

Season so far Pld 9 W1 L3 D5

Which way is the wind blowing ?



After another disappointing defeat to Durham last week and the side now sitting bottom of Div 2, we have to wonder if the season is heading south. What the first 9 games have shown is that in very short spells we have the ability to be competitive but over 4 days and a long season the focus can not be maintained. Having now played all the other Counties in the division its clear to see that depth of the batting and the consistency of the 'support' bowlers is short of what is needed for a genuine push for the 3rd promotion slot. We are now half way through the season in all competitions, having played 19 games with another 19 left to play, the record reads Won 3 Lost 11 Drawn 5. With 14 Vitality Blast games and 5 championship matches to go expect some significant changes to the win/lost columns over the coming weeks. Before all that however we have one last championship match in this block where rnd 10 takes us Cheltenham for a rematch with Gloucestershire



Cheltenham Festival

With the in form Hassan Azad and Mark Cosgrove fresh from half centuries the need for runs on what is likely to be a flat pitch is evident, here is our suggested side to regain some momentum

1. Paul Horton
2. Hassan Azad
3. Colin Ackermann
4. Mark Cosgrove
5. Neil Dexter
6. Harry Dearden
7. Harry Swindells
8. Callum Parkinson
9. Ben Mike
10. Chris Wright
11. Mo Abbas

That will be unfortunate for Hill, Davis & Griffiths but a better bowling balance than seam up all the time and a bit more depth to the batting



There is bad news on the injury front as Tom Taylor continues to be side-lined with doubts over his long term fitness

On the plus side Ben Mike has been recalled from his load spell at Warwickshire fresh from career best innings of 72 to help save the game



Vitality Blast T20 is coming

No sooner is the 4 day match at Cheltenham over than the Foxes switch to white ball T20 starting at Grace Rd on Friday against Lancashire Lightning.

Leicestershire v Gloucestershire



Matches 1st Played in 1919

Total 134 Leicestershire Won 37 Lost 58 Drawn 36 Abandoned 2

Highest total by Leicestershire			
565 a/o 149 Overs	E.Eckersley 119, N.O'Brien 119 G.Smith 103	Bristol	2014
Highest total by Gloucestershire			
650-8 161 Overs	K.Ali 140 H.Marshall 123 C.Spearman 110	Grace Rd	2007
Lowest Total by Leicestershire			
49 a/o 24 Overs	K.Shuttleworth 13	Gloucester	1977
Lowest Total by Gloucestershire			
57 a/o	Astill 6-27 G.Geary 4-25	Gloucester	1925
Highest individual score for Leicestershire			
181*	C.Balderstone	Grace Road	1984
Highest individual score for Gloucestershire			
264	A.Gidman	Bristol	2014
Best Bowling in innings for Leicestershire			
8-40	H.A.Smith	Bristol	1938
Best bowling innings for Gloucestershire			
9-35	C.Parker	Cheltenham	1920
Best bowling in Match for Leicestershire			
12-110	H.A.Smith	Bristol	1938
Best bowling in Match for Gloucestershire			
15-134	T.Goddard	Gloucester	1947
Highest Partnerships for Leicestershire			
1 st Wkt - 206	G.Smith & A.Robson	Bristol	2014
2 nd Wkt - 320	H.Azad & N.Dexter	Grace Road	2019
3 rd Wkt - 268	N.Armstrong & C.S.Dempster	Gloucester	1937
4 th Wkt - 233	J.Maunders & P.Nixon	Cheltenham	2006
5 th Wkt - 193	A.Habib & J.Dakin	Grace Road	1999
6 th Wkt - 125	M.Boyce & S.Thakor	Grace Road	2013
7 th Wkt - 132	C.Taylor & J.Bradshaw	Gloucester	1925
8 th Wkt - 119	J.Birkenshaw & G.Lock	Cheltenham	1967
9 th Wkts - 85	A.Ali & B.Raine	Grace Road	2015
10 th Wkt - 157	W.Astill & W.Marlow	Cheltenham	1933

Leicestershire have played 15 Championship matches at the College ground in Cheltenham the first in 1919 and most recently in 2016. The record is Won 5 Lost 6 Drawn 4

The last visit 3 years ago saw a low scoring game and a win by 6 wkts