

Limerick Raiders v Phoenix 14th May 2011

Masud Ahmed was unavailable for this Irish Senior Cup clash and it was coaching assistant Willie Dwyer who the selectors called into the side. Ted Williamson played an important role in bringing this fixture to his home ground, Cork Harlequins C.C.. The Phoenix team was: Captain Dickeson, Coach Bray, David Langford-Smith (the illustrious hyphen), Conor Kelly, Ryan Gallagher, Rory Flanagan, Ted Williamson, Osama Khan, Willie Dwyer, Sadaf Raza, Siphe Mzayidume. Limerick Raiders won the toss and chose to field first.

Williamson and Flanagan added 26 runs in 26 minutes before the Dubliner fell to Usman Khan for 13 but Williamson showed the height of his prowess with two boundaries in each of the ninth and tenth overs. Phoenix were 66 for 1 before the local man fell for 28 and experienced a reversal of fortune as he was followed by Bray and Gallagher (neither of whom got off the mark). Kelly's exit left Phoenix on 80 for 5 and prompted one of the loyal alickadoos (determined to see the positive side) to ask your correspondent if the Irish Senior Cup was a knockout competition. However, on the pitch the illustrious hyphen's initial caution gave way to some trademark hits and fears of Khan's inhumanity to Khan proved overstated as Phoenix's Osama negotiated the bowling of the Raiders' Usman. The illustrious hyphen posted 59 to make himself the leader in the clubhouse but Khan managed to produce some big shots while in the company of Mzayidume and Dwyer before perishing on 54. Dwyer ended undefeated on 5 from 4 balls as Phoenix set the Raiders a target of 234.

Shani Baloch followed his 5 wicket haul with 12 runs as the openers added 19. As your correspondent spluttered his way through the Raiders innings many would have felt it was Dillon rather than Langford-Smith who was bound for Coughs Harbour and there were one or two clerical errors which undermined the scoring effort. Archbishop Martin will not be issuing an apology. Asif's 29 and Azim's 24 kept the Raiders in with an outside chance and 99 for 5 did not compare too badly with Phoenix's earlier efforts. However, on his return to bowling Rory Flanagan performed creditably with 3 wickets and Phoenix did not introduce the illustrious hyphen to the attack until late in the innings. It was not too late for him to take 1 wicket with Ryan Gallagher taking 3 in less than 3 overs at the other end as Phoenix wrapped up a 71 run victory and earned a home rematch with Glendermott in the next round.

Phoenix Batting: D Langford-Smith 59 O Khan 54

Phoenix Bowling R Gallagher 3-9 R Flanagan 3-26