



M.E.M.R.L.T.A. INC.



Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association Incorporated

President: Judy Lambert

Secretary: Fiona Dwyer
9800 1875

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting held on 18th June 2019

In the absence President Judy Lambert, Vice President Hope Stewart opened the meeting and welcomed delegates from 48 Clubs and Life Members.

APOLOGIES: Anne Hubbard – Life Member, Sandra Summers – Life Member, Nicole Hogan – Warrandyte, Fiona Shelton and Wendy O'Connor – UCTC and Judy Lambert – President.

BUSINESS ARISING: Nil

Minutes of the 36th AGM, as circulated, were moved by Gayle Powel - Koonung Park and seconded by Heather Smith – Doncaster.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: was presented on behalf of Judy by Vices President Hope Stewart. Hope asked that Judy's Report be accepted. Seconded – Nina Socratous – Doncaster

Vice President Hope then asked Faye Berryman, Committee Member and Life Member, to present the Anne Hubbard Trophy (on behalf of Anne) to the Club obtaining the best team performance over the previous two seasons.

This year's winner was Burwood, with overall points of 51.00, followed by Kooyong, with 49.17 points, third was Koonung Park, with 47.50 points and fourth was Currawong, with 44.50 points. Trophy was accepted by Hayley McKenchnie, Captain of Burwood's Section 8 team. Nicole said that receiving this Award was totally unexpected and thanked the Association for the Honour.

Hope then addressed the delegates, informing them that 3 members were leaving the Committee – Renee, Sandra and Faye

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer, Sandra Daly, presented the Association's Financial Report.

Sandra explained that this year's Report again showed the last 3 years figures, which presents a better picture of the financials of the Association.

The Report shows that the Association is in a strong financial position, with an operating surplus of \$1,504.00.

Sandra thanked ACCRU for once again auditing MEMRLTA's books, especially Andrew Lane, who once again waived their auditing fee of \$150.00.

Sandra moved that the Treasurer's Financial Report be accepted. Seconded: Helen Grabham – North Ringwood

Sandra moved that Mr. Andrew Lane from ACCRU be appointed Auditor for the 2019/20 year and that the Affiliation Fees and Honorariums remain the same. Seconded: Joy Kais - Donvale

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS:- (see attached)

The Amendments to By-laws 12(b), 7(d), 9(b), 11(b), 11(c), 12(a), 12(d)(iv), 12(g) and 13(c) submitted by Donvale Tennis Club and voted on as a block were all defeated.

The Amendment to By-Law 11(b), submitted by St Andrews Gardiner Tennis Club was withdrawn prior to the AGM.

The Amendment to By-law 12(a), submitted by North Balwyn Tennis Club was defeated.

The Amendments to By-Laws 2(e), 5(h), 6(b), 11(a), 13(c), 16(h), new by-law 7(b), 7(b), 7(c), 9(a)(i), 10(b), 10(e), 13(a)(iii), 13(a)(iv) and 15 were all passed.

Vice President Hope vacated the chair and invited Life Member, Kathy Rehe from Doncaster, to chair the Meeting for the nominations for the Executive Committee.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2019/20

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>2ND PROPOSER</u>
President: Vice	Christine Youings	East Burwood	Pat Wright	Lyn Jefferies
President:	Judy Lambert	Eley Park	Evelyn Kerger	Lynne Mc Culloch
Secretary:	Fiona Dwyer	East Burwood	Pat Wright	Lyn Jefferies
Treasurer:	Ros Brereton	Parker Reserve	Dianne King	Barb Catto
Records Secretary:	Hope Stewart	Willison Park	Janis Slater	Rhonda Hobday
	Jackie Aslett	Legend Park	Jenny Neilson	Diane Turnbull
Committee:	Tina Aslanidis	Doncaster	Heather Smith	Jenny Thompson
	Wendy O'Connor	UCTC	Fiona Shelton	Jan Sayers
	Fiona Shelton	UCTC	Wendy O'Connor	Jan Sayers
	Kath van Tonder	Croydon	Denis Hopkins	Lesley Miller
	Helen Williams	Camberwell Utd	Karyn Hannant	Anne Sewell

Signature of out-going President.....
Judy Lambert

Signature of out-going Treasurer.....
Sandra Daly

As there were enough nominations to fill the positions on the Executive Committee, there was no ballot and all were duly elected.

President Christine Youings, took the Chair.

Christine thanked Kathy for temporarily chairing the Meeting.

Christine thanked Judy for her friendship and knowledge and welcomed the 4 new Committee Members, Kath, Helen, Fiona S and Wendy to the Committee.

Christine mentioned that MEMRLTA's website is full of amazing information, such as Captain's Responsibility Information, all By-laws, Emergency Pool players and Information and urged all members to utilize the website.

She then mentioned the issue of time wasting between games and not to make phone calls between game breaks. If, due to an emergency, please take a 10 minute break, as per By-law 14(b). Also, half hour breaks between sets is OK, so long as all players agree but please consider the players that want to keep playing.

Christine informed the Delegates that Tennis Victoria is impressed with our Emergency Pool and in particular, our Website. Christine thanked Hope Stewart for her expertise and work with MEMRLTA's website.

Christine then asked if there was any General Business from the floor.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Val Dagers from Koonung Park asked if in future, the pages of the Agenda could be numbered.

Karyn Hannant from Camberwell United asked that if Captains are going to be away at any time in a season, to please notify the opposing Captains of their Section, as a forfeit was given to Kooyong, Camberwell United left a message on the Captain's phone and team was not notified. Christine also asked that the Record's Secretaries and Secretary are notified as well.

Sue Lynch from Nunawading also mentioned that a phone call should be made, not a text.

Christine thanked Jackie Aslett's son, Tim, for supplying the PA system for the night.

The meeting finished at 9.12pm and Christine invited everyone to supper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS:-

The following By-law amendments have been submitted by Donvale Tennis Club and will need to be voted on as a block.

Words in **RED** to be deleted / Words in **GREEN** to be added.

BY-LAW 12(b) Determination of Matches

Matches shall be determined on **games sets**, but in the event of **games sets** being equal, then on **sets games**. and two (2) **premiership** points shall be awarded to the winning team in each match, (or **1 premiership point each if a draw**) **PLUS 1 point for each winning set. One point shall be awarded to each team for a draw.**

By-Law 7(d) Registration of Emergencies The standard of all emergencies must be acceptable to the Executive Committee or Sub-committee. Should any emergency be proven unacceptable, said emergency would be deemed ineligible, and lose her sets to love. That team, if it draws, will lose its premiership points. Two (2) points for the match **PLUS three (3) points for the sets that were won to love** will be awarded to the offended team. **Balance of sets awarded as played.**

By-Law 9(b) Commencing Time of Match

If a complete team is not in attendance at the courts listed for the match within 45 minutes of the agreed starting time, the offending team shall be deemed as giving a forfeit **and a score of 0-8 will apply.** Penalty as per By-Law 11(b).

By-Law 11(b) Forfeits The team not forfeiting will be awarded **premiership points eight (8) points** and a score of 48-24, with no points and a corresponding loss to the team forfeiting.

By-Law 11(c) In the event of a complete Association washout or heat out the team gaining a forfeit will receive **one (1) four (4)** points and no score. The forfeiting team will receive neither points nor score.

By-Law 12(a) Determination of Matches Sets shall be **eight (8) game sets with no advantage. Won by the team who first reach 8 games with a 12 point tie-breaker played at 7 games all.**

By-Law 12(d)(iv) Any match NOT COMMENCED within one and a half hours of the agreed starting time due to wet weather shall be abandoned and each team shall receive **one four (4)** points.

By-Law 12(g) In the event of matches being abandoned because of weather conditions, unless one team at the time play ceased had such a lead as would have entitled it to claim the match, the match shall be declared a draw and each team shall receive one **premiership point, plus points for any sets already completed and won, and ½ point for each unfinished or unplayed set.**

By-Law 13(c) Results In the event of a team falling out of the competition during the season, all **premiership** points and percentage scored in respect of the matches against that team shall be cancelled.

Supporting statement:- “The ladies from the Donvale Tennis Club playing in the MEMRLTA competition, wish to propose scoring is awarded as points for sets won (plus 2 premiership points for the day). While it very rarely (although on occasion**) effects the positioning on the ladder, playing a very close match and losing by one or two games can be very disheartening coming away with ZERO points at the end of the day. We all love our tennis and receiving some sort of recognition for winning

a set would be a little more satisfying, even if our team has not won the 2 premiership points. We would also like to point out this would then bring us in line with other regional comps such as WDTA, Bayside, Metro Masters, Heidelberg District, Blackburn & District, Eastern Region, Ferntree Gully Assoc. to name a few, who all give points for sets won.” **eg: Season 2018/19 Section 5: First & Second teams would have been reversed, therefore playing against different opponents in the Semi Finals.

The Committee does not support this amendment from Donvale.

Committee’s Statement

The proposed amendments makes winning sets more important than winning games as a total of 6 points are awarded for sets won (one point for each set) and only 2 points awarded for most games won. We believe that the number of games won is a truer indicator of the performance and strength of a team rather than the number of sets won. For example, under the proposed amendments, a team who wins all 6 sets is awarded 8 points and their opponents 0 whether they win 48-42 or 48-6, and yet the losing team who won 42 games is obviously much stronger than the team who won only 6 games. Under the current system, these match scores would be 2-0 instead of 8-0, and a 2-point gap in the current system is easier to make up during the season than an 8-point gap is in the proposed system.

Also, under the proposed amendments, a team receiving a forfeit gains a huge 8 point boost to their overall score which greatly, and in many cases unfairly, gives them an advantage over other teams in their section.

The following By-law amendments have been submitted by St Andrews Gardiner Tennis Club

Words in **RED** to be deleted / Words in **GREEN** to be added.

It is to By-law 11. Forfeits,

We propose it to read as follows:

By-law 11 (b). The team not forfeiting will be awarded premiership points and a score of 48-24, **with no point and a corresponding loss to the team forfeiting.** **The team forfeiting will receive no premiership points and a score of 0-48.**

Statement of support:

"Currently, teams who forfeit can end up with a better percentage than teams who play and score fewer than 24 games. This proposed amendment aims to rectify that and reward teams who actually play, even if they only win a handful of games."

The following By-law amendments have been submitted by North Balwyn Tennis Club

12. Determination of Matches

- a. Sets shall be eight (8) game sets with no advantage.

Replace with:

- a. Sets shall be first to 8 – 12 point tiebreak at 7 all

Statement of support

1 Fairness

In the event of a set reaching 7 all, any environmental or player serve advantage should be minimised in the deciding game. A tiebreak gives the opportunity for all players to serve and by changing ends, any wind or sun advantage is shared out.

2. Popularity

The following associations have moved to this arrangement some years ago. WDTA Ladies Thursday competition (tiebreak at 7 all), ERT Saturday afternoon competition (tiebreak at 8 all), Blackburn & District Night Tennis Competition (tiebreak at 5 all), Tennis Victoria Pennant, Australia's largest inter-club competition (tiebreak at 6 all), Heidelberg & District, (tiebreak at 6 all, or 8 all depending on the format), Bayside Regional Tennis Association, (tiebreak at 6 all).

Ferntree Gully and District Ladies competition and Eastern District Women's Tennis Association have the same format as MEMRLTA, first to 8 but if there is a draw on a semi final or grand final day the last four players concerned in the match play a 12 point tiebreak to determine the winner.

The following By-law amendments have been submitted by the Executive Committee. The first 6 submissions are just changing a word or two, the amendments that follow, are a little more detailed.

Deletions in **RED** Additions in **GREEN**

By-law 2(e): Mobile telephones must be turned **to silent or turned** off while any matches are in progress. An infringement of this rule will incur a \$10 fine.

By-law 5(h): Any player who within the past two years has played Tennis Victoria **State Grade Pennant Grade1** or equivalent standard will be **only** permitted to play **both Winter and Summer Competition A1**~~Section 1~~ **only**. To be eligible for finals, **the** same player must play a minimum of five (5) matches **during the current season**.

By-law 6(b): Outstanding fines will be doubled if not paid within two (2) months of date of infringement **notice**.

By-law 11(a): A club unable to arrange a team for any match must notify the opposing captain or Club contact **either before or** on the day the match is scheduled to be played. The home team

(whether they are giving the forfeit or receiving it) must enter forfeit into the online scoring system by 8pm the Wednesday following the match. Penalty for each forfeit will be \$5.00.

By-law 13(c): In the event of a team ~~falling out of~~ **withdrawing from** the competition during the season, all premiership points and percentage scored in respect of the matches against that team shall be cancelled.

By-law 16(h): In the event of drawn Semi-Final and Grand Final matches, ~~the last four players concerned in the match~~ **the players in the last set to finish**, shall then play a twelve (12) point tie break to decide the winners.

By-law 7 – REGISTRATION OF EMERGENCIES

7(b) becomes 7(c) and 7(c) becomes 7(d)

New By-law which will be 7(b) **The standard of all emergencies must be acceptable to the Executive Committee or Sub-Committee, as per MEMRLTA's 'Policy for Grading Emergencies'.**

~~7(d) The standard of all emergencies must be acceptable to the Executive Committee or Sub-committee. Should any emergency be proven unacceptable, said emergency would be deemed ineligible, and lose her sets to love. That team if it draws, will lose its premiership point. Two (2) points for the match will be awarded to the offended team.~~

The new By-law 7 (b) now replaces the current By-law 7 (d) above

This change clearly describes how grading is done (by referring to the POLICY). The use of INELIGIBLE players is clearly defined in the POLICY and in other places in the By-laws, and will result in the sets played by such a player to be lost 0-8.

By-law 9(a)(i): Matches shall commence at 10am, or at time mutually agreed upon. Agreed starting time cannot be altered after 10am of the day prior to match unless mutually convenient. If a team is not represented by a minimum of two players (i.e. any pair combination) and ready to play by 10am, or time mutually agreed upon, then the first set shall be forfeited by the offending team.

(ii): If the match has commenced with any two players and a substitute is required to complete the team, that substitute must play in the listed position of the player they are replacing. The substitute must be in attendance within 45 minutes of the agreed starting time (as per By-law 9(b))

This addition allows a substitute to play (and not necessitate a forfeit) and defines the place in the team that she will take. Her position in the team must be as a substitute for the missing player, as the team order would have already been fixed and one set already commenced with whichever two players were available to play at the agreed starting time.

~~**By-law 10(b):** Prior to commencement of a match the respective captains will exchange lists of their teams showing the order in which the members play. Such classification shall be entered on the score sheet, and is to be adhered to throughout the match.~~

Prior to commencement of a match the Home Captain will list her team members order (1-4) on the score sheet. The Away Captain will then complete the score sheet with her team members order. This classification must be adhered to throughout the match. Failure to adhere to such classification will result in a forfeit of incorrect sets.

This change will reflect how the association currently exchanges team names and their order. It allows each team to have an 'advantage' of being the second team to write an order of players after seeing the home teams order, during the season. However the team list exchange in finals will still remain.

~~**By-law 10(e):** If a team has to be withdrawn after grading, and/or during the season, a \$20 fine shall be imposed.~~

- (i) If a team withdraws after grading but before the draw is completed, the team entry fee shall be refunded.**
- (ii) If a team withdraws after grading and the draw has been completed, the team entry fee shall NOT be refunded.**
- (iii) If a team withdraws during the season, the team entry fee shall not be refunded and a \$20 fine shall be imposed**

This change allows the committee to only impose a fine on teams who withdraw when their withdrawal actually affects the running of the competition. It is fairer to clubs, as a withdrawal early in the grading process (during grading and draw allocations) has a much smaller impact than withdrawals after the competition commences.

~~**By-law 13(a)(iii):** Failure to have results submitted by the designated time will mean a fine of \$10.00 per match. Results must be received via email by the appropriate Record Secretary within 24 hours of notification or the offending team/s will lose the applicable number of premiership points for that/those match/es, or face a further fine of \$5.00 per team if the losing team/s.~~

If Results are not received within 24 hours of the designated time, the home team will be fined a further \$10 and the results will be sought from the away team.

The method of receiving the results needs to be changed, as it can be by email, image or online. The loss of premiership points seems too harsh a penalty when a fine could suffice.

By-law 13(a)(iv): Failure of either captain to correctly complete the **paper** score ~~sheet and/or failure to enter the required information correctly and completely into the online scoring system will mean a fine of \$5.00 to the home team~~ **will result in a fine of \$5.00 to the offending team. Failure to enter the written information correctly and completely into the online scoring system will mean a fine of \$5.00 to the home team.**

This will allow us to fine away teams who do not register an emergency. At present the By-law does not allow this. The home team cannot be doubly fined if they do not register a player. If they do not register a player by writing on the paper sheet, they will be fined for this. They will not be fined for an incorrect entry of their emergency, as it wasn't on the paper to be written in the Match comments. However, if the home teams fails to record other match comments (away registrations or any other information written) they will be fined the extra \$5)

By-law 15: ~~Protests~~ **Disputes and Protests**

- (a) All ~~protests~~ **disputes** shall be made on the online scoring system.
- (b) All protests **need to be in written form to the Secretary of the Association, via the Club Contact and** shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee, and it's decision shall be final

This change will be in keeping with Match Centre using the dispute terminology as the initial notification of a dispute. If it needs to be escalated to a Protest it can be, via the Secretary of the association. Disputes can be handled at the Record Secretary level and are usually minor in nature.