



COUNTY CUP REPORT

U11 County Cup Girls Finals: Wrexham Tennis Centre

DATES: 7-9th July 2023

Team: *Ginny Chen, Lola Brown, Sophia Cuninghame, Beatrice Robson, Darcey Osborne, Anais Sylvestre-Wilson*

Captains: *Lauren Harrington, Laura Slater*

A new format for U11 County Cup this year meant that the Surrey U11 Girls had direct acceptance to the finals in Wrexham over one weekend.

Friday

First opponents we were up against were Avon. Beatrice and Sophia were up first coming out the blocks strong with a 2-0 lead in rubbers. Lola won her first match and then Ginny had a very close match winning 10-3 in the third set tiebreak.

Doubles Darcey and Anais played, winning the first set convincingly 4-2, the opponents decided to fight back second set to claim the second set 4-2. Our girls unfortunately couldn't quite close out the win losing in the third set tiebreak. Ginny and Bea took the court for their first doubles together as a team this County Cup taking a bold win 4-2 4-2. We ended up with a 5-1 match win vs Avon.

We also played the singles matches of Lancashire on the Friday.

Starting with 4s Bea beat her opponent 4-3 4-0 and then Sophia won against the number 3 - 4-1 4-3. Lola put up a great fight against tough opponent Losing 10-5 in third set tiebreak, incredibly close match against Lancashire's number 2. Ginny played number 1 and came out with a great first set 4-2 and then unfortunately lost 0-4 second set with a less positive mindset going on to lose the tiebreak 6-10. This day had been particularly emotional for the players compared to other events I had seen them in and last year 10U county cup. Laura and I discussed our observations of the day and agreed that we needed to address the mindset. We felt that increased energy and a positive attitude would help us come out the blocks stronger in day 2.

Going into the doubles against Lancashire the next day we knew we had to give out different display of energy, we were not being kind to ourselves and getting down too quickly in matches.

Saturday

In the morning we sat the players down on the outside benches and got them to brainstorm on big sheet of paper what it means and what it looks like to be a "Surrey competitor". All the girls came up with great ideas and they really enjoyed this I feel this also brought us together as a team. Some key ones were being brave, chasing every ball, and having positive energy on the court. What was impressive was how well the girls bounced back this day and brought good energy and a better mindset to the court. This showed in our matches, and we were more resilient and improved performance.

Being able to ensure we are remaining calm if lose points and energising ourselves for the next point. Letting go of the point before and ensuring we don't get weighed down by beating ourselves up about it. There were times where our reactions did not match the score line getting emotional at 1-1 second set having won the first, we needed to get them to remember to fact check ensuring we are seeing the score. We reminded the girls of our goals for the day in terms of effort and competitiveness on the court.

Vs Lancashire doubles Ginny and Bea lost the doubles and Sophia and Lola won their doubles which made the score 3-3. Sophia and Ginny won the shoot-out tiebreak showing bravery and good fight. We beat Lancashire.

Vs Middlesex. The Rain on Saturday meant everything things got a little delayed, but we were lucky enough to be scheduled indoors for that day. The only time it affected us was when we were going out to play the doubles against Middlesex and they needed to get few matches finished that had been started outdoors. Sophia won and Beatrice battled it out first set against an up-and-coming 2013 and then Lola lost to opponent came out strong straight away and Ginny won her match without the opponent getting a game. At 2-2 then Sophia and Lola won the doubles with it being a very fierce match but with our team coming out on top. We went 3-2 up against Middlesex and then Bea and Ginny took the win

against the other doubles pair beating them without giving them a game. This gave them a lot of confidence going into the final day.

Sunday

It was time to face Kent always tough opponents. We knew we were in for a battle.

Beatrice started us off and lost to another tricky opponent, could not really get into a rhythm. Sophia won her singles convincingly 4-2, 4-1 to go 1-1 in rubbers.

Lola lost to another tricky opponent that made a lot of tennis balls. 1-2 down. Then Ginny was up and came out with an aggressive game which blasted the Kent number 1 off the court 4-2, 4-1. Ginny dealt with the number 1 and team pressure extremely well with us being down in rubbers, she stayed calm and disciplined throughout her match.

Time for the doubles. Lola and Sophia won the doubles whilst Ginny and Bea were in their match. They had great energy and communication with great fight, it was a very close and competitive match. This made the rubber score 3-2 to us.

Ginny and Bea then took the win 4-2, 4-3 to win us County Cup with a 4-2 match win vs Kent. Their court presence was excellent and great energy. Both were so brave when poaching being very active at the net compared to the other team. Stand out was the combination of teamwork where ginny was relentless at getting the balls and attacking from the baseline setting Bea up with the brave poaching being able to win us points.

We felt the energy we had on the doubles court won us that weekend being able to go through some really close matches and pull out the great tennis in big moments. The girls were brave and were dominating at the net. One thing I felt really helped was jogging out of the change of ends, both as a team. It displayed positive court presence giving them physical intensity they carried into the points following the change overs. We had to remind them on first day on ensuring you walk to change of ends together and don't leave partner behind. Also being superb with communication I feel we excelled at this and made the tennis even better.

Our team improved throughout the tournament and were able to make the adjustments needed to become the ultimate warrior's vs Kent. Laura and I had the most exciting and enjoyable weekend. We could see the impact we were able to have with the players and it was very rewarding for us. The girls gave their best efforts and played some incredibly close matches. We were able to bring more energy and positive presence on court to allow us to play the tennis we knew we could play to win the tournament. The girls thoroughly deserved their win and I hope they are very proud of themselves. We look forward to next year.

Lauren Harrington