# **ESTC Report for Spring 2011**

UNSW had another successful Eastern Suburbs Tennis Competition in the last competition of 2011. UNSW won three grades in the Sunday morning singles/doubles competitions, as well as making another final and the final of the Saturday afternoon mixed doubles competition. Wins went to a regular consistent team, a new team and a team with players who returned back into the competition after a number of years.

A1/2:

The UNSW 5 team featuring Jared Cohen, his brother Noah Cohen, their father Stephen Cohen and a friend Josh Penn won the A1/2 division, which is the strongest competition in the 10am competition. The team capped off a great year after being finalists in the Summer competition, and winning the Winter competition.

After dominating throughout the whole of the Winter competition, this competition was a little tougher for UNSW 5. It had some very tough matches during the competition, and was competing against the Jensens and Maccabi teams for the top three places. After the round robin matches UNSW 5 pipped the Jensens team for the 2nd spot, but it looked like Maccabi had a stranglehold on the competition.

The semi-final was a brilliant match, with Noah and Jared playing the strongest pairing that Jensens could put together from their four-person team. After the doubles sets were split 62 36 and the singles sets were split 26 63, it was all even after the four sets, and so a rare match-deciding tie-break had to be played to determine the overall winner. Jared and Noah held their nerve and won the tie-break 75 to progress through to the final.

In the final they would face the top seeds from Maccabi, who were now unfortunately without their best player as he was in Melbourne at his brother’s wedding. The Maccabi team was forced to rush in a weaker player in the last few weeks of the competition to qualify for the finals. This worked out well for UNSW 5, who easily won the final in the end, winning the first three sets comfortably.

A2/1:

A new UNSW team, UNSW 2 featuring Craig Hunt, Peter Elliott, Greg Westwood and Ben Alfred, joined the competition in the A2 grade of the 8am competition. The team was tipped to win the grade from the outset after being known to other members of the Eastern Suburbs Tennis Competitions organizing committee, but it was not possible to enter the team into the highest grade of the competition without proving themselves first.

The prediction proved to be correct, as the team never looked like losing the grade. They won their semi-final without losing a game, and in the final won all the sets to take their rightful place in the A1 grade in the next competition.

A3/2

In an all-UNSW final, UNSW 9 featuring Marvin Yu, Hao Chen and Michael Ho outclassed UNSW 11 with Oleg Sushkov, Andrei Stadnik and Barry Skalrud in the final. Michael Ho was returning to the competition after a break of three years, and while he once played as high as A1 in the 10am competition, he joined his friends in the A3 team, who had also won the lowest grade in the Winter competition.

The team played very well throughout the season and was consistently at the top of the table. Predictably, the team won the final against the valiant UNSW 9, winning three sets to one.

Grade 1 Mixed

A special mention must also go to the Grade 1 mixed team of Chris Vik, Eric Valric, Victor Chow, Patrick Bryan, Kirsty White, Jenny Kouloumendas, Aleta Freer and Chelsea Albert, who made the final of the Grade 1 Saturday afternoon mixed doubles competition for the first time ever.

It was the strongest team put together for the Saturday afternoon mixed doubles competition for many years by UNSW. The team’s strength was their women, who never lost a womens doubles sets throughout the whole competition, including in the semi-final and final. As it turned out the womens doubles set was the only set that the team won in the final against the very strong Matraville 1 team, but it was a joy just to be part of the last match of the season.

Congratulations to all the teams who achieved the great results and also to everyone else who played, and I hope you all had fun. The next competition starts in February 2012, so good luck to the teams involved!

Here is a list of all the UNSW results:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Spring 2011** | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Winners | A2/1 | UNSW 2 | Sun | Craig Hunt, Peter Elliott, Greg Westwood, Ben Alfred |
| Winners | A1/2 | UNSW 5 | Sun | Jared Cohen, Noah Cohen, Stephen Cohen, Josh Penn |
| Winners | A3/2 | UNSW 9 | Sun | Marvin Yu, Hao Chen, Michael Ho |
| Finalists | Grade 1 | UNSW SP 1 | Sat | Chris Vik, Victor Chow, Patrick Bryan, Eric Valric, Chelsea Albert, Aleta Freer, Jenny Kouloumendas, Kirsty White |
| Finalists | A3/2 | UNSW 11 | Sun | Oleg Sushkov, Andrei Stadnik, Barry Skalrud |
| Semi-finalists | A2/1 | UNSW 3 | Sun | Hirokazu Mashimo, Masato Niwa, Laurent Durand |
| Semi-finalists | A3/1 | UNSW 4 | Sun | Matthew Walker, David Vella, Oliver Hough |
| Semi-finalists | A1/2 | UNSW 6 | Sun | Ian Barnes, Blake Barnes-James |
| Semi-finalists | A2/2 | UNSW 8 | Sun | David Sindel, Roman Huber, Kirsty White |
| Semi-finalists | B1/1 | UNSW 12 | Sun | Chelsea Albert, Anil Fernando, Bill (William) Low |
| Semi-finalists | A4/2 | UNSW 13 | Sun | Rohan Laxmanalal, Hannah Lawrence, Christina Livers |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 5th | A2/2 | UNSW 7 | Sun | Chris Vik, Jenny Kouloumendas, Simon Mak |
| 5th | A4/2 | UNSW 14 | Sun | Chris Koewandhono, Kelvin Lee, Henry Hongbo Jin |
| 5th | B2/1 | UNSW 16 | Sun | Jane (Nonie) Kurniawan, George Kurniawan, Steven Kurniawan |
| 6th | A1/1 | UNSW 1 | Sun | Geoff Daus, Ben Tari, Shane Fawcett |
| 6th | A3/2 | UNSW 10 | Sun | Vicca Latycheva, Eric Valric, Valeriv (Wally) Ransevich |
| 6th | Grade 1 | UNSW SP 2 | Sat | Jordan Wightman, Rohan Laxmanalal, Terry Ringland, Laura Aurisch, Pattama Wightman, Emma Ringland, Lynne Arkinstall |
| 6th | A4/2 | UNSW 15 | Sun | James Spence, Nathalie Rasko |

ABOUT THE COMPETITIONS

The next Eastern Suburbs Tennis Competition begins on the 4th and 5th of February 2012. If you are interested in playing in the competitions please contact Chris Vik so that your details can be kept in case reserves are required, or for future competitions.

The Eastern Suburbs Tennis Association organises three competitions each year, played in a round robin format over 10 weeks, plus semi-finals and finals. Two types of competitions make up the event – Saturday afternoon mixed doubles competition and Sunday morning singles/doubles competitions. All competitions are team-based, and arranged in grades of roughly 6 teams of the same standard.

The Saturday afternoon mixed competition is a purely doubles competition, played on Saturday afternoons. The competition plays from 1pm to 5pm, starting with 1 mens doubles set, then 1 womens doubles set and finally 4 mixed doubles sets with each pair playing two sets each. Four players would be required to play each week (two guys and two girls), although it is recommended to have a few more players to sustain the team throughout the competition. So the team plays 6 sets in total, with each person playing 3 sets of doubles each. This is a very social competition, played with a lot of fun and competitive spirit, and many teams bring food and drinks to serve up throughout the afternoon.

The Sunday morning singles/doubles competitions are more competitive. Only two players are required to play each week, and play on Sunday mornings from 8:00am to 10am or 10am to 12noon. There are a lot of grades and teams in the Sunday morning competitions, so the time that you play depends on what time you want to wake up on Sunday morning, as each timeslot has roughly the same number of teams of a similar standard. The majority of UNSW teams play in the Sunday morning competitions.

The teams in either the 8am to 10am competition may be made up of up to 4 players of any gender. The format is that the first set is a doubles set, and then each player plays a set of singles, and finally a second doubles set is played again if there is still time. So each team plays 4 sets, and each person plays 3 sets of tennis, so it’s a great way to wake up on a Sunday morning.

The competitions are very popular, with some players even playing in the competitions for over 20 years!

I hope that these descriptions have given you an idea of what the competitions are all about, and that hearing the stories of success from the last competition makes you keen to be part of the next competition. If you have any other questions, are interested in playing, or would like to be a reserve for one of the current teams, please send me an email at [chris\_vik@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chris_vik@yahoo.co.uk).

See you on the court!

Chris Vik, UNSW ESTC Director