

Tennis Report

Date : Thursday 30th June 2011

Venue : Away

Opponents: Berkhamsted School in the County Semi-Finals

Team: Boys - U15 - 1stIV

Result : U15's Lost 10-2

Players :

1. James Bruce	Lost 6-1 (S)	Lost 6-0 (D)
2. Andrew Mclean	Lost 6-2 (S)	Lost 6-0 (D)
3. Rob Kraushar	Lost 7-6 (S)	Won 6-2 (D)
4. Fergus Browne	Lost 6-3 (S)	---
5. Ben James	---	Won 6-2 (D)

Report

The County Schools Semi Finals were hosted by Berkhamsted School and our team made of mainly Year 9 boys tried to go one step further to reach the final by beating the Berkhamsted Year 10 team.

From the warm up it looked like it would be an uphill struggle with their top three players hitting the ball very sweetly. Their number one player a 6.1 LTA rated Year 10 boy (who incidentally had not lost a set throughout the competition) simply out powered James Bruce who again played as our number one (8.1 LTA rated); he lost 6-1 in his singles rubber. It was obvious that we would not get anything from his doubles rubber as well which would give Berkhamsted a clear 4-0 lead before any of the other rubbers were played.

Andrew MacLean lost against his better rated opponent and paired with Bruce they did indeed lose their doubles encounter.

The only way we could even draw the tie, would be for our third and fourth pairs to go unbeaten. This looked possible with evenly poised matches being played. Rob Kraushar took their third seed to a tie break but only after missing the opportunity to take a previous match point; he then lost the tie break. Fergus Browne could have won his set but too many errors cost him in the end, he lost 6-3.

When Ben James took up the challenge with Kraushar they looked a formidable pair and were in fact able to out play Berkhamsted in the doubles. They won their set with some excellent net play finishing with a 6-2 score.

Berkhamsted will probably win the County Final now as I cannot see their number one getting beaten at all until they hit the national rounds. A worthy effort from the Aldenham boys and there is certainly high hopes for next year when three of the team will still be in this age group.

SWM