

KENT JUNIOR FIRST TEAM WIN COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 1B

On 21st March, the Kent County Junior First Team went to Crippenham, meaning business. The team, comprising of Lewis Gray (Weald), Jide Owolabi (London Progress), Ross Wilson (Howard), Andrew Lockwood (Byng Hall), Kirsty Wilson (Howard) and Jasmin Ould (Byng Hall), were eager to play and set off with one goal in mind, to win the division.

The day commenced with Kent being third, with Middlesex and Buckinghamshire above them. The first set of matches was against Avon. The team pulled together, the girls winning all their matches in fine style and the boys winning three of theirs, making an overall victory of 7-3.

Tough opponents were then ahead – Cornwall. Kirsty and Jasmin both had difficult matches against Martha Travis, currently ranked 9 in the Junior girls. Jasmin narrowly lost out to her in the 5th but Kirsty came through and beat her 3-1. Jide carried a knee injury and had great difficulty moving during the matches but somehow managed to beat Matthew Treverrow and Jamie Macdonald. Lewis and Ross won all their matches and we gained an incredible 9-1 win over Cornwall. This put Kent level pegging in the lead position and we needed to win our next two matches.

Buckinghamshire were another tough team to face. The girls won all their matches but Miles Evans and Eddie Mitchell were not going to be easy opponents. Ross had never beaten Eddie but this time stepped up to the mark and beat him three straight. Jide sadly came a bit unstuck against Miles because of his injury but had valiantly insisted on turning out for the team and did his best. Lewis won his matches and again, we had a landslide victory of 9-1.

Kent were now in the position of only losing the division if they lost the last set of matches against Worcestershire.

Lewis Gray started the ball rolling and won his match against Michael Siket. Andrew Lockwood then stepped up to the mark and beat his opponent. He played brilliantly especially as he had been called up to play at short notice and it was his first cap for the Junior first team. The girls once again won all their matches and the final score was an 8-2 win for Kent.

Player's averages have been difficult to calculate as only three players played all fourteen matches. Kirsty Wilson performed outstandingly winning all 14 thereby gaining a 100%. Jasmin Ould also played all fourteen and won twelve getting 86% and Ross played all 14 and won 9 getting 64%. Jide played ten and won 7 giving him an average of 70% overall, Lewis won 7 out of 8 giving him 88%. Andrew Lockwood played 4 matches and won 1 giving him 25%. Harry Lumb played 2 matches and won both giving him 100% and Phil Thomas and James Glass both played 2 and lost two.

Well done to all the players including Phil Thomas, Harry Lumb and James Glass, who played in the previous matches, on helping the Kent first team to get promotion to the premier division. Also, many thanks to Jurate Brazaityte, Ian Gordon and Mark Walsh for attending and coaching.