

Ladies v Fire Brigade 15/08/11

Lorna Barton returned to the fray for a last pre wedding appearance while skipper Kate Voice and Lesley Anders also rejoined the team. Karinda Tolland, Emer Bell and Mary Curley dropped out after their heroics at Railway the previous Friday. Your correspondent was sufficiently confident that play could not start in the gathering gloom and precipitation that he accepted the offer of a pint and was surprised when the sides subsequently agreed to start play. The match would be 15 overs per side (later amended to 12) with the visitors to bat first. The Phoenix team was: Kate Voice, Orla Martin, Hannah McGuckin, Lorna Barton, Deirdre Fahy, Donna Nicholson, Lesley Anders, Vanessa Kelada, Lisa Kelly, Helen Caird, Nicola Marples.

Kelada's first over found opening batsmen Murray and Treacy in attacking form but she managed to bowl Treacy on the second ball he faced. Stokes and Murray added 16 from Fahy's first over but Kelada struck again in her second to get Stokes lbw for 14. McCormack managed 1 before being bowled by Fahy and it looked as if Murray would be the first to retire until he was bowled by Martin to make it 41 for 4. There was another wicket for Martin when she had Collier lbw for 18 while at the other end Nicholson contained the batsmen to 12 runs in 2 overs. Lacey was bowled by Kelada for 11 while McHugh managed to achieve retirement on 21. Kelada and McGuckin struggled in the last 2 overs for Phoenix as the powerful Wedick and the unorthodox Dore added 23 from the last 11 balls to set Phoenix a target of 114 for victory.

The challenge facing Phoenix came more sharply into focus as Brennan opened with a maiden against Kelly and Dore followed a wide with six dot balls to McGuckin. Both ladies got off the mark against McCormack but McGuckin was the first to go in the 4th over when she was bowled by Dore. Kelly and Barton took Phoenix to 17 for 1 before Kelly was caught and Barton and Martin appeared to be dismissed by consecutive deliveries although the youngster got a reprieve and survived the efforts of Murray, McHugh, Treacy, Collier, Lacey and Brennan to dismiss her and finished on 10 not out from 27 balls. Fahy survived for a while before falling on 2 to McHugh and Kelada had a brief innings before Lesley Anders came in and ended undefeated on 2 from 5 balls as the innings closed on 40 for 5.

Lady of the match Orla Martin 2-22 & 10 not out