

ST LUKE'S LOSE TOP

St Luke's Highton Uniting, without top players Jeremy Palmer-Morgan and his wife Raelee, suffered a shock loss against the young Ocean Grove side on Saturday going down 5 sets to 4 and by 4 games. For Grove, Brad Edwards and Daniel Thomas were outstanding winning all their sets and with Jason Raselli, won all 3 men's doubles conceding only 7 games in the process.

St Luke's only winners on the day were Abbie Walker taking 3 sets, along with Brianna Bateup and Hayley Bromley winning 2 sets, and the St Luke's ladies winning all 3 ladies' doubles in fine style. However, this was not good enough with Grove taking the match 5 sets 37 games to 4 sets 33 games.

CENTRE COURT BLUE MOVE TO TOP

Centre Court Blue moved to top place on the ladder with a close, hard-fought victory over Centre Court Red by 5 sets to 4. For Blue Stephanie Guy was a standout winning her 3 sets and with Carolyn McGann and Kelly Brunger, took out all 3 ladies' doubles in easy fashion. Adam Lasky was the best for the men, winning 2 sets for Blue.

Red's Matthew Hicks, No.1 in Geelong, continued his outstanding form by winning all his sets and with James Brushfield winning 2 sets, kept Red in the match. However, Blue with dominant ladies won 5 sets 43 games to 4 sets 33 games to move to top of the ladder.

ST MARY'S PUSH NEWCOMB

St Mary's, 6th, pushed Newcomb, 4th, on Saturday and went down by one set and 4 games. Newcomb's Chris Higgins was in great form winning his 3 sets and with Greg Steele, Bridget LeMaitre, Sascha Bruenjes taking 2 sets, saw Newcomb home.

For St Mary's Jenelle Findlay was in outstanding form winning her 3 sets and was ably backed up by Shane Wiffen taking out 2 of his 3 sets to keep the Saints in the game. However, Newcomb prevailed, winning 5 sets 43 games to 4 sets 37 games.

GEELONG LAWN CRUSH GROVEDALE

Grovedale at home to Geelong Lawn suffered a crushing defeat 9 sets to love in a one-sided encounter. The Lawn team of Phillipa Tepper, Melissa Mortimer, Fiona Walker, Ari Levinson, Lewis O'Brien and Michael Jiang played outstanding tennis and although 1st mixed, 1st men's and 2nd men's were won in tiebreaks, Lawn was too strong, winning 9 sets 57 games to 0 sets 30 games.

SECTION 1 LADDER - Centre Court Blue 76.5 points, St Luke's Highton Uniting 75.0, Geelong Lawn 70.5, Newcomb 59.5, Centre Court Red 53.5, St Mary's 45.5, Ocean Grove 37.5, Grovedale 22.

GROVEDALE ACE TOP SIDE

Grovedale travelled to Gheringhap on Saturday in Tennis Geelong Section 2 and aced the unbeaten Hap side 6 sets to 2 with 3rd men's unfinished due to rain. Gheringhap still remain top at the Christmas break with Grovedale moving into 3rd place one point ahead of Waurm Ponds (4th).

For Grove it was a team effort with Troy Mikelsons winning his 3 sets and Matt Squire, Lisa Graham, Belinda Lee and Kate D'Altera winning 2 sets each in a surprise won over the top side.

For the Hap, Nicola McInerney and Kathryn Reitter were the better players in their loss 2 sets 33 games to Grovedale 6 sets 48 games.

SUTHERLAND'S CREEK HOLD SECOND

The Creek held on to 2nd place with a strong win over Geelong Lawn 6 sets to 2. It was once again a team effort by the Creek with Rohan Koorn, Colleen Battye, Adrian Koorn, Susan Bissett, Reece Johnson and Kristen Battye all winning 2 sets for the day.

For Lawn, Mick Carlon and Emmalina McLachlan won 1st mixed and Toby Lawrence and Justin Pelly 3rd men's, with 3rd ladies' unfinished due to rain. Overall the Creek too strong, winning 6 sets 45 games to 2 sets 28 games.

LARA INCH CLOSER TO FOUR

Lara at home inched closer to the four with a nail-biting win over Ocean Grove on Saturday 6 sets to 3, however, lost on games. For Lara Jacqui Watson and Christina Blaskovic were outstanding, winning their 3 sets and with Sandra Slade, took out all ladies' doubles in close hard-fought sets. Xavier Christensen and Daniel Peters supported the Lara ladies in winning 2 sets each.

The Grove's David Franks was a standout winning his 3 sets and Grove's only 3 sets for the day in their loss to Lara 3 sets 45 games to 6 sets 44 games.

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING SURPRISE WAURN PONDS

Bottom placed Western Heights surprised Waurm Ponds on Saturday by winning 6 sets to 3, pushing the Ponds from 3rd to 4th on the Section 2 ladder. For the Heights Sharron Howard was in fine form winning her 3 sets and was well backed up by Denise Airey, Kathryn O'Donnell, Andrew Gibson and Andrew Forster all winning 2 sets in a great team effort. The ladies for the Heights played well taking out 1st and 3rd ladies' and only losing 2nd ladies' in a tiebreak.

Nick Zyppel was the stand-out player for the Ponds winning two sets, 2nd and 3rd men's with Ben Rankin and Ben Meeke, after Rankin and Meeke lost 1st men's in a tiebreak. Overall The Heights won 6 sets 48 games to 3 sets 44 games.

SECTION 2 LADDER - Gheringhap 73.5 points, Sutherland's Creek 70.5, Grovedale 58.5, Waurm Ponds 57.5, Lara 50, Ocean Grove 47.5, Geelong Lawn 45.5, Western Heights Uniting 37.

Tennis Geelong seniors and juniors will recommence after the Christmas break on Saturday February 4th 2012 with semi-finals on March 3rd, Tournament March 10th, Preliminary finals March 17th and Grand Finals March 24th.

BARWON REGION NEWS

Four of the Barwon Region's aspiring young tennis players represented the Region in the Wayne Arthurs Cup held at Kooyong Tennis Club. Sixteen teams from across the State gathered on the 10th and 11th December to compete in this 10 & Under event. The weather conditions were more than trying with temperatures exceeding well over 30 degrees.

Josh McPhee, Chae Goldsworthy, Alana Mullen and Luka Lesosky-Hay competed well against the other Regions that had also gathered to battle it out to try and secure the trophy. After coming 2nd on the first day in their draw, they returned the next day to play off for 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th position. With competition being very strong they managed to show that these Geelong juniors were a team to be reckoned with. Winning the first round gave them the confidence to take on the next team. This proved to be a close battle with Barwon falling short by only five games, which then gave the team a final position of 6th place overall.

All four players enjoyed the experience and privilege to represent the Barwon Region on the historic courts where many former champions have played. A great result as the competition was of a very high standard and these young tennis players should be very proud of themselves.



(PHOTO) L to R – Chae Goldsworthy, Alana Mullen, Luka Lesosky-Hay and Josh McPhee.