

[Sussex & Gloucestershire take UK U11 Inter County titles](#)

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The Under 11s were welcomed into the **Inter County** fold with a fantastic inaugural event at Manchester's **National Squash Centre** on Saturday 22 June. Twelve boys' and six girls' county teams competed in an action packed day that saw **Sussex** claim the girl's title and **Gloucestershire** underlined their status as one of the top junior counties in the country by winning the boys' event.



Just three weeks since being crowned the English Under 11 Champion **Torrie Malik** lead the **Sussex** attack and backed up by **Florrie Edwards & Laura Page** quite simply swept the opposition away without dropping a game in all five rounds. However they had to wait until the very end of the day to celebrate as going into the final round **Middlesex** had matched them with 4 wins to their name. The final match between the pair became the decider and although **Middlesex's Tara Hayes, Sophie Wood** and **Abbie Wilkinson** put up a great fight they couldn't match the class of **Sussex** who became the first county to win an Under 11 title.

Buckinghamshire took third place after defeating **Northumbria** in another final round decider while **Worcestershire** took fifth spot ahead of **Bedfordshire** who must be congratulating on entering a team and resurrecting their junior Inter County participation.



The boys' event was run in two groups with **Gloucestershire** and **Middlesex** taking top spots with five wins out of five apiece. The final was again well contested with **Jack Jamieson** giving **Gloucestershire** an early lead with victory

over **Ewan Luke**. This was quickly backed up with a great performance from No1 string **Jack Bloomfield** who defeated **Ben Harrison** and a 3-0 victory for **Gloucestershire** was then completed by **Jamie Carmichael** who saw off **Middlesex's Matthew Wood**.



Third place went to **Lancashire** who enjoyed playing in their own backyard as they ensured **Buckinghamshire** finished fourth. **Sussex** sneaked past **Northumbria** in the 5/6 play-off while the lower placing were completed by **Hampshire, Durham & Cleveland, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Merseyside & Derbyshire**.



The weekend was the first opportunity for most players to compete for their county on a national stage and everyone involved approached the weekend full of enthusiasm, competitiveness and most importantly respect. The squash was played in a great spirit and everyone who took part was a credit to both their counties and the sport – and on this evidence the Inter County Championships and indeed squash has a bright future.

Hopefully the overwhelming success of this first event will see the Under 11s develop further with more counties competing in future years.

Finishing Positions

Girls' U11 Inter County Festive

Champions: Sussex
Runners Up: Buckinghamshire
3rd Place: Middlesex
4th Place: Northumbria
5th Place: Worcestershire
6th Place: Bedfordshire

Boys' U11 Inter County Festival

Champions: Gloucestershire
Runners Up: Middlesex
3rd Place: Lancashire
4th Place: Buckinghamshire
5th Place: Sussex

- 6th Place: Northumbria
- 7th Place: Hampshire
- 8th Place: Durham & Cleveland
- 9th Place: Worcestershire
- 10th Place: Warwickshire
- 11th Place: Merseyside
- 12th Place: Derbyshire

