

# BATHURST ACADEMY 2015 OVERVIEW

By Jeremy Wintersteen and Barney Tanfield

The Bathurst Academy's first year went largely as expected. There is a substantial disparity between the top amateur talent in the US and the three other countries. We knew this at the start so this program must be part of a long-term effort.

A successful training camp was held at the Racquet & Tennis Club in June 2014 and six players participated. After this, fifteen players were identified as being potential Bathurst Cup players. Barney and Jeremy worked on evaluation criteria and relayed selection process information to Bathurst Academy players. Barney reached out to all the players encouraging them to practice, enter tournaments, and do all they can for their game. Barney stayed in touch with most of them throughout the evaluation period and created a matrix to track player handicap movement, tournament entries, and tournament results. The team was picked by the end of 2014 in order to give players time to practice and prepare for the Bathurst Cup in Australia in April.

Some of the metrics identified to judge effectiveness were tournament results, handicap improvements, a lowering of the threshold to make the Top 25 List, an increase of players in single-digit handicaps, and results in the Bathurst Cup.

Tournament results went as expected but did have a couple good surprises. Peter Cipriano beat a single digit handicap in the R&T club championship and Tom McGinnis continues to improve. Dan McBride also had some solid tournament matches. Handicap movements are shown on the player list below. The Top 25 List threshold did not move much (still 20-22 to make the list) but we expect it will next year. No new players broke the single-digit handicap threshold. Ben Cook, Captain of the Bathurst Cup Team, provided a tournament recap in his report. We finished in last place but our players, who were significantly overmatched on paper, competed well. That level of competition is rarely seen in the US amateur game, except for when foreign players enter tournaments (which happened this year in the Gold Racquet and Amateur). The selection process for our team proved to be a hard one, which is a sign of a good problem. In several cases, we went with youth and eye towards the future. All three players learned from the experience and greatly appreciated the support given to them from the Player Development Program.

Lessons learned include doing the training camp in the fall instead of the summer so that it coincides with the start of the season. We would like to hold a second training camp after the team is selected. Another lesson learned is to stay in close contact with selected players and their home professionals and others at their clubs who might be able to have an impact on the player. We learned that our competition (France and potentially the other countries) sponsors at least some of its players' travel and competition expenses. Clearly articulating the team selection process ahead of time is also helpful. Looking out beyond the 2017 Bathurst Cup (France), it will also be important to be in close contact with the Player Development Program's Junior Committee so that the Elite Juniors can be identified as future Bathurst Academy prospects. Three of the top six amateurs in the world are products of their respective junior programs / teams (Booth, Douglas, Medlow). Other ideas include getting tougher (but not out of reach) matches for our players. The Spring Invitational, which was held for the first time at the Racquet & Tennis Club, is an ideal tournament. Encouraging

our players to travel abroad and getting top foreign players to enter US tournaments will also help. It is imperative that our top players see ten or more matches against single digit handicap players before they can be expected to beat one. Lastly, one-on-one discussions and emails between Bathurst Academy Committee members and players are also very important.

We learned a number of things from year one of the Bathurst Academy. We want to build on year one and create a program that players are hungry to participate in. We need to expand the Bathurst Academy Committee to include financial contributors, former players, and others who can help the program. Overall and looking forward, we are both realistic and optimistic. We have a big international handicap gap to overcome but our goal remains to finish second or better in the 2019 Bathurst Cup. With hard work and a full-on organizational commitment, we will get there.

### Potential Bathurst Cup Players

| Player            | Hdcp on 5/1/15 | Hdcp on 5/30/14 | Change |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Pat Winthrop *    | 9.6            | 8.4             | +1.2   |
| Lex Miron         | 9.9            | 8.7             | +1.2   |
| Addison West      | 11.6           | 13.0            | -1.4   |
| Dan McBride       | 11.8           | 15.5            | -3.7   |
| Jon Crowell *     | 13.9           | 15.7            | -1.8   |
| Tom McGinnis      | 15.0           | 15.0            | 0      |
| Brad Allen        | 15.1           | 13.1            | +2.0   |
| Ben Cook *        | 15.4           | 14.2            | +1.2   |
| Peter Cipriano    | 15.4           | 24.0            | -8.6   |
| Will Broadbent    | 17.2           | 16.0            | +1.2   |
| Zach Sacks        | 18.4           | 19.6            | -1.2   |
| Alex Spence       | 19.5           | 20.1            | -0.6   |
| Garrett Gates     | 20.1           | 21.5            | -1.4   |
| Dillon Aldrich    | 21.4           | 24.6            | -3.2   |
| Rakesh Jasani     | 22.1           | 22.1            | 0      |
| Clayton Vaughters | 30.1           | 30.1            | 0      |

- 2015 Bathurst Cup Team (12.9 average handicap)

### Selected International Competition from 2015 Bathurst Cup

| Player                  | Hdcp on 5/4/15 |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Kieran Booth (AUS)      | +6.5           |
| Matthieu Sarlangue (FR) | +1.1           |
| Conor Medlow (UK)       | 0.7            |
| Jamie Douglas (UK)      | 0.7            |
| Bret Richardson (AUS)   | 2.2            |

*Average Handicap = +0.8*