



PAT CASH CUP
Wodonga 27th-28th Feb 2021
Eastern Region Tennis Inc.

Each year ERT selects teams of elite juniors from the ranks of those participating in ERT competitions to represent the Association in various challenge events conducted between metropolitan and regional associations throughout Victoria. The premier of these events is the Pat Cash Cup staged by Tennis Victoria for a team comprising 2 boys and two girls from each of the 12, 14, 16 and 18 year age groups. This year's event was staged at Wodonga on the weekend of 27 & 28 February, 2021.

Those players that were able to arrive early on the Friday afternoon got some valuable practice on the pristine grass courts at the Wodonga Lawn Tennis Club before the weekend's play kicked off. Further initial bonding took place post this informal team hit with a BBQ & sausage sizzle dinner afterwards.

Commencing Saturday with an early morning start/team hit, it was evident that the 2021 team was committed and that all players, parents and support crew were on hand to offer encouragement and support throughout the weekend. After a very long day of matches on Saturday, our team qualified fourth overall and progressed to the semis. It was rewarding to see strong showings, particularly in the mixed doubles department which had been our key focus on our practice day and in the early rounds.

The top 4 teams who qualified for semifinal playoffs were all very even. After some early morning words of wisdom and mental preparation, we were drawn to play Bayside – our nemesis from 2020. We started really well in the mixed, taking an early lead 5 sets to 3, then struggled in the 12s & 14s, but picked up in the 16s & 18s to nearly steal the tie.

We ended up going down 13 sets to 11, after losing a couple of very tight tiebreakers (with the last three matches left on court it was anyone's game.) Everyone fought gallantly and efforts were not in question. To the team's credit, they regrouped in the 3rd & 4th playoff after a great team chat on the back of mentioning it was Harry and Emma's last match ever representing ERT in juniors. All players went out on a final mission and took care of Waverley to finish in 3rd position.

Our whole team showed respect for all players, parents & spectators highlighting participation, endeavour, competition, team spirit and good sportsmanship – what more could one ask for?

Congratulations to Jaimin Mandi & Luke Jenkins who took out the team MVP awards for the tournament.

Congratulations Team Captains Emma Wong & Harry Flack on your years of service, leadership, and positive role modelling to all ERT juniors.

I would like to thank Rob Kane for all his hard work and dedication as Team Manager over the weekend. He works tirelessly along with the rest of the junior development committee, ably led by Chris & Nat to give the juniors this opportunity. Much appreciation is expressed to the parents for their support & assistance with any tasks required over the weekend.

Finally, thank you to ERT for the opportunity to coach the team, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and look forward to having the chance again as I feel we are getting closer to the ultimate prize!

SUMMARY - A great weekend was had by all competitors and we ended up with a "bronze medal" finishing 3rd overall out of the 11 regions entered/competing.

Yours in Tennis-
Stuart Sutterby - 0412 106 416 Tennis Australia Club Professional
T.C.A.V. Reg. Advanced Coach, A.T.P.C.A. Reg. Level 2



Eastern Region Team – Pat Cash Cup 2021





MVP – Jaimin Mandi – GIRLS



MVP – Luke Jenkins – BOYS



Arch of honour for our retiring Captains





18s







End of day reflections.

12s



14s



16s