

ICC World Cricket League Division 5 South Africa 2017

Guernsey v Italy

on Sun 3rd September 2017 at 9.45am

at Willowmoore Park A, Benoni, South Africa

Toss won by Italy who elected to bat

Umpires R Angara (Botswana) and R D'Mello (Kenya), 3rd umpire A Holdstock (SA)

Italy won by 48 runs

Man of the match D Crowley (Italy)

'Italy do a job on Greens' by Rob Batiste in Guernsey Evening Press

ITALY completed a hat-trick of 50-over wins against Ash Wright's Guernsey side with a 48-run win in Benoni, South Africa yesterday. The result immediately puts pressure on the Greens to come good today against the Cayman Islands and on Wednesday against Qatar. With only the top two in each of two four-team pools going forward to the semi-finals Guernsey know they cannot afford any more slip-ups. Not that losing to Italy should be seen as a shock, as the Italians have a good record against the Sarnians, as Wright admitted. 'We always knew that Italy were probably one of the strongest teams in the tournament.' He added, 'Our cup finals are the next two games [against Qatar and the Cayman Islands] and they're the games where we have to really push.' Ultimately, Guernsey succumbed to scoreboard pressure at the bone-dry Willowmoore Park facility. Italy lost an early wicket to the seam of Matt Stokes, but their strong middle-order – led by Aussie Damian Crowley – gave them a strong platform and they thrashed the Guernsey bowlers at the death to post a formidable 277.

Crowley eventually went for a 103-ball 92 with 10 fours and a six. Guernsey needed a quick start and suffered the big blow of losing Stokes in the second over. Josh Butler and Ollie Newey steadied matters and after the former fell for 23, Lucas Barker made a breezy 28. But when he and Jason Martin fell in the space of 22 runs the required rate had risen to above seven per over and despite Newey's fine 73 from 93 balls faced (10 fours and a six) and a quick 29 from 35 balls from Ben Ferbrache, Guernsey were falling evermore behind the rate. By the time the ninth-wicket pair of Dave Hooper and Jamie Nussbaumer together the match was all but lost and their unbroken 42-run stand in the closing 8.5 overs made the scorecard more respectable.