

### **ANOTHER TIGHT ONE FOR HEPNER**

Hepner Indoor held on to top place on the Men's Grade 1 Section 2 Melbourne Pennant ladder on Saturday with a thrilling two game victory over Bundoora with rubbers and sets even. Hepner's top player Matt Hicks was unavailable because of injury, however Adam Lasky and Justin Robinson led the way winning their opening singles rubbers in straight sets in fine style to put Hepner in a strong position. Nathan Mayes fought hard in his rubber, but lost in straight sets for Hepner. Hepner's Ry Davies found it difficult in the final rubber and lost in straight also, however, Hepner Place Indoor just home by 2 rubbers 4 sets 37 games to Bundoora 2 rubbers 4 sets 35 games.

### **LAWN'S FINAL HOPES WASHED AWAY**

In Men's Grade 2 Section 1 of Melbourne Pennant on Saturday, Geelong Lawn was away to Bruce Park and unfortunately the match was abandoned due to heavy rain and has washed away any chance for Lawn making the finals with only one round to play. They will finish the season in 6<sup>th</sup> position.

### **HEPNER IN ANOTHER CLOSE ONE**

Hepner Place Indoor No.1 at home to Bundoora in Men's Grade 2 Section 2 of Melbourne Pennant on Saturday fought off a determined Bundoora side to win by 7 games with rubbers and sets even. Daniel Simko was the star for Hepner, winning his opening singles rubber in straight sets conceding only 4 games in the process. This proved to be a match winning effort as Hepner won on games only. Hepner's Brodie Young was a little unlucky in his rubber losing the first set in a tiebreak, however lost in straight sets. In the remaining rubbers Jake Dunn for Hepner was involved in a marathon 3-setter which he finally won 6/7 7/5 7/6. In the final rubber Hepner's Matt Fisher was also involved in a hard fought 3-setter which he lost 6/3 6/7 5/7. With Simko gaining a games lead in his match allowed Hepner Place Indoor to win narrowly over 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Bundoora by 2 rubbers 5 sets 59 games to 2 rubbers 5 sets 52 games to hold down 4<sup>th</sup> place on the ladder with one round remaining before finals.

### **HEPNER IN WASHOUT**

Hepner Place Indoor travelled to Wonga Park on Saturday in Melbourne Pennant Men's Grade 2 Section 3 and due to bad weather conditions the match was abandoned and points shared. Both Hepner Place and Wonga Park are currently holding down 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> spot on the ladder well clear of 3<sup>rd</sup> position and will play finals.

### **TOP SIDE BEATEN AGAIN**

Top side in Women's Grade 1 Section 2 of Tennis Victoria Melbourne Pennant, Hepner Place Indoor, suffered another loss at home on Saturday, this time to Kooyong by 3 rubbers to 1. Both Ramona Mataruga and Karen Filippou found the going tough in the first two singles rubbers, losing both in straight sets for Hepner against quality opposition.

Carolyn McGann for Hepner fought out a 3-setter, however lost while Abbie Walker won Hepner's only rubber for the day when she took out the final rubber in straight sets, but Kooyong too strong on the day winning 3 rubbers 6 sets 47 games to Hepner Place Indoor 1 rubber 3 sets 35 games.

### **LAWN WIN ON FORFEIT**

Geelong Lawn at home on Saturday in Women's Grade 2 Section 1 of Melbourne Pennant received a forfeit from Beaumaris Lawn and gained full points, however have no hope of playing finals and are currently in 6<sup>th</sup> position on the ladder with one round remaining against Royal South Yarra away next Saturday.

### **HEPNER GIRLS WASHED OUT AT M.C.C.**

In Grade 2 Section 2 of Women's Melbourne Pennant on Saturday Hepner Place travelled to MCC, however the match was abandoned before a ball was hit, due to rain. By sharing the points Hepner has slipped out of the four to 5<sup>th</sup> place, 2 points from 4<sup>th</sup> with only one round remaining before finals. Hepner plays bottom placed Grace Park at home next Saturday and should win well and regain a position in the four for the finals.

## **BLUE SHOCK MAROON IN ONE**

Newcomb Blue handed their club-mates their first defeat for the season when they smashed Newcomb Maroon by 5 sets to 1 in Tennis Geelong Section 1 on Saturday. The Maroons still remain top by a large margin, however Blue has now consolidated 2<sup>nd</sup> and should hold that position for the finals.

Blue's Bianca and Zoe Duff along with Chris Higgins and Steve Donaldson dominated from the outset and lost only one set for the afternoon when Joanne Puckett and Ana Clifton for the Maroons outplayed the Duff girls in ladies' doubles.

Overall Newcomb Blue too strong, winning 5 sets 36 games to Newcomb Maroon 1 set 21 games in a shock result.

## **GROVEDALE MAKE A STATEMENT**

In another surprising result in Section 1 Tennis Geelong on Saturday, Grovedale, 4<sup>th</sup>, completely outplayed 3<sup>rd</sup> placed St Albans to win 6 sets to love in a boilover. The win now puts pressure on the Saints to make the finals with both Grovedale and Waurn Ponds not far behind.

The Grove team of Lisa Sherwell, Lisa Graham, Steven Muratori and Ben Flynn were in outstanding form, allowing the Saints only 9 games for the afternoon in their win 6 sets 36 games to St Albans 0 sets 9 games.

## **WAURN PONDS STILL IN THE HUNT**

The Ponds led by youngster Nicole Mullen winning all her sets has kept them in the hunt for the finals with a 4 sets to 2 victory over Highton on Saturday in the final match in Tennis Geelong Section 1. She had strong support from Tom Ferry and Emily Machar who took out 2 of their 3 sets in fine style. For Highton Stan Kenyon was a standout being involved in Highton's only 2 sets for the afternoon, however Waurn Ponds too good winning 4 sets 28 games to Highton 2 sets 23 games. The Ponds will play 3rd placed St Albans next Saturday in another crucial match.

**SECTION 1 LADDER** - Newcomb Maroon 80 points, Newcomb Blue 58, St Albans 50, Grovedale 43, Waurn Ponds 41, Highton 16.

## **CLIFTON SPRINGS BY ONE GAME**

2<sup>nd</sup> placed Clifton Springs had trouble putting away 4<sup>th</sup> placed Wandana Heights on Saturday in Section 2 Tennis Geelong and got home by a solitary game to remain 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Hamlyn Park. In a see-sawing encounter Joshua Matthews and Adam Hill were the standouts for the Springs, winning 2 sets each while Ben Jones and Matthew Jolliffe for the Heights were equally outstanding, winning 2 sets each, however Clifton Springs prevailed winning 3 sets 25 games to Wandana Heights 3 sets 24 games.

## **EAST WIN THE BATTLE AT THE BOTTOM**

Geelong East Uniting won the battle of the bottom teams in Section 2 Tennis Geelong proving far too strong for All Saints Anglican, winning 5 sets to 1. East's Paul Field, Luke Kosmetschke, Connor Morris and Kim Lizmore, after losing the opening set of the day to Saints' Nathan Cameron and Andrew Narita, never looked back and won all the remaining sets to record a comfortable win over All Saints Anglican by 5 sets 34 games to 1 set 21 games.

## **PARK STILL TOP**

Hamlyn Park, top, was away to 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Highton on Saturday in Section 2 Tennis Geelong Competition and just got home in a thriller by 5 games with sets even. Tony Lazic for Park was outstanding in a great effort, winning his 3 sets conceding only 6 games in the process to get Park home.

Highton on the other hand had Peter Ficca, Ross Parkinson and Peter Edwards all winning 2 sets each in a strong team effort, however, Hamlyn Park with Lazic on fire won the day by 3 sets 29 games to Highton 3 sets 24 games.

With only 4 points separating the top three teams – Hamlyn Park, Clifton Springs and Highton, the remaining three rounds should prove interesting leading into the finals.

**SECTION 2 LADDER** – Hamlyn Park 68 points, Clifton Springs 66, Highton 64, Wandana Heights 37, Geelong East Uniting 30, All Saints Anglican 23.