

Phoenix at Merrion 02/07/11

It was possible to argue that Phoenix were at full strength for this second visit of the season to Anglesea Road but equally possible that Masud Ahmed and Graham Flanagan would argue for their own inclusion if fit and available. The Phoenix team was: Captain Dickeson, Coach Bray, David Langford-Smith, Conor Kelly, Ryan Gallagher, Rory Flanagan, Ted Williamson, Osama Khan, Thomas Anders, Sadaf Raza, Jonathan Wardell. This was Phoenix's first Irish Senior Cup quarter final since 2007 and success would mean a first semi final since 2006. Phoenix won the toss and chose to bat first.

Williamson struck two boundaries in the first over from Petrie but Phoenix had to wait a little longer before Flanagan got one to put away. However, the pair survived and saw off Petrie and Joyce before getting the chance to battle against Kane, Chetkovich and Morrissey. After 75 runs in 76 minutes the batsmen were parted when Kane had Flanagan caught by Joyce. At drinks Phoenix were 87 for 1 with Gallagher on 7. The Munster-Ulster combination took Phoenix to 110 before the Corkman perhaps succumbed to fatigue and when Gallagher was undone by his taste for adventure Kelly and Coach Bray had to rebuild the innings. Kelly patiently accumulated 14 and then doubled this tally within 3 balls but was out to the next. Langford-Smith must have looked dangerous to Merrion as he reached 25 but then he was dropped and cut loose very impressively in his stand with the skipper. At one point he hit 47 from 12 balls and finished on a total of 83 from 36. Coach Bray made 26 and Captain Dickeson 13 not out as the innings closed on 269 for 8.

Langford-Smith and Khan struggled to impose themselves against Ackland and Joyce and at 59 for 0 after 10 overs Merrion looked to be making a good fist of their reply. Kelly and Raza replaced the pace spearhead and the Dubliner bagged the scalp of Ackland as Langford-Smith took a useful catch at square leg. Not to be outdone Raza managed to bowl both Joyce and Kane in the next over. Anderson survived the hat trick ball and Anderson and Beasley set about their business as Kelly continued to bowl his allocation in an unbroken spell. Gallagher was introduced to rest Raza and Beasley was most upset to be given run out after Wardell appeared to make a meal of the opportunity. At drinks Merrion were 105 for 4. There was no doubt that O'Donoghue was run out and after Anderson became Coach Bray's first victim of the day Phoenix could begin to think of the semi final. Petrie struck two defiant sixes and Poder battled on to the end. Morrissey and Chetkovich were unable to alter the game's course and Tice recorded an undefeated 4 as Poder was last man out. Raza ended with 4 wickets and Coach Bray with 3 as Phoenix won by 64 runs.

Phoenix batting: A team effort with Langford-Smith making 83 and Williamson 42

Phoenix bowling: S Raza 4-39, J Bray 3-28