

Phoenix at Instonians 07/08/11

Desmond O'Leary and Asim Nazir dropped out of the side for the Irish Senior Cup semi final with Jonathan Wardell returning behind the stumps and Masud Ahmed back in to offer his variations of flight and positive strokeplay. The full side was: Captain Dickeson, Ted Williamson, Rory Flanagan, Ryan Gallagher, Conor Kelly, David Langford-Smith, M D Masud Ahmed, Jonathan Wardell, Amit Battan, Osama Khan, Sadaf Raza. Langford-Smith and Wardell were the two survivors from Phoenix's Lewis Hohn Williams trophy win in 2003. Phoenix lost the toss and were inserted.

Williamson and Flanagan did not get much change out of Moleon and Hamilton early on with Phoenix on 14 after 7 overs. This may have led the Corkman to call a sharp single which saw him running to the dangerous end. The veteran was run out and Gallagher was the next man in. After 12 overs Instonians rested the opening bowlers and Gallagher and Flanagan were facing McCann, White and Wylie. After 19 overs Phoenix were fractionally below 3 runs an over with Gallagher on 16 and Flanagan on 20. Gallagher was out lbw on the next ball and the entry of Kelly to the arena saw the scoring rate improve somewhat and he had almost caught up with Flanagan when the opener finally fell for 26. The arrival of Langford-Smith did not bring an immediate acceleration as the latest stand took Phoenix to 103 for 3 after 33 overs but someone somewhere must have flicked a switch at this point as the former international began to hit the bowlers to all parts of the ground. After giving the Dubliner a 23 run start he reached 50 with Kelly still on 49 and there was more joy for the Phoenix spectators when 200 came up in the 46th over and then the 250 mark was reached on the first ball of the final over. The next ball saw Langford-Smith reach his century with another six and the innings closed on 262 for 3. The unbroken stand had added 170 runs in 67 minutes.

Stevenson and McCann began watchfully and steadily against Langford-Smith and Flanagan and after 5 overs each the bowlers were both rested with the score on 41. Kelly conceded a run a ball and he was rested after 3 overs in favour of Raza. Raza and Masud now bowled in tandem with Masud emerging as the most economical bowler for Phoenix with 36 runs coming off his 10 overs. Raza appeared to be easier for the batsmen to read with his 10 overs costing 54 runs. However, none of the bowlers had the batsmen in real difficulty and they were ahead on the Duckworth Lewis method when play was interrupted for 22 minutes. Langford-Smith and Khan finally made inroads in successive overs as Instonians went from 169 for 0 to 169 for 2. Shannon and White then went about their task with such determination that the bowlers had nothing further to offer and an unbroken stand of 94 runs in 31 minutes closed out the game comfortably with 3.4 overs to spare.

Phoenix Batting

D Langford-Smith	106 not out - 9 sixes and 8 fours
C Kelly	75 not out - 8 fours