



# SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



## Lancashire CCC vs Sussex CCC Specsavers County Championship, Division Two Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### Day One

Lancashire ended day one of their Division Two match against Sussex in a strong position after bowling their visitors out for 127 and then making 149 for one in reply.

Matthew Parkinson collected a career-best six for 23 from 15.2 overs and Glenn Maxwell picked up four for 41 on the weekend when he hoped to be playing in a World Cup final. Alex Davies then made 72 before becoming the only Lancashire wicket to fall and Keaton Jennings was unbeaten on 53 at the close, by which time Lancashire were already well on the way to building a winning position.

But this total dominance was in sharp contrast to the first 80 minutes of play, in which Phil Salt and Varun Chopra had put on 77 runs in 19 overs before Sussex lost five wickets for 11 runs in a dramatic collapse on a used pitch.

Any discomfort Salt and Chopra encountered against Lancashire's seamers had to be balanced against some fluent strokeplay and Sussex had seemed poised to make very good use of winning the toss when Salt, on 40, swept Maxwell to Josh Bohannon at deep square leg.

Chopra was lbw to leg-spinner Parkinson for 32 and one of Sussex's struggles begun. Maxwell then took a good caught and bowled off Luke Wells, who made five, the same score Stiaan van Zyl had managed when he edged Parkinson to Rob Jones at first slip.

Delray Rawlins was then caught at short leg off Maxwell for a second-ball nought but Ben Brown and David Wiese saw Sussex to lunch by which time their score was 95 for five on a pitch which is giving help to the spinners.

In the over after the resumption Brown was caught at the wicket by Dane Vilas off Maxwell for a single and Parkinson accounted for Wiese and Will Beer, both lbw, in his next over, as Sussex lost three wickets in nine balls.

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The leg-spinner also took the last two wickets before Davies and Jennings immediately made good progress in Lancashire's first innings. The visitors had one chance to make an early breakthrough when Davies was dropped by Wells off Mir Hamza on four but Sussex eventually claimed their only success twelve overs before the close when he was caught at the wicket by Brown off Rawlins after an innings which included 12 fours.

After the day's play, Jason Gillespie said: "There was some decent bowling but it's certainly not a 120 all out wicket. No way. Lancashire have shown that.

"We were on our way at 77 for no wicket and we were half an hour from putting the onus back on Lancashire. They'd spread the field and then we lost Salty and Varun soon after. The spinners were getting their lines and lengths right and we found ways to get out.

"We spoke this morning about the importance of adapting to conditions but we can have time meeting after team meeting after team meeting, if we're getting rissoloed for a hundred each time, we may as well be banging our heads against a brick wall.

"We know it's not good enough. It is unacceptable. The brutal reality is that our top six batters are not doing their jobs and they need to find a way to get the job done."

The day had begun on a sombre note when both squads and all spectators had observed a minute's silence in the memory of the former Lancashire skipper, Jack Bond, who died on Thursday evening, aged 87. The thoughts of everyone at Sussex Cricket are with Jack's family and friends.

## Day Two

Dane Vilas made his first championship century of the season as Lancashire's batsmen built on their lead over Sussex on the second day of their Division Two game at Emirates Old Trafford. The home side made 494 for six declared, giving them a first-innings lead of 367, before leaving Sussex to face four overs in their second innings.

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By the close the visitors were 15 without loss but they face a colossal battle to get more from this game than the one bonus point they have so far gained.

Vilas was unbeaten on 132, having faced 154 balls and hit 17 fours when he applied the closure. But the Lancashire skipper was only one of five Lancashire batsmen to pass fifty in his side's innings after a day when Sussex's bowlers had to work hard for their breakthroughs. Will Beer was the only member of Ben Brown's attack to finish with more than one wicket and the inadequacy of Sussex's first-innings total of 127 was mercilessly exposed by the ruthlessness of Lancashire's batsmen

The first wicket of the day fell when Keaton Jennings, having added only a dozen runs to his overnight 53 cut Mir Hamza very hard to backward point where Delray Rawlins clutched a brilliant one-handed catch high to his left. Jennings' departure for 65 was followed five overs later by that of Haseeb Hameed, who was leg before wicket to David Wiese for 11.

However, in the remainder of the morning's play Glenn Maxwell and Rob Jones played with increasing assurance and their partnership stood at 71 at lunch. Soon after the resumption Maxwell reached his fifty off 74 balls and had made 59, his highest score in first-class cricket since December 2017, when he skied a pull off Abi Sakande and Phil Salt pounced a straightforward catch running back from slip.

Vilas and Jones then put on 94 for the fifth wicket but home supporters were disappointed in the over before tea when the highly rated Jones was bowled by Beer for 88, twelve runs short of his third century in first-class cricket, having faced 169 balls and hit ten boundaries in a high-class innings.

The cricket after tea saw the tiring Sussex attack put to the sword with Vilas reaching his 20th first-class hundred off only 124 balls having hit 13 fours. He put on 123 for the sixth wicket with Steven Croft, whose dismissal for 31, caught by Brown off Beer, prompted the declaration. The

Sussex seamer Chris Jordan is injured and is unlikely to bowl in the rest of the match, but he appears fit to bat.

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After the day's play, Rawlins said: "It was a tough day for the boys. We knew when we turned up today it wouldn't be easy but we stuck to it pretty well and hopefully we can bat on tomorrow.

"The catch (off Jennings, backward point) was pretty decent. He hit it pretty well but luckily it stuck. I think most people thought it had gone for four. He hit it reasonably well and I think that's what helped it to stick.

"We all know we haven't been scoring the runs we want and we probably didn't adapt as quickly as we wanted to yesterday. They stuck the ball in some pretty decent areas but hopefully the boys can prove a point. You never know what can happen in this great game."

## Day Three

Delray Rawlins hit his maiden first-class century and shared an exhilarating sixth-wicket partnership of 128 with David Wiese during an entertaining afternoon session at Emirates Old Trafford but he could not prevent Sussex losing their Division Two match against Lancashire by an innings and 51 runs seven balls into the evening session on the third day at Emirates Old Trafford.

Lancashire gain 23 points for their victory and return to the top of the table but Sussex's third successive defeat puts a severe dent in their hopes of winning promotion this season. Matt Parkinson took four for 142 in Sussex's second innings to finish with career-best match figures of ten for 142.

Needing 367 to make the home side bat again, the visitors were bowled out for 316 with Onions taking the ninth wicket when he had Abi Sakande caught behind by Dane Vilas and Parkinson ending the match when he trapped Mir Hamza leg before for nought.

But the highlight of Monday's cricket was undoubtedly the batting of Rawlins, who hit 12 fours and three sixes, reaching his century off 99 balls with his third maximum, a blow which was still rising just before crossing the rope in front of the pavilion.

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Rawlins was dismissed next ball when Parkinson clung on to a sharp return catch and the leg-spinner took his third wicket when he had Wiese leg before wicket four overs later for 77. Lancashire's only other wicket in an afternoon session which saw 197 runs scored was taken by Richard Gleeson, who had Chris Jordan caught behind by Dane Vilas for 11.

But all this entertainment and the aggression of Rawlins and Wiese was in contrast to the opening hour of play in which Sussex's hesitant and error-strewn batting had resulted in the loss of four wickets.

Varun Chopra was the first to go for 15 when he nibbled at a ball he probably did not need to play from Gleeson and was caught behind by Vilas. Less than three overs later Luke Wells was leg before wicket to Graham Onions for a third-ball duck and Stiaan van Zyl followed for six soon after when a flick down the leg side off Gleeson only edged another catch to Vilas.

The important dismissal of visiting skipper Ben Brown, caught at midwicket by Haseeb Hameed for four when chipping a ball from Onions into the leg side, meant that Sussex had lost four wickets inside the first hour at Old Trafford. Phil Salt was then bowled by Parkinson for 37 on the stroke of lunch when he played the ball down into a foothole and it spun back into the off stump. At that point Sussex seemed likely to lose heavily but Rawlins' batting brought a smile back to the faces on the away dressing room balcony. Onions finished the match with three for 18 and Gleeson took three for 62.

Rawlins said: "After facing two balls and not getting any in the first innings it was nice to cash in and get the monkey off my back by getting my first hundred. I feel like I've been hitting the ball pretty well the last couple of weeks and I've got a couple of scores but I've not been able to kick on.

"It's a shame about the result because nobody likes losing but it's a nice personal milestone for me. Hopefully in the next few weeks we can turn it around as a team and get some more wins. David Wiese played some incredible shots out there and he nearly caught me up at one point. It's nice to see him back in the runs again.

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"It's been a tough couple of weeks and if anyone had got a hundred, the boys would have been on the balcony but the boys knew that getting the first one is important and it was nice to have their support and feel it out in the middle

"My bowling's still a work in progress and hopefully in a few years' time I can be considered an out and out all-rounder.

"We've struggled a bit in championship cricket so it's nice that T20 is round the corner. We have new faces coming in and hopefully we can go one better than we did last year when we got to the final and this year actually lift the trophy."

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