

THE VICTORIAN TENNIS ACADEMY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

With almost 100 competitors the VTA Club Championships were again a major success despite the unusual rain which forced the event to be postponed. All the competitors and spectators must be congratulated, for the atmosphere was one of great sportsmanship and encouragement. This is unfortunately a contrast to so many junior tournaments around Australia at the moment where cheating and intimidation is common. [Recently Australia's #1 junior player was dragged off the court by his father after an altercation with the umpire.] Creating this positive feeling at our tournaments is one of the VTA's major goals as we strive to help our students enjoy the game of tennis.

Many congratulations must go to **Hattie Hall**. She is pictured in the blue with [L – R] **Cluney McPherson, Mimi Gibson and Becky Rothfield** after the Girls Open Mixed Doubles final. Hattie won the Open Mixed, Girls Open Doubles and was runner up to Mimi in the Girls Open Singles. This fine all round effort earned her the major prize of a Head tennis racquet of her choice. It was a well earned award for Hattie who has performed consistently all year in competition and challenges against TopTenn.



The blue ribbon event of the Boys Open Singles was the match of the tournament. **Ed Bickford** [left] was down and out, before recovering to beat **James Moore** in a tie breaker. James was the most consistent of players, reaching the finals of all the events he competed in to be awarded the most successful player in the boys draw.



Great friends and competitors **Sam Dainty** [left] and **James Ford** played an exhausting U12 Boys Singles final before Sam finally prevailed. Both boys enjoyed great success over the weekend – Sam winning the U12 Singles and Doubles while James won the U12 Mixed as well as being runner up in the singles.



Many people call it “Mixed Troubles” but Mixed Doubles is the highlight of the Club Champs. In this picture **Sophie** [who also won the U12 Girls Doubles] and **James Ford** proved too strong in the final for **Sarah Cameron** and **Stan**. Sarah was another player to prove her all round qualities reaching the finals of all three events she entered. Well done to all players who competed and had great fun in the Mixed event.

Sebastian Tabain [left] was the most successful player in the U10 event winning both the Singles and the Doubles [with **Kyle Didone**]. He is pictured here with **Oscar Don** – after a hard fought singles final in which he eventually prevailed. Seb was one of five players who won two events over the weekend.



Congratulations to all our players who entered – the next major tournament, the Easter Classic will be held on Saturday 4th April – stay tuned for more details.