

## **UNDER 17 AND UNDER 13 INTER COUNTY FINALS – LILLESBALL 27 and 28 MARCH 2010.**

16 teams from 10 counties converged on the magnificent National Sports Centre at Lilleshall for the boys and girls under 17 and under 13 Inter County finals.

### **Saturday – SEMI FINALS**

#### **Boys Under 17**

Holders Gloucestershire got the weekend underway with their semi final against Hertfordshire. A tight opening saw the match level at one all with Gloucestershire's Will Hewer winning at 5<sup>th</sup> string and Hertfordshire's Harry Faulkner at 4<sup>th</sup> string. Gloucestershire's strength at the top of the order proved decisive though, with Tom Ford, Scott Young and James Watkins winning 3-0 against Jack Fowler, Lee Rossiter and Luke Stewart.

In the second semi tough opening matches at 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> strings saw Yorkshire's Ross MacDonald and Tom Pughe squeeze past James Thompson and Greg Evans representing South East Wales both matches finishing 3-2. This set up Yorkshire for a 5-0 victory, with wins at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> strings for George Wileman, Taminder Gata Aura, and Chris Emmerson

#### **Girls Under 17**

Yorkshire and South East Wales were again both represented in the Girls U7 category, and played each other in the first semi. This was always going to be a tight match with the holders South East Wales determined to retain their title. The match was poised at 2-2 following wins by Katie Bradbury and Sarah Clode at 1 and 3 strings for SEW and Yorkshire's Charlotte Kirkwood and Emily Peach at 2 and 5. The decider between Hannah Shipley (Y) and Sasha Cox (SEW) went to the wire; close games saw the match swing one way then the other – 2 games all. The 5<sup>th</sup> was just as close and at 10 all the winner was anyone's guess. It turned out to be Hannah, triumph for Yorkshire and despair for South East Wales.

The second semi was another close affair, this time decided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> strings. Wins for Samantha Ward and Emma Hayley at 1 and 5 for Northumbria were matched at 3 and 4 by Hannah Measures and Alison Thompson for Surrey. Lucy Beecroft took Northumbria through with a 3-0 win over Lucy Beecroft.

#### **Boys Under 13**

Bottom order wins by Alex Lane and Alex Schranz gave Sussex hope in the first semi, but Gloucestershire were too strong at the top with Louis Penkett, Ewan Howard and Ryan Wilson winning at 1, 2 and 3.

Holders Yorkshire impressed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semi with a 5-0 win over a depleted North Wales team, who were further weakened by the retirement through injury to 5<sup>th</sup> string Sion Jones. James Peach, Toby Pratt Daniel Bray and Yousef Forster all recording 3-0 wins

#### **Girls Under 13**

Teams comprise 3 players in this category, so there is little room for error. The first semi saw North Wales take on Gloucestershire. Glos got the all important first win with Amber Peacey beating Madison Khan in 5 games at 3<sup>rd</sup> string, but North Wales kept their composure and went through to the final with 3-0 wins by Elin Harlow and Lowri Roberts over Elin Jones and Florie Smith

An inexperienced Warwickshire side found Kent, who boast the 1 and 3 nationally ranked players, too strong, despite going ahead through Fay Deakin versus Holly Mackenzie at 3<sup>rd</sup> string. Georgina Kennedy and Amelia Henley saw Kent home with 3-0 wins over Libby Corke and Paige Kay at the top of the order

### **Sunday – PLAY OFFS**

#### **Boys Under 17**

Hertfordshire proved too strong for South East Wales and took 3<sup>rd</sup> spot with a 4-1 victory, although both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> string matches were close with Hertfordshire's Lee Rossiter and Luke Stewart winning in 5 against Jacob Minnett and Joel Makin. Harry Faulkner and Joe Green also won for Herts, with James Thompson recording the only SEW win at 4<sup>th</sup> string

## **Girls Under 17**

South East Wales and Surrey had a great battle for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Middle order wins for Fiona Murphy, Sarah Clode and Sasha Cocks proving decisive for South East Wales. Katie Bradbury and Luara Mullarkey won at 1 and 5 for Surrey

## **Boys Under 13**

North Wales only had 4 players after losing Sion Jones to injury on Saturday, but put up a strong fight against Surrey, winning at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> strings. Jacob Flack and Jack Martell won at 3 and 4 for Surrey, so they took 3<sup>rd</sup> place as Will Johnson received the walkover.

## **Girls Under 13**

Warwickshire can feel proud in taking 4<sup>th</sup> with such an inexperienced team, and played well against Gloucestershire despite losing 3-0 following wins for Elin Jones Florie Smith and Amber Peacey

## **Sunday - FINALS**

### **Boys Under 17**

Yorkshire got off to the worst possible start in the final, when 5<sup>th</sup> string Nathan Bedford pulled up after the first game with a hamstring problem versus Will Hewer, and they never recovered, losing to the reigning champions 4-1. Taminder Gata Aura was the only winner for Yorkshire 3-2, as Tom Ford, James Watkins and Wesley Howell powered Gloucestershire to the title, dropping one game between them

### **Girls Under 17**

Emma Hayley at 5<sup>th</sup> string put up stiff resistance in the opener for Northumbria, but lost 3-2 to Yorkshire's Libbi Beecroft. This set the tone for the match with Yorkshire, despite the absence of tonsillitis victim Jade Thompson winning at 1, 3 and 4 through Katie Smith Millie Pughe and Charlotte Kirkwood. Lucy Beecroft was the only winner for Northumbria 3-1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> string.

### **Boys Under 13**

Yorkshire's defence of their title got off to a bad start with Daniel Bray and Stuart McGregor losing to Ryan Wilson and Alex Schranz at 3 and 5. James Peach gave them some hope with a straight game win over Tom Ford, but a tight 5 game between Ewan Howard (G) and Toby Pratt (Y) - the opening game going to 19/17 and a win for Alex Lane gave Gloucestershire the crown.

### **Girls Under 13**

North Wales got the all important first win through Madison Khan 3-0 at 3<sup>rd</sup> string. The result between the no 1 strings looked likely to decide this match and so it proved as Elin Harlow (NW) and Georgina Kennedy (K) served up a treat of a match, Kennedy took the first game 13-11, but Harlow fought back taking the next by the same score and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 11/5. Kennedy was not finished and levelled the match by winning the 4<sup>th</sup> 11-6. At 8-6 up the momentum seemed to be Kent's but Harlow pulled back to 9 all and then took the match 11-9. An unassailable 2-0 lead to North Wales. Ameila Henley played with pride for Kent in the dead rubber beating Lowri Roberts 3-0

**Boys U17**      **1.Gloucestershire** 2.Yorkshire 3.Hertfordshire 4.South East Wales

**Girls U17**      **1.Yorkshire** 2. Northumbria 3. South East Wales 4.Surrey

**Boys U13**      **1.Gloucestershire** 2.Yorkshire. 3. Sussex 4.North Wales

**Girls U13**      **1.North Wales** 2. Kent 3. Gloucestershire 4.Warwickshire

Thanks to all at Lilleshall for making the weekend a resounding success – we will be back!