

## VICTEN vs FUTURES CHALLENGE

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July the Victorian Tennis Academy (VTA) team showed they held no superstitions by overcoming the Futures Tennis Academy (FTA) at East Malvern Tennis Club. Although some wet weather interrupted the day the VTA were able to amass 46 – 18 sets and be awarded the inaugural Challenge Cup. The Futures Challenge compliments the Toptenn challenge (to be held in November) and allows our players the experience of meeting players from all over Melbourne and playing at different clubs, on different surfaces.



Nathan Ficatis and Mimi Gibson (pictured) were amongst the strongest performers on the very successful day where players competed in doubles and mixed doubles in the morning and singles in the afternoon. Both these players demonstrated their improved games during the day with Nathan's improved footwork and Mimi's strong serve highlights of the challenge.

Great sportsmanship and excellent spirit was a feature of the day, with all VICTEN team members making us proud of their performance in this very important aspect of competition.

Taylor Fletcher (pictured) remained undefeated during the day and was a key reason for our victory. While many of our players are not familiar with the en tous cas surface we played on, competitors like Taylor adapted quickly to the conditions to play some very impressive tennis. Taylor is one of the VICTEN players who are committed to regular competition and Australian Junior Rankings Tournaments and has a great future in the sport.





The East Malvern Tennis Club, the venue of the challenge, is a very strong club and it was an excellent effort by the VICTEN team to be so dominant. The challenge will become an annual event with the FTA team vowing revenge next time we play them. The VICTEN team had the advantage of two training sessions during which we worked at building our team spirit and sharpening our doubles skills.

The VICTEN team comprised of:-

Ben Andrew (co-capt)  
Charlie Gibson (co-capt)  
Cam Banfield  
Henry Hall  
Shaun Kenley  
Aphro Bakopanis  
Nathan Ficatis  
James Moore  
Mimi Gibson  
Taylor Fletcher  
Hugo Denton  
Archie Chew  
Sam Bongiorno  
Filip Dublejevic  
Nick Wittner  
Hugo Hall  
Sara Kyriazopoulos  
Caroline Kudelka  
Aakash Madani  
Toby Warwick  
Tom Lindholm  
Harvey Hooper  
Anthony Ioannidis  
Georgia Wittner  
Ewan Bennett

Congratulations to all members of the team. We are now holders of both the Toptenn and Futures Challenge Cup and we hope to keep both trophies.