

ICC WCL Division 6 Malaysia 2011

Guernsey v Fiji

Played at Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on Sunday 18th September 2011

Toss won by Guernsey who elected to bat

Umpires D Odhiambo (Kenya) and DN Subedi (Nepal)

Guernsey won by 108 runs



The Guernsey players go through their warm up routine

ICC

MATCH

Guernsey Press

'Improved performance leaves Fiji in disarray' by Gareth Le Prevost



The splendid Bayuemas Oval

ICC

A CLINICAL performance from Guernsey yesterday made it two wins from two as Fiji were brushed aside by 108 runs. In the beautiful setting of the Bayuemas Oval, rated by some in the Sarnian contingent as the best ground the island squad have visited on their ICC travels, the Greens were dominant in all areas of the game after Stuart Le Prevost won the toss and elected to bat. They were given the ideal start by GH Smit and Lee Savident from which they never looked back, even if the occasional worried glance at the sky was to come later on as dark clouds passed overhead. Fortunately, the one break for rain did not exceed the half-hour which would have required the dreaded Duckworth/Lewis method to come into the equation and by the end of the match, glorious sunshine bathed the players as they walked off, deservedly content. While Smit did his job admirably, sharing in a stand of 73 with his opening partner, it was Savident who did most of the damage. The big man was in imperious form, with an early cover drive that went like a bullet to the rope an indication of what was to follow.

Savident hit boundaries all around the wicket with consummate ease and the six he hit onto the roof of the big scoreboard was huge. Three figures were on the cards for the former Hampshire man and his dismissal, given out leg before to medium pacer Jikoi Kida despite getting a decent stride in, came out of the blue. He had faced 85 balls and hit 11 fours to go with that maximum. By that point, Jeremy Frith was settled at the other end and was continuing his wonderful run of form. The brief stop for a heavy shower did not hinder his progress either, although Guernsey were to lose Tim Ravenscroft and Ross Kneller in quick succession after the resumption, both to Dabea. But Frith found his usual ally in captain Stuart Le Prevost and once again they built the biggest partnership of the Guernsey innings, worth 101 on this occasion. The skipper was happy to play the support role while Frith displayed his full array of shots, including some delightful straight drives, a couple of his trademark lap sweeps and one 'help around the corner' for six over backward square leg. He was eventually to fall in the push for quick runs in the 47th over, bowled for 82 from 103 deliveries by the returning new-ball seamer Kitone Tavo as he tried another lap sweep. By that time, however, Le Prevost was into his stride and timing the ball sweetly on the way to a half-century of his own in the final over of the innings in which he and a Jamie Nussbaumer cameo took their side up to an imposing 279 for six. The captain finished unbeaten on 52 from 46 balls with seven boundaries to his name.

The Fiji reply, which began with a few spots of rain falling, never really got going. In fact, the rain was more threatening to Guernsey's chances. Stuart Bisson, who grasped the opportunity to take the new ball with both hands, made the initial breakthrough as Sekove Ravoka played over the top of a straight one. Savident soon bounced out Iniasi Cakacaka, who gloved a bumper to give keeper Tom Kimber a simple catch, and Guernsey had made the early inroads they desperately wanted with the weather still a concern. As it turned out, the light rain subsided and the spinners finished off the job. Gary Rich got the ball rolling as the pressure of his opening couple of maidens finally told when the Fiji captain, left-handed opener Joe Rika, hit a full toss straight to Kneller at deep mid- wicket.

Le Prevost then took a juggling catch to dismiss Jikoi Kida and Fiji were in the mire at 57 for four, scoring at a painfully slow rate. It was only a matter of time before Guernsey wrapped up the match and there were middle order wickets for Frith, Smit and Ravenscroft. David Hooper got the chance to turn his arm over too and picked up the scalp of Moharnmad Khan with a great slower ball, before Savident and Frith combined to run out last man Tavo in the next over.

The Fijian report read

GUERNSEY TOO STRONG FOR FIJI

Fiji faced a tough day at the office as suffered a 108-run loss to Guernsey in their second match of the World Cricket League Division 6 tournament in Malaysia.

The Channel Islands side had been touted as one of the stronger sides in the competition and lived up to expectation as they amassed 279 from their 50 overs and kept the pressure on in the field. Fiji struggled to form strong partnerships and no one was really able to make a big total, while Guernsey's spinners slowed the Fiji run rate to a crawl to ensure the result went their way. The Guernsey opening batsmen took to the Fiji attack immediately and they had 73 on the board before their first wicket fell in the 14th over. Two of their top order batsmen had scores of 82, while their middle order remained level headed and played smart shots to keep the scoreboard ticking over. Josefa Dabea was the pick of the Fiji bowlers with his 2-20 off four overs, while quick Kiti Tavo grabbed two late wickets to finish with 2-41 off 6 overs.

Fiji's batsmen were in trouble early when opener Sekove Ravoka was bowled in the fourth over and Iniasi Cakacaka followed him back to the change room

just three overs later. Captain Josefa Rika was looking good but holed out on the boundary on 18, while top scorer Waisake Tukaha (30) and Colin Rika (24) were starting to build a partnership, before Tukaha departed in the 30th over. From there it was just a case of cleaning up the tail for Guernsey and they did it with 7.3 overs to spare with Fiji finishing all out for 171.

“It was a disappointing game for us, but full credit to Guernsey, they played smart cricket and were a tough opposition,” Fiji captain Josefa Rika said.

“Hopefully the boys can use the rest day tomorrow to regroup, and be ready for our next game.”