

WINTER SEASON TENNIS GEELONG HITS OFF

The winter season of Tennis Geelong Competition hit off last Saturday with eleven senior and seventeen junior sections playing first round matches in excellent conditions following the Easter break.

The top two sections of seniors involves 5 teams only in Section 1 in a 2 x 2 format, with Section 2 having 8 teams in the regular 3 x 3 format. The competition will be played over 15 weeks with finals in August.

Although down on sections compared to the summer season, the competition should provide excellent tennis for all. One of the main reasons it is down in winter is because many of Geelong's top players will be involved in Tennis Victoria's Melbourne Pennant representing Hepner Place, out of Centre Court, and Geelong Lawn.

In Section 1 on Saturday St Albans proved far too strong for Grovedale Yellow to record a 5 sets to 1 victory. The St Albans team of Angela Oldham, Sharron Taylor, Peter Lange and Doug Hewson lost the first set of the day in a tiebreak to Grovedale's Jayde Glascott and Matthew Squire and won the remaining 5 sets to take the match 5 sets 38 games to 1 set 23 games.

The Grove's other team in Section 1, Black, accounted for St Mary's to win 4 sets to 2 and by 7 games. Lisa Sherwell for Grove was the standout winning her 3 sets. She was supported well by Cameron Govan and Sara Kucenko.

For St Mary's Paul Field was in good form winning St Mary's 2 sets for the day and losing 2nd mixed in a tiebreak.

The highlight in Section 2 was the clash between Western Heights Uniting and Torquay at Douglass St Geelong West with Torquay winning 5 sets to 4. Torquay's Leanne Beale was the standout player winning her 3 sets and conceding only 8 games for the afternoon which was a tremendous effort considering Torquay only won by 2 games. Leanne had great support from Sam Rogers and Stuart and Evelyn Robottom who won 2 of their 3 sets. For The Heights Jeff Smith was outstanding winning all 3 sets and losing only 5 games in the process. Vicki Giblin was also in good form for The Heights winning 2 of her 3 sets, however Torquay held on to win 5 sets 41 games to 4 sets 39 games.

In other matches in Section 2 Ocean Grove with Sally Hughes and Jarryd Proctor leading the way completely outplayed Grovedale to win 8 sets 55 games to 1 set 29 games. The Dale's only set for the day came in the last set of the day with Ben Hardy and Will Grose just getting home over Phillip Nash and Scott Bibby.

Geelong East Uniting was at home to Lara on Saturday and although winning the opening mixed set won only one other set, 2nd ladies', in their loss to Lara 2 sets 28 games to 7 sets 50 games.

For Lara the whole team performed well, whilst Bernadette Lowe was a standout for East winning 2 of her 3 sets. In the final match in Section 2, Waurin Ponds with Michael Mullen, Nick Zyppel and Shane Crapper in fine form, were too strong for Bannockburn winning 7 sets 48 games to 2 sets 31 games.

For Bannockburn Carol Dodds was outstanding, winning the Burn's only 2 sets for the day in 2nd and 3rd ladies doubles with Sarah Round and Ida Durran.

IN BRIEF

The Barwon Region was represented at the Alicia Molik Cup recently by juniors Jayson Tomicic, James Thorne, Olivia Ryan and Taylah Mielczarek. This was a Round Robin event for 12 & Unders that was held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The event run by Tennis Victoria attracted 16 teams from both Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria. David McLennan from the Barwon Region said the level of tennis was of a high standard and the Barwon team performed well to finish in 10th position overall. The highlights for the players were playing at Kooyong and meeting Alicia Molik.