

2016 Aegon Summer County Cup, Division 5 at Fenners, Cambridge.

Monday V West of Scotland (3-6)

The sun was shining on the green grass courts of Fenners at Cambridge. We had the joy of playing on courts 7-9, court 9 being made just by the wicket of the cricket pitch.

The team was Andy Higham & Howard Scott, Patrick Daykin and Oskar Wynne and Dan Ahl & Jamie Bartlett, with Rhys Dunford as reserve. The day got off to a rather slow start and we lost all 3 in round 1, albeit it one 7-6 in the 3rd. We did much better in round 2 and won 2 to bring the score to 4-2. We had to bring in Rhys for Pat as he seemed to be suffering from heat stroke. This did leave a lot of work and we fell in 2 of the last 3 rubbers to end day one as 6-3 losers.

Tuesday V Sussex (4-5)

This meant we had to move the pairs around and the team was Andy & Howard, Oskar & Dan with Rhys & Jamie and Pat as reserve. We did start a bit better today and managed to get a rubber in round 1, going down 2-1, and one of the rubbers we lost was 7-6 in the 3rd. Pat came in for Rhys in round 2 but lost the round 2-1, again with another 7-6 3rd set loss. We did manage to win the last round 2-1 so got a 5-4 loss. The highlight of today was Oskar and Dan winning all 3. We also have Jack Large arriving later on to strengthen the squad.

Wednesday V Bucks (4-5)

The pairs for today were Pat & Howard, Andy & Jack and Oskar & Dan with Rhys as reserve. Again got off to a slow start and were 3-0 down after round 1. We did fare better and won round 2 & 3 by 2-1 and thus just came short and lost 5-4. As it happened we did pull it back to 4 all but just fell away losing the 3rd set to a strong Bucks pair who were undefeated so far. Getting better as a team but just not winning the 3 setters. Lost 5-4 again. Jamie left us today as planned.

Thursday V Northants (2-7)

The pairs for today were Howard & Oskar, Pat & Jack and Dan & Andy with Rhys as reserve. Again lost the first round 2-1 and also lost round 2, 2-1 so it was a big ask to turn this tie around as Northants were undefeated at this stage and proved too strong taking all in round 3. Thus lost 7-2

Friday V Durham (5-4)

At this stage we were already relegated and Durham were safe and it was decided to play opposite pairs to give 2 of their under 18 players, yet unused the chance to play. We again brought in young blood, well not that young it was me!!!! Pairs were Andy & Rhys, Pat & Jack, Oskar and myself. So Andy and Rhys and Oskar and I played against Durham's top 2 players partnering the fresh players. Oskar and I played very well and won a tight first set 6-4 abut ran away with the next 6-0. (that put me as the only player in Devon to be 100% for the week!!!) Andy & Rhys had a tough time against their first pair and it went to a tiebreak shoot out. It was evenly matched until Rhys managed to cover most of the court and get a winner down the line to set up match point at 9-5. We went on to win the tiebreak and the match so ended the week on a high.

Overall it was a tough week of very good tennis and it was just we tended to start off slowly and just did not win enough of the close 3 setters. The group had 2 pairs on 12 for 12 and they were to meet on the last day. It was Northants who came out on top and their top pair joined the 15 rubbers club. I would like to congratulate them here as well, they were Shakeel Manji and Charles Swallow.

Overall lost 5 rubbers 7-6 in 3rd so will be getting lots of tie break practice between now and winter.

The team spirit remained great all week and I look forward to winter in Barnstable and Division 6 next summer.

Justin Kraushar
Mens Captain