

## HARRY THOMAS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT 2020

### FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 33 Hearing Impaired children from 7 schools in the North East descended on David Lloyd, Stockton to compete in their 28<sup>th</sup> annual Mini Tennis event. Regrettably due to unseen circumstances a number of schools were unable to attend but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm shown by those present. While the mini tennis is the main point of the day, the real success was the way the children socialised and made friends from other schools, had lots of fun, and often showed a new side to their personalities.

Put in to 6 groups, playing round robin matches, it was encouraging to see how the younger children, often completely new to the game, really embraced the situation showing sheer delight on just winning a point. As a result of the Round Robin matches knockout semi-finals followed by 4 finals resulted in the following:

Girls Group 1	Farrah Appleby (Sunnyside) bt Megan McCourt (Sunnyside) 7-6 7-6
Girls Group 2	Ruby Marsh (Sunnyside) bt Isabelle Harwood (Sunnyside) 7-6 7-4
Boys Group 1	Dexter Dowling (St Augustine) bt Alfie Smith (Thorntree) 7-6 5-7 7-4
Boys Group 2	Jake Joyce (Sunnyside) bt Alex Kelly 5-7 7-6 7-5

All the finalists received individual trophies and medals and the winners received the Annual Shields.



Four of the finalists

My thanks to the Hearing Impaired and Sensory Support Teachers for contacting local schools and ensuring the children have a chance to attend, and to Jennifer Barron and Sarah Lowes, two coaches who assisted in helping the volunteer teacher/parent umpires in running and scoring each group, as well as providing a little coaching help where needed.