

# Under 17's June Bevan Trophy and Championships Wellington New Zealand 2011

The journey for this event started in July 2010 with a weekend workshop for all junior players eligible to compete in 2011. With great success of this workshop the training continued every Saturday until the team selection was made.

During this time there were many fundraising events happening to reduce the costs for this trip. With the support of Parents and players there were funds raised through the running of the canteen for the Tournaments such as the SA Open and the City and Country Challenge and including all Junior events. Players were given the option of selling Cadbury chocolates some embracing it more than others.

Letters were sent to all Clubs seeking donations towards a team jumper to keep all concerned warm in windy Wellington. We would like to acknowledge the support given by The Veterans Club, The SA Ladies Badminton & Glenelg Badminton Club for their donations. Also thanks is given to the Sturt Badminton Club for the payment of the Individual entry fees for each player.

With only a week to go before we left we managed to obtain some sponsorship from Veolia Environmental Services boosting the amount of funds collected. A total of \$6087.58 was raised.

With an early start of 4.30am, after 9 months of training it was time to depart to Wellington.

The Team consisted of James Arthur, Daniel Choo, Daniel Zhang (Captain), Emerson Krstic, William Yeomans, Josh Chin, Lee-Yen Khoo, Josephine Liu, Jessica Wu, Stephanie Au (Co-Captain) Malvika Hemanth, Irene Xu, Coach Paul Godden, Manager Pauline Arthur, and Umpires/Assistant Managers Michelle Au & Stephanie Jong.

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 Tasmania, a game that we were determined to win to enable us to get experience against the stronger teams of the competition.

The games were tight with the first three games going to three sets, with the number one girl's doubles breaking the trend and winning in two straight sets.

In the boys singles it was tough with two three setters, winning only one of the four singles. It was up to the girls to bring us back into play to ensure we did not lose overall. The girls did an excellent job and won all the singles. Well done girls.

Down to the mixed and we were one match up. First mixed a three set match, with close scores in each game, we won. Second mixed a close score but not a win. Third mixed another three set game but unfortunately not a win. This left us to one match to play and

even on games. With the support of the rest of the team, their cheering, the pressure was on for the first mixed game. They took the pressure in their stride and won easily, well done Lee Yen and William. The final score was 9 – 752 7 - 643

With the match complete it was time to go back to the apartments and have some lunch and relaxation, before we would come up against Northern New Zealand. We knew that this was going to be a tough match as they have been winners of this tournament previously.

Back to the courts with a positive attitude and some tough games ahead. Our hope was to get at least half way in each game but this was not to be the case. We were able to go half way in only eight of the 32 games played. Final scores 0–257 16-672.

Day 1 over, and having finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our group we were now going to face the harder teams in the competition and had also been given a sleep in on Easter Sunday. It was now chance to give all the players the opportunity to play the higher rated teams and stronger players.

Day 2 and we arrived well rested and ready to compete against NSW Lightning. Once again our hope was to get at least half way in each of the games. We were able to achieve this in 19 of the 32 games. Final scores 0-369 16-674, an improvement on the last match but still too strong for all our players

Second game of the day was against Northern New Zealand 3. Another tough match with three of them going to three games but infuriately not a win. Final scores 0-500 16-719. Once again an improvement on the previous game.

Monday was Anzac day and all teams gathered to remember all the Anzacs. After a small service a representative from each State put a poppy on the wreath which was layed there by June Bevan, Daniel Choo was the SA representative.

As we had the afternoon off we went to the local Westfield shopping centre to kill some time before playing against NSW Thunder. As this was the better of the two NSW teams we knew it was going to be hard. The final scores 0-235 16-672.

With the last day of team competition we had one round to play before the playoffs for the final placing. This game was against Mainland New Zealand. We had plenty of opportunities to win with 6 games going to three sets, but only ended up with 4 games won, well done to those winners, William, Jessica, Lee Yen and Malvika. Final score 4-643 12-702.

Our playoff was for position 11 and 12. Once again we had drawn a New Zealand team, Central 2. It was the girl's time to shine in these games with a clean sweep of the singles, well done girls. This was followed up with a win in the mixed doubles by Daniel Choo and Lee Yen. Of the other 11 games 6 of them were three sets proving the games could have gone either way. Final score 5-676 11-711.

Our final placing of 12<sup>th</sup> was an achievement on its own and experience for the players who are young enough to compete in the following years. Final placing's were:

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Northern NZ 1     | 10. Mainland NZ 1   |
| 2. Victorian Rebels  | 11. Central NZ 2    |
| 3. NSW Thunder       | 12. South Australia |
| 4. Central NZ 1      | 13. The Territories |
| 5. Victorian Demons  | 14. Queensland      |
| 6. Northern NZ 3     | 15. Tasmania        |
| 7. Northern NZ 2     | 16. Central NZ 3    |
| 8. NSW Lightning     | 17. Geraldton WA    |
| 9. Western Australia | 18. Mainland NZ 2   |

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 Daniel Choo & Jessica, Daniel Zhang & Josephine, Malvika, and Daniel Choo & William. Daniel & Josephine were successful in there next round also.

In the plate events our best result was with Josephine getting through to the quarter finals but loosing in a three set match.

At the presentations of the medals for the individuals it was announced that Daniel Zhang won the Val Nesbit Sportsmanship Trophy. The winner was decided by a specially appointed panel which included the deputy referee John Milne, Wellington Badminton President Tui Hunter and the Victorian Rebels Manager Dianne Carter. Well done Daniel a great effort and shows how much sportsmanship there was in the SA Team even under the tough competition.

With a few days up our sleeve before returning to Adelaide we were able to go and visit some of the sights of New Zealand. Place's that we visited included the Carter Observatory, riding in the cable car, Te Papa an interactive museum, Weta Cave where we learnt about the making of Lord of the rings characters, and smaller places along the way. At night we challenged ourselves to Laser Skirmish and Ten Pin Bowling. One the way to the Airport we visited Mount Victoria Lookout viewing the whole of Wellington.



Final night and after having a great meal on the waterfront 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. It was decided this year only to present the best male and female awards

The Best Female went to Jessica Wu

The Best Male went to William Yeomans

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 Wellington to support the team this is was really appreciated to have that extra support. Steph and Michelle your umpiring was greatly appreciated along with all the other activities you did. 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 2011

