

## **Phoenix 2nd XI v North Kildare 28/08/11**

Chris Cavanagh had to manage without David Ford but Thomas Anders slotted back into a team which was otherwise unchanged from the previous Sunday. The eleven to face North Kildare was: M D Masud Ahmed, A Battan, T Anders, A Chester, A Nazir, R Gallagher, C Cavanagh, E Cleere, N Naik, R Haque, W Clarke. Victory was crucial to the Phoenix tilt at promotion and the North Kildare struggle against relegation. Phoenix won the toss and elected to bat.

Masud Ahmed and Battan began positively and added 38 in 30 minutes. Masud then fell to Satchwell for 16 and Battan was out to Pyne three overs later with Walshe having caught both openers. Having dismissed both of the centurions from the earlier fixture at Kilcock the visitors could feel they had a foothold in the match. Gallagher was bowled by Pyne for 6 but Anders and Nazir batted well for an hour against Pyne, Singh, Neavyn, Vorster and Phipps and had added 90 when the stand ended with a catch by Kerrison off Vorster. Nazir was content to hit singles as Naik blasted a quick 32 at the other end but then got himself up to 72 in his stand with Cleere before he was caught and bowled by Walshe. Cleere also fell to Walshe and Adam Chester anchored the rest of the innings which spanned the tea interval as rain reduced the match to 47 overs a side. Chester's 12 not out helped to set an adjusted target of 240 for the visitors for whom Satchwell, Pyne and Walshe all took 3 wickets.

Cavanagh opted for Anders to partner him in the bowling attack but felt obliged to reverse this policy after the young man's second over went for 19. The big Scot introduced Masud Ahmed and the Bangladeshi had Neavyn caught by Nazir in his second over but proved unable to effect a further breakthrough and at 5 runs an over the skipper himself was keeping the batsmen happy although he did remove Singh for 1. Naik conceded a disappointing 16 and was not offered a second over but Gallagher managed to exert some control in his unbroken spell of ten while also taking the wickets of the adhesive Walshe for 41 and the potentially destructive Phipps for 24. Clarke removed Holland for 1 in his first over and at 134 for 5 with 20 overs left honours were even. However, Clarke was unable to maintain the level of meanness he had achieved a week earlier and although Haque had Satchwell caught by Chester for 41 the ten runs from his second over was more than Phoenix could afford. Nazir got rid of both Gilmore and Pyne but not before the latter contributed a valuable 18 for the visitors and in his determined effort to support Vorster MacNiocall hung around for long enough to benefit from the overthrows as Naik failed to get in line to cover an attempted run out and Phoenix's fate was sealed. The visitors got home by 2 wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Phoenix batting      A Nazir 72      T Anders 38      N Naik 32

Phoenix bowling      R Gallagher 2-33      A Nazir 2-37