



The Australian

Davis Cup Tennis

Foundation News

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December 2014



Switzerland wins its first Davis Cup!



It was all smiles and tears of joy as Switzerland defeated France 3-1 in the 2014 Davis Cup Final in Northern France. Reports of a falling out between Federer and Warinka were but a distant memory as the Swiss celebrated their first ever victory in the Davis Cup competition at their 85th attempt.

World #2 Roger Federer looked out of sorts in his loss to Gail Monfils on Friday which left Day 1 evenly poised, however he and Stan Warinka paired up for the doubles and scored a tight 3 set win. Federer then effortlessly put away Richard Gasquet in the fourth rubber to secure the tie for Switzerland.

Federer wiped away tears after adding the game's most illustrious team trophy to his 17 majors and all the other garlands he has collected over 16 years. "I'm happy I was able to stay calm; this one was for the boys" he said.

SCORES:

S.Warinka v J.Tsonga 6-1 3-6 6-3 6-2

R.Federer v **G.Monfils** 1-6 4-6 3-6

Federer & Warinka v Benneteau & Gasquet 6-3 7-5 6-4

R.Federer v R.Gasquet 6-4 6-2 6-2

Nick Kyrgios wins the 2014 Newcombe Medal.

Nick Kyrgios, resplendent in a purple suit, was awarded Australia's top tennis honour, the Newcombe Medal, at a gala celebration at Crown Palladium in Melbourne on 24th November.



In receiving the award the Canberra tennis ace was formally recognised as Australia's most outstanding tennis player in 2014 largely based on his outstanding result at Wimbledon including wins over Gasquet and Nadal.

He was presented with the award by Australian tennis legend John Newcombe, in whose honour the award is named.

Kyrgios was humbled by the achievement, for which he was nominated alongside Lleyton Hewitt, Sam Stosur and Casey Dellacqua. "I wasn't expecting to win this award, I didn't think my name was going to be called, I thought Casey was going to win it to be honest, but they (all the nominees) all had such great years so it's just an honour to be up here," he said.

ADCTF President, Neale Fraser, along with numerous other tennis dignitaries and former Davis Cup players were there to congratulate Kyrgios on his award. In his acceptance speech Kyrgios noted that perhaps his attitude during the last Davis Cup match in Perth had not been the best and that he had had a long talk with both Team Captain Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt after the tie. Newk was happy to offer him some advise for the future but encouraged him to keep playing with "fire in his belly."



ADCTF President Neale Fraser with Casey Dellacqua, Lleyton Hewitt, Nick Kyrgios and John Newcombe at the 2014 Newcombe Awards night.

Sam Groth guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting

The 43rd Annual General meeting of The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation was held at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club on Thursday 27 November 2014. A full report is on the website ([click here](#)).

One could be mistaken for seeing our guest speaker, **Sam Groth**, as as scary, 6" 4" tattooed "Collingwood Footballer" but he is quite otherwise. As our special guest speaker he came across as a well dressed, eloquent and aimiable young man who just happened to have the world's fastest serve and only scared his opponents on the tennis court.

Sam started playing tennis in Corowa on the grass then moved to Albury. At age 16 he decided to play tennis rather than football and John Fitzgerald invited him to come down and train in Melbourne. At that time he had a terrible serve and had to revamp it from scratch. He went and played overseas at junior Wimbledon and made the final in doubles. Sam lived in England for 3 years with some other Australian junior players and their coach. He worked his way through the Futures and Challengers events and in the first six years of his career the highest he was ranked was 210. He did however continue to play doubles and do well, commenting "that he was paired with Gooch when Lleyton didn't need him". He is one of the few players on tour who serve-volleys.

Sam's first ATP event was in Nottingham in 2008 but he struggled to play at the necessary level. His first grand-slam match was the 2009 Australian Open when he received a wild card and lost to Marty Fish in 4 sets in the first round.

In 2014 he had a match that he will never forget against Federer on centre court at the US Open in front of 23,000 people. "I lost 4-6 4-6 4-6 but led 4-2 in the third but I was very nervous" Sam said.

Interviewed by Neale Fraser, Neale questioned how Sam seemed to lose so many tie-breaks when he wins 89% of first serve points over the year and Sam promised not to lose any more tie-breaks!

When Sam was 14 years old he wrote to Fitzy saying that he wanted to play for Australia and he is elated that he now has achieved his dream by playing in the Davis Cup in Perth recently.

In singles Sam got to #75 a couple of weeks ago and is currently #31 in doubles after winning 5 Challenger and 1 ATP event with Gooch.

Neale thanked Sam for addressing the AGM and complimented him on his great serve and great service action and wished him well for his future tennis career, especially in the Davis Cup.



Melbourne Park Tour

It is not every day you can take a tour of Melbourne Park with a Wimbledon Champion as your personal tour leader, as around 30 lucky members joined with Neale Fraser on a tour of Melbourne Park on the morning of Thursday 13th November.

Blessed with a lovely spring day the group were able to commence with a stroll through Garden Square viewing the 'bronze busts' of the champion players and officials, then back inside through the players area entrance, accreditation and transport, the locker rooms and the Walk of Champions with every champion displayed on the walls, leading on to Rod Laver Arena.

We were fortunate to gain entry to the Fed Cup and Davis Cup Rooms, used by Tennis Australia for VIP entertainment during the tournament. An interesting aside was the Australian Davis Cup Representative honour board which commenced in 1905 with our players listed as N.Brookes, A.Dunlop and A.Wilding, a year when Britain defeated the USA 5/0 at Wimbledon.

Then into the recently re-opened Margaret Court Arena with the new fast roof, the Media Room and finally back to the Players Cafe for Coffee and cake.

Our sincere thanks to Neale for his insight into this enormous logistical sporting operation.

It is intended to make this activity at least an annual event and members are encouraged to join in a future tour to experience a unique aspect of a Grand Slam event.



AO Luncheon

12 noon Friday 30th January 2015

We are looking forward to the 2015 Australian Open tennis and in particular the Foundation luncheon with arrangements now well advanced. As previously advertised it is proposed we celebrate the 56th anniversary of the 1959 Davis Cup victory when Australia defeated the USA 3-2 at the West Side Tennis Club Forest Hill New York, with our team of Rod Laver, Neale Fraser Roy Emerson and the late Bob Mark.

The venue for the luncheon is the Members Dining Room at the Melbourne Cricket Club which is convenient for members wishing to attend the twilight tennis session later in the day. The MCC has allocated some parking under the stadium (please contact Judy) with entry from Brunton Avenue travelling out of the City towards Richmond. Of course Public Transport by tram or train is always a good option.

Our President Neale Fraser has contacted and is ensuring the player attendance, along with the legendary Fred Stolle, who has supported the Foundation in its endeavours, for the a number of years, as the MC of the day.

Bookings are open for members and guests and your reservation will be accepted on the function Booking Form available on the Foundation web site: www.adctf.org. The cost is \$135 for members and \$145 for guests and is inclusive of a 2 course meal, premium beverages and an action packed day.

A number of fund raising activities including the Silent Auction will be conducted, to enliven proceedings. Another highlight will be screening of historical footage of Davis Cup tennis in 1959. The Herald Sun have again agreed to provide the souvenir booklet based on the tie and we thank them for their on-going support of this interesting historical collector's item publication.

Any function booking enquiries can be directed to Judy at the Foundation office via Email info@adctf.org.au or (03).9499 6228.

ADCTF Tour to Czech Republic.

Bentleigh Travel is again organising a tour for ADCTF members to the next tie in the Czech Republic followed by a tour of Sicily and Malta. Full details are available on the ADCTF website or from Bentleigh Travel.

Expressions of interest to:

BENTLEIGH TRAVEL CENTRE

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PO Box 20, Bentleigh 3204

Email: ian@bentleightravel.com.au

ATP Rankings at 1.12.14

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lleyton Hewitt | 50 |
| Nick Kyrgios | 52 |
| Bernard Tomic | 55 |
| Marinko Matosovic | 74 |
| Sam Groth | 78 |
| James Duckworth | 131 |
| Thannasi Kokkinakis | 150 |
| Jason Kubler | 154 |