

Teams played from March 18 - 23, and the Aussies were challenged by very strong opposition. The best Australian result was to win Bronze in the Maureen Connolly Cup (W55). Other teams played hard – but were unfortunately denied a place in the winners' circle. Some teams lost only one match, but were relegated to the lower placings in the playoffs.

All players benefitted from their experiences, with many matches lasting several hours on the clay courts in Antalya at Club Ali Bey. SA's Martin Richards who captained the Tony Trabert Cup team (M40), was kept on court for many hours two days running – a severe test to his stamina! Thankfully Marty emerged unscathed, and the team came in a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> place. Martin's winning average was 80%.

Some teams lost only ONE match, but because of seedings, they were relegated to the lower playoffs with no chance of making the final four. Others were able to make a good account of themselves and secured 5<sup>th</sup> place out of more than twenty teams. These were the Fred Perry (M50) and the Austria Cup (M55) teams in groups of 26 and 23 respectively. Both had 2-0 wins to finish the week on a high. The 50s, captained by NSW's Manuel Radic, had 4 wins from 5 matches, their only loss to a strong Spanish team. They sealed 5<sup>th</sup> place with a 2-1 win over Germany on Friday and Great Britain 2-0 on Saturday. The 55s, which included our own Gary Thoroughgood, won all but one match, to the eventual winners, Great Britain, who knocked off the top seeds USA in the Final.

Our other two Men's teams, the 35s and 45s were not disgraced, in coming 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively. The 35s actually defeated the #4 seeds (USA) in the Italia Cup – which was won by Spain against their 2012 nemesis France. The Dubler Cup boys won 4 and lost 2 matches for an average of 62%. Three of them including Greg Westwood (NSW) averaged 67% personally. Their last match was a 2-0 win over Romania.

Our Women's teams fought hard, mostly winning more rubbers than they lost – so they can stand tall. The 55s were seeded #4, which meant they faced #1 seeds USA in the semi. On Saturday they played France, with Suzy Ellis going down in a titanic struggle in 3 sets, but then Ros Balodis had a convincing 6-love, 6-love, followed by a straight sets win in the Doubles decider, 62 61 to Wendy Harrison and Helen Shea. Losing only 1 match the team average was 71%. Our Bueno Cup team (50s), led by NSW's Brenda Foster, lost the playoff to Spain, finishing 7<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams, after a creditable effort against Italy 1-2, who won the Bronze. USA beat France for the Gold medal. Our 45s, playing in the Margaret Court Cup finished in position 9 from 15, ahead of Gt Britain who were seeded #4.

Two NSW players Narelle Follington and Di Cassel featured in this team, with Di having a good record in Doubles play, sealing their two wins on Thursday and Friday with Julie Dybendahl in the deciders. The team had 2-1 wins against NED and SWE to end on a winning note. Our youngsters in the 35s (Suzanne Lenglen Cup) can be very pleased with their performances, winning more than they lost. In their match against the Silver medallists, France they went down in Singles but gave a good account of themselves in Doubles 4-6 5-7. It could have gone either way! That was NSW's Jo Walter playing with Karen Kleverlaan (VIC). Jo's efforts in Teams' week contributed to her #3 seeding in the Singles and Doubles. She is paired with Adam Alessandrini in the Mixed, and seeded #2. We wish her well.

The Individuals will be under way from Sunday March 24....

Robyn Castle