



Sussex Youth Darts

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Team Manager : Andy Mason, Asst Manager : Mark Davis

On the back of a win away to Berkshire, the youth team were confident of repeating the feat on our own stage at Roffey against Dorset. With the draw made it was Ryan Sullivan (Erith) who had the pleasure of taking to the stage first and set the day perfectly with two eighteen dart legs finishing on 157 and 101 respectively with an average of 27.83. Ryan took man of the match for his outstanding performance that also is the highest average and highest checkout in our division subject to other games played this weekend. Billy Taylor (Eastbourne) continued the day well for Sussex with a 2-0 win taking out 60 for the match, ending with an impressive 22.27. With the day set up well, Connor Durham (Bognor) levelled his game by taking out 54 but in the final leg bust 114 letting Dorset take advantage and the game. A valiant effort from Connor with a 19.82. Joe Osman (Bognor) followed his superleague team mate but failed to take a leg from James Wilcox throwing 16.17, Joe struggling to find the form we all know he is capable of. Connor Levett's (Lancing) game can only be described as a game of two (or in this case three) halves, the first leg was very disappointing but Connor fought on bravely without dropping his head to get down to a double before Dorset took the leg, then Connor decided to play ending the 2nd leg in 20 darts, the deciding leg was steady and both players got down well but Dorset's Sam Mitchell took the winning double leaving Connor with a 16.60 which shows how poor the 1st leg was. Jake Wallis (Eastbourne) was up next and although took out 24 to take a leg couldn't win the decider, and another player that deserved a higher average on the day, ending up with 16.30. Dorset now leading 4-3 and only needing one more game for the win it was down to Ryan Rodford (Brighton) to start saving the day and thankfully Ryan managed to take out tops for the game and winning 2-1 with a 12.53. The in form Tommy Sykes (Crawley) played the penultimate game in the under 18's, winning 2-0 by taking out double 2 for the game but the finishing double affecting his average of 13.92 heavily but a win is a win. The final game was down to Worthing's Phil Miles and with the game levelled at one each Phil taking out a brilliant 118 checkout to win the match for Sussex 5-4 and taking the performance of the day for playing through a very nerve racking and pressure final game.

The ladies saw Emily White (Eastbourne) up first and again the game went to a deciding leg and the dreaded double 1 proved fatal for her average but the win finally came for Emily ending with 8.89. Worthing's Taryn Beaumont failed to find the form that she has had so far this year losing 2-0 with a 9.47. The in form Casey Gallagher (Crayford) proved how valuable she is for Sussex winning her game 2-0 and taking the ladies match, Casey also took the Lady of the match award with a 14.52.

With Sussex now leading 7-5 and only needing 2 of the under 21's to win for another Sussex victory it was down to Captain Adam 'Doc' Hart to lead by example and after an epic battle to level the game at 2-2 Adam took the final leg with a superb double 1 and a 21.46 average. Jordan Langridge continued the good arrows he has been throwing this season, taking the 3rd leg in 16 darts and winning 3-1 also taking the man of the match award on a 23.48. With Sussex now having won the day, it was Joe Davis playing 3rd and needing a win to ensure that all three sections ended with a win. Joe didn't drop a leg winning 3-0 with a 23.12 average. Ant Caswell also managed a 3-0 win throwing a 17.08, taking tops to win the game. Warren Grantham played the last game of the day but failed to complete the whitewash in the under 21's, losing 3-1 on a 18.06. A great day of darts for Sussex winning the day 11-6. The return game against Dorset is only in 3 weeks time on 11th March (not the 6th as I stated in the programme).

We are looking into booking a coach for the Dorset game so if you haven't already please get in touch with Teresa to book your seat. Also deposits have been taken for the Devon trip, again if you haven't already paid your deposit then you need to get in touch with Teresa, it is your responsibility to book it up we do not want to be chasing around at the last minute so if you have not booked then you will not be included.

Thank you to all those involved on the day, especially to Clive Pearce, Teresa Weir, Manager Andy Mason and to all those that volunteered for the top table. It was great to see so many players helping out. Lets continue to help out on the top table for the remainder for the season. We do however need to support the player more, the away game to Berkshire we had great support but this did not happen at Roffey. Please ensure you remain watching and supporting the games once you have played, don't wander into the other bar or practise area. We have a great set up and a great team lets give the players the support you'd expect whilst on stage.

There is a youth open on March 17th at Wick Football Club and it would be great to see you all make the effort to come along. Lets make this a good day for all the youth players, not just county players but is open for friends and family as well, so come along for a great day.

Chris Levett

Sussex Youth Press Officer