

Inter Insular #57 2008

The match was played at Grainville, Jersey

on Saturday 9th August 2008

for the HSBC Bank Trophy

50 overs per side

Umpires Martin Gray (Guernsey) and Robin Stockton (Jersey)

Scorers John Wood (Guernsey) and Lynn Davis (Jersey)

Toss won by Guernsey who elected to bat

Jersey won by 3 wickets

PREVIEW

Guernsey Press

'Recalled Duke is relishing chance' by Aaron Scoones

Tim Duke has been recalled to the Guernsey side for the inter-insular. The 30-year-old all-rounder had fallen out of favour with island boss Dave Hearse before last year's big match with Jersey that ended in defeat for the Sarnians. The Englishman, who has lived in the Bailiwick since 2003, was also dropped from the Guernsey squad for next month's ICC European Division Two Championship due to a complicated qualification ruling. But yesterday when Hearse named a squad of 12 for tomorrow's match at Grainville, he confirmed that Duke will play. 'I'm completely over the moon to be selected once again,' said Duke. 'I missed out last year because I played relatively little cricket due to family commitments. Obviously it was a little bit gutting to be left out but it was completely understandable.;

He is one player of the more experienced players in the team having four previous inter-insular caps to his name, Guernsey having won each of those games. 'I think that I've contributed to the win in the matches I've played in,' he said. However, Duke admits that he has not set the world alight this season. He has often been overshadowed by the big hitting of his Rovers teammate GH Smit. But he said he had quietly been going about his business. 'I've played well in places,' he said. 'I've generally bowled well without a huge amount of reward but I feel my batting is coming together at the right time.' A technically correct right-handed batsman, Hearse may look to Duke to open the batting as there are no outstanding candidates to carry out the role with Cobo left-hander Matt Oliver. In the past, Duke has opened the bowling for Essex second XI. Now coming off a shorter run-up he can still bowl a heavy

ball. There is a chance that he could open the batting and bowling. He is not concerned about the pressure that this dual role carries. 'I'm not worried because if one part of your game doesn't go well, you're hopeful that the other does,' he said.

Hearse also named three players who could make their inter-insular debut – Jamie Nussbaumer, Ben Ferbrache and Tim Ravenscroft. Cobo's quick-bowling all-rounder Nussbaumer was the find of Guernsey's recent trip to England where they played against Kenya, Sussex Academy and Sussex League XI. Top-order batsman Ferbrache has recently returned to Cobo after spending most of the summer playing league cricket with Cheltenham. Meanwhile it was always a matter of time before 16-year-old batting sensation Ravenscroft won his first senior cap. 'Tim's a young, rising star,' said Hearse. 'He's concentrated on Guernsey cricket this year and his performances have gone up a couple of notches showing that he is ready for senior cricket. 'The team is good enough to win if they play to their strengths.'

Guernsey squad: Stuart Le Prevost (capt), Matt Oliver, Jeremy Frith, Kris Moherndl, Gary Rich, Jamie Nussbaumer, Ben Ferbrache, Blane Queripel, Justin Ferbrache (all Cobo), Tim Duke, GH Smit (both Rovers), Tim Ravenscroft (Wanderers)

J Nussbaumer three years previously had scored 107* for Elizabeth College against Victoria College.

'Frith stays busy to keep cool' by Aaron Scoones

If Guernsey are to win back the inter-insular trophy today a lot will depend on Jeremy Frith. The Sarnians lost the trophy last season after a tight affair at the KGV. They had held on to it for five years beforehand and old island captain Andy Biggins was said to have the most photographed armpits in Guernsey sport after the amount of times he was pictured lifting the trophy. But if they are to be spraying the champagne around this evening at Grainville, Frith is most likely to have had some influence on the outcome. Coming in at number three, the 30-year-old Cobo all-rounder is the lynchpin of Guernsey's batting and with Gary Rich provides the spin option with his accurate left-arm orthodox. But Frith does not let the importance of his position in the side get to him. 'I don't feel there is any pressure on me', he said yesterday, 'I've not had too much time to think about tomorrow which is a good thing as the more you think about it the more pressure you put yourself under'.

Affectionately known by his teammates as 'Bubbles' due to his tight curly hair

he also carries the moniker of 'Mr Cricket'. And he is certainly that. Originally from Hampshire Frith worked his way up through the county's junior ranks before playing for their second XI. He also had a stint in the Gloucestershire second team but he did not quite make the grade as a professional cricketer. Instead he turned his attention to coaching and he is now Guernsey's performance coach. He loves cricket and is never happier when playing the sport or talking about it. He gave his blueprint for a Guernsey victory today. 'We need to do the simple things as well as we can', he said, 'The key thing batting wise will be taking our time to get in and when people are in they need to make sure that they capitalise on this. Fielding wise – dot balls, backing up the bowlers and the more we squeeze and eliminate runs in the field the more pressure we will create'.

A criticism of Guernsey that saw them lose all three games on their recent Sussex trip against Kenya, Sussex Academy and the Sussex League XI was that they lost too many early wickets. Another was that the seam attack was not penetrative enough and too costly, leaving Frith and Rich to rein in the opposition's batsmen. However, Frith feels that these facets do not need to be worried about with regard to today's match. 'These are areas to work on in terms of where we're going, but people need to remember that these were top sides and these haven't been issues against sides like Jersey', said Frith. 'The top quality sides expose weaknesses'. Frith himself was under some scrutiny after those games as well. He has notched up four centuries in domestic cricket this season but in Sussex he returned scores of 16, 10 and 17. Frith is not concerned about his present form. 'I'm old enough and ugly enough not to worry about that', he said. 'I got two balls that you couldn't do a great deal about and I played one poor shot. Recognise that you get two good balls and you played one bad shot and move on. I don't think I've been through a bad trot. I'm probably bowling the best I've ever done in my life.'

'Jersey call up Stevens'

A teenage left-arm spin bowler is the surprise selection in Jersey's 13-man squad for the inter-insular. Ben Stevens, 16, was the player of the tournament at the recent ICC European Under-17 Division One Championship in Belfast. He is believed to be the youngest layer ever to represent the full Jersey side if he makes the starting line-up tomorrow. The other uncapped player named is St Ouen's Australian batting sensation Dean Morison. The one player the hosts are missing is Tony Carlyon. The veteran all-rounder, who suffered a vicious

dog attack earlier in the summer, has made himself unavailable for personal reasons.

Jersey squad: Matt Hague (capt), Dean Morrison, Peter Gough, Steve Carlyon, Ryan Driver, Chris Jones, Meeku Patidar, Tom Minty, Bobby Minty, Jonny Gough, Andy Dewhurst, Nigel Crocker, Ben Stevens.

'Second Aussie called up'

There is a quiet confidence in the Jersey camp. The Reds have left Guernsey somewhat behind on the international scene having qualified for the World Cricket League Division Five which they hosted in May. For today's big game, the majority of the squad is made up of their ICC players. That said, Jersey have brought in teenage left-arm spinner Ben Stevens and Australian Dean Morrison. Left-hander Morrison is averaging 80 with the bat for St Ouen this season. 'He's a class player and hopefully he'll continue his form,' said Matt Hague, Jersey's Aussie captain. Not playing is seasoned all-rounder Tony Carlyon.

MATCH

Guernsey Press

'Batting woes return and trophy stays in Jersey'

Guernsey's batting problems came to the surface again on Saturday and with it another inter-insular slipped out of their hands. The senior island side seems incapable of stringing together partnerships, which in turn means it cannot set or chase any meaningful targets. This was the case on its recent tour to the UK where they lost to Kenya, Sussex Academy and Sussex League XI.

And it was certainly the case in their defeat at the hands of Jersey at Grainville at the weekend. After island captain Stuart Le Prevost had won the toss and decided to bat on a wicket that perhaps he should have fielded first on, Guernsey were bowled out for a miserly 119.

However, to be fair to Guernsey, Jersey also found difficult a wicket which had a 'tennis ball' bounce as they lost seven wickets in the chase. 'Obviously it's disappointing [to lose],' said Le Prevost. 'It's been the way this season. Our batting let us down again. We dragged it back really well, but they were never under pressure to get the runs. If we had 150, it might have put pressure on them.'

Watching Guernsey bat was a painful experience. The Sarnians kept finding

ways to get themselves out.

First to go was Tim Duke. The Rovers man looked all at sea against Ryan Driver's accurate right-arm seam. It seemed the first time he actually laid a bat on one of Driver's deliveries was to edge it to second slip where Dean Morrison smartly caught him for a 10-ball duck.

At the other end his opening partner, Matt Oliver, got off the mark with a trademark slap for four over bowler Chris Jones' head. He then executed a delightful cover drive off Jones' medium pace, but fell shortly afterwards to the same bowler going for another big straight hit. Instead of finding the boundary the ball found Jonny Gough's hands. It was a brilliant diving effort by Gough after he had run around from long on to long off.

After surviving a big lbw shout when he padded up to Driver, GH Smit looked as if he was going to impose himself on the game when he pulled the big seamer for four through midwicket. However, the South African's tenure at the crease was cut short when he dropped the ball into the covers and he was run out by a country mile by Gough, who swooped and struck the non-striker's end with a direct hit.

Jeremy Frith and Le Prevost proceeded to give a bit of respectability to the visitors' effort as they doggedly kept Jersey out. However, their fight-back did not last long as Le Prevost went to 16 year old debutant, Ben Stevens.

The Sarnian blocked out the first two deliveries from the left-arm spinner, but when the third ball was dropped short outside off stump, he slashed it straight to Steve Carlyon at point. Not a bad first inter-insular wicket for Stevens, to claim the scalp of the Guernsey -captain. Frith continued to drop anchor. Having faced 65 balls, the figure under his name on the scoreboard read seven.

At the 25-over mid-way point of the innings, Guernsey were 39 for four. After the drinks, Frith looked to up the tempo by executing some deft paddle shots. Ben Ferbrache went for four to be Stevens' second victim, but Kris Moherndl joined his Cobo teammate at the wicket and they put together Guernsey's best partnership.

Still finding it difficult to find the boundary on a regular basis, the duo were content to pick up the runs by running hard between the wickets.

Frith eventually went for 39 from 119 balls when he chipped Stevens to Driver at mid off. It was Stevens' last wicket as he returned the impressive figures of 10-2-31-3.

Not long afterwards, Moherndl followed Frith back to the changing room, bowled by Andy Dewhurst for 21.

Guernsey fell further into the mire as Jamie Nussbaumer and Blane Queripel went for seven and a duck respectively. With the score 117 for nine, the match witnessed its most humorous moment – except the Jersey team did not find it funny.

Last man Justin Ferbrache looked to have touched one from Dewhurst behind the wicket. All the Jersey team went up and Ferbrache walked, taking a few steps towards the clubhouse. But when Jersey's ICC-qualified umpire Robin Stockton did not put his finger up, non-striking batsman Gary Rich shouted at Ferbrache to go back, which he duly did. The Reds were incensed and Ferbrache received a few choice words. It summed up Guernsey's efforts with the bat. Two runs later, he was rapped on the pads by Dewhurst and, not surprisingly, he was given out lbw by Stockton. Dewhurst had done a good job mopping up the Guernsey tail by taking three wickets for 21.

Jersey's top order batting line-up were expected to get the runs for no more than the loss of a couple of wickets. However, this expectation was soon shattered and it looked a real contest again when opener Pete Gough was superbly caught by Frith diving to his left off Blane Queripel. The Cobo pace man then accounted for Dean Morrison when the Australian, who had come into the game on the back of plenty of hype, touched one behind to keeper Ferbrache. Queripel's new-ball partner Duke was also getting the ball in the right area as he cleaned up Carlyon.

Jersey now found themselves 35 for three with their two best batsmen, captain Matt Hague and Driver, at the crease. They had just passed the 50 mark when Guernsey were celebrating the big wicket of Hague, caught by his opposite number, Le Prevost, off Nussbaumer, who has been the find for Guernsey this summer with his pace bowling. Nussbaumer proceeded to get rid of Jonny Gough and the home side were starting to sweat at 66 for five. But this brought to the wicket the experienced Jones and against Guernsey's spinners Rich and Frith, the sixth-wicket pair were content to pick the low fruits and knock the ball around to take the score up to 100.

It was the re-introduction of Duke to replace Rich that shook things up again. After Jones dispatched his first ball for four, the next ball he was plumb lbw for 16. In the same over Duke sent Jersey keeper Bobby Minty packing and the visitors sensed that they could be back in the running.

But they desperately needed the wicket of Driver and when he survived a massive lbw shout off Nussbaumer that looked very close indeed and, worse still for the visitors, rolled to the boundary through the vacant slips area for four, you had the feeling that that was it. A couple of overs later, the big left-hander finished it in style when he sent Frith for a huge six over mid-wicket to seal the win. Driver was made the man of the match for his 45 not out and his bowling figures of 10-3-14-2.

'We lost wickets at regular intervals and I thought if we were batting in the last 10 overs we would win,' said Driver. 'So that's what I aimed to do. I got a partnership with Jones and that put us in the frame. 'I thought it was a weird game. 'The wicket was good throughout. I thought it was a 250 wicket and I'm now glad I didn't say that at the start. 'We really did want to win.'

Jersey Post

'Driver steers Jersey home at Grainville' by Andy Bradshaw

Former Worcestershire and Lancashire professional Ryan Driver steered Jersey to victory in the HSBC inter-insular at Grainville on Saturday with a man-of-the-match performance capped by hitting the winning runs with the only six of the game.

Guernsey Press

'Expert Driver sinks Greens' by Aaron Scoones

Guernsey lost a low scoring inter-insular on Saturday, but after a dismal start recovered bravely and made a good fist of it. After winning the toss and batting first on a Grainville wicket that turned out to be quite a handful, the Sarnians were bowled out for just 119.

In reply the trophy holders also found it not so straightforward and, under pressure from some good Guernsey bowling and fielding, they eventually managed to crawl over the line for the loss of seven wickets in the 45th over. Ryan Driver saw the Reds home with a match-winning score of 45 not out, which also saw him crowned man-of-the-match. Chris Jones also played a key role, helping the former Lancashire professional with a vital 16 runs coming in at seven.

Guernsey manager Dave Hearse was disappointed with the result but pleased with his side's fightback. 'We showed that we are fighters,' he said. 'Having scored 119 we knew that we would have to bowl disciplined lines and having them 68 for five we were in this game, but Driver and Jones batted well and put a little partnership together. Those partnerships of 35 are crucial in low scoring

games. Disappointing, but when you don't score runs you put yourself under a lot of pressure.'

The mood in the Jersey camp at the end of the match was the polar opposite. Captain Matt Hague was a happy man and was delighted with his side but he gave credit to Guernsey as well. 'We won it with the ball,' said the Australian. 'We've never bowled better. With 119 [to go for] we should have knocked it off with ease, but fair play to Guernsey, they bowled well. They can hold their heads high. They fought back from a definite losing position.'

Dave Piesing

Jersey retained the HSBC Inter-Insular Challenge Trophy with a tight 3-wicket victory over Guernsey at Grainville, thanks mainly to man of the match Ryan Driver who followed up a fine bowling spell with a crucial unbeaten 45 to see his side home as Guernsey fought back.

Guernsey won the toss and elected to bat first on a wicket which had quite a lot of extra bounce, albeit slow. The visitors quickly found themselves in trouble through the early losses of openers Tim Duke and Matt Oliver, and further disaster struck when Jeremy Frith called GH Smit for quick single and Smit was run out by a direct hit at the non-striker's end, well short of his ground. The line and length of the Jersey bowlers was meticulous as the Guernsey batsmen found it impossible to get the ball away, scoring at around 2 an over for the first 30 overs as they tried to consolidate and rebuild. Recognising that 150-plus was likely to be a good total on this wicket, Frith set out his stall to bat through the remainder of the innings but eventually fell to 16-year old slow-left-arm debutant, Ben Stevens, for 38 when he was caught at mid-off. Apart from Frith, Kris Moherndl made the only other significant contribution with a well-made 21 before he played around a straight one. The innings petered out and Guernsey were eventually dismissed for 119 in the 46th over. Stevens was the most successful bowler with 3 for 31 in his 10 overs, while Ben Driver took 2 for 12 and Chris Jones bowled 6 maidens in his 10-over spell. In all, Jersey bowled 14 maidens and frustrated several Guernsey batsmen into gifting their wickets as the pressure built. However, Guernsey knew that run-scoring would be difficult and came out hard at Jersey. Peter Gough and debutant Dean Morrison quickly fell to Blane Queripel and Jersey were soon 5 down for less than half their target. They had also fallen just behind their Duckworth-Lewis target with rain threatening. Driver remained at the wicket though, and they key to the match was to be

how he fared against the vastly-experienced spin pair of Frith and Gary Rich. Unusually, both went wicketless as Driver and Chris Jones dug in, knowing that all they had to do was stay in and the remaining runs would surely come. Their 6th wicket partnership proved crucial and when it was finally broken by Duke, who quickly followed with another wicket in the same over, Jersey were still needing around a dozen with just three wickets in hand. Driver then survived an extremely-close lbw appeal from Jamie Nussbaumer, the rejection of which probably ended Guernsey's slim chance by that stage, and Driver finally ended the match with a six over mid-wicket off Frith in the 46th over so see his side home, having batted for the best part of 40 overs.

Guernsey will rue too many soft dismissals early on, and crucially not batting out their full 50 overs which could well have brought a vital extra 10-15 runs. Driver did not need to force the pace against the Guernsey spinners and that factor was to prove vital.

Fortunately Guernsey now get the chance to gain swift revenge in two weeks time at the KGV in the ICC European Second Division Championships but will need to bat considerably better than they did at Grainville.

[Dean A Morrison was born on 12 June 1978 in Brisbane, Australia]

[Ben DH Stevens was born 5 May 1992 in Hong Kong. He played three games for Hampshire 2nd XI in 2010]

REVIEW

Guernsey Press

'Batting needs a quick fix ahead of Euro tournament' by Aaron Scoones

Guernsey go into next week's ICC European Division Two Championship with something of a headache. From Monday to Saturday the island is hosting and taking on Jersey. Germany, France, Croatia and Gibraltar to find out who will get promoted to the top flight of European cricket and join the likes of Scotland, Ireland and The Netherlands. The problem in question arises when the Sarnians hold a piece of willow in their hands.

The bowling and fielding displays by the Greens this year have generally been top-notch. But that has not been the case when batting. That was exemplified in Saturday's inter-insular defeat when they were bowled out for a miserly 119 on a tricky Grainville wicket. Jersey, however, also found it a struggle as they reached their target for the loss of seven wickets.

Island manager Dave Hearse acknowledged that work had to be done on the batting before next week but he pointed out that Lee Savident and Tim

Ravenscroft will feature for Guernsey in the tournament and that will make a difference. 'We've got a few things to think about before the European competition like how to shore up the batting,' said Hearse. 'But with Savs and Tim in the top six there's an element of class and a bit of technical skill too, so hopefully that alone will give us the batting we need. These players haven't become bad overnight.'

Guernsey's record with the bat this season speaks for itself. In nine innings they have managed to get over 200 runs only three times. In their first outing of the year, an away friendly against Jersey in April, they chased down 210 for the win. They were also toasting success over the Caesareans the next day after they posted 154 and the Reds fell just one run short in a real nail-biter. The next time they stepped onto the pitch in May was the second time that they racked up 200. This was against the Bahamas at Port Soif when they notched up a massive total of 276. They went on to win by 153 runs that day. The day after defeating the Bahamas at Port Soif they were undone by a very competent Nepal bowling attack. Chasing 203 they were dismissed for 136. In the following match against the MCC they suffered probably their worst loss when they were bowled out for 173 and the tourists knocked it off with four wickets to spare.

Then followed their trip to the UK that saw them come unstuck against three quality opponents – Kenya, Sussex Academy and Sussex Cricket League XI. Chasing Kenya's 194 they were all out for 122. Against the Academy side they fell 75 runs short going for an impossible target of 299. And it was a similar story when they took on the League XI as they could muster only 181 in the face of 275.

The problem is that Guernsey lose too many early wickets. The top order crumble and do not build partnerships. In all their defeats the top four batsmen together have not contributed more than 80 runs. It is not a question of replacing the present incumbents as there simply is not anyone else who is knocking on the door. But with the likes of Will Thompson, Jonny Clark, and Robbie Le Corre growing in stature and looking to join fellow under-17 batsman Ravenscroft in the island setup in the near future a competition for places is only a good thing. But what is clear is that the top batsmen in the island are not facing the top bowlers. With Cobo supplying nine of Guernsey's inter-insular XI the batters Matt Oliver, Stu Le Prevost and Jeremy Frith do not take on the best bowlers – Blane Queripel, Jamie Nussbaumer, Gary Rich and

Frith – in competitive scenarios as they all play together. They are not being challenged enough. It was especially evident when Guernsey played Kenya who had a couple of quick, accurate bowlers that our batsmen found it a struggle to accumulate runs when under pressure.

But the issue does not just lie with Cobo. The weekend league is just not competitive enough, nobody is really getting challenged and the standard is the worst it has been for a number of years. Cobo's dominance has come about because they have nurtured a number of promising juniors such as Queripel, Nussbaumer and Kris Moherndl to go with their established stars, Le Prevost, Oliver, Frith and Rich. And it is also because other clubs have lost a good number of talented imports over the last few years such as Ami Banerjee, Ryan Bishop, Andre Van Rooyen, Divan van den Heever, Nick Derbyshire, Glenn Milnes and Justin Scriven who all made the league a more challenging affair.

There are a number of possible answers. One is to forcibly split up Cobo, which is a non-starter as it is incredibly unfair on a team that has worked so hard to reach the top. However, it seems that the GCB are hoping that certain Cobo players take the issue into their own hands and move clubs. But the answer has to be raising the standard of the island's cricket.

The GCB have already spoken to their opposite number in Jersey about expanding the Channel Islands league from next season which would see four teams or even just three from Guernsey taking on four or five Jersey sides in a round-robin format. This would certainly help as would allowing clubs to have a professional each, which is another idea being bandied about.

Following the Kenya and Nepal defeats some critics argued that Guernsey have reached their peak on the world stage. This is certainly not true as Kenya, for example, reportedly have fewer registered cricketers than Guernsey does and yet in 2003 they reached the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Guernsey has a brilliant development programme that is producing a crop of very promising young cricketers. But what is required is a competitive domestic league that is as high a standard as possible so that there is not such a leap up to international cricket for the island's best players. A better domestic league would result in better performances on the international stage. It may be too late for next week's tournament but let's hope that is not the case for the years to come.