**Exeter Ladies Cricket Beat Bath by 224 Runs**

**By Jessica Rippin**

On an overcast Saturday afternoon at Topsham, Exeter University Ladies Cricket Team got off to a flying start to their season with a comprehensive victory over local rivals Bath. After winning the toss Bath elected to field first putting Exeter in to bat. Runs came quickly with a fast outfield aiding Exeter, and a poor bowling performance from Bath. In a promising start to the season all the team got runs with Lottie Miles top scoring with 41 and a fantastic effort by Cat Hollinghurst, who held the innings together with her 39. Exeter were finally bowled out for 253 after 44 overs, setting Bath a difficult target as the clouds moved in overhead and rain threatened to ruin Exeter’s day.

Desperate to get the required overs in before rain stopped play Exeter were sharp in the field and strong in the opening bowling attack. Jess Rippin and Lottie Miles commanded a strong opening spell of bowling and Hannah Clark’s heroic’s behind the wickets were commented on by both umpires. It took just 10 overs for Exeter to bowl out Bath, Lottie Miles the pick of the bowlers ending with her 5 overs going for only 15 runs and taking 6 wickets. As wickets quickly toppled Bath ended the day on 29, handing Exeter a dominating victory by 224 runs.

Team captain Jess Rippin commented at the end of the game that she was ‘very pleased with the high standard Exeter showed so early in the season’ and that ‘the conclusive victory along with the strong individual performances bode well for the season.’ Man of the match was shared between Cat Hollinghurst and Lottie Miles who noted ‘I don’t like cricket, I love it!’ Spectator Martin Fisher, a second year history student, was surprised with the dominating performance and praised the Exeter team saying that he ‘expected them to win, but not by such a huge margin.’

Exeter Ladies play in the Southern Premier Division along with Bath, Brighton and Abersystwth. With training throughout the summer term, if you’re looking for a summer sport then look no further. We are always on the lookout for new players and with a high performance first team as well as a comprehensive beginners set up there really is something for everyone. Please contact kd262 or kw254 for more details.