

Junior Development Report

There are many opportunities at all levels for our juniors. Most of these providing opportunities for players to develop their game, test themselves against stronger competition to determine where they stand or just get some extra match play opportunities.

I would encourage all clubs and/or parents to direct any questions about what is available directly to me or seek out the Development document the HTA web site which summarises the various events.

Angas Thompson Cup

This event is probably one of the most keenly contested inter-association events on the calendar, and is part of Asian Tennis League (ATL) with the final being played as a curtain raiser to the final of the ATL at Tennis SA Memorial Drive centre courts. The event is a 16U boys and girls team competition which goes for 3 consecutive Sundays. It is a round robin format, with the two highest ranked teams playing in the final. Both our boys and girls finishing 3rd out of the five competing Metro Association plus HTA this year.

While there is a team of 4 each Sunday, with reserves etc, we normally have around 6 boys and 6 girls that participate over the 3 weeks.

This is a real commitment for those participating, backing up after Saturday competition for three weeks in a row is a credit to the participants and of course the taxi drivers known as their parents!

Compass Draw

We entered 2 teams in both the 12U and 14U Compass Draw inter-association competition.

In the 12U one team lost in the major draw semi-finals while the other team won one of the consolation draw finals (there are two consolation draws).

Unfortunately for the 14U this year the weather won the day with a 40 plus day forecast it was decided a few days out (to make communication easier) to abandon the 14/U for this year.

Parents and participants love the challenge of taking on the strong city associations and pitting themselves against many opponents that play and train most days of the week. The format is different to normal match play with singles, doubles and mixed doubles all played in a 21 point format.

This is probably the one event that I receive the most positive feedback on from both parents and participants.

Thanks must go to the parents who supervised the teams and the juniors that participated in the event.

Foundation Cup Report

As the strongest association in the region we provided 18 of the participants in the total team of 24 for this event.

This year saw the introduction of the 10U and 15U age group, along with the original 13/U age group with all age groups participating at Berri in the September 2014 School holidays.

Below is the extract appearing in the Courier:

The Hills, Murray Fleurieu team had a clean sweep of the 10/U, 13/U and 15/U stage regional championships held at Berri from the 7th to the 11th October. HMF won each of the boys and girls team's shields in 13/U and 15/U age groups as well as being crowned the inaugural regional winner across the three age groups.

The team of 24, along with reserves have been training together since the selection trials back in April. Training days over the winter months have been conducted at the Hahndorf Tennis Club under the guidance of the regional coach Nick Hall.

At the conclusion of the team's event, the 13/U and 15/U compete in a tournament for the opportunity to represent regional SA in interstate competitions held in December and January. In total 14 players are selected for this honour, at the conclusion of this tournament 7 players from the HMF were selected for these representative teams.

Congratulations to David Pienaar, Noah Phillips, Will Layton, Annika Tobin, Jacqueline Smith, Justin Tscharke and Amekia Rigden on making the respective SA teams.

Trials will again be hosted (Sunday May 3) by Hills Tennis for Foundation Cup representation across our region's associations.

Many juniors and association representatives (especially outside of the Hills) do not know or understand the importance and opportunity that comes from being selected to play Foundation Cup. Briefly each region is SA (6 in total) provides a team of 4 boys and 4 girls to represent their region in a tournament held during the September/October school holidays. The format is both a team event (regional Champions) and an individual event. In the 13U from these two events 4 boys and 4 girls are selected to represent South Australia in a National tournament in Sydney during January. In the 15/U 3 boys and 3 girls are selected to represent South Australia in a regional tournament held in Brisbane in December.

Closed Tournament

The closed tournament was again held on the long weekend in January, these has been seen as the ideal date by the JAC to hold the tournament, it allows all events to be held at the one location and provides an opportunity for juniors to get in some tennis before the season re kicks in after the long holiday break.

Participation this year was a little down on the previous year but with still strong numbers of around 85 – 90 participants.

After a long stint on the tournament software Steve Whittle passed the batten onto three capable girls from Hahndorf being Rebecca Smith, Jacqueline Smith and Hayley Edwards. This proved a success after some brief training from Steve and some nervous moments from me, (learning new software in a short time frame, then using under tournament time pressure is not my favourite thing!) the girls did a fantastic job with little problems or issues, as for me I'm still learning the new software!!

Regards

Anthony Klatt