

SUSSEX BOYS CONQUER FRANCE

Last weekend the U.13 Sussex boys team , along with team mates from the U.15 and U.11 squads travelled across the pond to take on some of the finest young players from the Pays de la Loire Region in Western France .

1. Dan Berkley (West Worthing) **U.15**
2. Curtis Malik (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
3. Peter Berkley (Captain) (West Worthing)
4. Jack Martell (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
5. Jacob Flack(L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
6. Will Johnson (Bluecoat Sports)
7. Peter Romo (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
- 8.Oscar Flack (L.A.Fitness Copthorne) **U.11**
- 9.Perry Malik (L.A.Fitness Copthorne) **U.11**



The boys played at The Yonnais Squash club in Roche sur Yon, which has one of the biggest Junior Academies in the whole of France.The coach , Nicolas Barbeau, along with his own players, drafted in the best players of the same ages from the surrounding regions to come and play against our boys in a match of which turned out to be of a very,very high standard.

After arriving on the Friday afternoon the boys drilled with the local lads in readiness for the matches to follow the next day. Looking a tad jaded from the long journey they drilled for some 3 hours with the French who looked very fit , sharp and determined. It was going to be a tough Saturday !!

Après Petit Dejeuner , the match started at 10.30. With the hosts having 11 players , Oscar and Perry would play two matches each. Playing against their opposing numbers Perry , Peter Romo and Oscar got us started. The two U.11's played some very fine squash but were both to be outgunned by their bigger , stronger opponents by 3 games to 0 , however , Peter Romo played some sterling stuff to win 3-1. Next on court was Will , Jacob and Curtis. Will used all his usual cunning shot play to win a convincing 3-0 while Curtis , playing a lad 3 years his senior, went down 3-0 to a very strong No. 2. Poised at 2-2 Jacob showed some good old British spirit to forge a 3-2 victory and level the match at 3 ties each..... Jack was next on court with the return of

Perry and Oscar. This time Oscar made little mistake and ran out a 3-0 winner while Perry, playing with much grit and determination narrowly lost a gripping game 3-2. Jack, on the back of some fine recent form, kept up his pace and turned out a comfortable 3-0 winner. Sussex 5 - France 4. Two matches left and on court comes Dan and brother Pete. Can the Berkleys win it for us ?? Pete, although playing some tight squash, went down 3-1 while brother Dan's match was poised at 2-2 on the adjacent court ????

THATS IT , IT'S ALL OVER NOW !!!! Sussex England 6 - France 5. A fine win from Dan at no.1 seals the match for the visitors.

A total of 4 full matches were played throughout the day with the boys swapping places to play either up or down the order.. Match one, as you know was 6-5 to Sussex..... Match Two 7-3 to Sussex..... Match Three.. 7-5 to Sussex and match Four...7-3 to Sussex-----

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A fantastic performance by all of the Sussex players in all the matches ensures a deserved victory. All the matches, with a total of 157 games played, were contested in sporting manner and matches were marked by one player from each team with our boys practicing their best French.

We were provided with great hospitality and friendship all weekend by the clubs members and a return match is on the cards for next year. A fantastic voyage for the boys and one Sussex County can be proud of...



Vive la England.