

Phoenix v Malahide 16/04/11

When he heard the line up for this friendly Kop leader John Doran commented to the effect that there was a distinctly experimental tinge to it. The side was : Corie Dickeson, David Langford-Smith (the illustrious hyphen), Jeremy Bray, Conor Kelly, Rory Flanagan, Ryan Gallagher, Kaleem Sheikh, Osama Khan, M D Masud Ahmed, Thomas Anders, Amit Battan. Captain Dickeson lost the toss and the home side opted to bat first.

The illustrious hyphen's opening spell cost almost a run a ball but at the other end Sheikh seemed to find the same sort of accuracy that had troubled Old Belvedere in 2010. After 19 minutes Sheikh took the first wicket of the innings as Coach Bray completed the first of three stumpings to remove Riches. Turner and Govan achieved a temporary dominance for the home team as they added 61 runs in 36 minutes for the second wicket. Kelly and Masud Ahmed were now the bowlers and they broke the stand – it was Kelly's wicket and Masud's catch. Flanagan and Gallagher were given the ball with the Dubliner trapping Boyne lbw and the Ulsterman making a promising debut as he was both economical and effective to end with 8-3-12-3. From 83 for 1 the home side lost wickets at regular intervals with Khan removing Saville and Anders ended his spell and the innings overall when he got Smith. The other victims were Geraghty, who was run out and Kirwan, who fell to Masud. The innings closed on 159.

Flanagan and Masud Ahmed were the opening pair. They added 12 before Flanagan chipped to the man at cover point about twelve yards from the bat. This gave the Phoenix onlookers an opportunity to see how Gallagher shaped up with the bat. He batted solidly for 55 minutes, adding 13 with Masud and then 60 in quick time with Coach Bray. The coach was the centrepiece of the Phoenix innings with a vital 44 containing one “maximum” and six fours. It seemed that Conor Kelly and Captain Dickeson would bring the match gently to a close but the ever competitive Saville almost completed the hat trick of Kelly, the illustrious hyphen and Osama Khan. The latter survived to support the skipper to get to a successful conclusion with Phoenix winning by 4 wickets.

Man of the Match: Ryan Gallagher 3 wickets, 22 runs

Runner Up: Coach Bray 3 stumpings, 44 runs