

JACOB & ABBIE IN NATIONAL COMP

Local players Jacob Grills and Abbie Walker have been selected to play with the “Waverley Warriors” in the new Asia-Pacific Tennis League (ATL) which hit off last weekend. Only 6 men’s teams and 5 ladies’ teams were submitted and accepted by Tennis Victoria. This new National League replaces the old Premier League Competition.

What is the ATL?

The ATL is run in conjunction with Tennis Australia and is a competition comprised of 6 male teams and 5 female teams. ATL teams consist of upcoming stars of the future along with current and past tour players including Sam Groth (who currently holds the world record for the fastest serve at 263km/h) and Richard Fromberg, just to name a few.

The competition runs over 5 rounds from November 11th to 25th with each club hosting all teams at the one venue (known as “Super Rounds”). Each Super Round sees 3 separate matches between ATL clubs consisting of four, best-of-three, first-to-4 singles sets and two, best-of-two, first-to-4 doubles sets at the one venue.

What to expect?

The idea behind the ATL is to create a more enjoyable tennis event for spectators and has been labelled as tennis’ answer to Twenty20 cricket. Along with the modified scoring system, there are a number of additional rules that are sure to make things interesting. One of the most interesting is the complete removal of “lets”, meaning if a serve hits the net but then lands in the court, play continues!

Jacob has had an exceptional year on both the European and Australian Circuits which has seen him earn a well-deserved World ATP Ranking of 1109. He is currently ranked at 46 in Australia.

Jacob said that during the past two months he has been playing the Men’s Pro Circuit events throughout Australia and that he is already enjoying the new Asia-Pacific League competition which involves Australia’s top players.

Abbie on the other hand has shifted her focus slightly to include coaching as part of her tennis resume. She coaches 4 nights per week whilst balancing her schooling and training. She played for Hepner Indoor’s Grade 1 Winter Pennant team this year in Tennis Victoria Melbourne Pennant and is currently in her 3rd season in Section 1 Tennis Geelong competition with St Luke’s Highton Uniting. She played in the old Premier League competition with Geelong Lawn in 2010 and 2011 as well as the pilot last year of the National Tennis League.

NEWCOMB SURPRISE ST LUKE'S

Newcomb at home surprised St Luke's Highton Uniting on Saturday in Tennis Geelong Section 1 with an 8 sets to 1 victory to move into 3rd place on the ladder.

Although the result was one-sided 4 of the 9 sets were decided in tiebreaks with Newcomb winning 3 of the 4. The strong Newcomb team of David Kos, Peppe Scorpo, Greg Steele, Linda Vaughan, Joanne Puckett and Ana Clifton played solidly throughout and proved they could be a chance this season's flag.

St Luke's only set in the match was 2nd mixed with Abbie Walker and Jeremy Palmer-Morgan getting home in a tiebreak over Scorpo and Puckett.

Final result – Newcomb 8 sets 57 games to St Luke's 1 set 35 games.

RED INTO TOP POSITION

Centre Court Red without top player Matt Hicks moved into top position with a workmanlike showing to thrash bottom placed All Saints Anglican by 8 sets to 1.

The Centre Court men Adam Lasky, Josh Vines and Sam Arli along with their women Karen Filippou, Taylor Sobczyk and Natalie Mann completely outplayed All Saints who were missing their top player Mathew Holschier. All Saints' only shining light was 3rd mixed when Carly McClelland and Daniel Thomas won well against Mann and Arli to give All Saints their only set for the afternoon in their loss to Court Red by 8 sets 50 games to 1 set 30 games.

SECTION 1 LADDER – Centre Court Red 29 points, Centre Court Blue 24.5, Newcomb 24, St Luke's Highton Uniting 17.5, All Saints Anglican 15.

HAMLIN PARK NOW TOP IN 2

In Section 2 tennis on Saturday, Hamlyn Park at home played strongly all day to smash top side St Mary's by 5 sets to 1. The Park's Tony Lazic, Jozef Horvat, Tyler Dickson and Andrew Frost surprised the Saints with an all-round performance.

Wayne Spalding and Adrian Koorn won the Saints' only set in a surprise result with Hamlyn Park winning 5 sets 35 games to St Mary's 1 set 27 games.

OCEAN GROVE MAKE STATEMENT

In Section 2 Tennis Geelong on Saturday Ocean Grove made a big statement by defeating the more fancied Shell on Shell's own courts by 4 sets to 2.

For Grove, James Kerr was outstanding winning all his sets to lead the way and with strong backup from Jarryd Proctor and Nigel Allan the match was never in doubt.

Ivan Bosnjak for Shell was their outstanding player winning Shell's only 2 sets in their loss to Grove 2 sets 24 games to 4 sets 34 games.

SECTION 2 LADDER – Hamlyn Park 22 points, St Mary's 19, Shell 19, Ocean Grove 17, Highton 3.

LAWN MOVE INTO THIRD

Geelong Lawn have moved into 3rd place on the Section 3 ladder with a strong 7 sets to 2 win against Grovedale Yellow, now 4th. The Lawn men Ryan Michell, Mick Carlon and Ashley West dominated proceedings winning all their sets including the 3 men's doubles sets and with good support from Jill Pavia and Eloise Pigott proved far too strong for Grove Yellow.

Michelle Henderson won Grove's only 2 sets for the afternoon taking out the 2nd and 3rd ladies' doubles with Lisa Graham and Zoe Duff, however Geelong Lawn had all the answers winning 7 sets 49 games to Grovedale Yellow 2 sets 33 games.

PONDS MOVE UP LADDER

Waur Ponds travelled to St Albans on Saturday and after a close struggle came away with a 5 sets to 4 win to move up the Section 3 ladder.

For the Ponds, junior star Nicole Mullen was the highlight of the match winning all her sets in grand style and losing only 4 games for the day.

The Pond's men Nick Zyppel and Tom Ferry played their part to see the Ponds home.

For St Albans strong performances from Peter Lange, Matthew Allen and Susan Bissett kept them in the match, however Waur Ponds just home by 5 sets 48 games to St Albans 4 sets 36 games.

BANNOCKBURN CONTINUE UNBEATEN RUN

Bannockburn continued its unbeaten run on Saturday with a comfortable 7 sets to 1 victory over 6th placed Barwon Heads. With the inclusion of seasoned players Cliff Bath and Colleen Battye into Burn's line-up it was going to be a tall order for the Heads. These players combined well with the LeMaitres Rachel, Angela and Nick and Tim Bongiorno to win well.

For the Heads Andrew McKinnon played well all day winning the Heads' only 2 sets in their loss 2 sets 32 games to Bannockburn 7 sets 51 games.

In the final game in Section 3 Gheringhap at home proved far too strong for Grovedale Black, winning 8 sets to 1. The Hap side led by Anthony Leigh was in outstanding form. Black's only set was in 2nd ladies, which was a tiebreak.

Overall Gheringhap 8 sets 54 games to Grovedale Black 1 set 26 games.

SECTION 3 LADDER – Bannockburn 45 points, Gheringhap 39, Geelong Lawn 34, Grovedale Yellow 29, Waur Ponds 23.5, Barwon Heads 21.5, Grovedale Black 15, St Albans 13.

BARWON REGION JUNIORS

Barwon Juniors participated in the Boys Aged 13 and Under Fitzgerald Cup staged in Wodonga recently. 11 Regional Teams entered with 4 boys in each team. The Barwon Team comprised Jayson Tomicic (Geelong Lawn), Flynn Marshall (Torquay) and brothers Harry and Billy Spicer (Grovedale).

The tennis was of a good standard throughout and the boys all showed great sportsmanship. Barwon finished 7th overall with Gippsland taking out the Cup.



(L to R – Flynn Marshall, Harry Spicer, Billy Spicer and Jayson Tomicic).

TENNIS GEELONG JUNIORS WANTED FOR COUNTRY WEEK

Ballarat Junior Country Week will be staged in Ballarat from 21st-25th January 2013 and all players in Tennis Geelong are welcome to register to play. A bus will be provided each day for those players who elect not to stay in Ballarat for the week.

This is a great week of tennis against other country Associations and to register there will be a registration day for all new players at Highton Tennis Club on the 18th November between 10am – 12pm. If players are unable to attend this registration day please contact Judi Evans on Phone 52815328 or go to the Tennis Geelong website.