

## **England Player, Heather Olver joins Sussex Badminton to play Berkshire**

On Sunday 13 November, Sussex County Badminton fielded a strong First Team to play against Berkshire in Division 1 of the Inter County Championships. Jeanette Powell, Team Manager welcomed top England player and local girl, Heather Olver, to the team. Heather joined former top England stars Dean George and Tanya Woodward together with other team members Will Hilton-Jackson, Luke Jones, Chris Spice and youngsters Steph Pound and Lydia Powell.

Sussex won an impressive victory, beating a strong Berkshire team 10 games to 5 to gain a further 3 points in their bid to top their division this season. First place would lead to a return to Premier County status and is a clear incentive for this ambitious and talented group of players.

Sussex have four teams competing in the Championships this year, for the first time in the known history of the County. This reflects the continuing development of the training structure at Senior level, which attracts experienced players as well as providing match play opportunities for emerging talent from the Junior Section of the County. Senior players receive coaching from another former England star Karen Chapman and Tanya Woodward, Dean George, Will Hilton-Jackson and Chris Spice are all involved in coaching young players.

Sussex Third Team were also in action at the Brighton University Sports Hall, playing against Devon 2 in Division 4. They had a comfortable win 14 games to 1, displaying depth of talent in the Sussex Squad which is laying the foundations for sustainable progress in the County competitions.

Third Team Players were Peter Fuller (Captain), Chris Burton, Matt Hodgson, Jack Newall, Patrick Muhl, Jenny Cross, Ella Harry, Amber Roberts, Rhiannon Turner-Noakes – a strong mix of age and experience, with three new caps for Patrick, Rhiannon and Chris.