

12U Girls County Cup Final – Nottingham 27-19th September

The girls had already been hugely successful by qualifying for this event but came into it full of energy and belief in themselves.

Day 1 kicked off with the girls having to be flexible and resilient when the format was changed to 1 Fast 4 set due to the rain. Our first fixture was against Surrey. Emilia kicked off the match with a solid 4-1 win at 4 singles. Anya had her first of two epic singles matches of the day at position 3 losing in a tiebreak 5-7. Emma stepped up at number 2 and in a solid performance picked up that rubber in a tiebreak 7-4. Eloise came up against a very strong opponent in Sophia and unfortunately lost tying the fixture at 2-2 going into doubles. Emilia and Anya came in at pair 2 but despite a great effort lost 1-4. In the last doubles fixture (which was moved outdoors) Emma and Eloise played an excellent tiebreak winning 7-4 and the match was at 3-3... into a doubles shootout! Up stepped Emma and Emilia with the rest of the girls supporting brilliantly at the side of the court. At 9-9 Emilia whipped an angled forehand crosscourt winner from by her ankles to go 10-9 followed by a brilliant backhand volley from Emma to win the match 11-9! Avon beat Surrey!

Buzzing from the win and now fully outdoors in the elements and into normal Fast 4 format we took on Lancashire in the next fixture. Emilia played at number 4 singles again, taking on a very solid and consistent player, losing out 3-4, 0-4. Anya played another well fought singles at 3, ultimately losing out 6-10 in the championship tiebreak. 2-0 to Lancashire. Emma came in at 2 again and played an excellent first set tiebreak followed by a clinical 2nd set to win 4-3, 4-1. Last match of the day fell to Eloise, taking on the hard-hitting April who played a great match and Lancashire took the leg 4-1, 4-1. We headed into day two 1-3 down, leaving all to play for in the remaining doubles matches. Into day 2 with the sun shining, we had both pairs on at the same time to kick off. Emma and Eloise played at 1 with Emilia and Eleanor playing at 2nd pair. Both pairs fought back brilliantly in the 2nd sets but unfortunately both lost in 2nd set tiebreaks meaning a 5-1 loss verses Lancashire (who were to finish top of the box at the end of the day).

Our 3rd fixture was verses Kent, and we were scheduled back inside the bubble. Emilia and Anya played singles at 4 and 3; both unfortunately losing but Emilia nearly had it with a 7-10 championship tiebreak scoreline. Emma and Eloise were on next and despite both fighting back really well in the 2nd sets both lost in 2nd set tiebreaks. Into the doubles and we were back outside and with the girls knowing that every rubber can count they worked exceptionally hard to take the last 2 rubbers of the fixture. Emilia and Eleanor winning 10-2 in the championship tiebreak and Eloise and Emma storming their doubles 4-3, 4-1. With the box finishing with 3 of the 4 teams on 1 win and 2 points, the order came down to rubbers won where we unfortunately placed in 4th. Still a great fight on the day with 7th place to play for in the last day verses East of Scotland.

The first matches on were Emilia at 4th singles and Anya at 3rd singles. Both girls got strong wins putting us 2-0 up. Emma then won 2nd singles to put us 3-0 up. After a very tough singles and a 10-point championship tiebreak to decide it, Eloise lost 8-10 in the 1st singles match. Into the doubles and both pairs again went to 10-point championship tiebreaks! Emilia and Eleanor played great but unfortunately lost out 6-10 in their match leaving Eloise and Emma needing to win theirs to stop the match going to a shootout. The opposition side were playing very well, and our girls were 6-8 down but took the match 10-8 with some excellent doubles play! Avon finished the weekend a well-deserved 7th place.

To make the National Finals of this event was a great achievement and our team did Avon proud, fighting hard in every match and being great teammates throughout the weekend. Well done girls, we are sad to see you go up into 14Us now, but we know that you will continue to do great things!

