

# Men's Summer County Week Report

By captain Ali Filmer

## Line up

Lewis Burton and Nick Brookes  
Sean Thornley and Francis Sargeant  
Matt Summers and James Davis

## Day 1 vs Essex

First day saw an unchanged line up for the defending champions taking on an Essex team boasting Wimbledon doubles player Henry Patten. After a strong start Kent took two straight sets wins with Summers and Davis and Brookes and Burton getting Kent off to a flying start with Frank and Sean narrowly being edged out by the top Essex team.

Round 2 saw another Kent 2-1 victory with two very convincing wins with minimal holds of serve particularly on Sean and Frank's court in which no serve first or second was safe. 4-2 overall to Kent. Round 3 saw another Kent win 2-1 with Summers and Davis taking their third win of the day against the unbeaten Essex pair.

6-3 Kent

## Day 2 vs Herts

Playing Herts is always a challenge seeing as the serial winners of the event have a habit of being difficult to put away. Kent got off to a solid start winning the first round 2-1 with Summers and Davis leading the way with a complete demolition of Bamford and Coupland two of the fading stars of their once great team. Backed up with a tie break win from Brookes and Burton to give Kent the ascendancy moving into round 2.

With a massive round Kent mustered up some serious momentum winning two quick matches in straight sets leaving Thornley and Sargeant on court to complete the round with a tie break win over Bamford and Coupland which was enough to move 5-1 Kent.

Not content with that Kent made two subs which saw Ben Gusic-Wan make his county week debut at 14 with Brookes and James Markiewicz pair up with Burton. The latter pair proved too strong for a beleaguered Bamford and partner with a win for the Kent boys rounding off a decisive 7-2 win. Although as we will see Herts will end up having the final word.

7-2 Kent

## Day 3 vs Cambridgeshire

Newly promoted Cambridgeshire were up next who started well pushing Kent to a 2-1 first round with close matches all round with a great win for Markiewicz and Burton in particular. Kent continued their tradition of "shocking them in the second round" by going three from three with Brookes fresh from

the tub coming in to devastating effect. A strong day and by round 3 the day was over with a chance for some rest and squad rotation.

7-2 Kent

#### Day 4 vs Yorkshire

Another county week classic match. Back on the site we edged our Surrey last year after being on the brink of defeat we know how to win on these courts.

Yorkshire's line up bolstered with youth as opposed to experience and it paid off the first round went to us 2-1 with two very strong matches from Thornley and Sargeant and Summers and Davis, Yorkshire hit back in round 2 with two matches taken on the final set decider.

So poised at 3 matches all it always comes down to the basic fact - who wants it more. The answer was Kent blitzing two matches in straight sets Brookes and Burton with the first win followed closely by Summers and Davis. Thornley and Sargeant narrowly went down to their strongest duo in a match that showed how competitive the Kent team is.

Four wins from four the last day is in our hands!

5-4 Kent

#### Day 5 vs East of Scotland

This was the toughest if not one of the toughest days in county week history. In a bravely contested match between the two sides which saw Kent lose the first round 1-2 with a team missing Frank Sargeant who had suffered a serious problem the day before and Lewis Burton who could now barely walk and let's not forget Nick Brookes for whom it's always a miracle he's competing past day 3!

In true Kent gritty fashion we came back at them in round 2 equally the match at 3 all with the Scottish boys also suffering physically after a gruelling week. In a massive third round the two teams split matches with Thornley and Markiewicz playing an outstanding match in particular. The stage was set for Summers and Davis who were moving into a final set tie break to decide county week 2022, despite winning all other days Essex had rolled over against Herts which meant we had to win or suffer an agonising loss at the final hurdle.

A huge crowd assembled from all those left from other teams and other spectators to witness one of the closest breakers which swung in both directions neither pair willing to let the other out of reach. Finally the Scots made the decisive blow and Kent lost the day 4-5 and with it the title. Even though the title didn't come back to Kent the week felt like a win, only bested by a team at their very best while we were at our weakest and even then they could only just achieve it. It seems beating Kent at Eastbourne is possible, but only just.

5-4 East of Scotland