

COUNTY CUP REPORT

U14 County Cup Girls Finals: Nottingham Tennis Centre

DATES: 11-14 May 2023

- **Team:** *Martha Ground, Rosie Cho, Liv Zingg, Lucy Bear, Emily Jagers, Katie Randall*
- **Captains:** *Penny Batchelor, Alison Taylor*

A new format for U14 County Cup this year meant that the Surrey U14 Girls had direct acceptance to the finals in Nottingham over one weekend.

Arriving late Thursday afternoon we had a short practice, early dinner and bed so the players would be ready to start early Friday morning.

In our box of four were Essex, Kent and Suffolk. We were to play Essex first. With Liv and Lucy first up as 3 and 4 the girls played well, Liv completely in charge, and Lucy leaving it late at a set and 3-0 down taking a massive win. Followed by Rosie and Martha we complete a 4 love start to take the win. The doubles pairs, Rosie and Martha and Katie and Emily then took the court with one win and one loss. We won the match 5-1. Rubbers being important.

Next was winner playing the other winner in the box – this being Kent. Always a competitive match with our neighbours particularly with some of our players training in Kent. Lucy started well with a good win over the Kent number 4, with Liv following up and Rosie doing the same. Martha, as 1 always a tough position to play, lost a great third set tie break meaning we were 3-1 up. Doubles pairings of Rosie and Martha and Lucy and Liv closed out the match with two solid doubles wins, giving us a 5-1 win.

Now for Suffolk. Lucy took the first win, Liv lost to a tough opponent, Rosie worked hard to achieve a win at 2 in the match tie break and Martha also lost to a tricky opponent. 2 matches each with the doubles to go. Lucy and Liv took their match with ease, but Rosie and Martha lost the match tie break leaving us 3 matches all. Taking one player from each pair Rosie and Lucy played a shoot-out tie break but we lost.

However, the addition of all the rubbers meant that we won the box and went forward to play the winner of the other box Hertfordshire.

Again, we started with our number 4 Lucy, who played a strong player, she fought hard as Surrey does, but lost in the match tie break, Liv also played a difficult player and lost. Surrey was 2/0 down, Rosie played a solid match and clawed one match back and Martha outgunned the number one from Herts on two tie breaks. 2 matches all.

Doubles – Liv and Lucy played a massive match winning 11-9 in the third set tie break giving us a chance to take the title with our next doubles, but Martha and Rose played an inspired Herts doubles team and lost leaving us with a match shootout again to take the national title.

Martha and Lucy played a fantastically brave tie break and won 10-7. It was incredibly exciting, but we had so much support, from the boy's team and other players also watching as we were the last match to finish.

Our team of girls were outstanding, determined, gritty, fun, enthusiastic and absolutely fantastic team for Alison and I to captain. I hope it inspires their dreams and makes them want to continue playing for Surrey in the County Cup.

Penny Batchelor