

FUTURES CHALLENGE 2009

One of the highlights of the year is the annual challenge against our close rivals the Futures Tennis Academy. Having held the Cup the previous two years we were confident leading into this year's event. Playing away on the unfamiliar clay courts at East Malvern Tennis Club made our job harder but we had selected a strong team with many new faces adding enthusiasm to the team.

The day started with doubles, with our players teaming together well. Pictured here Sebastian watches from the net as Angus makes perfect contact with his forehand. By teaming with 2 – 3 different teammates VICTEN players showed great team work and spirit. Although we competed hard in this doubles section of the challenge FUTURES was able to lead going into the singles matches. All the results had been very close and we had lost many matches by 1 game only, the confidence was still very high as we felt singles would be our strength.



Our singles results were much stronger, with many players producing their best tennis for the day. Calum, pictured here hitting a forehand, was one of the best performed players. He won his singles comfortably and played one perfect game in which he hit four winners in a row. Many of our experienced players also lifted their games to give us a chance of victory leading into the last round of matches. Being able to play against unfamiliar opponents on an unfamiliar court was a great chance for our players to improve their match play, especially building their mental toughness in difficult matches.

Ultimately it was FUTURES who won the trophy – breaking VICTEN's two stranglehold on the event. The experience will be a fantastic one and should motivate us towards better performance later in the year when we challenge the TOPTENN Tennis Academy. Hope [pictured] will be one player who will be training hard to improve her game to strengthen VICTEN's team.



One of the great benefits of the day was the friendships made between the two academies. Activities were organised so the two groups worked together with Sam Ralph winning a great prize with his FUTURES partner on the "Eliminator" time trial.

To view all the photos please [click the link>>>](#)