



SUSSEX SQUASH

ISSUE 2—DECEMBER 2007

DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS SUSSEX JUNIOR ?



Oliver Pett's squash career started like most young juniors; chasing a foam ball around an empty court just for the hell of it. There was the ball, it was rolling that-a-way, possessed by some random inclination of its own and Oliver, like all good toddlers, was going to chase it. Simple really. However, at the aged of nineteen he is about to start his career as a squash professional and he is still chasing the ball – it is just a little smaller... and going a *lot* faster.

Over the last eleven years Oliver has won lots of tournaments and participated in a number of games for his county and his country. He plays in local leagues and he plays for club teams Horsham, Surrey and Hampshire as a professional. Every aspect of competition has somehow entered into his life. When asked what, from his perspective, the three defining moments of his junior career were he answered: "My first Plate final at the Sussex Closed U11s, playing for England at the European Championships U15, especially that last match, and getting to the Quarter Finals of The British Open this year." Oliver's first tournament the Sussex Closed was in 1997 where aged eight, having been knocked out in the first round by Todd McCann, he went on to win the U11 Plate title. It was the first of many and the start of a big ambition.

A tremendous victory in the 2001 U13 British Designated Championships saw Oliver beat the top four seeds on his way to win the trophy. The European Championships in 2003 saw a strong England team win the tournament that year. Oliver won a vital game, coming back from 2-0 down, after the England team had lost

the first match against the French; and proved to himself, his peers and the England Coaches Annette Pilling and David Campion, that he had what it took to perform when it counted. Oliver, echoing the words of many athletes, says, "Representing your country is the most amazing thing. Hopefully, if squash gets into the Olympics, I could do it again."

The most recent, and possibly prominent, of his success was his performance at this year's British Junior Open. Oliver was returning from injury so his tournament ranking was low. He beat 5/8 seed Switzerland's Nikolas Muller early on in the tournament and powered through strong Egyptian competitors. He was eventually knocked out in the Quarterfinals by Amr Atlas Khan; who was world ranked at the time. Oliver won his next two games to finish fifth out of the seventy-one competitors and the highest Englishman of the

AND THIS PRO?



tournament.

Despite Oliver's successes he has not always been recognised for his hard work. In a highly competitive sport, where consistency is vital, Oliver was a tumultuous junior and his unfortunate injuries (including permanent damage to his right eye, trouble with his knees and shins as well as a back fracture) meant that England Squash would overlook him on a number of occasions. However, a number of people have helped him to develop and push himself further including coaches Graham Stevenson, Simon Pett and, most recently, Neil Harvey. As a professional he trains six times a week mixing weights, core-strength, stamina and flexibility training sessions with around fifteen hours a week of court time, be it solo practice or matches. Now he can say that injuries, bad calls, unfortunate events and bad days are behind him and his professional career will be a struggle to the top to prove that all the hard work of the last eleven years was worth it.

So what advice would Oliver give to up and coming Juniors: "Hard work! That's it really; keep pushing through the hard stuff, keep your eye on the ball. You'll find you'll get there eventually."

Report by Karla Pett



© Fritz Borchert

Chichester welcomes new coach Mike Phillips

MIKE STARTING PLAYING SQUASH AT KENILWORTH SC, WARWICKSHIRE IN 1973 AGED 14 FOR SOMETHING TO DO IN THE WINTER WHEN HE COULDN'T PLAY TENNIS.

WITHIN 6 WEEKS OF PICKING UP A RACKET HE WAS PLAYING FOR WARWICKSHIRE U/16 IN THE JUNIOR INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

FROM THERE HE PROGRESSED FINISHING HIS JUNIOR CAREER AS THE WELSH NO.1 IN THE 1978 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND REACHED THE LAST 16 OF THE INDIVIDUAL EVENT.

AS A SENIOR MIKE PLAYED INTER COUNTY SQUASH FOR WARWICKSHIRE THEN FROM 1986 CORNWALL, IN 1982 HE MADE HIS FULL SENIOR INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FOR WALES.

MIKE HAS SINCE GONE ON TO REPRESENT WALES AT O/40 AND CURRENTLY O/45 LEVELS COLLECTING 23 INTERNATIONAL CAPS TO DATE.

MIKE HAS WON 4 MENS CORNWALL COUNTY TITLES AND HAS BEEN RANKED NO.1 IN CORNWALL FOR 4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

ENGLAND SQUASH LEVEL 3 COACH CORNWALL JUNIOR COUNTY COACH SOUTH WEST AREA COACH 2006/2007 UTH EAST AREA COACH 2007/2008

CHICHESTER SQUASH CLUB HEAD COACH

MIKE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN COACHING FOR OVER 25 YEARS AND HAS COACHED SEVERAL PLAYERS TO BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR COUNTY TITLES, HE HAS COACHED AT SEVERAL CLUBS IN WARWICKSHIRE AND CORNWALL CREATING THE JUNIOR SECTION AT PENZANCE SC. HE ALSO CURRENTLY RUNS HIS OWN CORNWALL JUNIOR SQUASH ACADEMY AND HAS HAD A SPELL COACHING IN BELGIUM.

Sussex Junior County Closed 2007

62 competitors entered this year from 13 clubs in Sussex for the annual junior county closed held at West Worthing Tennis & Squash Club. There was a strong line up as ever including England number 2 under 19 Oliver Pett; England number 18 under 17 Hadley Neale; England number 20 under 15 Fred Possegger; England number 10 under 13 Joel Croucher and England number 2 under 13 Martha Possegger.

Olly Pett (Horsham) won the under 19 event convincingly without dropping a game in the whole tournament, beating Hadley Neale in the final 3-0. It was great to see him playing the event and is a role model for all the juniors there to look up to.

Hadley Neale (Crowborough) beat Ryan Whiteley (Storrington) in the final of the under 17's 3-1. This was a slightly scrappy affair with neither wanting to give up the T position and a lot of hard hitting. Hadley prevailed with some good touches at the front and Ryan ran until he dropped but he good not get every ball back.

Fred Possegger (Southdown) beat Cameron Western (Dunnings Mill) in the final of the boys U15 3-1. Cam played brilliantly in the morning to beat number 2 seed Jake Bennet (Middleton) 3-2 in a long match with Cam hitting some lovely lobs and drops. Fred was fresher and stronger and hardly made any mistakes which made it tough for Cam. Cam fought hard and took the second game but ran out of legs in the end.

Stuart Allcock (Corals) (England no. 21) beat Joel Croucher (Storrington) in the final 3-1. Both were very nervous and made mistakes at the start of the match and Joel settled quicker taking the 1st game 9-2. Joel had the pressure on him as number 1 seed and this seemed to get to him as he snatched at chances round the middle of the court which he would normally put away with ease. Stuart could see this and kept the tempo high and with some deft drop shots took the next game and the match.

Peter Berkley (Storrington) won the under 13's beating Adam Lamport (Storrington) in the final 3-1. This was the only game Peter lost all weekend and it proved to be a great final with both players showing good skills around the court.

The girls U13 final was won by Martha Possegger (Southdown). This was on a round robin format with 3 girls competing against each other. Martha only dropped 1 point in both her matches to ease to victory.

It was a shame only 3 girls entered the competition and these were the only girls throughout the age groups. This has proven to be a problem in Sussex and the Whole Country which needs some attention. We need to encourage as many girls as possible to play the game and if anyone is interested and would like to join the county squad they should get in touch with Naomi Duthie through the Sussex squash website www.sussexsquash.org.uk

As for the boys it was 10 down on last year and it is early in the season but we would like to encourage every junior from every club to enter this event. It is a great chance to play different players and to see some of the top juniors play.

Report by Tim Vail

PREMIER SQUASH LEAGUE FIXTURES

2007-08

SOUTHERN GROUP

UNISPORT GUILDFORD

PNH PROPERTIES CHICHESTER

PROBUILD BRISTOL

LUXFORDS ST GEORGE'S HILL

SURREY HEALTH & RACKETS

All matches start at 7.00pm

More details can be found on www.EnglandSquash.com

Round 1 09 October — Guildford V Chichester
Surrey v Bristol

Round 2 16 October— Bristol V Guildford
St. Georges V Surrey

Round 3 13 November— Surrey V Guildford
Chichester V St. George's

Round 4 20 November— Guildford V St George's
Bristol v Chichester

Round 5 04 December— Chichester V Surrey
St. George's V Bristol

Round 6 29 January— Chichester V Guildford
Bristol V Surrey

Round 7 05 February— Guildford V Bristol
Surrey V St. George's

Round 8 19 February— Guildford V Surrey
St George's V Chichester

Round 9 04 March— St George's V Guildford
Chichester V Bristol

Round 10 18 March— Surrey V Chichester
Bristol V St George's

Semi Finals 08—10 April

Finals— 22 April

ENGLAND SQUASH INTERCOUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

2007/8 STAGE 1 SUSSEX UPDATE

BOYS U13'S— Unusually, Sussex were grouped with Hampshire, Devon and Dorset for this year's Stage 1, which Sussex hosted at the splendid Bluecoat Sports Centre facility at Christ's Hospital School.

An excellent day's Squash saw the very inexperienced Sussex team (containing no survivors from last year's side, which finished 3rd nationally) beat Dorset 5/0 in their first match, lose to a very strong Devon squad 4/1 in the second, Nick Ballamy being the only winner at No 5. This set-up a 'show-down' with Hampshire, for the second spot overall, but in a very tight deciding No.2's rubber, captain Ryan Johnson competed brilliantly, but wasn't quite able to do it, in a most exciting climax to the day. Although it was disappointing not to finish 1st or 2nd, no Sussex player could be faulted for their effort, and lots of lessons were learned for the future.

Sussex:

1. Jacob Osborne (West Worthing)
2. Ryan Johnson (Captain) (Cooden)
3. Harvey von Biel (West Worthing)
4. Declan Hood (Chichester)
5. Daniel Berkley (Torrington)
6. Nick Ballamy (West Worthing)
7. Peter Berkley (Storrington)Sussex

Report by Graham Stevenson

BOYS U15'S— The boys U15 started their 1st Inter-County campaign with resounding victories over Hampshire and Dorset, both being defeated 5-0. The squad consisting of: Cameron Western (Dunnings Mill), Dan Foden (Sawyers), Will Jennings (West Worthing), Alex Leng (Sawyers), Joel Croucher (Storrington) and Stuart Allcock (Corals) performed brilliantly all day not dropping a game all weekend . If they win the next round they will be through to the finals in March. We wish them the best of luck.

Report by Tim Vail

BOYS U17'S— The U17 boys only had to play Kent in their inter counties and despite many withdrawals from the squad they still managed to win 3-2 and go through to the next round.

Report by Tim Vail

BOYS U19'S— The U19 boys were very under strength with Steve Wykes just having had an ankle operation and Hadley Neale playing more Rugby. They struggled at the top order and could not recover and finished bottom at the weekend. Lets hope for better in January

Report by Tim Vail

SUSSEX GIRLS INTER—COUNTY TEAMS

In the **U19** first round Sussex were unfortunately knocked down to four players after losing the number one due to injury. Losing a number one is always difficult and proved too much of a jump for the others in the team going down to South East Wales 4 matches to 0. The team is now looking forward to the second half and is hopeful for the number one to return.

The **U15** squad was depleted with family gatherings surrounding the bonfire weekend but some of the U13's stepped up to the challenge and put in some excellent performances, with Marie White winning 2 out of her 3 matches. With a young number one in Martha Possegger this squad has a bright future and looks to put in a strong performance in the second half.

The **U13's** were also missing one of their players but the team put in an excellent performance to come 3rd in their first time in this category. All players in the team put in some good performances in their first match together as the U13 squad. They now look forward to the second half.

In this transition year all the girls have done an excellent job in the first half playing against some very tough opposition, congratulations to all those who played, well done.

Report by Naomi Duthie

LADIES COUNTY TEAM SUCCESS!

We did really well and qualified for the finals. Jenna Gates was injured so we were a weakened team. We beat Kent and Nottinghamshire on the Saturday and lost to a very strong Essex team on the Sunday 5-0, we did only have 4 players though.

We beat Nottinghamshire 4-1. Kent was a tough one and we just won 3-2 thanks to great performances from Hannah Wright-Davies, Rachel Willmott and especially Kelly Eastment who won 3/2 from 2/1 down! Fab!!

We are now looking forward to the finals in March.

Report by Suzie Pierrepoint

MENS INTER-COUNTY DISAPPOINTMENT DUE TO INJURY!

We went into the weekend with high hopes of reaching the finals again but with the withdrawal of Tom Pashley due to a back injury it was going to be tougher. Then as we started the weekend 2 more of our players were hit with back injuries. (myself and Olly). So in the end we were cannon fodder as Olly and I did not have much chance of winning. On Saturday afternoon we lost to Herts 3-2, with Brandon winning 3-0 vs Keith Timms and myself winning 9-7 in the 5th vs Adam Fuller, Pete Genever lost to an on form Chris Ryder and Ben Hutton lost 10-8 in the 4th vs Mark Woolhead. Had one of these won we would have had a chance but alas, it was not to be and we go into relegation weekend

Report by Tim Vail

SENIOR COUNTY CLOSED

19 - 20 JANUARY 2007

DETAILS SHOULD BE Available ON THE SUSSEX

SQUASH WEBSITE SOON - www.sussexsquash.org.uk

SUSSEX AND CHARTERED STATUS

We would like to encourage all clubs to achieve chartered status (bronze, silver or gold). This is based on a health check by England Squash and indicates recognition of standards of facilities, services and organisation.

There are currently only 7 chartered clubs in Sussex and we would like to raise that significantly. There are several clubs who probably already do enough to get Bronze accreditation and a number of others who are very close and would not need to do much more. One of the elements needed is arrangements for delivering Minisquash in cooperation with local schools.

The benefits include:

- A good promotional point for individual clubs
- Enhanced support from ES - planning coaching schemes and holiday clubs
- Support in linking with local schools
- Hosting Silver level events and
- Training teachers from local primary schools to link to chartered clubs to deliver Minisquash
- Priority support from County Sport Partnerships - funding for coach and club development, and publicity
- Other examples in particular cases e.g. securing funding Awards for all for initiatives such as community squash programmes and leaders awards for teenagers

All of this is aimed at promoting clubs as key sporting facilities in their local area, and boosting membership.

The process of becoming chartered is relatively painless and you will receive a lot of help from England Squash - I have just been through this with a club in Kent with our ES Area Manager Justyn Price who comments below.

If you want to know more contact me on TongeofTonbridge@aol.com or Justyn on justyn.price@englandsquash.com

Report by Mike Tonge

IS YOUR CLUB CHARTERED?

BECOMING A CHARTERED CLUB

Charter Club is an award given by England Squash to show that a club is maintaining good practice in coaching, child protection and competition for all, exemplified by clubs having qualified, fully insured coaches, adopting England Squash child protection procedures and providing progressive coaching opportunities for players of all levels.

Charter Club is available at bronze, silver, gold and eventually performance level clubs. The Charter Club is part of the nationwide 'Club Mark' scheme run by Sport England whose aim is to uphold standards of all sports clubs across the country. Clubs who achieve bronze from now onwards will also be awarded Club Mark.

Achieving Charter Club status can help attract new members, raise the profile of your club, and provide a safe and enjoyable coaching environment for juniors. Charter Clubs will be given priority support from the Area Team, and will be eligible for additional funding and training opportunities which arise.

If your club is interested in joining the Charter Club Programme please contact your new Area Squash Manager, Justyn Price who will support you in this work, Justyn.price@englandsquash.com

Report by Justyn Price— England Squash South East Manager

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LEVEL 1 COACH?

As part of a scheme called "On Track" Justyn Price (England Squash Area Manager) has accessed funding from the European Social Fund to pay for a Level 1 UKCC Squash Coaching Course for up to 12 candidates, but this is only available to members of chartered clubs, or clubs working towards Chartered status. Another good reason to become chartered! Currently these clubs are Chichester, Horsham, West Worthing, Crowborough, LA Fitness Gatwick, Southdown Sports Club, Bognor Regis and Middleton.

The course will run on the following 3 dates at the University of Sussex:

- Admin Day: Saturday 19 January, 10-12:30 admin 12:30-14:30 squash play,
- U.K.C.C. in Squash, day 1: Saturday 2 February 9.00-17:00
- U.K.C.C. in Squash, day 2: Saturday 8 March 9.00-17:00.

Candidates pay up front but will be refunded in full by England Squash on completion of the course.

Candidates will need to demonstrate that they will have the opportunities within their club to utilise this qualification, and that a coach from the club is available to support/mentor them.

To book a place on this course email Justyn Price on Justyn.price@englandsquash.com within their club to utilise. In addition Justyn has managed to access further funds to pay for Child Protection Courses and Criminal Records Bureau Forms so that all coaches will become licensed.

WANTED: New County Treasurer to take over from John Parr.

It is important that the Association finds someone willing to take over.

Will anyone interested, please contact Simon Tunley – our County Secretary – on:

Tel: 01273-877230/678228

Fax: 01273-877124

Email: s.f.tunley@sussex.ac.uk

If more details are required of what the position involves, please contact John Parr on:

Tel:/Fax:: 01323 416796 Email: john.parr@sussexsquash.org.uk

SUSSEX SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION:-

SIMON TUNLEY COUNTY SECRETARY

Tel: 01273 877230/678228 Email: s.f.tunley@sussex.ac.uk

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

FIONA WESTERN Tel: 01342 315860/07798 674447

fjwestern@western-bp.co.uk

ENQUIRES RELATING TO COUNTY COACHING

TIM VAIL – ENGLAND SQUASH LEVEL 4 COACH

COUNTY SQUADS - BOYS U15/17/19

Tel: 07939 005959 Email: tim.vail@sky.com

GRAHAM STEVENSON—LEVEL 4 COACH

COUNTY SQUADS BOYS U11/13

Tel: 01798-831428 Email: grahamstevenson@onetel.com

NAOMI DUTHIE—ENGLAND SQUASH LEVEL 3 COACH

COUNTY SQUADS—GIRLS U11/13/15/17/19

Tel: 07775 811585 Email: naomi.duthie@gmail.com

