

9U COUNTY CUP REPORT

Girls Team: Abigail, Alsie, Olivia, Sienna

This year Norfolk had a home venue for 9U County Cup. With the event being held at Easton tennis centre on Sunday 24th March.

The day started with girls playing in the morning and boys in the afternoon. Both teams were up against teams from Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Six matches consisting of four singles and two doubles are played out against each county with the eventual winners of the day progressing to one of the two finals stages.

First up for the girls were Suffolk. Sienna and Olivia took to the courts for our first singles matches of the day. Sienna competed well in her first experience playing the Fast4 format of scoring. Olivia came up with some great shots against an experienced player. Next to play were Abigail and Alsie. Abigail put up a good display against strong opposition. Despite the girl's best-efforts Suffolk had won the first three matches. This meant Alise playing at number one had to win to keep the overall match live going into the doubles. Alsie put in a really strong performance winning 4-1.

Later in the day we faced off against Suffolk in the doubles. Norfolk needing to win both matches to force a shootout tiebreak to ten points. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be this time with Suffolk winning both matches.

Hertfordshire was the second match of the day. Hertfordshire always have a strong side, and this was no exception. The Norfolk girls gave it everything but, on this occasion the strong serving display from Hertfordshire was a little too much. The doubles matches provided some brilliant rallies. Sienna and Olivia teamed up well. Alsie and Abigail were involved in a close fought match. Alsie's consistent crosscourt hitting coupled with some great volleys from Abigail meant Norfolk pushed Herts all the way to a tiebreak. Eventually losing 7-4.



The last match of the day for the Girls was against Bedfordshire. Again, Sienna and Olivia played the first singles matches. Both players putting in standout performances winning without the loss of game! Abigail fought hard against strong opposition at number two. Alsie was part of one of the best singles matches of the day. Alise moved her hard hitting opponent around really well. Eventually losing out 4-2 after most games ending with deciding point at deuce.

Going into the doubles at 2-2 meant that everything was to play for in this tie. Norfolk lined up with the pairings of Sienna/Olivia and Alsie/Abigail. Sienna and Olivia played brilliantly as a team winning 4-2 to put Norfolk up 3-2. Alsie and Abigail then had to face Bedfordshire's one and two players. This match was much closer than the scoreline suggests. With Beds winning this it meant we were headed for a doubles shootout to decide the match. Alise and Olivia were selected to play this and it turned out to be an extremely close match with Bedfordshire eventually winning 10-7.

Thank you to Ruby (U18'S) who was on hand supporting the teams throughout the day.

Boys Team: Dexter, Freddie, Henry, Joshua, Matthew

With the boys following the same schedule as the girls it meant that Suffolk was our first game.

First singles matches of the day were played by Henry and Dexter. With Henry playing some great tennis winning 4-0 and Dexter putting up a really good display eventually losing a close match 4-2.

Freddie and Matthew were up next playing at one and two. Both players put up a good fight in the matches. Matthew pushing his opponent all the way but losing out 4-2 in the end. Freddie came up against a strong player who liked to come forward and finish points at the net.

After the singles Norfolk were 3-1 down but all importantly still in with a chance to win the overall match.

Going into the live doubles matches Norfolk needed to win both to force a deciding tie breaker. Both doubles were played to a high level. With some amazing volley exchanges between the players. Henry and Dexter won 4-0 both displaying consistent groundstrokes and excellent volleying.

Freddie and Matthew teamed up and played a thrilling match ending in a tiebreak with Norfolk taking it 8-6. The mix of Freddie's great play from the back of the court and Matthews impressive volleys skills worked perfectly.

This meant Norfolk had levelled the overall score forcing a tiebreak. Henry and Matthew were chosen to play this and it turned out to be another exciting doubles game. Suffolk eventually coming out on top to take the overall win.

Next up was on paper the toughest match of the day against Hertfordshire. The Hertfordshire team had great strength in depth throughout the team.

In the singles all the boys fought hard for every point but unfortunately the Herts team came out as winners to lead 4-0 in matches.

For the doubles Henry partnered by Joshua worked well together in a match closer than the scoreline would suggest. Freddie and Matthew pushed the strong pair they were up against. Losing out narrowly 4-2 in the end.

Bedfordshire was the last match of the day. It was impressive to see the boys still had plenty of energy even this late in the day.

First two singles were extremely close matches. Both going all the way to tiebreaks. Joshua hitting some big forehands but, in the end, losing out 8-6 in the tiebreak. This match could have gone either way with all the deciding deuce points. Meanwhile Dexter was putting on a really good display at number 3. Showing some great touch at the net which was impressive to see. He won the match 7-2 in the tiebreak.

Matthew and Freddie then put in two dominant performances. Controlling points from the very start. Both winning without dropping a game.

With an unfortunate injury to one of the Beds players and no reserve. This meant Norfolk had already won the match going into the last match of the day.

Joshua and Henry were selected for this match and at around 7:50pm the boys entered a tiebreak at three games all. This was a competitive and exciting match to finish the day. The Bedfordshire team played a strong tiebreak winning it 7-2.

Was pleasure to captain both teams. All players gave it everything and couldn't ask for anything more from them on the day. Brilliant team spirit was shown on a slightly longer than expected day.

Many thanks to all the players and parents.



