

ICC WCL Division 6 Malaysia 2011

Guernsey vs Kuwait

at Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday 20th Sept 2011

Kuwait won the toss and elected to field

Umpires Steve Davis and Neil Harrison

Guernsey won by 12 runs

MATCH

Guernsey Press

'Nussbaumer marvels as Greens close on promotion' by Gareth Le Prevost
JEREMY FRITH performed his usual heroics in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, but he was outshone by a team-mate as Guernsey won for a third time. Jamie Nussbaumer received the man-of-the-match award from Australian Test umpire Steve Davis after a decisive burst of bowling and some brilliant fielding which tilted the game the Sarnians' way when it seemed Kuwait might get to their 50-over target of 213. Nussbaumer finished with figures of five for 35 as Guernsey won by 12 runs. One more victory from their final two games against Nigeria and Malaysia and the Greens will be promoted to Division Five. 'We felt that we didn't bat as well as we could have done and we were probably 25 runs short of where we wanted to be', said island manager Peter Vidamour.' But the boys as always fought really hard and squeezed the opposition out with some good bowling and some excellent fielding.' Frith's top-score 82 was his third straight score in the eighties. Malaysia, who play Jersey today in a match which could all but send the Caesareans plunging to a third successive World League trap-door, are still vying with Guernsey for the divisional championship, after three straight victories of their own. GUERNSEY are one win away from promotion in the World Cricket League. A 12-run win over Kuwait in a thriller at the Bayuemas Oval yesterday made it three wins from three Division Six games in Malaysia and victory today against Nigeria would guarantee the Greens a place in Singapore next year. However, their latest success was as tense and close as the margin of victory suggests and Guernsey were indebted to a marvellous bowling performance from Jamie Nussbaumer at the death to get over the line. The Cobo paceman finished with five for 35, the credit for a vital run out and the man-of-the-match award on a memorable day. He had earlier made the initial breakthrough as Kuwait, who had been set 213 for victory, struggled first up against some quality bowling from both Nussbaumer and Lee Savident. The

former Hampshire man continuously beat the bat during his six-over spell which merited several wickets but did not bring one. However, he once again proved to be a safe pair of hands when Aamir Javed edged Nussbaumer to slip. Fellow opener Irfan Bhatti, who could not lay a bat on Savident in the first powerplay, and Saud Qamar, then doggedly saw off the quickies and settled down to compile a crucial stand of 94 that set Kuwait up nicely for the final 20 overs.

The second-wicket pair were generally watchful but occasionally unleashed a big shot which invariably found the boundary – Bhatti notching up five fours and three sixes, in his 66. It was the wily veteran Gary Rich who eventually made the breakthrough Guernsey so desperately needed, with Qamar top-edging an attempted sweep up to Tim Ravenscroft at square leg for 29. The big wicket of Bhatti fell two overs later, Rich this time taking the catch at backward point as the opener got a leading edge going for a big hit off GH Smit, who battled on bravely despite a knee injury that caused him to leave the field on two separate occasions. Those two wickets eased Sarnian nerves for a while, but the Kuwait middle order continued to chip in with runs and the scoreboard kept ticking over.

The wicket of Sibtain Raza, who holed out to Nussbaumer at deep backward square off Ravenscroft, did not halt their progress and when the batting powerplay was called after 43 overs, they needed 48 to win. Nussbaumer got to work with a quick full ball to remove Abid Mushtaq, but a couple of streaky boundaries as well as a six off the following 11 balls raised Kuwait hopes. However, Nussbaumer then had Hisham Mirza well caught by substitute Adam Martel at long off and the next delivery was edged by Azmatullah Nazeer through to Tom Kimber – 183 for seven with four-and-a-half overs left. Mohammad Amin and Saad Khalid batted sensibly, taking ones and twos to push Kuwait up to 198 to put the odds back in their favour but then Nussbaumer struck again with a delivery that was simply too quick for Amin. There was no keeping Nussbaumer out of the action as at the start of the next over, the 49th bowled by Gary Rich, Khalid attempted two to deep backward square where the Cobo man picked up and threw all in one motion and the No. 10 could not make his ground. It was left to the skipper, Stuart Le Prevost, to finish things off three balls later, lobbing the ball back to Rich to remove the bails with Abdullah Akhunzada left stranded after being sent back

by Sharjeel Tahir. The Guernsey celebrations that followed showed just how much this win meant.

Earlier, they had fallen 20-30 runs short of what they had been looking for after being inserted by Kuwait, with the majority of batsmen contributing to their own downfall against decent but not particularly penetrative bowling. And it was that man Frith who was again the mainstay of the innings with an outstanding knock of 82. He found good support from Ben Ferbrache with the Greens rocking at 114 for five, spinner Sibtain Raza doing most of the early damage with the big wickets of Smit, Savident and Ravenscroft. Frith and Ferbrache added 63 for the sixth wicket and hopes of passing 230 were raised once again, but after they fell, the tail were well restricted by paceman Saad Khalid, who deservedly finished with three for 36 and wrapped things up with four balls of the 50 remaining. 'We were wanting more runs – it certainly wasn't our best batting performance,' said captain Le Prevost. 'But we bowled well and our fielding was excellent. It is the second time this week, after the Jersey game, where we have shown plenty of character to come away from a tight game with an important win.'