

**Cadet Premier Division 25th-26th January 2014:
Surrey's team spirit worked wonders**

Lancashire	5	5	Surrey
Surrey	4	6	Yorkshire
Surrey	6	4	Sussex
Middlesex	3	7	Surrey
Surrey	8	2	Warwickshire
Cleveland	0	10	Surrey
Surrey	7	3	Lincolnshire

Played 7, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 1, For 47, Against 23, Points 11

Had we won one more set against Yorkshire we would have been Premier Division Winners*. However we finished as very respectable runners up to a particularly good and undefeated Yorkshire.

In the opening round, against title-holders Lancashire, Liam Grant (ranked 13) lost in five to James Chappell (ranked 16) and was comfortably beaten by Robert Barker (9). Diogo Freitas (50) started with an excellent 3-1 win over Amirul Hussein (35). Juliette Moussarie (30) lost in 5 to Megan Dillon (15) and beat Hannah Burrows (33). Isabelle Joubeyli (13) won both of hers in 5 games and despatched Megan 11-2 in the 5th. Sasha Gillen (26) lost in 4 to Robert Barker but demolished Amirul 8, 3 & 2.

When Surrey met Yorkshire it was England No 6 cadet Harry Dai who beat both Liam and Diogo in 4 games to give Yorkshire the edge. James Rule (33) beat Diogo 13-11 in the 3rd and lost in 5 to Sasha. Isabelle & Juliette beat Gauri Duhan ranked 12 by almost identical scores in 3 straight games. However neither of them could contain England No 3 Kate Nixon. Leading cadet defender James Hobson (12) beat Sasha 8, -8, 11, 11 but he was thoroughly overpowered by Liam who conceded just 19 points to him.

Saturday finished on a high for Surrey when they defeated Sussex and may have consigned them to the next Division. Sasha opened with a superb 3-game victory over Josh Bennett (10) which proved vital. George Hazell played well to beat Diogo but he lost to Sasha -2, 9, -3, -4. Liam Grant beat Marcus Bracey in 3 while Diogo did it in 5 – but what a battle for a nail-biting finish: 8-11, 13-11, 7-11, 13-11, 11-1! The girls' games were somewhat more predictable with England No 2 Kate Cheer winning for Sussex and Alice Hazell not really able to keep up with the Surrey girls on the day.

And so to Sunday playing away to Middlesex 1st match. We anticipated that England No 1 Denise Payet should win her two but every other set was up for grabs. Middlesex took only one of the remaining 8 sets as Curtis Welsh (25) outgunned Liam Grant 11, 5 & 9. Isabelle & Juliette both beat Jasmine Chan (17) 3-1 and 3-0 respectively. Isabelle resisted well against Denise but lost in 5 games. We expected Diogo & Sasha to beat Theodore Achampong. But the bonuses were when Diogo beat Eren Gozcu 9,9,9 and Sasha beat Curtis 8, -6, 4, 6.

Surrey were feeling confident when they met bottom-placed Warwickshire but the latter were not going to go quietly! Timmy Cooper put up massive resistance as he lost to Sasha in 5 and Liam in 4. Diogo fought hard for all his games as he beat James Morrow 9, 9, -11, 9 and then Callum Anthrobus 11, -14, 4, 10. Young Danielle Kelly was introduced to the Premier Division in this match but she could not contain Olivia Fletcher or Lisa Rinnohofer. However Isabelle won her two to secure an 8-2.

The penultimate fixture was a potentially tough one against Cleveland who topped the division on Saturday. However they were a boy short as their No 1 had injured his hand and Surrey were ruthless in taking advantage. Spurred on by a 2-0 start Surrey took control with seriously impressive performances from both girls. Cleveland lined up Sophie Barlow (8) and Holly Williams (19) only to see Isabelle and Juliette take all 4 from them. Juliette beat Sophie 5, 8 & 7 while Isabelle beat Holly 9 in the 5th! Diogo played well against Kaine MacDonald while Sasha saw off the impressive Joe Clark -4, 7, 8, 3. With Liam Grant also taking his two it wrapped up a nice 10-0 victory.

And so to the final round of fixtures where Surrey had to win against Lincolnshire and Yorkshire 'needed to lose' against Warwickshire! With Lincs boys led by Matt Leete (11) and the girls by Grace Potter (14) this was not going to be easy. Four of the sets went to 5 games. Diogo recorded a helpful 6 in the 5th win over Nick Keast. Sasha demolished Nick but was comprehensively beaten by Matt Leete. Liam Grant had two tough sets as he found himself trailing 2-7 in the 5th against the talented Nathan Butler (14) only to pull through 10, -9, -7, 9, 11. Liam was also 2-1 down against Matt Leete only to take the last 2 games 4 & 4. Juliette Moussarie beat Alex Robinson and battled well against Grace Potter only to lose out at 8-11 in the 5th.

	<u>Liam</u>	<u>Sasha</u>	<u>Diogo</u>	<u>Isabelle</u>	<u>Juliette</u>	<u>Danielle</u>
Lancashire	0	1	1	2	1	
Yorkshire	1	1	0	1	1	
Sussex	1	2	1	1	1	
Middlesex	1	2	2	1	1	
Warwickshire	2	2	2	2	-	0
Cleveland	2	1/1	1/1	2	2	
Lincolnshire	2	1	1	2	1	
Total	9/14	10/13	8/13	11/14	7/12	
	64.3%	76.9%	61.5%	78.6%	58.3%	

Special thanks to Margot Fraser for umpiring on behalf of Surrey throughout the weekend.

(* confirmation of final league table awaited)

Michael Loveder
NPC., 28-1-14

