

Australians feature in playoffs at Ashburton and Timaru

Wet weather seems to have slowed down the competition at these two centres, and the Cups will not be finalized until Saturday.

In the Tony Trabert Cup (men's 40), our boys went down to a strong French team in the top four. Patrick Vergnes beat Martin Richards 62 61, and Benoit Halle defeated Brett Patten 62 62 in the #1 Singles. Paul Kleverlaan and Chris O'Mara continued their winning streak by taking the Doubles against Nicolas Fourcade and Jacques Moers 62 64. Australia will play New Zealand for 3rd/4th position; that's Jason Young, Glenn Wilson, Stephen Buckmaster and Steven Pett.

In the Austria Cup (men's 55), Glenn, Gary and Rodney soundly defeated the Mexicans (#7 seeds), although Gary Thoroughgood had to fight for a "76 in the third" win. Glenn Busby was untroubled to beat Javier Ordaz in the #1 Singles, 61 62, and Glenn then paired with Rod Wurtz to take the Doubles 63 62 against Ordaz and Arauzo. They will play Spain (seeded #4) for the Cup, since they really played well to beat the USA (#2) in their semi.

Since our women in the Susan Lenglen Cup (35s) had a resounding 3-0 win against Luxembourg, they had to play against Turkey, with the winner going to a 5th/6th playoff. Michelle Leyden whitewashed Dilara Celiker "0 and 0", while Karen Kleverlaan wasted no time in winning 60 63 against Gaye Berkman. The Doubles also went to the Australians, Juliann Jacobsen and Karen Pearce, who beat Derya Kizilkan and Dilara Celiker 61 60 – a convincing victory. They will now face South Africa in their last match for 5th/6th.

In the Maria Esther Bueno (women's 50) Australia (#2) beat the French, seeded #3. Kerrie Douglas had a marathon against Catherine Suire, eventually coming out on top, 26 63 76. Ros Balodis defeated Beatrice Balme-Berger, 61 76, and when Ros paired with Leanne Swaysland, they had a resounding win against Betty Michel and Perrine Dupuy 61 61. #1 seeds USA defeated Great Britain in the other semi. It will be an exciting re-match between our girls and the Americans for the Cup.

In the Maureen Connolly (women's 55), in the 3-team round robin, Australia lost to Great Britain 1-2. Sally Freeman beat Robin Walker, 61 61, Frances Candy beat Lyn Mortimer 64 63, but when Candy paired with Patricia Wire, they were defeated by Mortimer and Sara Goddard, 57 36. Australia will play one more match to finish either 2nd or 3rd. It will be a tough encounter with the USA.

Robyn Castle