

2012 RLTA Club Championships

September 2012



The RLTA Club Championships were held over four evenings during the first week of the school holidays. While events were advertised for all ages and combinations, the number of entries dictated that the Junior and Open Championships would be contested over the following events.

Open	Juniors
A Grade Mens Singles	A Grade Junior Boys Singles
A Grade Womens Singles	A Grade Junior Girls Singles
A Grade Mens Doubles	A Grade Junior Doubles
A Grade Mixed Doubles	
	B Grade Junior Boys Singles
B Grade Mens Singles	B Grade Junior Girls Singles
B Grade Womens Doubles	B Grade Junior Doubles
B Grade Mixed Doubles	
	C Grade Junior Boys Singles
	C Grade Junior Girls Singles



Damian was all smiles at the end

On behalf of the RLTA, I wish to thank our Club Coach Damian Waddell who took on the bulk of the workload in organising, marketing and running the event. Damian did a wonderful job, especially considering that, during the same week, he not only ran holiday clinics for his students but competed in the Championships as well. One of his new initiatives this year was to stage all finals on the Friday night which proved very popular, attracting a large crowd of spectators who were entertained by some excellent tennis.



Damian Waddell & Luke Johnson

The 2012 Open Mens Singles title was won by Luke Johnson who defeated Damian Waddell in what turned out to be the match of the tournament. The tennis was top class with Damian racing to a three games to love lead from the outset only to see that lead whittled back and the first set rested on the outcome of a tie-break. Damian eventually won the tie-break and thus the first set.

However, the second set was even closer than the first, with games going with serve. Again a tie-break was needed to separate the two, however this time it was Luke's turn to triumph and Damian's turn to rue those points that got away. Such a close match deserved a grandstand finish and so it was. A super-tie-break (first to 10 points) was used to decide the winner and this year it was Luke's turn, winning the tie-break 10-5.

Fourteen year old Courtney Sorrensen is a rising star at the RLTA and showed why by winning both the Open Ladies Singles Championship and the Junior Girls Championship. In the Open event Courtney beat another young star India Woodrow 6-2, 6-2 while in the Junior Girls event she beat Paris Hammond 9-4. The Boys Singles Championship was dominated by QV Ho. In a hard fought but one-sided final, QV beat James Thomas 9-0.



Open ladies singles finalists India Woodrow & Courtney Sorrensen



Junior girls and boys singles finalists Paris Hammond, Courtney Sorrensen, Damian Waddell (coach), James Thomas & QV Ho

In other singles events, in the Open Mens B Grade, fifteen-year-old Nick Kurylo was too good for the more mature, gritty and persistent Tom Wharton, winning 6-0, 6-1.



Open B Grade Singles finalists: Nick Kurylo & Tom Wharton

In the Junior B Grade Boys Singles, Sam Morely defeated Will Eivers 9-8 in a match that had to be decided by a tie-break. In the Junior B Grade Girls Singles, Sophie Clucas defeated Melissa Wain 9-7, a match that was also closely contested.



Boys B Grade Finalists Sam Morely & Will Eivers



Girls B Grade Finalists Sophie Clucas & Melissa Wain

Flynn Hicks won the Junior C Grade Boys Singles when the other finalist Christian Lang had to retire injured. In the Girls C Grade, Lily Loyd won a very tight contest (9-8) over Sarah Vermass in what was probably the longest match of the junior tournament.



Boys C Grade Finalists Chris Lang & Flynn Hicks



Girls C Grade Finalists Lily Loyd & Sarah Vermass

Doubles

The Open Mens Doubles final pitted two of the Club's coaches against each other. Head coach Damian Waddell claimed bragging rights when he and his partner Luke Johnson beat fellow coach Ben Bonadio and David Young 6-2, 6-3 in two very entertaining sets.

The B Grade Womens Doubles title went to Sharon Franich and Jenny Farr for the second year in a row. They beat Marika Lang and Claudia Waschier 6-3, 6-2.



Open Mens Doubles finalists: David Young, Ben Bonadio, Damian Waddell & Luke Johnson



B Grade Womens Doubles Finalists: Sharon Franich, Jenny Farr, Marika Lang & Claudia Waschier

The Junior Doubles were played as unisex events and in both A Grade and B Grade Doubles it was the girls who came out on top. In the Junior A Grade, Courtney Sorrensen teamed with Simone Thomas to beat Simone's brother James and his partner Alex Samuel 9-6. In the B Grade, Melissa Wain and Sophie Clucas beat Flynn Hicks and Christian Lang 9-7.



Junior A Grade Doubles finalists: James Thomas, Alex Samuel, Simone Thomas & Courtney Sorrensen



Junior B Grade Doubles finalists: Flynn Hicks, Chris Lang, Melissa Wain & Sophie Clucas

Mixed Doubles

In the Open Mixed Doubles Greg Morris teamed with the thirteen-year-old junior Simone Thomas and found themselves in the final pitted against Simone's coach Damian Waddell who was playing with Debbie Miller. In the end it the coach that triumphed over the pupil, Damian and Debbie winning a very competitive match 9-3.

The Open B Grade Mixed Doubles saw Alec Muga and Dawn Holling defeat the husband and wife team of Tony and Karen Austin in two sets 6-4, 6-5 (8-6).



Open Mixed Doubles finalists: Debbie Miller, Damian Waddell, Greg Morris & Simone Thomas



B Grade Mixed Doubles finalists: Alec Muga, Dawn Holling, Karen Austin & Tony Austin

Ian Somers
3-Oct-2012