

Ongoing Success for Sussex Under-11's

Fresh from their success in the recent England Squash U-11 National Event, Sussex Teams maintained their domination of this formative age-group, by securing 1st and 3rd place in the annual **G.S. Squash U-11 Inter-County Festival**, once again staged at the Bluecoats Centre, and Graham Stevenson welcomed teams from Dorset, Kent, Middlesex and Oxfordshire.

The format was a simple 'round-robin' affair, so every team played five 'best of three' matches. The Sussex "A" Team of Jonah Bryant, Tom Greengrass (Captain), Bailey Malik, Sumner Malik, Jake Sim-Baskar, with Zack Greengrass as No.6 were simply too strong for the opposition, as they had been nationally, and won all five matches, conceding only one game in the process. The 'B' Team of Heston Malik, Charlie Williams (Captain), Xiang Cheung, Calum Porter, and Thomas Welch, with Sam Sypher as No.6, were understandably no match for the 'A' Team, but came within a few points of defeating Kent, before losing 3/2, and having to settle for third spot, having beaten Dorset, Oxfordshire and Middlesex most convincingly. In addition, Joshua Brown played well 'on-loan to Middlesex, who were a player short. The Teams were managed by Rob Greengrass and Torrie Malik, who was following her impressive performance for England U-13's in last weekend's 5 Nations Event, with a rather different off-court role this time.

It was a busy day's Squash for these players of the future, providing fun and valuable experience of county match-play. Every player received a medal at the Presentation, as a memento of their day's efforts, and Sussex's Jonah Bryant was awarded the 'Best Performance' Award for his inspiring performance throughout the season, as County Number 1, and unofficially the best Under 11 in the Country. Graham thanked Issy Boyle for her customarily wonderful performance in helping him run the day, and as the dust settles on another Festival, and we consider next year, it will see the end of an era, as for the first time in nine years, there will not be a 'Malik presence' in a Sussex U-11 Team, as even The Triplets will be too old next time!

All the detailed results accompany this report.

Graham Stevenson