

Captains Reports for 12U Boys Qualifier, County Cup 2023

Boys 12U County Cup Qualifier at Aylesbury

Date: 16-17th September 2023

Captains: Matt Elston and Ollie Bendall

Team: Tommy, Arthur, Reuben, George, Sebby and Isaac

The Avon boys U12's team travelled to Aylesbury for a playoff group with Suffolk, Surrey and Bucks.

A strong team of Tommy, Arthur, Reuben, George, Sebby and Isaac were up for the challenge, with a place at the national finals the reward for the winning county.

The Avon boys were off to a great start going 3-1 in singles and winning both doubles to earn a 5-1 win over Suffolk.

Buckinghamshire proved to be a tough test, and it was all square after the singles (2-2). The doubles still could not split the county's apart and at 3-3 and shoot out was needed.

Arthur and George stepped up for Avon! It was extremely close and at one stage George had turned into a Jedi master after throwing his racket to the ball at full stretch, dropping the racket but still getting the ball over the net! At 11-9 our boys just come up short, however a brilliant fight.

Bombs seemed to be everywhere, some big serving and some equally big ice creams in the evening.

Surrey was strong on paper and they proved to be the best county there. Some great individual efforts unfortunately weren't enough, and they ran out 6-0 winners against Avon.

The boys showed great fight and amazing team spirit. Not the result we were hoping for, however a very enjoyable weekend with some outstanding tennis.

Lots to learn for next year.

Matt Elston, Coach

See below Boys Players report and photos

Players report by Artie:

We met up at Coombe Dingle on Friday afternoon to start our journey to Aylesbury on the "funbus". At last, after the parents swarmed our minibus to take pictures and

say their goodbyes, we were off! 2 hours and thirty minutes later, we arrived at the tennis club to do a quick training lesson before going to the hotel. The weather was nice and sunny and everyone was in a good mood. After the training session we got to the Travelodge (which was right next to a canal with lots of ducks and swans) and we went to our rooms. When everyone had unpacked and changed, we went to an Italian restaurant where we had pizza and a *lot* of carbonara. When everyone had stuffed their faces full of pasta, we went back and went to sleep. Unfortunately, on the first night, most of us could not sleep very well at all. The next day, we had breakfast at 7:15. We had pancakes, croissants, and I had the biggest orange ever! Then we went to the tournament...

Our first matches were against Suffolk, and it was George and Reuben who started us on a good track, both winning 4-0, 2-4, 10-8. Then Tommy and I continued the lead with me winning 4-1, 4-1 and Tommy sadly losing in a gruelling, long champions tiebreak. At this point the score was 3-1 us. After the singles it was time for doubles. Reuben and I beat our opponents 4-0, 4-0 and Isaac and Sebbie won their match convincingly. Avon wins!!!! against Suffolk.

After that we played Buckinghamshire, and after the final result being 3-3, we had to play a deciding shootout to 10. George and I stepped up to the task, and narrowly lost 9-11, saving three match points 6-9 down. We fought really well, and left the court happy with our performance, just two points difference...

In the evening we went to a Harvester and had another well-deserved feast with a favourite of mine being a dish called, 'The bone pile' which was a whole lot of ribs. Everyone was exhausted and so we all slept well. Up early the next morning (although George and I accidentally slept in and had to be woken up by our coaches) we hit the courts to play against Surrey. Unfortunately, though we fought hard, they were extremely tough opponents and beat us. So ultimately, we came third in the tournament but went away happy with our efforts and a lot of fun memories.

