

After a successful training session on the Monday 12th of February Devon Girls Development Tour Squad took to the pitch on Tuesday 13th to play Bishop College's U14 boys B team.

With a beginning heat of 32C assistant coach Amanda Higginbotham led an engaging warm up dedicated to the shade so that we'd be fresh for the game allowing us to fully prepare for the match to come. We were soon finished with our warm up and moved freshly onto our skill based activity lead by head coach Alex Carr. Now fully prepared to thrash the opposing team we walked out.

The game soon commenced as captain Steph Hutchins won the toss opting to bowl. Although this was an unusual tactic for our T20 side it was agreed that it would best help us as we could tackle the heat head on in our first game allowing us to get used to it for future one day games. The opening over was delivered by the eccentric Milly Squire as she threw down six consecutive dots. As the boys trembled in Milly's wake they were hit with another machine; Katie Donovan. Although Donovan's stats didn't match Squires in the opening over they certainly gave the boys a run for their money as all that was hit were edges from the lightning fast bowling. Four overs went by until Donovan took the teams first wicket. A clean bowl perfectly aimed at middle stump. This started the boys decent of wickets at 22-1.

It was soon after Donovan's wicket that the first change over occurred bringing Sophie Florides on in replacement for Squire and Rose Ball on for Donovan. Florides' first over allowed the boys their fourth four in the innings as they rested on 31-1. Ball was next up as she gifted the boys one run in her over only to decide that it was too much and catch Dayne Levick at fine leg off a stray bowled by Florides. Only five balls later and we were taking their third wicket of Sayed. It was a miss field from skipper Hutchins that mislead the boys into thinking they had a chance at a run. But Hutchins amazing recovery proved them wrong as she effortlessly threw the ball to Florides at the bowlers end resulting in a smooth run out. Another run out followed in the next over as Holly Elsworth ended up on the ground due to her dedication of the throw. The ball ended up in the keepers hands and yet another wicket had fallen. The boys were now on 34-3. As the heat got cooler and the cloud moved in it looked like a promising evening for the drought consumed Cape Town. However, it wasn't just rain that we were about to be treated by...

Another change over followed the movement of cloud and lightning as Hutchins came on to bowl a one run over. Maddie Holifield was next up as she tactically manipulated the boys to the ends she wanted. Unfortunately no wickets for the two newbies in their first overs but were soon on the attack as Hutchins took her first in the form of a catch from Milly Squire at Mid-off. It was here that the Lightning and thunder increased encouraging the worried looks from all players. However, we fought our way through to receive another wicket. It was thrown from Florides and received by the keeper. The throw, effortless.

Hutchins was the final bowler on in the fifteenth over and effortlessly threw down five dots ending her over in a wicket. After a drop from the keeper the skipper made the decision to move the elder Squire sister into slip increasing the pressure on the batsman. The pressure was too much and the batsman crumbled under it as Hutchins took the final wicket. Bowled cleanly on

middle. As we entered what seemed like yet another celebration huddle the umpires and coaches made the safe decision to call the game off due to the ever-present lightning. Ending on 47-7 we had a promising lead but unfortunately never had the opportunity to finish the defeat. Hopefully we will when we play them on 20th.

Honourable mentions go to the fielders for their valuable efforts in the conditions we faced and keeping the boys under fifty.