



SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Sussex CCC vs Australia A
Tourist Match
Arundel Castle Cricket Ground, Arundel
Sunday 7th – Wednesday 11th July 2019

Day One

Late bursts from James Pattinson and Michael Neser seized the initiative for Australia 'A' on the first day of their first-class match against Sussex at Arundel Castle.

Sussex won the toss and batted after persistent drizzle prevented play from starting until just after 3.30pm. The home side made a positive start with Phil Salt (37) and Varun Chopra (30) putting on an opening stand of 69 inside 14 overs.

After the pair departed to Jackson Bird and Pattinson in consecutive overs, Luke Wells and Laurie Evans then combined to take Sussex to 112 for 2 with six overs of the day remaining.

What had looked like being a solid start to the match was rocked, however, with three wickets falling for just six runs.

First, Neser nipped one past Evans' outside edge and knocked back his off stump. Three overs later and Pattinson - with 70 wickets in 17 Test matches behind him - beat Wells between bat and pad with the same end result.

Sussex debutant, Aneesh Kapil then fended a rising Pattinson delivery to Marcus Harry in the gully, leaving Delray Rawlins and nightwatchman to see their side through to the close on 118 for 5.

Day Two

Delray Rawlins made the fourth century of his first-class career before Australia 'A' made Sussex's bowlers toil on day two of the tourist match at Arundel Castle.

Resuming on his overnight score of five not out, Rawlins' knock was a classy affair, made all the more impressive by the fact it was scored against an Australian bowling attack boasting 277 Test match wickets.

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The 21-year-old played a number of delightful shots down the ground, including a sweetly struck six off Michael Nesar to go with his ten fours in total.

Rawlins was on 69 when he became the eighth Sussex wicket to fall with the scoreboard reading 223. Australia 'A' had to rely on a certain degree of fortune to get rid of the innings' top scorer as they won an lbw decision that looked a little harsh on review.

Rawlins had received support from guest player Adam Rouse - with whom he shared a 58-run seventh wicket partnership - and Will Beer who was left not out on 28 when Sussex were bowled out for 263. After four first-class innings at Arundel, the leg-spinner's batting average stands at 57. After two, Rawlins' is 82.5.

In reply, Australia 'A' openers Joe Burns and Marcus Harris made life difficult for Sussex's bowlers.

Abi Sakande and Mir Hamza - on his return from injury - were economical with the new ball, while Rawlins bowled 13 overs of tidy left-arm spin. But the visiting pair were still there at the close with 88 and 100 not out respectively as Australia 'A' reached 203 without loss.

Day Three

Twenty wickets fell on day three of Sussex versus Australia 'A' at Arundel Castle as the match raced towards a conclusion.

Having bowled out Sussex for 120 in their second innings deep into the extra half an hour that had been added to the day's play, the visitors will need eleven runs for victory when play resumes on day four.

After a fruitless quest for wickets on day two that saw the Australians resume their first innings on 203 without loss this morning, Sussex received an early boost when Abi Sakande had Marcus Harris caught behind in the fifth over having added just nine to his overnight score off 100.

Three overs later and Mir Hamza found Kurtis Patterson's outside edge with an away swinger to give Adam Rouse his second catch.

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A 61-run third-wicket partnership threatened to make the home side toil once again, but Luke Wells trapped Travis Head lbw with around 20 minutes until the lunch break.

The second new-ball proved far deadlier than the first when it was taken two overs into the afternoon session.

Having reached 313 for three, the visitors then lost their next seven wickets for just 60 runs.

Hamza's dismissal of centurion Joe Burns via Varun Chopra in the slips started the collapse, with the Pakistani removing Will Pucovski shortly afterwards.

Sakande was soon in on the act, uprooting Michael Nesar's off-stump with a seaming delivery and then pinning James Pattinson in front to leave the Australians 76 runs ahead on 339 for 7.

Tim Paine and Jackson Bird counter-attacked briefly to add 26 for the eighth wicket, but the end came quickly when the Australian Test captain nibbled at an Aaron Thomason away swinger to give Rouse his fourth catch of the innings.

Bird was lbw to Wells before Hazlewood played on to Thomason wrap up the Australia 'A' innings on 373, a lead of 110.

Sussex's openers Phil Salt and Chopra looked like they might bat Sussex back into the game as they took their side to 30 for 0. But the Australian seamers had other ideas.

Chopra was first to go for 21 when he was lbw to Nesar. Bird then removed Wells, Laurie Evans and Delray Rawlins inside ten deliveries from the Park End.

Phil Salt was next, falling for 20 to a beauty of a delivery from Pattinson that nipped back and clipped the top of off stump.

The spin of Jon Holland accounted for Rouse and Will Beer – both caught at slip – and Thomason who was bowled.

There was some resistance from Aneesh Kapil (33 not out) and Abi Sakande which took Sussex into the lead, but when the latter was lbw to Pattinson the innings was over one ball later as Hamza was bowled for a golden duck.

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Regulations meant that there was no time left for Australia 'A' to knock off their meagre target and so both sides will return on Wednesday for what will be a very short day's cricket.

Day Four

Australia 'A' needed one over to wrap up victory on day four of their tour match against Sussex at Arundel Castle.

Having bowled out the home side on the stroke of stumps on Tuesday, the sides returned with the Australian requiring eleven to win.

Three boundaries from Marcus Harris off Aaron Thomason saw the tourists to a ten-wicket win at 11.31am.

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