



## **Match Report: Girls u16 Kent County Championships Final**

**By Luca Helder**

*Featuring Alice Moffatt and Arundhati Ajit*  
(4-6, 6-3, 10, 3)

The first round of finals featured the finalists Moffatt and Arundhati going head-to-head.

### **First set**

The match started with a bang, as both players traded early breaks of serve. Moffatt came out of the gate with an aggressive, all-out attack, using her forehand to great effect and winning her first-game points with powerful groundstrokes.

However, Ajit quickly responded, targeting Moffatt's backhand and earning a break with a beautiful backhand down the line.

The first set continued to be a roller coaster. After Moffatt suffered three consecutive faults in the 8<sup>th</sup> game, Ajit broke again, taking the lead at 5-3 demonstrating her tactical awareness with a well-placed dropshot winner.

Ajit tried to take control on her serve and get a foothold in this set, but a double fault proved costly in the 9<sup>th</sup> game, 5-4.

Moffatt tried to force a lot of pressure onto Ajit's hand by playing the ball low which unfortunately for her in turn meant that she struggled, hitting the net three times in a row, allowing Ajit to take the first set.

### **Second Set:**

The second set began with Moffatt starting strong on her serve. After four enduring games, Moffatt turned the score from 0-1 to 4-1 as she extended her lead in the 5<sup>th</sup> game that was finished off by a fantastic rally.

As the set unfolded Ajit took a more aggressive approach which paid off and gave her the break... game on!

Ajit's dropshots were proving effective, the sixth game saw Ajit's attacking style pay off, as she approached the net and won a crucial dropshot point.

However, Moffatt quickly responded, serving two aces and winning her next service game to love, showing a newfound maturity 5-3.



The match continued to intensify, with the match on the line, Moffatt's coach could be heard yelling, "Process over prize!"—a clear sign of the philosophy of her team which Moffatt embodied perfectly on the court.

With both players vying for control. The ninth game was particularly notable, as Moffatt began to incorporate a beautiful backhand slice into her repertoire. This subtle change in pace created space on the court, allowing her to hit winner and win the set.

### **The Tiebreaker**

The tiebreaker was a masterclass in strategy and resilience. Moffatt started strong, forcing a lot of unforced errors from Ajit, who chose to play with a higher degree of risk. Ajit's aggressive approach initially paid off with a lovely dropshot, but Moffatt still came out with an early 5-1 lead.

After the break Moffatt showed her strategic brilliance, lifting the ball marginally over the net, which was too low for Ajit to get a clean connection. This clever play led to a commanding 8-2 lead for Moffatt.

Another break at 9-3 left Ajit with a mountain to climb. Knowing she had to attack, Ajit approached the net for the final shot but ended up hitting the ball into the net, sealing a well-deserved, hard-fought victory for Moffatt. What a performance!



## **Match Report: Women's Singles County Championships Final**

### **By Luca Helder**

#### **Judy Zhang vs Daisy Rowland (6-2, 6-0)**

In a compelling display of tactical tennis, Zhang defeated Rowland in a decisive straight-sets victory, showcasing her ability to adapt and a relentless aggressive approach that ultimately overwhelmed her opponent.

#### **First Set**

The match began with Rowland's patient, defensive approach yielding the first break of serve. Her strategy of forcing errors proved effective in the early stages. However, Zhang quickly responded, shifting to a more aggressive game plan and successfully targeting Rowland's backhand to break back immediately.

The fourth game of the set proved to be the most crucial turning point. With Rowland starting strong and winning the first three points, she tried to push Zhang even further back on the court. But Zhang, recognising the need for a change in strategy, adapted brilliantly. She brought the game back by landing her shots shorter and wider, forcing Rowland to adjust. A roar from Rowland's coach showed the importance of this game as she had an ad lead, but Zhang dug deep and came back to draw the score at 2-2.

Zhang's increasingly risky and aggressive game began to pay off in the sixth game, as she pushed Rowland wide, leaving her opponent with few answers.

The seventh game was another pivotal moment. With Zhang serving, a couple of slower second serves allowed Rowland to push up to the net. However, Rowland would have felt she missed a golden opportunity, as her second volley played right into Zhang's hands, who eventually won a great point.

The set concluded with Zhang taking it 6-2.

#### **Second Set**

The second set began with more controversy for Rowland. Zhang's serve and a couple of line calls left Rowland feeling hard done by, and it was clear that things were not going her way.

Zhang capitalized on the shift in momentum, securing an early break and a clean sweep of the first three games. Zhang was finding an answer for everything L threw at her, even an unexpected dropshot in the third game, which Zhang reached and finished, making the score 3-0.



Rowland did everything she could to gain a foothold in the match. She tactically took her time with her serves and found a rhythm when the ball bounced up, allowing her to apply consistent power and pace. However, Zhang effectively stifled Rowland's flow by generating a skilful amount of topspin on her shots, preventing Rowland from finding her groove.

The final game of the match was a microcosm of the entire contest. It went to deuce three times, with both players missing out on a game point lead. Rowland even hit two aces, forcing Zhang wide on both occasions, but an unexpected return from Zhang proved too much.

Ultimately, Rowland couldn't capitalize on those opportunities, as Zhang closed out a great match between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> seed.