

Minutes of Meeting of Council
held at Champions Hotel on the
Twenyeth day of October 1899
Mr A. G. Hall in the Chair Messrs Koch
Newman Barnard. McInerney, Alcock
and George - Templeton (in the Chair)
The Constitution and Rules drafted
by Mr A. A. Chamlay were further
discussed and on the motion of Mr.
George seconded by Mr. Koch ^{it was resolved} that the
following should form the Constitution
and Rules of the Association:—

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be called "THE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA."
2. The objects of the Association shall be—
 - (a) The general control of Lawn Tennis in Victoria.
 - (b) The formation and maintenance of a ground.
 - (c) The arrangement and management of championship, intercolonial, pennant, trophy, and inter-club Tennis, and all things that relate thereto.
 - (d) The settlement of disputes between clubs, associations of clubs, and all members thereof comprised in the Association.
 - (e) The representation of the Colony at any conference of delegates convened for the purpose of discussing and considering any matter relating to Lawn Tennis.
 - (f) The delegation of the management of any championship or intercolonial meeting to any club or other body.
3. The Association shall consist of the amateur members of all clubs and associations of clubs associated and affiliated to the Association.
4. The test of an associated club shall be—
 - (a) Possession of a ground.
 - (b) A membership of at least twenty members.
 - (c) A Constitution to the satisfaction of the Council hereinafter defined.
5. The test of an affiliated club shall be—
 - (a) Right of occupancy of a ground.
 - (b) A membership of at least six members.
 - (c) A guarantee in such form as may be required by the Council by some approved person on behalf of such affiliated club to discharge all payments to which the said club may become liable hereunder.
6. An aggregation of three or more clubs subscribing to the test for either associated or affiliated clubs, joined together for the purpose of competition or some other mutual purpose, shall be considered as an association of clubs within the meaning of these rules.
7. The Officers of the Association shall consist of a Patron, a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. They shall be elected by the Council at its first meeting in every year, and shall not enter upon their office until the termination of such meeting.
8. The management of the Association shall primarily be vested in a Council, consisting of the Officers, *ex officio*, and the delegates appointed by the Senior and Junior Divisions of the Association hereinafter referred to.
9. The Council may appoint Committees and frame rules and bye-laws for the carrying out of all or any of the objects of the Association.
10. All duly qualified clubs and associations of clubs shall be entitled to become associated with or affiliated to the Association. Each associated club directly represented by a delegate on the Council shall pay an annual subscription of £1 1/-; other clubs and all associations of clubs, whether represented on the Council or not, shall pay an annual subscription of

1899

AMATEUR MEMBERS.

1. There shall be promoted and carried out by the Association an annual series of inter-club matches between the clubs comprised in the Association, to be called the Pennant Competitions.

2. For the purposes of such Pennant Competitions the Association shall be divided into two divisions: Senior and Junior.

3. The Senior Division shall consist of—

- (a) All associated clubs playing a team in the highest class of the division.
- (b) All associated clubs playing a team in the Senior Division and a team in the highest class of the Junior Division.
- (c) All associated clubs and associations of clubs admitted under Rule 5.
- (d) All affiliated clubs playing a team in any class of the division and all associated clubs playing a team in a lower class of the division.

4. Each club in classes *a* and *b* shall be entitled to representation on the Council, and shall elect one delegate thereto, provided that in all cases under these rules the playing of a team shall confer the status upon the club nominating such teams, and such status shall be lost on the retirement of any team from competition in the class to which it has been nominated.

5. The Council may, by an absolute majority of its members, admit into the Senior Division or retain therein associated clubs or associations of clubs not otherwise qualified, either with or without representation on the Council. The Council may also, by a like vote, refuse admission to the division or remove therefrom any club or associations of clubs qualified to be admitted to or to remain in the division. In computing such absolute majority the votes of the Patron, President, and Vice-Presidents shall not be reckoned, unless they shall be present in person.

6. The management of the Pennant Competitions in the Senior Division shall be in the hands of a Committee of seven (termed the Senior Committee), of which the Treasurer and Secretary shall be members *ex officio*. The Senior Committee shall be annually elected by the Council at its first meeting in each year.

7. In the event of any vacancy on the Committee occurring during the year the vacant position shall be filled at the next ordinary or special meeting of the Council.

8. The Junior Division shall comprise all clubs playing a team or teams in such division.

9. The management of the Pennant Competitions in the Junior Division shall be in the hands of a Committee of seven (termed the Junior Committee), of which the Treasurer and Secretary shall be members *ex officio*. The Junior Committee shall elect a Sub-Secretary. The Junior Committee shall be annually elected by the associated clubs comprised in the division, each club to have one vote. In the event of any vacancy occurring in the Junior Committee during the year the remaining members of the Committee shall elect a member to fill such vacancy. The Junior Committee, immediately upon its constitution, shall elect two delegates to the Council of the Association, and forward their names forthwith to the Secretary of the Association. If from any cause such two delegates from the Junior Division shall not have been elected in time for the first annual meeting of the Council, the two delegates for the preceding year shall remain members of the Council for the purpose of such annual meeting.

10. In the event of the Pennant Competitions being from any cause intermitted or totally abandoned, the Council for the year or years during which the competitions shall be so intermitted or abandoned shall be constituted of one delegate from each club represented on the Council during the year in which the competitions were last carried out and two delegates to be elected by the joint vote of all the other associated clubs, each associated club having one vote. And in such cases only such part of this constitution and these rules as is directly applicable to the existing circumstances shall be held to apply.

11. The first meeting of the Council shall be held in the second week in March in every year.

12. The secretaries of associated clubs and associations of clubs entitled to representation on the Council shall forward to the Secretary of the Association, on or before the first day of March in each year, the names of the delegates appointed to represent their respective clubs or associations, together with the evidence of their right to such representation.

13. The Council shall meet in the months of March, June, and September, and whenever summoned by the Secretary of the Association or by not less than three delegates; one-third of the Council (excluding from enumeration office-bearers not actually present) to form a quorum at such meetings.

14. Every member of the Association shall be bound by every act of the Council *intra vires*.

15. The Senior and Junior Committees shall meet when summoned by their respective Secretary or Sub-Secretary, but in no case shall a greater interval than one month elapse between meetings during the currency of the Pennant Competitions. The respective committees shall fix the number of members to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

17. The Constitution and Rules of the Association shall not be repealed or altered without the concurrence of an absolute majority of the Council (in computing which majority the office-bearers not actually present shall not be included) at a general or at a special meeting called for the purpose. For the repeal or alteration of any other rules or bye-laws the affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Council actually present at any such meeting shall be sufficient. All proposed alterations or rescinding of the constitution or old rules, or proposed new rules, or of any other rules or bye-laws, shall be notified to the delegates five days prior to such meeting.

18. There shall be a right of appeal from all committees or sub-committees to the Council.

19. Any club claiming to be in any way affected by a decision of the Committee may appeal to the Council against such decision. Notice of appeal from any decision of the Committee shall be lodged in writing with the Secretary within seven days from the date of the notification of the decision of the Committee, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of 10s., which deposit shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the appeal being deemed frivolous.

20. The Council shall have the right to the use of the courts of any associated or affiliated club, for the purposes of the Pennant Competitions, upon giving seven days' notice thereof to the club whose court is required.

BYE-LAWS

FOR THE

Inter-Club Matches

SENIOR DIVISION.

1. The competing teams shall be divided into two classes: First and Second. An entrance fee of 5/- for each team shall be paid to the Hon. Treasurer for the time being, upon entering a team or teams as hereinafter provided.

2. The club entering the winning team in the First Class shall be awarded a Pennant. In addition four honor caps shall be awarded to the winning team in each class.

3. No player shall (unless with the sanction of the Committee) play for any club unless at the time of playing, and for one month immediately previous thereto, he shall have been a *bona fide* member of such club.

4. Clubs may enter one team in each or any class. Each club entering a team or teams shall, before the 8th day of April in each year, submit to the Hon. Secretary for the time being, the names of the players it intends to play in each team, the Committee reserving to itself the right of finally deciding in which class any team shall play.

5. No player who has been nominated to play in the first class shall, in one and the same season, play in the second class without the sanction of the Committee.

6. Any player having played in the second class may play twice in the first class without prejudicing his right to play in the second class. If he shall play more than twice in the first class he shall be only eligible to play in the first class for the rest of the season.

7. No player shall play for more than one club at the same time. No player shall be allowed to change from one club to another during the course of the season after the 1st July, nor shall he be allowed to change from one club to another prior to that date without the sanction of the Committee, and then only upon such terms as to the class in which he shall play and otherwise, as the Committee may think fit.

8. Matches shall be played on the point system. Two points shall be scored for a win, and one for a tie.

9. Each team competing in the first class shall play one doubles and one singles match with every other team in that class. The team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner. In the event of two or more teams in the first class tying for first place at the end of the competition, such equal teams shall play off a doubles match, or a series of doubles matches, as the case may require; in such last mentioned case the drawing to be according to the Bagnall-Wilde system. In the event of a tie on the conclusion of such final round, the team having secured the greatest number of rubbers in such final round, or if the rubbers be equal, the team having secured the greatest number of sets in such final round, or if the sets be equal, the team having secured the greatest number of games in such final round, shall be declared the winner.

10. The Committee may at its discretion classify the second class teams into groups. Each team in the second class shall play one doubles and one single match with every other team in the group in which it is classified. At the completion of the two rounds of matches above-mentioned the team in each group which shall have scored the greatest number of points shall play off two deciding matches (one singles and one doubles match) on a neutral court, such court to be selected by the Committee. In the event of a tie in the play off, the club securing the greater number of games in both matches shall be declared the winner. In the event of two or more teams of the same class in one group being equal in points, they shall play off one deciding doubles match on a neutral court. The order of playing, if more than two teams are equal, shall be decided by the Bagnall-Wilde system of drawing.

11. In the singles matches four players from each team shall compete, and each player shall play two of the opposing team two ordinary sets. The members of each team shall be arranged in order of merit by their respective captains, and the two leading players of one team shall each play against each of the two leading players of the opposing team, and the two second players of one team shall each play against each of the two second players of the opposing team; but no player shall meet his opponents successively without the consent of his second opponent. In the case of the captain of either team disputing the order of merit of the opposing team, the decision of the referee, if one be appointed, or if no such appointment be made then of the Committee, or of such person as the Committee shall appoint for that purpose, shall be taken upon the point, and shall be final. In the doubles matches two pairs from each team shall compete, and each pair shall play each of the opposing pairs. In the doubles matches when the match is played on two courts, the doubles matches shall consist of four rubbers of the best of three sets, advantage sets, if one set all, and the team which wins the greater number of rubbers shall be the winner of the match; but if the rubbers be equal, the majority of sets shall decide, and should both rubbers and sets be equal, the majority of games shall decide. In the singles matches when the match is played on two courts, the singles matches shall consist of sixteen ordinary sets, and the team which wins the greater number of games shall be declared the winner. In the doubles matches when the match is played on one court, each pair shall play each of the opposing pairs two ordinary sets, and the team scoring the greater number of games in such match shall be declared the winner. In the singles matches when the match is played on one court, each player shall play one of the opposing team two ordinary sets, and the team scoring the greater number of games in such match shall be declared the winner.

12. In the event of any club possessing two courts, both courts shall be used for the matches arranged by the Committee, unless the previous sanction of the Committee be obtained to one court only being used.

13. All matches shall be played on asphalt, asphaltum, or concrete courts, on the dates and at the places fixed by the Committee. No alteration of such dates or places shall be made unless with the sanction of the Committee. In the event of any match not being played on the day arranged, the team in default shall be deemed to have been defeated, provided, however, that the question as to whether a team be in default or not shall be decided by the Committee.

14. In the event of a match not having been completed owing to stress of weather or other good and sufficient cause, such match shall be wholly replayed on some date to be fixed by the Committee, unless at the time play ceased one team had such a lead as would have entitled it to claim the match even if all subsequent rubbers, sets, and games requiring to be played had in fact been played and won by the opposing team. In such case the leading team shall be declared the winner. If any dispute shall arise as to the fitness of the weather for play, the Committee shall decide. Subject to anything hereinbefore contained all matches shall be played to a finish.

15. The winning team, or in the event of a tie both teams, shall, within four days of the completion of each match, forward the result on the authorised form to the Hon. Secretary. Such authorised form must be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

16. The balls used in any match shall be covered balls, selected by mutual arrangement before the commencement of play; but in the event of any disagreement, Ayres' championship balls for the current season (when obtainable) shall be used. The visiting team, before the commencement of the match, shall have the right to demand new balls.

17. All matches shall commence not later than 2.30 p.m. If play does not then commence the match shall be declared lost by the club unable or refusing to play, unless good and sufficient cause be shown to the Committee.

18. Any team making default by failing to play any three matches, or being disqualified by the Committee, shall be deemed to have retired from the competition, and shall forfeit its entrance fee, and no points won by or against such team shall be scored.

19. All protests must be lodged with the Hon. Secretary within seven days from the day upon which the alleged breach of rules was committed, and such protest may be entered on behalf of any club; and it shall not be necessary to allege that such breach of rules was committed against the protesting club. Protests must be accompanied by a deposit of 5/-, which deposit shall be forfeited in the event of the protest being deemed frivolous.

20. The Committee shall have power to order any match to be played over again either wholly or in part, and to extend the time for playing any match.

21. Any club not paying the amount of any fine inflicted under these bye-laws to the Hon. Secretary within five days after the infliction of such fine, shall be liable to disqualification by the Committee.

22. The Committee shall have the power to impose penalties for the breach of all or any of these bye-laws, whether by forfeiture of matches (accompanied, if the Committee shall so think fit, by the awarding of any match to the opposing team), disqualification, fine, or otherwise howsoever, provided that no fine shall exceed the sum of £1.1/- If any club be disqualified, as aforesaid, and shall appeal to the Council of the Association against the decision of the Committee, such club shall not be debarred from continuing to take part in the matches pending the hearing of such appeal. In the event of such appeal not being upheld, the decision of the Committee, as from the date of its notification of its decision to the disqualified club, shall be enforced.

23. Any question arising in these competitions, or in the construction of these bye-laws, shall be decided by the Committee for the time being. Any member of the Committee absenting himself from three consecutive meetings without valid excuse, or without having previously obtained leave of absence from the Committee, shall thereby vacate his seat.

24. All matches shall be played under the laws of the game as adopted by the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria, the interpretation of which shall devolve upon the Committee.

An appeal from St Kilda & Camberwell Clubs
against decision of Senior Committee in fining
these clubs 10/- was dealt with and an
motion of Mr Newman seconded by Mr Hall the appeal
was upheld and deposit lodged ordered to be returned
The meeting then closed