



SUSSEX SUCCESS AT THE NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS



A fantastic performance by Sussex players at the **British U-13 Championships**, played in Manchester at the weekend, resulted in a National Champion, together with two Third Places, and a Sixth!

Curtis Malik duly won the **U-13 National Title** that his number one ranking and seeding made him favourite for, but he had to fight hard, coming from 2/1 down in games, and 7/2 behind in the fourth game, before prevailing over Hampshire's Kyle Finch in the final - he deserves great credit for coping so well with that considerable weight of expectation, and will surely be an even stronger player as a result. However, he so nearly had to play his Sussex

team-mate, **Josh Attwell**, in that final, with Josh having been 2/0 up in his semi-final with Kyle, and only losing the third game 15/13 on a tie-break! Josh eventually finished third, and **Tom Walsh** a very creditable sixth, after meeting Kyle Finch in the quarter-finals, both players having made tremendous progress over the last year.

In the **U-13 Girls'** event, **Jaz Hutton** also finished in **third place**, the title going to Essex's Elise Lazarus, who prevailed without dropping a game, but at least Jaz had the consolation of taking the most points off Elise - 17 in their semi-final - and also recorded a first win over her old nemesis, Egyptian Rawan El Kanaawy, now playing for Surrey.

This wonderful success should be an inspiration for all other Sussex Juniors, who should realise that anything is possible, IF they are **ambitious**, get on-court enough to **practice** (Curtis, Jaz, Josh and Tom play nearly every day), and gain the experience which comes only with entering plenty of **tournaments!**

Graham Stevenson