

## ICC WCL Division 6 Malaysia 2011

Malaysia vs Guernsey 1st/2nd Playoff

at Kinrara Academy Oval, Kuala Lumpur Sat 24th Sept 2011

Umpires D Odhiambo and DN Subedi

Malaysia won the toss and elected to bat

Guernsey won by 2 wickets – Division 6 Champions 2011

### MATCH

Guernsey Press

Kimber's heroics stun Malaysia' by Gareth Le Prevost



Andy Cornford (coach) Adam Martel David Hooper Tom Kimber Tim Ravenscroft Chris Van Vliet GH Smit Pete Vidamour (manager) Physio Stuart Bisson Lee Savident Jamie Nussbaumer Jeremy Frith Stuart Le Prevost Gary Rich Ross Kneller Ben Ferbrache ICC

ONE of the best innings ever played in a Guernsey shirt saw the island sensationally win Pepsi World Cricket League Division Six in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Tom Kimber was the hero with a brilliant 82 not out with his side seemingly out for the count at 65 for seven chasing 208 in the final against Malaysia at the stifling hot Kinrara Oval.



Tom Kimber in full flow during his match-winning

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After coming in at number nine, man-of-the-match Kimber joined fellow youngster David Hooper in a match-turning eighth-wicket stand of 96 before Jamie Nussbaumer joined the wicket-keeper-batsman in seeing Guernsey over the line with three balls to spare. 'It just shows the resilience that Guernsey cricket has now,' said a modest Kimber, who did not want to reflect on his individual achievement but rather that of the team. 'We have had a fantastic week here and to win the final just tops it off.'

Guernsey coach Andy Cornford described the extraordinary win as 'unbelievable'. 'It was one of the most astonishing couple of hours of cricket I have ever seen,' he said. 'At 60-odd for seven we were dead and buried, but two of our youngest players in Kimbo and Hoops came together and showed composure and shot selection beyond their years. Unfortunately, we lost a wicket due to a run out, but Jamie came in and picked up from where Hoops left off, got a partnership going with Tom and saw us home. We are just absolutely ecstatic with the result.' Cornford then paid tribute to the individual efforts of the man of the match.



FOR the handful of Guernsey supporters at the Kinrara Oval on Saturday, it was one of those 'I was there' afternoons. Tom Kimber produced an incredible innings to win the Pepsi World Cricket League Division Six final against Malaysia in a match that Sarnians had long been resigned to losing. Reduced to 65 for seven needing 209 for victory against a quality bowling attack, not even the most ardent Guernsey fan gave their side much hope. In fact, they were just looking for some respectability. But then Kimber and David Hooper came together and turned the match completely on its head. They had nothing to lose when they joined forces in the middle, but by the time their remarkable stand of 96 ended, they had somehow engineered a winning position for their side. Steadily they kept pushing the score along with the occasional boundary littered among the ones and twos – Kimber's straight six towards the media centre being the highlight. As the scoreboard ticked over to 140, the Sarnians were starting to believe that the impossible could happen, although no one dared to say it.

A single at the start of the 40th over brought up Kimber's half century, but the match took another turn in the next over as adrenalin got the better of Hooper. He had played so well for his 45 that it came as a surprise when he set off for a quick single having hit the ball almost straight to the fielder at mid-wicket. Kimber sent him back, but he was stranded in no-man's land and Malaysia had their break-through – Guernsey were 161 for eight.

But the momentum was still with Kimber, who was staying cool in the heat, and he found a willing ninth-wicket partner in Jamie Nussbaumer. The run-rate was not a problem and they continued to go at fours and fives each over until Kimber hit a boundary over mid-wicket in the 47th over to rack up a crucial nine in that. By this time Malaysia had their outstanding opening seamers, Ullah Khan and Hassan Ghulam, operating once more, but even they had no answer. It came down to 15 required off 12 balls and after a single at the start of the penultimate over, Ullah Khan delivered a ball right in the slot for Nussbaumer, who needed no second invitation to launch it over the long-on boundary rope and the fence for a huge six that was greeted by roars from his teammates. Four more singles meant just four runs were needed off Hassan's final over. Kimber knocked a single, a leg bye followed and then the man-of-the-match hit a glorious straight drive past the bowler for four to start the celebrations. The wicketkeeper-batsman had faced 92 balls, hit nine fours and a six. It was such a contrast to the start of the final, which seemed a little like

it was after the Lord Mayor's show. With promotion having been secured the day before, Guernsey took the chance to rest regulars Lee Savident and Gary Rich along with Stuart Bisson and give the less experienced members of the squad a game. While it was a good occasion to be involved in and the Sarnians put in plenty of effort, there was all air that with the main objective achieved, this match meant more to the hosts who were looking for revenge for defeat the previous day.



#### Lee Savident in action against Malaysia

Having been asked to bowl for the second time in two days on another stifling hot morning, Guernsey bowled inconsistently first up, with not many runs being scored off the bat but plenty of wides being conceded. It was understandable that Chris van Vliet was rusty, this being his first competitive match of the tour and he struggled adjusting to the left/right-handed Malaysian opening pair initially, but he still ended with economical figures.



Chris Van Vliet bowling an economical spell

Once his and Jamie Nussbaumer's opening stint had finished, the introduction of spin brought with it the breakthrough Guernsey needed as Jeremy Frith turned one past Rosmanizam to bowl the right-hander after an opening stand of 50. Hooper was next to strike, having Madhavan brilliantly stumped by Kimber after the young medium pacer had cleverly used his slower ball to draw the left-hander out of his crease. Guernsey were suddenly enjoying a purple patch and the Malaysia captain Suhan Alagaratnam, who had batted so well against the Greens on Friday, went cheaply to a juggling catch by Ben Ferbrache on the deep square leg boundary off Tim Ravenscroft's spin. Ravenscroft then took the catch to dismiss Ahmed Faiz off a rank long hop from Frith to reduce the hosts to 116 for four with 19 overs to go. However, Ullah Khan and Shafiq Sharif batted sensibly to ensure their side reached a defensible total with a fifth-wicket stand of 51. Top-scorer Ullah Khan was the pick of the batsmen, hitting six fours and one six in a well-compiled 53 from just 42 balls, until going down the wicket to GH Smit looking for another big hit he missed the arm ball and Kimber did the rest. Shariq was more watchful, playing the supporting role to good effect with a valuable 38.



Tom Kimber receives his Man-of-the-match award from Steve Davies

However, when he went well caught by Ravenscroft at extra cover, the Malaysian tail failed to wag against some quality death bowling from Nussbaumer that saw him pick up a couple of late wickets before Smit took his third with the final ball of the innings. Any momentum that might have been given Guernsey was lost over lunch and the reply could not have started much worse, the visitors finding themselves one for one after one and then two for two after two, openers Smit and Adam Martel both back in the hutch with ducks to their names. There could be no disputing the quality of the Malaysian seamers but Frith and Ravenscroft seemed to be steadying the ship until the latter was given run out to a direct hit from backward point. There could be no hiding the batsman's disappointment as he departed for 21, looking good for his first big score of the tournament. From being 40 for two, Guernsey were suddenly 40 for five when Frith edged a square cut to the keeper and skipper Stuart Le Prevost was out first ball, leg before not playing a shot, in Khan's following over.



The tension is released as Guernsey eventually make it across the line  
ICC

Ross Kneller and Ben Ferbrache, who had seen their side home 24 hours earlier, were also dismissed before the first 20 overs of the reply were up, Kneller caught behind and Ferbrache bowled by one that turned through the gate, both to Nik Arifin's off spin. But then began the eighth-wicket partnership

that set Guernsey on course for one of the greatest victories in the history of island cricket.



The victorious Guernsey team having won Division Six

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