

TENNIS BACK AFTER THE BREAK

Tennis Geelong resumed on Saturday following the Christmas break, even though the weather presented problems again, with senior and junior competitions in full swing leading up to finals in four weeks.

In Section 1 Newcomb currently 2nd were at home to Ocean Grove 3rd and consolidated their position with a fine 7 sets to 2 victory. Newcomb had State grader Justin Robinson in the line-up and with Chris Higgins, Greg Steele and David Kos had their strongest team of men for the season so far.

Although missing Joanne Puckett, the Newcomb ladies won 2 of the 3 ladies' doubles with Raquel Murdoch, Bridget LeMaitre and Sascha Bruenjes performing well. For

The Grove, Ellie Deane was outstanding winning the Grove's only 2 sets for the afternoon and with Ari Levinson had a great win in 3rd mixed over Steele and Bruenjes and with Danielle Vigilante took out 2nd ladies.

The set of the afternoon was the clash of Robinson and Kos against Jason Raselli and Daniel Thomas in 1st men's with Newcomb getting up in a tiebreak. Overall Newcomb is well poised to play off for the flag this year with a solid 7 sets 53 games to 2 sets 34 games victory.

ST LUKE'S MAKE A STATEMENT

St Luke's at home on Saturday made a big statement in handing St Mary's their worst thrashing for years. Both teams were at full strength, however, St Luke's with top players Jeremy Palmer-Morgan and State grader Vicky Stucky leading the way, completely dominated the match over a disappointing St Mary's line-up.

For St Mary's Peppe Scorpo battled hard all day in his side's loss to St Luke's Highton Uniting by 0 sets 55 games to 0 sets 22 games.

With this win, St Luke's win are well placed in 4th position 11 points clear of Grovedale 5th and could prove to be a contender come finals.

TOP SIDE CENTRE COURT BLUE IN FORM

Centre Court Blue away to Grovedale proved far too strong for the Grove with an 8 sets to one thumping which puts Grovedale almost out of the running for a top four finish and finals action.

For Court Carolyn McGann, Adam Lasky, Ry Davies and Jordan Drew were outstanding in winning all their sets. Grovedale were well served by their ladies Ebony Del Rio, Bianca Duff and Sara Kucenko, with Del Rio and Kucenko going down 6/7 in 2nd ladies and Duff and Kucenko winning Grove's only set for the day in 3rd ladies 6/0, however the Grove went down 1 set 30 games to 8 sets 49 games.

CENTRE COURT RED IN CLOSE ONE

The close match of the day was at Centre Court Indoor with Court Red currently 5th against bottom side Wandana Heights and although the Court lost 5 of the 9 sets, they won the match on games 4 sets 42 games to 5 sets 33 games. With this win, Court Red still remains in touch of 4th place with 3 matches to go.

The Court women of Romano Mataruga, who lost only 2 games in winning her 3 sets, Kerry Bruce and Taylor Sobczyk won all 3 ladies' doubles, losing only one game in the process.

The Heights with State grader Mathew Holschier teaming with Josh Vines and James Brushfield took out all 3 men's doubles sets to keep the Heights in the match; however Holschier's loss to King in 1st mixed 1/6 proved the difference between the teams.

SECTION 1 LADDER WITH 3 ROUNDS TO GO –

Centre Court Blue 87.5 points, Newcomb 86.5, Ocean Grove 67.5, St Luke's Highton Uniting 62.5, Grovedale 51.5, Centre Court Red 49.5, St Mary's 40.5, Wandana Heights 38.5.

IN BRIEF

GEELONG EAST UNITING GOES ALONE

The Geelong East Uniting Tennis Club has upgraded their courts with hot mix at a cost of \$24,000. East Uniting being a private club had no assistance from Local Government in completing this upgrade which, for a small club, is an outstanding effort.

Club legend Neil Lamond said the upgrade was completed in the Christmas break following the last match on December 11th and encountered many problems along the way. Contractors had to remove tree roots on the Monday and Tuesday following the last match on December 11th and finally completed the upgrade on the Wednesday.

The club struck further trouble with the lining of the courts with Christmas fast approaching and 125 mm of rain in January which caused all sorts of problems, however they managed to get the job done in time for pennant recommencing on Saturday 5th February 2001 following the break. Well done East.

IN BRIEF

BARWON REGIONAL NEWS

Applications from 27 players were received for the inaugural intake to the Barwon Sports Academy Tennis Program. With only 16 places available selection was made challenging due to the quality and experience of applicants. The Barwon Regional Council congratulates the following players on being offered Scholarships with the Barwon Sports Academy Tennis Program – Jayson Tomicic, Taylah Mielczarek, Zoe Duff, Olivia Ryan, Axel Hider, James Thorne, Grace Johnston, Rachel Lolait, Jordan Drew, Caitlin Lennon, Abbie Walker, Samuel Parry, Geordie Daulaca, Bianca Duff, Adam Lasky and Natalie Mann.

An induction gathering will be held at Sports House on February 10th from 7pm. This induction will be an opportunity for all scholarships across the eight sports at the Barwon Sports Academy to be briefed on the program for 2011.

COMING TENNIS VICTORIA EVENTS FOR 2011-02-08

Junior players from the Barwon Region will receive “Athlete Nominations Forms” shortly regarding the next three events. These forms will need to be completed and returned to the Barwon Region by Monday 28th February 2011. The three events that the Region is now seeking interested players in are –

1. Alicia Molik Cup – to be played at Kooyong on 9th and 10th April. Teams comprise 2 boys 2 girls aged 12 & Under.
2. Association/Regional Challenge – to be played at Traralgon between 11-13th June (Queen’s Birthday weekend). Teams comprise 2 boys, 2 girls aged 12 & Under, 14 & Under and 16 & Under.
3. Frank Sedgman Cup – to be played at Ballarat on 6/7th August. Teams comprise 2 boys 2 girls aged 11 & Under.

These events are run by Tennis Victoria and are normally played as a “Round Robin” with playoffs for all final positions. Players are encouraged to nominate as this team event is a great way to both improve your tennis and play in a social team environment.