

BOYS 12U COUNTY CUP

Queenswood School - 12-13 September 2026



Captains: Ollie & Matt
Players: Ruben, Josh, Matei,
Maximus, Seb & Pete

The boys headed down to Queenswood School in Hertfordshire on Friday for the 12U Boys National Playoffs - Group 1A, travelling in true team style on the Fun Bus! After a great social evening together, the boys were ready for a tough weekend of national competition.

A special mention to Captain Matt, who for once managed to book us a decent restaurant! And well done to Ruben, who made an admirable attempt to eat healthily with a chicken salad... plus a side of chips and seemingly every onion ring in the pub! 😄

Cambridgeshire

We started against Cambridgeshire, with Matei getting us off to a great start with an excellent win, followed by another solid victory from Ruben. Maximus and Josh both battled hard, leaving us 2-2 after the singles.

The doubles followed the theme of the weekend - slow starts followed by incredible resilience!

Matei and Maximus produced a brilliant comeback from the brink of defeat to win their match. Meanwhile, Ruben and Josh recovered from 4-0 and 3-0 down to take the second set to a tie-break, eventually being edged out 8-6.

That meant a match tie-break shootout. Maximus and Ruben found themselves 5-1 down but fought all the way back to lead 6-5, only for Cambridgeshire to take the decider and the fixture 4-3.

A heartbreaking result, but huge credit for the way the boys fought to the end.

Essex – The Group Favourites

Next up were Essex, the group favourites. The boys found the matches tough but continued to compete valiantly.

Ruben once again came through, despite apparently fuelling himself with another “healthy” lunch - a protein shake that looked suspiciously like a milkshake! 😄 He started slowly but produced an excellent comeback to get us on the board, leaving us 3-1 down going into the doubles.

The long Cambridgeshire matches meant the doubles had to be completed on Sunday morning.

Sunday - the boys were up nice and early for breakfast and preparation.

Everyone, that is, except Captain Matt.

Eventually the missing captain arrived, and we returned to the lovely Queenswood venue knowing there was no margin for error. We needed to win both doubles to force another shootout and keep our hopes of reaching the final alive.

Ruben and Josh came out with brilliant energy from the start -exactly what we’d spoken about the previous day, and produced a superb 4-2, 4-2 victory.

Maximus and Matei started more slowly but again showed tremendous resilience. They fought their way back into the match, narrowly losing the first set before taking the second to a tie-break. With two set points to force a match tie-break, they were agonisingly edged out 10-8.

Another reminder of just how fine the margins are in tennis. Two points away from a deciding shootout and potentially another shootout for a place in the final.

Instead, we headed into the 5th/6th place playoff - and the battle to avoid the wooden spoon!

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5th/6th Place – One Final Battle

Our final fixture was against Oxfordshire, and we gave Seb and Pete their opportunities to step up.

Seb took his chance brilliantly, producing an excellent singles performance to put us on the board. Ruben then dug deep to win his match tie-break, giving us the two wins we needed.

Josh played out of his skin but couldn't quite convert his opportunity, before Oxfordshire levelled the tie with a good win against Maximus.

2–2. Of course it came down to the doubles.

Pete, playing his first match of the competition, joined Seb and both boys played brilliantly, pushing their second pair all the way to another match tie-break before being edged out.

That meant Ruben and Josh had to win to force one final shootout.

And boy, did they step up.

An unbelievable performance saw them take the win and set up one final 10-point match tie-break.

Up stepped Ruben from Pair 1 and Seb from Pair 2, with Seb coming in for his first tennis of the day - and what a match tie-break it was.

Phenomenal tennis. Highs, lows, pressure and character.

The boys eventually got over the line 10-7, finishing the weekend on a huge high.

Fifth Place - Plenty To Be Proud Of

After an incredible weekend, we finish 5th overall.

Every match was stretched to the limits, with comebacks, match tie-breaks, set points and incredibly fine margins throughout. Most importantly, the boys have learnt a huge amount - both about tennis and about themselves.

A massive thank you to all the parents for their support, whether at the venue, popping up today or following from afar online.

It was also fantastic to see the boys taking responsibility for themselves over the weekend - filling their own bottles, organising their bags and looking after their kit. These are small but important steps in their development, helping them learn, grow and become more independent.

And finally, a huge well done to Essex. The team we came so close to beating have gone on to win the event and will represent the group at the National Finals in Nottingham in a couple of weeks.

We wish them the very best of luck.

5th place. Plenty learnt. Plenty of memories made. And a team who showed enormous character all weekend.

Well done, boys! 🍷🎾