

U11 Girls County Cup – National Play-offs 2024

We had a brilliant weekend with the girls in Great Missenden with plenty of individual and team development along the way!

The girls lost 4 – 2 to Hertfordshire in the first box match – great singles win from Izzy gave us the chance to win our doubles to make it 3 – 3. Lena and Ayesha took control at 2 doubles and played an excellent match for the win. Izzy and Valentina after making a really great come back couldn't quite do it. With more belief as a team at the start of the day we think we could have had a win but that belief over the weekend definitely grew. In the other singles Lena and Ayesha both lost their first sets in tie breaks – from this the girls learned that being brave allows them to play better instead of worrying about the outcome which was great to see.

Match 2 was on Sunday against Gloucester – the girls did brilliantly, winning all their singles, all practicing deep breaths and being brave on important points. The girls then took care of business in the doubles and great to see Alba and Valentina win at pair 1 with not as much experience playing together.

We came 2nd in the box and therefore played off for 3rd/4th place against Buckinghamshire. We knew this would be tough but felt the girls were ready – at 3 and 4 Lena and Ayesha both put up brilliant fights both losing out eventually in 3rd set match tie breaks....Lena was 12 – 14 and what was exciting was watching her play positively and aggressively through this set. Valentina had a tough one at 2 and then Izzy stormed through to give us a win again and give our doubles a purpose! Alba again brilliantly supporting her team mates. This time Izzy paired up with Ayesha and Valentina paired up with Lena – again in a 3rd set match tie break Izzy and Ayesha got the win. They worked together brilliantly as a team and problem solved against a strong opposition. Finishing just after, Valentina and Lena played some excellent doubles with plenty of volleying and sticking to game plans but lost 12 – 14 so an overall 2 – 4 loss to Bucks.

The girls should be mighty proud of themselves – we look forward to seeing how they have learned and progressed by this time next year!! Huge thanks as well to Alex Shields for supporting, hitting in for practice and just general all-round positive attitude for the girls to be around!