

What a difference the weather makes! The wind was pretty tricky on Friday and Saturday, creating issues for many players, but Sunday and Monday were "near perfect"! All matches were completed on Friday before the storm, and the water was quickly absorbed by the courts so that Saturday's draw began on time.

Competition was strong and tennis was the winner. In the Singles events, there were a few upsets, and some unfortunate withdrawals. Three top seeds in Men's events could not participate, in the 45s, 50s and 60s. In the 35MS, top seed Adam Alessandrini advanced to the final with straight sets wins, to meet Ben Hanson who had toppled #2 Ian Choat in the semis, 6-3 6-1. Adam defeated Ben 6-3 6-2. Chris Gillis had an excellent win in a hard-fought match with #1 Chris O'Mara in the 40MS, and went through to beat Rino Traforti #2, in the Final, 6-4 7-6(1). In the 45MS, after the withdrawal of #1 seed through illness, Ian Renton fought long and hard to go down to Andrew Schuelke in 3 sets, and John Bruce advanced to the final with a 7-5 7-5 win over Andrew. In the other half, Robert Kilborn was untroubled in three matches to reach the Final, defeating Tim Fraser 6-4 6-0 in the semi. Robert then proved too strong for John Bruce to take out the event 6-1 6-3.

In the 50MS, Noa Nguaoa and Peter Gard battled it out to meet Neil Smith in the semi, with Peter advancing, only to go down 6-0 6-0, to a very focused Neil Smith! Eddie Myers and Bruce Ferguson had a marathon semi-final with a score of 7-6(2), 2-6 7-6(1), to Eddie. Eddie then faced Neil in the Final, going down with a respectable score of 6-4 6-4. Gary Thoroughgood had a very lucky "escape" in the semi of the 55MS against Colin Holgate, being down 4-1 and 5-3 in the final set. He prevailed to advance to the Final where he met Wayne Pascoe, who had reached the Final with straight sets wins, although against Wayne Cowley in the semi, it was 6-3 7-6(5)! The Final was an excellent display, with Gary winning 6-3 7-6, and 12 points to 10 in the Tie Breaker (many match points!!)

Another top seed withdrawal in the 60MS saw Tony Grana advancing to the Final – with a resounding victory over Qld's Dennis Kronk in the semi, 6-1 6-2. He then met a seasoned campaigner, and #4 seed Geoff Walsh (last year's winner) in the Final, going down 6-1 6-1. In the 65s, John Cameron defeated #4 seed Pat Moloney to advance to the Final where he met an in-form Mike Pyne (seeded #3) in a very entertaining 3-set match, after Mike had struggled for hours in the semi, winning in a third set tie break, against Neville Rodwell (ACT). Dennis Bindon advanced to the Final of the 70MS with straight sets wins, and met unseeded Gordon Waygood in the Final. Gordon had defeated #2 seed Don Biddle on Sunday. The Final was a win to Dennis 6-3 7-6(6). The 75s was won in great style by Qld's Peter Froelich, against Tony Harkin 6-2 6-2.

Women's Singles competitors were very few, but we managed to have a knockout draw of 8 in the 35/40WS. This was won by Joanne Walter over Julie Dybendahl from Qld, who had eliminated #2 seed Karen Pearce (QLD) in a nail biting semi in 3 sets. The 40WS was a Round Robin, with Di Cassel meeting a visitor from Malaysia, Gaby Los Santos in the Final, after each had won her group. Unfortunately Di sustained a calf injury in the first set, and had to retire. The 50WS was dominated by Ros Balodis (ACT), who won all her matches for the loss of only one game. She convincingly beat Victorian Wanda Howes in the Final, love and love. Kerri Summerhayes was happy to be the winner of one game from Ros, during the Round Robin.

A group of four began the 55WS, but Suzy Ellis had to retire after her first match, leaving May Howard, Sara Goddard and US visitor Narelle Pettee to battle it out. Narelle, an Aussie by birth, took out the event with May Howard (ACT) second. The 60/65/70WS was comprised of two 60s, three 65s and one 70+ lady. They were divided into 2 groups for R/Robin, and two Victorians, Susanne Walter and Margaret Harris played for the prize money on Monday. It is an unfortunate situation that women seem to stay away from Singles competition, and we are not sure how to encourage more of them to participate. If anyone has a "brain wave" could they let the organisers know?

Tennis Seniors NSW is very appreciative of the major sponsorship from Jason Birch's "Skybridge Financial Services" – the second year in a row. Jacob's Creek wines donated many bottles of both red and white wines for our raffle, which helped us raise close to \$1,000. Our major prize was a Wilson racquet and bag, donated by Wilson since we switched to Wilson Grasscourt balls this year. We also appreciate the gift of a voucher from Athlete's Foot and Bunnings.

Thanks to President Mick Bruton for his expertise in selling the enormous number of raffle tickets!

The winners were: 1st John Stark (ACT); 2nd Gavan Sullivan (WA) – the Athlete's Foot voucher; 3rd John Gill (NSW) a dozen bottles of Jacob's Creek Cabernet Sauvignon; 4th Bob Hall (NSW) 6 bottles of Jacob's Creek Sauvignon Blanc; 5th Robyn Rickard (NSW) 6 bottles of Jacob's Creek Sauvignon Blanc; 6th Phil Higgs (ACT) Bunnings Voucher; 7th Cedric Newham (NSW) 4 bottles of Jacob's Creek Sauvignon Blanc; 8th Norm Richardson (NSW) 4 bottles of Jacob's Creek Sauvignon Blanc; 9th Bob Mc Whinnie (NSW) 4 bottles of Jacob's Creek Sauvignon Blanc; 10th to 12th prizes – a cooler bag with 2 bottles of wine each: Bruce Burns (NSW), Bruce Cashman (NSW) and Jarrod Wilson (NSW).

May I take this opportunity to thank the players for their fantastic participation in the events, and to the Tournament Director Arthur Olsen, and Craig Bullivant for four days on the Control desk. It was a pleasure to work with you!

.....Robyn Castle