



# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Sussex CCC vs Gloucestershire CCC  
Specsavers County Championship – Division Two  
Arundel Castle, Arundel  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Day One

Will Beer, opening for Sussex for the first time in the County Championship, scored a career-best 76 not out against Gloucestershire on the first day of the Rathbones Arundel Festival of Cricket.

He could not be described as a like-for-like replacement for the in-form dasher Phil Salt, who is missing this game after surgery on his injured left hand, sustained in the match against Middlesex at Lord's last week.

In that same match leg-spinner Beer, batting at number nine, made an unbeaten 50, his highest Championship score at the time. Because of that, and some good form with the second team, for whom he averages over 100 in all forms of competition this season, he was selected to go in first with Luke Wells. Beer made his Sussex debut in 2008, but this is only his 18th first-class match.

The game got under way with conditions still damp after heavy rain the previous day. The pitch was low and slow, and the outfield made scoring runs difficult too. Because of this, and some mean bowling from the Gloucestershire seamers, Sussex were only 47 for two at lunch. It felt like retro cricket as both batsmen fought to see off the opening bowlers David Payne and Chadd Sayers and take the shine off the new ball. After 12 overs the score was 15 without loss.

Then Matt Taylor and Ryan Higgins replaced the new-ball attack and, very slowly, the scoring picked up. Wells hit a back foot cover drive off Payne for four. Then Beer cover-drove Higgins for four before leg-glancing Taylor for another.

The loss of two wickets in the half hour before lunch heaped more responsibility on Beer. Wells received a delivery from Taylor which left him late and he was caught behind for 15, scored off 77 deliveries. Sussex were 34 for one after an hour and a half of batting. Then Harry Finch was caught behind off Payne for ten. Beer lunched unbeaten on 17, scored off 85 balls.

In the afternoon the cricket brightened up through a combination of a drying sun and some positive strokeplay from Stiaan van Zyl. The South African - who had

### MAJOR SPONSORS



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



been presented with his county cap during the lunch break - hit an 89-ball 54 before he scooped a drive to mid-on.

Laurie Evans was badly dropped at wide mid-off early on, but he wasn't so lucky when he was caught at long-off for 24. That made it 199 for four, which became 241 for five when Ben Brown was bowled by Taylor for a chirpy, 32-ball 33. But Beer battled on, with the air of a man intent on carrying his bat. He has faced 276 balls - most of them dots - and been out in the middle.

Speaking after more than six hours' in the middle, Beer said: "I've been opening a bit for the second team and we wanted to play an extra spinner here, so the chance came along. Hopefully I can get a few more runs – and wickets – tomorrow.

“It was tricky out there for an hour or two. It was old-school, attritional four-day cricket. I started at Sussex, at Under-10 level, as an opening batter, before my leg-spin took over. Bowling is my main skill. But I've always worked hard at my batting and consider myself an all-rounder.”

## Day Two

Sussex's Will Beer fell agonisingly short of his maiden first-class century on a rain-ruined second day of their Specsavers County Championship Division Two match against Gloucestershire at Arundel.

The makeshift opener, who is playing only his 18th first-class match in his 12th season with the county, was out for 97 as Sussex reached 351 for 8 before the rain arrived. After several inspections umpires Ian Blackwell and Neil Bainton called off play for the day at 4.40pm with only 30 overs bowled.

There was an audible groan from the crowd when Gloucestershire seamer David Payne found some in-swing to knock back Beer's off stump and end an innings which lasted seven hours and 41 minutes. He faced 336 balls and hit 14 fours.

Beer had added 21 runs during the morning, putting on 91 in 27 overs for the sixth wicket with South African allrounder David Wiese contributing an entertaining 67, his third half-century of the season.

Wiese hit Australian paceman Chadd Sayers and Payne for straight sixes as well as seven fours before he was pinned in front by Graeme van Burren's quicker ball.

### MAJOR SPONSORS



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



The slow left-artermer got the occasional delivery to turn sharply out of the rough and shortly before lunch he picked up his third wicket as Chris Jordan was bowled for seven.

Sussex skipper Ben Brown admitted his team-mates shared Beer's frustration when he was out.

"We were so disappointed for him that he didn't get his hundred," he said. "It was a great effort. As a team we have talked about being adaptable and trying to play in a different way for different conditions. The wickets at Arundel can be slow and you can get bowled out for 150 trying to force the pace so the way he played, which allowed the rest of us to bat around him, was an exceptional effort and it's a shame he didn't get the hundred he deserved."

## Day Three

Gloucestershire pair Chris Dent and Gareth Roderick both made half-centuries between the showers but their Specsavers County Championship match against Sussex is heading towards a draw.

Only 49 overs in two sessions were possible on the third day at Arundel Castle with Gloucestershire reaching 146 for 3 in reply to Sussex's 351 for 8. With just a day left a stalemate looks certain which would at least keep Sussex in the top three promotion places in Division Two.

Umpires Ian Blackwell and Neil Bainton took the players off again at 5pm because of light drizzle and play was abandoned at 5.40pm. So far, 123 overs have been lost to rain during the match.

Dent made 851 runs and was Gloucestershire's leading run scorer in the Championship last season but his 59 on a slow pitch was only his second half-century of the season.

After the early loss of Miles Hammond, the left-hander shared stands of 60 with James Bracey (21) and Roderick, who was unbeaten on 51 when the rain returned an hour after play had resumed at 4pm following a three-hour delay.

And Dent will have been disappointed with his dismissal. On a slow pitch he had survived one escape when he was dropped at third slip off Ollie Robinson.

## MAJOR SPONSORS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



He had moved onto 59 when he chased a ball from Chris Jordan down the leg side and Sussex wicketkeeper Ben Brown dived to his right to pull off a good catch. Dent faced 141 balls and hit eight fours.

Roderick did the bulk of the scoring in the hour after the resumption and his 88-ball half-century included six boundaries.

Earlier, Sussex had declared on their overnight score of 351 for 8 after rain had wiped out two sessions on the second day.

Robinson was a handful with the new ball and was rewarded in his second over when he moved one away from Hammond who edged to third slip where Danny Briggs took a good catch.

Robinson's progress was being monitored by England scout Geoff Arnold, with a view to a possible call-up for England Lions' match against Australia A next month.

He would have been celebrating again in his second spell had Wells held on when Dent was on 46.

Instead, David Wiese took the second wicket when Bracey, who had played well for his 21, chased a wide delivery and slapped it into Briggs's hands at point.

After play had been abandoned for the day, Robinson said: "It's been a frustrating three days after a really good win (against Middlesex) last week. When it's like this it can be hard to keep the energy levels up going on and off.

"The pitch has quickened up a tiny bit since the first day and this morning we got a few nicks and on another day we could have had them 60 for 5 but they played well to be fair and it's hard to see a result now.

"Personally, I feel good after the shoulder injury. I bowled 16 overs today and still felt nice and fresh so that's a positive sign for me going forward."

## Day Four

Gloucestershire's Gareth Roderick ended a three-year wait for a Specsavers County Championship century as his side drew their Division Two match with Sussex at Arundel.

The 27-year-old South African made 158 – his first hundred outside Gloucestershire since 2013 – and Ryan Higgins weighed in with a career-best 119

### MAJOR SPONSORS



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



not out as their side made 444 for 6 declared in reply to Sussex's 351 for 8 declared before the teams shook hands at 4.50pm. Both sides take 10 points and Sussex remain third in the table with Gloucestershire fifth.

With more than five sessions lost to rain over the four days and the pitch offering little pace or carry, the final day was always destined to be a battle for bonus points but Roderick and Higgins accelerated during the afternoon session to add 136 in 27 overs and ensure Gloucestershire collected a fourth batting point.

Roderick, 51 not out overnight, made steady progress towards his sixth first-class hundred, which he reached with an on-drive off Chris Jordan shortly after lunch that brought him his 11th boundary.

He pressed the accelerator thereafter, making his next 50 runs off just 44 balls before departing to Ollie Robinson when he was caught behind driving at a ball outside off stump he might have left alone. Roderick had batted for five hours 23 minutes, faced 286 balls and hit 15 fours and a six.

Higgins had scored 103 against Glamorgan at Newport earlier this month and batted positively throughout, although he should have been dismissed on 26 when the normally reliable Chris Jordan put him down at slip off Danny Briggs.

The 24-year-old reached the third hundred of his career after tea by driving part-time seamer Laurie Evans to the extra cover boundary for the ninth of his 11 boundaries and he also hit two sixes. He faced 147 balls.

Sussex employed ten bowlers during the day with Robinson even sending down a couple of overs of off breaks and Wells switching from leg spin to seam-up to send down the last over of the match with Danny Briggs keeping wicket.

But their attack took just three wickets in the day, two of them by Robinson, who now has 24 for the season and is Sussex's leading wicket-taker despite only playing in four of their six games because of a shoulder injury.

Robinson had struck with his second delivery with the second new ball when Jack Taylor (9) was bowled pushing forward just before lunch.

Roderick put on 74 for the fourth wicket during the morning session with Benny Howell, who was leg before half-forward to leg-spinner Will Beer for 29.

## MAJOR SPONSORS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS





# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



At the conclusion of the match, Sussex head coach Jason Gillespie said: "The surface was quite benign and there was not much in it for the bowlers. If you bowled with good discipline with a ring field it was hard at times to score freely because the pitch was so slow. A draw was always the likely result.

"Our attitude throughout were really good. We gave Will Beer a chance at the top of the order and the way he applied himself was excellent. I thought our seam bowlers bowled quite nicely. Ollie (Robinson) got some wickets and I thought Chris Jordan was better than we have seen in the last couple of games. So there are certainly some positives.

"We go to Worcestershire now and we know they are a very good side. There has been a lot of rain about so hopefully we can get a game in."

## MAJOR SPONSORS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

