

Phoenix v Clontarf 13/08/11

Ted Williamson dropped out of the side for this fixture with Desmond O'Leary maintaining the Munster representation and Coach Bray returned from Ireland U19 duty just as Osama Khan dropped out. There were drinks on all sides for your correspondent with Michael Fanagan making tea and Stella Downes bringing a coffee. The eleven was: Captain Dickeson, Coach Bray, Rory Flanagan, Ryan Gallagher, Conor Kelly, David Langford-Smith, Desmond O'Leary, Amit Battan, M D Masud Ahmed, Jonathan Wardell, Sadaf Raza. Clontarf won the toss and elected to bat.

The runs seemed to arrive easily for Cusack and Coghlan early on against Langford-Smith and Flanagan. Flanagan claimed the scalp of Cusack in the 4th over with Langford-Smith taking the catch to give Phoenix a boost but the visitors were well in charge after 6 overs at 42 for 1. Kelly replaced Langford-Smith from the magazine fort end and began with two maidens before capturing Hokin in his third over. Coach Bray replaced Flanagan at the Chesterfield Avenue end and also took a wicket in his third over when Poynter fell. Hokin and Poynter were both caught by Langford-Smith. Darcy just beat O'Leary's jump at midwicket to get off the mark with his first ball but he was able to give Coghlan more prolonged support than any of the big skipper's previous partners and had made 22 out of a stand of 91 by the time Battan ran him out. Eoghan Delany saw his skipper reach the century mark and get out soon after to Gallagher with Raza holding a good catch and then watched as Morrissey made a quick 13 before Bray caught him to give Gallagher a second victim. Delany was caught by Dickeson for 36 and Gopal was caught by Battan for 4 which brought Gallagher to 4 wickets. Forrest was caught by Kelly off Flanagan with Islam making 29 not out from 16 balls and the last man was undefeated without facing as the innings closed on 262 for 9. Gallagher was the leading wicket taker for Phoenix with Flanagan taking two and Bray and Kelly one each in their tight spells.

Rory Flanagan and Coach Bray began the reply for Phoenix against Morrissey and Islam. The coach received a boost when the batsmen called a quick single and the attempted run out resulted in four overthrows but he was unable to add to this before Islam had him caught by Hokin. Gallagher struck two boundaries on his way to 12 but was then bowled by Cusack. The loss of Kelly for 5 left Phoenix on 56 for 3 as Langford-Smith arrived at the crease. The match seemed to turn Phoenix's way as Langford-Smith and Flanagan slowly turned the screw on Coghlan, Hokin and Poynter and Phoenix looked on the brink of victory as the score reached 194 for 3 after 38 overs. Phoenix needed 69 runs from 72 balls with 7 wickets in hand. Unfortunately the house of cards collapsed as Langford-Smith was bowled by Gopal for 74 and Flanagan was caught and bowled by Cusack for 79 and the equation changed dramatically. Dickeson's 9 and Wardell's 9 not out were not enough to save the game with O'Leary, Battan, Masud Ahmed and Raza able to contribute very little more. Phoenix were all out for 221 in 46.3 overs.

Man of the Match: Bill Coghlan 103 runs