

18U South Wales Boys County Cup Report 2019

Venue: Newport Tennis Centre –Group 2a

Captain: Craig Ingham

Vice-Captain: Luke Simeone

Team: Danny Flynn, Jonathon Evans, Hugo Cochlin, Harri Lloyd Evans, Dafydd James, George Webber, Jack Ryan, Rufus Plane



Day 1 v Middlesex- lost 2-7

After gaining promotion last year to group 2 it was always going to be a tough, competitive weekend for the boys. The week began with the news that our number 1 & 2 ranked players James Story and Joe White wouldn't be available, their success on an international level meant they were still in tournaments in Russia and Norway. Our 5th ranked player Henry Muxworthy also dropped out of the event with injury.

Middlesex were a strong county and an extremely tough proposition on day 1. The boys fought hard all day with notable wins for Rufus Plane at number 6 singles and Danny Flynn/Hugo Cochlin at number 1 doubles pair. A lot the matches were very close and the 7-2 defeat didn't really do justice to how well the boys competed.

Day 2 v Essex – lost 2-7

In the u18 format the winners from day 1 take on the losers. This meant day 2 was going to be equally tough for the boys. So it proved against again a very strong Essex side. The team got off to a great start and managed to take a 2-1 lead with wins for Rufus Plane and Harri Lloyd Evans. Matches at 2 and 3 singles looked like they could go South Wales's way at one stage but unfortunately Essex managed to take both matches. The momentum of the tie turned in Essex's favour and they managed to take the remaining

matches to record a 7-2 victory. As with the 1st day the boys were unlucky to go down 7-2 losing 3 of the matches in 3 sets.

Day 3 v Suffolk – Won 6-0

Sunday was a relegation battle against Suffolk, who like south Wales had lost both matches so far. Given the fact the boys had lost on Friday and Saturday their attitude and commitment in this match was outstanding. A good win at 6 singles for Rufus got the day off to a great start. The tie looked to be heading South Wales's way when Daffyd James produced a typically battling display to win at 5 singles in a little short of 3 hours. Tensions were eased with wins at 3 and 4 singles, Hugo Cochlin and Harri Lloyd Evans both managed straight sets victories. Safety in group 2 was secured when Jonathan Evans and Danny Flynn both produced good performances to seal a 6-0 win for South Wales. With Suffolk already relegated and a long journey home awaiting them it was decided not to play the doubles matches.

Conclusion

With 3 key players missing then survival in Group 2 was the realistic goal at the start of the weekend. It was slightly different playing in a 'home' county cup for the boys. They stayed at home and travelled each day which obviously has an impact on team spirit and their sense of enjoyment over the weekend. Having said this behaviour, effort and general competitiveness could not be faulted throughout every match. Next year's team will be very similar so hopefully the goal of reaching Group 1 can be achieved.