

National School Girls Level Under 19 Tournament Singles and Doubles 2023 Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th January 2023, held at Wellington College

Singles Winners: Olivia
Doubles Winners: Poppy and Isabella



U19 Singles

A magnificent entry of 20 girls entered the tournament from 8 different schools with a terrific entry of 10 girls from Wellington. Matches were played in groups with the group winner moving up to play in the next group. The first match on court, Martha Raitt v Charlotte Davies turned out to be the group 1 decider. Charlotte started off brilliantly by slotting her first two return of serves into the dedans. The match went game for game with Martha winning 5 – 4. Martha went on to win her other matches and so the group. In the next group Olivia Holroyd retrieved and volleyed very convincingly to win all her matches and go through as group winner. In group 3 it was all very close; everyone had won at least one match and eventually Emilia Pitts was group winner with two wins and by virtue of having won her match v Lila Hue Williams. Group 4 winner was Darcie Blaber but only after an excellent group decider between Darcie and Felicity Ridall Bell which went to deuce in every game with Darcie winning 5 – 3. The final group winner of the day was relatively new player Katherine Carney, a cricketer, who plays the ball beautifully off her toes and won all three matches convincingly.



Doubles Group 2



Doubles Group 3

If I was excited by the strong quality of play from the groups on Saturday, our Top group was stunning! In particular all the players showed terrific athleticism and produced some magnificent retrieving. The top two players Isabella Harvey and Olivia Boulton went through to play the final. In their group match Isabella had beaten Olivia convincingly 5 – 2 with some tight serving and very attacking play. The final playing to 8 went game for game throughout with Olivia hitting some better length serves forcing Isabella to make mistakes; it was any ones' match. Some excellent rests ensued, and eventually, Olivia came through 8 – 6 by hitting a slightly better width and length.

U 19 Doubles

Again, the competition was held in groups with the group winners progressing to the group above. Emilia and Saffron were in great form in the first group with both players serving very accurately and comfortably won their group. They continued to play well so becoming runners up in their next group which then progressed them through to the top group. Lila and Olivia had come first by hitting some very consistent return of serves. In the final group the matches were extremely tight and on three occasions a pair came from 1 -4 down to win the match 5 – 4. The top two pairs to go through to the final were eventually 1st Olivia and Marina with Poppy and Isabella 2nd. Playing first pair to 8, it was a nail-biting final. Isabella and Poppy took a commanding 7 – 2 lead. Olivia and Marina looked tired and were making lots of mistakes. However, they suddenly took stock, cut out the mistakes plus hit some excellent shots to a good length into the corners and we were at 7 – 7. At this point Poppy and Isabella started to attack again and managed to win the final game and the title.

A great weekend of high quality tennis.

Many thanks to Dan and Adam for the long hours of marking, Wellington College for hosting the tournament and the The Dedanists' Society for jointly sponsoring the competition with the LRTA.

Report by Jill Newby