



## **Australian Open invaded by colony of beetles as desperate officials sweep, vacuum and release HAWK to get rid of bugs**

Australia | February 11, 2021

THE Australian Open was hit by a plague of beetles on Thursday, with officials using brushes, vacuums and even a HAWK to tackle the problem.

Throughout the tournament, ball-boys and ball-girls have been armed with dustpans and brushes to get the grips with the invasion. Australian Open officials were forced to break out the dustpans and brushes to clear the court of beetles

During breaks in play, large vacuums have even been brought onto the court to get rid of the infestation.

And now Aussie Open officials in Melbourne have released a hawk to help their clean-up mission.

Simona Halep was clearly distracted by the invasion too.

The No2 seed Romanian was taking on local favourite Ajla Tomljanovic when the pests hit the court, sparking a mad rush to clear it of bugs.

At one stage Halep was trailing 5-2 in the deciding set, only to fight back to win five games in a row to clinch a 4-6 6-4 7-5 victory to reach the third-round.

The former Wimbledon champion will take on Russian No32 seed Veronika Kudermetova in her next test.

Halep isn't the only player to have her match interrupted by a bug, though.

Italian ace Jan Sinner saw his match with Denis Shapavalov hit by an invasion of pests.