

All Thursday Metro Masters Representatives

From: David Burn

Date: 21st July, 2021

As you are all aware the Covid-19 virus caused the Autumn, 2021 season to be suspended with only the Preliminary Final played in Section 4, and the Grand Finals for Sections 1-5 eventually cancelled after a delay of at least 4 weeks due to the fourth lock down in Melbourne.

The flags in Sections 1-5 were awarded to the teams finishing higher on the ladder, and also the winners of the concluded Second Semi-final matches.

Section 1: Kooyong

Section 2: Royal Park

Section 3: St. Christophers W'kend Hacks

Section 4: Koonung Park Noir Runners-Up: Fitzroy Gorillas (Winner of Preliminary Final).

Section 5: Koonung Park Red

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 its 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 benefit out of the social interaction which many other competitions would be envious of – social distancing will again 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. Any player who was not entered in the original team entry file will not appear and will be treated as an emergency player with his results audited as per the current By-Laws. Also, could clubs check the On-line information concerning their clubs contacts, convenors etc. as a lot of this information has changed and not been updated – if you require id's and passwords to complete these changes please advise.**

Our competition originally received 35 team entries for the coming Spring, 2021 season which was the same as the previous Autumn season with 3 teams withdrawing from Section 1 together with North Balwyn Tigers in Section 3. Prior to grading further withdrawals were received from Grace Park and Kooyong in Section 1 due to the standard of this section suffering due to the withdrawals of the other three teams. We received a new team entry from Clifton Hill, and we hope that you will make them welcome to our competition. Also extra teams were received from Eltham, Glen Waverley, and a new team from North Balwyn One which included players who had played before in Metro Masters. It was expected that the team entries would have increased but receiving only the same number of entries 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 five lock downs

that have been endured in Melbourne. The positive side of what has occurred is that whilst we have lost some clubs, we have added Clifton Hill to our list of clubs, and it is hoped that sometime in future some of the Section 1 clubs that have not entered will return to our competition. It was decided that the fairest method was to have 3 Sections of 7 teams in an 8 team draw (i.e. a bye in each section), and 2 Section of 6 teams with-out byes.. The Grading process could not be done with the individual algorithm method due to using the on-line team entry system and relied on TROLS statistics which do not account for the better performing players playing each other, and usually finishing outside the top ten players in the section. Again, grading whilst subjective we basically used the ladders from the Autumn, 2021 season and noted the players who were missing, promoted or who had been dropped.

As most players have not played much tennis in the last 6-12 months this was considered to be the most practical approach to grading – and most clubs were granted the Sections applied considering that there were only 2 teams remaining in Section 1. Once competition in the Spring season commences the five sections should provide competitive tennis, and the differences between all the teams should be minimal – this could not have been said in previous seasons with some of the teams overwhelming the opposition teams.

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 still 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 Clifton Hill tennis club into our competition with most of their players having played in the NENTG and wish them all the best in Section 3.

When we grade we try to keep clubs with multiple teams in separate sections i.e. we were not able to achieve this with Glen Waverley in Section 2 although they will probably be happy about that. Unfortunately, by having 6 & 8 team sections we have not been able to avoid the draw problems associated with having this mix, and on some occasions your courts will be fully utilised – if this presents a problem please advise me and I will try to resolve this issue.

Thanks to the members of the Grading Panel who once again had to make some difficult subjective decisions based mainly on Autumn, 2021 performances, and at a Zoom meeting which is not ideal. However, most of these decisions will please most of the players – 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. Any COVID health requirements should be handled by each club, and providing supper whether in the club-house or in the club surrounds (outdoors) will be up to each club, and hopefully some of the health requirements at the start of the season may be relaxed as the season proceeds. All matches that cannot be started due to COVID-19 restrictions will be treated as washouts, and there will be no need to enter the results.

A decision regarding all the Grand Finals that are usually played at North Ringwood tennis club would be made at the end of the home and away matches.

The ability to hold all the Grand Finals at the one location has been 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 number of players and spectators that can be accommodated at one venue.

Otherwise Grand Finals if they can be held may be played at the home of the club finishing higher on the ladder.

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 or multiple heat-outs called by the Association and if the results cannot be entered on TROLS we may allow the number of matches to qualify for a final to be reduced accordingly (this is not mandated so it is important to ensure you have sufficient players qualified rather than leaving it till the last matches of the season).

It is hoped that we do not receive too many interruptions to the season due to lockdowns. If you have not paid the team entry fees, could you please arrange to do so.

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, 2021 (in Word Format) Result Sheets – PLEASE DESTROY PREVIOUS RESULT SHEETS AS THIS LATEST VERSION GIVES DETAILS REQUIRED FOR ALL EMERGENCIES**

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