

MIXED TEAMS – NEWCASTLE 2014....Despite heavy rain on Friday and Saturday nights, five sessions were completed by 12.30pm Monday. Players were eager to get under way each day at 9.30, with only a slightly late start on Saturday at 10 o'clock. It was really quite unbelievable when you consider the dark clouds and heavy downpours that we experienced. (Of course it was NOTHING, compared to the "Pasha Bulker" weekend of 2007, when most of Newcastle got inundated and cars and trucks were washed away, not to mention the damage to the tennis courts!)

Eighteen teams, each comprised of at least 3 men and 3 women engaged in friendly combat from 10am Saturday, June 7. Competition was fierce, but everyone was happy to be there! Friendly rivalry led to players giving their "all" in an atmosphere that was sometimes electric! At the end of the day – all were relaxed and able to share some time either at the bar or out to dinner, socialising, conducting the usual "post mortems" – and having fun together.

Monday dawned fine and clear, with over 108 players enjoying the sunshine without the wind that had been "coming and going" on Saturday and Sunday, causing shot-making to be somewhat difficult. However without the breeze, the courts would have been quite soggy!

Topspin teams featured in two groups, with two finding their way to the winners' circle, each picking up the \$300 booty that was there for the taking. Sydney-based team "The Youngsters" was also victorious. The management at Topspin is to be congratulated on their willingness to support the event, with 5 teams, and a special thanks to Carolyn Nicholls who did the "lion's share" of the work in securing players for every match, sometimes at the "last minute". She still managed to captain a winning team! Well done Carolyn. (Your team will be seeded higher next year!)

Tennis Seniors NSW was happy to allow some "Under 35's" to participate, in the hope that they will join in the future and bring friends to join when they attain that magic number "35"!!! From all accounts they enjoyed every minute and are happy to spread the good word! They are our future! Some people thought they knew the rules and played a pair twice in the Mixed on Saturday, but by Sunday afternoon, they had worked it out! It was all played in a good spirit, and the new ones said they wish they'd heard of the event before! Oldies over 70 mixed it with the under 40s, and showed the young ones a thing or two about consistency and etiquette! Our "evergreen" Marg Wayte beat a young man in the Mixed doubles – so he went away saying he will practice some more before "next time"! ("She beats me every time, she's my nemesis," he announced.) I think it was Mark Feyer.

One memorable moment happened on Monday in the last set when President Mick was aced by a woman, (Bonny Allison) – however he sent her careering into the side fence a few games later with his wicked backhand crosscourt sizzler!

The FINAL scores were:

BLUE – 1. 42pts Topspin Tyrants; 2. 35pts Topspin Terminators; 3. 26pts Unmatched
GOLD – 1. 37pts Topspin Trojan Warriors; 2. 35 pts Lake Macquarie Legends; 3. 34 pts Bocados
GREEN – 1. 37.5pts The Youngsters; 2. 29.5pts The Winners; Equal 3. 29pts Kubalot and Newcastle Flyers

Members of the winning team in BLUE were: Richard Nicholls, Jonathan Russell, Kyle Hartigan, Trevor Walsh, Justin Houghton, Sarah Knights, Bobbie Patel, Jenny Anne Hoffman, Melissa Pulsford, Angela Rainey. GOLD winners consisted of Roy Gascoine, Damien Hendrix, Alex Matik, Peter Wrightson, Carolyn Nicholls, Jodie Honeysett, Alison Hanson. Winners in GREEN were: Neale McDonald, Gary Robertson, James Longa, Maureen Bartels, Kim Bullock, Jhil Taylor.