



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

Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association Incorporated



President: Hope Stewart

Secretary: Fiona Dwyer
0417 399 768

Minutes of 42nd Annual General Meeting held on 20th June 11th, 2024 at Ashwood Hall 21A Electra Ave Ashwood 7.30pm

WELCOME:

On behalf of President, Hope Stewart who was unable to attend, Records Secretary, Christine Youings welcomed delegates from 32 Clubs and 3 Life Members

APOLOGIES:

Anne Gackenheimer- Park Orchard TC, Anne Hubbard- Life Member, Andrea Kick- Life Member, Jackie Aslett, Committee Member, Hope Stewart, Committee Member, Fiona Shelton and Wendy O'Connor – Eltham, Kaylene Ellis and Eileen Johnson - Gardiner

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the 41st AGM, as circulated.
Moved – Helen Williams – Camberwell United Tennis Club
Seconded – Judy Lambert – Life Member

BUSINESS ARISING:

Nil

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Presented by Christine Youings on behalf of Hope Stewart

Moved – Ros Brereton – Parker Reserve
Seconded – Skye Berman – Kooyong

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD:

Christine Youings explained that the next item was not on the Agenda and that was the presentation of a Life Membership Award to Hope Stewart. As Hope was not present at the AGM, Christine rang Hope, via Facetime, to announce that she had been bestowed this honour. Faye Berryman, MEMRLTA's last Life Member recipient, presented the Award to Hope.

Hope thanked the Association for this honour and her Life Membership Badge and Certificate will be handed to her at the next Executive Committee meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNE HUBBARD AWARD:

On behalf of Anne Hubbard, Fiona Dwyer, Secretary, announced the following:

- In 4th place – Camberwell United with 36.66 points
- 3rd place – Kooyong with 38 points
- 2nd place – Burwood with 41 points and
- in 1st place – Glen Waverley with 43 points

Fiona asked Kim Horton to come forward and accept the Trophy. Kim thanked the Association and was honoured to win the Anne Hubbard Trophy.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer, Christine Shearer, presented the Association's Financial Report, as circulated.

Christine thanked Ros Bardrick for auditing our Books, as he does each year, free of charge.

As of 31st May, 2024 the Association had total assets of \$8013.00 comprising of \$3013.00 in the Cheque Account and \$5,000.00 in the Term Deposit. This represented an overall loss of \$648.00 for the year. This was due mainly to Tennis Victoria's Affiliation Fee and trophies and pennants.

Christine proposed an increase of MEMRLTA's Club Affiliation Fee to \$45.00 per Club and Team Entry Fees to \$35 per team, per season for the next 12 months.

Honourariums to remain the same as last year.

Christine moved her Report be accepted.

Seconded: Helen Williams - CUTC

APPOINTMENT of AUDITOR:

Christine proposed that we again appoint Ross Bardrick as our honorary Auditor for the 2024-25 Financial Year

Moved: Christine Shearer- Gardiner TC

Seconded: Noelene Duckett – East Malvern

SETTING of AFFILIATION FEES & HONOURARIUMS:

Affiliation Fees - \$45 per Club

President-\$50

Treasurer-\$125

Secretary- \$200

Record Secretary- \$150/season

Pool Record Secretary- \$50/season

Moved: Christine Shearer- Gardiner TC

Seconded: Gayle Powell – Koonung Park

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to BY- LAWS:

The following By-law amendments have been submitted by the Executive Committee:-

Christine Youngs presented the following By-Laws

7. Registration of Emergencies -

- a. Emergencies for the current season must be registered on the paper score sheet on the day of their first match and into the online scoring system. Details and Grade to be Registered MUST be completed.
~~EMERGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN MATCHES MUST BE FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF CLUBS REGISTERING THEM.~~
 - (i) Any emergency registered MUST abide by the financial rules required by club registering them.
 - (ii) No emergency registered to play with a club shall be allowed to play for another club in the Association during the course of the season, unless with the sanction of the Executive Committee.
- d. Any emergency (including any pool emergency) must play in position #3 or #4, or the lowest position available if more than 2 emergencies (including pool emergencies) are playing in the one match. This does not apply to Section 1 as it is deemed an open section. Violation of this by-law shall have the offending team, if it wins, forfeit the points for the match to the offended team. Games won by the offending player(s) shall not count in the team's total. The offended team shall be awarded all sets (eight games to nil) in which the offending player(s) participated.
- d e In order to be eligible to play in Semi-final and Grand Final matches, where there is a 10 team draw, emergencies must have played in three (3) matches during the current season. Where there is an 8-team draw, emergencies must have played in two (2) matches during the current season.

Supporting Statement:

7a: After discussions with some clubs, we have learned that Clubs have very different 'rules' (depending on the Club) regarding emergency players for their teams. To allow flexibility for the use of Club emergency players, we feel adjusting this by-law in this way allows each club to have their individual 'rules', and still keep the insurance integrity viable. It should be remembered, that once registered for a Club, the emergency player is regarded as a club emergency for the remainder of the season – i.e. only play for the ONE club.

7d: We have had the policy of emergency players playing at #3 and #4 for many years and the Committee thinks that this needs to become a by-law to maintain the integrity of emergency players NOT strengthening the team. This will not impact many teams, as most teams are playing their emergencies correctly, however as a by-law, the Committee can invoke a penalty when teams disregard the policy as it stands now.

Carried – majority in favour
1 against

8. Pool Emergencies -

- a. A pool emergency player (hereafter referred to as pool emergency) must ~~either:~~
 - (i) be a financial member of a Club affiliated with ~~MEMRLTA~~ or Tennis Victoria, or
 - (ii) be a financial member of a Club that holds their own current public liability and personal injury insurance, or
 - (ii) (iii) pay MEMRLTA's pool emergency player registration fee.

Supporting Statement:

8 a: This proposed change is at the direction of Tennis Victoria to cover our Insurance obligations.

Motion carried – Majority in favour

8 d. Any pool emergency and any other emergency must play in position #3 or #4, or the lowest position available if more than 2 emergencies (including other emergencies) are playing in the one match. This does not apply to Section 1 as it is deemed an open section. Violation of this by-law shall have the offending team, if it wins, forfeit the points for the match to the offended team. Games won by the offending player(s) shall not count in the team's total. The offended team shall be awarded all sets (eight games to nil) in which the offending player(s) participated.

d.e. In order to be eligible to play in Semi-final and Grand Final matches, pool emergencies (graded section 2 and below), where there is a 10-team draw, must have played three (3) matches during the current season, or where there is an 8- team draw, must have played in two (2) matches during the current season. Pool emergencies graded as Section 1 will not be eligible to play in any Semi-final or Grand Final matches.

Supporting Statement:

8d: We have had the policy of emergency players playing at #3 and #4 for many years and the Committee thinks that this needs to become a by-law to maintain the integrity of emergency players NOT strengthening the team. This will not impact many teams, as most teams are playing their emergencies correctly, however as a by-law, the Committee can invoke a penalty when teams disregard the policy as it stands now.

Motion carried – all in favour

The following By-law amendment has been submitted by Donvale Tennis Club:-

Robyn Theissen presented Donvale's By-law amendment submission.

Robyn addressed the Members, explaining the reasons why Donvale submitted this amendment.

Current By-Law 4:

4. Court Attire

Approved tennis garments, i.e. skirts, dresses, shorts, shirts and correct footwear must be worn. Track suits/compression garments may be worn under/over tennis clothing when warranted. Failure to wear correct tennis attire, a \$10 fine will be issued.

Proposed By-Law 4:

Approved tennis garments are encouraged, i.e. skirts, dresses, shorts, shirts & track pants. Correct footwear must be worn.

Supporting Statement:

The current rule is outdated in this age of inclusiveness and tolerance and it has nothing to do with how we play tennis. Some other Associations do not fine for a more relaxed attire and we feel all ladies look acceptable with their presentation in those competitions.

The Committee does not support this amendment:

Tennis is one of the few sports where teams compete without the expectation of having to wear a team uniform (unless they so choose) so to set an expected dress code is completely reasonable. How players present on court should reflect that they are playing in a competitive environment and not just having a social hit. By setting

an Association wide dress code that also aligns with many individual club dress codes, it ensures that competitors are always dressed to a standard that will be suitable at all Clubs. There is also significant freedom within the MEMRLTA dress code to wear clothing that is suitable for all shapes and sizes and is able to reflect an individual's taste and can fit within any budget.

Christine Shearer then presented the Committee's reasoning for not supporting this amendment submission

Vote was taken - Motion not carried
14 for
40 against.

ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS:

Christine Youings asked Kaye Jonhson from North Balwyn to Chair the Meeting for the nominations for the Executive Committee for 2024/25.

Christine then passed the Chair to Kaye.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2024/25

POSITION	NOMINEE	CLUB	PROPOSER	2ND PROPOSER
President:	Hope Stewart	East Camberwell	Helen Bell	Kate Drinnan
Vice President:	Jackie Aslett	Legend Park	Diane Turnbull	Margaret Reeve
Secretary:	Fiona Dwyer	Koonung Park	Gayle Powell	Robyn Laurie
Treasurer:	Christine Shearer	Gardiner	Eileen Johnson	Nerida Muirden
Record Secretaries:	Helen Williams Christine Youings	Camberwell Utd Gardiner	Julia Holda Eileen Johnson.	Anne Chipperfield Nerida Muirden
General Committee:	Skye Berman.	Kooyong	Shelly Hart	Maria Dzanovski
	Ros Brereton	Parker Reserve	Lynette Whitely	Barb Catto
	Noelene Duckett.	East Malvern	Angela Lacey	Mardie Andrew
	Jessica Fary.	Burwood.	Sue Dalglish.	Anne Teese

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

Kaye congratulated all concerned then called upon the Christine Youings, in Hope's absence, to take the Chair.

Christine thanked Kaye for temporarily chairing the meeting and congratulated the incoming Committee.

CONDOLENCES:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Christine raised points that Hope had given her.

- Christine informed the Members that upon leaving, to take a Team Emergency Contact Form. This is designed for teams to fill in and Captains to have on hand, in case of any emergency. Christine explained that the Association, over the last couple of seasons, has had a player/s collapse on court and an ambulance was called. The Captain/Team concerned had no way of contacting family or friends of this emergency. Forms are also available on our Website.
- Heat outs or Wash outs are not to be called the night before.
- Match Centre – please enter scores of games that are actually played. If a set is not completed due to injury, enter the score at time of retirement. The system will adjust accordingly. Also, note in Match Centre that there has been an injury. This is for Insurance purposes.
- Tennis IDs and UTRs – most now have both. Those that don't, will be receiving an email/letter from the Grading Secretaries to complete. Christine said that for those having problems with the IDs and UTRs, to contact her and she will help them set them up.
- Court allocation for Finals – Christine explained to the Members how the Committee now allocates courts for Semi and Grand Finals. Court condition, having 2 or 3 matches at a venue to create a better atmosphere for players and spectators. Also, court location is taken into consideration so as teams are not driving too far from where their courts are located. So with this in mind, we now aim to play the Grand Finals on the court surface of the top placed team. We also will endeavour to play the Semi Finals on the surface of the teams finishing 1st and 2nd which might mean that Sections may now not play their Semi Finals at the same venue.
- Unsubscribing from receiving emails from UTR. Hope will place on website on how to do so.

Christine then asked for any General Business from the floor.

- Susan Arthur – CUTC – raised the question regarding the number of matches a pool player can play for a team before becoming a member of that team. Christine explained that a pool player can play as many games for any team. A pool player can decide who they play for and where they play. It is their choice.
- Trish Dally - Bulleen – asked how the UTR works, as it seems quite confusing. Christine explained the complexities of the system. Shelly Hart – Kooyong – who was employed by Tennis Vic also tried to explain the system/algorithms of the UTR.
- Kath Van Tonder – Croydon – Asked if the Committee would consider a 6 team Section, considering some teams in either a 10 team or 8 team draw, never win a match. Christine advised that the Committee has spoken about 6 team Sections and in fact Section 1, many years ago, played in a 6 team Section and they didn't really enjoy it as they played each team 3 times. At the moment, the Committee will not move forward with 6 team Sections at this time. Trish Dally also supported Kath's suggestion. Kathy Rehe – Life Member - suggested that possibly have a 6 team Section for the bottom section only.
- Legend Park – produced a prepared statement regarding refreshments after the 1st 2 sets. Christine read the statement to the Members. We understand that play is to be continuous but a short refreshment would be good. Christine explained that a short refreshment is ok but must be kept to around 10 minutes. Coffee and tea after the game is encouraged to maintain the social aspect.

- Jenny Turner – East Malvern – re Emergency pool and qualification for Finals. Christine explained that in an 8 team draw, a Pool Emergency player needs to have played two games for any team, to qualify for finals.
- Ester Owen – Warrandyte – asked whether a Pool Emergency player from Section 1 could play in a Section 2 Final. Christine advised that only a Section2 graded Pool Emergency or lower, could play.

As there was no further General Business, Christine thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm