

The ITF West Pacific Regional Championships 2013

By Gene Ridgeway

58 enthusiastic players from 5 Pacific Nations converged on Fiji to qualify to be members of the West Pacific Team at the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships to be held in August.

The Vanuatu team this year was strong in the U12 event with Ben Pechan, Clement Mainguy, Daisy Sipiti, and Rosalie Molbaleh all coming 1st and 2nd. Exciting tennis player Tabera Bonteman from Kiribati returned to defend his title beating Joel Junior Benjamin from the Solomon Islands in the final of the Boys U15 event.

Vinda Teally from the Solomon Islands beat last year's 12 and 15 champion Ruby Coffin from Fiji in the final after losing to the same player two days earlier in the last round of pool play. The U18 have a new champion, Robin Morove; a smooth swinging player from Papua New Guinea, who won the 7 player round robin competition with a perfect record of six wins from six matches including a victory over the 2011 U15 champion Tito Bira from Kiribati who finished in 2nd place. The Girls U18 was a 3 player event, with Annie Shannon from Fiji winning both of her matches and the championships with Lorraine Bainmatakau from Vanuatu in 2nd place. An 18 player team will represent the West Pacific Region at the POJC in August.

2013 West Pacific Team

12 & Under Boys:

1. Ben Pechan – Vanuatu
2. Clement Mainguy – Vanuatu
3. Banian Ieora - Kiribati
4. Nicholas Yee Joy – Fiji*

15 & Under Boys:

1. Tabera Bonteman – Kiribati
2. Joel Junior Benjamin – Solomon Islands
3. Krishan Raju – Fiji

18 & Under Boys:

1. Robin Morove – Papua New Guinea
2. Tito Bira – Kiribati

Coaches for the West Pacific Team:

Francis Bryard – Vanuatu
Doreen Ningalo – Solomon Islands

12 & Under Girls:

1. Daisy Sipiti - Vanuatu
2. Rosalie Molbaleh - Vanuatu
3. Chrisma Au – Solomon Islands*
4. Mariee Joan Finch – Solomon Islands*

15 & under Girls:

1. Vinda Teally – Solomon Islands
2. Ruby Coffin – Fiji
3. Mulan Kamoe - Fiji

18 & Under Girls

1. Annie Shannon – Fiji
2. Lorraine Bainmatakau – Vanuatu

*These players qualify due to the rule allowing only two players from the same nation to qualify in any event.