

Limerick Cricket Club notes

Limerick Cricket Club's title challenge got off to a belated start Saturday with previous matches being postponed and rained off but the wait was worth it as they came away with maximum points in a victory over Cork County 4. Limerick, under the leadership of new captain Kevin Hennessy, brought a young side to Cork with some experienced campaigners included and saw both Hashir Sultan and Jothikumar Ramakrishnan make their club debuts.

Having won the toss Limerick elected to field first and managed to get the early wicket of McDowell (6) with Niranjan Srinivasan taking the catch off his own bowling. After this Cork County got on top and a fine partnership between Saqib (36) and Hugh O'Brien (44) threatened to take the game away from Limerick. However, Limerick stuck manfully to the task and eventually bowled out County for 187 with only Sonnu (25) and young wicketkeeper Scott McNamara (25 not out) adding scores of note to the County total. For Limerick Satish Reddy picked up two wickets for 33 off 7 overs, on debut Hashir finished with 2-36 off 8, hopefully the first of many wickets in the Limerick ranks. Shane Burke also picked up a wicket for 29 but pick of the bowlers was David Lynch who got 2-15 off only 5 overs. In the field brothers Aidan and Eoin Fahey took catches, with Eoin, making only his second appearance at this level, also being involved in generating a run out through his quick thinking. Their performance in the field is a great fillip for the club as they are two home grown players who have come through the Sunday morning youth training system, Aidan's catch of a skyer was the highlight of his great efforts in the field. Satish had the best piece of individual work in the field, though, with a direct hit shattering the stumps from near the boundary accounting for Peter O'Brien.

After the lunch interval Limerick faced the unenviable task of chasing 188 off 40 overs and got off to a rocky start with Aidan Fahey trapped lbw by Saqib for only 1. Then, however, came the pivotal partnership in the match when David Lynch joined Shane Burke, who was opening the innings for the first time, at the crease. Between them the pair managed a magnificent 88 run partnership and Burke reached his highest ever score of 45, denied a well-deserved maiden half-century when he put the ball high in the air off Ronan McCarthy's bowling and the catch was well taken by Sonnu. Lynch followed soon after for 36, run out by a direct hit from Saqib. Satish made a very useful contribution of 23, his highest ever score for the club, which included a majestic straight six which went all of the way out of the ground and onto the bordering road. Hashir hit a quick fire 14 which included a big six and a four, his contribution was very helpful in easing the mounting pressure with the run rate slowing and a couple of wickets falling in quick succession as unfortunately Jothikumar got a duck on debut. Niranjan had a very patient knock going and had reached 14 before injury forced him to head back to the pavilion soon after Hashir fell to Peter O'Brien's bowling. A very composed innings followed from young Ryan Harris, another youth graduate who scored 11 runs, including the winning four, in a partnership with skipper Hennessy which was a prime example of good positive running, and allowed Limerick to take the spoils by four wickets.

The fact that Limerick reached the challenging target of 188 with more than four overs to spare and with no batsman reaching fifty shows the true team performance on show Saturday from the inexperienced side and augurs well for the hope of attaining some silverware this season. Man of the match was Shane Burke for his superb batting and also his wicket while bowling. Next on the agenda for Limerick CC is a match against UCC next Saturday where they'll be looking to continue the momentum from this game. For anyone interested in playing cricket, regardless of past experience or skill level, there are youth training sessions on Sunday mornings in St. Clements School on the South Circular Road, commencing at 11.00am, and adult sessions on Wednesdays in the University of Limerick from 6.30pm. More details on upcoming club events can always be found on the Limerick Cricket Club page on Facebook or alternatively on our club website, www.limerickcricketclub.com.