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Wigmore LTC win Third Tie to play Telford Park LTC in Final

Wigmore Lawn Tennis Club played convincingly well against Woodfield Grove Tennis Club to win the third tie in the round robin league of the Millennium Cup by six matches to three, and secure its place in the final.

The Millennium Cup is the inaugural friendly inter-club competition between the three tennis clubs in Streatham. Played under tropical conditions, participants on Saturday enjoyed the hospitality provided by Wigmore in its newly refurbished club house that was recently re-opened as a result of a Sport England Lottery grant.

Woodfield Grove's team demonstrated a marked improvement on their previous outing in early June when Telford Park Lawn Tennis Club whitewashed them. A gritty performance by Sarah Nelson-Smith in the opening Women's Singles broke the duck as she outlasted Wigmore's Wendy Fidao to win 2-6 6-2 7-5 in two and-a-half hours.

In the meantime team-mate June Brown raced ahead to win the opening set against Kerry Brotherwood 6-0, making an early lead by Woodfield Grove look likely, but the combination of the Wigmore Captain's plucky determination and the growing heat eventually overcame her, giving the match to the home team 0-6 6-3 6-1.

Tom Coates also had his chances in the Men's 45 & Over Singles against the veteran Mario Spezzano, squandering four set points in the second before succumbing to the older and more wily player in the tie-break, 6-3 7-5.

Wigmore established its dominance in the second round of matches when the Men's Doubles combination of Jacek Brant and Ralph Plowman overcame early resistance from Gareth Fernandes and David Platten to win 6-3 6-1, and Josh Dawson severely dealt with a spirited challenge from Edward Jones 6-0 6-0 in the Boy's 16 & Under Singles.

It was a different story between the girls, however, when Woodfield Grove's Emma Corbett-Milward turned around a first set deficit against Antonia Zammit to win through a marathon contest 1-6 6-4 6-4 to put the overall tie score at 4-2, with everything still to play for.

The small glimmer of hope was firmly extinguished by Ralph Plowman who, continuing his fine form from the doubles, scored another impressive win over Gareth Fernandes 6-0 6-2 in the Men's Singles to give Wigmore an unassailable lead.

Playing for honour, Woodfield Grove's Mixed Doubles pairing of David Platten and June Hanby gave Graham Sparks and Jane O'Mahoney plenty of opposition all the way to the first set tiebreak, which they narrowly lost. This was enough incentive for the Wigmore pair to find the edge in the second to win 7-6 6-3.

In the final Women's Doubles match the determined Sarah Nelson-Smith combined with Anne-Claire Landolt to battle things out against Wigmore's Sue Goligher and Wendy Fidao, eventually winning through 1-6 6-2 6-0 at around 5.00 pm.

"It was an excellent day of tennis," said Kerry Brotherwood afterwards, "And we are thrilled to have reached the final. We're hoping to add the Millennium Cup to our new trophy cabinet!"

Wigmore Lawn Tennis Club will now play Telford Park Lawn Tennis Club in the final of the Millennium Cup Competition due to be played on Saturday 22 September. As the two clubs previously met in the league at Telford Park, Wigmore has the home advantage of staging the final under the rules/.

The Champion Club will win the perpetual Millennium Cup trophy (picture right) for one year.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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