

Inter Insular #42 1993

The match was played at College Field, Guernsey

on Sunday 15th August 1993

for the Carlsberg Trophy

55 overs per side

Umpires Mick Wakeford (Guernsey) and John Le Gros (Jersey)

Scorers Richard Gauvain (Guernsey) and Jane Le Gros (Jersey)

Toss won by Jersey who elected to bat

Jersey won by 73 runs

PREVIEW

Jersey's cricket selectors have named three new caps for next Sunday's Carlsberg Trophy inter-insular at College Field, but the big news is that all-rounder Colin Graham is not among the XI. Graham, arguably the best all-rounder in Channel Islands cricket, snubbed the Jersey selectors saying he simply he did not want to play.

Paul Horton, still short of full fitness, is also a notable absentee from a team that will be aiming to end a run of four successive defeats at the College Field. The full team is: Ward Jenner (captain), Mark Reynolds (v captain), Steve Carlyon, Tony Carlyon, Simon Short, Micky Smith, Chris Searson Mike Coward, Steve Blampied, Chris Jones and Robin Le Quesne.

The new caps all have Victoria College connections. Smith is a teacher at the College, plays for OVs and is reportedly a middle-order batsman of good technique. Young Chris Jones was the mainstay of Victoria College's batting this summer and is expected to bat in the first three next week, while Le Quesne is a pugnacious Old Victorian who likes to hit the ball hard. Le Quesne may have clinched his place with a fine 48 in OV's defeat of Weekend League leaders St Ouen last Saturday. St Ouen all-rounder Mike Coward has enjoyed a successful season and will be playing his first inter-insular for several seasons, but otherwise the team is much as expected.

Meantime, selection of the Guernsey side has been delayed to this weekend. While I'm told we mustn't read anything into the delay, perhaps it could be to allow Stuart Mackay time to stake another claim with a decent innings for the OEs against the OIs at the College Field today. That is if he plays. At the time of writing OEs team manager Mick Fooks was unsure whether Stuart will have returned from a brief holiday in time to play.

Incidentally, if the selectors were seeking further proof of Keith Le Cheminant's

credentials, it came with his performance for the GICC against Avorians on Thursday afternoon. Le Cheminant bowled quite superbly and a three-wicket burst in one over early on put Avorians very much on the back foot in a game which eventually petered out into a draw.

The Guernsey Cricket Council selectors have made four changes to the side that contested last year's Carlsberg Trophy inter-insular match against Jersey, with Richard Veillard, Gary Tapp, Lee Savident and Mark Smith all coming in to the team who will be looking to regain the trophy. The team is: Peter Vidamour (captain), Ian Damarell, Lee Savident, Gary Rich, Richard Veillard, Gary Kimber, Gary Tapp, Ralph Anthony, Mike Kinder, Dave Hearse, and Mark Smith. Simon Beck will be 12th man. The inter-insular will be played at College Field on Sunday 15 August starting at 10.45am

[Lee Savident born on 22nd October 1976 in Guernsey went on to play cricket for Hampshire from 1997 to 2000 in four first class matches and 9 one day games. In his first county cricket match he had the distinction of dismissing Michael Vaughan. He also played 70 games for Hampshire 2nd XI. In 2004 he turned out for Dorset in one match claiming the wicket of New Zealander James Marshall in a Cheltenham and Gloucester Trophy match.]

'Jersey tipped to take lead in inter-insular series'

Thirteen is usually a number associated with bad luck, but there is no doubt that Guernsey skipper Peter Vidamour will settle for it appearing in the wins column of inter-insular statistics after tomorrow's Carlsberg Trophy match at the College Field. The record is dead level, with both teams having won 12 and shared 12 draws – in the days when such a result was possible – so tomorrow, unless there is a tie, a position of superiority will have been achieved.

On paper there seems to be little between the sides, but that has often been the case and that is what makes the match such a difficult one to predict. Making life even harder for pundits like myself, Guernsey's team go into the match with some doubts about form and it must be said that the selectors appear to have selected the side they see as most capable rather than most in-form. This particularly applies to the bowling where the selectors have gone for an attack which surprised many and I am sure those chosen will be itching to prove the doubters wrong.

While Guernsey were always going to go into the match with two spinners, Gary Rich and Ralph Anthony being automatic selections, there was some

doubt as to whether Guernsey would go into the match with two or three seamers. Mike Kinder always looked likely to be selected, his consistency and ability to swing the ball making him ideal for the College Field wicket, but there were many names banded about for the remaining one or two slots. Le Cheminant, Culverwell, Turville and Challenger were all names for which there was support, but eventually the selectors decided on two further seamers, left-armer Dave Hearse and right-arm fast bowler Mark Smith. As a result the attack has, on paper, an excellent balance – left-arm and right-arm fast bowlers, accurate medium pacer and right and left-arm spinners – but it is how they perform on the day that will be crucial.

Hearse is undoubtedly quick on his day and although his wickets tally is poor – two wickets in four matches – he is sure to give 100% and he will undoubtedly make life extremely uncomfortable for the Caesarean top order. He will also be aware that many people backed the inclusion of another left-arm pace man in Keith Le Cheminant and as a result I am sure he will be firing on all cylinders to prove the selectors right.

Smith is a different character. Less animated and outwardly aggressive than Hearse, he sometimes appears to be going through the motions. However, those who have played in the same team as the Optimists quickie know Smith's capabilities and also know just how hard he tries. If the ball swings early, Smith could be a real handful and together with Hearse could provide real problems for Jersey's top order, but if not he could be facing a long day in the field, a prospect which will not fill him with glee as fielding appears to be one of his least favourite activities.

Another key to the game will be the performance of Guernsey's spinners. If they can continue the form they have displayed all season, bowling tightly and picking up wickets as a result, Jersey could be in real trouble. If, however, Jersey should counter the help which is certain to be offered by the pitch and get on top of them, skipper Peter Vidamour will face severe problems.

Guernsey's batting looks as solid as ever and with Anthony coming in at eight there seems little to worry about in the runs department. Vidamour and Ian Damarell will probably open and with Lee Savident – returning from Hampshire where his form has been excellent – batting at three, Guernsey have a top three capable of taking the game by the scruff of the neck. Were it up to me Rich would come in at four, allowing him time to do what he does best which is build an innings and hold one end, leaving the fireworks of Messrs Kimber,

Veillard and Tapp.

So all in all Guernsey go into the game with an excellent chance, but though it hurts me to say it, I have a sneaking suspicion that Ward Jenner's Caesareans raiders may leave these shores with the Carlsberg Trophy on board. However, nothing would please me more than to admit I was wrong in Monday's match report and I'll be happy to get the stick for backing the old enemy.

MATCH

Guernsey Press

'Guernsey-born Searson rips heart out of the Sarnian's batting to ensure a Jersey victory' by Richard Hamilton

Guernsey-born medium pacer Chris Searson wrecked local hopes of a fifth successive cricket inter-insular win at the College Field yesterday by taking nine wickets and having a hand in the tenth as Guernsey slipped to a 73 run defeat at the hands of their Caesarean rivals. Jersey scored 216 for 4 and restricted Guernsey to 143.

After Steve Carlyon had produced another near faultless batting display, the cultured left-hander stroking 89 fluent runs in his team's total of 216, Searson took centre stage and produced a performance which will, no doubt, live long in his memory.

On a pitch offering perfect assistance to his accurate seam bowling, Searson kept the ball up and with Guernsey attempting to push along the score, having fallen well behind the clock, he collected figures which are unlikely to be surpassed in future Guernsey-Jersey matches. However, it must be said that his success was partly as a result of deficiencies in Guernsey's batting and had a number of the batsmen who fell to the Old Victorian's bowler been looking for a target of four or five an over rather than the eight or nine required as his spell progressed, I am sure that his figures would have been a little different.



Lee Savident tries to get the ball away

GEP

On winning the toss Ward Jenner surprised few by deciding to make use of what looked a good batting track, reputedly harder than the Grainville pitch encountered by Guernsey teams earlier this season. Guernsey enjoyed first blood when Dave Hearse slanted the ball across young opening batsman Chris Jones and found the outside edge of his bat, the ball flying to gully where Gary Rich held on to an excellent low catch diving forward, but in retrospect the wicket only gave Steve Carlyon more time to build what proved a crucial innings.

After Smith and Hearse's opening burst, Kinder, Anthony and Rich were rotated and all enjoyed moral victories if little else as Jersey slowly built a solid foundation to their innings. One of those 'moral victories' cost Gary Rich a warning for obscene language, the Cobo spinner feeling sure he had Carlyon caught at slip by Vidamour and venting his frustration when the batsman stood his ground, shaking his head at the fuss all around him. The unruffled Carlyon and Blampied took the score to 64 by the 25th over before the accurate Guernsey attack managed another breakthrough when Blampied played around a straight one from Kinder and left the arena for 39, the left-hander

being sent on his way both by the pointed finger of the bowler and the pointed comments of the spectators on the 'hill', signalled the appearance of the Jersey skipper Ward Jenner. Together with Carlyon he guided his team through to lunch without alarm but with the score at 108 from 41, Guernsey were the team with smiles on their faces, thinking no doubt of restricting Jersey to a score well below 200. However, it was not to be.



Mark Smith bowling to Jersey's Chris Jones

GEP

After Rich had bowled Jenner with one that went straight on and Anthony had Le Quesne well pouched by Veillard at long-off, Mike Coward joined Carlyon for a partnership which, as it turned out, was to take the game beyond Guernsey's reach. While Carlyon chipped away and ruthlessly punished anything short, Coward played with admirable coolness, patting the good ball and murdering anything off line, his 25-ball 37 – including a big six over backward square-leg off Anthony.

So having let their rivals off the hook Guernsey went in to bat chasing just under four an over, a total which on the face of it looked undaunting but which as the afternoon progressed proved too much for the Sarnian batsmen. The key to the innings came in the session before tea. Faced by some accurate bowling from Mark Reynolds and Tony Carlyon, Guernsey crawled to 21 for one in 19 overs by tea and suddenly faced an asking rate of more than five an over.

Vidamour's wicket was the one to fall, the skipper getting an outside edge to a ball from Carlyon which popped up nicely to the match-winning Searson at gully. Who knows. if he'd spilled it he might have got all 10!

Needing to push on, the last thing Guernsey needed straight after tea was the

loss of another wicket but that is exactly what they suffered. Ian Damarell just failed to get his bat down on a yorker from Searson and got a crack on his foot which was no doubt made worse by the fact it was followed by the umpire's finger, the Optimists batsman being dismissed for 13. Gradually Jersey's grip on the trophy tightened. Unerringly Searson retained his line and length and as the desperation grew so his wicket tally increased. From then on Guernsey were effectively out of the hunt with only Veillard (30 not out) showing the necessary technique to counter Searson's probing examination. That said, the last seven Guernsey batsmen were all victims of the pressure and while they will be disappointed to have gout out in the manner they did – Kinder and Tapp playing on, Anthony being caught at slip attempting a guiding shot, and Smith, Kimber and Hearse all throwing the bat in desperation – they will realise that yesterday was simply not their day.

Jersey Post

Jersey outplayed Guernsey in all departments to take the Carlsberg Tetley senior inter-insular cricket trophy at the Elizabeth College Field in Guernsey yesterday. Steve Carlyon's unbeaten 89 was the highest score for at least two decades by a Jerseyman while Chris Searson's bowling figures of 9 for 46 must be the best ever in the history of the fixture.

To round off an outstanding performance Searson had a hand in the other wicket to fall, diving forward to hold a good catch at gully off the bowling of Tony Carlyon. He even managed to drop the Guernsey not out batsman off his own bowling.

Jersey reached 216 for 4 at the close, doubling their score at lunch in the last 14 overs. The foundation of Jersey's victory and Searson's record breaking exploits was set in the 19 overs before tea. After the match a delighted Searson said, 'I bowled well for the first 10 overs, finding a good line and getting the occasional one to cut back into the batsmen but after that I tired a little. What made it possible was the opening spell by Tony and Mark – that put a lot of pressure on the Guernsey batsmen. They came out after lunch thinking they had to have a go and that played right into my hands. It was definitely my day.'

REVIEW

Guernsey Press

'Inter-insular verdict: Guernsey batsmen let the side down' by Richard Hamilton

The silence of the supporters on the 'Hill' for long periods on Sunday told the sorry tale as Guernsey were comprehensively outplayed by a Jersey team who got it right on the day and, it must be said, deserved their win at the College Field. Nothing upsets me more than a Caesarean win and this one was no exception as the gloomy prediction I made last week proved right, arguably my first right guess in quite some time. What disappointed was not just the fact that Guernsey lost, but the impression they gave that they did not want to win as badly as did Jersey.

I am sure man for man Guernsey were desperate to produce a win but sadly it did not really show on the pitch, with Jersey looking as though they had done their homework, restricting the batsmen and batting in a methodical and calculating way. Another disappointing aspect was the Sarnian's batting. What is it that turns the Island's premier attacking batsmen into dead bat merchants. Granted the standard of bowling in inter-insular matches is always high, but quite why players like Peter Vidamour, Ian Damarell, Gary Rich, and in the past, players such as Mark Bacon and Paul Wakeford, have struggled so much escapes me. I've watched all of them score buckets of runs against touring sides and the best bowlers Guernsey have to offer and cannot understand why their attacking tendencies are curbed so severely by Caesarean attacks. True, Jersey attacks are normally of the highest quality and are often well planned but so is our batting. It's not as if the wrong team was selected, the same batsmen would come to the fore if another Island team was required tomorrow. It could be that the pressure got to them, yet our top players have performed in other high pressure situations. A question I would ask is, 'Why, on this wicket, did skipper Peter Vidamour restrict pace bowlers Mark Smith and Mike Kinder to just 15 of the 55 overs?' At the end of the day he must have regretted this, yet in fairness Vidamour could not be blamed for the defeat because his bowlers did keep the Jersey total to a reasonable level. Overall I thought he did a good job in what was his first Island match in charge. He kept his players going and set his fields thoughtfully. Spinners Rich and Anthony rarely troubled the batsmen with the left-handed Carlyon taking the lion's share of the strike against Anthony, protecting the

right-handers and, while neither bowled badly, I would have liked to see a little more variation in the attack. However, despite a lack of penetration the Guernsey bowlers still managed to restrict their rivals to 213 and had the Guernsey batsmen played to their potential local fans would have gone home singing their side's praises. Let's hope for better things next year.