

TENNIS BIZ

Players can learn a lot from watching the better players. At the new and beginner players level the main goal is to keep the ball in play. As consistency improves, being able to control the direction of the ball and increasing the speed of the shot become the added goals. Experienced players also have the ability to use a selection of spins on the ball and a variety of types of stroke.

There was a great example of player experience at Walloon last Saturday when arguably Ipswich's most experienced doubles combination and overall versatile players Kev Bianchi and Greg Ploetz representing the IDJT played another experienced player Warren Tree and up and coming junior player Ben Boughen representing Walloon in a top grade S1 match. The match had everything. In true doubles, the object is for players to take control at the net as soon as possible. There was plenty of that! There was a lot of serving and volleying, extended volleying between players at the net and expert placement of the ball. The players certainly enjoyed themselves and the spectators were appreciative of the high quality of the match. By his own statements, Ben learnt a lot from the match and now has a list of things to work on to improve his game. Contrary to expectations, the Walloon team won both doubles. The match was decided in favour of IDJTA by only 5 games after the Ipswich team dominated both singles sets. Congratulations to all players for an enjoyable match played in good spirit.

Prior to last Saturday, the Tennis Ipswich Inc Saturday fixture competition had been cancelled due to extreme temperatures 2 weeks in a row. Last Saturday, most players commented that eventhough they missed playing, they were relieved that play had been cancelled. Players were full of enthusiasm to be back playing and it showed by the effort put into the games. This Saturday, 6th December, sees the last match before the Christmas/New Year break. The competition resumes Saturday 31st January 2015.

The fence signs look great and we have the first winner in the wristband promotion. Congratulations to **Tom Hayes** who has won a 'tennis maintenance pack' which includes tennis balls, grips and string damper.

There is no name from recent times in Australian tennis more respected than Pat Rafter. The centre court at the Qld tennis centre, the home of tennis in Queensland is named after Rafter. Normally this sort of honour would result much later in one's life. Such is the respect for Rafter. He has had many roles in Australian tennis, apart from his well-known ability as a world class player. Currently, he is Australian Cup captain. On 1st February 2015, he will become Tennis Australia's new Director of Performance. To say this is a challenging role is an understatement. As he always does he will give of his best efforts and this will certainly be to the advantage of tennis in Australia.

Rafael Nadal has had his appendix removed and a back injury addressed which was treated using his own stem cells. Hopefully he has time to recover and get fit ready for the upcoming Australian Open in January.

Maria Sharapova, the first tennis player to reach a staggering 15 million Facebook likes.

DATES TO REMEMBER

6th December - Last day of fixtures before the Xmas/New Year holiday break

4th–11th January 2015 - Brisbane International

19th January – 1st February 2015 – Australian Open 2015

31st January 2015 – Fixtures resume