

Successful Stage 1 Weekend for Sussex Junior Teams

The Sussex Junior Teams enjoyed a large measure of success at the weekend, in Stage 1 of the E.S.R. Inter-County Championships.

The **Under-13 Girls** won their strong Group, beating Kent, Surrey and Middlesex, as Sussex hosted the day at the Bluecoats Centre. The Team was: Torrie Malik, Florrie Edwards (Captain), and Laura Page, with Katalin Johns, Emily Winton and Ella Welsh all playing for experience as reserves, all managed beautifully by Zoe Shardlow.

The **Under-13 Boys** enjoyed similar success, beating Berkshire and Hertfordshire convincingly, before losing very narrowly to Surrey's 2nd Team, to finish as Runners-up, and thus progress to the top Group in Stage 2, when No.2 Jamie Young, injured on this occasion, should be available again, and a very young, rather inexperienced Team, should have begun to mature. Frankie Smith and Joss Sim-Baskar deserve particular mention for being unbeaten at first and second string respectively. The U-13's are pictured below at the Thames Valley Athletic Centre, where Berkshire hosted the day: Frankie Smith (Captain), Joss Sim-Baskar, Ashley Hughes, Elliot Cross, Zach Hodges, and Kai Cheung.

The **Under-17 Girls**, last year's U-15's, who finished as National Runners-up, were unfortunately without their normally rock-solid No.5, Brooke Benwell, for the trip to Avon, and although they beat the hosts comfortably, they lost 4/1 to a strong Warwickshire side, who went on to win the Group, and then went down very narrowly 3/2 against Surrey, so now they have to aim at winning the Trophy Final. Captain, Jazz Hutton deserves special mention for remaining unbeaten at No.1. The Team was: Jazz Hutton, Beth Currid, Megan North, Alice Rose, Hermione Vartan.

Graham Stevenson