

Three Horsham girls (Daniela Lozzi from Farlington School, Haylee Miller from Millais and Holly Merchant from Holy Trinity School), and one girl from Crawley, (Simisola Olashore also from Holy Trinity School) were selected for the South East U13 Girls Team that represented the South East (Kent, Surrey, Sussex) at the England Basketball Regional Development Tournament in Lilleshall, Shropshire on the weekend of 15th/16th October 2011 .

4 Sussex Girls in the South East
U13 Girls team at England
Basketball Regional
Development Tournament

Haylee and Holly play Sussex League for Horsham Hawks U14 team, while Daniela plays National League for the Sevenoaks Suns U14 girls' team.

The South East team finished in 6th place of 12, with 2 wins (55-32 against Scotland B and 40-12 against South West) and 2 losses (22-26 against East Midlands and 31-33 against Yorkshire) . They could have finished higher, but due to the Tournament schedule, and after losing their first match by only 4 points against East Midlands, meant they could only fight for 5th to 8th place. After convincing victories against Scotland B and South West teams, they fought hard in their final match for 5th /6th place, and only a controversial referee decision that changed ball possession at 20 seconds from the end of the game, gave the victory to Yorkshire with a 2 point advantage.

The result is extraordinary because the players had only 15 hours of Team training during the six weeks leading up to the Tournament, and was not possible to organize a competitive match during this short period. Therefore the team's first ever match was their first game at the Lilleshall tournament.

The South East coaches, Karl Youngman (who coaches teams for Worthing Thunder and Crawley Cagers) and Steve Nelson (also Worthing Thunder), focused the team on strong defensive play . The two matches they lost were the two most closely contested of the whole tournament and SE team came at 3rd place as total points taken.

The girls experienced a great weekend of playing basketball at the highest level in England for their age group, and this will aid their future development in the game.