



AUSTRALIA MAKE THE FINALS IN TWO SENIORS CUPS IN MEXICO CITY

Playing in the tiring conditions of the rarefied atmosphere of Mexico City, the Austria Cup team and the Fred Perry Cup team have made the finals in the ITF Seniors Team Championships.

In the Austria Cup, on day four, Gary Thoroughgood won 75 76 and Andrew Rae won 62 62 before Gary combined with Bruce Osborne to take the doubles 63 63 in a clean sweep against number three seed the USA. Our team now meets Great Britain (6) in its attempt to win its sixth successive Austria Cup.

The day five results show Australia (3) defeated unseeded Columbia 2 and 1 in the semi final and now are set to take on defending champions, the USA (1) in the final of the Fred Perry Cup. Mike Ford won the opening rubber 4 and 2 before Glenn Busby closed out the tie with a 76 64 defeat of Carlos Behar (one of three Columbian players with the same surname). Busby and Whitecross gave a walk over in the doubles, hopefully to save the legs and conserve the energy of Glenn for tomorrow's big match against the USA. This is a strategy used in their last two matches.

One of the strange quirks of the draw was the pitting of the USA (1) in a quarter finals match against Austria (2) leaving Australia playing the winner of two unseeded teams in the semi final.

Day five also saw our ladies in the 50+, Maria Esther Bueno Cup, defeat Argentina (4) in their first play-off for fifth place. To secure fifth placing they must defeat Spain who won against South Africa. In the match against Argentina, Leanne Swaysland won 64 76 while Lyn Mortimer won 61 63. Wanda Clothier and Lyn combined to win 61 and 62 in their doubles. In the semi final matches, Great Britain (1) clearly beat Mexico and will meet the USA (2) who defeated France.

Our team of Mortimer, Swaysland and Clothier was a mite unlucky in drawing Great Britain (1) in its early round robin to suffer a defeat in a close match and, because of the format of the competition, the best it could do after that defeat is to finish fifth.

Our other teams have battled hard but have not been up to the strength of the other teams in their competitions. I am sure they will be better and tougher players as a result of the experience.

Tom Hancy
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