

Report:

England Squash & Racketball Under-11 Inter-County Festival 2015

GREAT FUN AND SUCCESS FOR SUSSEX UNDER-11 TEAMS

Sussex were well represented in the second **Annual E.S.R. Under-11 Inter-County Festival**, having three **Boys' Teams** in the event held at **Nottingham Squash Club**, whilst the **Girls' team** were competing at **Grantham**. It was a long trip for everyone, and a demanding day's play, but there was unanimous appreciation of just how valuable and enjoyable the experience proved to be.

And, there was great success in terms of results – The **Girls' Team**, comprising **Katalin Johns, Ella Welch, and Emily Winton**, so ably looked after by **Zoe Shardlow**, in a role she has made her own, thrived on the considerable challenge presented, to finish in a very creditable **7th place**, and clearly had a great day. With so many Under-11's currently in the 'Feeder' Squad, we were able to field **three Boys' Teams**, and all performed admirably. The **1st Team** of **Ashley Hughes, Jonah Bryant, Arthur Logan**, and **Zach Hodges** comfortably won their league, beating Leicestershire, Buckinghamshire 2, and Cornwall, and followed-up with wins over Gloucestershire, and familiar rivals Kent, to reach the Final against Yorkshire. Arthur Logan got us off to a brilliant start, with a 2/0 victory at third string, and Ashley Hughes so nearly secured the title in his first string match, but ultimately just missed out with a couple of untimely errors, so we had to settle for **Runners-up**, but all will be more complete players for the experience. Meanwhile, the **2nd Team** of **Tom Greengrass, Jake Sim-Baskar**, and **Charlie Williams**, well marshalled throughout by **Rob Greengrass**, battled through determinedly, to finish in an impressive **9th place**, whilst the **3rd Team** made 'Squash history', being entirely from one family! In a competition based on teams of three players, we just had to play the **Malik triplets, Heston, Bailey and Sumner**, as a team, and let older brothers **Curtis and Perry** look after them! And what a success that they managed to finish in 11th position, out of over twenty teams.

Graham Stevenson was thrilled with the way that all the players competed and behaved, being a credit to Sussex, and to our 'Dotsquares' sponsor at all times. The day was very long, and the schedule did get rather behind, but E.S.R. are to be congratulated on providing such a wonderful fun event for the stars of the future! Thanks, too, to all the Parents, who travelled so far, and supported so well, but who I hope were rewarded by some great performances.

Graham Stevenson 21.04.15

