

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 21st January, 2020

As you are all aware the Covid-19 virus caused the Autumn, 2020 season to be suspended and eventually cancelled after 6 rounds. The Spring, 2020 season never eventuated due to the second lockdown in Melbourne.

Also for the first time in the history of our Association the Annual Xmas Luncheon could not be organised due to the virus affecting numbers inside venues.

Even though it costs our Association close to \$2000 in supporting the function it is rewarding that so many players want to attend, and adds to the social atmosphere of what I consider to be one of the better competitions for older players, and that we all actually benefit out of the social interaction which many other competitions would be envious of – social distancing will become the norm during this season, and possibly future seasons.

Thanks to the efforts of Bruce Leister who administers the TROLS website we also introduced On-Line Team Entries which most of the clubs and team captains completed with-out too many problems. This has reduced the administrative workload for myself and Bruce considerably, and has reduced the amount of transcription errors that may have occurred under the old hand written team entry forms. **Since their have been team changes since the On-Line entries were closed it is vital that every club captain check their player summary in the Club Zone to confirm the players entered – some players were duplicated in teams, and when in possession of information were placed in the appropriate team that the player desired.**

Our competition has received 35 team entries for the coming Autumn, 2021 season which is 7 teams down from the previous Autumn, 2020 season. The bigger clubs i.e. North Balwyn lost 3 teams, and East Croydon lost 2 teams whilst Fitzroy, Glen Waverley, Lum Reserve and Norris Bank all lost 1 team. The lower number of teams was due entirely to the affects of the virus with some players waiting till a vaccine becomes available or getting older and not being able to achieve much exercise during the second fifteen week lockdown. The positive side of what has occurred is that we have not lost any clubs, and in fact have added Hawthorn to our list of clubs, and Koonung Park have added another team. It was decided that the fairest method was to have 5 Sections of 7 teams in an 8 team draw (i.e. a bye in each section). The Grading process could not be done with the individual algorithm method due to only playing a possible 6 matches (which included wash-outs and byes) from a year ago and thus whilst subjective we basically used the ladders from the Autumn, 2020 and noted the players who were missing, promoted or who had been dropped.

As most players have not played much tennis in the last 6 months this was considered to be the most practical approach to grading. Please remember if the temperature exceeds 32 degrees at your location any player can call a halt to the match – this is particularly important as most players will not be match hardened, and should not be put in a situation where it becomes a health decision (By-Law 7.2).

In the higher sections only teams with a lot of points and a high percentage were promoted, and eventually as we have lost a section most teams were granted the sections that they applied for. We welcome Hawthorn tennis club into our competition with most of their players having played Grade 6 pennant, and wish them

all the best in Section 1. Most of the promoted teams may well struggle as it has been shown that 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 Donvale in Section 2, Glen Waverley in Section 3 and Koonung Park in Section 5. By having 8 team sections we have been able to avoid the draw problems associated with having a mix of 6 and 8 team sections.

Thanks to the members of the Grading Panel who once again had to make some difficult subjective decisions based mainly on Autumn, 2020 performances, and whilst these decisions 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.

An attachment will be included in the email with fixtures, and scorecards covering any health requirements that will be necessary at the start of the season but hopefully may be relaxed as the season proceeds. A decision regarding all the Grand Finals being played at North Ringwood would be made at the end of the home and away matches.

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 may well be compromised by the restricted amount of players and spectators that can be accommodated at one venue. **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). We are probably one of the few Associations who have the results and ladders displayed in two to three days – thanks to all the captains.

If there is a heat-out called by the Association and if the results cannot be entered on TROLS please send me a list of your players who would have played on that day, and I can add them manually to qualify for the finals if this is required – preferably nominated players.

If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact Bruce Leister on 9841 8102.

Attached to this email please find:-

- 1. A copy of draws for each section – please produce 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 Autumn, 2021 in Word Format Result Sheets – PLEASE DESTROY PREVIOUS RESULT SHEETS AS THIS LATEST VERSION GIVES DETAILS REQUIRED FOR ALL EMERGENCIES**
- 3. Advice regarding health protocols in place at the beginning of the season, and are likely to cover the whole Autumn, 2021 season.**

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