going for it."

## Day Four

Luke Wells finished with career best figures of 5 for 63 but Marnus Labuschagne's impressive 182 meant Sussex had to settle for a draw against Glamorgan at The 1st Central County Ground.

Labuschagne reeled off his third Championship century since joining Glamorgan at the start of the season as he posted a new county record of 291 for the second wicket with Nick Selman, who was out for 99.

After their departure, wickets fell regularly, with leg-spinner Luke Wells taking his maiden first-class five-wicket haul as the visitors were eventually bowled out for 466 just after tea. That left Sussex 27 overs to score 233 at 8.03 runs an over.

Sussex had nothing to lose but Phil Salt (5), the one batsman who could have given them hope of chasing their unlikely target, was caught trying to accelerate the run-chase when Marchant de Lange dropped short. Wells and Harry Finch took their score to 47 for 1 when the players shook hands on a draw with 14 overs remaining.

Glamorgan had begun the final day on 218 for 1 and Labuschagne and Selman quickly passed Glamorgan's previous second-wicket record of 252, set by Matt Maynard and David Hemp against Northamptonshire in Cardiff in 2002.

Labuschagne batted for just under five hours until he got a thin under-edge to wicketkeeper Ben Brown to give Wells his first wicket. He hit 31 fours and faced 244 balls.

Selman had played the sheet anchor role to perfection but within touching distance of his hundred he was leg before to a full-length delivery just after David Wiese had taken the new ball. Selman, who had carried his bat in Glamorgan's first innings, batted for 343 minutes, faced 252 balls and hit ten fours.

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Sussex claimed two more wickets before lunch. Billy Root (2) edged Mir Hamza to slip and Wiese got some extra bounce and Kieran Carlson (0) was caught behind.

But any hopes they had of ending Glamorgan's innings quickly disappeared in a flurry of attacking shots from Dan Douthwaite, who struck ten fours in making 63 off 55 balls, the first 50 coming off just 34 deliveries. He lost David Lloyd (17) when Wells returned to the attack and turned one past his bat but Douthwaite had lodged his Championship best when he edged Wells to Brown.

The lead was 182 at that stage but Glamorgan's last three wickets added a further 50 runs with Tom Cullen finishing unbeaten on 28. Graham Wagg (25) was taken at short fine-leg off a top-edged sweep at Danny Briggs before Wells completed his five-for after tea with Marchant de Lange and Timm van der Gugten both lbw playing back.

Head coach, Jason Gillespie said: "It's a shame about the weather on day three because we could have had a really good finish. The positives for us were Phil Salt's outstanding first innings batting. He has adapted his game plan and is implementing it well at the moment. He is learning to adapt to different situations and not make the same mistakes.

"Ben Brown also batted superbly and I thought we did very well to bowl them out for 186 in the first innings but our second-innings bowling was very disappointing. We've got some very experienced bowlers and they know they will need to improve. Every team is in the same boat in terms of playing plenty of cricket at the moment so that's not an excuse, we need to be better at our disciplines if we are going to knock sides over.

"Some of our first-innings shot selection could have been better so there are still areas to improve but there were positives as well."

Sussex take 13 points and Glamorgan eight.

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