

Tennis Geelong Seniors Last Round Write Up - Neil Lamond (in the absence of Les McInerney)

The last round of the home and away matches in Tennis Geelong's senior competition were played last Saturday with the Finals commencing next weekend. In the morning there were many anxious eyes looking at the skies from players in fifth placed teams, for a washed out match would deny their team any chance of making the four. However the rain kept away but none of these teams could achieve their goal. Geelong East Uniting in section 3 were very close failing by just half a point to oust Waurin Ponds from fourth place.

In section 1 the top two teams Newcomb and St. Mary's had comfortable wins and should play off in the grand final on September 1, with Newcomb likely to reverse the result of their clash of a year ago when St. Mary's surprised us all by defeating Newcomb for premiership honours.

Hamlyn Park in the top mens grade had no difficulty on Saturday continuing their remarkable run in which they have lost only two sets for the year. The sets they lost were against Highton when Hamlyn Park were without one of their top players in Joseph Horvat. Hamlyn Park have this premiership in the bag.

In section 3 the race seems to be between the top three, Highton who have been in good form all the season, Barwon Heads who play brilliantly one week and ordinary the next, and Western Heights who started well but have faded the last two weeks.

Wandana Heights with their classy women, Ida Durran and Carol Dodds should be able to defeat their opponents and give more than adequate support to their male partners in the mixed doubles sets. They should win section 4.

Section 5 will provide close finals matches with the three top teams evenly balanced. The leading side Highton you might imagine would be victory favourite but they have lost recently to both Lara and Western Heights Uniting who are the other two of the top three so are both in with a chance.

Clifton Springs fill two places of the teams in the finals in section 6 but the competition will be strong from both Moolap Blue and especially Newcomb who have been in great form in recent matches. Six is a very even grade.

Section 7 is the second of the two men's grades. Surfside the leaders are a great side but so are Lara when they have their best side on the court. Lara have won their last two grand finals and will be confident that they can do it again but form indicates a close win to Surfside.

Clifton Springs in Section 8 have been the outstanding team all season and will be favourites to win this grade. The main competition will be from Geelong East Uniting and St. Mary's who have also both played well during the year. Clifton Springs junior player Joshua Matthews who has lost only two sets for his team in senior play this season will play a big part in his team's final campaign.

Top team Wandana Heights fresh from a big win over fourth placed team St. Stephen's Anglican last Saturday in section 9 will be hard to beat. The toughest opposition will come from St. Mary's with Tom Crosbie in excellent form having played every match with a win loss ratio of 35 sets to 7 sets.

In section 10 Waurin Ponds are top of the ladder but snapping at their heels are two teams with a real possibility of causing an upset especially now as Waurin Ponds stumbled against sixth placed Newcomb last Saturday. Teams from Highton and Eastern Districts (second and third) played a thriller last week and both are very capable of winning the premiership in this grade.