



26 October 2022

Royal Park Tennis Club Inc.

NEWS ALERT - OCTOBER 2022

COMPETITION UPDATE



It's **GOOD NEWS** time!

Just when you thought the current season was ending, there is another coming around the corner! Associations are gearing up for next year and we would encourage you to do likewise! Players are **NOW** being invited for Autumn 2023/Season 1 2023.

NSNTA

Autumn 2023 season is set to start in early February, and if you would like to participate, now is the time to tell us. The usual **Registration form** is attached –

closing date is Friday 11th November (with fee payment)

Ladies, Mixed and Men's options are again available – see form for details.

JUNIORS

NSJTA is also getting ready for Season 1 next year. Our players (and parents) have already been requested to register by **30 October** to join a team. Registration is by the on-line form with fees to be paid by 15 November at the office.

Contact: Matt Cull (Junior Co-Ordinator) - mattcull76@yahoo.com.au Mobile 0430278950

NSLTA

Thursday Ladies' Autumn 2023 comp timing is as usual – a February start is planned, and player registration will be opened up shortly. Watch this space!!

METRO MASTERS

The Thursday men's option should proceed as in pre-Covid times for players 50 years & over. Please contact Carole Houston on 9380 1259 by end October if interested.

NSTA

The Saturday afternoon Autumn 2023 competition is also likely to bounce back in February. Player interest will be canvassed in a few weeks' time. Stay tuned!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Not only did our *Grade 7, Section 1 Men's pennant team* win the flag, BUT Matthew Bowerman has taken out the award as *Player of the Grade!* He played at least 60% of matches, and had the highest win percentage in rubbers, then sets, then games. A great effort – and a great team contribution!



PTO - We also have some entertaining stories on our two winning pennant teams !!

END OF SEASON/CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!! 20 November



This will be a combined get-together for junior and adult teams from all competitions. Players, parents, partners, family members are all invited to join in to celebrate, chat and have fun.

- Timing to be 3.00pm - 6.00pm
- BBQ & refreshments (bar available)

Further details to follow - save the date NOW.

Grade 3 Pennant Premiership Story

Round 1 of the pennant season was an exciting start. The team began with 3 fresh faces, young and hungry and ready to prove a point. These players were Stephen Kossifas, Alex Kim and Lucas Dela Cruz.

The first match up was against some old foes, Fitzroy TC, who have been troublesome in the past. But it wasn't the case this time, with the troops rallying to a commanding 6 rubbers to 0 win.

We continued the season very well, sitting first at the halfway point of the home and away rounds with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss. The second half of the season was equally as impressive too, in which we finished 2nd by a point possessing a record of 8 wins, 3 losses and 3 washouts.

We progressed to the section finals coming up against Macleod who had beaten us 2 weeks prior. We started the day going up 2 rubbers to 0 after the doubles. Winning the day with 3 rubbers to 1 victory.

At this point we knew we had a chance to take the flag. The following week against Mountain Gate Stingrays, it was slightly tougher. It was 1-1 after the doubles, but the singles players pulled up a strong 3 rubbers to 2 win.

Semi-final day was an exciting and nail biting affair. Playing away against MCC Glen Iris Valley, we got off to a horror start going down in both doubles ties after some inspiring tennis from the home side. Our #4 Lucas and our #1 Stephen went out to play, knowing that only victories in their singles matches would keep us in the tie.

Lucas played inspired tennis after being down 5-2, regrouping to win 7-5 6-3. Whilst Stephen played a mammoth match against Robert Foy, taking the first set 7-6, losing the second set 7-5, but winning in a super tie-break 11-9. An amazing performance.

Alex Kim, a player who was out for 11 of the 16 weeks, pulled together a dominant display winning 6-2 6-2. The last rubber was the captain Nick in a do or die battle. Only 1 set was needed to win the day. Nick started slowly, losing the first set 7-6. He was able to regroup and win the 2nd set 6-1.

The following week at Royal South Yarra, the Grand Final was more straightforward. Up 2 rubbers to 0 after the doubles and we took out 3 out of a possible 4 singles rubbers. Winning the tie 3 rubbers to 1 and being deemed Grade 3 Premiers.

Big congratulations to the whole Grade 3 winning team, which included:

Stephen Kossifas, Alex Kim, Nick Busuttill, Lucas Dela Cruz, Alex Brown, Dean Zanatta and Tom McGrath.

Grade 7 Pennant Premiership Story

The team came into the season having never played together in a team before. Many of us playing Pennant for the very first time.

From week 1 we dominated, holding top spot from Round 1 until the end of the season. While we faced some crafty opponents, we were always able to dig deep and find a way to win, dropping no more than 1 rubber in any given week.

Over the course of the season, we only lost 6 rubbers. Matt Poole had a standout season, not dropping a single set or rubber. We progressed to the finals as Grade 7 favourites, having won all 12 matches played throughout the home and away season.

We began the finals with a comprehensive win over Delahey, whilst in week 2 we faced off against some of the best from the other divisions. In week 2 we had our strongest challenge of the season against Eltham, without 2 of our strongest players (Ben and Sean) both being unavailable.

We still managed to win 5 rubbers to 0 (and on our way to 6-0 if we hadn't stopped)

In the semi-final against Mayfield, we won 4-1 and secured our place in the Grand Final.

In the Grand Final we had our seemingly toughest challenge, against Narre Warren North who up until then had a record of 14-1. We started off strongly, winning both our doubles rubbers, giving us 2 rubbers to 0 lead heading into the singles rubbers. Ben and Michael both won their first sets 6-3, with Ben storming to a 6-1 second set victory after his opponent took a medical timeout after the 1st set. Michael sealed the win with a 6-4 2nd set victory. Meaning we'd won 4 rubbers to 0, capping off the season without a defeat.

Big congratulations to the whole Grade 7 winning team, which included:

Ben Thompson Star, Matthew Poole, Sean Fitzgerald, David Tan, Michael Prionas,
Chris Gerbing and Matthew Bowerman