

Country/City Challenge Attracts More Players

Following the success of the tournament last year where city teams competed against country players, once again players from each region went head to head over the recent June long w/e. Players from the country travelled from Leigh Creek, Andamooka, Pt Augusta, Pt Pirie, Victor Harbor, The Riverland, Penola, Millicent & Mt Gambier with country numbers up on last year and more centres represented.

This year it was decided to run with 2 men & 2 ladies as opposed to 2 & 1 last year. Feedback from the players indicated this format was preferred however in that all country clubs are finding they have considerably more men interested in travelling to tournaments, next year will see more men in each team, either 3&2 or 4&2. Feedback is invited from clubs on this and other aspects. Country players greatly appreciated the support of city players who filled in vacant spots in the country teams.

The tournament would not have been a success without the efforts of those who volunteered their time. With country teams being short of ladies, at one stage there was doubt as to whether we would have enough (full) teams to run the event. Several people from Adelaide helped to "find" some 16 ladies for the teams and once again the name Robert Riggs was at the top of the list of helpers. Another SABA Board member to put his shoulder smack on the wheel was Trevor Surman who took on many tasks over the two days.

It is fantastic as an organiser to have someone to come up to the desk and offer to do a job to lighten the burden for an hour or so, but I was extremely grateful when that was a full day offer from someone who wasn't even playing in the tournament. To David Higgs, a very sincere "thankyou" ! A great help.

In the team events starting 9.30am Saturday, each tie comprised of a men's doubles and ladies doubles, both, two games straight to 21 (rally point system), which was followed by two mixed doubles, each being one game to 21, giving each player 3 games per tie. There was a round robin in each section with the premiership table decided on points at the end of the minor rounds. The top team from each B grade section played off in a final. Prizes were presented to the top country and city teams from A & B grade. In C grade there were 5 country teams with the one outright winner.

Winners in the team events were as follows:

A Grade

City

Caroline's Champs

Paul Godden, Rodney Rutherford, Caroline Argent & Jacqui Ireland

Country

Millicent Mashers

Shane Lynch, Peter Brownlaw, Lisa Sanders & Jaquinta Lynch

B Grade

City

City Slickers

Or Aroonsiri, Gordon Brown, Jeanette Brown & Supattra Hom-On

Country

Pt Pirie Willberry's

Andrew Williams, Paul Berry, Debbie Zubrinich & Sue Sinclair

C grade

Country

Simply SA

Victor Buza, Vic Faraon, Daphne Law & Lydia Langlin

During the team events, after receiving a tip off, personnel from the SA Drug Squad did a random check on the eventual winners of the A Grade team's event however no recognizable drugs were detected. :)

Country Carnival Individuals Event

A very pleasing outcome this year was to see the return of this competition, which received good entries in each event in A, B & C grade. Two outstanding results were achieved by Shane Lynch in A grade winning all 3 titles along with Florida Iturbe from Mt Gambier, winning all 3 C grade titles.

Finals results were as follows:

A Grade

MS: Shane Lynch (Millicent) d David Smith (Mt Gambier) 21-16

LS: Jenny Pappin (Penola) d Lisa Rowntree (Penola) 21-5

MD: S. Lynch / Peter Brownlaw (Millicent) d D. Smith / Gavin Daniels (Victor Harbor) 21-17

LD: J. Pappin / Lisa Rowntree d Heather Burgess / Julie Warner (Penola / Pt Augusta) 21-10

MXD: Shane Lynch / Lisa Sanders (Mt Gambier) d D. Smith / Julie Warner 21-16

B Grade

MS: Greg Tomlinson (Pt Pirie) d Gavin Daniels (Victor Harbor) 21-17

LS: Linda Phillips (Victor Harbor) d Jess Renehan (Millicent) 21-13

MD: Dean Richards / Adam Vanderheul (Mill.) d Paul Berry / Andrew Williams (Pt Pirie) 21-14

LD: Jess Renehan / Sarah Renehan (Millicent) d Tanya Williams / Joyleen Todd (Pt Pirie) 21-17

MXD: A. Vanderheul / S. Renehan d Andrew Williams / Tanya Williams 21-11

C Grade

MS: Baden Brownlaw (Millicent) d Chris Gard (Penola) 21-19

LS: Florida Iturbe (Mt Gambier) d Menchie Faraon (Mt Gambier) 21-19

MD: David Marcus / Chris Gard (Penola) d Baden Brownlaw / Tony Long (Millicent) 21-8

LD: Menchie Faraon / Florida Iturbe d Cindy Hutchesson / Annette Renehan (Pen/Mill) 21-5

MXD: Baden Brownlaw / Florida Iturbe d Vic Faraon / Menchie Faraon (Mt Gambier) 21-17

A lot of time and effort was put into getting the Country Carnival Individuals Event up & running again, after a couple of years of insufficient entries. With only a few days to go the same prospect was shaping, however with a few changes and much communication between clubs, more entries were received, the event went ahead and was very successful. Our thanks in particular to Paul Godden, who along with Rodney Rutherford carried much of the workload involved in this event, especially in finalising the draw, printing up dozens of score sheets and organising the games to go on.

There was plenty of work being done at the desk, having not only organised and played in the teams events but then in tackling the Individual Events in the same day. A priority was to push through a large percentage of individual games for competitors who were unable to return Sunday. Our thanks to those players, whom without, the event simply would not have gone ahead. We are grateful of spectators but it seems all except one could see that our goal was to help all players and to have them out of the hall as early as possible Saturday evening. The "welcome mat" is always out to this, as well as every person and I'm sure that with this involvement, would come an appreciation of the difficulties faced by the organisers.

And of course the food ... a friend of all. Our appreciation to Merle Fabish and those who assisted in providing meals - much homemade cooking involved - a very special thanks.

For those various little jobs - to Sharon Riggs our thanks. The same to Trevor Morgan who was prepared to keep track of team scores and then last but not least to another volunteer from "out of the blue", Andrew Surman, for assisting in the hall prior to the carnival. My thanks to all those not mentioned above who helped in any way to make the carnival a success.

On the social side, after play concluded Saturday evening, players met at the Lockleys Hotel and enjoyed a very nice meal.

Finally - the main message to country players **it's on again next year** - same time, same place - start planning early. Entries in TWO WEEKS BEFORE the June Long w/e. This year was a special (large) effort to re-build the Country Carnival. We did it. It is now up to YOU to keep it going

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