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**Middleton Cup Group Game 1**

***Middlesex v Surrey – Hendon BC – Sat 8th June - 1100hrs***

Saturday sees Middlesex, start their 2024 Middleton Cup campaign, with a home tie against Surrey, at Hendon BC, with the game starting at 1100hrs.

Team Manager Ray Fortune has named a strong squad and he will be hoping to get off to a similar start to the one made last season. Then, on a sweltering day, at Cranleigh BC Middlesex won by 35 shots to claim 18 points.

Of course the 2 Counties have already met twice this season with Surrey taking the spoils in both the County Friendly and the Home Counites League, 3rd time lucky??

This weekend new National Under 18 Singles Champion Ollie Shearing (North Greenwich) will be making his Middleton Cup debut as will Vikash Gandhi of Brentham BC.

Playing their 3rd game and getting their Middleton Flashes will be John Stacey and Robbie Carter Jnr, both of Poplar BC. At the other end of the scale West Ealing’s Paul Cater will be playing for the 75th time.

Commenting ahead of the game Ray was keen to play up the prospects of his side and was quick to emphasise the importance of the whole squad working together with the experience of Nick Edwards (Bounds Green) and Perry Cook (Poplar) likely to add to the mix for the 2nd game onwards.

Middlesex are the last side to play in the group with the other 4 Counties already having played their opening games. Surrey beat Isle of Wight 20-2 whilst Hampshire perhaps shocked Kent, beating them 20-2 in their own backyard.

Therefore making a good start could be vital to Middlesex’s overall campaign which will include a Home game against Hampshire on June 15th before trips to the Isle of Wight on June 22nd and Kent on July 6th

So, with the famous Hendon Bacon Rolls available from early morning, why not come along and support the side as they bid to get things off to a positive start.