

Phoenix 1 v The Hills 1 – Saturday 25 June 2011

Our regular scorer / reporter Conor Dillon was away in the wild west (otherwise known as Limerick) for the weekend so the Hon. Secretary took over his duties for this match. The Phoenix team was as follows: Captain C. Dickeson, R. Flanagan, R. Gallagher, T. Williamson, C. Kelly, J. Bray, D. Langford-Smith, T. Anders, O. Khan, S. Raza and J. Wardell (esteemed Treasurer).

Phoenix won the toss and had no hesitation in inserting the opposition. This looked like the right decision as The Hills wickets fell regularly and no batsman ever got on top of the Phoenix bowling. J. Bray bowled a very accurate 10 overs 3 for 18 and Lanky finished on 6 overs 3 for 22. In fact the highest score for The Hills was wides as they slumped to **114** all out in just 38 overs.

The Hills scorer was confident that this was a competitive total in view of The Hills bowling attack and that the Phoenix batsmen would struggle to reach the 115 required. When the Phoenix score went from 17 for 0 to 17 for 3 it looked like he might possibly be right. Veteran N. Shaukat bowled R. Flanagan and T. Williamson with 2 beautiful deliveries and R. Gallagher was most unlucky to be run out backing up at the non-strikers end. Still, with less than 100 to win and 7 wickets still in hand surely Phoenix were not going to bring this match anywhere near to a close finish.

J. Bray top scored with 22 and C. Kelly got 21 as Phoenix advanced towards the target. However when these 2 and Captain Dickeson were dismissed it was left to young T. Anders and Lanky to steady the ship. Lanky was dropped by M. Sorensen in what may have been the turning point of the match as he then hit a six and 2 fours to bring Phoenix to within 20 of the target. When Lanky was out, Phoenix were within 3 boundaries of the target. As O. Khan strode to the middle to face M. Sorensen who was by now well warmed up and bowling very fast, the chair of cricket was heard to remark that this contest either way would not last long. A big swish of the bat and displacing of the stumps meant Sorensen won this time. S. Raza was up next and was not able to cope with Sorensen's pace for too long either.

Yes Phoenix had brought this one right down to the wire as our number 11 and esteemed Treasurer J. Wardell made his way to the middle with the score on 113 and Sorensen with 2 balls left in the 31st over. Would the Treasurer's legendary forward defensive be up to the pace of Sorensen for the next 2 balls? The Park held its breath, the ball came towards the Treasurer at great pace and he managed to get a bat on it sending it airborne towards the slips. While The Hills fielders were trying to catch the ball Anders called Wardell through for a run and as The Hills fielders dropped the ball the Phoenix pair went for the winning run and the match ended with the esteemed Treasurer making good his ground with a full length dive. The match was over and Phoenix had won by 1 wicket. M. Sorensen ended up on 5.5 overs 4 for 19. T. Anders finished up on an invaluable 8 not out off 23 balls.

Man of the Match – J. Bray with 3 for 18 and 22 runs