

# Sussex Junior 4\* Report

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In 2010 Sussex County Table Tennis Association perceived that there was a lack of top quality events in the South East of England and decided to embark on presenting a Junior/cadet 4 star tournament.

Finally the tournament arrived with fantastic support from 262 entries. A huge thank you to the sponsors of the tournament: Tees Sports, Ray Hole Architects, Griffin Technology & Security and Heritage oil who underwrote the tournament so that Sussex CTTA could confidently take on such a challenging undertaking. Also Sussex CTTA would like to publicly thank all the volunteers for their hard work in delivering the tournament.



Ray Hole (MD Ray Hole Architects), Tom Jarvis & Charlotte Bain  
(MD Griffin Security & Technology)

The tournament kicked off on the Saturday with the Cadet boys Band 1 singles which ended up with an all Middlesex final between Zachery Bull and Gabriel Achampong which resulted in a victory for Gabriel 6-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-6.

In the U-13 Girls open singles Denise Payet from Middlesex upset the seeding by beating the number 1 seed Jane Li 3-0 in the semi-final and then beating her close rival Kate Cheer the number 2 seed from Sussex 3-1.

The tournament committee also broke new ground by introducing Band 2 events for players with less than 130 ranking points which was a resounding success. In the u-13 final Joe Franklin beat Che Marshall 3-1 in an all Middlesex final. The u-15 band 2 event was won by Kareem Bandango and second place was Zihad Wardell both from Middlesex. The U-18 band 2 event was played as round robin of 8 players with Joseph Miller in 1<sup>st</sup> and again Zihad Wardell finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The under 13 boys saw an early upset in the 1<sup>st</sup> round with a great victory for Josh Bennett from Sussex over Matthew Leete from Lincolnshire however Josh succumbed to Luke Savill in the semi-final. The final went to seeding with Tom Jarvis (no 1 seed) victorious over Luke Savill (no 2 seed) .

In the u-15 girls band 1 event Zahana Hall overcame number 1 seed Holly Holder in the group stage with a nail biting close 5 set match. Zahana then went on to the final but was defeated by the number 2 seed Hiba Feredj in 3 straight sets.

The number 1 seed from Sussex Helshan Weerasinghe who was the clear favourite for the event U-15 boys open won 3-1 in the final against Jack Bennett , also from Sussex after beating Danny Lawrence 3-1 in the semi-final. Jack Bennett having beaten the number 2 seed Tyrone Wells in the other semi-final. The girls u-15 open event was won by Maria Tsaptsinos against Lois Peake 11-6, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9.

Sunday morning started with the Junior Girls which was wide open due to the withdrawal of number 1 seed Yolanda King with a virus . Megan Knowles had a very tough Quarter-final encounter with recent arrival from Hong Kong, Yuki Wat of Sussex which finished 11-9,9-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9 to Megan. However, she ran out clear victor with straight sets victories in the semi-final against Maria Tsaptsinos and in the final against Emma Torkington.

The junior Boys event had a massive entry of 98 competitors and had some notable victories for Danny Lawrence against Sam Mabey and Liam Mctiernan against Jared Patel. Reece Placid looked destined to have a massive upset when he went 2-0 up against favourite Lewis Gray but Lewis's experience took its toll and Lewis came out victor in 5 sets with the scores 9-11,9-11,11-9,11-6, 11-8. Lewis went on to the win the final against 14 year old Helshan Weerasinghe 8-11,11-6. 11-5, 11-5.

The afternoon session started with the Junior boys band 1 which saw all 4 top seeds reach the semi-final: Michael Fraser, Dominic Sussex, Ashley Facey-Thompson and Jack Bennett . However number 1 seed Michael Fraser was defeated by Ashley who then went on to lose in the final to Dominic Sussex.

The Girls under 18 band 1 event went in favour of the number 1 seed from Sussex – Yuki Wat who won 3-0 against Jane Li from Essex.

Hope you all come back next year when the tournament will be played at the bigger venue at K2 Crawley.



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