

Devon 70s v Hampshire

A bright sunny day and a hard-baked outfield promised some chasing around when Hampshire elected to bat first. The short boundaries meant little chance to cut off any well-struck shot.

A flat track saw the score reach 193 from 30 before Berman trapped Green LBW when he had scored 97.

Another 58 were added before the next wicket, that of Jarvis for 103, smartly caught and bowled by Blackwell. The final total of 265 was much less than might have been expected when the first wicket fell. Loose fielding at the beginning had been tightened up, Harding bowled a good tight spell and the batsmen who replaced the openers never really got going.

Devon started well and were not too far behind the required rate when Stanton was neatly caught behind off a bottom edge for 50 – 124-1 off 21. But then Keen was out in the following over for 55 and a short cameo of 26 from Shephard was cut short by a ball that kept low.

Seward was run out in rather dubious circumstances but at 184-4 from 30 overs the chase was only 8 runs shy of the Hampshire score at that stage,

Baxter was joined by Cranch and they continued to keep the scoreboard busy until the opening bowlers came back on, Foreman in particular conceding only 12 from four overs.

Baxter ended 51 n.o. (5 fours) and Cranch 45 n.o. (7 fours).

Devon were left 7 runs short, and ruing some of the early mis-fielding. It was at least the closest so far to a victory this season.