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LATEST NEWS

(February 2018 edition)

L&DNTA heat out policy

- L&DNTA scheduled matches do not operate under a heat out policy. Generally, the temperature at night is much cooler than during the day and there is no direct sun to make conditions more uncomfortable for players. Also, the temperature at night generally drops during the course of a match (unlike during a day match when the temperature can get much hotter).
- The Association is mindful it cannot force players to play or put players' health at risk and for this reason teams can choose to forfeit their match if they so wish. If both teams agree to calling a "heat out" points will be shared, however if one team is happy to play and/or continue a match, that team will be awarded the match/set points as per the normal forfeit rules.

Increase in Playing Fees

- Effective Season 1/2018, the nightly playing fee will increase from **\$9.00 to \$10.00 per player** (\$40.00 per doubles team and \$20 Singles/Doubles).

Change to By-Law 7

- Note new playing order for Wednesday Mixed sets

1st set: 1st & 2nd Man
2nd set: 1st & 2nd Lady
3rd set: 1st Man & 1st Lady
4th set: 2nd Man & 2nd Lady
5th set: 1st Man & 2nd Lady
6th set: 2nd Man & 1st Lady

Distribution of hardcopy fixtures to cease in 2018

- Effective Season 1/2018, the Association will no longer be printing and distributing hardcopy Fixtures, Captain's Lists, scorecards, By-Laws or team entry forms as all competition information is now available on line. A small quantity of scorecards will continue to be available in clubhouses or from your club reps in the short term but in 2018, teams will be expected to download and print the on-line pdf version. Scorecard templates for both Doubles and Singles/Doubles matches are available.

Emergency List

- If interested in registering as an emergency please email your details (name, contact details, playing standard and desired night and/or competition) via the "Contact Us" link on the Home Page.

Manchester Heights to merge with Mooroolbark

- Effective season 1/2018 all Manchester Heights night teams will be playing their matches out of Mooroolbark (Kiloran Park off Hawthory Road Mooroolbark)

Update on the two (2) season competition proposal

- At the Association's meeting of affiliated clubs in July, it was agreed to defer any change to the current 3 season competition format until a more detailed analysis of the impact and implications of changing to 2 seasons can be undertaken. This will include further consultation with players and clubs throughout 2018.
- Since only a small percentage of players responded to the last call to submit their preference for or against the two season proposal, it is now intended to conduct an on-line survey in 2018 to better gauge player sentiment to the proposed change.
- Stay Tuned for this survey!
- A summary of the feedback received to date can be found below:

Against the change

- L&DNTA is only Association to play 3 seasons which differentiates us from the others
- A long break with only two seasons frustrates players wanting more tennis
- Still cold in May and August (not just June & July)
- Short seasons are preferable to long seasons if teams have been wrongly graded etc.
- Teams struggling for players would have to wait longer for the season to end
- Easier for young players to commit to shorter seasons
- Trying to encourage young players into night tennis (long seasons are a put off)
- Teams that don't want to play the winter season have the option to take the season off with the existing 3 season format
- Like the continuation that 3 seasons provide as it maintains fitness
- No play June/July, too much time off. Impacts player fitness regime
- Large break might entice players to find something else to do if tennis unavailable
- Prefer playing all year round
- Teams that like to play all year might look to other sports if Winter season no longer available to them

For the change

- Season 2 is a messy season with too many washouts
- Players often have difficulty fielding a team in winter (players away on holidays etc)
- Two seasons will stop the winter (season 2) drop off
- Allows oldies a break in coldest months
- Allows for teams to be graded later than is possible currently with 3 seasons
- Less paperwork and administration for everyone with only two seasons
- All teams would play each other twice as a minimum
- Like the idea of longer seasons and no play June/July
- Very cold in July

Other issues for consideration by the Association

- The Team entry fee will need to rise to \$30 to off-set the loss of Association revenue (\$3800) is derived from the current winter season (2)
- Six team sections would play each other 3 times (2 x 15 week seasons) - Season 1 fixture 29th Jan to 4th June . Season 2 fixture 23rd July to 3rd Dec (2018 dates)
- Eight team sections would play each other twice (2 x 14 week seasons) - Season 1 fixture 29th Jan to 28th May - Season 2 fixture 30th July to 3rd Dec (2018 dates)
- Eight team sections will play 2 weeks less tennis during the year (28 weeks) therefore less revenue for clubs than present 3 x 10 week seasons
- Eight team sections harder to grade
- If draw made up of all eight team sections, fewer sections on Wednesday & Thursday
- Likely to be a mix of six & eight team sections resulting in some fixturing anomalies (different season start dates?)
- Eight team draw might require a longer finals campaign (double chance?)
- Six team sections playing each other 3 times results in extra home matches for some teams and extra revenue for some clubs

L&DNTA Executive