

## LIMERICK CRICKET CLUB NOTES

Limerick was on the wrong side of a 9 run thriller in the University of Limerick on Sunday. Having lost the toss and been put into the field chances came regularly beginning with a nick in the very first over dissecting first and third slip. In general the Kerry batting was average at best and was propped up by one of the worst fielding performances in Limerick's history.

With none of the Kerry batsmen looking dangerous it was missed opportunities that cost Limerick dearly. With the only batsmen of note for Kerry being Aslam Mashad who was dropped four times on his way to a poor 58 before being caught and bowled excellently by James Murphy.

Openers Eddie and Huntley were limited in their strokes yet inaccurate bowling meant that their stumps were never attacked. It was not until the introduction of Bharath and Mahad that Limerick began to do so. It was Huntley that was first to go, being bowled by Bharath for 6 with the score on 25. Eddie was next to go for 16, with the score having moved on to 43. His total included one 6. With the two openers gone it was up to number three batsmen Alam Moshad and Asim Zubair to carry the innings. Both batsmen were very limited in skill and it was Zubair who had a technique which closely resembled that of a baseball batter. Disappointingly for Limerick they let a partnership build and through dropped catches and general poor ground fielding let Kerry grow in confidence. When Murphy removed Moshad, Kerry began to lose wickets quickly. Gideon Deswaidt was next to go only adding one before a suicidal call from Zubair gave him no chance and was run out by the bowler Suman. Mahad who had changed ends, having been bowling into a strong wind, removed both Zubair, bowled for 29 and Neil Reyas, caught by Shane Burke without scoring in the same over. With runs hard to come by in the final overs Suman had Owais Goher caught by Declan Earley for 1 and bowled Paul Finch for 2. Ian Rutland was the only batsmen to make any significant contribution in the final overs with 13 not out including one boundary. He and Richard Rutland 3 not out brought the innings to a close.

Kerry's total of 168 although not an insurmountable total was forty runs more than it should have been. The Limerick bowlers once again left themselves down with 23 wides and 1 no ball out of 29 extras. They were not helped by an abysmal fielding performance that meant that it was extremely difficult to build pressure on the batsmen. Notable figures for Limerick were Suman 8 overs 3 for 19, Bharath 8 overs 1 for 22 and Mahad 8 overs 3 for 39. Bharath brought some control to the middle overs and bowled his 8 overs straight through. Half of Mahad's 8 overs were into a strong gale and there was a notable improvement when he switched ends.

Limerick's innings got off to a poor start. Having looked comfortable against the opening bowlers David Lynch cut the ball straight into the hands of Gideon for 6. Bandam was next to go giving away his wicket cheaply by hooking a ball straight to the deep square leg fielder for 6. Limerick was soon 13 for 3 when Suman was bowled for a duck by Eddie. It was up to Luke Kirwan and Shane Burke to gain any pride for Limerick and their partnership of 91 gave Limerick a great chance of winning. Kirwan and Burke both batted with authority. Kirwan having past his 50 and looking comfortable skied the ball to cow corner and was caught off the bowling of Kimber for 56. His innings gave impetus to Limerick and included five

boundaries. It was Burke that was next to go when he top edged a low full toss and was taken by the keeper for 34. This was his top score for Limerick and came at a vital stage. His innings included three fours. Limerick never recovered from the loss of Kirwan and Burke. Although only requiring 4 an over from the last 13 overs the Limerick batsmen never took charge and no individual took leadership. Bharath was next to go top edging a cut to Gideon at backward point off the bowling of Kimber for a duck. Although James Murphy 20 and Kevin Hennessy 12 did stop any chance of a collapse thereafter, neither batsman put the fielding side under pressure. With dot balls being allowed to accumulate the pair put themselves and those in after them under pressure. In a large pitch neither batsman was able to manipulate the ball into the gaps for 1's or 2's and neither was willing to risk the hit over the top to ask questions of the bowlers or opposing captain. It was not until the introduction of John Lenehan when Hennessy was bowled by Eddie for 12 that impetus looked like it was being wrestled back by Limerick. Lenehan managed a quick 7 before he also top edged to the keeper Paul Finch off the bowling of Richard Rutland in the penultimate over. Limerick needed 18 from the final two overs off which Lenehan had scored 4 from the first three balls before he was dismissed. With Murphy and new batsman Declan Earley both taking singles off the last two balls of the over it meant that Limerick required 12 from the last over with Earley on strike. A wide by Gideon first ball was followed by a dot with the next Limerick were under pressure and this resulted in the run out of Murphy for 20. Mahad was run out next ball when he and Earley attempted a two thus ending the innings on 159, ten runs short of victory. Although not his most economical spell, Ron Kimber took wickets at important times in his 3-41 from 8 and helped to hinder Limerick's chase. In a close fought match, Limerick was left to rue numerous missed opportunities. Limerick's final match of the season is on Saturday in the University of Limerick.