

## Trip to Ilfracombe Tennis Tournament

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Simon, 4 parents and 16 children from West Mid headed down the M5 to Ilfracombe to take part in their summer, weeklong tournament.

Everyone was entered into a least one event. As we settled into our hotel overlooking the beautiful Devon coastline expectations were running high, the mums wanted to sit by the pool but the kids were raring to go insisting that we get up to the club to “try out the surface!”

We all met by the club house of Ilfracombe tennis club, set in the beautiful Bicclescombe Park and all the children were issued with their West Middlesex tour t-shirts which they wore with pride throughout the week (some were very smelly by day 6!).

Practice done and start times for the following days established it was back to the town to load up on carbs – fish and chips actually.

Bright and early the next morning, after breakfast, the first competitors were being ferried the short distance to the tennis club. Most were entered into the singles competition of their age group and the age above plus doubles and mixed doubles – all junior events led into a plate event so if they lost their first round there were still opportunities to play.

The parents and Simon set up camp at the club as there was always a West Mid player on court. Many of the entrants were from Devon, there was also a group from Marlow and a couple of Italian boys who were entranced by our girls!

Every day was busy, with most children playing at least one match a day, sometimes 4 or 5. In the evenings we would eat at the local restaurants and a couple of times some of us managed a couple of hours on the beach. The weather was perfect and the children were impeccably behaved.

We came home with 14 trophies!