

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 20th July, 2018

The Autumn, 2018 Grand Finals were played at North Ringwood on Thursday the 31st May, 2018.

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

Section 1: Kooyong (1) d. Lum Reserve	3-1, 38-27
Section 2: Royal Park d. Norris Bank	4-2, 42-29
Section 3: St.John's Crics d. Glen Waverley Wunz	4-2, 40-28
Section 4: Norris Bank Saints d. E-Croydon/Kilsyth Magpies	4-1, 32-20
Section 5: E-Croydon/Kilsyth Cats d. Lum Reserve	4-1, 32-12
Section 6: North Balwyn Panthers d. St.John's Crews	4-2, 45-34

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 after winning the Second Semi-Final against Kooyong (1) failed in the Grand Final. Kooyong have now been in the last 10 consecutive Grand Finals in Section 1 winning it seven times, and also winning the Ward Hillier Shield on 3 occasions – this is a remarkable effort which is unmatched by any other team or club in our competition. This was the first time Lum Reserve have made the Grand Final in Section 1 since Spring, 2009 and they performed admirably during the season.

In Section 2 Royal Park also reversed the Second Semi-Final result defeating Norris Bank who finished on top of the ladder. Norris Bank lost only 3 matches during the season, two to Royal Park including the Grand Final, and to Fitzroy.

In Section 3 St.John's Crics again reversed the the Second Semi-Final result defeating Glen Waverley Wunz who also finished on top of the ladder. St.John's have won consecutive finals in Section 4 and 3, and played Kathy Buttifant (the first female to play in a Grand Final) who also ended up the second best player in the section on the TROLS system. It also was the first time that a husband and wife have played in a Grand Final let alone winning it. During the season and the finals both these teams played each other 4 times with 2 wins each. Glen Waverley Wunz proved a worthy opponent in all of these matches, and with the return of their number one player Jeff Smith will be difficult to defeat during the coming Spring season.

In Section 4 Norris Bank Saints also reversed their Second-Semi final loss to defeat East-Croydon/Kilsyth Magpies. This was the only match they lost during the season, although the gap between the two teams was small.

In Section 5 East-Croydon/Kilsyth Cats comprehensively defeated Lum Reserve. This team only lost 2 matches during the season, and had the second highest percentage, and the highest number of points of any team.

In Section 6 North Balwyn Panthers defeated St.John's Crews who were both new teams to the competition. These two teams were equally matched during the season, and one of their matches in the home and away season ended up in a draw.

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.

Our competition received has received 37 team entries for the coming Spring, 2018 season which is down by 5 teams last season (which was a record for the Association), but is in line with the entries that are normally received for the Spring season. We welcome Mount Evelyn (ex Mooroolbark team) into our competition, and the return of Grace Park Hawthorn who have missed a few seasons. Unfortunately lost both the Royal Park teams of which one will probably return next season.

North Balwyn remain our biggest club with 5 teams entered, together with Donvale and East Croydon each having 4 teams. We also lost some of the new teams entered last season including Kooyong (2), Glen Waverley Threex, Karingal Drive Red together with Norris Bank in Section 6. Grace Park have re-entered with a capable team to compete in Section 1. Once again nine females have been nominated in five different teams in Sections 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 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 8.2 (as against 7.7) for last season, which resolved a lot of the queries covering the use of emergencies. This should reduce the work load of Bruce Leister and myself in checking emergencies significantly.

Due to the drop in entries from Autumn to Spring seasons which has happened over the last 2 years we have decided to stick with 6 team sections, with one 8 team section with a bye for the coming season. This means that in future teams in the lower sections will not be shuffled between Section 5 and 6 depending on the total teams entered. We fully expect the team entries for the next Autumn season to exceed 40 teams, which means we can mix 3 sections of 8 teams, and 3 sections of 6 teams or make adjustments to reduce byes which is a priority. The Association 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 as the flag winner from Section 2 did not re-enter. In future seasons it may be necessary to promote the Section 2 winner or best performed team, and allow Macleod to return to Section 2 if they wish. In Section 2 there was only one change with North Ringwood Gold returning from Section 1, and leaving a bye in that section as these teams are all evenly matched. The alternative for the Macleod team is that they can strengthen their team by playing players from other Section 1 teams who have played less than four matches. If clubs in Section 1 can help teams in this section struggling to field a team by lending them players who have not played more than four matches it would be appreciated.

As stated previously 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. This is the major reason we have in the short term decided to stick to 6 team sections particularly during the Spring season, and maintain when we get to the following Autumn season rather than shifting from 6 sections back to 5 sections. One of the other main objects is to eliminate byes as all players would prefer to play so we have had to introduce five six team sections with the other one section having seven teams (one having a bye).

This has also meant that the only promoted team in the coming season was East-Croydon Cats from Section 5 to Section 4. All the other premiers from the previous season were not promoted mainly due to the changes of personal or that the teams who finished fourth or fifth in the above section were considered to be better performed teams than the team considered for promotion. The promotion/relegation will be considerably easier with us staying with six team sections where appropriate. 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. The only team promoted from the previous season to compete in the finals was St.John's whilst most of the clubs relegated played in the Grand Finals i.e. Section 4 & 5.

When we grade we try to keep clubs with multiple teams in separate sections i.e. we were not able to achieve this with North Balwyn in Section 2 and East-Croydon Kilsyth in Section 4 who had requested Sections 3 & 4. Fortunately we think we have avoided any draw issues with the mix of five six and one seven team section, and have tried to comply with all requests regarding the draws. This is not always possible as clubs with multiple teams usually need 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. 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 Section 4 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 2nd August, 2018 with the Grand Finals being played on the 22nd November, 2018.

If you need to find emergency players from other clubs there are likely to be quite a few available particularly from Royal Park, 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.

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 Spring, 2018 Result Sheets –

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 into Trols in a timely and legible manner.

Enjoy your tennis.

Regards

David Burn

RECORD SECRETARY – METRO MASTERS