

Ladies v Fire Brigade 31/08/11

Phoenix ladies were to conclude their season looking for revenge in this “friendly” after their defeat to the same opponents a couple of weeks earlier. Lorna Barton and Nicola Marples dropped out and so Captain Voice was able to accommodate new players Rihanna Gallagher and Daisy Langford-Smith in her side to see if they would merit inclusion in the squad for 2012. However, there were suspicions among the opposition that this pair had played cricket before under different names. The Phoenix team was: Kate Voice, Orla Martin, Hannah McGuckin, Rihanna Gallagher, Deirdre Fahy, Donna Nicholson, Elaine McSweeney, Vanessa Kelada, Sarah McIntosh, Helen Caird, Daisy Langford-Smith. The visitors were to bat first.

McCormack and Moylan opened against the new ball pair of Kelada and Martin and were to experience contrasting fates. Moylan was bowled for 0 by Kelada whereas his partner lasted until he got to 26 in the 6th over and was obliged to retire. Langford-Smith bowled 2 overs for 17 with Gallagher behind the stumps and later the Ulsterwoman bowled 2 overs for 10 as Daisy returned the favour. This must have come as a surprise to regular keeper Helen Caird who was relegated to backstop. The new pair were rather flamboyantly attired and may need to invest in cricket whites if they are to become regulars on the team. Cunningham and Weddick both did well enough to achieve retirement and avoid dismissal but Phoenix did well against most of the remaining batsmen as McGuckin had Stokes stumped by Gallagher and bowled Green in her second over, Fahy chipped in by bowling Lester, Murray was stumped by Langford-Smith off Kelada, Brennan was bowled by Kelada and Dore was bowled by Martin. McHugh was undefeated on 9 as after three retirements and seven dismissals the innings closed 19 balls early on 125.

Phoenix opened with the King’s Hospital pair of Kelada and McGuckin and they added 14 before McGuckin was bowled by Stokes in the 4th over. The debutants Langford-Smith and Gallagher were slotted in at numbers three and four respectively and each appeared to demonstrate that batting was more her forte than bowling. Both struck a six to finish on 29 and 30 although Gallagher had by this time lost the company of Kelada in mysterious circumstances. McIntosh was run out for 3 and as Fahy and Voice fell to Weddick for 2 and 0 and Nicholson fell to Dore for 2 it seemed that Martin would run out of partners. McSweeney retrieved the situation somewhat with consecutive boundaries off McCormack but she was then run out for 9. Phoenix were still 5 short of victory as last woman and regular opener Caird strode to the crease in the gathering gloom. Caird and Martin added 3 from Dore’s second over and Caird got enough bat on Cunningham’s delivery to get the ball over the boundary and cue the celebrations as a victory by one wicket was secured.

Lady of the Match: A great team effort by the ladies who appreciated the batting efforts of newcomers Daisy and Rihanna although the pair may need a lot of work and possibly even surgery before they are assimilated into the ladies’ set up.