



COMMISSION FEMININES

FRANCE CRICKET

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The Chateau de Thoiry Cricket Club on the 3rd and 4th July saw female cricketers from different parts of France converge to share their love of cricket. Ladies and girls from Lille, Saint-Aulaye, Nantes and the Ile de France came to work on their skills and to enjoy playing together.

Richard and Stephen Woodall put players through fielding, batting and bowling drills. Many were introduced to the slips cradle for the first time and were surprised by the quick changes of angle that the ball made after hitting or skidding off the curved surface of the cradle. This was followed by a throwing exercise which was aimed at improving technique and accuracy.

The first batting drill had the players hitting the ball between cones on the off side. This then led to an exercise that encourages front foot play, the drive not being a natural shot for girls.

A short bowling drill followed with everyone vying to be the one to hit the stumps most often.

These exercises managed to whet the cricket appetite of the girls and they couldn't wait to play a game. They were divided up into pairs and a double wicket competition ensued. There were good displays of straight bat to the straight ball and some elegant stroke play was evident. In the field there were some good catches and excellent returns to the stumps. There was great team spirit as the more experienced players were always eager to help the newcomers.

There was a visit on Sunday morning by a journalist from the Daily Telegraph UK and his photographer. Some of the promising young players were interviewed and photos taken.

The following prizes were awarded at the end of the weekend:

Best Fielding - batting gloves to Alizée Bodet (Saint-Aulaye)

Best Batting- batting gloves to Chantal Woods (Thoiry)

Best Bowler- a trophy to Sharon Whiting (Thoiry)

Best Newcomer - a bat to Caroline Ella-Meye (Lille)

Promising Batsman- batting gloves to Emma Chancé (Thoiry)

Player of weekend - a cricket bag to Alizée Bodet (Saint-Aulaye)

Thank you to Chantal Woods and Chateau de Thoiry Cricket Club for providing additional prizes.

Thank you to Dany Woodall for providing a sumptuous lunch on Sunday.

The event was thought to be a success by all. Everybody had a great time playing the game that they love.

Sharon WHITING

Women's Cricket Committee President

27th, July 2010