



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



Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association Incorporated

President: Christine Youings

Secretary: Fiona Dwyer
9800 1875

Minutes of 38th Annual General Meeting held on 20th October, 2020 via ZOOM

President Christine Youings opened the meeting and welcomed delegates from 49 Clubs and Life Members.

APOLOGIES:

Anne Hubbard – Life Member, Kylie Thomas – Donvale, Jarrad Wright – RSYTC, Tina Aslanidis – Committee Member/Doncaster and Alice McMillan - Vermont

Minutes of the 37th AGM, as circulated. Secretary, Fiona Dwyer informed the Delegates of an error in the paragraph pertaining to the awarding of the Anne Hubbard Award. Incorrect spelling of Hayley McKechnie's name and Hayley received the award, not Nicole. Minutes were moved by Fiona Dwyer – Committee and Seconded by Nina Socratous – Doncaster.

BUSINESS ARISING:

- Request from last year, that future Agendas, Minutes and any By-Law amendment submissions be numbered in the future. This year's were not, as there were only 2 pages.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Christine presented her report, as circulated. Christine pointed out a number of items in her Report:-

- She thanked the Committee for their hard work through what has been a difficult year and
- Also thanked the MEMRLTA Community for the continued support for the Committee and decisions made through this year.

Christine moved her Report. Seconded – Desley Wilton - OLGC

Christine then asked Fiona Dwyer, Secretary, 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, again, Burwood, with overall points of 47.50, followed by Donvale, with 46.76 points and third was Kooyong, with 45.16 points. The Certificate was accepted, virtually, by Sue Dalglish. Sue thanked the Committee and Burwood is honoured to once again win this Award.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer, Ros Brereton, presented the Association's Financial Report, as circulated.

Ros informed the Delegates that the Association's Books were audited by a Mr. Ross Bardrick. Ros thanked Ross for auditing our Books.

Ros explained to the Delegates that a question was raised by Christine Shearer, St Andrews Gardiner, about the losses that MEMRLTA has recorded over the past 4 years and asked how the Association would remedy this trend to bring us into a moderate surplus.

Ros stated that the Committee had been watching this trend and to remember that MEMRLTA is a not for profit Organisation. There are a number of areas that the Committee is looking at, such as paid advertisers on our Website, but all in all, our finances are ok.

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

Christine moved that Mr. Ross Bardrick be appointed Auditor for the 2020/21 year, Seconded Glenys Bryce – Glen Waverley

Next was the setting of the Affiliation Fees and Honorariums. The Honorariums will remain the same, which have not changed for the last few years. Christine stated that the Affiliation Fees were increased last year; this was to combat the loss the Association was experiencing because of the Tennis Victoria's increase of their Affiliation Fee over the last few years.

Christine then asked that the Honorariums and Affiliation Fees remain the same for next year. Seconded: Riet Taal – Ringwood Central

President, Christine Youings, before asking Desley Wilton from OLG to chair the Meeting for the nominations for the Executive Committee for 2020/21, wanted to explain the nomination process for 2020/21.

As in previous years, paper nominations were lodged, but with the Pandemic restrictions, members nominating for the Committee have had little or no opportunity to have their forms proposed and signed by fellow Club Members, so as a Committee, via a ZOOM Meeting, it was decided to support each other's nomination. As a Committee, we hope that next year we will be able to revert to the normal paper nominations.

Christine also congratulated Judy Lambert, for again nominating for the Committee for a 30th year, an amazing contribution.

Christine then passed the Chair to Desley.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2020/21

POSITION	NOMINEE	CLUB	PROPOSER	2ND PROPOSER
President:	Christine Youings	St Andrews Gardiner	Hope Stewart	Jackie Aslett
Vice President:	Kath Van Tonder	Croydon	Christine Youings	Fiona Dwyer
Secretary:	Fiona Dwyer	East Burwood	Christine Youings	Judy Lambert
Treasurer:	Ros Brereton	Parker Reserve	Fiona Dwyer	Kath Van Tonder
Record Secretaries:	Jackie Aslett	Legend Park	Lynne Rolf	Diane Turnbull
	Hope Stewart	Willison Park	Christine Youings	Jackie Aslett
Committee:	Tina Aslanidis	Doncaster	Ros Brereton	Fiona Shelton
	Judy Lambert	Eley Park	Christine Youings	Fiona Dwyer
	Wendy O'Connor	UCTC	Ros Brereton	Hope Stewart
	Fiona Shelton	UCTC	Wendy O'Connor	Kath Van Tonder
	Helen Williams	Camberwell Utd	Ros Brereton	Jackie Aslett

As there were enough nominations to fill the positions on the Executive Committee, there was no ballot and all were duly elected. Desley congratulated all concerned then called upon the re-elected President, Christine Youings to once again take the Chair.

President Christine Youings took the Chair.

Christine thanked Desley for temporarily chairing the Meeting.

Before Christine asked for any General Business, there were a number of things she wished to raise:-

- The MEMRLTA website will very shortly be updated – will have more information and will be easier to navigate and mobile friendly. Christine thanked Hope Stewart for her wonderful work that has gone into our Website.
- To reduce costs, the Committee is looking at only printing the Rules & By-Laws Booklet once every 2 years. All information pertaining to the Association will always be available on our Website and is printable friendly
- Facebook – MEMRLTA has a Facebook Page and encouraged all Members to post on the page. Kath Van Tonder, who is the main Administer of the Page, encouraged everyone to utilise the Page. Great way for Members to communicate
- Invited Members to participate in a Raffle for the Shared Breast Services for the Royal Women's and Melbourne Hospitals, organised by the Treasure Chest Foundation, being the Charity that MEMRLTA supported last year. Christine called on Helen Williams to speak about this Foundation. She explained that due to the Pandemic and restrictions, Treasure Chest has been unable to have any functions to help raise monies for this important Charity, so have organised an on-line raffle to raise much needed funds.
- Air Quality Policy. Christine informed the Members that the Policy is available on-line and is very similar to our Heat Policy. Matches can be cancelled if the air quality is deemed to be very poor or hazardous. Health and safety of our Members is paramount.
- Christine then spoke about the implications of COVID 19 and the many restrictions that were put in place and the decisions that the Committee have made:-
 1. Cancelling of the Summer 2019/20 Final Series
 2. Abandoning the Winter 2020 Season
 3. And now awaiting direction from the Government, Tennis Vic and DHHS to when we can commence Summer 2020/21 Season. Grading, for an eight team draw, has been completed and MEMRLTA is ready to go. Christine then explained to the Delegates there are many restrictions in place that are preventing us to set a date to commence our Summer Season.
 4. As a Committee, we have contingencies in place, to help us to return to the court. We will keep all Clubs informed.
 5. Grading will be released when we know a start date.
 6. The protocols that Clubs will need to put in place to make their Clubhouses and courts COVID safe
 7. The Committee will continually keep all Club Contacts informed as we move forward to, hopefully returning to Competition tennis

Christine then opened the floor for any General Business

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Jocelyn Perree from East Malvern raised the question about our calendar and Seasons, wondering if MEMRLTA doesn't start the Summer Season until February, would the Association consider having 6 monthly Competitions – February to June and July to December. Christine explained that this proposal has been put forward a number of times and the Committee has considered it, however, if this was adopted, there would be less tennis played through the year, as it only allows for an eight team draw each season.

The following Members raised concerns/questions about returning to competition tennis and Covid 19.

- Ann Bailey from Ferntree Gully - with the Summer Season not starting when planned, players may now not be available to play.
- Gillian Simonson from City of Camberwell – duplication of sign in paper work in relation to COVID 19 safe plans
- Trish Dally from Bulleen – issues regarding food and drink. There is no sharing of food or drink, you now ARRIVE, PLAY AND LEAVE.
- Denise Hopkins from Croydon – raised the issue of returning to Competition tennis after being away from the game for 8 months and the likely hood of injuries. The Committee has spoken about this and again, have contingencies in place. The chances of starting our Season this year, is unlikely so will we encourage Clubs, once the gradings are released, to organise 'friendlies' with teams in your graded section, to help get competition ready.
- Karen Armstrong from East Malvern – regarding the issue of injuries, raised the possibility of having a 5th member to play the final set.
- Ainslie Cummins from Wellington – following on from Ann Bailey's concerns about team composition and players not being available. The Committee is aware that this may occur and we are fortunate, that with our grading for the Summer Season, we only have 4 byes through 12 Sections and we will work with Clubs/teams in any way we can.
- Glenys Bryce from Glen Waverley – following on from Denise Hopkins' concerns regarding fitness, Glenys encouraged all members to now have a hit.
- Juliet Dickson from Serpell – asked questions regarding the Emergency Pool for the lower grades. There will be a change in the gradings of players as the Association has now gone from 10 team draw to an 8 team draw. We hope the Association will have a good spread across the 12 Sections.
- Andrea Sorenti from Eley Park – raised concerns about the structure of Summer Season, if we postponed the start of the Season unit next February, it won't allow us to fit the Season in. Christine explained, that if that was the case, the Summer Season would be an eight team draw with one round and 2 rounds of finals, which would then enable the Association to have a 10 team draw for Winter 2021.
- Helen Grabham from North Ringwood – also raised concerns about starting the Season this year.

There were many other issues/concerns raised relating to the COVID 19 restrictions, but until our current restrictions are eased, the Committee was unable to provide any definitive answers and/or instructions.

The Committee encouraged everyone to get back on the court, have a friendly hit, not necessarily a game but let's get our bodies used to playing again and that, in itself, will make a big difference when we start playing competitively again.

To finish, Christine thanked everyone for their input and this will help us in our decision making, moving forward for all our Members. The support that our Members have shown the Committee through this unprecedented year, is truly appreciated.

The meeting finished at 8.41pm.