**BUCS Regional Indoor Finals 2011-12**

On Saturday 22nd October Exeter University Ladies Cricket Club headed to Sapphire Gardens, Cardiff for the BUCS indoor cricket regional finals. The girls only had two 12-over matches to ensure their qualification and with the prize of a place at the BUCS finals in Lords at stake, there were plenty of nerves flying around the changing room. EULCC’s recent history in this competition didn’t inspire much confidence either, as they have crashed out at this stage of the indoors 3 years running. It was probably a bonus therefore, that a new look team consisting of 4 freshers made the trip.

There was little doubt that the first match against Cardiff would be the decider. Exeter skipper Jess Rippin won the toss (a very rare occurrence) and elected to field. Cardiff started strongly, with their openers scoring quickly. It took an important spell from Jess to remove the first batter with a sharp stumping by keeper Hannah Clark. From then Exeter started to reduce the scoring rate and gain more control over the innings with quick, tight bowling from Phoebe Graham, Lorna Browne and Hannah Burgin. Cardiff finally posted a decent score of 135/1 off their 12 overs.

Exeter openers Emily Robinson and Hannah Clark had a stiff task to score at over 11 runs per over, but were more than up to it, Emily scoring a swift 24 and Hannah retiring on 27\*. Phoebe and Lorna came in at 3 and 4, maintaining the rate, and skipper Jess helped finish the job with 3 overs to spare; in the end a comfortable win for Exeter!

The second match against Aberystwyth started fairly similarly with the Aber batters starting strongly. However the pace and consistency of Exeter freshers Lorna, Phoebe and Suzie Wood were too much and wickets started to fall including a piece of luck as a thick edge cannoned off Keeper Robinson’s helmet and into the hands of Suzie. Captain Jess’s figures again were the pick conceding just 12 runs off her 3 overs. Aberystwyth ended on 94/3, a score that didn’t threaten Exeter’s batters and the runs were knocked off with ease by Emily, Lorna, and Phoebe. Exeter Qualify for the BUCS finals at Lords on the 25th January where they will no doubt meet rivals Leeds Met for yet another showdown for a BUCS medal!