

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> Januray, 2019

The Spring, 2018 Grand Finals were played at North Ringwood on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

The results of the Spring, 2018 Grand Finals were as follows: -

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| Section 1: Lum Reserve d. East Croydon/Kilsyth<br>(10 -7 in a super tie-break) | 3-3, 38-38 |
| Section 2: Norris Bank d. North Balwyn One                                     | 4-2, 41-34 |
| Section 3: Eltham d. Donvale Reds  | 4-2, 42-36 |
| Section 4: East Croydon/Kilsyth Magpies d. Norris Bank Saints                  | 5-1, 45-26 |
| Section 5: Donvale Dabblers d. Glwn Waverley Tooze                             | 4-1, 38-21 |
| Section 6: Karingal Drive d. Koonung Park Red                                  | 4-2, 40-33 |

With six sections on Grand Final day courts were at a premium, and two sections needed to share courts as only ten courts were available. In future seasons with six sections playing on Grand Final day it would be appropriate if some of the matches were started earlier in the morning to avoid a late finish.

In Section 1 Lum Reserve finally won a Section 1 flag after last winning it in Spring, 2009 in a nail-biting finish with them winning a super tie-break 10-7. Once again the level of play throughout the day was at the highest standard.

In Section 2 Norris Bank prevailed against North Balwyn One – another high standard match.

In Section 3 Eltham were too strong for Donvale Reds, and thoroughly deserved to win the Grand Final being the strongest team during the season. This is the first flag won by Eltham to my knowledge although Laurie Sparks was involved in Templestowe Park winning the Section 2B flag in Spring, 2010 with different players. In Section 4 East Croydon/Kilsyth Magpies and Norris Bank Sinners being by far the strongest teams in Section 4 resulted in East Croydon winning the easiest of all the finals. They will test a lot of the Section 3 teams in the coming Autumn, 2019 season.

In Section 5 Donvale Dabblers defeated the best performing team in the Section Glen Waverley Tooze who had to call on a Section 6 player to field a team in the Grand Final. This was the only match they lost all season, and again they probably should test a few of the Section 4 teams in the coming season. Lisa Persegatti became only the second female to win in a Grand Final and was easily the most consistent player in the final. Judy Dries also played for Glen Waverley Tooze in the Grand Final, and this was the first time two female players had played on Grand Final day. In Section 6 Karingal Drive proved too strong for the fourth placed Koonung Park Red and have also been promoted to Section 5 where they were runners-up in Spring, 2016, they should also test some of the teams in Section 5.

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 viewing facilities at North Ringwood also add to the occasion.

We had some forfeits during the season, – every attempt should be made for this not to occur, as it a distraction for the team receiving the forfeit.

At our Xmas Luncheon we had an attendance of 105 people mostly players from nearly all our clubs which represents almost a third of our players. This was rewarding as in recent years the number had dropped into the 90's.

Our competition is one of the few competitions around particularly veteran's competitions that is holding its own, and even in some seasons growing. Even though it costs our Association close to \$2000 in supporting the function it is rewarding that so many players want to attend, and add to the social atmosphere of what I consider to be one of the better competitions for older players, and that we all benefit out of the social interaction which is the envy of many other competitions.

Some clubs did not fill in the proper Registration form which requires email addresses, phone numbers for captains etc and club details together with any draw requests – if you could attempt to improve this situation in the coming seasons as it is time consuming chasing this information up and making sure all the information is current.

Our competition has received 41 team entries for the coming Autumn, 2019 season which is up 4 teams from last season (and is close to the record entry of 42 teams from Autumn, 2018), but is in line with the entries that are normally received for the Autumn season. We welcome St. Christopher's a new team, and had Kooyong 2, Royal Park, Glen Waverley Threez, North Ringwood Bronze back into our competition losing only Grace Park from Section 1, and the Lum Reserve Section 5 team who some of their players have gone to North Ringwood Bronze team, and some have been incorporated into a new Section 6 Lum Reserve team. North Balwyn still remain our biggest club with 5 teams entered, together with Donvale, East Croydon and Glen Waverley each having 4 teams. Once again nine females have been nominated in seven different teams in Sections 2, 3, 4 & 5, and certainly adds to the social atmosphere of our competition - if you need emergencies the use of females may be an option for your club. There were also quite a few other clubs like Koonung Park and Norris Bank 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 7.93 (as against 8.2) for last season, which resolved a lot of the queries covering the use of emergencies. There were 325 nominated players for this season (which I think would be a record). This should reduce the work load of Bruce Leister and myself in checking emergencies significantly.

We have decided to stick to the 8 team sections with a bye in all the sections from 2-6. We have retained a 6-team section in Section 1 due to the higher standard of this section, and placed the returning Kooyong 2 there as not much alternative. It is hoped that with the byes if you need to seek a player from the section below if most of the players in your section have played more than 4 matches it will make it easier to source a player. We were able to promote the premiers or outstanding teams from the section below from Section 3 to 6 except for Norris Bank Saints who have a weaker team, and Donvale Dabblers in Section 5 who finished third on the ladder and have also weakened their team. The Association once again used algorithm performance figures from TROLS to assist in Grading, and these were only adjusted where there was insufficient information on players who played previously or new players who were often given the team's average. Where the computer model indicated that a team should be in 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 when all the

information that been supplied, and if this information was complete the computer model generally took precedence.

With only five teams applying for Section 1 we decided to leave Macleod in Section 1 and placing Kooyong 2 there also. In future seasons it may be necessary to promote the Section 2 winner or best performed team particularly if they start to win flags regularly, and allow Macleod and Kooyong 2 to return to Section 2 if they wish. In Section 2 there were only two changes with Royal Park returning and Eltham being promoted from Section 3 as flag winners which meant with byes in all the remaining sections there was no room for Fitzroy who had the worst record along with North Balwyn Lions and thus are in Section 3. If clubs in the higher sections can help Kooyong 2 and Macleod teams by allowing them to play players from other Section 1 teams who have played less than four matches this would be greatly appreciated.

As stated previously we understand that clubs prefer 8 team sections, and as such we have complied with that request even though all those sections have only 7 teams in them. If we get less than 40 teams next season, we may well have to consider returning to 5 sections if the clubs prefer this.

In Section 3 we have the returning Glen Waverley Threez team who did not perform well last Autumn 2018 season in Section 2 and have promoted East Croydon who won the flag in Section 4. By only having 7 teams in the Section this meant that North Balwyn Tigers and Glen Iris Gold are now in Section 4 together with the promoted Glen Waverley Tooze team who although they did not win the Grand Final in Section 5 they have a weakened team for this match. In Section 5 Karingal Drive have been promoted as flag winners in Section 6, and together with the introduction of the new St.Christopher's team meant that the poorly performed St. John's Crops will be in Section 6.

The computer modelling depends on nomination of players and their performances from the previous season – some clubs juggled their players in an attempt to gain an advantage however this is picked up by the computer modelling together with players who do not play sufficient matches. If your club/team wishes to be promoted it is a good idea to strengthen the team as the levels between each section are significant. relegated played in the Grand Finals i.e. Section 4 & 5.

Most of these promoted teams may well struggle as there is significant differences between each section. When we grade we try to keep clubs with multiple teams in separate sections i.e. we were not able to achieve this with Kooyong in Section 1, Glen Waverley in Section 3, and Lum Reserve in Section 6 which in most cases is what the clubs applied for. With the many requests for dates in the draws we think we have avoided any draw issues with only having the one 6 team sections, and byes in all the remaining five sections which make this possible. This is not always possible as clubs with multiple teams usually needing draw numbers 1 & 2 with the mix of 6 and 8 team sections.

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 personnel of the team except to strengthen

it. 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 particularly in the middle sections have been demoted do to changing the structure of the team which has weakened their team from the previous season which is picked up by computer modelling. 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 by using the computer model where appropriate avoids what in the past has been largely subjective, 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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with the Grand Finals being played on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 – there will be a two week break due to Easter, and Anzac Day also falling on the following Thursday so the possibility of not playing for 3-4 weeks is a possibility with byes in the bottom five sections. There is not any choice in these matters, and it does occur very often in the Autumn seasons.**

**If you need to find emergency players from other clubs there are likely to be quite a few available particularly from Norris Bank and Koonung Park who were close to fielding teams – if you need emergencies please contact the appropriate captain from these teams.**

**The need to seek permission to play emergency players during the season 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 or you can download your team's fixture from TROLS.**

**My thanks to the outstanding work by Bruce Leister in administering the TROLS website, and this 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 9841 8102.**

**Please check the nominated players in your teams, together with the fixtures to ensure that all the players have been entered and that the draw requests have been complied with where possible.**

**Results and ladders will be updated on our Trols website address as follows:- <http://www.trols.org.au/metro> suggest you place in your Favourites.**

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

Enjoy your tennis.

Regards

David Burn

RECORD SECRETARY – METRO MASTERS