

LIMERICK CRICKET CLUB NOTES

It was a tale of mixed fortunes for Limerick at the weekend with their winning streak coming to an end on Saturday away to Midleton but then returning to winning ways with an emphatic 138 run victory away to Cork County 4 on Sunday.

Limerick's loss to Midleton on Saturday was down to a fine 109 from Majad Khan. His domination of the Limerick bowling helped Midleton recover from 12 for 2 to 168 for 6 when he was bowled by David Lynch. Limerick had room for optimism when Murphy and Suman struck early to remove the two openers, Casey for 0 and Noone 11 respectively. Khan, coming to the wicket after the loss of the first wicket, looked to gain control and set about building a solid partnership before a mix up led to Kevin Moran being run out for 15. His score was the second highest of the innings. Andrade was next in and in a partnership of 22 with Khan, he only scored 2 before being caught by Earley off the bowling of Suman. The 6th wicket put on 62, taking the score to 145 of which Deane scored 10 before retiring hurt and Kasif Khan scored 2 before being bowled by Lynch. Majad Khan was next to go on 168. Midleton were unable to kick on after that with Murphy removing, Panda bowled for 11, and Hodson, caught and bowled for 11 and they finished on 206 for 9.

This was a gettable target on a wicket that had not given the Limerick bowlers much assistance but with the sun coming out in the second innings and the wicket drying it became two-paced. The Limerick openers had looked settled, scoring at over four an over and both reaching 20, before the removal of Bandam for 20, bowled by Panda, started a collapse where Limerick lost four wickets for only 24 runs. Limerick never recovered and with partnerships of no more than 24 and 14, they were all out for 117. Unfortunately for Limerick it was a case of players getting starts and not going on to make big scores, with Bandam, Hanu and Lynch being guilty, each out for 20 with the next highest score being that of a personal best 14 from Burke before he was run out. Simon Casey did the damage in the middle overs with 3 for 13 from 5 overs.

It couldn't have been more of a difference on Sunday with Limerick winning the toss and electing to bat. Instead of having a good start to build from Limerick lost three early wickets with Aiden Fahey bowled for 0 in the first over when a ball from Khan kept low. Kevin Hennessy batting at three was bowled the very next over also for 0 by Hugh O'Brien. Suman was next out this time bowled by Stephen Doyle for 4. With Limerick's backs up against it Bandam and Lynch took charge and put on 60 for the fifth wicket before Bandam was out, caught off the bowling of Steven Doyle for 30. David Lynch was next to go with 56 from 45 balls before being caught by Khan from the bowling of Hugh O'Brien. Lynch and Niranjana had put on 44 for the fifth wicket and wrestled the impetus back in favour of Limerick. Satish was next to go for 7 before being caught by P. O'Brien off the bowling of H. O'Brien. Bharath scored a useful 19 from 16 deliveries batting at 8 before being next to go with the score on 166. He and Niranjana had put on 31 for the 8th wicket. Unfortunately, Niranjana could not go on and make his maiden 50. Having scored 31 he tried to push on the run rate and gave a caught and bowled chance to Peter O'Brien who took a sharp catch. Shane Burke in only his third ever match reached double figures for the second time in the weekend before being lbw to Doyle for 10. Steve Hackett was last out bowled by Peter O'Brien for 3.

Having been 17 for 3 and lost the day before Limerick showed a lot of fight and back bone in making a healthy 179. Unfortunately they were all out with 5.4 overs left.

It didn't make any difference to the result though as Limerick took wickets regularly and bowled Cork County 4 out for 41 with extras their second highest scorer. Limerick struck in the fourth over with the score on 8 with Satish bowling Hugh O'Brien for 2. Doyle was back in the pavilion soon after when Burke parried a catch to Lynch at gully in Hennessy's first over. Niranjana took two wickets in his second over removing both Khan, caught Suman for 1 and Sonu lbw for 5. Hennessy continued the fall of wickets by bowling Barlow for 2 and when Niranjana took his fourth wicket bowling Peter O'Brien for 0, County were 7 wickets down for 32. The only resistance came from Scott McNamara who was bowled by Burke. It was Burke's first wicket for the club in his first ever bowling spell in a match. In the very next over Bharath removed the number nine and eleven batsmen; Mort Kelleher lbw for 2 and Kaxany for 0. This was an excellent team performance from Limerick recovering from a poor start and building a strong total by building partnerships. The ten wickets taken by Limerick were taken by five bowlers and although Niranjana took 4 he bowled more overs than anybody else. Niranjana's 4 wickets and his personal best 31 runs were enough to give him the man of the match award. Importantly for Limerick they were able to utilise their squad and make 6 changes for the match on Sunday and with the likes of Shane Burke and Ryan Harris playing their first season of cricket and youth players such as Mahad and Steve Hackett making contributions to the senior team it shows the depth of talent coming through.