

GROVE BLACK SEAL SECOND SPOT

With one round remaining in Section 1 Tennis Geelong Competition, Grovedale Black has sealed 2nd spot on the ladder with a crushing 5 sets to 1 win over 4th placed St Albans on Saturday.

The Black team of Sara Earls, Lisa Sherwell, Alex Olney and Steven Muratori outplayed their opponents, winning the first 5 sets in fine style. Their only set lost was the final set of the day when Earls and Muratori went down to the Saints' Kimberley Rice and Doug Hewson. However, the final result saw Grovedale Black 5 sets 33 games to St Albans 1 set 20 games.

In the other match in Section 1, top side Newcomb handed out a thrashing to Grovedale Yellow by 6 sets to nil.

The Newcomb team of Bridget LeMaitre, Ana Clifton, Chris Higgins and Greg Steele were far too strong, however, Lisa Graham and Andrew Veenstra for Yellow went close to winning the 2nd mixed, losing in a tiebreak which was the only close set for the day.

Overall Newcomb, hot favourites for the flag, went on to win 6 sets 37 games to Grovedale Yellow 0 sets 15 games. Section 1 along with all other six teams sections will play their final rounds next week with finals commencing the week after.

SECTION 1 LADDER – Newcomb 74 points, Grovedale Black 55.5, St Mary's 44, St Albans 27, Grovedale Yellow 23.5.

WAURN PONDS FINISH TOP

Waurnd Ponds rounded off an excellent home and away fixture by thumping 7th placed Torquay by 9 sets to love and by 42 games at Waurnd Ponds on Saturday to finish top with finals to commence this week. The team of Bianca Duff, Nicole and Joanne Mullen, Rachel Lolait, Ben Rankin, Nick Zyppel and Michael Mullen completely outplayed the Torquay side and like Newcomb in Section 1 are odds on to take out the flag in 3 weeks' time.

For Torquay Leanne Beale and Evelyn Robottom fought hard all day, however the Ponds ran out easy winners 9 sets 54 games to 0 sets 12 games. In the second semi-final next Saturday Waurnd Ponds will meet Lara with the winner going straight into the grand final.

In other matches in Section 2 Ocean Grove 3rd was at home to Western Heights Uniting, last, and proved why they may upset other teams in the finals, with a runaway 8 sets to 1 victory.

The Grove team of Megan Vicary, Sally Hughes, Ashleigh Cooke, Jarryd Proctor, Josh Hudson and Scott Bibby took complete control of the match, winning the first 7 sets convincingly. The last 2 sets for the afternoon were the highlights of an otherwise one-sided match with the Heights' pair of Vicki Giblin and Lynne Claridge winning the Heights' only set for the day in a tiebreak, and Jeff Smith and Matthew Wrigley going down to the Grove's Hudson and Bibby 5/7 in the final set of the day. However, Ocean Grove too good, winning 8 sets to 55 games to Western Heights 1 set 32 games. Ocean Grove will meet Bannockburn in next week's cut-throat first semi-final.

Grovedale was away to Geelong East Uniting on Saturday and finished the season in 5th position just out of the four with a strong 8 sets to 1 set win. The Grove team of Jessica Christy, Donna Schoenmaekers, Linda Muratori, Jason Schoenmaekers, Will Grose and Ben Hardy, took out the first 7 sets in fine style to set up the win.

Sandra Hartkopf and Helen Lewis won East's only set for the day and Hartkopf almost won 2 sets, losing 2nd mixed with Jason McCallum in a tiebreak. Overall Grovedale far too strong, winning 8 sets 54 games to 1 set 33 games.

In the final match in Section 2 Lara 2nd was away to Bannockburn 4th with Lara proving far too strong, winning 7 sets to 2. Lara dominated with Jacqui Watson, Daniel Peters and Daniel Sluggett in fine form winning their 3 sets and Peters and Sluggett teaming with Taorei Cronin to take out all 3 mens' doubles sets, along with Sandra Slade winning 2 of her 3 sets.

Ida Durran was a standout for Burn, teaming with Ron Stewart in 2nd mixed and Carol Dodds in 3rd ladies to win the Burn's only two sets for the afternoon in their loss to Lara by 7 sets 46 games to 2 sets 19 games.

SECTION 2 FINAL LADDER – Waurin Ponds 127 points, Lara 110.5, Ocean Grove 94, Bannockburn 78, Grovedale 70, Geelong East Uniting 53, Torquay 48.5, Western Heights Uniting 35.

SECTION 2 FINALS FOR SATURDAY – Waurin Ponds v Lara at St Stephens, Courts 1 and 3. Ocean Grove v Bannockburn at St Stephens, Courts 4 and 6.

All senior 8 teams sections will commence finals this week along with all junior finals.

Finals for 6 teams sections will commence the week after next with the grand final of all sections to be played on August 27th.

BARWON REGION NEWS IN BRIEF

Barwon Region's 11 and Under mixed team of Axel Hider, Taylah Mielczarek, James Thorne and Zoe Duff competed in the 2011 Tennis Victoria Frank Sedgman Cup held at Tennis Ballarat Indoor Centre last weekend. The team played some inspired tennis to finish in the top pool, playing off for positions 1-4 out of the 13 teams competing from all over Victoria. Following the play-off the team tied for third place, however dropped the deciding tiebreak set to finish fourth overall. Team Manager, Renee Mielczarek said all members of the team contributed in this outstanding effort.

PHOTO L-R Axel Hider, Taylah Mielczarek, James Thorne and Zoe Duff.

