



LTA National Finals for Avon's 11 and Under Boys

Avon 11u boys progressed directly into the LTA County Cup National finals which were held in Nottingham over 3 days (5 to 7 July). Drawn in a box with Warwickshire, Surrey and Sussex a team of Harley, Max, Mathis, Lucas, Weichen and Misha went in to battle for team Avon.

Due to the predicted wet weather later in the tournament, the team had two matches on day one. Warwickshire were up first, wins for Weichen and Harley made it 2-2 after the singles after some tight matches just went the wrong side for Max and Mathis. Two superb doubles wins for Harley/Weichen and Max/Mathis won the tie 4-2 for Avon and got us off to the best possible start.

A very strong Surrey team were up next. All the matches were close with 3rd set tie-break defeats for Mathis and Harley. However, Lucas gave the team some hope with an excellent win coming through 12-10 in the 3rd set tie break.

The doubles ended up 1-1 after another great win for Weichen and Harley. Avon lost 4-2 but it was very close!

Avon only had one remaining box match on the Saturday against Sussex. Wins for Mathis and Harley again made it 2-2 after singles. A win in doubles for Weichen and Harley made it 3-3 and a shoot -was required. Up stepped-up Harley and Mathis, despite putting a good fight just fell short and the points when to Sussex. After some quick maths from captain Matt, Avon had qualified in 2nd place by one rubber! A nail-biting finish just like the football that evening where boys from all counties socialised and enjoyed even if the cheering got very loud during the penalty shoot-out!

Our final match was vs Middlesex, a chance to get on the podium for 3rd place.

Four very tough singles ended up in defeats for Misha and Mathis and wins for Weichen and Harley with a world record broken in Weichen's match for captain Matt who changed and relaced a tennis shoe in 90 seconds!

All the matches had been very close this weekend and this one was no different with the score being 3-3 after the doubles. Harley and Mathis were in for final shoot-out of the weekend. After long rallies, a loud Middlesex support and some brave play from the boys seeing Harley win 3 points in a row from a smash, Mathis hit the final winning volley and won the tie for Avon, 10-6.

A great result for the team that were rewarded for all their fight and effort on and off court with a bronze medal. Boys a very well done!

Matt Elston (*Team Captain*)

