

Phoenix 2nd XI v Merrion 2nd XI 11/09/11

Your correspondent was absent on 1st XI duty the previous Saturday when Phoenix recorded a reasonably comfortable victory over Mullingar. Chris Cavanagh now hoped to finish the season and his captaincy with a win over Merrion. The eleven to face Merrion was: M D Masud Ahmed, A Battan, T Anders, J Wardell, A Nazir, D Ford, C Cavanagh, E Cleere, N Naik, L Savage, W Clarke. Merrion won the toss and elected to bat. Scoring took place in the viewing room with regular 1st xi scorer Mary Magee filling in for the absent Paul Broughan for the visitors and the usual suspect on duty for Phoenix.

Cavanagh opted for Anders to partner him in the bowling attack but rested both himself and the young man after 4 overs each. The big Scot introduced Masud Ahmed and Shimmons and Allwright brought up 50 for the visitors on the Bangladeshi's first delivery but there was joy for Phoenix at the other end when Battan's first over saw Allwright caught by Savage at square leg about ten yards inside the pavilion boundary. Parkinson proved a reliable partner for Shimmons and this pair began to build a stand which may have looked ominous for Phoenix. Masud was rested after 6 overs without a wicket and Battan was taken out of the attack after going for 34 in his 5 overs. Cavanagh bowled a tight spell of 4 overs for 6 runs on his return but at the other end 3 overs from Clarke cost 27 runs. At 163 for 1 after 28 overs Phoenix could have struggled but it was perhaps the unlikely veteran David Ford who really began to pull things back for Phoenix as he removed the well set Shimmons for 67, Parkinson for 41 and O'Tuama for 9. Masud Ahmed, Cleere and Nazir took the catches. After bowling 8 overs for 30 at the other end Nazir's figures suffered in his 9th and Masud Ahmed bowled the last 4 overs at this end to good effect bowling Tichband for 2 and combining with Wardell to have Brown caught for 45 and O'Driscoll stumped for 3. Ford ended with the best figures of 3 for 33 and Anders bowled the last 2 overs at Ford's end getting an lbw verdict against Saharan. The innings closed on 261 for 8.

Masud Ahmed was on a mission and Battan gave solid support as the visitors entrusted Short and O'Driscoll with the new ball. After 3 overs for 28 O'Driscoll was rested in favour of Wijesundera but his 3 overs cost 29 and he too had to be rested. Short's first 7 overs cost a fraction over 4 an over at 29 but the visiting skipper felt unable to rest him and this cost Merrion in the end as his last 3 overs cost a further 33. Brown's 2 overs cost 16 and Shimmon's first over cost 18. The batting feats which were the other side of this coin was that Masud's 50 came up in the 12th over and his century came on the first ball of the 20th over. After 20 overs Phoenix were 159 for 0 with 103 runs needed to win from 30 overs and all ten wickets in hand. The stand ended at 184 when Masud was stumped and there was a setback for Phoenix when Ford was run out for 0. Battan reached his 50 as he and Anders took Phoenix past 200 and O'Brien and Saharan managed to slow down the scoring rate as Anders and Nazir tried to get Phoenix to the winning post. Anders was out for 18 with 35 still needed but Nazir began to cut loose against O'Brien and Shimmons and with Savage making a steady contribution of 7 this pair finished the match with 11 overs to spare.

Man of the Match

M D Masud Ahmed 116 runs; 3-45