



Around the Boundary

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**JERSEY
CRICKET**



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MAGIC MORRISON

AZTEC Springfield's Dean Morrison was crowned NatWest Cricketer of the Year at the recent JCB Awards Dinner held at the Pomme d'Or Hotel.

Morrison beat Ryan Driver (Optimus), Hannes Botha (Farmers-Cesareans) and Peter Gough (Rathbone OVs) to the top award scoring 5 centuries in 10 innings for a total of 904 runs in the NatWest Weekend League Premier Division. Morrison received his award from Alec Stewart, England's most capped Test player. Jerry Whitsey, of sponsors NatWest, also had a busy night presenting the team and individual awards. Before the start of the presentation he confirmed that NatWest would again be supporting cricket for at least the next two years.

The Jersey Evening Post Young Cricketer of the Year award went to Charles Perchard of Farmers-Cesareans who finished with a total of 21 wickets in the NatWest Premier Division and Channel Islands League. He also represented Jersey in the U17 ICC squad and the same age group in the annual Standard Bank Festival. Also nominated for the Young Cricketer of the Year accolade were fellow Farmers-Cesareans players Andrew Kearsey, Ben Stevens - last year's winner - and Joe Mayes.

Morrison, who scored an unbeaten 149 against St Ouen, his former club, retained the NatWest Premier Division Batsman of the

Year award while Farmers-Cesareans' Hannes Botha was named Bowler of the Year in the same division. Botha had an impressive season taking 24 wickets in total; inclusive of one four-wicket return and three three-wicket returns for an average of 10.4 and runs per over at 3.4.

Fairbairn SCF's Ben Beeley was named NatWest Weekend League Division I Young Player of the Year for the second year running. The leg spinner claimed 20 wickets during the season while also scoring 211 runs. Beeley also played for Jersey's successful U17 squad. One century, eight wickets and a total of 529 runs took Karl Le Fèvre (Rowlands Wanderers) to the Player of the Year title in the same division.

NatWest Evening League Player of the Year winners were Hannes Botha (Farmers-Cesareans), Richard Baigent (HSBC Jersey) and Steve Hopper (The Sloggers) in division's I, II and III respectively.

Player of the Month titles were won by Alan Morris (May, Lutea Mavericks and Rowlands Wanderers), Dean Morrison (June, St Ouen and St Helier RFC), Hannes Botha (July, Beeches and Farmers-Cesareans) and Richard Baigent (August/September, HSBC Jersey and St Ouen).

CRICKETEUROPE

Jersey is now featured on the CricketEurope website!

Check out the site at www.cricketeurope4.net

Last issue we published images which were incorrectly credited. The images of the U15, U17 and U19 Championships should have been credited ICC/CricketEurope.



Dean Morrison, NatWest Cricketer of the Year, with Alec Stewart OBE



Charles Perchard, Jersey Evening Post Young Cricketer of the Year

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PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES by Joe Mayes

It's been quite a summer for Craig Hogan, Jersey's National Coach. Hogan, affectionately known as "Silvs" by his players, has seen Jersey's youth find unprecedented success in their European Division One cricket this summer, with best-ever finishes achieved at all age groups. As a result, despite seeing an Inter-Insular lost in Guernsey, there's been plenty for Craig to smile about. With the season at its end, I caught up with Jersey's "Mr Cricket" to talk success, shoes and settling into Island life.

Firstly, having been here for a summer, what do you make of cricket in Jersey?

"There's a lot of cricket being played, which is a good thing. There's the ICC pathway (where Jersey play the national sides of other countries), which is superb for Jersey cricket. Before, we would have been in that situation where you had basically only one game, against Guernsey, whereas now we've got ICC competitions at all age groups, even going down to the Under-13s. There are a lot more kids playing cricket at the younger levels and so the base is growing, which means that at the top-end in five or six years time there's going to be a lot of good cricketers coming through. Looking at it from the top, with the seniors and the ICC World Cricket League Division 5, there are some great opportunities. I mean, what better chance do you have of going to Nepal? These are the kind of fabulous opportunities that we have which weren't available four or five years ago, and that's all credit to the JCB for looking ahead to the future. Also, with the Under-15s, 17s and 19s all doing really well in their European Championships, we can now show that we can actually compete with these high-performance countries, and the challenge will be to keep that going."

You mention the success of the Under-15s, 17s and 19s. What have you done this year which has been key to that success?

"There are probably some little things, but it's more that the base is there. The grounding that all the players have had from the last three or four years, with technique and all the skill-work and fitness, has been a big factor. I suppose all that we've done this year is to formalise things a little bit more with our team plans and our game plans. We've had the individual talent before, but just being able to play more as a team has given us that chance to win some of those big games. When the pressure's on you've got to stick together, and Peter Gough and Chris Minty did that with the Under-15s in Dundee, and we did that also with the 17s and 19s. All the team things we've done have been great."

How does the standard of cricket in Jersey compare to that in Australia? Can you make a comparison?

"Probably the only difference that we have here is that we have some quality players, but it's just that in Australia there are more of them. If you look at an Island like Jersey we've probably got five senior cricket teams, whereas in Australia we've probably got sixty or seventy. Therefore the number of players that are of a high standard is greater, and so the pressure to get into sides is also much greater. A couple of fellas from the Ireland side were asking "How many players do you have to pick from at all these different age groups?" and I said "Probably the starting XI and another ten." That's about it. Whereas in Australia, with the stuff that I was doing with the Under-19s, I'd have three-hundred kids to pick from. That's the difference. There are just more of us!"

Imagine we are sitting here this time next year. Where do you want Jersey cricket to be? What is the long-term goal?

"We'll be hoping that we can finish 1st or 2nd at World Cricket League Division (WCL) 5 in Nepal which would put us into WCL 4 in Italy in 2010. Then we'd hope that we could get through again and get to WCL 3. If we could do that in the next few years it'd be super and would be great progress. It also means that there's a great opportunity for the players in the Under-17s and Under-19s in particular in the next two or three years. That's the pathway for them. Kids that are 16 or 17 at the moment should be looking at a senior spot this year or the year after. There's no doubt there's plenty of cricket to come. We've got the European Championships again next year, so that's three big tournaments coming up."

And what about the juniors? Is it more of the same, consolidating their places in European Division One?

"Well, I think people are now going to take us a bit more seriously than in the past. It's like the second year of a footballer. People say "Gee, that bloke can play a bit", and then the next year everyone says "We better have a look at this bloke", and then it becomes much harder. And that's what's going to happen with us. It's going to be harder for us to keep those results going, but we should be able to do it because we've got the starting platform this year so now we've just got to make sure we keep going forwards."

Moving away from cricket, let's talk about Jersey in general. How've you found living here, compared to Australia?

"It's good, it's all good! The people are very friendly and you can actually drive round for half a day without getting lost, which isn't too bad! Saying that, I'm waiting for the weather to warm up. Once the weather warms up I think we'll be alright!"

Could you choose a favourite place that you have in the Island?

"Well, I think Jersey is interesting because we're living over at Gorey where it's lovely, but then we go over to St Ouen's and you've got the surf beach there, and then up in St Peter's, in the hills, you can go into the countryside. There's different stuff everywhere. That's the best thing about it. You can actually get away, you can go to the beach, you can go and do a bit of fishing, you can play golf. There's plenty of things to do. Oh yer, and there's also Les Landes racecourse. You can mention that too!"

Finally: shoes. I hear that you own many pairs of shoes. If your house was burning down, which pair would you save?

(laughing) "My big red trainers. Definitely my big red Jersey ones. They're the best."

THE LONG ROAD TO NEPAL

The Jersey senior squad are currently training hard in advance of the ICC World Division V tournament scheduled for February 2010. They are being put through a rigorous 10 week strength and conditioning programme in the run up to Christmas which includes sessions at an army style bootcamp, aerobics, spinning, sand dunes training, gym and circuit work and yoga sessions.

Overseeing the sessions on behalf of the JCB, Sports Therapist Jason Carpenter said that "The squad have been through an intense couple of months building up their base level of fitness. This will stand them in good stead in preparation for more cricket related fitness sessions which are scheduled to commence in the New Year to complement the technical sessions. Regular fitness tests have been a feature of this programme and the results have been encouraging with marked improvements in all tests. The squad clearly recognise that fitness not only plays a big part in respect of the physical demands the modern game puts on the body, but also in injury prevention and concentration. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Stewart and Warren Johnson of Fitness First for their ongoing support of the JCB, as well Bootcamp Jersey, and also personal instructors Sam Ward, Simon Petulla and Katrina Mollet for their valuable assistance in providing some the sessions."

Photos on the right (Top to Bottom):

1. Some of the Senior Squad in training with Bootcamp Jersey
2. Opening Batsman Peter Gough is pushed hard by Bootcamp Jersey instructor Nick Mitchell to 'grind out one more rep'.
3. Katrina Mollet gets the squad to 'feel the burn' during an aerobics session.



UMPIRES AND SCORERS NEWS

The Jersey Association of Cricket Officials (formerly JACUS) have recently delivered the ECB ACO Level 1 Umpires Course. Thanks go to Course Tutors John Edmonds and Robin Stockton for all their efforts prior to and during the course. 13 candidates completed the course: Sally Dalman, Paul Daniel, Kris Gorman, Will Gorman, Edward Keller, John Mackintosh, Nick Owen, Jim Perchard, Jonathan Perree, Andrew Rabet, Shankar Sanketh, Vicky Toole and Hansie Vosser.

JACO is urging all clubs to have their own scorer and, with this in mind, a scorer's course is being organised for April 2010. Further details will be sent out next year.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

This month, Tom Minty manages to rear his little head again - this time in Melbourne with Jonny Gough who is playing cricket for Toroonga District Cricket Club. Captions please on a postcard to the Cricket Office.

If you've got any news from present or former Jersey cricketers who have left The Rock, we'd love to hear from you.



*Minty and Gough
Downunder in
Melbourne*

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SEASONS GREETINGS!

The Cricket Office
would like to wish
you all a very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

Here's looking
forward to a very
busy, and hopefully
very successful,
2010!

INSIDE EDGE by Mark Saralis

It is hard to predict how the Test Series will stand when England wake up in South Africa on Christmas Day after one match and on the eve of the second which starts the following morning. On their three recent tours to South Africa they have awoken to find themselves one up, one down and all square and there are reasons for thinking any of these are possible this year. The first Test takes place at Supersport Park, a venue where SA enjoy a 79% win record and you would therefore imagine that a home win would be the most likely result. They have beaten every one of the Test playing Nations at the ground in the past 15 years..... except England who drew to secure the series win in 2005, secured a win (when two down) to lose the series 2-1 in 2000, and a draw in a rain affected match in 1995. Perhaps it's just a quirky statistic, but the fact that England have performed well in the one day series and SA may be without Jacques Kallis – or he won't bowl if he does play, does give some credence to siding with the tourists to win the opener or at least backing them to draw.

There are not many sides that tour SA and come away with a series win. In the past 20 years their home record stands at won 23, lost 5 and drawn 2 of the 30 series played, a win rate of 77%. Compare that to England's home record of 19 wins, 9 losses and 7 draws, a win record of 54%. When you then consider that England's away record in the same period stands at 8 wins, 19 losses and 3 draws, a win record of 28%, you would have to assume that the odds of them leaving with a series win are stacked against them. The price on offer for a South African win is now 8/13 having been 1 to 2 a month ago meaning they reckon SA have a 62% chance of winning the series. If you consider however that four of the test series defeats SA have suffered were against Australia – by far the strongest team in the world, you may believe those odds to be rather generous and get some sort of idea of the task ahead of England.

There has however been little between the sides in the past three series in South Africa, England losing 1-0 and 2-1 in 1995 and 1999 and then winning 2-1 in 2004. England are in fact the only team other than Australia who have won a series against them. Australia managed to beat them 2-1 in the last series SA played on home soil in 2008/09, after SA had beaten them in Australia. South Africa also beat England 2-1 in England last year so there are some grounds for hoping they can follow in Australia's footsteps. It's probably best to assume the draw is not going to

happen. Between them the sides have only drawn between 6 and 10% of games, although the total percentage of drawn matches by SA at the four venues is 22% which is identical to the bookies quote of 7/2 for a drawn series. In the past three series there have been eight draws from 15 matches (53%) but, despite that, there hasn't been a drawn series so it may be worth taking a risk and assuming the series won't be drawn, although there could be some value in backing a couple of matches to be drawn. That leaves a choice between England at 7/2 or South Africa at 8/13.

England did of course win the Ashes this year but were beaten by SA in 2008 (when Kallis only scored 104 runs but did take 10 wickets). They haven't been at their best in the shorter version of the game and failed to qualify for the latter stages of the Texaco trophy and haven't performed that well against England. Whether this is a useful barometer as to how they will perform in the tests is doubtful though. After they beat England 2-1 in the England in 2008 they lost the following one day series 4-0 and when England won 2-1 in 04/05 they lost the one day series 3-1.

Bets

It is hard to see England winning the series although they could draw a couple of matches or win one – I would therefore suggest

10 pts South Africa to win the series 2-0 @ 6/1
10 pts South Africa to win the series 2-1 @ 9/2

England's record at Supersport park is hard to ignore
20 pts - Lay South Africa in first test @ 11/10

Dale Steyn enjoys bowling at Supersport Park and has an average of 18.67 and a strike rate of a wicket every 28 balls. Has been nursing a hamstring injury but is reportedly going to be fit.

10 pts - Steyn to be top wicket taker in first innings of first test.
10 pts Steyn to be top SA wicket taker @ 7/4

The South African top batsman is difficult given the injury scare to Kallis who is 50/50 to make first test. May be worth having a small bet on Ashwell Prince who scored two centuries in England.

4 pts Ashwell Prince to be top SA batsman – @ 6/1
4 pts J. Trott @ 7/2 to be England top run scorer.

The England top bowler market is interesting with Anderson's health under a cloud and some doubts over Broad. A few quid on onions shouldn't bring too many tears to the eyes.

4 pts Onions to be England top bowler @ 9/2

Good luck and Happy Christmas!

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