



Sadie Bristow Inter County Challenge

Kent and Surrey juniors played a friendly inter-county match in memory of Sadie Bristow on 2nd January 2020. There were 128 boys and girls from all age groups, 8U through to 18U, who played a total of 162 matches starting at 7.30am and finishing at 7.30pm.

The day was organised by Kent's Performance Coaches, Rob Smith and Harry Bushnell. Kent's thanks go to Bromley Tennis Centre for hosting the event and to Graham Silvester who was Referee; we are very grateful that BTC and Graham kindly provided the courts and time respectively for free. Thanks also go to Stewart and Clare Bristow and everyone at the Sadie Bristow Foundation for all their support with the event.

Stewart and Clare Bristow kindly agreed for the event to be named after their daughter. Sadie represented Kent and was one of the very best 9U tennis players in the UK. In 2018, she won so many tournaments, playing with great enthusiasm and energy despite suffering from a number of allergies. Tragically, Sadie suffered an extreme allergic reaction and died aged 9 in 2018. Stewart and Clare set up the Sadie Bristow Foundation in memory of their daughter to help provide tennis opportunities for children whilst also working to try and ensure that no other family should go through a similar process as the Bristows did when exhaustively researching Sadie's allergies. The Sadie Bristow Foundation works alongside Allergy UK and The Anaphylaxis Campaign. Here is a link to the Sadie Bristow Foundation website:

<https://www.sadiebristowfoundation.org.uk>





The day raised £400 for the Sadie Bristow Foundation in donations from players and parents. It was fitting that this challenge match should be against Surrey, as Sadie's last County match had been against Surrey.

The reintroduction of county friendly matches for 2020 was due to Rob and Harry wanting to reward those players who were involved in county training but had maybe not been selected for the County Cup events, whilst still playing a high standard of tennis with other county players.

The overall result was a win for Surrey by 86 rubbers to 76. Congratulations to Justin Sherring (Surrey Performance Coach) and his Surrey team, on their success and we look forward to seeing them for a return challenge next year. After a hectic day's play though, the real winner was tennis, with so many players enjoying the friendly, yet competitive, games.

