

Ladies v The Hills 2nds 30/08/11

Phoenix ladies arrived at the final week of their season which would begin with their concluding league fixture against The Hills 2nds. Lisa Kelly remained sidelined after her injury at Milverton but otherwise the side had a familiar look. The Phoenix team was: Kate Voice, Orla Martin, Hannah McGuckin, Lorna Barton, Deirdre Fahy, Donna Nicholson, Elaine McSweeney, Vanessa Kelada, Sarah McIntosh, Helen Caird, Nicola Marples. In deference to the shortening of the evenings the aim was to start at 5.30 or as soon after that as was possible. After the toss Phoenix were to bat first.

Unfortunately Lorna Barton was bowled by Brannigan's ball (so to speak) in the first over and Vanessa Kelada was called to the crease earlier than Phoenix would have liked. Kelada proved equal to the challenge and would emerge undefeated after 70 minutes with 32 from 57 balls. At the other end Caird survived for a while before exiting on 7 and McGuckin's 2 was not quite what the doctor ordered. Things began to look up when McIntosh joined Kelada and after seeing off Brannigan and Hoye the pair managed 22 runs off the bat against Woods. McIntosh was bowled by Byrne for 11 but Martin proceeded to give a very composed performance coming in at number six and the visitors proved unable to take a further wicket. The stand added 44 runs in 28 minutes with Martin closing undefeated on 16 as Phoenix finished on 94 for 4. Would 94 be enough?

Phoenix opted for Orla Martin and Vanessa Kelada with the new ball and Lorna Barton was on duty behind the stumps. The task for the batswomen was to score 5 runs an over with one over to spare. Clinton and Brannigan were slow and methodical early on and at 25 for 0 after 6 overs Phoenix were still in the contest but as the innings progressed the breakthrough would not come for Phoenix. Martin's fourth over cost 9 runs off the bat and Kelada's fourth included a boundary and five wides and the visitors seemed relatively unperturbed thereafter. To the untrained eye it was unclear whether Barton's histrionics were directed at herself or her team mates as Phoenix were unable to take advantage of some difficult opportunities for a run out and with the batswomen proving so adhesive this seemed the most likely mode of dismissal. Fahy bowled a steady three overs for 13 before Kelada returned and McGuckin bowled 4 overs for 16 before Martin was given a fifth. At 85 for 0 after 17 with Brannigan on 42 there was a chance that she would get to 50 but Clinton added 6 of the remaining runs and with three runs needed off the last five balls the visitors got home by 10 wickets with three balls to spare.

Lady of the Match: R Brannigan 1-11 45 not out

Phoenix Performers V Kelada 32 not out O Martin 16 not out