Lions bare claws

The Lions displayed top form to register a 4-0 victory over the Tigers in last Friday night’s Mt Barker District Squash event held at the Adelaide Hills Recreation Centre.

Lions top seed Paul Kirnleigh defeated Joe White 15-10, 13-15, 13-16, 15-9. Beautiful shot play from both athletes created an entertaining match, however, unforced errors led to White trailing 2-1 before the fourth game proved a one sided struggle with an epic tie-breaker, in which the cleaner hitting of Kirnleigh enabled him to sneak over the line.

Penrith lost out to Keith Bridgman to grab a 15-7, 15-11, 15-11 win. The opening set was more evenly matched than the score implies, as Penrith’s well placed serves and finely executed drop shots took the first away from Bridgman. Game two was intriguing with changes of fortune for both players – initially Penrith dominated with clever high placed serves, but Bridgman fought back with some very fast paced rallies. The third and final game was a close, fluctuating affair in which Penrith’s serve was the deciding factor.

Peter Moore ground out a 15-11, 15-12, 15-8 result against Michael Buckley. The opening stanza was a close battle, and Moore’s solid movement around the court after his recent shoulder injury proved surprising for some spectators. Buckley played good depth throughout the second game, though ultimately it was Moore who closed out the match in the third.

Kaye Lucas defeated Shane Paterson 16-14, 15-9, 15-6. A closely fought first game was followed by frustration for Paterson who succumbed to Lucas’ phenomenal placement of lots serves and terrific drops. Paterson refused to give in though, using all parts of his racket to rip some great winners and force Lucas to break out of character and run.

Lucas’ consistency and poise prevailed in the minimum three games.

Pascal Kirnleigh defeated Wendy Pope 15-11, 15-11, 15-6, as Kirnleigh’s placement proved too much for last season’s champion number four Pope.

Kirnleigh’s serves and lobs made returning serve near impossible, however, Pope’s pace in the second game nullified some of Kirnleigh’s shotmaking, creating tighter second and third games.

A brief spurt of unplayable serves by Pope got her back into the contest but it was Kirnleigh who emphatically replied with her own ace serves to close out the match.

Gymnasts in early form

Mt Barker YMCA Gymnastics Club members have made a productive start to the 2014 SA competition season.

The club competed in the Levels 1-3 Pennant 1 competition over August 2-3 with the Level 1 State team and Level 1 National team winning pennants after both placed first overall.

The Level 2 State Stream team placed second while Level 3 finished third.

Mt Barker’s Level 4 State Stream team previously competed in pennants 1 and 2 competition during June and July, respectively registering third and second placings.

Several gymnasts have placed first, second and third individually and it is great for all of the gymnasts to reap the rewards of hard work and application.

The gymnasts, head coach Morven Henderson and her assistant coaches are all feeling motivated and excited to continue the success at upcoming state and national competitions to held later this month for the Level 4 State Stream team, and in October for Levels 1 to 3.