



FIVE AUSTRALIAN TEAMS REMAIN CONTENDERS FOR TOP SECTION POSITIONS

Five Australian teams remain contenders for top section placing at the ITF World Teams Championships in Turkey after the completion of the initial round robin competitions. The five teams are the Alice Marble (top 4) who will play fifth seed France in the semi-final, the Althea Gibson (top 3) will have Germany and the USA in a round robin to determine the winner, the Britannia (top 6) will play Austria in its quarter final, the Jack Crawford (top 5) will play fifth seed France to determine if it makes the semi finals and the Bitsy Grant (top 4) will play Germany in its semi final. The number of top placing (in each age range) is determined by the number of entries and the subsequent number of round robins per age range.

In results of day 3, the Alice Marble players of Kerry Ballard, Wendy Gilchrist and Carol Campling won all three rubbers, dropping only two games in their win over Norway. The Althea Gibson team of Nola Collins, Bobbie Edwards, Jill Taylor and Norma McGhie won all rubbers without dropping a game in its match against Turkey. Our other women's team, the Kitty Godfrey, Judy Hancy, Marilyn Davis, Kim Blackburne and Beverley Eddington won all matches against Spain to finish second to the USA in its round robin. It will play off for positions 5-8, in keeping with its seeding of 7, in its first play-off match against Austria.

The Britannia, the Jack Crawford and the Bitsy Grant teams recorded wins. In the Britannia Cup, Lee Taylor and Peter Keller won their singles and Bruce Burns and Henry Michael won the doubles; all matches were won in straight sets against Spain. The same straight sets wins were recorded by the Jack Crawford team with Don Biddle and Bruce Rehn winning the singles and Gordon Waygood and Doug Napier combining in the doubles in its match against Switzerland. Ray Woodforde and Alan Hocking won their singles but Ray and Malcolm Heard lost the doubles in the Bitsy Grant team's win 2-1 against Canada.

The only loss today was that of the Von Cramm team in its match against France. Neville Rodwell and Roger Davey lost their singles in straight sets as did John Stark and Ray West in their doubles. The Von Cramm team will play off for positions 15-21. It has a bye in the first play-off round and will meet the winner of the Ireland/ Belgium match. The Gardnar Mulloy team had a bye today and will play a round robin to determine placing 4-6 against Germany and Spain.

The next two days will determine if some of our teams can reach finals of their respective Cups.

Tom Hancy,
October 14th, 2010