

## Whirlwind Mini Tour Finals 26 March 2017

The winter season Whirlwind Mini Tour Circuit drew to an exciting conclusion with 40 players qualifying to take part in the Grand Finals at the South Devon Tennis Centre, Ivybridge on Sunday 26 March.

Players aged from 6 to 10 years from Devon & Cornwall competed all winter chasing the top places on the Whirlwind Mini Tour leaderboard to reach the Grand Finals and the chance of being crowned Masters Champion!

The 8 & Under red ball event gave some of the 16 players their first taste of competing against players from outside their county and it was great to see how well everyone played and with such great spirit. After many close matches in the box rounds the semi-finals were interestingly Devon v Devon and Cornwall v Cornwall, assuring a Devon v Cornwall final! Ilfracombe's Kajetan Guzikiewicz played Tarka's Euan Greenslade whilst the other semi-final was between club mates Freddie Millard and Archie Stirling from Penzance Tennis Club. With Euan and Freddie prevailing, the final was eventually won by Freddie but both players showed great technique and skill. Congratulations to Freddie, the 8 & Under Champion.

16 players, 8 from each County, took part in the 9 & Under orange ball event and it was great to see 4 girls holding their own against the boys.

With many close matches in the box rounds, 8 players, 4 Devon and 4 Cornish, moved to the quarterfinals which again delivered some tightly contested, exciting matches leading to the semi-finals between Harry Willmott (Heron Newquay) and Rodrigo Anzules-Argote (Ilfracombe) and Maya Ichim (Nuffield Devonshire/Exmouth) and Ruben Mudd (Launceston). Rodrigo and Maya were the winners, so on to an all Devon final. It was an incredibly close match, swinging one way then the other but finally Rodrigo held on to win 12-10 and become the 9 & Under Champion.

The 10 & Under green ball event showcased some great tennis and whilst the first 3 players to qualify for the semi-finals were straightforward, there were 3 players tied for the 4<sup>th</sup> place! A 'shoot-out' tie-break play-off between them had to be used to find the final semi-finalist. Referee Colin Knight said he had never encountered this situation before but it was indicative of the standard of play on the day. The semi-finals saw Kallen from Tarka defeat Penzance's Archie Mallett whilst Truro's Matthew Upton overcame Oliver Vernon from Tarka. Matthew went on to win the final against Kallen and become 10 & Under Champion.

Trophies and prizes were presented by Sue Eames, Tennis Cornwall Chairperson, who congratulated the players on their great spirit and sportsmanship and expressed Devon Tennis and Tennis Cornwall's gratitude for Whirlwind Sport's support which has enabled so many young players to experience competition in a friendly environment, make new friends and be enthused by the sport.

The leaderboard winners in both Counties also received prizes and medals:

	8&Under Red Ball	9&Under Orange Ball	10&Under Green Ball
Devon	Euan Greenslade	Maya Ichim	Kallen
Cornwall	Blake Silver	Ruben Mudd	Archie Mallett

Over 210 children took part in the Whirlwind Mini Tour Circuit this season which has given these youngsters from throughout Devon and Cornwall the opportunity to develop their competitive skills and perhaps to take their first steps to becoming a future tennis star.