

ICC WCL Division 7 Guernsey 2009

Guernsey v Japan

ICC World Cricket League Division Seven 2009

Venue College Field, St Peter Port on 19th May 2009 (50-over match)

Balls per over 6

Toss Japan won the toss and decided to bat

Result Guernsey won by 7 wickets

Points Guernsey 2; Japan 0

Umpires TC Magee, BD Papworth

Scorers GA Kearns, S Veillard

Man of the Match JDJ Frith

MATCH

'Frith finds the middle to lead Guernsey to victory' by Aaron Scoones

There is no better way of silencing your critics than to score runs. And that is exactly what Jeremy Frith did yesterday against Japan at the College Field.

The match was re-arranged after Sunday's wash-out and chasing 150 the Guernsey all-rounder hit 56 not out to be the hero and see his team home. He also received the man-of-the-match award.

The previous day against Gibraltar at Port Soif, and needing a challenging 228 to win, the number three was almost the villain as he took his time to get 36 off more than 90 balls. It was touch and go whether they were going to make it. As it turned out the Sarnians limped over the line in the very last over.

Frith takes the criticisms one day and accolades the next all in his stride. "It's just the way it goes," he said. "I didn't bat any differently in my head from yesterday. I just middled a few more."



A confident appeal from Guernsey © ICC/CricketEurope

After winning the toss and deciding to bat Japan never really got going following a good start. They were 23 off four overs as openers Tatsuro Chino and Gavin Beath took advantage of some wayward bowling from Lee Savident and Blane Queripel. But when the Greens' new ball operators tightened their lines – and with Beath going lbw to Savident for 12 and Chino chipping a slower ball from Queripel up to Kris Moherndl at point for 14 – the squeeze was applied.

The problem for the Japanese was that they kept losing wickets. Only Ko Irie upset the apple cart as he threw his bat about. The 27-year-old, who lives in Sydney and plays grade cricket for Eastern Suburbs, looked to hit mainly through mid-wicket. He hit one of Frith's left-arm spinners over 'cow' to be caught by Jamie Nussbaumer running backwards, but fortunately for the hard-hitting right hander Nussbaumer's momentum carried him over the line for six runs. Nussbaumer was to have his revenge in the last few overs when he trapped Irie lbw for 49.

"I should have got 50," said Irie between innings. "They fielded very well. There was some intensity there and they were a good bowling team. It was hard to score runs but we'll see how it goes."

Overall, Guernsey were excellent in the field and bowled very tightly. The pick of their bowlers was Optimists-Rovers CC captain Stuart Bisson who lived up to

his nickname of the 'bowling machine' as he returned the figures; eight overs, two maidens, one wicket for 10 runs.

Japan ended up on 150 for eight from their 50 overs.

Guernsey did not get off to the greatest of replies as Matt Oliver, Savident and Moherndl went cheaply. Frith was certainly more aggressive than he was the previous day and with Ross Kneller in the middle with him, he had a good running partner to keep the score ticking along. Kneller, on his international debut, proved he is more than a leg-side merchant, a criticism that has been levelled at him in the past, as he played shots all round the wicket.

He was also involved in a bizarre moment as one ball from Japan's player-coach Richard Laidler theoretically cost 14 runs. The Australian medium pacer overstepped for a no-ball as he sent down a leg-side delivery that also went for four byes. A free hit was called and again Laidler overstepped the line as Kneller swept him for four. Another free hit was signalled and although Laidler did not no-ball this time, Kneller did sweep him again to the boundary. The Yorkshireman was unbeaten on 44 at the end and had the pleasure of hitting the winning runs.

After giving it their all in the field Japan were not a happy bunch afterwards. It followed the loss of their first match, against Nigeria, on Monday. "That's our second loss in a row," said Japan's captain Masaomi Kobayashi. "It's going to be really difficult for us to win the tournament now. We'll try and win the rest of our games and see what happens. We expect good results from the rest of our games."

However, he was very courteous in defeat and was full of praise for Guernsey's bowling and fielding display. "Their field placements were excellent and they bowled with very good control," he said. "When we batted we felt a lot of pressure put on us."