

Under 17's June Bevan Trophy and Championships Perth 2010



With an early start of 6am, after almost 8 months of training it was time to depart for Perth.

The Team consisted of Verdet Kessler (captain), Lee-Yen Khoo, Rebecca Huang, Beth Sinclair, Josephine Liu, Jessica Wu, Ian Wong, James Arthur, Jamion Ou, Daniel Reed, Alistair McCann, Jack Cooke, Coach Paul Godden, Manager Pauline Arthur, Assistant Manager Anita Wong & Umpire Juan Pablo Ponce de Leon.

With a few days before competition started we had time to relax, explore our surroundings and train. We were able to spend time at the hall, familiarise ourselves with the environment that was to be our daytime home for the next eight days.

Our first match was against Vic Rebels, the number one team for Australia and eventual winners. This proved to be a real test for the team with only one match won by Verdet; final scores 1-2-335 to 15-31-688. Some may think that this was a thrashing but they held their own and tried for every point they could.

Our Second match that afternoon was against NSW Lightning, this too was going to test the team. Once again Verdet came through with a win in Singles and also with partner Jamion in Mixed managed to win with a tough 3 setter. There were two other matches that went to 3 sets, but unfortunately lost, Beth and Alistair, and Ian and Lee-Yen. The final score 2-6-483 to 14-29-708. With this match now complete we had the next session, Sunday Morning, to review our team and game plan.

We arrived the next afternoon well rested and ready to compete against Central New Zealand 1. Once again we only won two matches both by Verdet in singles and girls doubles with Lee-Yen. The final score for this was 2-7-499 to 14-28-693. This left us to play in the final six teams for positions 9 through to 14. With each win/loss it would change our final placing.

Given another late start on the Monday we were rested and had had time to review the team. With the team selected on their prior performance this gave us the best opportunity to achieve a win against Central New Zealand 2. After a straight win in all the doubles the team was on a high. The singles we gained four out of eight matches with three of them being taken to the line in three sets. With the mixed doubles we won 2 out of 4 with the two loses in close three set matches. Final score 10-23-711 to 6-15-683.

An early start the next day was to set us up to play off for positions 9 or 10. The team had already stated that they would love to be in the top ten and raise the final position of 11th from the previous year. We were to play the Territories team which was a mix of players from the Northern Territory and the ACT. Games were tight with seven out of 16 games going to three sets. Unfortunately they all went the wrong way giving Territories the match. Final score 5-17-654 to 11-22-706.

So with a lunch break to recover it was time to play the final team match for position 11 or 12. We were playing Geraldton. Games were close with most marches only a couple of points in it. All the

doubles were winners and it was on to the singles. Three out of the four Girls singles were winners with the fourth one going to three sets. Well Done Girls. With the boys they were not so successful with only one win. This had given us 8 games only needing one more to win. On with the Mixed and with three out of the four games won it gave us the overall finishing position of 11th. Final score 11-24-678 to 5-11-609.

Final Positions for all teams were:

1 st	Victoria Rebels	2 nd	Northern New Zealand	3 rd	NSW Thunder
4 th	Victoria Demons	5 th	Western Australia	6 th	NSW Lightning
7 th	Mainland NZ	8 th	Northern New Zealand 2	9 th	Central NZ 1
10 th	Territories	11 th	South Australia	12 th	Geraldton
13 th	Central NZ 2	14 th	Tasmania		

With the teams events over it was on with the individuals for the next 4 days.

With some of the players up against the seeded players we knew the first round was going to be tough. First round winners were Verdet in both Singles & girl's doubles with Gronya Somerville from Vic, Alistair and Josephine in mixed doubles, and Beth & Josephine, Lee-Yen & Rebecca in girl's doubles. After the second round Verdet was the only player to continue in the main event with a Semi finals position in the Singles and Runner up in the Girls double. She also achieved a 4th ranking overall. Congratulations Verdet on a great result and excellent play throughout the tournament. With a few wins in the plate event the team continued to do its best but was unfortunate not to get into any of the plate finals.

With a few days up our sleeve before returning to Adelaide we were able to go to the Adventure Park with rides and waterslide, and tour parts of Perth and do a bit of sightseeing and shopping including going on the huge Ferris wheel on the Swan River Front.

Final night and it was time to give out the Team awards. There are three awards given each year being the Rayoni Head awards for the best female, best male and best team member. These are decided by the Coach and Manager based on the players performance throughout the tournament, and is not necessary taken on their final result but more on the whether they have exceeded the normal playing standard, and there assistance both on and off the court.

The Best Female went to Rebecca Huang.

The Best Male went to Ian Wong.

The Best Team member was awarded to Rebecca Huang for her team support, friendly nature, enthusiasm and assistance with activities off the court.

Congratulations go to all the players on the way they conducted themselves whilst away. It makes the job of Coach, Manager, assistant Manager and Umpire all that more easy to do. Representing your State is a great achievement and I commend you on the way you represented the state, acting as strong ambassadors for both the State and Badminton SA.

Thank you to those parents who made the trek over to Perth to support the team this is was really appreciated to have that extra support. Juan good effort on your first trip and umpiring, job well done. Anita thanks for the yummy food and bouncy personality it really added to the spirit of the team. Paul thanks for taking on the role of Coach and guiding the team through their wins and loses and for all the preparation time spent to get the team to a level able to compete against the best in their age group. A thank you also go tho all those players/supports that assisted during the lead up to the tournament without whom we would not have been as prepared for this event.

I wish all team members well in their future in Badminton and thank you all for allowing me to be Manager of such a supportive team.

Pauline Arthur

Under 17 Manager 2010.