

Sussex Inter-County - Boy's U-15 Stage 1

Harvey Von Biel , Curtis Malik , Jack Martell , Peter Berkley , Will Johnston & Jacob Flack

The Sussex Boy's U-15's took on Dorset , Hampshire (hosts) and Kent last weekend in the first stage of the Inter Counties.

They started their quest against an unknown Dorset team and what a start it was ! **Sussex ran out winners 5-0** without dropping a game in any of the matches. The 6th ranked member, just to rub it in also won his game 3-0. Fantastic start from the boy's.

Next up were the hosts and favourites for this stage , Hampshire. Knowing the players well and their stature within the junior ranking , we knew this was going to be a stern test. First on court were Will and Jack . Will , playing his first competitive game after injury , started like a train and took the first game . Unfortunately , the experienced Hampshire lad started to play some tight squash and although Will battled to the last , as always, lost the tie 3-1. Jack , by this time was 2-0 down on the adjacent court. Starting the 3rd , Jack changed his game plan and started to play with an ' old head on young shoulders'. Now playing some of his best squash of the season , won the next 2 games and in the 5th the tie went to 8 all. The next few points were very tense but Jack managed to keep his focus and won the match 3-2. Sterling effort. Next on were Pete and Harvey. Pete , playing the U13 ranked No. 2 in the country, played like an old pro using his experience against a very good player. Having lost the first game he dug in to take the second . Game on ! For all Pete's excellent play , the Hampshire lad was just a little too strong on the day and ran out a 3-1 winner. Awesome play by Pete though , also returning from injury. Harvey in the mean time was playing some great squash on the other court against the No.18 ranked U.15 in the land. A very strong player but Harvey gave his all and lost a very close encounter 3-0. The result does not reflect the score as all the games were very tight. Last on was Curtis playing a boy 3 years his senior. Slightly out of sorts , Curtis competed hard against a bigger , stronger player. That wasn't to worry him though and he put in a great shift before narrowly losing 3-0. Unfortunately , on this occasion , our No.6 also lost his tie 3-1. **Hampshire 4 , Sussex 1**

Bring on Kent.. All down to this match to see who qualifies in 2nd spot ! First on , Jacob and Jack. Jacob played a guy twice his size but was not to be put off. Using his tenacity , guile and speed , he moved the ball around beautifully to work his opponent and force errors from him. Playing with a big smile , Jacob won his match 3-0. Meanwhile , Jack was on court 1 playing a hard hitting , fast moving opponent. No problem for a now on form Jack and he won the tie 3-0. **Sussex 2 , Kent 0** - What a start. Now on was Harvey and Pete. Harvey , this time playing the Country's U.15 number 14 ranked player , played a terrific game. Showing a lot of grit and determination , Harvey battled to the death but went down a very respectable 3-1. A really good result as the Kent lad is a very strong competitor. Can Pete win it for us ? Again playing like an old pro , Pete took a 2-0 lead against a player he had played many times before and had never lost to. As you know , that means nothing in sport and this lad indeed showed a lot of spirit to win the next game . The now tense Sussex parents cheered on Pete but the Kent player had other idea's and battled hard to the end. Pete dug in and turned out the winner 3-1...**Sussex through....** Curtis went on to finish proceeding off and played a much better match against another highly ranked player who was determined not to let his county down. Curtis battled hard to lose another very close match by 3 games to 0.

Sussex 3 , Kent 2 and through to the next stage..

We would like to thank all the parents for their support and to loyal fans Perry Malik and Oscar Flack.

SUSSEX THROUGH