

Thursday 22nd was a day of mixed emotions for us as we made our way to a new pitch to play Warwickshire for the final time. The tour was coming to an end and we were about to play with the same incredible group of girls for the last time.

As we bundled on the bus, speaking louder than usual due to Alex's good mood, we quickly made our way into a rigorous warm up with Amanda and Alex. The heat was hard hitting and unforgiving in the early hours of the afternoon and seemed like it was going to be our hottest game day. Unfazed by the heat our warm up was nearly finished by the time Warwickshire rocked giving us the chance to mentally prepare for the challenging game ahead.

Once the news had reached the entire team that we were to bowl first in the heat we immediately worried if we would be able to keep our energies up. However, we soon realised that Warwickshire would have the even harder challenge of bowling under flood lights. Determined to bring home a win we walked out to the square ready for business. Florides opened the bowling at the scoreboard end keen to make her debut in her first Day-Nighter and although things didn't swing her way she kept her head up as the junior Squire came into bowl at the other end. "Nothing but edges from you mate" was called frequently during Squires over as the batswomen sneaked in two leg byes. A few overs rolled by with little happening other than the occasional single and odd four. Squire, Florides and Churcher did well to slow Warwickshire down but wickets weren't looking promising for us as miss fields became more frequent and morale dropped. Fearless of the pressure though entered Hutchins as she aggressively attacked Warwickshires batting with her relentless off spin. Three overs into her spell Warwickshires first wicket of Buckton was taken. Caught and bowled by the skipper. The most needed wicket allowed a run on of drinks where we were able to recompose ourselves and get back to the energy levels we had at the beginning of the innings. The senior sister of the Squire family was at the other end of the bowling attack. Squire was on form as she gave away little runs. Together Squire and Hutchins made the game rather dull for the batswomen on the receiving end but nail biting for the fielders as we anticipated another wicket. Our anticipation was not wasted as we reached the 20th over and Squire took her first wicket of the game. Naylor was caught behind by Astley-Jones. The keepers reaction a little excited as she took her first catch of the tour. The fall of Naylor and reaching the 20 over mark prompted a switch of keepers and Meadowcroft came on to temporarily fill Astley-Jones spot. Warwickshire were now on a comfortable 89-2 and we knew we had to do something. Hutchins and Squire continued the attack giving it their all, unfortunately no more wickets came their way. Milly Squire came back on with Katie Donovan in the 24th over as Warwickshire jumped to 122-2. The sun had moved to an unfortunate spot at this point and drops were becoming ever more evident to the batswomen as they started to hit bigger to the boundary. Drops came from most, especially on the boundary rope as one even carried for six. Never the less we did not give up and were determined to keep Warwickshire down. Milly Squire was the first of the pair to finish her spell as Rebecca Halliday came on to bowl her first over of the tour. An incredible wicket for Halliday meant the big wicket of Thackrell was gone on a respectable 85. This was Hallidays first spin wicket and will definitely be one for the books. Donovan followed suit in the next over, taking Mickelwright who was caught by Hutchins. Halliday ended her spell after four overs to allow A.Squire back on. In Squires first returning over there were two wickets; Johnstone, run out by Churchers bullet speed arm and a catch behind by Meadowcroft meant the loss of Kane-

Mullen. Donovan then ended her final over with the wicket of Ballinger who was caught by Astley-Jones at extra cover on the boundary. The catch was somewhat worrying to coaches Alex and Amanda as the fielder waited until the last point to snatch the ball but was taken safely all the same. With one over to go Warwickshire were on 199-8 as Squire seamlessly bowled a wicket maiden. The final batswomen to fall was Burke to a LBW.

Warwickshire ended on very impressive 199-9. It was certainly a challenge we faced but we weren't fazed as we had faith in our opening batters, Hutchins and Halliday to chase the score down. Both were quick off the mark as Halliday hit 25 and Hutchins 12 but both were unfortunate enough to lose their wickets. Halliday was caught by Buckton off Kite and Hutchins bowled directly by Kite. Unlike Warwickshire we had depth in our batting and now we could count on the rest of our batters. Churcher replaced Halliday as did Elsworth with Halliday. However, neither beat Squires previous score of 58. We were now on 60-4 on the 15th over and we were lacking by only 16 runs in relation to Warwickshires score at this point. A win was still in our sights. Milly Squire was in next as Churcher lost her wicket to Naylor. Hopeful for a repeat of the previous game we watched in anticipation as Squire walked out to the square. Unfortunately Squire fell for five. Meadowcroft was in next and we were ready for a fight. It was immediately evident the Meadowcroft was on top form as she continuously attacked the Warwickshire bowling. Singles, twos and fours were constant for the new batter as a flurry of batswomen kept her company at the other end. Florides entered for Elsworth as she dented Warwickshires score and added a fast 18 to our board. Warwickshire pulled off another direct hit like the day before and ran Florides out. In came Seward as Meadowcroft ticked away but was shortly bowled by Downs. Meadowcroft was now making her way to fifty as A.Squire met her in the middle. Squire fell after an over to Downs again. Walking out to keep Meadowcroft company next was Astley-Jones only to be ran out by another amazing throw from Buckton without facing. Emily Martin and Daisy Meadowcroft were our last hope to reach 200 and Daisy needed only four runs to get her first fifty of the tour. Meadowcroft made her fifty but was shortly caught by Johnstone. The catch was phenomenal as Johnstone took it directly in front of her face. Things would have ended a bit differently if the catch was a drop.

As a team we celebrated each other's successes from the match but were gutted that we weren't able to secure a win before our flight home. We weren't completely distraught as Warwickshire did give us a run for our money. Heads were soon high again though as picked each other up and celebrated our last match as a team. The tour may not have ended on the note we wanted success wise but we most definitely had fun trying. Hopefully we will have all taken away fantastic memories from this adventure and objectives to work on the fast approaching summer season as we will no doubt be winning most of our matches. Thank you to Sue, Alex and Higgy for an amazing tour.