

MEMRLTA 2019/20 PRESIDENT Report

It is with pleasure I present the Association's Annual Report for the 2019/2020 financial year. I will also be reporting on events concerning the Association which move into our next reporting year (June – October), due to the delay in conducting this AGM because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Winter 2019 was contested by 99 teams graded into 10 sections, and the Summer 2019/20 season saw the committee grade 96 teams into 10 sections. The Winter 2020 season was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are very pleased to see the ongoing commitment, by our member clubs, to the association, by the number of teams being entered for our competitions each year.

The Emergency Pool continues to grow and now has 28 members, with their gradings ranging across all levels of competition. The pool enables many teams to avoid forfeits during the season and often a pool player will become a permanent player and/or club member for the following season. This was one of the benefits which 2015 committee hoped for when we began our discussions around commencing the use of an Emergency Pool.

Winter 2019 saw two clubs re-joining MEMRLTA after many years. Royal South Yarra entered a team and was graded into Section 2. St Francis Xavier also re-joined and enjoyed competition in Section 10. We thank both clubs for returning.

Eildon Park also joined MEMRLTA for the Winter 2019 season making their way into the Section 2 grand final in their first season with us.

Many clubs, over the two seasons, Winter 2019 and Summer 2019/20 were able to enter additional teams into the competition, and we thank the club contacts for encouraging more women to play on a weekly basis in our ever strengthening competition.

MEMRLTA has a strong tradition of having a very competitive and extremely talented group of teams all vying for the chance to play in Section 1 each season. We are proud to have 2 trophies, one for each season, to award to the Section 1 Grand Final winners. The Kathy Rehe Perpetual (Winter) trophy was awarded to Kooyong Blue for their Winter 2019 grand final win and the Nan Butler Memorial (Summer) trophy was awarded to Donvale Blue for their top of the ladder finish in Summer 2019/20.

The Anne Hubbard Trophy is presented to the Club obtaining the best teams' performance over the previous two seasons and it is calculated using the end of season ladders. The winner of the last Anne Hubbard Trophy (Winter 2018 and Summer 2018/19) was Burwood TC and the new Winner will be announced at this AGM.

MEMRLTA has a fantastic website! This is due to the hard work of one of our Record Secretaries and long-time committee member, Hope Stewart. Tennis Vic has commended our work in this area, and I hope you will join me in thanking Hope for keeping our on-line presence up-to-date, modern and very easy to navigate. Watch this space as we will soon be making additional improvements and adding even more information for you to utilise.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work of Fiona Dwyer as Secretary of our association. Fiona, as you know, keeps the wheels turning, and the emails coming, all with a smile and laugh in her voice. Thank you Fiona, your work is appreciated by all the association and particularly by me. Our Treasurer -Ros Brereton, has adapted to the role with such ease that we think she must have a secret accounting degree! Our financial records and accounts are ready every month and presented clearly and concisely. Thank-you, Ros.

COVID-19...The Pandemic has certainly made this year unusual, from a tennis competition perspective!

The decision to cancel the Summer 2019/20 final series was necessary and supported by the member clubs of MEMRLTA. I thank you for the support you showed the Executive as we worked through the restrictions that were increasing weekly and impacting on the game that we all love to play.

As the year progressed, the executive looked forward to recommencing play, with many contingencies planned, for whenever the start of play would be allowable. Unfortunately, as the pandemic worsened, especially in the Melbourne Metro region, it became apparent that the Winter 2020 season could not commence and would be abandoned.

We are now ready to move forward with the Summer 2020/21 season, the exact starting date and length are still to be confirmed and are dependent on the easing of the restrictions and other COVID-19 issues.

My heartfelt thanks to the Executive committee: Judy Lambert, Fiona Dwyer, Ros Brereton, Hope Stewart, Jackie Aslett, Helen Williams, Kath van Tondor, Wendy O'Connor, Fiona Shelton and Tina Aslanidis. We have moved to having regular ZOOM meetings, we were even able to grade on ZOOM. We have kept each other upbeat as we worked through each issue as it arose. The committee is very fortunate to be comprised of a very diverse set of talented people. I thank them all for the support they have shown me and each other. On behalf of the Association, I thank you all for the time and hard work you have so generously given to MEMRLTA over the past year.

I look forward to when we can play tennis again, participate in fair competition, enjoy the friendships, laugh at the banter and continue the traditions of MEMRLTA .

Christine Youngs

PRESIDENT