

EASTERN REGION TEAM PERFORMS STRONGLY IN DAPHNE FANCUTT CUP

An ERT junior representative team took part in the very competitive Daphne Fancutt Cup hosted by Waverley Tennis Association at the Doveton Tennis Club in January, 2018. This is an annual event between Waverley, a Fancutt team from Queensland, and several local Melbourne tennis associations. This year the teams apart from Waverley, Fancutt and ERT were North Eastern Junior, Peninsula and North Suburban.

The event comprised 2 boys and 2 girls from each of the 14 and 16 year age groups, plus one boy and girl from the 18 age group. The ERT team comprised the following:

14 & Under Ben Russi (North Ringwood); Will Stamper (East Camberwell);

Vanessa Alfaro (Bulleen); Daniela Alfaro (Bulleen).

16 & Under Ian Chong (Donvale); Harrison Flack (Ferny Creek);

Lu Huang (East Camberwell); Emma Wong (Templestowe Park)

18 & Under Matt Allis, (Ringwood Catholic); Grace Staindl-Diamond (Ferny Creek)

Competition was played over the weekend of 13 & 14 January, immediately prior to the start of the Australian Open.

Conditions were challenging in that heavy rain interrupted play on the Saturday, and caused some 51 matches in all to be shunted onto the Sunday. In turn this delayed completion of the event and presentation of trophies until 8 pm! No one complained except the NSJTA girl who had to catch a plane to London that night and had to leave without her team trophy and medal!

Three frantic phone calls were required to the Aus Open transport people to change Daphne and Trevor's pick up times – she desperately wanted to stay and present the trophies again this year especially when there were 6 members of her family involved in the event: Daphne, Trevor, Michael (Team Manager for Fancutts), brother Chris (Assistant Team Manager), and Sam & Stephanie who both played in the Fancutt team. All 4 adults have played at Wimbledon.

Congratulations to NEJTA on their win – well done Jason Lindeman and his team. Congratulations also to Luka Vranesvic (Waverley) for the Overall Excellence Award for the Carnival. Nick Hinneberg from Tennis Victoria who supplied the tennis balls for this event received a special thank you.

Final team standings were:

1. NEJTA
2. Team Fancutt
3. Waverley
4. ERT
5. North Suburban

6. Peninsula.

Most matches were fairly close, and all those participating enjoyed themselves immensely. One of the great features of these events is the support the players receive from their teammates, and in turn give to the others, providing a sense of comradeship often absent from tennis as an individualistic sport.

Special thanks are due to Jenny Stamper and Pilar Wong, who acted as joint team managers.

Players were sourced from the ranks of ERT competition players, and typically come to the attention of the Tournament & Development Sub Committee of ERT through their participation in what was formerly known as Junior Pennant, and is now officially called ***Associations Junior League***. This is an elite competition conducted by Tennis Victoria each year for metropolitan associations, who play a 10 week season of home and away matches against other associations, followed by a final. The season runs from August to November each year, and is played on Sunday mornings. Invitations will be sent in April to junior convenors of clubs within Eastern Region Tennis for submission of entries of promising junior players from their clubs. ERT players interested in obtaining more details can speak to their club's junior convenor, or to one of the members of the Tournament & Development Committee: ***Rob Kane*** (ERT vice president) tel 0407 329 040; ***Natalie Allsop*** tel 0400 575 347; or ***Chris Thomson*** (executive officer, Tournament & Development subcommittee) 0425 759 399.

Daphne Fancutt Shield 2018

