

Phoenix v YMCA 04/06/11

Ted Williamson and Siphe Mzayidume were not in the side for varying reasons and for this 50 over clash it was opportune for Phoenix that Osama Khan and Masud Ahmed were able to take their places in the side. Jonathan Wardell would continue behind the stumps. The Phoenix team was: Captain Dickeson, Coach Bray, David Langford-Smith (the illustrious hyphen), Conor Kelly, Ryan Gallagher, Rory Flanagan, Osama Khan, Thomas Anders, Jonathan Wardell, Sadaf Raza, M D Masud Ahmed. Helen Caird shared the scoring duties with your correspondent to allow the latter to fulfil a family obligation. There was no place in the scorebook to record the result of the toss which saw YMCA batting first.

Phoenix opened with the twin pace spearhead of the illustrious hyphen and Khan with the latter striking in his first over to dismiss former Ireland ace Alan Lewis. Lewis's reaction suggested he was not convinced the lbw decision was correct but the scorebook still shows that he was out. Former Old Belvederian Sameer Dutt replaced Lewis and formed an adhesive partnership with Walshe which managed to see off the opening bowlers. In his first over Conor Kelly had Walshe caught by the illustrious hyphen. Hosford's contribution of 12 was enough to help Dutt bring the score to 99 for 2 just past half way but no one after Hosford could reach double figures. Raza emerged as the leading wicket taker for Phoenix with 4 for 40 and there were tidy efforts from Flanagan and Gallagher with 2 maidens each and the latter bagging McAuley. The illustrious hyphen stepped up to the plate with three wickets in his last two overs thanks to catches by Wardell, Anders and especially a spectacular effort by Captain Dickeson getting across from extra cover to wide mid off to deprive Dutt of his century.

Rory Flanagan and Coach Bray opened the innings for Phoenix with the latter unhappy just as Lewis was earlier with an lbw verdict for Strydom in the third over. Gallagher occupied the crease for some time and scored 7 in a stand of 23 but it was the arrival of Conor Kelly to the square which saw the scoring rate accelerate with the new man hitting eight fours in an innings of 44 which brought the score to 94. The illustrious hyphen could only manage a brief 6 and Phoenix still needed 77 to win with 6 wickets in hand. However, a big contribution was forthcoming from Captain Dickeson and he and Flanagan had almost seen Phoenix home when the opener was finally dismissed for 63 by Strydom after batting for 148 minutes. Thomas Anders held an end up as Phoenix added 14 runs to win by 5 wickets with 52 balls to spare.

Phoenix bowling: Sadaf Raza 4 for 40

Phoenix batting: Rory Flanagan 63, Corie Dickeson 58 not out, Conor Kelly 44

