

By Jonny Bray at Surbiton

ANDY Murray was crowned champion at a home grass court tournament for the first time in seven years after waltzing to victory at the LTA's Lexus Surbiton Trophy.

The two-time Wimbledon champion overcame Austrian Jurij Rodionov 6-3 6-2 on Sunday afternoon to grab his maiden home tournament triumph since soaring to SW19 glory in 2016. And elsewhere on Sunday, fellow British player Katie Swan, who is supported by the LTA's Pro Access Programme and a recent graduate of the LTA's Pro Scholarship Programme, fell to a battling final defeat in the women's singles to round off a memorable week for home players in south-west London.

The Bristol player, 24, suffered a 2-6 6-4 7-6 (1) loss against Belgian and former world No.12 Yanina Wickmayer after a defiant display in the first of the two finals on Sunday.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray, 36, was sensational in the afternoon showpiece in a match that was suspended for several hours owing to rain in the capital.

The Scot dominated the first set and was 3-1 up in the second when there was a lengthy delay owing to the conditions shortly after 3pm.

And when the players returned to centre court shortly after 6pm, Murray was in no mood to mess around as he dropped just one game to race to victory and send the buoyant Surbiton crowd home happy.

It marked his maiden grass court title since his unforgettable Wimbledon exploits seven years ago and sends him heading into the rest of the British summer season with considerable momentum.

Earlier in the day, Swan battled valiantly but eventually fell to a three-set defeat against Wickmayer.

Swan had the opportunity to become British No.1 if she won in south-west London but experienced Wickmayer, a 2009 US Open semi-finalist, showed immense heart to fight back from a set down and take the title.

But Swan can hold her head up high after delivering a sensational set of displays in Surbiton, including a quarter-final win over tricky German Tatjana Maria that made her only the third British woman to upset the top seed in the tournament's history.

The clash was played in stifling heat and lasted a gruelling two hours and 37 minutes, with Swan winning a series of lengthy games to lead 6-2 3-1 in the second set.

She was up a break again at 2-0 in the decider but from three-all in the second and third sets, the Belgian surged ahead.

But Swan fought valiantly to stay in it, saving one match point on the Belgian's serve at 5-3 to force the tie-break, where Wickmayer eventually prevailed.

Swan may have suffered defeat but it has still been a sensational week for British women at the grass court season curtain-raiser.

First, four Brits made the quarter-finals of the women's singles for the first time since 2017 – a joint record – but that was only the start.

On Friday, three British players – Swan, Katie Boulter and Lily Miyazaki – cemented their place in the semi-finals of the women's tournament for the first time ever.

Had Swan and Murray both triumphed on Sunday, it would have been the first time both the men's and women's singles were won by British players in 46 years.

But after a memorable week in south-west London, the hotly-anticipated British grass court is now firmly underway as attention pivots towards the LTA's Rothesay Open Nottingham next week.