

## **ICC Europe Division 2 Guernsey 2008**

Guernsey v France

European Championship Division Two 2008

Venue College Field, St Peter Port on 20th August 2008 (50-over match)

Balls per over 6

Toss Guernsey won the toss and decided to bat

Result Guernsey won by 76 runs

Points Guernsey 2; France 0

Umpires M Carpenter (Jersey), RM Eames (Belgium)

Scorers MJM Renouf, S Veillard

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### **MATCH**

Guernsey Press

'Guernsey's best display keeps them on track' by Aaron Scoones

Guernsey kept themselves on course for an all-deciding clash with Jersey on Saturday with an easy win over France yesterday. Day by day the 2008 ICC European Division Two Championship has been edging towards a showdown between the two Channel Islands, which will certainly have more riding on it than your usual inter-insular.

And yesterday the College Field witnessed Guernsey's best performance of the competition as they got the better of a very capable French side by 76 runs.

With a rest day today, the Sarnians now face division new boys Croatia tomorrow before the following day's big clash with Jersey.

But island manager Dave Hearse is not letting his side get ahead of themselves. "We've got to turn up on Friday and do exactly the same things and get over that hurdle first. Then we can start thinking about Saturday," he said. "You couldn't ask more from the players [against France]. We were playing on a wicket that was three days old and we knew it would be tough to put runs on the board, but we decided to bat first because we wanted to put pressure on them as we knew that they struggled against Jersey when going for the runs."

On a soggy and well-used College Field wicket, Matt Oliver gave the Guernsey innings some impetus after his opening partner Lee Savident went for nine.

The big-hitting Cobo left-hander put on 65 before he was involved in a run-out

with Jeremy Frith. With young Tim Ravenscroft going cheaply at number four, Frith went about rebuilding the innings.



Jeremy Frith sweeps

ICC/CricketEurope

In the only sunny part of the day, a criticising spectator might have accused Frith of batting too negatively as the Greens passed the 100 mark just before the 30th over. But when he was joined in the middle by his captain, Stuart Le Prevost, together they slowly but surely gave the proceedings some impetus. Le Prevost looked in fine touch as he hit a couple of big sixes on the leg side. But the Cobo man got a bit too excited when he went to sweep paceman Abdul Qureshi and succeeded only in sending the ball straight up in the air for wicket-keeper Waseem Bhatti to gobble up. The score was now 170 for four in the 44th over.

The, out of no-where, Frith got into the act as he swept Ali Akbar for six into the scout hut. He reached his 50 soon afterwards but did not add to it as he was caught by Arun Ayyavooraju off Qureshi trying to force the issue.



Jeremy Frith reverse sweeps      ICC/CricketEurope

Guernsey lost a few wickets as they looked to grab as many runs as they could in the last overs. It was during this period a dismissal took place that would be in contention for one of the most bizarre ever. Kris Moherndl smacked a Sulanga Hewawalandange delivery straight back at non-striker Jamie Nussbaumer, who could not avoid the ball as it hit his pads and spooned up for an easy catch for the bowler.



Kris Moherndl

ICC/CricketEurope

Guernsey made 200 in the 48th over but they failed to add too many more as leg-spinner Akbar managed to bowl a wicket-maiden in the last over.

That was sign of things to come. After getting rid of opener Ramesh Sithambaranathan early on in the piece, the Greens were beginning to look slightly worried as France's danger man Ayyavooraju, who had scored 90 against them two years ago at the last Division Two Championship, was starting to build a partnership with Hewawalandanage. They took the Blues past the 50 mark.

But their threat was cut short when they went for a second run to Blane Queripel at fine leg and the fast bowler whipped a low throw into keeper Oliver to clip the bails off with Ayyavooraju a foot short of the crease. It was a massive wicket for Guernsey.

The introduction of Frith with his left-arm spin proved to be the death knell for the French as he got some big turn out of the aging strip. He first got rid of Hewawalandanage, caught by Savident at slip, who went on to snaffle up John Houghton the next ball.

In Frith's next over Shahid Malik smacked a flat six into the scout hut, but when he tried to repeat the dose two balls later, he succeeded only in giving Moherndl catching practice at deep mid-wicket.

Frith then started his eight over with two wickets in two balls as he first dealt with Bhatti, who was another victim for slip Savident, and then had Akbar plumb lbw.

Qureshi survived the hat-trick and put in a bit of a score to make the Sarnians stay out in the damp for a bit longer.

The left-hander eventually went for 22 when he became Savident's fourth catch from the off-spin of Ravenscroft.

Former Hampshire man Savident took his fifth catch in the slips when number 11 Logith Alagaratnam got an edge on Stuart Bisson's medium pace and France's innings came to a close at 132.

"We got ourselves into a good position as we stuck to our game plan, but we need to work on those middle overs," said Franc coach Dave Szumowski. "A few of our batters didn't do too badly. It was just really good bowling from Jeremy."

Cricket Europe article:

Jersey and hosts Guernsey again recorded emphatic victories to move two wins clear of the other countries after three rounds of matches in the ICC

Europe 2nd Division championship. Germany defeated Croatia to move into third place on run rate, ahead of France and Gibraltar.

At College Field Guernsey won the toss and chose to bat against France. Matt Oliver began very aggressively and when Lee Savident was caught with the score at 48, the latter had contributed just nine of the runs. Oliver and Jeremy Frith then added 40 before Oliver was run out for 65, his innings having lasted 82 balls and including ten fours and a six. Although Ravenscroft went cheaply, Frith and Stuart Le Provost pressed on with a partnership of 67. Le Provost made 39, including two sixes, and Frith completed an excellent half-century before he was caught by Arun Ayyavooraju. The Guernsey effort faded slightly in the final few overs to leave them on a final score of 208 for eight.

Although France reached 56 before their second wicket fell, they struggled throughout against a tight Guernsey bowling attack. Blane Queripel was especially difficult to get away as he bowled a spell of six overs for just 8 runs. Left arm spinner Frith made his way through the French middle order and when the eighth wicket fell at 96, Frith had claimed five victims for just 25 runs. A late flurry from Qureshi and Sahaya took France to a total of 132 in the 45th over.