

Phoenix 2nd XI at Malahide 16/07/11

Adam Chester and Michael Fahy had not done a lot wrong at Kilcock but this time Ronny Haque and perhaps more surprisingly the lesser spotted Thomas De Wet returned to the side. The South African would perhaps be a bit rusty but the side would benefit from his experience. The team was: M D Masud Ahmed, A Battan, T Anders, A Nazir, V Vaidyanathan, C Cavanagh, E Cleere, R Anders, T De Wet, R Haque, K Sheikh. The home skipper and Cavanagh tossed with a coin belonging to the big Scot and Phoenix were to field first.

Reed and Adam Shehabideen began the innings for Malahide. Cavanagh opted for Thomas Anders to partner him with the new ball and the young man ended the opening stand at 19 when he bowled Reed. Eamon Shehabideen was next in and the brothers saw off Anders and Cavanagh and took on Sheikh and De Wet to good effect. Sheikh managed to remove Eamon with Battan taking the catch. Captain Manks was fortunate not to be given run out (there were two run out decisions on which the home scorer commented that Malahide were fortunate to have one of their own at square leg) but his stand with Adam went on to hurt Phoenix badly and brought the home team to 205 for 2. Nazir was forced out of the attack after his third over went for 25 and Vaidyanathan and Masud Ahmed cost roughly a run a ball. However, Vaidyanathan managed to remove both batsmen with De Wet taking two catches and with Anders bowling Guerin for 6 Phoenix managed to exert some control as the innings drew to a conclusion. Reynolds made a quick 41 but there was little support from the tail. Cavanagh took two wickets, Haque took one and there were two run outs as Malahide finished on 286 all out.

Masud Ahmed and Battan may have had little to prove after their stand at Kilcock but with such a long chase in store for Phoenix they were under a bit more pressure. Masud struck three sixes and a four but Battan was unable to pierce the field before falling for 6 to end the stand on 45. After another four Masud was gone to leave Nazir and Vaidyanathan both on 0. They added 23 before Vaidyanathan was bowled by Gibbons and at 72 for 3 the players were off due to a rain delay. Phoenix lost 7 overs from their innings but the par score only dropped by 16 to leave 199 runs needed to win from 30 overs. Phoenix had difficulty building momentum as Thomas Anders went quickly for 2, Nazir fell for 22 and De Wet for 6 to bring the total to 106 for 6. Cavanagh batted well – first with De Wet and then in the biggest stand of the innings with the promising Cleere. The skipper fell just short of Masud's 35 but Cleere went on to be top scorer with 41 and he got good support from Haque who made a brisk 19. While this pair were together Phoenix still seemed to have an outside chance but the exit of both close together left Rory Anders and Kaleem Sheikh with too much to do. Ryan Gallagher ended the match when he gave Sheikh out stumped. Phoenix lost by 58 runs.

Man of the Match

Adam Shehabideen 152 runs