

## Phoenix v Glendermott 11/06/11

Rory Flanagan, Amit Battan and Jonathan Wardell dropped out of the Phoenix side for various reasons with Osama Khan and M D Masud Ahmed returning and after a longer absence from the 1<sup>st</sup> xi there was also a recall for Luke Savage. However, this crowded the team with left handed opening batsmen and given how settled the top order had become it was not clear where Savage would slot in. With Wardell out Coach Bray would return behind the stumps. The full selection was: Captain Dickeson, Coach Bray, David Langford-Smith (the illustrious hyphen), Conor Kelly, Ryan Gallagher, Osama Khan, Ted Williamson, Vish Vaidyanathan, M D Masud Ahmed, Sadaf Raza, Luke Savage. The news for your correspondent was that David Mooney had stepped down and Darren Peoples was the new Glendermott scorer. Glendermott won the toss and inserted the home team.

More important news revealed by Darren under questioning as the innings commenced was that Garry Neely, who had played a key role in the visitors' victory in 2010, was no longer with the club and it was Silva and Cochrane who had the task of trying to unsettle and unseat Coach Bray and Ted Williamson. The batsmen probably won the opening exchanges and saw off the opening bowlers before the coach coughed up a catch to Elder's first delivery in the 15<sup>th</sup> over to make it 60 for 1. Ryan Gallagher was next in and he and Williamson continued to score reasonably freely against Elder, Pearson, Averill and Montgomery until the Corkman fell for 54 with the total on 150. The main job for those coming in now was to support Gallagher and there were efforts of 22, 13 and 6 from Conor Kelly, the illustrious hyphen and Captain Dickeson as the Ulsterman progressed to 69 but the latter's brief stand with Masud ended when he was finally out for 75. Masud and Khan were both out to Silva but Vaidyanathan showed enough urgency to reach 24 with Savage contributing an undefeated 5 from 4 balls. This was a good batting performance by Phoenix although it was considerably beefed up by an extras total of 49.

Glendermott's target of 289 was over 40 runs more than they had needed to win in 2010. The illustrious hyphen struck in the 5<sup>th</sup> over to get Killen lbw and Osama Khan removed the professional, Silva, in the 8<sup>th</sup> over as the illustrious hyphen took the first of three catches. Conor Kelly's economy rate was just over 3 an over and he was rewarded with the wicket of Elder. Masud Ahmed was more expensive but he had the opener Averill caught by Vaidyanathan and Robinson caught by Captain Dickeson. The top scorer, Smith, was run out for 38 when it looked as if he was on top of the bowling and after striking two fours and two sixes Montgomery was also run out for 21. Phoenix gave away 7 wides but no further extras to compare favourably with the visitors as a fielding unit. Gallagher took a wicket and Raza took two wickets in 1.3 overs to wrap it up for Phoenix who will now play at Merrion in the next round.

Phoenix Batting: R Gallagher 75 T Williamson 54

Phoenix Bowling: A good team effort