

Inter county racketball champs 2012/13

1st half: Played at West Hants, Bournemouth

Sussex qualified with Tim Vail, Brandon Hanley, Ben Hutton, Miles Jenkins, Steve Wall, Mike Phillips and Matt Hansford. Beat Dorset, Devon and Bucks

2nd Half: Finals at Devon and Exeter

1st match v Yorkshire:

Ben Hutton and Steve Wall went on court 1st and started sluggishly vs a Yorkshire side that was good all the way down but not as strong as their best team. Wally (the over 50 champ and veteran legend) beat his opponent 3-0 with a slightly dodgy groin ; Ben won after a hard fought 1st game and woe down his opponent to win 3-1. Next on Capatian Vole and national champ vs No.3 in the country Dominic Hamilton. Dom was all out of sorts and lost 3-0 easily to Vole who had been out on the pop the previous night. Match won!! Brandon beat his opponent 3-0 but Miles unfortunately lost 3-2 having had ample of opportunities to finish it off. 19 points. Devon won 5-0 v Warks and claimed 19 points

2nd match v Devon:

The organiser Matt Baker was very kind and let number one Tim Vail go on 1hr 40mins early as he had to get back to a family engagement. He played a very determined Mike Harris whose idea was to stay on court as long as possible!! Vole had to be away by 4pm but this was not to be. Thinking about the time Harris took the 1st game chasing every ball down, Vole took the 2nd and 3rd which were both hard fought. Now already late Harris started strong in the 4th and took a quick lead, this lead to a 5th where Vole showed his strength taking it 11-5. He soon ran out of the building and into his car 30mins late!!

2nd up was Mike Phillips v Matt Baker

Mike was just coming back from injury and they both decided to play with a blue ball. Mike gave his opponent too much respect which allowed Matt to take advantage. Mike got back into it and took the 3rd but could not stop a defeat of 3-1. Wally was rested so Ben Hutton went on at 3 v Christian Turner, Ben went 9-7 up in the 2st and the 2nd but could not convert either, losing the 1st two games 12-10 and 14-12 after 30mins. Ben then started to kick on and made Christian work even harder and the winners came easier and the errors also from Christian, Ben snuck a 11-8 in the 5th win. "-1 to Sussex!!

Miles was on playing Dave Palmer and Brandon Hanley v James Snell. To be honest we thought we could win one but not both. Brandon lost the 1st 2 games convincingly and Miles went 1-1 with Dave. Brandon snuck the 3rd as did Miles,. Both got to 2 games all. Brandon went 8-5 and then got cramp in his quad and literally started moving like a gran dad around the court with horrible movement and noises. Brandon held on to win 11-8 and Miles narrowly lost 11-9. Victory to Sussex for the 1st time in 6 years v Devon.

A chance to win the title for the 1st time in 6 years

Vole at 1 was due to miss Sunday due to his father's birthday, however at this stage where we had a chance to win this couldn't happen. Daddy gave permission for Vole to miss the birthday lunch as long as Sussex were to win!!

Ben was as steady as a rock vs a sponge (sponge- someone who does nothing but soaks it up and picks up every ball). 3-0 win. Sussex needed 16 points to clinch the title. Wally on the other court still with his slight injury worked his hung over opponent all round the court to force his opponent in to errors to take a 3-0 happy win!!

Miles very quickly went 2-0 up vs his opponent who he lost to 3-0 last time round. No tough 3rd game, 3-0 to Miles. Match won with just 1 point to take the title

Vole played a talented youngster who also was not feeling the best. Vole won convincingly 3-0 to take victory and the title to Sussex.

Brandon finished it with a 3-0 victory over his opponent to take a 5-0 victory

Sussex for the 1st time in 6 years of the competition being held have won the inter county racketball championship. Over the past 6 years the team has had a very consistent team with all 6 players playing in the past four seasons. Great thanks go to Brandon, Ben, Wally and Mike for being available throughout the past 6 years

Tim Vail

Sussex Captain