



SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Sussex CCC vs Cardiff MCCU
3 Day Friendly
The 1st Central County Ground, Hove
Sunday 31st March – Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Day One

David Wiese's stunning 80-ball century put Sussex in a dominant position against Cardiff MCCU on the first day of their opening first-class match of the season.

Just like against Kent earlier in the week, four Sussex batsmen made fifty, with Tom Haines and Michael Burgess unlucky not to score centuries, on a sunny but breezy Sunday at The 1st Central County Ground.

After Cardiff won the toss and opted to bowl, young duo Phil Salt and Haines opened the batting for Ben Brown's side, but Salt's stay at the crease was short-lived when he received an excellent ball from Daniel Douthwaite to be bowled for one in the first over.

Haines was then joined in the middle by Luke Wells, and the pair began to build the side their first formidable partnership of the day. Both looked comfortable at the crease, with Haines the first to reach his half-century.

His assured knock came off 65 balls and included 10 fours, before Wells reached his fifty with the first ball after lunch - a languid drive through extra cover.

Wells was eventually dismissed for 66 when he was caught in the deep, and Stiaan van Zyl was dismissed soon after when Douthwaite claimed his second wicket of the day by bowling the South African for eight with a delivery that seamed in some distance.

Despite wickets falling around him, Haines continued to bat with composure as five more fours helped him reach 93. However, he was then trapped LBW by former England Under-19 left-arm spinner, Prem Sisodiya and fell seven runs short of a deserved ton.

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Sussex's tricky spell after lunch continued when Brown went for ten after being caught by Joseph Ludlow off the bowling of Gibbs. Harry Finch was then dismissed soon after, going for 15 with Sisodiya claiming his third wicket of the day and leaving Sussex 223-6.

Burgess and Wiese decided that taking a positive approach against the student was the best way to wrest the initiative back into Sussex's hands, and so it proved.

Burgess was particularly strong against the student spinners, square of the wicket, cutting and driving early in his innings before peppering the leg-side boundary as he passed fifty from 63 balls.

Wiese was even more belligerent, punishing a tiring attack who made the mistake of over-pitching to a man that loves to get underneath the ball. He raced to an eleventh first-class century in just 80 balls, including eleven fours and three sixes that sailed towards the English Channel as Sussex's South African import laid into the finger spin of Sidodiya and Steven Reingold.

The pair's stand reached 200 in the 81st over and when it went past 218 they had put on the fifth-highest seventh-wicket partnership in Sussex's first-class history.

Burgess was finally dismissed five short of a third first-class century when Jack Evans pinned him in front, and five overs later Wiese followed suit. He had added a further six boundaries when another attempt at clearing the boundary at the Sea End saw him caught off Matt Foster for 139 from 121 balls.

Ollie Robinson's was the ninth wicket to fall when he was bowled for five, leaving Chris Jordan (15*) - who had reached 3,000 first-class runs with the first run of his innings - and Abi Sakande (2*) to see Sussex through to the close.

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Day Two

Runs from a fit-again Stiaan van Zyl and fiery, wicket-filled spells from Chris Jordan will have been high on Sussex supporters' pre-season wishlist. They got both on the second day of the first-class encounter with Cardiff MCCU at The 1st Central County Ground as the home side built a formidable lead in their second innings.

After Sussex declared their first innings on 480 for nine overnight, Jordan decimated the Welsh students' middle order as they were bowled out for 203.

Abi Sakande took the first wicket of the innings during a five over spell with the new ball that included four maidens, but Cardiff otherwise weathered the first hour of play with impressive resolve.

Jordan's extra speed clearly unsettled the batsmen, however, when he was introduced in the thirteenth over of the day. He was unfortunate not to strike sooner, but when Lorenzo Machado miscued to Michael Burgess at midwicket in his fifth over, the floodgates were opened.

That wicket was the first of 19 deliveries from Jordan that brought him four wickets for no runs as Cardiff's batsmen wilted under the heat of the England man's searing pace.

Next to fall was Kiran Carlson who was given out lbw as he completely misjudged a delivery that thumped into his shoulder directly in front of the wicket as the Glamorgan youngster looked to duck out of the way of what he had read as a bouncer.

Tom Haines then had Steven Reingold caught behind in the next over, before Jordan picked up Oskar Kolk in the same fashion. Kolk did well to get anything on a snorting delivery that lifted off a length and took his outside edge.

Sam Pearce had no chance either as Jordan brought one back sharply to Cardiff's captain and sent the off-stump cartwheeling in the direction of the English Channel.

From a relatively promising 48 for one, the students had collapsed to 55 for six fewer than six overs later.

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A superb innings from Dan Douthwaite gave some respectability to their card as he crashed 14 boundaries on his way to an unbeaten hundred from 107 balls.

He received decent support from former England Under-19 player, Prem Sisodiya and their 77-run seventh-wicket stand was the biggest partnership of the innings.

That came to an end when Luke Wells bowled Sisodiya for 33 and the leg-spinner had two in two deliveries when Brad Evans also had his stumps disturbed.

Jordan had his tenth first-class five-wicket haul five overs later when Matt Foster was clean bowled by a rapid yorker to leave the Welshmen nine down for 159.

Douthwaite was still somewhat short of three figures at that point, but some superb hitting and stoic support from number eleven, Jack Gibbs meant that when David Wiese bowled Gibbs for a fifteen-ball duck the Warwickshire-registered all-rounder had his maiden first-class century. His second fifty had come from just 21 balls and he had contributed all the runs off the bat to a 44-run tenth wicket partnership.

Looking to give his batsmen further batting practice before their Championship opener on Friday, Ben Brown did not enforce the follow on. Instead, he shuffled his line up and sent van Zyl to open the team's second innings with Phil Salt.

The pair had put on 102 in just 13.2 overs and extended Sussex's lead to 379 when Salt was caught off Reingold's off-spin for 65 from just 52 balls.

Batting at three, Harry Finch was caught in the deep with seven more added to the total, but van Zyl – looking entirely untroubled by the knee injury that had kept him out of much of last season – made serene progress.

His half-century came up in the 19th over of the innings from 49 balls as he and new partner Brown extended Sussex's lead.

Brown's own fifty came three balls before the close of play – a 75-ball affair full of hard run ones, twos and threes, as well as three fours, as the Sussex captain skilfully manoeuvred the ball into gaps in the field.

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van Zyl, meanwhile, was in no hurry to reach three-figures; happy to wait until Tuesday to make his bid for that landmark with Sussex in complete control of the game.

Day Three

Rain curtailed Sussex's final pre-season friendly of 2019, with play abandoned just before lunch on day three against Cardiff MCCU.

On what was a cold and cloudy morning, there was still time for Stiaan van Zyl to score his first ton since returning from injury - before the heavens opened.

van Zyl had finished 92 not out overnight, and returned to the middle alongside Ben Brown. The South African took just two overs to score the eight extra runs he needed to reach his century, with his excellent knock coming off 125 balls, and including 13 fours and one six.

The South African then retired unbeaten on 103*, while Brown, who was joined at the crease by Luke Wells, added 34 runs to his overnight total. The captain was 86 not out when the rain arrived, while Luke Wells was unbeaten on seven.

Although the match ended in a draw, Sussex were the dominant team throughout their opening first-class fixture of the season. They ended the match 551 runs ahead of their opponents on 274-3.

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