

Phoenix 2 v LAOIS 1 - 15th May 2011

After a stressful week of many phone calls and text messages the game went ahead with an 11.30 start, so we could get the match finished before Liz and Phil Windsor came visiting.

The team for what promised to be a tough match against a team recently relegated from the league above was: **Chris Cavanagh, Luke Savage, David Ford, Thomas Anders, Masud Ahmed, Jonty Wardell, Asim Nazir, Vish, Amit Battan, Junaid Ashfaq (on Debut) and Kaleem Sheikh.**

Phoenix won the toss and with much deliberation decided to insert Laois, hoping to make the most of the early start. Cavanagh opened the bowling up the hill and Sheikh manfully battling into the force 9 gale started from the Chesterfield Avenue end. It was clear from early on that there was a bit in the wicket for the seamers, but also if batsmen applied themselves then they too could prosper. Cavanagh bowled a tight opening spell, bowling his 10 overs straight through, taking 3/15. At the other end Sheikh bowled 4 overs, taking the wicket of the dangerous looking M Auret. Thomas Anders took over from Sheikh and bowled an excellent spell bowling 6 overs 2/14. Laois were soon in big trouble, being 7 wickets down for only 48 runs. At this point the Laois tailend batsmen hit out taking the score up to 109 all out using only 35 of the 50 overs available to them.

Phoenix Bowling

Cavanagh	10 2 15 3	Sheikh	4 0 17 1	Anders	6 3 14 2,
Masud	8 2 18 1,	Asim	5 0 17 1,	Vish	2 0 20 1

At tea the talk was that it wasn't a bad pitch and if we batted sensibly then we would win. With this in mind Savage and Ford went out to open the **Phoenix** innings determined to do this. The Englishman Savage and the veteran Ford did indeed bat sensibly taking the singles on offer and putting the bad ball away nicely, putting on 32 for the opening wicket, before the veteran Ford missed an in-swinging Yorker from the Laois left-arm Smit, for 14. Thomas Anders then joined Savage and they combined with an excellent partnership of 56, taking us to the brink of victory. Unfortunately they both got out in successive overs Thomas for 25 and Luke for 41. This led Masud and Jonty to get the remaining 18 runs to win. This they did in their own way. Masud big hitting his way to 18 not out and Jonty nurdling to 6 not out.

This was an extremely important victory after last week's disappointment against Railway. The whole team performed well and we fielded extremely well. Special mention to the Veteran Ford, who used all his experience, gained over many, many, many years in leading the team with an excellent warm up, sending the lads out onto the pitch in the right frame of mind.