

ICC WCL Division 7 Guernsey 2009

Guernsey v Nigeria

ICC World Cricket League Division Seven 2009

Venue College Field, St Peter Port on 21st May 2009 (50-over match)

Balls per over 6

Toss Nigeria won the toss and decided to bat

Result Guernsey won by 8 wickets

Points Guernsey 2; Nigeria 0

Umpires SA Bucknor, RP Smith

Scorers CN Rawson, S Veillard

MATCH

Guernsey Press

'Singapore in sight for Hearse's men' by Aaron Scoones

Guernsey have got one foot on the plane to Singapore. Their eight-wicket victory over Nigeria at a sun-drenched College Field yesterday combined with other results going their way, means they do not necessarily have to win their remaining group match with Suriname tomorrow to reach Sunday's final and therefore qualify for the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Six which is being held in Singapore at the end of August.

Bahrain have already booked their place in Sunday's final and their place in Division Six, after they crushed Japan by 196 runs at Port Soif yesterday. The best team in the competition have won four out of four matches and have eight points to their name.

Guernsey are second on six with Nigeria on four and the rest on two. Nigeria have to beat Bahrain by a massive margin tomorrow and hope the Sarnians also lose if they are to qualify. But the Greens have a superior net run rate over them that will be used to decide who goes up if the two teams are tied on points.



The Guernsey team at the College Field © ICC/CricketEurope

However, island manager Dave Hearse is taking nothing for granted. He wants his side to pull out all the stops against the Surinamese at the KGV. "We've got to put in a top performance against Suriname to seal the deal," he said. Yesterday saw Guernsey produce their best performance of the competition so far as they chased down Nigeria's total of 217. Jeremy Frith was Guernsey's main man again as he struck 101 not out with captain Stuart Le Prevost hitting an unbeaten 59 to see them home for the loss of two wickets.

The day's remaining game saw Gibraltar register their first victory of the week as they got the better of Suriname by 39 runs at the KGV. With today being a rest day the action returns tomorrow as Guernsey face Suriname at the KGV, Bahrain meet Nigeria at Port Soif and Gibraltar take on Japan at the College Field, all start at 11am.

The match was played at Elizabeth College ground © ICC/CricketEurope



'Frith's first Guernsey 'ton' sinks Nigeria' by Aaron Scoones

Jeremy Frith is back in favour with the Guernsey cricket supporters. You just cannot keep the island all-rounder out of the spotlight this week. One day he is the villain of the piece following his slow batting in Guernsey's nervy win over Gibraltar on Monday when he drew ironic cheering from certain sections of the crowd whenever he scored a boundary and the next day he is the hero as he gets man-of-the-match against Japan.

But on Wednesday the finger of blame was pointed at the number three batsman again as the island side lost by 25 runs to the best side in the competition, Bahrain.

For the second time he was accused of taking his time with the bat as he hit 65 off 96 balls. But yesterday he batted beautifully at the College Field as he hit 101 not out off 128 balls to earn himself another man-of-the-match award.

It helped the Greens chase down Nigeria's total of 217 for the loss of just two wickets. Frith, who is employed by the Guernsey Cricket Board as their elite performance coach does not care what people think of his batting. "You can only win games if you're still batting," said the 31-year-old. "My role is to bat through and be there at the end. People do sometimes bowl well at you. We've had games where I've got out in the 20s or 30s and it's fallen apart. I'm not going to give my wicket away. I back ourselves to win if I'm there at the end. If I'm not there you're relying on someone else."

Yesterday was a must win game for the Sarnians if they are to make Sunday's final and qualify for Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Six in Singapore at the end of the season.

And the day did not get under way well for them as again they had a poor start with the new ball. Cobo quick bowler Blane Queripel was expensive with his three overs going for 19 runs as Nigeria opener Ademola Onikoyi got stuck in.

The tide was stemmed when off-spinner Gary Rich was introduced from the top end and Stuart Bisson came on for Queripel at the pavilion end. He soon yorked Onikoyi's opening partner Olalekan Awolowo with the score on 55. Onikoyi reached his half century a couple of overs later but went shortly afterwards to Ross Kneller's very part-time off spin. The Nigerian cross batted a darting delivery from Kneller and only managed to slice it up into the air

which keeper Matt Oliver, after initially misjudging the trajectory, belatedly caught with a diving catch.

Tall right-hander Endurance Ofem took the lead after Onikoyi departed but with Guernsey bowling tight lines and sprightly in the field, considering it was their fourth day playing on the trot, the home side were happy at the end of the 50 overs to be chasing 217. Ofem carried his bat for 78.

In reply, just like the bowling, Guernsey got off to a bad start with the bat. Aggressive opener Oliver again failed, scoring 11 before holing out to the opening bowler Saheed Akolade. Former Hampshire professional Lee Savident looked good, stroking the ball round with ease before he was trapped in front by Akolade for 38. Savident looked aghast at the decision but there was not much you can say when the man raising the finger was no other than legendary Test umpire Steve Bucknor.

This brought the promoted Le Prevost to the middle to join Frith and the pair, knowing that it was up to them to deliver the goods, duly did so. Frith swept the spin and gentle medium pace of Nigerian with authority and sent one short delivery for six into the old Scout hut.



Stuart Le Prevost swings the ball to leg

©ICC/CricketEurope

Not to be outdone Le Prevost also sent one over the short on-side boundary as well with a flick off his legs. Both ran well between the wickets and by the time they reached 172 with 10 overs left victory was in the bag.



Frith scored the winning runs and wrapped up his ton, his first for Guernsey, with another perfectly executed sweep. After surviving a big shout for caught behind early on in his innings Le Prevost struck 59 not out off 79 balls, It was an innings littered with trademark booming drives down the ground.

Jeremy Frith hooks during his innings

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Jeremy Frith receives his man-of-the-match award from States member Mike O'Hara

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