

Tom Ferguson Shield August 26, 2012



Last Sunday (August 26) saw four mixed teams from the RLTA head to Beaudesert and Jimboomba to do battle on our behalf in the annual inter-district competition for the Tom Ferguson Shield. The end result saw the RLTA finish second behind Gold Coast, with Beenleigh third and Beaudesert/Jimboomba fourth.

The weather was perfect for tennis, the competition was close and intense, and while we finished a creditable second, it was a significant improvement on the previous year. Gold Coast won the day with a total of 37 sets (257 games) followed by Redlands with 25 sets (207 games), Beenleigh with 24 sets (208 games) and Beaudesert 10 sets (132 games).



Courtney Sorrenson

Our top team of Alex Fielding, Craig Thompson, Karen Austin and Gemma Tapson certainly held their own, narrowly going down to the Gold Coast. Our Seniors team (Les Appoloni, Ian Somers, Betty McCoy and Debbie Gruber) also fared strongly finishing second to Gold Coast. Our other two teams while finishing third and fourth in their Divisions, were certainly not disgraced in such close and competitive competitions.

But the day was not just about our results. The RLTA selectors, with one eye on the future, took the opportunity to blood some of the younger up and coming juniors for the match. Along with Gemma Tapson, we had Nick Thompson, Daniel Wilson and fourteen-year old rising star Courtney Sorrenson competing against some of the best adult players from these other districts. And the good news is that we should all be very proud of their efforts as they all handled themselves well and were very competitive.

It was a great day all round and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I would like to thank the selectors and in particular, David Young and Damien Waddell, for organising the teams and the logistics. Next year will be the Redlands turn to host the event and we can only hope that our investment in youth and the home court advantage might see us climb to the top and regain the Shield.