

## **'First Guernsey call-up for Bradley as 50-over inter-insular returns'**

by Gareth Le Prevost    Guernsey Press    25th August 2022

Martin-Dale Bradley is the new face in the Guernsey men's squad for next week's inter-insular. The Irregulars captain from South Africa has recently completed his ICC residency qualification and has received his first call-up for the trip to Jersey on Saturday 3 September when 50-over contests between the islands will resume for the first time since 2019 due to the pandemic.

'It's all three disciplines,' said Guernsey captain Josh Butler when asked what Bradley will bring to the squad. 'He has got a good pair of hands in the field, he bats and bowls, so he gives us flexibility. 'We are not sure what the make-up of the XI will be yet, but he offers something a little bit different and is a hard-hitter of the ball.'

There are also three others in the 12-strong group who have yet to win a 50-over inter-insular cap, namely Ollie Nightingale, Adam Martel and Luke Bichard, but all have played for Guernsey in international competition and in the T20 Inter-Insular Series. However, top all-rounder Matt Stokes is unavailable due to other off-island commitments. 'It's unfortunate, but we were lucky to have him for Finland when initially we did not think that would be the case,' said Butler, who knows the difficulty of the task in hand against a Jersey side flying high after their stunning promotion from ICC Challenge League B. 'For me it is about competing and seeing if we can put them under pressure. 'You look at the quality of the sides they have been playing and they have won 11 out of their last 12. That's credit to them and how far they've pushed themselves.'

Guernsey squad:

Luke Le Tissier, Zak Damarell, Josh Butler (captain), Ollie Nightingale, Tom Nightingale, Ben Ferbrache, Ant Stokes, Will Peatfield, Adam Martel, David Hooper, Luke Bichard, Martin-Dale Bradley.

### **Match report**

'Guernsey fall just short of pulling off amazing result' by Gareth Le Prevost and Steven Anderson

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JERSEY lived up to their billing as favourites as the 50-over men's inter-insular returned – but only just. As the old cricketing cliché goes, you can only evaluate a pitch once both sides have batted and at Farmers on Saturday neither side got to grips with the surface in a low-scoring thriller that left Guernsey wondering just what if they had scored another 20 runs or so?

As it turned out, home captain Chuggy Perchard showed all his experience and maturity to guide his side to an extremely tense two-wicket win having come to the crease with Jersey having been reduced to 74 for 7 chasing just 107 for victory. Despite the quality of batsmen at their disposal, the top

score for the hosts was merely 18 from both Nick Greenwood and Jonty Jenner while Perchard finished unbeaten on 17 as he and Elliot Miles saw them across the line.

'Obviously at halfway it was pretty gloomy, we knew we had probably under clubbed. But then to get them eight down was a really good effort by us,' said Guernsey captain Josh Butler. 'I guess in one-off games a good effort doesn't really count too much, it's frustration more than anything. 'It would have been a different game if we had posted 150 instead of 106, a bit more pressure, but then they might have batted in a different way.'



Luke Le Tissier photo by David

Ferguson

Guernsey's opening stand of 20 between Luke Le Tissier and Zak Damarell proved to be the third highest partnership of the innings and was not surpassed until the eighth wicket pair came together. Perchard proved to be the pick of the bowlers, taking 2 for 10 from his 10 overs, while there were three wickets apiece for Elliot Miles and Asa Tribe.

Guernsey slumped to 50 for 7 at one stage before Ant Stokes and Will Peatfield came together to add 22 and then top-scorer Peatfield was joined by David Hooper for the highest stand of the innings worth 27. Peatfield made the same amount himself before he was the ninth man to fall and the last pair took Guernsey into three figures.

But the Sarnians learnt a lot about the conditions and when it came their opportunity to bowl, Bichard excelled with 2 for 26 while the rest of the overs came from pace-off bowlers. Stokes and Adam Martel both claimed a couple of wickets on the turning pitch with their left-arm spin and there was also one apiece for Hooper and Le Tissier, but in the end they were to fall just short.

'I think this contest is a massive lesson for all the players,' said Jersey coach Neil MacRae. 'Our batting line-up has been incredible this summer and the performances of the top five are at a level we've not seen before. 'What today shows is that there are no easy chases and our focus needs to be at 100% every single game. 'That being said, we have to credit Guernsey and how they bowled. They bowled efficiently and straight – Luke Bichard had a brilliant spell.'

Captain Perchard revealed that he was surprised Guernsey had chosen to bat first on a damp pitch early in the day, but Butler defended his decision. 'I know the wicket was a bit sticky, especially in the morning. It looked difficult to bat on all day, to be honest. There was an excessive amount of turn. 'But we always wanted to bat first, especially when we were getting off the coach at five minutes before the toss. 'It would have been a pretty hard task for our boys to win the toss and field first after travelling over, especially with their strong batting line-up. 'We wanted to try and get a score on the board and try and build some pressure, which we did but ultimately we knew with 106 you'd probably win one in 50 games against this Jersey side.'