

2009 C.P. Maddern and U/19 Australian Closed Coach's Report



This year's C.P. Maddern and Australian U/19 Closed Championships were held in Bendigo, Victoria in very cold conditions during the first week of July. The team was made of the following ten players:

Teng Wei Khoo
Jonathon Liu
Julien Le Claire
Aditya Shivam
Jeff Wong

Leanne Choo (Captain)
Katie Wilczynski
Verdet Kessler
Laura Wong
Jun Yong

First match we met Victoria 2 in a match that saw us win 5 rubbers. Leanne won her singles, her doubles with Verdet and the first mixed doubles with Teng Wei. Verdet and Katie also won their singles games comfortably but in the end Victoria 2's depth proved too strong for us.

Our second match saw us meet New South Wales in a very close match which went down to the wire. Once again the girls held up the side by winning the first three singles and first doubles matches. Julien had a great win in his singles in three tight games and Teng Wei and Jonathon also had a great win at first doubles in three games. Then in the mixed we were only able to come away with a win from Leanne and Teng Wei's match, leaving us stranded at 8 rubbers all but trailing New South Wales by a few games. A narrow loss which would prove costly due to the lop sided draw.

Next match was against the greatly improved Queensland team which had benefitted from a large influx of quality players who were students from overseas and a number one man who had previously played for New Zealand. Our players performed well though with both boy's doubles

losing gallantly in three games. Leanne and Verdet continued their winning form by winning their doubles and singles matches. In the mixed Leanne and Teng Wei were the only winners, leaving us with 4-12 defeat. The pleasing thing was that we were very competitive against a quality team.

Our final group match was against Central New Zealand. A loss here would see us finish in 9th place so the pressure was on! We split the doubles matches with Central winning both boy's games and S.A. winning both of the girl's games. We turned things around in the boy's singles with Aditya and Julien both picking up important rubbers in their matches. Leanne and Verdet both won their singles thus leaving the score tied at 6 rubbers all leading into the mixed! Julien and Verdet fought well winning the third mixed in straight games. Jun and Aditya saved match points in their second game to eventually win a vital game for us before losing their match in three games. This left the first mixed doubles to decide our fate. Leanne and Teng Wei continued their great mixed form by winning in straight games thus leaving the tie at 8 rubbers all and S.A. one game ahead! Finally a bit of luck and we came away with a very close win.

The final match saw us cross over and play the equivalent placed team from the other group. This was Western Australia. From the outset this proved to be a very comfortable match for us even though they had some classy boys in their side. Most players played well and we ended up winning comfortably 11-5. This meant that we finished 7th. Not a bad result considering that our group was much tougher than the opposing one. A win against N.S. W. Would have seen us easily finish 5th. An excellent effort by Leanne who never lost a match in the team's event and to Verdet who won all of her doubles and singles matches.

The final was won by Victoria 1 who easily accounted for Queensland to yet again win the C.P. Maddern Trophy.

The next day saw the start of the Australian U/19 Closed Championships – the individual events. In the girl's singles Leanne made it all of the way to the final before losing to Victoria Na from Victoria. Verdet continued her winning form until she met Victoria Na, losing in a very creditable match. The boy's singles was disappointing with all of our boys losing first round. The girl's doubles saw Leanne and Verdet continue their winning streak and go on to win the event without dropping a game all week. An outstanding achievement with Verdet winning her first National Title and Leanne winning her 21st title.

The boy's doubles didn't see any of our pairs advance far unfortunately. In the mixed Katie and Teng Wei advanced to the third round before losing to the eventual winners. Leanne teamed up with Nathan David from Victoria and made it all the way to the semi finals before losing to the top New Zealand pair in three closely fought games.

At the end of the carnival the Australian Pan Pacs Team was announced to play a three test series against New Zealand. Leanne Choo was fortunate enough to be selected in this team.

So after a long week the team came away with some good results and some promising players for the future. Next year sees the carnival played in Launceston, an even colder venue in winter!

Chris Thirlwell
U/19 State Team Coach