

World Senior Teams Championships

Australian teams did very well at the World Team Championships held recently in Ulm, Germany. The Australian ladies won gold in the Alice Marble Cup (W60) and silver in the Maureen Connolly Cup (W55) and the men in the Von Cramm Cup (M60)

The Alice Marble Cup team was Ros Balodis (ACT), Lyn Mortimer (Qld), Judith Buzza (Vic), and Suzie Ellis (NSW). The Australian's cruised through the round robin stages only dropping one rubber. In the semifinals they took on Great Britain and claimed both the singles in straight sets to progress to the finals.

In the decider the Aussies came up against top seeds USA, who were looking to secure their fourth straight Alice Marble Cup. The American's came out of the block firing, with Susan Wright defeating Mortimer for the loss of just two games. Balodis then hit back with a 6-2 6-3 victory at the number one spot. Balodis and Mortimer then combined to win a hard fought doubles 7-5 6-3 to clinch victory for the Australian team. Balodis was undefeated in singles and doubles action and didn't drop a set for the entire event.



Judith Buzza, Lyn Mortimer, Ros Balodis and Suzie Ellis

The Maureen Connolly Cup team was Narelle Raftery (ACT), Brenda Foster (NSW), Wanda Howes (Vic) and Leanne Swaysland (NSW). The team didn't drop a set in the group stages before progressing to play Italy in the semifinals. Foster came out victorious 6-3 3-6 6-4 over Francesca Ciardi before Raftery was edged out in a close battle 4-6 6-3 4-6. Foster and Swaysland then combined to win the doubles in straight sets and set up a rematch of last year's final against host nation Germany.

In the final, the top seeded German's proved too strong for the Australian's taking out both of the singles matches to claim the Maureen Connolly Cup. The Aussies bounced back to win the doubles 6-2 6-1.



Brenda Forster, Wanda Howes, Narelle Raftery and Leanne Swaysland with the German team

The Von Cramm Cup team was Glenn Busby (Vic), Steve Myers (Vic), Stephen Dance (Tas) and Michael Ford (Qld). The team was undefeated in the rounds and met Germany in the semi-final. Myers lost the first singles before Busby won his singles to level the match. Busby and Ford then won the doubles in 3 sets to take the match.

In the final against the USA again the match was even after the singles but this time Busby and Ford lost the doubles in 3 sets.

