

SPORTS NEWS-UK

CRICKET

Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club
The Metro Women's One Day Cup

May 2026

RUGBY

Leicester Tigers

BOXING

ATHLETICS







Elwiss and Jones Secure Fourth Straight Win for The Blaze

Nottingham, May 4, 2026 – Georgia Elwiss produced a masterclass in composure yesterday at Trent Bridge, leading The Blaze to a hard-fought five-wicket victory over Surrey in the Metro Bank One Day Cup.

Chasing a modest target of 165, The Blaze found themselves in early trouble as Surrey's bowlers tore through the top order. The hosts slumped to 29-4 and eventually 61-5, with stars like Tammy Beaumont and Kathryn Bryce falling for ducks. However, Elwiss remained the calm at the center of the storm.

The Match-Winning Stand

Elwiss was joined by Emma Jones, and together the pair engineered a remarkable rescue mission. They shared an unbroken 105-run partnership to see their side home with more than 15 overs to spare.

Result: The Blaze won by 5 wickets.

The victory marks a fourth consecutive win for The Blaze, solidifying their position as the team to beat this season. Elwiss later reflected on the win, praising the "quality of the bowling performance" and the resilience shown by the group to recover from a shaky start.

- Georgia Elwiss: Finished unbeaten on 76 from 95 balls, featuring six boundaries and a towering six into the Acrisure Stand.
- Emma Jones: Provided the perfect foil with a confident 36 off 49 balls*, punctuated by a cheeky reverse-ramp for four to seal the win against her former side.

Surrey's Struggles

Earlier in the day, The Blaze's bowling unit set the tone. Surrey were dismissed for 164 in 43 overs, struggling to build momentum against a disciplined attack. Kirstie Gordon was the pick of the bowlers, turning the game with a devastating spell of 3/37, while Charley Phillips, Kathryn Bryce, and Lucy Higham each picked up two wickets.

Score Summary



Ben Slater Leads the Charge in a Dominant Win against Leicester

The men's Rothesay County Championship clash between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire just wrapped up yesterday, and it was a clinical performance by the visitors. Nottinghamshire secured a dominant 10-wicket victory at Uptonsteel Grace Road, finishing the job early on Day 4.

Key Highlights

- **The Standout Batsman:** Ben Slater was the hero for Notts, anchor-man of the first innings with a massive 178 runs. He also sealed the match in the second innings with a brisk 52*, finishing the game with a six over cover.
- **The Spin Master:** Liam Patterson-White was instrumental in the final session, taking his seventh career five-wicket haul (5/53) to dismantle Leicestershire's second-innings resistance.

- **The Fightback:** Leicestershire's Stephen Eskinazi provided the main resistance with a gritty 100 in the first innings, but it wasn't enough to prevent the follow-on.
- **Clinical Finish:** Chasing a modest target of 73, the opening pair of Haseeb Hameed and Ben Slater needed less than an hour to reach the total without losing a single wicket.

What This Means

With this 23-point haul, Nottinghamshire has temporarily climbed to the top of Division One, maintaining their unbeaten start to the 2026 season. Leicestershire, while avoiding an innings defeat, will be looking to sharpen their bowling attack after Notts' openers made the chase look like a Sunday stroll.



JAMES HEYES STEPS UP TO THE MARK

While James Hayes (often affectionately referred to as "Jimmy") didn't grab the headlines with a five-wicket haul of his own, his Day 3 performance was a vital part of the Nottinghamshire machine that broke Leicestershire's resolve. Stepping in as an injury replacement for the veteran Brett Hutton—who was sidelined with a calf strain—Hayes provided exactly the kind of relentless, "canning" pressure a captain wants from a fresh arm.

On a Day 3 where the seamers had to toil harder than expected, Hayes operated as the perfect foil to the more explosive Olly Stone. While the scorecard shows he went wicketless in his nine second-innings overs, his economy and discipline allowed Liam Patterson-White and Lyndon James to attack from the other end. He played the "holding" role to perfection, drying up the runs and building the cumulative pressure that eventually saw Leicestershire collapse following their promising 99-run opening stand.

Interestingly, Hayes also made a significant impact with his hands before he even bowled a ball in the second innings. On Day 2, he came onto the field as a substitute fielder for the injured Hutton and showed his sharp reflexes by safely pouching the catch that dismissed Tom Scriven off Dillon Pennington's bowling. It was a complete "team man" performance: a crucial catch, disciplined bowling spells, and a steadying presence that helped ensure Notts walked away with the 10-wicket win on Day 4.





A Fast-Bowling Masterclass Stone was the standout performer on Day 2

Stone was the standout performer on Day 2, Saturday, May 2nd, claiming his maiden five-wicket haul for Nottinghamshire. He finished the first innings with clinical figures of 5 for 41, a spell characterized by raw pace and movement that the Leicestershire top order simply couldn't handle.

He set the tone by striking with his very first ball of the match—snaring the edge of Rishi Patel's bat—and followed it up shortly after with a "jaffa" that clipped Ian Holland's off-stump. It was a clear reminder to the England selectors that, when fit, his ability to "nick" players off is still world-class.

Turning the Screw

The most impressive part of his weekend was the burst after the tea interval. Stone returned with a ferocious spell where he took three wickets in just 20 deliveries without conceding a single run. This middle-order demolition—removing Jonny Tattersall, Ben Cox, and Ben Green—left Leicestershire in a tailspin at 112 for seven.

Stone's performance was pivotal in Nottinghamshire's eventual 10-wicket victory. By the time the dust settled, he had managed to stay injury-free and bowl at a high intensity across multiple spells, helping Notts maintain their dominance at the top of the table. For a player whose career has been so frequently interrupted by injury, this weekend in Leicester felt like a significant turning point in his 2026 campaign.





Tongue Fires as Duckett and Haynes Put Nottinghamshire in Control at Trent Bridge

Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan: Nottinghamshire seized the early advantage at Trent Bridge after a dominant day's play built around strong performances from Ben Duckett, Jack Haynes and Josh Tongue.

After solid work with the bat, it was the ball that truly swung momentum in the home side's favour. Josh Tongue led the charge with a sharp and disciplined spell, helping reduce the visitors to 81 for 4 by the close and leaving Nottinghamshire in a commanding position heading into day two.

Earlier in the day, Ben Duckett gave the innings early energy with his typically positive approach at the crease, setting the tone and keeping the scoreboard moving.

The key contribution came from Jack Haynes, whose composed knock provided the backbone of the innings. Mixing patience with well-timed stroke play, Haynes helped guide Nottinghamshire to a competitive total of 279, giving the bowlers a platform to attack. Haynes reached 100 from 133 balls including 12 fours, an impressive performance from Jack Haynes just under 4 hours at the crease.

With Tongue striking late and the top order delivering when it mattered, Trent Bridge belonged to Nottinghamshire on an encouraging opening day. Later in the day Tongue showed his class and demonstrated why he is England's star bowler delivering balls at speeds of over 90mph.





Ringside Revival: East Midlands Boxing Surges with Grassroots Promotions Leading the Charge

The East Midlands is quietly becoming one of the UK's most exciting regional hubs for boxing, thanks in large part to a new wave of independent promoters delivering action-packed events and nurturing local talent. Among those leading the charge are Trillogy Boxing Promotions and Ashton Promotions—two outfits redefining what small-hall boxing can look like in cities like Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester.

For years, the spotlight in British boxing has been dominated by major promoters and televised mega-fights. But beneath that surface, a grassroots movement has been building. Local promotions are not only keeping the sport alive at community level—they're actively growing it.

A Platform for Rising Talent

Trillogy Boxing Promotions has built a reputation for giving up-and-coming fighters consistent opportunities to gain experience in front of passionate home crowds. Their events blend competitive matchups with a strong sense of community, often featuring fighters from across the Midlands looking to build their records and reputations.

Similarly, Ashton Promotions has carved out a niche by staging high-energy fight nights that appeal to both hardcore fans and newcomers. Their shows are known for tight matchmaking and an emphasis on entertainment, ensuring that every bout carries significance.





The Small-Hall Renaissance

Small-hall boxing—once considered the sport’s undercard—is now a crucial pillar of its future. Promotions like Trillogy and Ashton are proving that you don’t need a stadium to create a compelling boxing experience. Instead, intimate venues often deliver a raw, electric atmosphere that’s hard to replicate on larger stages.

This resurgence is also helping to rebuild the pathway for fighters who might otherwise struggle to break through. With more frequent events, boxers can stay active, develop their skills, and attract local followings—an essential step toward bigger opportunities.

Community Impact Beyond the Ring

The influence of these promotions extends beyond fight night. Both organisations are contributing to the local boxing ecosystem by collaborating with gyms, trainers, and amateur clubs. This connection helps inspire the next generation of fighters while providing positive outlets for young people across the region.

In cities that have historically produced tough, resilient athletes, boxing once again feels embedded in the culture. The East Midlands is reclaiming its identity as a fighting region.



Looking Ahead

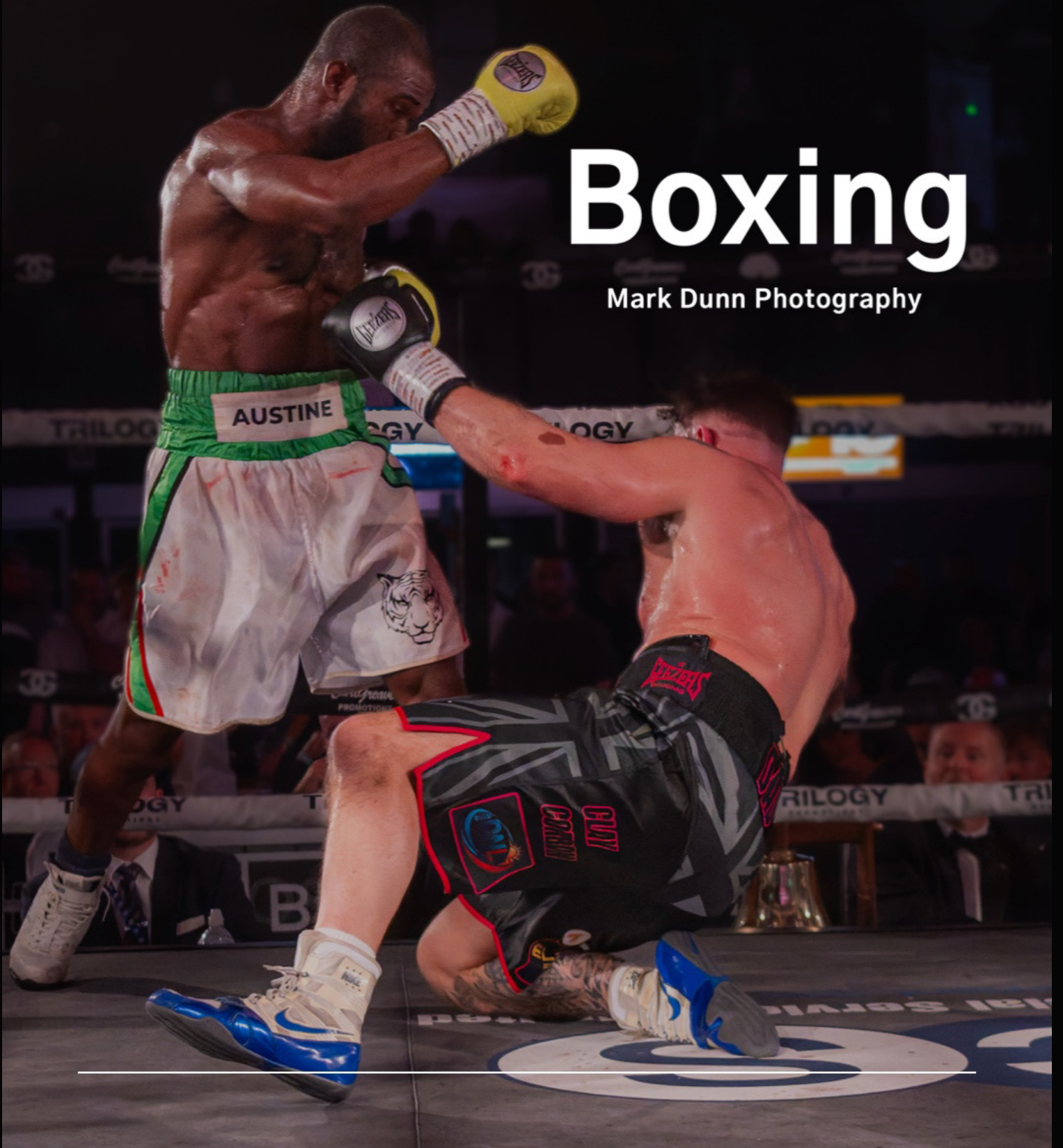
As 2026 unfolds, the trajectory for boxing in the East Midlands looks promising. With Trillogy Boxing Promotions and Ashton Promotions continuing to expand their reach, the region is poised to become a breeding ground for the next wave of British talent.

The big lights of national television may still shine brightest elsewhere, but in packed halls across the Midlands, something just as important is happening: the rebuilding of boxing from the ground up—one fight night at a time.

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ATHLETICS



History Made: Keely Hodgkinson Shatters 24-Year-Old World Indoor Record

A Class of Her Own: In Liévin, the execution was flawless. Shaving nearly a full second off the previous world mark, Hodgkinson becomes the first British woman to set a world record in the 800m in over 60 years.

With the World Indoor Championships in Torun fast approaching this March, Keely is clearly in the form of her life. If tonight was any indication, the "Golden Girl" of British middle-distance running is only just getting started.

Keely Hodgkinson's historic achievement is a shared triumph for her coaching team, as she is guided by the husband-and-wife duo of Trevor Painter and former world bronze medalist Jenny Meadows at the Manchester-based M11 Track Club.

Meadows, who retired from professional running in 2016, brings invaluable elite experience to the partnership; she was a world-class 800m runner herself, boasting a personal best of 1:57.93. The pair have fostered a "family feel" environment that has clearly paid dividends, with their work earning them the 2024 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Coach Award.





The Technical Breakdown: While the headline is the world record, the way she ran it tells the real story. After the pacemaker dropped out at the 400m mark, Keely was left to battle the clock alone. To go sub-1:55 indoors requires a perfect marriage of positioning and cadence, and her splits were a testament to her aerobic engine:

- 200m: Opened with intent in 27.1s.
- 400m: Through the halfway mark in a blistering 56.2s.
- 600m: Maintained a punishing rhythm to hit 1:25.5s.
- Final 200m: A sub-29-second closing lap that left the rest of the field in another post code.

By shaving nearly a full second off the previous mark, Keely has entered a stratosphere previously occupied only by legends of the outdoor circuit.

The Birmingham Omen: For those of us at the UK Indoor Championships last week, this didn't come as a total surprise. The atmosphere in the arena was humming; you could feel the anticipation every time Keely stepped onto the track.

Even in her solo 1:56.33 run in Birmingham—achieved without the aid of wavelights—her stride length and efficiency were noticeably superior. She wasn't just winning races at the UK Champs; she was calibrating her internal clock for tonight's assault on history.

That is such an incredible moment for British athletics to cover. Keely Hodgkinson didn't just break the record; she absolutely shattered it in Liévin tonight (February 19, 2026), clocking an astonishing 1:54.87.

Congratulations Keely, we are all very proud of you



Leicester Tigers overpower Newcastle Red Bulls in dominant display

Leicester Tigers produced a commanding performance to see off a spirited but ultimately outmatched Newcastle Red Bulls side in today's encounter, controlling proceedings from the outset and underlining their physical edge.

Backed by a lively home crowd, Tigers started on the front foot, asserting dominance through the pack and pinning their opponents deep inside their own half. Early pressure soon told, with sustained phases stretching the Red Bulls' defensive line before the breakthrough score arrived.

Newcastle showed flashes of attacking intent, particularly in broken play, but struggled to gain consistent territory. Handling errors and a well-organised Leicester defensive line repeatedly halted their momentum at crucial moments.

Leicester's forward power proved decisive throughout, with strong carries and quick recycling allowing the hosts to dictate the tempo. Their set-piece also functioned efficiently, providing a steady platform that kept the visitors under pressure.

As the match wore on, Tigers continued to build their advantage, capitalising on gaps and maintaining control of possession. The Red Bulls, to their credit, battled throughout and looked dangerous on the counter, but were unable to convert pressure into enough points to threaten a comeback.





A standout display came from Gabriel Hammer-Webb, who was deservedly named Man of the Match after an influential all-round performance. Constantly involved in both attack and defence, he carried with intent, made crucial tackles, and showed sharp awareness in open play. His work rate set the tone for Leicester's dominance, and he was instrumental in maintaining momentum at key stages of the game, earning recognition as the game's most impactful player.

In the closing stages, Leicester managed the game smartly, keeping play tight and limiting opportunities for Newcastle to respond. The result reflects a disciplined and clinical performance from the home side, who rarely looked in danger once they found their rhythm.



Mark Dunn

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