



England spinner Dominic Bess (Getty Images)

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## Dom Bess Interview

Please find below a link to download a video interview with Somerset and England spinner Dominic Bess. The off-break bowler bowled with control throughout the second day of the three-day intra-group warm-up match at the Ageas Bowl finishing with figures of

You will find the following files:

- **Video and audio files of Dominic Bess's post-day's interview**
- **Scorecard**
-

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### **Day Two Match Report**

England all-rounder Sam Curran is awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test after being placed in self-isolation at the Ageas Bowl, on the second day of the intra-squad clash.

Curran batted on the first evening in Southampton, making 15 not out from 25 balls, but experienced sickness and diarrhoea during the night.

In line with strict medical protocols he has remained in his room at the on-site hotel and played no part in Thursday's play.

Ordinarily the left-armer would have been expected to feature with the ball but his conspicuous absence from the field was explained midway through the final session.

"Sam Curran has had sickness and diarrhoea overnight. He is feeling better this afternoon, and has been self-isolating in his room at the Ageas Bowl," read a statement from the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"He will play no further part in the practice match. He has been monitored by the team doctor throughout and was tested for Covid-19 earlier today."

A 30-strong training group has been living, training and sleeping at Hampshire's ground since linking up on June 23, dropping to 29 when father-to-be Joe Root departed earlier this week.

All players and backroom have been receiving twice-weekly Covid-19 tests ahead of the first #raisethebat Test against the West Indies, starting on Wednesday, with regular screening for venue workers.

The ECB's first set of reported results yielded an all-clear of 702 negative tests. An exhaustive set of precautions are being taken at both the Ageas Bowl and Emirates Old Trafford to establish fully 'bio-secure' environments, but there will be an understandable feeling of concern until Curran's most latest result comes back.

On the pitch, the battle for bowling places intensified as Jos Buttler's team, who declared on their day one score of 287 for five, left Ben Stokes' side 233 for nine at stumps.

Buttler's hand was strengthened by Jofra Archer and Mark Wood's first ever appearance together in red ball cricket and the pair offered a promising glimpse of what they might be capable of in tandem.

Injury has kept the country's quickest bowlers apart since both played key roles in England's World Cup victory last year, but midway through the morning session they teamed up for a promising eight-over spell that cost just seven runs and yielded the wicket of opener Dom Sibley for 12.

Archer banked the scalp, caught behind flicking the ball down leg-side, but the pair hunted together to unsettle Sibley with pacey short-pitched bowling. Wood might just as easily have been the one celebrating moments earlier, forcing Sibley to fend awkwardly to Ollie Pope, who squandered the chance at short-leg.

Wood returned in the afternoon session to take Jonny Bairstow's outside edge with the first ball of his second spell and finished with spotless figures of one for 14 from 11 overs, while Archer returned two for 37 after adding Ben Foakes for 38. He received treatment for sore feet late on, understood to be a result of wearing new bowling boots, and was replaced by Surrey's Amar Virdi – the 29th player involved in the match.

Sussex seamer Ollie Robinson also offered a reminder of his skills, bowling with precision as he accounted for Moeen Ali and Lewis Gregory in a double-wicket maiden.

Stuart Broad could find himself vulnerable to the growing competition, with the fetching white bandana he wore over his lockdown hair more eye-catching than his figures of nought for 42.

Moeen's dismissal, lbw for five, followed a peripheral role with the ball on Wednesday and his hopes of a first Test appearance in a year appear to be receding. Instead, Dom Bess is well placed to hold his place in the side.

He bowled more tightly than either Moeen or Jack Leach managed on Wednesday and took a nice wicket when he had Keaton Jennings caught at slip before lunch.

Zak Crawley top-scored with 43, a positive innings strewn with neat drives, before he nicked Chris Woakes – yet another able seamer vying for attention.

Stokes made his way to 41, and doled out Bess' only real punishment when he launched him for six and four in the same over, before he was stumped charging Matt Parkinson.

Ends

### **Editorial Notes:**

A 30-strong behind-closed-doors training group are living, training and playing at the Ageas Bowl ahead of the #raisethebat first Test against the West Indies starting on Wednesday 8 July 2020 at the same venue.

The training group will play a three-day intra-squad match at the Ageas Bowl on Wednesday 1 July 2020. Following the conclusion of the match, the national selectors will name a squad for the #raisethebat first Test on Saturday 4 July.

Two teams have been selected for this match. The teams will be captained by Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler.

### **Team Stokes**

Dominic Sibley, Keaton Jennings, Zak Crawley, Jonathan Bairstow, Ben Stokes (c), Ben Foakes, Moeen Ali, Lewis Gregory, Craig Overton, Jack Leach, Olly Stone, James Anderson, Saqib Mahmood.

### **Team Buttler**

Rory Burns, James Bracey, Joe Denly, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Pope, Jos Buttler (c), Sam Curran, Chris Woakes, Dominic Bess, Mark Wood, Jofra Archer, Stuart Broad, Matthew Parkinson, Ollie Robinson.

**The match is being streamed live via [www.ecb.co.uk](http://www.ecb.co.uk) using the static cameras at each end of the venue.**

### **England Behind-Closed-Doors Training Group:**

Moeen Ali (Worcestershire), James Anderson (Lancashire), Jofra Archer (Sussex), Jonathan Bairstow (Yorkshire), Dominic Bess (Somerset), James Bracey (Gloucestershire), Stuart Broad (Nottinghamshire), Rory Burns (Surrey), Jos Buttler (Lancashire), Zak Crawley (Kent), Sam Curran (Surrey), Joe Denly (Kent), Ben Foakes (Surrey), Lewis Gregory (Somerset), Keaton Jennings (Lancashire), Dan Lawrence (Essex), Jack Leach (Somerset), Saqib Mahmood (Lancashire), Craig Overton (Somerset), Jamie Overton (Somerset), Matthew Parkinson (Lancashire), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Ollie Robinson (Sussex), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Dom Sibley (Warwickshire), Ben Stokes (Durham), Olly Stone (Warwickshire), Amar Virdi (Surrey), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Mark Wood (Durham).

### **#raisethebat Three-match Test Series:**

1<sup>st</sup> Test: England v West Indies, July 8-12, Ageas Bowl, Southampton

2<sup>nd</sup> Test: England v West Indies, July 16-20, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester

3<sup>rd</sup> Test: England v West Indies, July 24-28, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester



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## Contacts



### **Danny Reuben**

Press Contact

Head of Team Communications

England Men's team

[danny.reuben@ecb.co.uk](mailto:danny.reuben@ecb.co.uk)

+44 (0)7825 723 620