

# ICC WCL Division 5 South Africa 2017

Guernsey v Qatar

on Wed 6 Sept 2017

at Sahara Main Oval, Kingsmead, South Africa

Toss won by Qatar who elected to field

Umpires D Odhiambo (Kenya), HKG Jansen (Neth), 3rd Angara (Botswana)

Referee GF Labrooy

Qatar won by 3 wkts

Man of the match Ollie Newey (Gsy)

## Match preview

'Coach Wright backs his men to progress' by Matt Lihou

ASH WRIGHT is in confident mood and has backed his Guernsey players to handle the pressure of today's crunch World Cricket League clash with Qatar. A win and a defeat for both sides has made the Group A showdown in Benoni, South Africa, a virtual quarter-final – with the loser being relegated to regional competition. For the winner, a semi-final will await – quite probably against Jersey – where promotion to Division Four will be on the line, a level that Guernsey have never reached. Not that Wright is thinking a further 24 hours down the line just yet, as all his focus is on overcoming the Qataris in what is a do-or-die clash. 'We have been playing well this tournament so far both with the bat and ball. We didn't quite have enough to get over the line against a very good Italy team but bounced back superbly against the Caymans,' said the Guernsey coach. 'With Qatar playing at the same venue on a nearby pitch, we have seen them play a bit this week and they are another decent side who have some quality.

'I honestly believe that we have the better skills than them across our team, but the key is putting our performance together for the duration of an entire match. 'We know what is riding on this game, which is the same as it was against the Caymans, so we know there is huge pressure – but these are the matches you play cricket for. You want to play in these matches.

'I am confident of getting the win.' With all 14 of his players fit and available for selection, Wright is in relaxed mood. He admits there is one choice to make – whether to play Ben Fitchet, Luke Le Tissier or Matt Breban – in

the final starting spot and he would also like a bit of luck when the coin is tossed. 'We are in a position where we come into this match with a couple of batters in fantastic form, playing beautifully, as well as the top wicket-taker in the tournament. 'Not many teams have that in their favour.

'What I would like is for us to win the toss, bat first here and be able to set a target because although the pitches are very, very flat and don't change much throughout the day, the scoreboard pressure in a game of this magnitude could be crucial.'

### **Match report**

'Guernsey relegated into regional qualifier' by Gareth Le Prevost

GUERNSEY have been relegated from ICC World Cricket League Division Five. A narrow three-wicket defeat to Qatar yesterday in their third and final Group A match in Benoni, South Africa, condemned Ash Wright's men to having to go through regional qualifiers to reach the Division Five level in the next WCL cycle. In contrast, Qatar qualified for the semi-finals along with table-toppers Italy, who beat Guernsey on Sunday.

Having been asked to bat on the main stadium pitch at Willowmoore Park, Guernsey made a steady start to their innings with Josh Butler and Ollie Newey putting together a 50-run second-wicket stand after the early loss of Matt Stokes. After Butler had fallen for 36, Newey went on to make his third half-century in as many games, top scoring for his side with 80 from 101 balls including five fours and a six. Jason Martin, Ben Ferbrache and Tom Nightingale all made useful runs down the order, but a total of 231 for 9 was short of what Guernsey had wanted to post.

The Qatar openers got their reply off to the ideal start as captain Inamul-Haq (63) and Qalandar Khan (56) put on 112. Muhammad Tanveer (47) then took over and helped to steer Qatar across the line with 13 balls to spare, even though Guernsey staged a late rally as Newey, David Hooper and Max Ellis all took two wickets each. 'We did not score enough runs or take enough wickets, we just did not do enough to win,' said Guernsey captain Jamie Nussbaumer. His opposite number In-am-ul-Haq can now look forward to a semi-final clash with unbeaten Jersey. 'We made a few changes to the team and everyone played well,' said the

Qatar captain. 'The opening batsmen did well and our bowlers bowled very well. 'Hopefully we can go all the way.'

Guernsey will now face Ghana, who yesterday lost by 108 runs to Jersey, in today's fifth place play-off semi-final.