

Phoenix 2nd XI v Malahide 3rds 21/08/11

Chris Cavanagh had to manage four changes in personnel from the previous week. He welcomed the return of David Ford but Anders, Morshed, Mohammed and Joseph had all made their own contribution against YMCA and he hoped for the best from Chester, Haque and Clarke. The eleven to face Malahide 3rds was: M D Masud Ahmed, A Battan, D Ford, A Chester, A Nazir, R Gallagher, C Cavanagh, E Cleere, N Naik, R Haque, W Clarke. Phoenix won the toss and inserted the visitors.

Good news for Phoenix was that the Shehabideen brothers who had contributed significantly to the Malahide batting effort in the season's earlier fixture were absent. Cavanagh struck after eleven minutes when he had Herbert caught by Gallagher. Number three Santosh did not get much change against Cavanagh but he held his own for some time against the other bowlers. Masud Ahmed caught and bowled Reed and was rested after 6 overs and although he opened with a maiden it was not be Nazir's day and he was rested after 5 overs. Gallagher struck in his third over when he caught and bowled McPhilemey and perhaps more importantly the Ulsterman removed Santosh for 60 after an innings which included eleven boundaries from 73 balls. Number six Smith would end up batting for longer and facing more balls than Santosh but his contribution of 27 although greater than any of the later batsmen would seem strangely subdued to Kop leader John Doran. Haque ended with 5-1-15-1 with Kamal the victim and wides the majority component of the 15 but the real success story of the second half of the innings was Clarke who consistently troubled the lower middle order and managed to remove both Horstmans and Cosgrove with catches by Gallagher and Nazir and one victim clean bowled. Chambers and Smith managed to add 43 for the 9th wicket and in the final over Masud bowled Chambers for 13 and Gibbons pushed hopefully for a single and was run out by Chester. The visitors had batted 50 overs for 173 all out.

Battan has struggled a little for patience and fluency since his century at Kilcock and after one boundary he fell to Gibbons for 7. Masud Ahmed and Gallagher attacked every ball against Kamal, Gibbons, the Horstmann brothers and briefly Smith to bring Phoenix to 110 for 1 in the eleventh over but Smith had them both caught with the Horstmans taking a catch each and the game entered a new phase with Ford at one end and neither Nazir nor Cleere lasting long at the other. Naik survived but the loss of Ford for 21 and Cavanagh two balls later for 0 left Phoenix with only 3 wickets in hand and still 35 adrift of victory. Naik and Chester went 16 balls without a run but the pressure seemed to lift when Naik hit 8 from 2 balls by D Horstmann and the pair progressed steadily to add 37 in 38 minutes and secure a 3 wicket victory.

Phoenix bowling W Clarke 10-2-19-3

Phoenix batting A team effort with runs in contrasting styles and circumstances by Masud Ahmed, Gallagher, Ford, Naik and Chester