

## **Essex Tennis - Bryan Watts – Eddie Kirtland Singles Tournament Report**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The Annual Bryan Watts – Eddie Kirtland Autumn Singles Tournament was organised and competed for by Essex's top Senior and invited Junior players at Redbridge Sports Centre, over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

In reference to the exceptional standard of play throughout the weekend, I congratulated all the players on their competitive attitude & fair play throughout the weekend. This annually held Essex Tennis event, has been run at the County Centre at Redbridge for many years and forms part of the overall team selection process for the forthcoming National LTA Senior Men's Inter-County Winter Singles Championships, this year being held in Bath University where both Essex Ladies & Men's Teams will be competing in Division 1.

Established Essex Tennis Senior Players competing included Marshall Tutu, David Wright, Joel Cannell & Saad Abbas. There was a healthy inclusion of Essex Tennis's Junior Player contingent namely, Anthony Wright, Jamie Bixby, Henry Hammond, Tommy Smith, Adam Groves, Gene Swain & Anthony Weingarten. This year's event did not attract the normal support from our many Junior Players which was unfortunate. The tennis calendar for both Senior & Junior Players is far reaching & for this reason players commit to their individual programs on occasions months in advance of a start date of a tournament.

The Saturday play involved the majority of players completing 2 matches with ultimate progression into the Semi-Finals of the Main Event & Playback positions within the tournament draw. The Sunday meant that the Semi Finalists were Marshall Tutu up against Jamie Bixby with the 2018 Winner David Wright, versus the now fitter Joel Cannell who returned to Tournament Play after contracting malaria in 2018. Marshall Tutu in the 1<sup>st</sup> semi-final, overwhelmed Jamie Bixby to advance to the final, whilst in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semi-final David Wright emerged the winner against Joel Cannell. Both matches saw a high standard of play worthy of its semi-final status. Marshall Tutu winning 6-2, 6-0 & in the other semi-final David Wright emerged victorious with a score of 6-1, 3-6, [10-7].

The Final was a memorable match between the Senior Team established, David Wright & Marshall Tutu. In a repeat of the 2018 Final Marshall Tutu reversed his 2018 loss to David in a thrilling match which was played in a wonderful spirit. Marshall became a well deserved Winner, the score which did not reflect the closeness of the match, being 6-1, 6-2.

Further Singles Events of this type are planned and are already in the Tennis Calendar for February 2020.

This event again was well received by all the players & a tribute to the late Bryan Watts, a great supporter of Essex Tennis and fine player over the years, and current sponsor of Essex Tennis, Eddie Kirtland. In my closing presentation words to the Players & Parents I referred to the late Jamie Willson's major contribution to Essex Tennis & his involvement with this event. He remains constantly in our minds with this event in particular.. He is missed by us all.

We wish Essex Tennis's Senior Ladies & Men's Teams every success for the November Senior County Event in Bath where wins in Division 1 of the Event where Essex Tennis has a great chance for continued success.

## **Graham Ray & Tom Higgins**

13<sup>th</sup> October 2019