

## Time to plan your summer



**2019** Promises to be a real feast for the Cricket watcher. The international scene is dominated by the ICC world cup in the first half of the summer and an Ashes series in the second half. That's all well & good but what can we expect at the Fischer County Ground & beyond. In the last summer before the changes to accommodate the 100, the fixture planners have pushed the RL50 competition to the beginning of the season. Whilst there is a bit more championship cricket in the 'summer months' you will need to travel away with the Foxes to see any Championship cricket between 10<sup>th</sup> July & 10<sup>th</sup> September. The early start and a late Easter sees Foxes in action on Good Friday at Durham and at home on Easter Sunday to Worcs in the RL50

### Specsaver County Championship

There remain 14 rounds in next summer's competition but with the switch to 10 teams in Div 1 and 8 teams in Div 2 from 2020 this means 3 sides are promoted from Div 2 in 2019. It has always been a mystery as to how the schedulers work out which teams play each other twice and which only one. Apparently the logic applied involves seeding based on last year's finishing position. Quite how we play relegated Lancs twice but Worcs only once and both Derbys & Glamorgan who both finished below us once along with Sussex who finished above us would suggest its about as random as my lottery numbers.

Rnd	Date	Opposition	Venue
1	Fri 5 April	Sussex	Hove
2	Thurs 11 April	Worcestershire	FCG
3	Tues 14 May	Middlesex	Lords
4	Mon 27 May	Derbyshire	FCG
5	Mon 3 June	Lancashire	Liverpool
6	Mon 10 June	Middlesex	FCG
7	Mon 17 June	Gloucestershire	FCG
8	Mon 24 June	Northamptonshire	Northampton
9	Sun 7 July	Durham	FCG
10	Mon 15 July	Gloucestershire	Cheltenham
11	Tues 18 Aug	Durham	Chester le Street
12	Sun 10 Sept	Northamptonshire	FCG
13	Mon 16 Sept	Glamorgan	Cardiff
14	Mon 23 Sept	Lancashire	FCG



It's an early start with visit to Hove on 5<sup>th</sup> April

2019 sees us miss out on trips to New Rd & Derby but are compensated by away trips to Lords, & Liverpool and perhaps the highlight being the Cheltenham Festival game against Gloucestershire in July

# Royal London 50 over Cup

There is basically no change here with 2 groups of 9 playing each other 1 once before a knock out semi and Final. Emphasis is once again on early season as by all accounts the ECB want this completion out of the way before the World cup starts at the end of May. The venues for last year's games are reversed for 2019. The early start also means games 3 games over the Easter period



Yorkshire are our first opponents in the RL50 at Headingley just before Easter

Rnd	Date	Opposition	Venue
1	Wed 17 Apr	Yorkshire Vikings	Headingley
2	Fri 19 Apr	Durham	Chester le Street
3	Sun 21 Apr	Worcs Rapids	FCG
4	Wed 24 Apr	Derbys Falcons	FCG
5	Fri 26 Apr	Notts Outlaws	Trent Bridge
6	Sun 28 Apr	Lancashire	Old Trafford
7	Sat 4 May	Northants Steelbacks	FCG
8	Mon 6 May	Warwickshire	FCG
Play Off	Fri 10 May		
Semi	Sun 12 May		
FINAL	Sat 25 May		Lords

# Vitality Blast T20

Again no change here 2 groups of 9 (north & south) so you would think that everyone plays the other 8 teams home and away but No ! For some reason I have never understood there are only 14 rounds in the group stage so 2 sides are only played once. I won't even attempt to understand how this is worked out but the 2 sides we only play once in 2019 are the same as last season Worcs Rapids & Yorks Vikings, although this time round the venues are reversed

Rnd	Date	Opposition	Venue
1	Fri 19 July	Lancs Lightning	FCG
2	Sun 21 July	Birmingham Bears	Edgbaston
3	Tue 23 July	Yorks Vikings	FCG
4	Fri 26 July	Durham Jets	FCG
5	Sat 27 July	Notts Outlaws	Trent Bridge
6	Wed 31 July	Durham Jets	Chester le Street
7	Sun 4 Aug	Worcs Rapids	New Rd
8	Wed 7 Aug	Birmingham Bears	FCG
9	Fri 9 Aug	Northants Steelbacks	FCG
10	Thur 15 Aug	Derbys Falcons	Derby
11	Fri 16 Aug	Northants Steelbacks	Northampton
12	Fri 23 Aug	Notts Outlaws	FCG
13	Sun 25 Aug	Derbys Falcons	FCG
14	Fri 30 Aug	Lancs Lightning	Old Trafford

Finals Sat 21 Sept

The schedule again looks punishing with the first 6 games played in a 11 day period and including trips to Edgbaston, trent bridge and Chester le Street. It becomes a bit less hectic in the back end of the schedule with our only trip this year to the now 'No a's County Ground at Derby' in the away leg on 15 August.

Of the 7 home games 4 are on Friday nights with 1 on a Tuesday, 1 on a Wednesday and 1 on a Sunday. Notts yet again get the benefit of a Saturday for the local Derby



The atmosphere is always good under lights

## Other Matches at the FCG

You will need the 'long johns' and thermals at the ready for the customary opening match against Loughborough University. The first game at Grace Rd in 2019 is on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>.

Once things warm up (hopefully) we welcome the England women back to the FCG for 3 games 2 of which are part of the exciting Ashes series against Australia. For once these don't clash with Foxes matches elsewhere so a great opportunity to get along to see the first 2 ODI's in the Ashes confrontation



England women's side return to the FCG for 3 matches

Comp	Date	Opposition	Venue
University Match	Tues 26 Mar	Loughborough MCCU	FCG
Women's ODI	Thurs 6 June	England v West Indies	FCG
Women's Ashes 1 <sup>st</sup> ODI	Tues 2 July	England v Australia	FCG
Women's Ashes	Thurs 4 July	England v Australia	FCG

You can keep up with all the action throughout the 2019 season by going to [www.outsideoff.com](http://www.outsideoff.com)