

Lily Mills

Lily was born with Galactosaemia which is a rare genetic disorder that causes learning disabilities.

At just four days old Lily contracted E.coli-Meningitis and septicaemia.

Being critically ill, Lily had a 50/50 chance of survival.

The Meningitis also caused Lily a brain injury.

Lily, however, is made of stronger stuff. She decided to start playing tennis at the age of five after watching her brother, George, playing every weekend.

At first, it was challenge.

Lily had trouble hitting the ball but she kept trying and trying.

Lily's mum Tallulah said: "Having a learning disability and short term memory loss, means the repetition of tennis has been very good for Lily, building her confidence and self-esteem.

"For the last four years, she has won Gold for the ladies top division at the Learning Disability National Tennis tournament held in Nottingham every year."

In 2016, Lily was awarded Sportswomen of the Year for Islington and she also won the Joanna Brown Trust Award.

Lily has won numerous regional tournaments around the country, for singles and mixed doubles tennis.

Lily also competed in the Special Olympics GB National Games in August 2017 in Sheffield where she won a silver medal for both ladies singles and mixed doubles.

This year Lily has been selected to play for the INAS Development squad for the Tennis Foundation and has been picked to represent Special Olympics Great Britain in the World Games #AbuDhabi2019.

Tennis has given Lily opportunities she never thought she would have.

She lives and breathes tennis and is going to be fantastic for #TeamSOGB in the build up to and during the World Games in March.

