

ICC Europe Division 2 Scotland 2006

Greece v Guernsey
European Championship Division Two 2006 (Group 1)
Venue Henry Thow Oval, Prestwick on 6th August 2006 (50-over match)
Balls per over 6
Toss Guernsey won the toss and decided to bat
Result Greece won by 9 wickets
Points Greece 0 (Win points deducted for fielding ineligible players -2);
Guernsey 0
Umpires TK Jensen, CA McElwee (Ireland)

MATCH

'Second collapse costs Guernsey' by Aaron Scoones

A second batting collapse in as many days ensured that Guernsey tasted defeat again in the ECC European Division Two Championship. With morning drizzle reducing their last group match to 45 overs a side at Prestwick Cricket Club yesterday, the Sarnians put up an inadequate total of 131. The Greeks coasted to victory in the 35th over for the loss of one wicket.

Guernsey had been 107 for five and captain Andy Biggins could only watch from the non-strikers end as they conceded their last five wickets for just 15 runs. 'It was lost with the bat,' said Biggins. 'I didn't know what the problem was. People didn't want to stay out there. We should have really got 200 but we played some schoolboy shots and it has shown us that we aren't as good as we thought we were.'

Guernsey were inserted to bat on a damp green strip when Greece won the toss. It was a choice the Sarnians would have made anyway if they had won the toss as they required a big total to push their net run rate as high as possible to help them go further in the competition. However, their big total failed to materialise as their batsmen, with the exception of Stuart Le Prevost and Biggins, again did not take on the responsibility of getting a meaningful score each.

Lee Savident was the first to go with the score on 11. After he had struck a couple of booming drives he went for one that was not quite there to hit a skier to cover fielder George Panajiotou, who caught it on the rebound. His opening partner Richard Veillard soon followed and so did Ami Banerjee coming in at three. Guernsey were then really up against it when Jeremy Frith departed for one with the scoreboard reading 32 for three. The all-rounder has had a lean tournament with the bat, making just 11 runs in three matches. Banerjee went next for 14, plumb lbw to

quickest Iordanis Kontarinis (sic) before Le Prevost and Biggins set about pulling their side out of the mire as they put on 51 runs for the fifth wicket.

Le Prevost looked in good nick as he struck the ball cleanly around the park, but the Cobo captain would not have been happy with his dismissal when he chipped Spyridon Goustis to Anastasios Manousis in the covers for 40. That kicked off a purple patch for the medium pacer Goustis as he proceeded to take three more wickets to rip through Guernsey's tail. In fairness he did not have to try too hard as the Sarnian batsmen seemed intent on giving their wickets away when all they needed to do was support Biggins.

Goustis bowled Gary Rich for one and then got rid of Stuart Bisson and Pierre Moody, who played some shots coming in at 11 before he daftly spooned one up to Georgios Stogianos. Biggins walked off the pitch not out on 27. Whereas the island batsmen played with abandon, the Greeks put an expensive price on their wickets and they were not going to give them up easily. Opening bowlers Savident and Banerjee, in attempts to make up for their failures with the bat, both ran in hard. Greek openers Mehmood Ahmed and Koutsoufis survived a number of close shouts for lbw each, as they saw out the Savident and Banerjee threat. Stocky left-hander Ahmed eventually went for 17 after facing 60 balls when Moody ran him out with a sharp piece of work.

In came Paul Maraziotis to join Koutsoufis and they continued to do the job at hand patiently as they negated the spin of Frith and Rich on a turner of a track. Right handed Maraziotis used his feet well to come down and whip shots through mid-wicket. Although Jamie Nussbaumer, standing in for Matt Oliver, who was ill back at the hotel, could have twice stumped Maraziotis the keeper was having a difficult time behind the stumps dealing with the excess turn and he missed both chances. The Greeks passed the target when Maraziotis pulled Kris Moherndl for four runs with 10 overs left. 'It was pretty emphatic and we bear a pretty good team,' said Greece coach Tim Dellor. 'We didn't really give them a chance to play and a nine-wicket victory is a good effort.'