

HTA Junior Activities Committee

Season 2014/15 Annual Report

Committee:

Ian Barry (Chairperson), Anthony Klatt (Junior Development), Dan Anderson (Secretary), Scott Hughes, Sean Littler, Bill Walters (Winter Tennis), Martin Smallridge.

SUMMER JUNIOR TENNIS SEASON 2014/15

In junior tennis 2014/15 season we had 168 teams nominated compared to 162 (2013/14) and 159 (2012/13). The JAC decided that instead of high numbered divisions for Green/Orange ball we would regrade Green ball Div 1 - 4 and Orange ball Division Div 1-3 which worked well. We programmed and graded Boys Divisions 1 - 10 and Girls Division 1 - 9 also.

With Littlehampton 22, Crafers 20, Aldgate 17 and Stirling 14 Junior Teams the complexity of the draw/court allocations delayed the release of the programme to 10 days prior to the competition starting. Eg Crafers 20 sides but 3 courts only.

Besides 4 washout/heat days the season went smoothly. Due to these cancellations (2-3 last year also) the JAC will endeavour to grade the next summer season without byes to enable increased competition and the ability for all teams to play each week. The grading process, whilst difficult with a great numbers of new players unknown was reliant on clubs submissions. The only grades that may have been uneven were the green ball and orange ball due to the possibility of larger differences in skill level of players new to tennis. The finals series resulted in 4 draws, 28 matches won on games, so the grading on the finals competing teams were seen as a positive.

The JAC will be asking clubs to consider playing Green ball and Orange Ball on a Friday night in 2015/16. Feedback from some clubs at present is that it is difficult for families with multiple juniors to be in 3 places at once on a Saturday morning. Playing Green ball and Orange ball on a Friday night will also give an opportunity for clubs to make it a social occasion at their club, with possibilities of a BBQ or just a catch up at the end of the week and may also free up families with young children for the weekend.

The Country Carnival in January is such a great event and embraced by HTA juniors (we are nearly 50% of teams competing). Playing on lawn, hardcourt and clay (if you're unlucky!!) it's a great experience for junior players and is highly recommended, a time that all junior players can proudly represent Hills tennis at their ability level against other associations and players from the Hills. The HTA subsidise the cost this for all juniors also. 26 junior teams played at this year's Country Carnival at Memorial Drive ranging from 10 and under to 16 and under. Hills won 6 titles and were runner up in 5, winning the John Fitzgerald Shield for consecutive years. In fact we were successful in all Division 1 team events from 12 – 16 and under. I'd like to say a big thankyou again to Nancy Moulds who helped with trials, team selection, identify and contact team managers and take orders for Hills Tennis shirts for the event.

We also had success in the individual events: State Country Champions were:

- 🎾 Madeline Hughes – 12 and Under Girls Champion
- 🎾 Olivia Hughes – 16 and Under Girls Champion
- 🎾 Brandon Wall – 16 and Under Boys Champion
- 🎾 Victoria Robinson – 10 and Under Doubles
- 🎾 Madeline Hughes/Hayley Reissen – 12 and Under Doubles
- 🎾 Tayla Day/Olivia Hughes – 16 and Under Doubles
- 🎾 Brandon Wall/Matt Casey – 16 and Under Doubles

The JAC is on the lookout at present for a JAC Secretary. This role has been done for the past 12 months by Dan Anderson who wishes to relinquish this position but stay on the JAC. This role is not difficult but hands on (from September to March especially) as you will be the main contact point for Junior Co-ordinators. Please let me know if you are interested.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my committee for this season. It was a huge learning experience for all of us, after the high level which Sue Hutson of input for many years as Chairperson. Also a big thank you to all of the Junior Club Co-ordinators, without the volunteering your clubs would not have junior tennis and have little future. You all made the JAC role easier this year,

Ian Barry, JAC Chairperson 2014/15 season