

LIMERICK CRICKET CLUB NOTES

Limerick Cricket club continued their challenge for the Munster Senior League Division 3 title with a convincing win over Cork County 4 at the Mardyke on Sunday. Cork County 4 won the toss and decided to bat first. They could only manage a total of 80 all out inside the 32 over of their allotted 40. Limerick reached the total in the 18th over of their chase for the loss of only three wickets.

The Cork County Innings never gained serious impetus and were one down with only eleven on the board. Scott McNamara who had played and missed regularly edged a sharp catch to the debutant Shane Burke at first slip when he had only score 1. Hassan joined Khan at the crease but neither could get on top of the bowling. Khan went with the score on 32 when he was bowled by Bharath for 10 to give the bowler the first of his four wickets. Hassan went soon after for 14 with the score on 38. With County having a long tail it required some lusty hits to a short leg side boundary from Sonnu to bring some respectability to the score. He was quickly running out of partners with Terry O'Sullivan lbw Bharath for 4 and Mort Kelliher bowled Suman for a duck not putting any pressure on Limerick. Sonnu was next to go when he shelled out a skyer to long on to be caught by David Lynch off the bowling of Bharath. His quick fire 26 included 4 boundaries and a 6 and his wicket meant that County had lost 3 wickets for 1 run. The collapse continued with Peter O'Brien, going for the second of the three ducks in the innings when he was lbw to Bharath. Ronan McCarthy, the third duck of the innings, was joining him in the pavilion soon after when he was bowled by Sid.

When James Murphy bowled Ollie O'Shea, he ended the ninth wicket partnership of 6 which was the joint third highest partnership of the innings. With neither of the last pair willing to play any shots it was a matter of time before Murphy wrapped up the innings with the help of a fantastic diving catch at first slip once again by Burke. The dismissal meant that the final 7 wickets were lost for just 17 runs. The total of 80 included 9 wides and 7 byes and just one no ball. The no ball would have given Bharath his five wicket haul and Lynch his second catch this time at silly mid on but for Bharath's front foot over stepping the popping crease. The middle over spell of 8 overs 4 for 16 for Bharath really strangled County. All the Limerick bowlers were economical with Suman finishing 8 overs 1 for 12, Murphy 5.3 overs 3 for 15 and Kevin Hennessy 5 overs 1 for 23 and Sid 5 overs 1 for 7.

Limerick's run chase began with a mini collapse when they lost three wickets for 6 runs. Sid was the first to go when he walked across his stumps and was lbw to Khan for 4. Aidan Fahey went very next ball to the same dismissal. Shane Burke scored only 1 when he was bowled by the spin of Peter O'Brien. This was in fact Burke's first cricket match and a successful one at that with two excellent catches and although only scoring 1 managed to outscore four batsmen to be dismissed in both innings. Responding to the collapse Bandam and Suman were emphatic in their response. They kept their heads and led Limerick to victory with more than half of the allotted overs remaining. Bandam followed up his fine innings against Waterford with an unbeaten 44 which included five boundaries. Suman's return to the team reinforced his role as an all rounder with an unbeaten 23 including one 6.

The team will be looking to continue their winning streak when they take on Lismore in two weeks which will decide if they are to make the play offs for the League title.