

Phoenix v Terenure 15/06/11

Notable absentees for the ladies' first fixture of 2011 were new skipper Kate Voice (away sunning herself) and Nicola Marples. Donna Nicholson assumed temporary charge of the side. The full selection was: Captain Nicholson, Helen Caird, Lisa Kelly, Deirdre Fahy, Lorna Barton, Lesley Anders, Elaine McSweeney, Sarah McIntosh, Orla Martin, Karinda Tollard and Corina Byrne. Terenure won the toss and chose to bat first.

Deirdre Fahy took the new ball from the Chesterfield Avenue end and the first over faced by senior umpire Inge Bevers produced three wides. Deirdre's second over cost just two runs off the bat and a misguided attempt by Bevers to make it three resulted in Carol Murphy being run out. Sarah McIntosh bowled the first two overs from the magazine fort end with number three A. Murphy hitting seven off the second. Captain Nicholson now introduced herself and Elaine McSweeney to the attack with the latter bowling A. Murphy for 10 and Phoenix reduced the visitors to 42 for 3 when Orla Martin bowled Rorke for 0. The new batswoman, Satchell, took the fight very much to Phoenix with Martin and McIntosh bearing the brunt of the onslaught. Barton bowled an economical spell and Fahy returned for the death overs 17 and 19 to end on 4-0-11-0 which was a creditable performance. McSweeney struggled in the 18th over and Barton returned for the 20th which produced just a single and a wicket on the last ball with Bevers playing down the wrong line and thus failing to record a not out. Extras aside the Phoenix bowlers and fielders had done well to contain Terenure to 109.

Helen Caird and Lisa Kelly began the Phoenix reply at 8.09. Kelly hit her second ball for four and it was also called a no ball by the umpire. As the innings progressed extras began to take on even more significance for Phoenix than they had for Terenure. Purcell was taken out of the attack after bowling 2 overs for 15 and it became the Murphy show for a while. After 8 overs Phoenix were 45 for 0 with Caird on 11 and Kelly on 12. Four dot balls followed and then Caird was caught and bowled by A. Murphy. Deirdre Fahy came in at number 3 and the scoring rate slowed as she adjusted to the pace of the wicket. At 68 for 1 with 5 overs left it looked as if Phoenix were heading for a respectable defeat. As they added 10 in the 16th over both batswomen looked tired and took liquid on board between the overs as David Ensor and Captain Nicholson pondered whether the retirement of either or both was now the best option. Fahy in particular opted bravely to bat on and although she faced only six balls in the last four overs there was a lot of running to be done. Having conceded 19 runs in two overs Terenure contained Phoenix to 9 in the next two and the home team were 13 adrift going into the last over. The Murphys were bowled out and the responsibility rested with Satchell. As the over progressed the pressure built on Satchell not to lose the match and on Fahy and Kelly as Phoenix came ever closer to the target. The over included, in no particular order: a single for Fahy, two wides faced by Fahy, a single and a two for Kelly, two two wides, two single wides, two dot balls and a leg bye when Kelly was facing. The final act of the match was the run out of Fahy as she attempted to complete the winning run. However, with the scores tied Phoenix had done enough to emerge as victors on the basis of less wickets lost.

Batting: Lisa Kelly 40 not out

Bowling: Lorna Barton 1 wicket for 8 runs