

G.S. Squash

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Sussex U-13 Boys book place in Inter-County Finals

The Sussex U-13 Boys produced a fine Team Effort to completely dominate Stage 2 of the National Inter-County Championships, and have thus earned a place in the National Finals.

The Day was hosted by Surrey, at the Wimbledon Lakeside Squash Club (in the shadow of the new Centre Court at the All England Tennis Club), and involved Essex, Hertfordshire, and Surrey, all vying for the prize of a place in the last four of this years Championships. Having finished second in the Group in Stage 1, after losing very narrowly to Surrey on that occasion, Sussex were quietly confident that they could reverse that result, and hopefully progress. The Team was unchanged:

1. Curtis Malik (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
2. Peter Berkley (Captain) (West Worthing)
3. Jacob Flack (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
4. Jack Martell (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)
5. Will Johnson (Bluecoat Sports)
6. Peter Romo (L.A. Fitness Copthorne)

Sussex got off to a great start by beating a competent Hertfordshire side 5/0, with particular credit going to Curtis Malik, who prevailed over an opponent ranked 7 in England. This was followed up by a comfortable victory over a very young Essex team, again by a 5/0 margin, where Peter Romo played Number 5, to give Jack Martell a rest, and so the scene was set for the predicted showdown with Surrey.

When Jacob Flack played impressively, under considerable pressure, to win the 3rd string match, Sussex were off to a wonderful start; this was swiftly followed by victory for Will Johnson at fifth string, and a magnificent win for Curtis Malik, who enjoyed his very best attacking form just when it mattered, against the highly ranked and very talented Charlie Lee. And so the Match was won, the place in the Finals secured, but it got even better, as both Jack Martell and Peter Berkley also hit peak form to make it 5/0!

RESULTS: Sussex beat Hertfordshire 5/0
 Sussex beat Essex 5/0
 Sussex beat Surrey 5/0
 Surrey beat Hertfordshire 4/1
 Surrey beat Essex 5/0
 Hertfordshire beat Essex 5/0

Positions: 1st Sussex
 2nd Surrey
 3rd Hertfordshire
 4th Essex

This was such an impressive display, with every player unbeaten on the day, that attention inevitably turned to possible Finals opponents, and the exciting challenge of trying to improve upon the Sussex U-13's of three years ago, who led by Cameron Western, finished third. Might we have a chance of winning it?!

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