**EULCC v Brighton**

**By Hannah Burgin**

Exeter faced Brighton in their last league match of 2011. A tough match was expected as Brighton have been Exeter’s main competition in the southern premier league for a number of years. Lovely sunny conditions graced the Topsham pitch as EULCC looked to continue their winning form. Jess won her first toss of the season (rather Brighton lost, however we shall give Jess some credit) and Exeter sent Brighton in to bat.

With a strong wind (potentially gale force), the bowlers did very well to keep the ball on target, however Brighton’s openers started well, hitting numerous boundaries and picking up quick singles. Exeter however stepped up with their fielding and began to attack the ball more, cutting out subsequent runs and reducing the run rate of the Brighton batswomen. Captain Rippin with her injured arm came into bowl for the first time in 3 matches and with Lottie Miles bowling from the other end, the plan was to attack Brighton with the fast bowlers. The tactics worked, with Jess picking up a 2 vital wickets, getting out the opener who was on 70 odd runs. After this wicket was taken, the rest of the Brighton team were more inexperienced players and the bowling of Lottie Miles was too strong for them as she picked up 6 quick wickets. Ending Brighton’s innings at 161 runs all out after 34 overs.

Then Exeter went into bat chasing 162 to win the match. Hannah Clarke opened the batting with Cat Hollinghurst. Some great batting from both of them saw Exeter get runs on the board, with Brighton bowling well. Clarke performed superbly, getting a total of 75 not out, ably supported by Cat who got 27. Zoe Burrell came in and helped increase the run rate with her super fast running, unfortunately getting out with Exeter 30 runs short. In came Lottie Miles to finish off the match, with some nice boundaries, Exeter reaching 162-2 off of 36 overs.

Yet another brilliant team performance, with some great bowling in the windy conditions, some sharp fielding, epic appealing from Lottie Miles and the usual EULCC banter keeping everybody on their toes. Exeter are crowned unbeaten BUCS Southern Premier League Champions ☺ with 6 out of 6 wins. Jess Rippin is a very happy captain and the team hope to continue their winning form when they face the MCC next Wednesday (1st June)!

Semi finals here we come, 8th June against Leeds Met Uni, should be a tough match but hopefully Exeter can maintain their fantastic season and march on to Lords.