



14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **'The Squash Melbourne Club' – Recommendation to participate in Club Circuit**

The Committee of Club Circuit received a formal application in June 2019 from 'The Squash Melbourne Club' that plays out of the Squash Melbourne venue located at 10 Independence Street Moorabbin, to be granted permission to participate in our competition.

The committee has been very mindful of their responsibility to ensure the protection of the Club Circuit 'brand' while considering this application. The past admittance of the Westerfolds Sporting Centre has demonstrated that public courts can satisfy our expectations when their facilities and culture meet our requirements. The current trial involving the more distant Lilydale Squash Club is also presenting favourable feedback as well.

In response to discussions at our 2020 Autumn Match & Pennant meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, committee member Geoff Chambers circulated a document headed 'Where is Club Circuit going? - Where should it go?' to all member club Match and Pennant representatives. This document had initially been presented to your committee back in 2019 as part of its deliberations on our future directions. Amongst many points it highlighted player attitudes to competition expansion obtained in a well-supported 'Player Survey' undertaken in 2016.

The current long term lessee, Adrian Boden, of the Squash Melbourne venue has undertaken significant improvements to the property. Club Circuit representatives undertook a site visit to the venue in late 2019 and presented the following comments to the committee meeting held in November 2019:

- Our meeting was with the venue lessee (Adrian Boden, who has a long term contract) and Club President (David Cowell) who both appeared open to suggestions and keen to follow Club Circuit guidelines.
- Venue has an updated and renovated/painted supper area.
- Supper area is physically separate from other areas of the venue; is equipped with catering facilities; and is populated with a number of tables and chairs.
- Venue is licensed, and drinks facility is adjacent to the two front courts which would be allocated for Club Circuit use.
- Courts appear to be in more than acceptable condition.
- Change rooms/showers are large, and fit for purpose.
- The culture at "Squash Melbourne" appeared excellent, one of enthusiasm and support for encouraging the younger squash players to play and keep playing. (for example, under 18 year olds play for free if courts are available)
- They made a point of acknowledging the Club Circuit "Brand" in terms of the expected quality of suppers and availability for drinks during and after pennant.

At the Club Circuit committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the following motion was successfully raised and passed with the intention that it would be submitted at the 2020 AGM for ratification by our member base:

*‘Club Circuit wishes to grant an invitation to ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ to submit teams to compete in the Club Circuit competition, under defined conditions, on a trial basis for a period of 12 months.’*

The following are the defined conditions that will apply to the Squash Melbourne venue:

- Any teams playing out of the Independence Street venue within the Club Circuit competition will be members of the ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ and identified as such.
- ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ teams will be invited to compete for a trial period of 12 months.
  - Player feedback will be sought by Club Circuit during the initial 6 month period prior to continuing to the second 6 month period.
- ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ will nominate a primary contact person who will assume the responsibility to coordinate, investigate and resolve all matters involving Club Circuit within their club.
- ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ will continue the Club Circuit tradition of hosting their playing guests without charge while providing court facilities, beverages and agreed dining arrangements.
  - Further that ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ will host any preliminary or semi-final at no venue cost for teams competing when this is required due to responsibilities of one of their competing teams. Provision of beverages and dining arrangements on these occasions will be organized by ‘The Squash Melbourne Club’ and paid for by competing teams.
- Suppers provided will be ‘plated’ in a dining setting and will be to a comparable standard of the current competing clubs.
- Commencement of competition will be at 6:30pm or no later than 7:00pm

Regards,  
Club Circuit Committee