

ICC WCL Division 6 Singapore 2009

Botswana v Guernsey

ICC World Cricket League Division Six 2009

Venue The Padang, Singapore on 4th September 2009 (50-over match)

Balls per over 6

Toss Guernsey won the toss and decided to bat

Result Guernsey won by 25 runs

Points Botswana 0; Guernsey 2

Umpires S Gurung, SS Prasad

Scorers M Maulod, S Veillard

Man of the Match JDJ Frith

MATCH



Picturesque Singapore ground

ICC

GUERNSEY secured their survival in Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Six with a tense 25-run win over Botswana at the Singapore Cricket Club yesterday. After losing their first three matches of the competition at the hands of Singapore, Bahrain and Malaysia, the Greens needed to beat Norway and Botswana to ensure that they did not finish in the bottom two places and be relegated to Division Seven.

When the Sarnians got the better of Norway on Thursday, everything came down to yesterday's game. And after setting 241, the pressure was on as the Africans gave it a good stab. But ultimately they fell short on 216 and a tired Guernsey side had survived.

'Staying up is great,' said Guernsey skipper Stuart Le Prevost. 'That was the main aim after losing three on the bounce. To come back like this is great. Full credit to the boys.' Island manager Dave Hearse was clearly very relieved afterwards. 'I'm very pleased for the players,' he said. 'It's mission accomplished. They've deserved it.'

After winning the toss for a remarkable fifth straight time, Le Prevost again decided to bat. Earlier in the week the wicket was fast and bouncy, but maybe due to all the rain that has fallen, it had slowed up somewhat. The Sarnians' innings was also interrupted for 45 minutes as the heavens opened again.



Quick, covers on lads

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Lee Savident, back up the order, gained some much needed runs as he stroked 65. By his own high standards, the former Hampshire professional has had a lean time with the bat this week. But he responded to the responsibility yesterday and was eventually dismissed caught behind off spinner Kapoor, dancing down the wicket.



GH Smit and Lee Savident stride out to open the batting

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Jeremy Frith continued in his rich vein of form before he went for 59, an innings which featured his full array of sweeps and dink shots. However, the Cobo man was eventually out slog sweeping, caught at square leg. Captain Stuart Le Prevost also weighed in with a valuable 36.



12th man Ben Ferbrache brings on the drink and towel for Lee Savident ICC

But the Greens were again guilty of not getting the most out of their batting power play. They should have been aiming for 270, but once more had to settle for a total that was a few runs short of what it should have been. Their 241 would have been less if Blane Queripel had not come in at the end and swung his willow for 17. The earlier batsmen should have done that as well.



Lee Savident cuts during his innings

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In the field, the Sarnians were again guilty of bowling too loosely with the new ball. The Botswana openers Faisal Rana and Shah Zaib Khan quickly put on 35 in the first four overs. The main contributor to this was a Queripel over that went for 20. But Khan was to go shortly afterwards when he got too carried away and he lofted Savident to Stuart Bisson who held on to a skier at mid off. With Abdul Patel joining Rana in the middle, the big shots were not so forthcoming but the pair continued to rack up the runs. The duo took Botswana's total above 100 and they were some concerned looks starting to creep into the Guernsey contingent.

Spin was introduced by the Sarnians and on 108 the dangerous Rana fell when he got a leading edge and was caught and bowled by Frith with his left arm spin. Number four Kapoor quickly followed when caught on the long boundary by Bisson off Frith. But new man in James Moses supported Rana well and together they took Botswana above 150.

The island side needed another wicket and it duly came when Moses went caught by Savident off Gary Rich with the total on 156. However, Guernsey were by no means out of the woods yet as Patel was still in. But his time was up when he drove a low full toss from Rich straight to Kris Moherndl at extra cover.

You still had the feeling that Botswana could do it but nobody had told Jamie Nussbaumer that. The Cobo quickie, who is fast becoming Guernsey's specialist death bowler, wrapped up Botswana's four remaining wickets to see the Greens home with some excellent full length bowling.

The day's other matches saw Bahrain hammer Norway by 233 runs, a win that sees them promoted with Singapore to Division Five. Singapore remained unbeaten when they beat Malaysia.