

Essex Tennis - Bryan Watts – Eddie Kirtland Singles Tournament Report

20th & 21st November 2021

The Annual Bryan Watts – Eddie Kirtland Autumn Singles Tournament was competed for by Essex's top invited Junior players at Redbridge Sports Centre, over the weekend of the 21st & 22nd November 2021. This year was simpler to organise than the 2020 Event due to the easing of the COVID situation we now find ourselves in. It was pleasing to see Parents & Supporters of Essex Tennis providing that important atmosphere again which is so necessary to the encouragement of the Players.

The standard of the event was of a high standard featuring our top Junior Players of all age groups ranging from 14U to 18U age groups. The event proved to be an exciting benchmark for the 18U Junior County Cup Competition which will be held in Feb-March 2022.

Our established Essex Tennis Senior Players for this year's BW-EK 2021 Competition, were for prior commitments, unavailable to play, this did not detract from the excellent standard of play that was exciting to watch over the weekend event. There was a healthy inclusion of Essex Tennis's Junior Player contingent namely Henry Hammond, Adam Groves, Gene Swain, Anthony Weingarten, Toby Terrell, Sam Constantinou, Rio Hanif, Aaron Hilsum & Kai Koucher.

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 Anthony Weingarten, up against the improving Gene Swain, with Adam Groves playing a competitive match versus the returning from injury, Henry Hammond. Anthony proved just too strong an opponent for Gene Swain with Adam winning against Henry in a most competitive match to reach the Final against Anthony.

The Final was an excellent match between the 2 Junior Friends of Anthony Weingarten & Adam Groves. An enjoyable & high Standard match, which was played in a wonderful spirit & saw Anthony win, the score being 6-3, 6-3, in a really close match & deserved Final for the watching Spectators & Parents alike.

There was also an excellent 5th-6th consolation place final between the exciting Aaron Hilsum & Sam Constantinou with Aaron winning a final Match Tye Break to win the match.

Further Singles Events of this type are planned & already in the Tennis Calendar for February 2022.

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. Tom Higgins viewed with interest, the talent on show during the event. Tom is both the current Essex Tennis Men's Senior & 18U Captain.

Graham Ray & Tom Higgins

21st November 2021