BUCS Indoor Cricket Finals

On the 21st January, Exeter University Ladies Cricket Club was in London to play in the BUCS Indoor Cricket Finals at the historic Lords Cricket Ground. Despite qualifying with ease (trouncing both Aberystwyth and Cardiff), the task ahead of the girls was set to be much tougher this time with the inevitable match up with Loughborough scheduled later in the day.

In their first game against Birmingham captain Jess Rippin lost the toss and Exeter were put into bat. In what would prove to be the game of the tournament, nerves initially got the better of Exeter as they lost early wickets. It was only when ‘Scholar No. 1’ Phoebe Graham walked to the wicket did Exeter gain some control. Phoebe scored 29 runs with some excellent clean hitting elevating the team to a respectable 99/6 off their 12 overs. Birmingham’s reply started well despite some tight bowling from freshers Phoebe and Lorna Browne. Suzi Wood and Jess Rippin contributed too but it was Social Secretary Katy Dennis who provided inspiration for the opening wicket with a timely call of ‘Jug Ball’. The girls obliged with an excellent run out and from there Exeter out played Birmingham limiting the runs and taking a further 4 wickets. It all came down to the last ball, Birmingham needing 4 runs to win. Unfortunately it was Birmingham who got home in a thrilling finish.

Having lost their opening game, qualification for the final was unlikely. However that didn’t stop the girls putting on a cracking performance against Southampton bowling them out for 92 and winning easily by 6 wickets. The final game was against a strong Loughborough side which was riddled with England players. Jess had a change of fortune, surprising her team mates by winning the toss and Loughborough even more so by electing to bat first. The tactic nearly worked as ‘Scholar No. 2’ Emily Robinson got stuck in scoring an impressive 30 runs against some frustrated and aggressive Loughborough bowling, getting Exeter to 72/4. However sadly it wasn’t enough and Exeter eventually lost the match by 5 wickets. A young team, Exeter will have learnt a lot from this experience and will undoubtedly be back at Lords for another crack next year. In the meantime the Men’s 1st XI will be bidding for gold in their BUCS Finals at Lords on the 2nd February, making Exeter the only University to have both Men’s and Ladies teams in the Finals.