

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 20th July, 2019

The Autumn, 2019 Grand Finals were played at North Ringwood on Thursday the 13th June, 2019.

The results of the Autumn, 2019 Grand Finals were as follows:-

Section 1: Kooyong Una Mas d. East Croydon	3-1, 37-24
Section 2: North Ringwood Gold d. North Balwyn Uno	4-0, 32-12
Section 3: St.John's Crics d. Fitzroy	3-2, 40-36
Section 4: Donvale Dilettants d. North Balwyn Tigers	3-3, 41-40
Section 5: STC W'kend Hacks d. East Croydon	4-2, 40-38
Section 6: North Balwyn Panthers d. St.John's Crops	5-1, 42-30

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. It proved to be beneficial when 2 sections started earlier, and most of the matches finished at the same time. In Section 1 Kooyong Una Mas overcame traditional Grand Final opponents East Croydon to win the Section 1 flag. The match was played at an extremely high standard.

In Section 2 North Ringwood defeated North Balwyn Uno in a one sided match which was an unexpected result.

In Section 3 St. John's Crics defeated Fitzroy in a nail biting final similar to the Second Semi-Final match with St.John's winning three sets 8-5, Fitzroy winning two sets 5-8, with the final set being led by St.John's 6-5 but as they had won 3 sets they had enough games in hand.

In Section 4 Donvale Dilettantes defeated North Balwyn Tigers by 1 game. North Balwyn had to play a Section 5 emergency, and almost still managed to get over the line. Donvale only made the four in the last home and away match on % (about 3 games), and it is rare for the fourth side to win the flag having to win 3 away matches. In Section 5 STC W'kend Hacks in their first season managed to defeat East Croydon 4-2, 40-38 games in a close encounter. They also managed to win the Ward Hillier Shield for the best performed team.

In Section 6 North Balwyn Panthers defeated St.John's Crics comfortably by 5 sets to 1 with St.John's winning only 1 set 8-2.

Once again two female women played in the Grand Finals, and Kathy Buttifant and Kerry Dickson helped both their Section 3 and 4 teams win.

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. With byes in Sections 1 to 5 this season it should be possible to be avoid forfeits even if you have to play a player from the section below later in the season.

Our Xmas Luncheon will again be held at the end of the season on the 28th November, 2019 – could you please make every effort to attend, and hopefully we may exceed the attendance of 105 people at last year's event.

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 are actually all benefit out of the social interaction which many other competitions would be envious of.

Our competition is one of the few competitions around particularly veteran's competitions that is holding its own, and for the first time in a Spring season we have received the same number of entries as the previous Autumn season.

Once again 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 received has received 41 team entries for the coming Spring, 2019 season which is the same number as the Autumn season, and is a record entry for the Spring season since our competition started. For the first time the Autumn and Spring team entry totals were over 80 team entries being a total of 82 team entries. We welcome back Grace Park HC Bun Boys (Sect.1), Koonung Park Green (Sect.5) and Norris Bank (Sect.6).

Fortunately we only managed to lose two Section 5 teams – Karingal Drive and North Ringwood Bronze, and a Section 6 team North Balwyn Panthers, and we would be hopeful of them returning in future.

North Balwyn has been joined by Donvale, East Croydon and Glen Waverley having all entered 4 teams. **Once again eight females have been nominated in six 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.**

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 8.1 (as against 8.02) for last season, which resolved a lot of the queries covering the use of emergencies. There were 332 nominated players for this season which is close to the record of 337 players. Whilst some of these players are only emergencies it does 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 apart from Section 6 which has a 6 team section.

We have managed to receive 7 team entries Section 1 with the added interest that one of the Section 2 teams were also interested. 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 in Sections 4 & 5 the Runners-Up from Section 3 (Fitzroy), and Section 6 (St.John's Crops) who both requested higher sections. St.John's Cric's in Section 3 have significant stronger players being absent for long periods and were not promoted, and Donvale Dilettantes who won from fourth position would not handle being promoted to Section 3 and both teams requested to stay in the same section

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 or an estimated ranking.

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 unless the ladders from the previous season showed otherwise.

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, if Macleod and Kooyong 2 struggle to play in the higher standard of Section 1.

In Section 2 the only change was the promotion of Fitzroy who had played at that level before, and requested Section 2 – the difference between Fitzroy and St.John's was minimal, and largely depended on the players available.

In Section 3 North Balwyn Tigers replaced North Balwyn Lions who have been demoted to Section 4, which followed their demotion from the previous season, and they were disappointing in Section 3. They now have the opportunity to have a successful season, and gain immediate promotion.

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.

In Section 4 Koonung Park Noir can consider themselves unlucky as they had finished sixth with good points and a good percentage. However STC W'kend Hacks had a strong first season in our competition and also won the Ward Hillier Shield for the best performed team, and deserved their promotion. Norris Bank Sinners (Saints) have considerably strengthened their team, and should go a long way to finish strongly in the Section after a disappointing Autumn 2019 season.

In Section 5 we now have two Koonung Park teams, and together with the Runners-Up from Section 6 (St.John's Crops), and the well performed East Croydon, Fitzroy Gorillas, North Balwyn Jaguars and Donvale Dabblers it should present a competitive Section. Section 5 also saw the withdrawal Karingal Drive, and the North Ringwood Bronze teams which would not surprise if they both returned next Autumn. If you have trouble getting players in Section 5 players from these teams probably should be your first phone call.

In Section 6 the remaining five clubs are joined by Norris Bank, and in all likelihood this section should also be very competitive.

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 teams from the previous season who played in the Autumn Grand Finals i.e. in Sections 3, 4 & 6 shows this to still be the case.

Most of the 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, Koonung Park in Section 5, 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 section, 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 the previous seasons 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.

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 due in a small part 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 1st August, 2019 with the Grand Finals being played on the 21st November, 2019 – please make a note of these dates, and try to plan overseas trips etc. after these dates. Also be aware that the Xmas Luncheon will be held on the following Thursday the 28th November, 2019.

As this event is heavily subsidized by the Association it is important that you can attend, and it occurs in November so that we avoid the December clashes with whatever is in your diary.

These dates are inflexible unlike a lot of other Associations, and if for any reason the Grand Finals cannot be played on the 21st November, 2019 every attempt must be made to play the Grand Final before the Luncheon

If you need to find emergency players from other clubs there are likely to be quite a few available particularly from Karingal Drive, and maybe North Ringwood Bronze who were close to fielding teams – if you need emergencies please contact the appropriate captain from these clubs.

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. except in Section 1.

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 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). This deadline was achieved nearly every week, and 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 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, 2019 Result Sheets – PLEASE DESTROY PREVIOUS RESULT SHEETS AS THIS LATEST VERSION GIVES DETAILS REQUIRED FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

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