

MAROON TAKE TITLE BY 4 GAMES

In Tennis Geelong Section 1 Grand Final on Saturday Newcomb Maroon took out the title by 4 games over Newcomb Blue in a thriller.

Newcomb's domination of Winter Tennis continued with the Club taking out its 6th Section 1 Premiership in the last 7 years (all except a Grand Final defeat at the hands of St Mary's in 2011). Newcomb has had remarkable success over that period with a home and away record of 84 wins to 5 losses from 2006 through 2012.



Left to Right. Ana Clifton, Peppe Scorpo, Briget Le Maitre, Greg Steele

The Newcomb Maroon team started the 2013 season in unbeatable form, and led the field by a considerable margin – one that they were able to maintain throughout the season. Newcomb Blue also started well, but lowered their colours twice to their fellow club members, and it was only in the last meeting in the home and away rounds when they were able to inflict Maroon's only defeat for the season.

Maroon got off to a positive start in the Grand final with the ever reliable Bridget LeMaitre and Peppe Scorpo in 1st mixed warding off the challenge from the determined 13 year old Zoe Duff and her partner Chris Higgins. In 2nd mixed, consistent performers Anna Clifton and Greg Steele for Maroon were too good for Zoe's 16 year old sister Bianca Duff and Steve Donaldson, with Clifton's classic defensive backhands the perfect foil for Duff's heavy groundstrokes.

In the men's doubles it was a surprise win to Blue's Donaldson and Higgins over Scorpo and Steele, with Donaldson playing attacking tennis and taking ownership at the net to set up the win.

In ladies' doubles, Lynda Nixon came in for Blue and teamed up with Zoe Duff to win a tightly contested set over LeMaitre and Clifton (Maroon were missing top doubles player Jo Puckett who, having played much of the season, was unavailable for the finals series). As a result Maroon's lead was reduced to one game, setting up an exciting last 2 sets to decide the Premiers for 2013.

With the match on the line, LeMaitre and Steele put on a clinical performance to outplay Zoe Duff and Donaldson 6/1. When Clifton again showing superb defensive skills to outwit and outplay her opponents, she and Scorpo rushed out to a 4/0 lead over Bianca Duff and Higgins, the match was Maroon's.

With the match effectively over, Duff and Higgins managed to regroup and win the last five games in succession to take the set 7/5; however, Newcomb Maroon triumphed and was crowned 2013 Section 1 Winter Premiers by 4 games (3 sets all, 29 games to 25).

PARK TOO STRONG IN TWO

Hamlyn Park was too strong for Highton in Saturday's Grand Final of Section 2 Tennis Geelong, winning by 4 sets to 2. The Park for most of the season held top place and thoroughly deserved the title although any one of the top three teams was in with a chance.

Tony Lazic led the way for Park, winning all his sets and with great support from Jozef Horvat (losing only one set for the afternoon in a tiebreak), Tyler Dickson and Robert Arzanovski, the win was assured.

Highton's two sets for the final came when Ross Parkinson and Peter Edwards won the second set of the day and Peter Ficca and Peter Edwards got home in a tiebreak 5th set, but the damage had been done, with Hamlyn Park Premiers of Section 2 winning 4 sets 36 games to Highton 2 sets 27 games.

CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Highton's Rohan Lynham, Matthew Burr, Michael Hogan and Larry Myles on winning the Section 5 Grand Final and becoming Champions, not losing a match for the season when they defeated Hamlyn Park on Saturday by 5 sets 36 games to 1 set 21 games.

HEPNER LOSE SEMI

In the semi-final of Grade 2 Tennis Victoria Melbourne Pennant on Saturday, Wonga Park proved far too good for Hepner Place Indoor in a one-sided match. After a promising start to the finals series the Hepner team of Matt Maloney, Brodie Young, Nick Fenaughty and Matt Fisher were completely outclassed by Wonga Park, losing the first three rubbers in straight sets and gaining few games in the process.

The match was all over when Hepner lost the first set of the 4th rubber as Wonga Park could not lose, leading 3 rubbers 7 sets to Hepner Place 0 rubbers 0 sets with this rubber unfinished and 2 doubles rubbers not played.