

ICC WCL Division 7 Guernsey 2009

Guernsey v Bahrain

ICC World Cricket League Division Seven 2009 (Final)

Venue King George V Sports Ground, Castel on 24th May 2009 (50-over match)

Balls per over 6

Toss Guernsey won the toss and decided to bat

Result Bahrain won by 3 wickets

Umpires NG Bagh, TC Magee

Referee DT Jukes

Scorers EC Rawson, S Veillard

Reserve Umpire SA Bucknor

Man of the Match Qamar Saeed

MATCH

Guernsey Press

'Frith the magnificent' by Aaron Scoones



All the flags flying at KGV for the final © ICC/CricketEurope

'Bahrain champs but Frith the best on show' by Aaron Scoones

Fifty runs and bowler short. That was the view of island manager Dave Hearse after the side lost the final of Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Seven to Bahrain at the KGV on Sunday.

Batting first Guernsey were in a spot of bother at 81 for five before young Cobo stars Kris Moherndl and Ben Ferbrache, who hit 51, saw the Greens reach a respectable 204. The Sarnians then had Bahrain reeling at 119 for six but did not take advantage of the situation as Bahraini number eight Qamar Saeed struck 55 to see his side home and win the man-of-the-match award.



Ah, how far has that one gone? Guernsey players practice their synchronised fielding technique. © ICC/CricketEurope

“Fifty runs short in batting – we wanted 250 – and in the field we were probably one bowler short, but we knew that was the risk when we went with another batsman,” said island manager Dave Hearse. “When we took the top six wickets we thought great, but the guy (Saeed) batted well so it probably wouldn’t have helped. He won it for them.”

The match got heated at times with the umpires Niels Bagh and Trevor Magee having to have several words with the Guernsey players while Bahrain were batting.

The next time the two teams meet will be in Singapore at the end of August after the pair qualified for Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Six by finishing in the top two places in Division Seven.

More positive news for the island was that their star all-rounder, Jeremy Frith, was named as player-of-the-tournament. He was the leading run scorer over the week with 381 runs and he also took 15 wickets.

REVIEW

'Top two ready to renew their rivalry in Singapore' by Aaron Scoones

A bit of a rivalry has been struck up. There was clearly some tension in Sunday's final of the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Seven at the KGV between Guernsey and Bahrain.

It was estimated that Bahrain had more than 60 appeals against Guernsey batsmen, all of them loud and passionate, while umpires Niels Bagh and Trevor Magee warned the Sarnians, who were riled by the appealing, about their 'verbals' when it was the Bahrainis' time to bat. You could say that the Bahrain side, who were mainly made up of Pakistani extraction players, had the last laugh when they chased down 204 for victory that went with their win earlier in the week over the Greens.

And the two sides will meet for the third time at the end of August in the hot and humid conditions of Singapore in Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division Six. "Having played them twice you do get to know these guys so there will be some rivalry," said Guernsey captain Stuart Le Prevost. "It's like playing Jersey – there's rivalry because we play them so often. A few things were said but, to be honest, the game was played in a fairly decent spirit. There was a lot of unnecessary appealing but we have to understand that's how some people play their cricket."

The Bahrain captain Yaser Sadeq admitted that there was some tension between the teams but he had respect for Guernsey. "It was getting too personal out there – they were trying to win," he said. "They are a brilliant team and it's fun playing against them. They are the best we've played here this week."

After winning the toss Le Prevost decided to bat first on a belter of a wicket. However, he may have regretted that decision as he soon found himself back in the Guernsey tent with four of the other top six including Jeremy Frith , who had been the island side's best batsman over the tournament.



Here come the swarm of flying insects © ICC/CricketEurope



Take cover as they pass over © ICC/CricketEurope

In a bit of a pickle at 81 for five it was left to younger members Kris Moherndl and Ben Ferbrache to pull the side out of the mire. The pair have faced criticism over the week for their lack of runs but they batted maturely in the face of some good spin from the tournament's leading wicket taker, Qamar Saeed, and fellow left-armed Tahir Dar.



Ben Ferbrache celebrates his half century © ICC/CricketEurope

Moherndl eventually went for 35 bowled round his legs trying to sweep Dar. The pair had put on 61 runs together. Veteran Gary Rich came in to join Ferbrache and they looked to take it up a notch. Rich made 25 before holing out to long off from the bowling of Imran Sajjad. With the score on 198 for seven Ferbrache went one run later on 51 when he fell to Saeed who went on to finish with the figures five wickets for 44 runs. Guernsey ended up on 204 when really looking to make 250.



Lee Savident strikes with the new ball © ICC/CricketEurope

After new ball bowler Jamie Nussbaumer bounced out opener Ashraf Mughal early into the Bahrain innings the Bahrainis looked like they were going to reach their target with ease as Shadzad Admed and Sajjad helped themselves to some wayward Guernsey bowling.



Jamie Nussbaumer dispatched for six © ICC/CricketEurope

Stuart Bisson, with his medium pacers, stemmed the tide a bit when he came on but wickets were desperately needed by the Greens. With the score on 87 this came about when Sajjad skied a Rich off-spinner to Moherndl on the deep mid-wicket boundary. Ten runs later Ahmed was gone lbw to the same bowler.



Yes! Gary Rich gets a wicket © ICC/CricketEurope

This was quickly followed by the removal of danger man Ashraf Yaqoob and Adil Hanif, and with Dar going as well without adding much, Bahrain were on the ropes at 119 for six. Guernsey could smell blood and their tails were up. But their hopes were slowly dashed by Saeed coming in at number eight. Proving that he also knows how to hold a bat the awkward left-hander punished anything pitched up. Assisted by Azeem ul Haq they guided the side to victory as Guernsey ran out of options with the ball. Saeed finished on 55 not out but it was left to captain Sadeq to hit the winning runs to joyous celebrations from the Bahrainis.



The Guernsey team celebrate a wicket © ICC/CricketEurope

“We didn’t want to lose the final and spoil the whole week,” said Sadeq. “In that sense we were very proud to have done that.”