

Victoria edge Queensland in thriller

By Dean Benson

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Victoria has beaten Queensland three matches to two in the morning session on Day 2 after an entertaining tie in the Class 11 Teams' event.

Arguably the highlight of the tie was the singles match between Ashley Parrott of Queensland and Rory Carroll of Victoria.

Parrott took the match 3-1 after a spirited performance from the Victorian meant a fourth game was needed to settle the encounter.

The Queenslander was in good form heading into the match, showing a strong display of spin and power throughout the morning's earlier matches.

However, some solid defensive work from Carroll led to some of the day's most entertaining rallies.

In the doubles match, Carroll combined well with teammate Zvi Schweitzer to take out a hard fought encounter.

Parrott's fellow Queenslander Kate Juillerat mixed skill with consistency to put on a fine display during her first ever appearance at a table tennis event.

In Parrott's other singles match, he beat Schweitzer 3-0 on an occasion where the score-line probably didn't reflect the balance of play.

The Victorian put on a brilliant defensive display, showing poise and determination to keep the scores close throughout.

Juillerat was unlucky to go down in both of her singles matches, despite showing plenty of heart to never give up.

Queensland team coach, Dave Delpratt, remained positive despite the result and said he was happy with his team's efforts.

"I was very, very impressed with the way our players played and just the overall match," he said. "The Victorians deserved to win but I'm very proud of the Queensland players, particularly Kate".

Delpratt also said he was especially impressed with Juillerat's performance in the doubles encounter.

"The way she played was very encouraging for her and she's done well in all the doubles that they've played in so far," he said.

As for Parrott, the Queensland coach said that his consistency was something he was very proud of.

“He’s an incredible talent,” Delpratt said. “He is the sort of player that just doesn’t feel pressure and he can play the same way right throughout a match, regardless of the situation”.

This year’s championships are particularly special for the Queenslanders, given that Parrott and Juillerat are members of the same local table tennis club.

And Delpratt hopes that their efforts this week can inspire more players to get involved in future years.

“Hopefully our results here will be encouraging. The Queensland clubs do get behind AWD to promote players in their clubs with disabilities to really encourage them to get involved at this level,” he said.

“There certainly are a number of other Queensland players who could compete at this level”.