

# Junior Squash AGM Report 2011

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## Overview

As the outgoing Junior Organiser I will open my report by extending my thanks to all the coaches & parents that have supported Junior Squash in Hampshire over the last 4 years. I pass the Junior Organiser title over safe in the knowledge that we have a committee and infrastructure that will support Junior Squash going-forward.

In summary of the last season I would say that we have seen two extremes, on one hand the brilliant performance of the U-15 & U-13 Boys which provides a valuable foundation for Boy's squash over the next 4 years, and to the lesser degree we have struggled with Girl's squash in particular the younger age groups.

A big thanks to Ronnie Bull who agreed to Junior the junior leagues again and it was great to see Chichester joining the divisions to add some breadth to our matches.

## Junior Open Day 5<sup>th</sup> September

We opened the start of the season by hosting an 'open day' at Winchester for County Junior players, and feeder junior players. We managed to attract some 58 players in total, with the current County players attending the morning session, and the feeder players attending the afternoon which generally worked well. We enlisted the help of Jesse Engelbrecht for the day, and at lunchtime we had an exhibition match between Jesse and Alex Phillip which certainly entertained the Crowd.

## Hampshire Junior Closed Tournament 25/26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010 Results

We attracted some 86 junior players this year to the Hampshire Closed which was held in Winchester and as in previous years was run by Monica and Ronnie with great organisation & professionalism. Shane Pletts of the Racquet Centre very kindly sponsored the event by providing t-shirts for which we were most grateful. Results were;

Category	Winner	Runner-up	Third place	Plate winner
Mini squash under 9	Joe Sutton-Welch	Benedict Brandon	Olivia Besant	
Mixed under 11	Jared Carter	Jack Turvey	Matthew Deadman	
Girls under 13	Jordan Russell	Bethany Holford		Tyler Russell
Boys under 13	Cameron Ward	Kyle Finch	Niall Adams	
Girls under 15	Katherine Jensen	Alisha Bhanot		
Boys under 15	Tom Kirby	Jack Payne	Tim Smith	
Girls under 17	Emily Hume	Lydia Hume		
Boys under 17	Alex Finch	Cameron Kavanagh		Janick Radford
Girls under 19	Catherine Finlayson	Issey Norman-Ross		
Boys under 19	Michael Burn	Tim Leutchford	Chris Leutchford	
Most improved player	Jez Carter			

## Inter County Matches

We agreed at the start of the season that we would hold 8 squad training sessions as opposed to 5, and that there would be an expectation that junior players must attend 50% of the sessions in order to be selected to play for the County. This in principle was a good initiative however we did find that adhering to these principles has proven difficult throughout the year.

The following changes were made to the coaches' responsibilities at the start of the season to reflect the best needs of the juniors.

<b>Girls U13/U11</b>	Simon Walker
<b>Boys U15</b>	Ed Pooley
<b>Girls U15</b>	Simon Walker
<b>Boys U19/ U17</b>	Alex Phillips
<b>Boys U13/U11</b>	Gary Hinton
<b>Girls U19/U17</b>	Kirby Sinclair

Without wishing to dwell on the areas where we have not performed as well as we might I have elected to focus on the two outstanding results of this season.

### **Hampshire U - 13 Boys County Squad Coach: Gary Hinton**

### **HAMPSHIRE UNDER 13's NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!!!!!!!!**

March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 – This is the date that will go down in history as the date that a Hampshire junior team won the National inter-county championships.... Our squad for the weekend was Robbie Keefe (Eng No 2), Nial Adams (Eng No 7), Kyle Finch (Eng No 9), Cameron Ward, (Eng No 11), , Tom Stewart (Eng No 22), Adam Cocoran (Eng No 93).

### **Semi finals.**

Being the number 1 seeds confidence was high.....First up - Yorkshire who have historically been the powerhouse of squash and many times champions of this event. Our team had 4 highly ranked national players (a sign that the balance of power is changing to the south...) It was a slightly nervous start with the pressure fully on us. The Yorkshire team as expected took no prisoners and performed well above their England rankings....With some great squash from both teams and LOUD supporting **Robbie Keefe**, **Cameron Ward** and **Niall Adams** all won for Hampshire, to take us through to the final with a 3-2 win.

The other semi final saw Surrey ease through 5-0 against Durham

### **Final - Hants v Surrey**

The 2 neighbouring counties served up a feast of squash, to a packed gallery. Hampshire stormed to a 2-0 lead with wins at 5th and 4th strings for **Niall Adams** and **Adam Corcoran** against **Jordan Warne** and **Alistair Green**. **Aiden O'Brien** then pulled a match back for Surrey as he beat **Kyle Finch** 3-1 and at the same time on the adjoining court Robbie Keefe went 2-0 down to Surrey's Charlie Lee. However, galvanised by the Hampshire supporters and his team mates, Robbie pulled back to 2-2 by winning the 3rd and 4th 11/6 11/6. The 5th was very tight, but Lee kept Surrey's hopes alive winning it 11/8. **Cameron Ward** however made the match secure, beating **Sam Exelby** 3-0 11/8 11/6 11/9. Hampshire were County Champions 3-2.

It was a great match with some heroic performances....What was most impressive was the ability all the players to fully support each other and gel as a team...and then when it was time to play their match totally focus on what they were doing on the court.....Many thanks go out to the parents for their support and making the competition a huge success.

Now the Championship winning side move on to the under 15 age group next season and will be gunning for another title. The Under 13 team looks to the next generation and its looking good.....currently in the England under 11's national rankings Hampshire have players ranked at number 2 and number 3 in **Jared Carter** and **Jack Turvey** – who is going to join them so we can win another National Title.....?

### **Hampshire U - 15 Boys County Squad – Season report by Coach Edd Pooley**

2010/11 has been a memorable year for the under 15's squad. Expectations were high with the expectant return of Jamie Wilkinson following a significant playoff. Although not available in stage 1 the team performed outstandingly dispatching Dorset, Sussex and Kent with relative ease.

Stage 2 was a significantly more challenging event with Gloucestershire being deemed the top seed. Following a close match the team overcome all opposition by making their way to the finals weekend at Lilleshall

Preparation for the finals went well with a team training session the previous week followed by a television appearance on BBC South Today. The team appeared natural in front of the camera with local squash finally getting the TV exposure it deserved.

### **Finals Weekend**

#### **SEMI B – YORKSHIRE V HAMPSHIRE**

Yorkshire beat Hampshire 4-1. Tim Smith the only winner for Hampshire

A good performance with the team so close to upsetting the seeding when 2 strings went to five sets against Yorkshire.

#### **3<sup>RD</sup> 4<sup>TH</sup> PLAY OFFS - WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE**

The 3rd place playoff against Warwickshire went well with a 4 – 1 victory to take a very respectable 3rd place. Harley Flood was the only winner for Warwickshire with wins for Tom Kirby, Jack Payne, Robbie Keefe and Tim Smith

Hampshire 4 Counties Report - Team Manager: Richard Atkinson

Every year around April time there is the 4 Counties Tournament which offers Junior Players (U-13/U-11) in and around the Thames Valley the opportunity to play Team squash for their County in a friendly environment. In previous years Gary Hales has driven these events through Hampshire, and this year Gary Hinton & Simon Walker put forward a team to represent Hampshire. The event was organised by Andy Longman & Peter Hopkins, and was held at L.A. Fitness in Slough. Richard Atkinson very kindly organised the Teams 'on site', and motivated them all to a great win for the second year in succession. The results were;

U13	1. Hants	2. Bucks	3. Berks	4. Oxon
U11	1. Hants	2. Bucks	3. Oxon	4. Berks–

In closing I look forward to seeing Hampshire Junior Squash grow and develop over the coming months, and I wish Julie Keefe every success in her new role.

Simon Walker  
Hampshire Junior Squash Organiser