

The playing of foreign teams had come to an end and it was time to play Warwickshire. Our first game started as a one day game but had to be reduced to 35 overs due to timings. Again skipper Hutchins won another toss and again elected to bowl first.

Anna Squire opened the bowling at one end with Katie Donovan. Within the first ball of the second over Sophie Buckton fell to Donovan, caught by Florides. Early. Wickets were promising for us as another fell in the fifth over to Squire. Squires second wicket came in her second over as she successfully bowled a maiden wicket. As Donovan and Anna took a break the second Squire sister, Milly, came onto bowl. Her first few overs tactically gave Warwickshire as Hutchins took the wicket of Kite. Cleanly bowled. It was in the 16th over that Squire took her first wicket as she competed against her sister who was then off due to a painful ball to the chin after a drop on the boundary. Although A. Squires efforts were heartfelt, the sun got the better of her. Ellsworth caught Micklewright from Squires last ball of the over. Squire ended her spell there.

Next up was Olivia Churcher who made her way onto throw down maiden overs. Hutchins still at the other end paced herself as she seamlessly took the wickets of Heath and Downs. Following the fantastic efforts of Hutchins and Churcher came Emma Seward as she came onto bowl her first over of the tour. Only singles were given to Warwickshire as she drove Seward to mid-off and cover. Chloe Rose also helped with the attack towards the end of the innings as she bowled the 28th and 30th overs. It was in the 30th over that Anna Squire fearlessly made her return to the bowling crease for two overs. Closing the innings were Milly Squire and Donovan. Squire taking the last wicket of Johnstone. Efforts from the girls in the field meant Warwickshire ended on a respectable, yet beatable 145-8.

An outstanding first time dive for Squire and incredible first innings for both Squire and Florides meant the two girls were gifted the chances to face Warwickshires opening bowlers and they went into bat. Unfazed by the bowlers Florides and Squire took their guards and batted the opening 15 overs with no falls. Unfortunately for Florides her time in the crease came to an end when she was run out by Hall. However, her industrial batting helped the team as we rested on 65-1. The fall of Florides called upon Meadowcroft of whom was unluckily caught by Dixon for a duck. Positively ignorant to the two quick losses of wickets allowed Halliday to the crease as she was prepared to hit big and fast. However, Warwickshire were not prepared to let this happen and bowled Halliday clean. All the while at the other end was Squire continuously hitting singles and boundaries to keep the run rate up. In came the next batter, Emily Martin, who was unfortunately another one of Johnstones victims as she fell leaving us on 81-4. Next in was Churcher as she and Squire built a very impressive partnership of 39 as they saw off Johnstone and Hall. It was an unfortunate ball that Churcher fell victim to as she walked away as second top scorer of for Devon of the game. Astley-Jones walked out to the crease next. The two batters now in were on 119-5 on the 29th over and sights of winning were getting closer and closer. Although it seems someone had other plans. The quick partnership between the opener and wicketkeeper saw Devon to 132-6 until an unfortunate call and a fantastic direct hit meant Squire had to leave the pitch on a remarkable 58.

Hopes of winning had not yet dimmed though as Hutchins calmly walked out to the square. A few balls went to each batswomen as they hit calm singles pressuring Warwickshire to take wickets. Astley-Jones wicket was taken from a run out hit directly back to the stumps. Things were now getting tight as Devon required 12 runs from the last 8 balls. Although faith still

remained in the onlookers eyes until we followed suit of India in the World Cup Final and missed out on the last few runs. An unlucky catch for Hutchins and a run out for Chloe Rose saw us end the innings on 141-9.

Another loss for us meant bowed heads as we walked off the pitch but hope in our hearts as we knew we had all tried our bests and had an opportunity to replay Warwickshire again the next day. We were also comforted with the fact that it was a close loss rather than a stuffing like some previous games. By the next day minds were fresh and we were ready to beat Warwickshire with our new opening bat Milly Squire who by far had a stormer of a game.