

Team Report:

The 10u Boys county team played on home turf Easton over the weekend, competing against Bedfordshire, Suffolk and Middlesex. The team selected was Lucas, David, Matthew, Dexter and Micah.

We were up against Middlesex first and after a good warmup the boys faced what we knew would be tough opponents. After four challenging singles matches we were 4:0 down against Middlesex heading into our next singles matches against Suffolk.

Micah was playing at number four and had a very close singles match that could have gone either way in the first set, but he ended up losing it 4:2. Playing next to him was Dexter who put in an excellent effort again losing a very tight match that could've gone either way 4:2 4:2. Both boys responded well to coaching during these matches but just couldn't quite get those sudden death deuce points. Up next at number two was David who again fought hard but didn't come out on top losing the singles 4:2 4:1. Lucas then went onto court and showed real maturity against a difficult opponent, but we were 4-0 down after singles.

The Middlesex doubles was a tricky fixture, however, the boys listened to the tactical advice and persevered to put it into practice with the doubles and managed to get a few games showing their resilience in tough scenarios. I was impressed with the energy and communication here as it could have been easy to have just given up. In the end we lost 6:0 to Middlesex.

The last fixture of Saturday was two doubles matches against Suffolk. Micah and Lucas had a tough doubles match as the number 1 pair for Norfolk and unfortunately Suffolk came out on top. It seemed like we were going to be looking at another 6:0 defeat after David and Dexter suffered a loss in the first set against Suffolk however after taking on board some key information, and with great team support from off court, they managed to pull through and win in a match tiebreak 10:6 to finish the day on a win. We ended up losing to Suffolk 5:1 but our team spirit was high heading into Sunday against Bedfordshire to play for third and fourth place.

To start the day off we had a talk after the warm up about how Dexter and David came back from a set down, and how important it is to keep fighting until the end and keep applying the pressure in the second set after winning OR losing the first. Micah and Dexter really took in those words of advice, and put on a fantastic performance at positions 4 and 3 and won those matches in straight sets putting us 2:0 up heading into the next two singles. David and Lucas played some fantastic tennis. Again, some great team spirit and support on the side with both of those matches won in straight sets sending us 4:0 up heading into the doubles.

In the doubles we were diligent and very aware of what we were trying to do tactics wise. As a result of this our number 2 pair Dexter and David went on to win their doubles with

fantastic energy between them and without dropping a single game(4:0 4:0). Lucas and Matthew went on as our number 1 pair with and got the job done with great communication and teamwork winning 4:1 4:2 in a match where there were opportunities for it to not go Norfolk's way. In the end we beat Bedfordshire 6:0.

As a team we finished in 3rd place, and finished the weekend on a very positive note, winning seven out of the last seven matches and taking away valuable lessons with those tight singles matches against Suffolk.

Barnaby Taylor - U10's Captain

