

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 20th July, 2017

The Grand Finals were played at North Ringwood on Thursday the

The results of the Autumn, 2017 Grand Finals were as follows:-

Section 1: Kooyong d. East Croydon/Kilsyth	4-1	43-37
Section 2: East Croydon/Kilsyth d. Macleod	3-1	31-15
Section 3: Glen Waverley Wunz d. Fitzroy	4-2	37-29
Section 4: Norris Bank Saints l. Donvale Dilettantes	2-4	28-37
Section 5: Donvale Dabblers l. Norris Bank	3-3	34-37

The Section 1 Grand Final was played at the highest possible standard of Veteran's tennis. This was a closely fought match, and finished much later than any of the finals.

In Section 2 East Croydon/Kilsyth overwhelmed Macleod in the only final in this 10 team Section. The match was virtually over after the first four sets.

Section 3 saw Glen Waverley Wunz defeat Fitzroy by having a very even team with no weaknesses on the day in a closely fought competition with the match determined convincingly in the last two sets.

Section 4 saw Donvale Dilettantes overpower Norris Bank Saints who had finished on top of the ladder, and would have been favourites to win the flag. Donvale had finished third on the ladder during the home and away matches. The last two sets were won convincingly by Donvale by 8 games to 2 games.

In Section 5 the Grand Final battle was between Donvale Dabblers who finished second on the ladder, and fourth placed Norris Bank who only finished in the four on the last match of the season, and managed to win their Semi-Final and Preliminary finals on away courts. The last two deciding sets were split at 8 games to 1.

Karingal Drive were the outstanding team all season, and to fall in both of their home finals was unexpected.

Thanks again to Richard Tamblyn for organising court allocations, and to the North Ringwood club for the use of their courts and facilities.

The ability to hold all the Grand Finals at the one location is one of the features of our competition and sets us aside from many other competitions. The many spectators from clubs not competing made for a pleasant day for all concerned.

For the first time ever there were no forfeits recorded during the season – thanks to all the clubs and teams for helping achieve this milestone.

Our competition received has received 38 team entries for the coming Autumn, 2017 season which whilst 3 teams down from last season is still a high number of teams. Four teams withdrew (Grace Park, Royal Park Section 1), North Ringwood Bronze (Sect.4), and the two Koonung Park teams in Sect.5 amalgamated to form one team. Norris Bank has formed a new team in Section 5 with players not included in their Sect.4 teams and some new players.

Thanks once again to Donvale for including three females in their teams with two new players Janet Scott and Mary Robbie. Catherine Dun who had an outstanding first season is included in their Section 3 team – if you need emergencies the use of females may be an option for your club.

There were quite a few other clubs close to fielding extra teams which is encouraging.

It was pleasing that the clubs generally complied with the request to submit all the players who were likely to play, and this has resulted in the average number of nominated players in each team being 7.9 (as against 6.4) for last season, and should help resolve a lot of the queries covering the use of emergencies which was much too high last season at some 33% (as against 41% the last season). This should reduce the work load of Bruce Leister and myself in checking emergencies significantly.

The Association used performance figures from TROLS to assist in Grading, and these were only adjusted where there were insufficient information on players who played previously or new players who were given the team's average.

Where the computer model indicated a lower section we intervened when we knew the level of the players shown as average were actually better performers, and in general tried to comply with what clubs had requested.

By having this information available we were able to spend more time on the clubs that were fairly evenly matched, and grading was a smoother process with all the information that been supplied, and if this information was complete the computer model generally took precedence.

With only four teams applying for Section 1 difficult choices had to be made, and it is worth noting that if your team was in this situation that it will probably be for only a season unless you prefer to stay in Section 1. The alternative for these two teams is that they can strengthen their teams by playing players in their other team (East Croydon (2)) for at least four matches or borrowing players from other teams in Sect. 1 who have still not played more than four matches.

We understand that clubs prefer 8 team sections, however sometimes this can mean that clubs can have multiple teams in the same section, and that often the lower ranked teams struggle to achieve results. One of our main objects is to eliminate byes as all players would prefer to play so we have had to introduce a six team section in Sect.1 with the other four Sections having eight teams in their Sections.

This has also meant that sometimes the premiers for the previous season were not promoted mainly due to the changes of personal in the team of that they finished third or fourth in their Section, and did not change their make up of their team.

The computer modelling depends on nomination of players and their performances from the previous season.

When we grade we try to keep clubs with multiple teams in separate sections i.e. we were not able to achieve this with East Croydon/Kilsyth in Section 1, and Donvale and North Balwyn and thus they both have two teams in Section 3. Fortunately we think we have avoided any draw issues with the mix of one six and four eight team sections, and have tried to comply with all requests regarding the draws.

Thanks to the members of the Grading Panel who once again had to make some difficult decisions which have been aided by the computer model, and whilst they will not please everyone – it is important that we maintain the social atmosphere of our competition and at worst if your team is compromised it will probably only be for one season.

As a guide if you wish to be promoted it is easier for the Grading Panel if you win as many matches and finish in first place on the ladder with a high percentage and win the Grand Final, and try not to change the personal of the team. If you have strengthened your team give a complete detail of new players added, and an idea how often they will be regular players.

Conversely if you do not wish to be demoted win at least 5 matches and have a good percentage. Some of the higher placed teams have been demoted do to changing the structure of the team which has weakened their team from the previous season. Do not use injuries as an excuse for a poor season as most players struggle with some form of injury during the season.

The Grading of teams are subjective (but has been aided by the computer rankings, and thus they are largely based on last season's performance, players listed, and details provided for players new to the competition).

The season commences on Thursday the 3rd August, 2017 with the Grand Finals being played on the 23th November, 2017.

The need to seek permission to play players who have not played in the competition before is still a main requirement and four day's notice should be given along with the player's age, his playing level compared with other players in the team etc.

Once again the draws and result sheets have been emailed as it saves considerable time and the cost of postage. If you cannot print the draws, and result sheets from this email please advise, and I will forward these by mail – if you have a team mate who is computer savvy this would be preferable as they now cost \$2.00 each to mail.

My thanks to the outstanding work by Bruce Leister in administering the Trols website and this has made grading somewhat simpler with the amount of data produced.

The computer input of results into Trols will continue this season– you will need a computer person in your team to complete this, and it is still important to complete a result sheet (just in case results need to be checked or verified) or are not submitted in time i.e. **Deadline is 6.00pm Friday following the Thursday match. Note either team can enter the match results (although the current by-laws state it should be the winning team).**

If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact Bruce Leister on 9894 5447.

Attached to this email please find:-

1. A copy of draws for each section – please print sufficient copies for the players in your team and/or your club or check on the trols website under the tab fixtures.
2. A copy of new Spring, 2017 Result Sheets –

Results and ladders will be updated on our Trols website address as follows:-

<http://www.trols.org.au/metro> I suggest you place in your Favourites.

To maintain regular ladders please enter into Trols in a timely and legible manner.

Enjoy your tennis.

Regards

David Burn

RECORD SECRETARY – METRO MASTERS