



An interview with Ben Gusic-Wan

Ben Gusic-Wan is on the National Age Group Programme for 16U players until the end of the year and is the current 16U Boys National Champion. He's just finished a week as a member of the Kent Men's team competing in Group 1 of the National County Cup.



We caught up with Ben to find out more about his recent Wimbledon experience in the Boys Singles and Doubles events, as well as why representing Kent is so important to him...here's what he said.

Ben, how did it feel to be back at Wimbledon again this year competing in the junior events?

It felt great to be back at Wimbledon. A year later with more experience, I felt more comfortable in the surroundings. I knew what to expect. Unfortunately, the result didn't go my way, but life goes on.

Congratulations on getting through to the second round of the Boys Doubles, how did you select your doubles partner Freddy Blaydes?

Thank you. It was great to pick up my first win at Wimbledon. I've known Freddy for many years and he's a fantastic doubles player and good friend. I've played and lost to him many times, so it was good he was my partner for a change!

Do the international junior players get on well, and what do you like to do at tournaments when not on court?

I get on well with the international players. I've known most of them having competed in the same tournaments over the years. It's great to make friends from all over the world. Off court, we chat, play cards and sometimes football!

What's the best 'behind the scenes' experience you get as a Wimbledon player?

The best 'behind the scenes' you get at Wimbledon is at Aorangi Park where we can mingle and share the same warm up fitness areas with the professional players. To see them up close and train is amazing.

In term time how do you balance your tennis training with school commitments?

During term time, I train at my base in Canterbury with my coach then I go to the National Tennis Centre in the holidays if I'm not away competing. While I'm away, I still study and catch up with schoolwork in between the training sessions or matches.

Why is representing Kent so important to you?

I love representing Kent because it is my county and I've been part of the Kent team from red ball to now. So many years through orange, green, 12s, 14s, 18s and now Men's. It's been wonderful to play for Kent. Lots of great camaraderie. Memories to treasure.

Which tournaments are important to you in the next 6 months?

With the grass season coming to an end, I'll be competing in the European Summer Cup 16U qualifiers for Great Britain on clay in Spain. If we qualify, the final is in France. Hopefully we can do well and make the Junior Davis Cup finals.

Thank you to Ben for his time talking to us, and we wish him lots of luck for the rest of the year.

