

18U South Wales County Cup Report 2019

VENUE: Hull, Kingston Park Tennis Centre (Group 4b)

CAPTAIN: Claire Powell

VICE CAPTAIN: Alex Oelmann

TEAM: Elinor Beazley, Tegan Heaton, Elysia Beynon, Nicole Kells, Sofia Chivers, Iris Plane, Trinity Edwards & Rebecca Dow.

DAY 1: South Wales vs East of Scotland

An excited and eager South Wales team arrived after a long trip to not so sunny Hull. The U18 girls team this year comprised of a mix of very experienced County players and some experiencing their first ever County Cup event.

Day 1 saw South Wales take on the very strong East of Scotland team, so the girls were ready for some tough competition. The fixture didn't disappoint, with a great level of tennis, competitiveness and fair play all round. The first round of singles saw Sofia making light work of her opponent, winning our first rubber of the day. After the first 4 singles the team found themselves 1-3 down. The very experienced Elinor & Tegan won both their singles in emphatic style to take the match to 3-3 going into the doubles.



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DAY 2: South Wales vs Derbyshire

After a some rest and competitive fun at laser tag in the evening, the South Wales team arrived at the club full of confidence and ready for the battle on day 2.

The girls knew that Derbyshire would be a tough challenge despite losing the previous day. The South Wales team got off to a great start with wins from Sofia & Nicole to put the team into a 2-1 lead. Special mention to Trinity who had her first taste of County Cup competition and despite narrowly missing out on the win did herself and the team proud. After the singles matches South Wales notched up a 4-2 lead with Elinor & Tegan striking again winning their singles relatively comfortably.

The double matches began in a nervous fashion and in the early stages of the matches all 3 SW doubles pairs behind on the score board. They didn't give up and battled to the end with Beks & Sofia turning their match around to win 12-10 in another champions tie-break and the unstoppable Elinor & Tegan getting yet another win for South Wales. Victory again 6-3 South Wales on day 2.

DAY 3: South Wales vs Bedfordshire

The final day of competition saw a battle for promotion. The South Wales team needed 5 rubbers against Bedfordshire to ensure promotion. The girls knew they would be in for battle especially at the higher singles rubbers.

The team got off to a flying start with South Wales 3-0 up after the first round. Special mention to Sofia who lost only 5 games in all 3 of her singles matches. Both Elinor & Elysia had challenges that were just a little too much for them on the final day, though

they gave everything. Tegan battled to the end losing her singles 5-7 in the third set. The score was 3-3 overall after the singles matches so all to play for in the doubles.



Beks & Sofia notched up their third doubles win of the weekend, Iris & Elysia narrowly missed out, losing in a champions tie break. Another 4-4 going into the final doubles with Tegan & Elinor taking on a very good Bedfordshire first pair. The

level of the match was

outstanding and very competitive. The girls just missed out on the win losing 8-10 in the champions tie break. A tough loss after all the efforts over the weekend, but the girls all did themselves and South Wales proud, giving absolutely everything. Losing 4-5 to Bedfordshire meant that South Wales came second in the group with East of Scotland getting promotion on rubbers.

CONCLUSION

Another fantastic weekend at U18 County Cup involving great tennis, teamwork, fierce competition & of course drama. The team of girls that were involved this year were outstanding and represented themselves and South Wales impeccably. Elinor & Tegan lead from the front showing grit, determination and experience. They were both excellent role models for the entire team on and off the court. The team aspect of the County Cup competition is such a valuable experience for the girls not only to develop their game but also to enjoy a different side of competition. There should be more events that have this structure as I truly believe it would keep more girls & boys in the game.

I look forward to continually working with and supporting these girls in the development of their tennis.

