

Inter Insular #24 1975

The match was played at College Field, Guernsey
on Sunday 17th August 1975
for the Players Gold Leaf Trophy
Umpires K G Clayton (Guernsey) and Dr R L Osment (Jersey)
Scorers G A Ingram (Guernsey) and H W Hall (Jersey)
Toss won by Guernsey and elected to field
Guernsey won by 3 wickets

PREVIEW

Press Saturday 16th August

'Mills can see no way that his team can lose' by John Le Poidevin

The Guernsey cricket team will not lack confidence when it takes on the might of Jersey at the College Field tomorrow, My hope is that the Guernsey players are not too confident. Things have gone completely Guernsey's way at the inter-island level these past couple of summers. How long can it last?

Jersey will be trying hard to emerge from the doldrums, and to end the dominance of Guernsey cricket in general and Warren Barrett in particular. But at worst I can see Guernsey claiming a draw. If Jersey go out and play for a draw it could be difficult to dismiss them.

Guernsey must be favourites to win and I know skipper Ricky Mills can see no way that his team can lose.

I'd be happier with Tony Taylor in the side, but nevertheless believe we have the best available team which is strong enough down the order to allow the captain to switch his order depending on the state of the proceedings.

There may have been a case for the inclusion of an out-and-out hitter in the mould of 12th man Bryan Preston or Henry Davey to capitalise on a sound opening. But there should not be too many fears. When a skipper has the likes of Barrett and Mick Fooks – both free scorers – available to back the more reliable batsmen he can have few worries.

Jersey cricket is not at its happiest state, I gather, and there is surely a hint of panic in their team selection.

The Guernsey side is, I know, delighted that Peter Osment and Richard Hird are not in the team. These are probably the only two Jersey players who would get into the Guernsey team!

It is true that Osment's record against Guernsey does not match his consistency

against other opposition, and Hird has not taken a bag-full of wickets against our better players. Nonetheless they are both better quality than others in the Jersey team and in the long run you cannot afford to ignore class.

Who is Richard Allott? was the obvious question from Guernsey supporters when they learned of the Jersey team. It was a question the island class Jersey player who read the team to me could not answer. A batsman who bowls a bit, was his description of the stranger to top CI cricket. My later information is that Mr Allott is a more than useful pace bowler able to move the ball into and away from the batsman. He could be the secret weapon Jersey have been looking for. Jersey selectors could not find him, though, until recently – and he has been playing regularly in lower division cricket in the sister island. We'll look forward to seeing him in action and hope he has recovered from the injury I'm told he sustained a few days ago.

On a helpful wicket, Jersey's leg spinner Chad Murrin could prove a trump card because we don't normally play against this style of bowling. But if Murrin gets a spinner's wicket he will have to be jolly good to get more from it than our own spinner Warren Barrett who is getting maximum support these days by on-form wicket-keeper Mick Fooks.

I sincerely hope that both captains go into the match with victory as their aim. If they don't there will surely be another draw to add to the many in the series and further ammunition will be available for the limited overs brigade to fire.

The match is scheduled to start at 11am.

Teams: Guernsey; Ricky Mills, Alan Lewis, Pierre Le Cocq, Bob Kimber, Warren Barrett, Mick Fooks, John Mountford, Mike de Haaff, Mick Mechem, Mike Webber, Alan Bisson.

Jersey; Dave Billingham, Richard Allott, Martin Dodd, Norman Fage, Don Faux, David Hunt, Chad Murrin, Ray Pearce, John Poynton, David Warren, Mike Weaver.



John Le Lievre Alan Lewis Andy Creed Miles Dobson Micky Fooks Henry Davey Ralph Anthony
Mick Webber Warren Barrett Ricky Mills Pierre Le Cocq John Mountford GEP

MATCH

Press Monday 18th August

'Barrett and Le Cocq star in an enthralling match' by John Me Poidevin

Splendid bowling by Warren Barrett and an exciting half century by Pierre Le Cocq highlighted a workmanlike Guernsey win over Jersey by three wickets at the College Field yesterday. Runs were at a premium yet the match never flagged throughout its six and a quarter hours duration.

Home captain Ricky Mills put Jersey in to bat after winning the toss. The wicket was wet after heavy overnight rain and the weather was overcast. It was a brave decision – but in the event the right one! Jersey lost a wicket in the first over and never got on top of the Guernsey bowling attack in which spinner Barrett was ever present except for the first few overs. It required some gritty batting by the last two Jersey batsmen to take their total to 135 – Richard Allott and Dave

Warren putting on 20 runs for the last wicket. Barrett bowled 31 overs and took seven wickets for 52 runs and there were nine maidens to testify to the manner in which he bowled.



Warren Barrett bamboozles the Jersey batsmen

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It was by no means a big total, especially since Guernsey had approximately an hour and three quarters plus 20 overs. But Guernsey's task was not made easier with Mills, Alan Lewis and Alan Bisson back in the pavilion with only 21 runs on the board.

It became absorbing cricket far removed from the biff-bang-wallop of a lot of present day play. The biggest crowd I have seen at College Field for many years was enthralled and few left before Guernsey had secured victory with just eight deliveries to spare. Guernsey required 56 runs with six wickets in hand when the mandatory last 20 overs stage was reached. It proved a rare struggle to get them.

In Le Cocq Guernsey had a player well suited to the occasion and he played wonderfully well. After that early set-back – Mills cutting the ball onto his stumps at nine, Lewis prodding into forward short leg's hands at 20 and Bisson being comprehensively bowled one run later – Guernsey's innings needed batsmen to stay put. Mike Webber had made a jittery start and Bob Kimber did not look very comfortable. But to their credit they stayed there and slowly added 20 runs. Kimber was caught behind and replaced by Le Cocq and the character of the team innings changed. Le Cocq lifted an Allott delivery into the trees at mid-wicket and hammered a couple of fours in the same area to take some initiative from the Jersey attack in which 'new boy' Allott was a star. He bowled quickly and moved the ball appreciably into the batsman. Le Cocq's aggressiveness was welcomed by the Guernsey camp but the batsman decided that this was not

really the way to ensure victory and set about to grind Jersey to defeat. Dave Warren, who had bowled tidily, then took good catches to get rid of the patient Webber and Barrett and Guernsey were reaching a stage when runs were not the only consideration, they could ill-afford to lose more wickets. The slower Martin Dodd and Ray Pearce gave the batsmen some problems then Guernsey again took the initiative with Le Cocq and Mechem picking up the runs in singles to keep their side on the road to victory.

When Allott was returned to the attack Mechem snicked him past first slip for four and in the same over Le Cocq hammered him to square leg for another four. Thereafter it was a case of coasting through to victory. Jersey deserve considerable credit for their play and Guernsey, though deserving winners, most certainly did not have things their own way.

That marathon of Barrett's was a joy to watch. He varied his pace, threw in the odd leg break and was always giving the batsmen something to think about. David Hunt decided that attack was the best method and he looked in good touch until Barrett bowled him for 34 – the top Jersey score. Mike Webber took a good gully catch to get rid of Norman Fage off the last ball of de Haaff's first over and Le Cocq collected a couple of good slip catches as well as sending down 20 well directed overs.

All in all it was some day for Pierre and a grand day for Guernsey cricket. They retained the Gold Leaf trophy which has now been won outright only four times since 1966.



Mike de Haaff on debut for the victors

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Post Tuesday 19th August

'Jersey lose inter-insular but regain confidence and respect' by 'Cricketer'

JERSEY and Guernsey on Sunday played their annual inter-insular cricket match, this year in Guernsey, in indifferent weather and with the expectation of a substantial Guernsey victory to add to last years ten wicket obliteration. In the event, Jersey still lost, but the manner of defeat was not without spirit, determination and signs of resurgence. With a more positive approach to the trade of batting and a greater ability to catch a moving ball, the result would have been reversed. On a wicket that was still absorbing considerable overnight rain and with a saturated outfield, Jersey lost the toss and, in the current jargon, were inserted. Poynton struck the first ball of the match for a single more appropriate in judgment to the lower orders of the Evening League and Page, upon whom high hopes, not to mention side bets, rested, then played the last ball of the first over with bat askew, left leg some distance from the pitch and Webber gratefully accepted a sharpish chance at fourth slip. It was the worst possible start and visions of another rout appeared. Hunt, however, totally rested by his previous early night had other ideas and, while Poynton grafted, found little difficulty with de Haaff and Le Cocq, Barrett, who has a spectacular record of success against Jersey sides, was brought on after only eight overs, but any prospects of his immediate domination were dismissed by Hunt who struck him comfortably for four.

However, when Poynton had accumulated eight in some 40 minutes he tried to drive Barrett and was caught by a somewhat startled Le Cocq at slip. The advent of Faux caused further Jersey misgivings and, while Hunt continued with confidence and responsibility, a cloud of introspection descended at the other end. It was, nevertheless, Hunt who went first when he missed a ball of fuller length, sometimes called a half-volley, and was bowled for 34 out of 47.

Billingham enlightened the proceedings with seven runs from his first two balls and then, presumably, subdued by the responsibilities of captaincy, took a further 35 minutes to add another ten against a mixture of de Haaff, Le Cocq and Mills at one end and Barrett, Barrett and Barrett at the other. His innings ended with the total at 73, and Faux, having shown signs of beginning to believe in himself, followed two runs later to the toiling Le Cocq. Seventy-five for five with fifteen minutes left before lunch was hardly a dominating situation and when, seven runs later, Dodd swept Barrett with unerring accuracy to the only fielder

within 40 yards the position was even worse. Lunch was taken at 83 for 6 after a lively 42 overs with Barrett claiming 4 for 28.

Weaver and Murrin thereafter batted with some sense of purpose and added 28 before Murrin also failed to reach Barrett's pitch and was caught at slip. Weaver then became the third well set batsman to miss an over-pitched ball from Barrett and at 113 for 8 the match was more than half lost. Pearce made little impact but Allott and Warren, bowlers both, batted sensibly and within their limitations, for half-an-hour adding a not insubstantial 20 runs for the last wicket. One hundred and thirty-five could hardly be described as a match-winning total, but equally it gave the bowlers something to play with. The saturnine Barrett finished with 7 for 52 from an unbroken spell of 31 overs which, in any context, was a remarkable performance.

Guernsey began as if it was all too easy, but were rapidly brought back to reality when Warren dismissed both openers in, respectively, his second and third overs. Allott, whose first four overs had cost a profligate 15 runs, then settled into rhythm, line and length and his next nine overs, during which he dismissed Bisson and Kimber, cost only 12 runs including a massive 6 from Le Cocq and a 4 through the slips at catchable height from Webber's first ball.

Herein lay the manner of Jersey's ultimate defeat, for no fewer than eight catches of varying difficulty were put down. No-one drops a catch on purpose, but at this level of cricket, speed of thought, co-ordination of hand and eye and dexterity of judgement should be taken for granted. So Webber and Le Cocq survived with increasing confidence and their 50 partnership was undoubtedly the match-winning factor for Guernsey.



Mike Webber drives off the back foot

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Allott and Warren bowled unchanged for more than an hour before Pearce and then Dodd were required to bowl. Dodd immediately arranged Webber's dismissal on lines similar to his own and proceeded thereafter to bowl nine very

tidy overs for only 19 runs. Meanwhile Le Cocq was not in difficulty and, when joined by Barrett, the progressively more defensive Jersey field became vulnerable to the quick single. Barrett thumped Pearce to Warren at mid-off but Mechem carried on in similar fashion until, after judicial consultation, he was given out caught by Weaver at backward short leg. By this time only two runs were wanted and although two further changes were declined in the space of three balls, Guernsey polished off the game with eight balls left from the final 20 overs. Despite the apparent closeness of the result, Le Cocq had been in charge for the final half hour and while he was there, Guernsey were always winning. It was a brave but sad mixture of defiance and incompetence which finally led to the loss of the match, but at least Jersey had attacked, displayed not a little skill and came away with honour.



Pierre Le Cocq glances the ball to leg

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REVIEW

Press on Wednesday 20th August

Critics ignored one important fact, Ricky's side was superior ... but, in the event, only just.

Things went pretty much to plan on Sunday – even to the correct call, which enabled Ricky Mills the Guernsey skipper, to dictate when Jersey would bat. There were many who thought he had erred when putting Jersey in to bat on a wicket which was likely to give more assistance to the bowlers as the day progressed. Those critics did not take an even more important point into account – that Guernsey were the stronger team, that Jersey were not so bad that they could not have held out for a draw if they realised they could not match Guernsey's total.

The result was a marvellous game of cricket towards which Jersey played its full part. They went for a result and looked best when offering shots.

It was not an easy batting wicket and not the day for all-out attack by batsmen and, of course, they had to combat that man Warren Barrett. David Hunt, their best bat on Sunday, hoisted Barrett to the midwicket boundary in his first over and played other fluent strokes in a sound innings. But Barrett's variety of delivery, his nagging length, proved too much for the Jersey batsmen and after Hunt's dismissal they did not look too happy although most got a few runs. The Guernsey fielding was good even though a couple of catches went begging and Le Cocq and Webber each took a splendid catch – Webber's at gully to get an all-important first wicket off the sixth delivery of the match, bowled by Mike de Haaff.

Guernsey had 105 minutes plus 20 overs to score 136 for victory – a modest enough total in normal circumstances. But Jersey, as had been expected, were determined to do well and they bowled and fielded in spirited fashion, although like their opponents put down a couple of stiff chances.

Richard Allott, their surprise selection, fully justified the selector's action with a fine display of swing bowling and at the other end Dave Warren produced the occasional very good ball.

Guernsey looked anything but the powerful batting side they had been labelled as Mills, Lewis and Bisson went back to the pavilion smartly and Webber and Kimber scratched away at the wicket looking far from happy.

But Guernsey's top team does not lack character and Le Cocq showed again what a good cricketer he is by coming in at number six and scoring a match-winning and undefeated half century.

Even so, local fans were pleased that their team was batting to number 10. For a while it seemed that Jersey would insist that all of them prove their worth.

The Guernsey innings provided compelling cricket and the biggest crowd seen at a cricket field in Guernsey for a long time stayed put until the very end. Le Cocq's early onslaught on Allott – a beautiful six was a highlight – made Guernsey's task over the last 20 overs rather more comfortable than had been anticipated.

Even so, Guernsey wanted about three an over from those 20 overs and this was a bigger striking rate than had been seen earlier – Jersey requiring nearly 70 overs for their 135 runs.

Victory came with eight deliveries to spare.