

## QLD Junior Championships Recap

The Queensland Junior Table Tennis Championships were held at the Brisbane Table Tennis Centre from 30 March - 2 April. Given that the National Junior Championships are being held in July this forced major changes to the calendar including the state juniors being brought forward 3 months earlier.

In total there were players from 12 of our member associations at the event. This included players & coaches traveling from Cairns, Townsville & Rockhampton. With nearly 80 players in total competing.

The event was officially opened by Brisbane City Councillor Vicki Howard. Whilst Vicki was present at the event TTQ and the Brisbane Association thanked the Brisbane City Council for their recent Lord Mayor Community Sustainability Grant. The Brisbane club received \$85,000 towards upgrading their lighting, which will make a massive difference to the future of the club.

The teams action got underway at midday on Wednesday. All of the teams events were very competitive with some fantastic matches taking place.

In the Under 18 Boys team event it came down to last match of



*Briahna Connolly & Leah Scott*

the event between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The Brisbane team of Benjamin Gould and Mateo Dvorani prevailed 3-2 overall. Jake Duffy from the Gold Coast was the standout performer going 18-0. Fred Xu from the UQ club was the surprise player of the event finishing 16-2 overall and earning himself a spot in the QLD Under 18 Boys 'A' team.

Sophia Pan was the standout performer in the Under 18 Girls team event leading the Cairns team to the Gold medal. Sophia and Yilin Zhao combined to win all 5 of their team matches. The

Bundaberg pairing of Briahna Connolly and Leah Scott finished with the silver medal.

The Bundaberg duo of Hayden Green and Leyton Ey finished 5-0 overall to claim first place in the Under 15 Boys team event. Hayden won all 10 of his matches, while Leyton won 9 out of 10. The Bundaberg 'B' team weren't too far behind finishing second overall. Special mention to Richard Littler from Moreton Bay who performed very well winning 7 of his 8 matches.

The Under 13 Boys team event saw 10 teams competing from



*Rebekka Fliegner from Townsville*

clubs all over Queensland including, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Townsville & Bundaberg. This gave all players plenty of matches to compete in throughout the event. The Brisbane 'A' team of Zachary Bakanay & David Nguyen finished first overall, narrowly defeating the Gold Coast team of Jakub Klouba & Youman Li in the final. While Bundaberg brothers Andrew & Matthew Udal finished with the bronze.

Harry Zhang from Cairns performed very well finishing with a 15-3 record. Special mention to a number of first time players such as Jaryd Head, Vinuka De Silva & Gauresh Malhotra who all displayed some great table tennis, we hope to see you at next years event.

The Bundaberg team of Tahnee Green & Rebecca Tran were a class above in the Under 13 Girls

team event, going undefeated. The Presidents team of Kami Schowalter (Cairns), Tamika Connolly (Wynnum) & Emily Nejman (Bundaberg) finished second overall.

The mixed doubles events saw one upset in the Under 15 event. Sam Freeman and Rebecca Tran combined to defeat number 1 seeds Hayden Green & Hannah Klouba in the final. While Matilda Alexandersson

& Benjamin Gould were too strong in the Under 18 event. David Nguyen & Tahnee Green defeated the Klouba siblings (Jakub & Hannah) 3-1 in the Under 13s final.

Some of the doubles results included Jake Duffy and Benjamin Gould easily winning the Under 18 Boys doubles. Meean Bakanay & Rebecca Tran claiming the Under 15 Girls doubles. While in the first time of the event, Vinuka De Silva and Matthew Udal won the Under 11 Doubles.

The singles events saw very strong competition across all age groups with a number of new champions.

In the under 18 Boys singles, Jake Duffy

from the Gold Coast overcame a strong field to take the title. This field included players such as Benjamin Gould, Olav Dahl, Brett Fourro and many others. He defeated Benjamin 4-1 in a great final.

There were a number of upsets in the Under 18 Girls singles event which saw some new faces competing to be champion. In the end Chloe Connolly from Wynnum defeated Leah Scott from Bundaberg in an entertaining final.

Jakub Klouba had an incredible win streak in the Under 15 Boys singles knock-out. He defeated Richard Littler, Leyton Ey & Sam Freeman enroute to the final. Number 1 seed Hayden Green prevailed in the final 3-0.

Cairns player, Sophia Pan continued her dominance in the teams event to win the Under 15 Girls



*Youman Li (serving) and Jakub Klouba*



singles. She overcame Rebecca Tran 3-1 in the final.

David Nguyen from Brisbane performed very strongly in the Under 13 Boys singles. He defeated Jakub Klouba 3-0 in the final, while Zachary Bakanay & Youman Li won bronze medals.

The Under 13 Girls team champions Rebecca Tran and Tahnee Green met in the final of the Under 13 Girls singles. In a very close match Rebecca won 3-2 to be crowned the champion.

For the first time TTQ introduced the Under 11 age group for the championships. The Under 11 Boys event went ahead with 6 entries. Zachary Bakanay defeated Vinuka De Silva 3-0 in the final. TTQ would like to encourage clubs to continue to enter players in the Under 11 age group in future. The new events provide more participation op-



*Coaching time!*

portunities for players in this age group.

The 'Allan Clarke' incentive shield is awarded to a first time participant at the state junior championships that displays great sportmanship and potential for future. This year Gauresh Malhotra from Mackay was the recipient, Congratulations.

While the President's shield for player of the tournament went to Rebecca Tran from Bundaberg. Well done Rebecca on a great tournament.

As per every year with our Queensland Junior Championships a lot of hard work is involved by everyone behind the scenes.

Firstly TTQ would like to thank our Queensland Junior Selectors, Gary Walmsley, Seref Bakanay & Franck Roguiez for their efforts in finalising the seedings for the events and selecting the Queensland Junior Teams.

A number of volunteer umpires were at the event to assist. These include: Nicole Udal, Mark Patane, Paul Kwaczynski & Table Tennis Queensland Life Member Mick McShane. Thank you all for your fantastic efforts.



*Wynnum player Jaxon Harris*

The referee Kenneth Wong & deputy referee Will Almasi did an amazing job in preparing the draws and ensuring the event ran smoothly. Thank you very much for all of your hard work towards a successful event.

Finally all of this would not be possible without the support of the incredible parents and coaches across the state. Your efforts in getting the players to/from training and coaching all contributes to the success and high standard of the event. Thank you very much for your continued support, we hope to see you at next years event.

Full results & Queensland Junior Team Members can be view at Table Tennis Queensland website: [www.tabletennisqld.org](http://www.tabletennisqld.org)

