



**AUSTRALIAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS
SWAN HILL 2023
REPORT**



LADIES 30-49

This year for the Australian Champs in Swan Hill our team consisted of the usual suspects of Donna Brewster, Karen Ahrens, Chris Luhrs and myself with the addition of two newbies, Mel Munden and Deborah O'Neill. We had a lot of fun during the week, it was very hot so one of our main focuses for the week was ice! We needed it ... and lots of it....Firstly to keep the drinks cold and secondly to try and reduce the inevitable swelling in the joints.

We were very lucky with our new recruits firstly Deborah who is also a nurse, she was on the ball when an elderly gentleman walked off the court and sat down against the fence struggling with the heat, she went and got him ice and made sure he was okay and didn't try and get up again too quickly before he'd started to feel better. As luck would have it they met again at the presentation dinner and he was extremely grateful for her care that day. She loves her tennis and did well playing more than she's used to.

Next Mel who came in under a bit of an injury cloud, powered through the week amazingly well. She managed to end the week without injury to my knowledge. Mel plays Saturday afternoons with Donna, Karen & I so we knew she'd be up for the challenge and enjoy all the week has to offer.

Our week was very up or down depending on the teams we played. Monday we didn't lose a set over 2 matches which was a great start. Tuesday we only managed to win one set but there were a couple of closer sets in there so we enjoyed the challenge of good tennis. Wednesday we again won without losing a set. So from the above you can work out that we finished third overall for the week. We did get to have another crack at the top Victorian team to attempt to get to second but ultimately it was the same result.

Thanks girls for such an enjoyable week and for meeting the challenge of the difficult conditions every day. It was a pleasure to be captain of this team.

Lynn Wells



MEN'S 50



Martin Richards, Mark Swanbury, Rino Traforti, Andrew Brewster & Andrew Schuelke.

Our division comprised of five teams which resulted in two full round robins for the week, with no final. Initial team rankings did not assist in determining the strength of the opposition in particular VIC teams which were virtually unknown to all of us.

Day 1 we had clean sweep wins against VIC1 & QLD followed by a Day 2 clean sweep against VIC2 with a bye in the afternoon. The bye provided some of us the opportunity for some team bonding at the luxurious Murray Downs golf course prior to re-focussing back on tennis for our toughest scheduled opponent on Wed am.

Day 3 we played NSW with our strong top double of Martin / Rino winning both sets with Swanee / Schulky splitting second double. In the reverse Martin / Brewy split whilst Rino / Swanee won both resulting in a solid 6-2 win and SA50 being undefeated after round 1.

Round 2 commenced pm Day 3 against a stronger VIC1 team with a couple of new playing opponents. The contest was a lot tighter than Round 1 which resulted in a 5-3 win to SA with the other set being our only unfinished set for the week. It should be noted that the VIC1 team comprised of the Swan Hill Lawn Tennis Club President, Secretary, Treasurer & Grounds Keeper & others in which we sociated with extensively during the week as players, BBQ cooks, canteen & bar staff. A special mention to Dan Gardner (Grounds Keeper) for doing 18hr days and producing magnificent lawn tennis courts for the two weeks of the Australian Championships.

Day 4 we had a solid 7.1 win against QLD and other clean sweep against VIC2 which enable us again to rest Martin for the reverse matches in preparation for his individual tennis week.

Coming into the final Day 5 we had an unassailable lead even with our scheduled bye in the morning and scheduled midday match against our strongest opponent NSW, we had already "Won" the Men's 50 division of the Australian Championships. However, NSW were extremely keen to play us again in an attempt to inflict the only lost to the SA Men's 50 team for the week. Martin / Rino were again strong for their opponents at top double winning both sets whilst NSW got both sets at second doubles against Swanee / Schuelke. The reserve doubles showed SA overall strength winning 3 sets to 1 resulting in a match win 5-3.

Special mention to Rino for playing all 32 sets for the week without drugs assistance and to Martin for playing 28 sets in Teams weeks prior to his successful Australian Individual Championships week where he won 50 Men Singles, 50 Men's Doubles (Garry Nadebaum) and 50 Mixed Doubles (Kerryn Cyprien)

Cheers Swanee

WOMEN'S 60-65

Representing SA in the Women's 60-65 event, Christine Flynn, Kathy Parker, Jane Linn, Sally Lokan, Sandy Hayes and Marie Klaosen, were members of the 6 person team. Finishing 3rd, behind the ACT and Victoria was a great achievement given some of the national champions in that age group.

After a positive start early in the week, the heat and opposition's standard resulted in a reality check by Wednesday afternoon! On Thursday morning we found ourselves down to 5 players with plenty of challenging matches still to be completed. Thanks to the fitness and resilience of the team, we managed to outlast our NSW opponents on Friday morning to finish third.

Although there were no medals awarded for our final position, we were all really pleased with our effort.

Christine Flynn. Captain.



Christine Flynn, Kathy Parker, Jane Linn, Sally Lokan, Sandy Hayes and Marie Klaosen

MEN'S 60-70

The victorious Berri Bovv-ver Boys from t'Bridge in a moment of madness decided to escape the flooding and swim upstream to Swan Hill in the middle of summer in the middle of Australia. Silly boys, we should have known better.

Undaunted we garnisheed 7 members and practised together, then lost 2 members to injury/illness (we are after all geriatrics), and at the last minute gained another. We got kicked off our river-side lawn courts to avoid getting our feet wet so practised elsewhere and after being rebadged as the TSSA 70 (2) headed off wondering what we had done.

Did I mention that we naturalised two Victorians from Portland? One could not stand the pace and changed his name from Bruce Elijah to Moon Broot Elijah (see photo) but he turned up anyway, so we put him in charge of all off court duties.

Jack Reddin (81) (C'pn), John Cockshell (83) (the new boy), Owen Morrell (82), John Owens (70), Theo Weinmann (82), David Bilson (84), and Moon Broot Elijah as per the photo, were the team members, all from Murray Bridge District except for Portland Dave and Broot. Despite the heat and the disparity in ages we played our socks off and won 24 sets and lost 27, and I could not be prouder. Statistically we won 48% of sets played and 48.6% of games played and our average age was a tick over 80.

Theo and John Owens were the stand outs, not losing a set when playing together winning 14 sets out of 14, and obviously were the centre pivot of our team. The rest of us tried hard and in spite of playing in the sun when the air temperature was in the high thirties, we finished full of running to give the fourth team a touch up in the finals and bring home the bronze bacon.

Jack Reddin



Jack Reddin, John Cockshell, Owen Morrell, John Owens,
Theo Weinmann, David Bilson, Moon Broot Elijah

MEN'S 60

The Men's SA60+ Div2 team had a great time, a few members were new to the event or have not played in it for some time. We all got on very well and enjoyed each other's company both on and off the court. Some of the highlights we had through the week included the one win we had over the NSW team, the serve that Phil did that cleaned up Alan Carmody (my personal favourite) and the connections we made with both team mates and opposition players. The stories told over a few quiet drinks when the tennis was over for the day, were enjoyed by all. Once the week was drawing to a close, talk amongst the team turned quickly to playing next year, which was a great sign that everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Men's SA60+ Div2 Team consisted of:

Alan Carmody (The most deceptive player - nominated by the NSW Team)

Michael Trait (Best story teller and our most experienced player)

John Lane (Fake, first time captain)

Phil Smith (Serve of the tournament- ask Al, also most improved)

Ian Campbell (Mr Positive and team player for the tournament)

Bruce Watson (Our real captain and all around good guy!)

The team may only have had the one win, but we did have some close matches and definitely felt competitive. On the Friday we only lost on games to NSW in the play off between 3rd and 4th, don't tell everyone that there were only 4 teams in our age group! Looking forward to doing this again next year and a big thanks to everyone who was involved in organising the event, it's a great way to spend a week!

Cheers

John Lane (apprentice captain)



Alan Carmody, John Lane, Phil Smith, Michael Trail, Ian Campbell, Bruce Watson

MEN'S 60

What a magnificent complex the Swan Hill Tennis & Croquet Club is. Using 32 immaculate grass courts with barely a blemish, set around lush green lawns with massive shady trees that took the edge off the 36+ degrees each day. (The beer also helped) My team including 2020 Busselton 60+ Doubles winners Trevor Reeves, Greg Parker, Kevin Benson, Craig Russell were bolstered by our BABY Mick Degenhart who brought us back down to the 60s instead of the rightly aging 65s. It worked. With 4 teams and 2 round robins by the end of day 4 we were top of the wazza with our only hiccup being against NSW on the Wednesday afternoon. We lost by 1 game due to playing our B side, to give some a rest (me being the biggest B). The SA2 side with half being relative newbies were great to play against. Even having to kiss and make up at the end of 1 rather tense tussle. Team SA are always tough line callers. WA were the team to beat. We played them 3 times with each time the margin being reduced from very comfortable to squeaking in by 5 games in the final.

A truly great week was had mostly due to a great team and being able to all play at the same venue made it easy to check out how our other teams were fairing. Thanks guys, you make my life very easy.

Come on Hobart 2024 (we hope)

Ian Delbridge, Captain TSSA1 M60D

Just changing hats briefly.

South Australia put up another great showing in Swan Hill. From the 9 teams that went over, we finished up with 2 x 1st, 2 x 2nd, 2 x 3rd, 3 x 4th. Which was enough to put us up to 2nd spot with the overall tally. Being pipped by QLD for the 2nd time running was tough.

Thank you's to Mark Swanbury for organising the Mens's Teams and then also to Karen Ahrens for organising the Womens Teams, new State Shirts etc, an excellent State Dinner Function (also thanks to MC Swannie), her amazing negotiating skills at the end of the night was out of the box. And for all the other hats she wears. And of course organising us all to get to the Presentation Dinner. Player welfare, the list goes on. I'm not sure how she managed to fit some tennis in.

Thanks again to all who participated plus partners.

Ian Delbridge, President TSSA



Greg Parker, Mick Degenhart, Ian Delbridge, Craig Russell, Trevor Reeves, Kevin Benson.

WOMEN'S 65

Our team consisted of Rosemary Daish, Helen Redden, Kathy Pfeiffer and Jeanne Weinmann from the Murray Bridge district and Val Klemasz from Victor Harbor, and was entered into the 60-70+ age group. We played against teams from Victoria, the ACT and South Australia.

The team won three of five minor round matches, finishing equal third on points. After winning our first play-off match, we lost the next two play-off matches, one being against the winning team, meaning we finished fourth overall. It was a great team effort.

Overall, it was very enjoyable tennis and social time with and against like-minded senior players.



Rosemary Daish, Jeanne Weimann, Kathy Pfeiffer, Val Klemasz, Helen Redden

WOMEN'S 70 DIV2



Pauline Fielden, Margaret Dyer, Sandy Stewart, Judy Woods, Heather Pfitzner

A very hot and draining week was had by all but very proud of our 70 ladies' team who were runners up in the 60-70 age group.

Our opposition players oldest was the same age as our youngest player. The only matches we lost was to this ACT team who won the event.

Four of team stayed in a cute little cottage where we all had fun even playing a couple of games of scrabble.

One of players who is an animal lover managed to find a stray cat across the road and preceded to every day take food to it and its kittens. I protested when she wanted to bring one back.

No cats allowed in my car.

A Hi Lite we enjoyed was visiting a shop several times on the way home from tennis where this lady sold everything from food and drinks to art work furniture and everything in between. She was a lovely lady who wanted to take a photo of our team.

Thank you to Karen for organising the state dinner and being support to me when needed.

A big thank you to our team Sandy, Margie, Heather and Judy who were very easy going and supportive which made my life easy.

We all enjoyed Swan Hill and its surrounds.

Pauline Fielden

MEN'S 70

The 70+ men's team consisted of Roger Davey (Cap), Jeff Inglis (first time for SA), Ken O'Dea, John Polias (first time) and John Pick. Graham Chillman was a last-minute withdrawal on medical grounds. We were a bit concerned having only 5 players, but the draw was reasonably friendly. John Polias, our youngster, was always willing and able, while John Pick was always able but wanted the odd rest (who didn't!).

There were only 4 teams in our division, so we played 2 round robins plus play-offs. In both RRs we won comfortably against ACT and NSW but lost 6-2 both times to Queensland. This meant that we played Qld for first. In the play-off, we decided to play the team "normally", and to the players credit, we were up 3-1 after the first round of doubles. Then it was 4 sets to 3, and up 4-2 in the deciding set and we were thinking "perhaps, perhaps, perhaps!". However, it was not to be, and we ended up losing by 7 games. A commendable effort all considered.

Roger Davey (Captain)



John Polias, Roger Davey, Jeff Inglis, John Pick, Ken O'Dea

INDIVIDUAL WEEK REPORT

2023 ITF Masters Tour – Australian Championships

SA players performed well at the Tennis Seniors Australian Championships at Swan Hill, held 15th - 20th January 2023. Martin Richards was the standout performer winning the Mens Singles, the Mens Doubles and the Mixed Doubles, all in the 50+ age category. Ainsley Fairhead was also impressive in her first ITF Masters tournament, winning the 35+ Womens Doubles and the 35+ Mixed Doubles, while coming second in the 30+ Womens Singles.

Adam Alessandrini narrowly lost the final in the 45+ Mens Singles and came second in the 45+ Mens Doubles, another close call.

The 50+ Mens Doubles was an all-SA final with Martin Richards partnering with Garry Nabebaum to defeat Peter Davis and Adrian Johnston. Adrian was a finalist in the 50+ Mixed Doubles, losing to Martin and his partner. Garry was a finalist in the 55+ Mens Singles.

Rob Bickmore and Roger Davey won the 75+ Mens Doubles. Roger lost a tight SF in the 75+ Mens Singles to the eventual champion. Bruce Rehn was a finalist in the 80+ Mens Doubles.

Other SA participants were Vlad Ejov, Mike Howard and John Polias. Regrettably, Ainsley was our only female entrant.

The Championships were well run by Tennis Seniors Victoria, and the Swan Hill Tennis and Croquet Club was an excellent facility, with 33 grass courts, which would rate with the best in Australia; even the back row courts played well.



