

## COUNTY CUP REPORT

### LTA 18U County Cup 2025 – 21/23 MARCH

### BOYS – CARDIFF MET UNIVERSITY (GROUP 3A)

#### **Captains – Tom Spinks/James Pugh**

Tom and I both agree that that this was one of the best team atmospheres we've ever experienced at a County Cup event. From start to finish, the camaraderie, energy, and team spirit were exceptional, culminating in one of the most unbelievable comebacks we've ever witnessed on the final day.

#### **Day 1 – vs West of Scotland (8-1 win)**

We started the weekend strong against West of Scotland, with a dominant performance in the singles, winning all six matches without dropping a set. Riding that momentum, we secured two out of three doubles to finish with a commanding 8-1 win.

#### **Day 2 – vs Buckinghamshire (8-1 win)**

Day 2 brought another solid team performance against Buckinghamshire. We won five of the six singles matches, the only loss coming due to an unfortunate injury withdrawal. The boys maintained their focus and professionalism throughout, clinching the tie comfortably.

#### **Day 3 – vs Essex (5-4 win)**

Everything came down to the final day against a very strong Essex side, who had depth and quality, particularly in the lower part of their order. After the singles, we found ourselves 4-2 down, with Mathias narrowly losing a tight and hard-fought match.

With all three doubles needed to turn the tie around, we based our pairings on Essex's previous line-up, predicting they would load their strength into the third pair, which is what they did. Our tactical choices paid off brilliantly.

The boys rose to the occasion with immense grit and determination. The standout moment came from Casey Drake and Finlay Whitrow at number two doubles. After going 6-0 down in the championship tie-break, they staged an astonishing comeback to take it 7-6 up, eventually winning 10-8. It was a performance full of character, resilience and belief.

The atmosphere in the Tennis Centre was electric – the loudest and most passionate we've ever seen. The boys were phenomenal as a team, rallying together and showing incredible spirit to secure the overall win on the final day.

A special mention must go to Zechariah at number one, who delivered an outstanding individual performance across all three days. He won all six matches without dropping a set.

The group represented Avon with pride, teamwork, and heart. It was a weekend none of us will forget.

