

## Clontarf 5th XI Vs Phoenix 5th XI

Played At Mount Temple, 21-May-2002, Division 12

### Clontarf 5th XI Win by 6 wkts

Toss won by Phoenix 5th XI  
 Scorers Albert Fahy (Phoenix)  
 Player / Match Phoenix: Ishfaq, Momin  
 Points Awarded Phoenix 5th XI 2, Clontarf 5th XI 23

### Phoenix 5th XI 1st Innings 10/101 All Out (Overs 34.2)

Batsman	Fieldsman	Bowler	Runs	BIs	4s	6s
R Singh	lbw	b I Smilie	10	29	1	0
N Naik		b R Kirk	0	3	0	0
M Fahy	lbw	b D Delany	4	21	0	0
S Moore*	c P McShane	b R Kirk	24	53	3	0
A Altaf+		b P Vadlamudi	10	23	1	0
M Ishfaq	not out		19	35	2	1
J Anders		b A Delany	0	3	0	0
B White	c P Avery	b R Kirk	0	7	0	0
D Dismore		b R Kirk	0	4	0	0
D Fahy	c C Currie	b A Delany	0	2	0	0
M Guest	c P McShane	b A Delany	4	7	1	0
extras		(b15 lb1 w13 nb1)	30			
TOTAL		10 wickets for	101			

#### FOW

1-1(N Naik) 2-14(M Fahy) 3-14(R Singh) 4-53(A Altaf) 5-93(S Moore) 6-94(J Anders)  
 7-95(B White) 8-95(D Dismore) 9-96(D Fahy) 10-101(M Guest)

Bowler	O	M	R	W	wd	nb
R Kirk	8	2	16	4	-	-
D Delany	8	3	10	1	-	-
I Smilie	4	1	10	1	-	-
A Delany	7.2	1	12	3	-	-
P Vadlamudi	5	0	27	1	-	-
A Panjwani	2	0	10	0	-	-

### Clontarf 5th XI 1st Innings 4/103 Closed (Overs 18.3)

Batsman	Fieldsman	Bowler	Runs	BIs	4s	6s
S Ritchie	run out S Moore		29	0	0	0
A Delany	c B White	b M Guest	10	0	0	0
D Delany		b N Naik	13	0	0	0
C Currie+	not out		26	0	0	0
P Avery	lbw	b D Fahy	5	0	0	0
B Kershain	not out		6	0	0	0
I Smilie*	dnb		-			
R Kirk	dnb		-			
P Vadlamudi	dnb		-			
P McShane	dnb		-			
A Panjwani	dnb		-			
extras		(b2 lb3 w7 nb2)	14			
TOTAL		4 wickets for	103			

#### FOW

1-31(A Delany) 2-59(S Ritchie) 3-69(D Delany) 4-83(P Avery)

Bowler	O	M	R	W	wd	nb
B White	5	1	16	0	-	-
M Guest	5	0	22	1	-	-
J Anders	2	0	19	0	-	-
N Naik	4	0	23	1	-	-
D Fahy	2	0	13	1	-	-
D Dismore	.3	0	6	0	-	-

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Phoenix 5th XI slipped to their second consecutive defeat as they went down by 6 wickets to Clontarf 5th XI in their Division 12 clash last Saturday. On what was a very spicy pitch Phoenix batted first and only managed to amass 101. The rain that had threatened all day then came during tea and, unusually enough, the water on the wicket made it easier to bat for the chasing side. Phoenix never got into their stride and the hosts made the most of some dropped chances as they knocked off the runs required in double quick time and secured a well earned victory.

Phoenix skipper, Matt Guest, was unable to make the start of play as he had some pressing business but he instructed stand in captain, Stephen Moore, to bat if the toss was won. Lo and behold the absence of captain Guest at the toss led to the coin coming down on the right side for the first time this year and the visitors got ready to bat.

While the auspices may have looked good for a brief moment, that didn't last long. The star of last weeks batting performance, Nitin Naik (0), fell early in the piece with the score on one. The wicket was providing wildly variable bounce and both Kirk and David Delany made the very most of matters. Both got some good pace and bounce and held their lines well. The odd ball flew through to the keeper at head height while a ball of a similar length would then proceed to snake through at ankle height.

Michael Fahy and Ram Singh did their best to steady the ship and settle things down and they took some of the sting out of the Clontarf opening salvo. However David Delany could not be kept at bay and Fahy (3) fell lbw to a ball that rocketed through no more than 3 inches off the ground. Fahy has had no luck in the last couple of games after a bright start to the season but, despite a pair of unfortunate lbw's, his form still looks solid.

Unfortunately for Phoenix, Ram Singh (10), fell lbw to first change, and Clontarf skipper, Ian Smilie, in the very next over leaving the visitors at a precarious 14 for 3. That left Moore and Altaf at the crease with a mountain to climb on a very lively track.

The pair managed to stave off some early pressure before starting to roll the scoreboard over. Not many runs were coming off the bat but some good calling and running meant that every bye, leg bye, wide and overthrow was taken. The pair stuck it out and managed to finally get some bat on ball. Moore took 12 deliveries before he finally got off the mark while Altaf faired a little better. Altaf (10) smacked a boundary through the covers off spinner, Pavan Vadlamudi, but he perished soon after to a quicker delivery. It was the end of a good partnership which had steadied the Phoenix ship as the pair added 39 to the total.

Moore was joined by Momin Ishfaq who showed good temperament and good technique and settled in quickly without doing anything rash. Phoenix were 63 for 4 at drinks and reasonably well positioned.

Ishfaq finally began to cut loose after the break smashing a superb six over midwicket before sweeping for four. That saw Vadlamudi out of the attack and David Delany was reintroduced. Delany was superb again with his line, length and movement and began to restrict the scoring.

However the Phoenix batsmen ploughed ahead manfully and added some good runs to the total. Moore finally perished caught on the cover boundary after skewing a delivery by Kirk up in the air. He finished with 24 runs off 53 balls including three boundaries. Moore and Ishfaq had forged another good partnership adding 40 to the score and Ishfaq was not well served by the stand in skipper departing when he did.

Phoenix were now 93 for 5 with 12 overs left and looked poised to make a decent score in or around the 130-140 mark. However that total was never threatened as the bottom half of the order was blown away by some quality Clontarf bowling mixed with some poor shot selection.

Anders (0), White (0), Dismore (0) and David Fahy (0) all fell for the addition of a mere two runs. Skipper, Matt Guest, arrived towards the end of the innings and managed to flick a fine short to the square leg boundary for four. However, Guest (4) was the last man out as Phoenix slumped to a disappointing 101 all out in the 36<sup>th</sup> over.

Everything needed to go right for the visitors when they took the field if they were to defend such a small total. The rain that had fallen during the interval didn't help their cause as it made the ball hard to handle for bowlers and fielders alike and took a little bit of the spice out of the pitch. That said it must be noted the Clontarf batting was very assured during the chase

Ben White opened the bowling and was superb through his first three overs offering nothing easy for the openers. Matt Guest took the new ball at the other end and was back to his full run up after recovering from a thigh strain. Every chance needed to stick but when Andrew Delany flashed one and Dev Dismore couldn't cling on to a tough chance in the gully region the start Phoenix wanted had evaded them.

Clontarf, knowing they were chasing a low score, started aggressively and made the most of any bad ball. Sam Ritchie looked very calm and assured opening the batting and led his side well. Andrew Delany (10) was the first man to fall with the score on 31 when Guest picked up a deserved wicket as Ben White held his nerve to take a skier out at wide midwicket.

Phoenix needed more than the single breakthrough, though, and it was time to ring the bowling changes in order to get wickets as Anders and Naik entered the attack. With a slippery ball Anders could not find his usual rhythm and the wickets that had come so easily in recent weeks evaded him. At the other end Naik was too short in his first over but soon found a better length.

The next wicket to fall came from a piece of fielding rather than bowling. Ritchie (29) was run out with a direct hit that would have pleased even Phoenix most querulous fielding coach, from Moore at midwicket and Clontarf were 59 for 2.

There was a glimmer of hope for Phoenix as Naik cleaned up David Delany (13) soon after. However Naik had already seen Delany dropped off his bowling. He then saw Currie put down at slip before the same batsman survived offering a chance to fine leg.

It was a day when absolutely everything needed to stick and those chances going down made a hard task almost impossible. David Fahy then got his first bowl of the season for the 5th XI and settled in to a good rhythm. He showed some nice variation and bowled a tight first over. In his second he struck, although, somewhat fortuitously as Avery (5) was adjudged lbw.

It was all too little too late, though, and Clontarf knocked off the runs in the next over as Kershain slapped a delivery over midwicket. The hosts had completed a comprehensive victory but thankfully the apocalyptic downpour that had threatened stayed at bay and the game was completed.

There were still some positives to be taken from the game as the bowling of Ben White in particular was superb. Ali Altaf and Momin Ishfaq also showed good poise and temperament with the bat as both had to bat in tough situations. They were part of partnerships of 39 and 40 respectively which accounted for almost 80% of their team's total.

Phoenix 5th XI must now wait 22 days for their next game when they will face Laois at home in the cup. With the park due to be reopened to the public this week, that will provide plenty of time for the team to sharpen their skills in the nets.

A huge thanks must also go to Albert Fahy who battled through the wind, rain and cold to did the scorebook (and brilliantly at that!) for both innings.