

2nd October 1997

To Bryce Grossel
Chairman Appeals Committee
Gosford District Tennis Association Inc
PO Box 118, Gosford NSW 2250

cc. P Froment
S Blatchley
B Mason
N Brand
S Cendak

Dear Bryce,

Thank you for your letter dated 6th September 1997. I must say that I was a little disappointed that no one at the GDTA committee has not yet been able to see that the decision to hold the New Crew down and not promote them as they deserved to be, is not right morally or ethically or possibly legally.

Your explanation that after studying all the facts that your main concerns were team changes to the teams involved, a top-heavy competition and the lopsided point score from the last competition.

I wish to outline these points and give you my thoughts.

Team Changes:

This should have no bearing on the decision of holding our team down. The two teams that went up had only one player change per team. And really is a poor excuse. We also had a team player change within our ladies. This person could more than hold her own in division 3, as could all our other players.

A top heavy competition:

I don't really understand this comment. If this is so, then it makes sense to have a mixture of teams with varying skill levels.

Lop sided point score from last competition.

This is another poor excuse. I draw your attention to one round of competition that the New Crew won every game of the season to lose in the Grand Final. The winner went to division 4 we stayed down. We never thought it was unfair, we simply congratulated the other team and got on with the next comp. Who has won the most games or has the highest amount of points is totally irrelevant. In no other sporting competition does this happen. Imagine if the Newcastle ARL team were told well done but bad luck, Manly won more games and scored more points, so they are the real winners. You would have a riot.

To be brutally honest I believe the decision was made because the committee doesn't believe The New Crew was good enough to go to division 3 and I challenge anyone to say or prove different. I also believe that members of the team we beat in the final approached the committee and requested that they go to Div 3 and not go down.

I have also approached many people at the tennis club and asked their opinion on what happened and not one person has said to me that the GDTA decision was correct or fair and they would hope that they never got treated the same way.

We were also totally amazed to the way in which we found out about this decision. It took until the first game of the new comp to find out. We were given the new draw and noticed the obvious straight away. We were never given the courtesy of being informed either verbally or formally. You can imagine the feelings of all our players. I have also spoken to a past president of the GDTA who still plays at the GDTA. He has told me that what happened is a load of baloney and has never happened before. If it has, I request some fact on when and whom it involved.

Mss Anne Thomas in her letter dated 26th August states that there is no guarantee to higher grade. Does this mean that the winner of lets say a division 2 comp wont go up to Div 1? Who's kidding who here.

I will take you up on your invitation to attend the AGM and request you let me no the date. I believe, as does all members of the GDTA that I have spoken to, that the winner of any grand final in any division gets automatic entry into the next division. Excepting div 1. This will be my intention to see that it happens and I also request a formal apology to the players of the New Crew on what happened, particularly when we ^{were} never given the courtesy of being informed. It was expected that we would just accept it and pretend nothing happened.

Thank you again for your letter and I look forward to hearing from you on when the date is for the AGM.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Hambleton'. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Glenn Hambleton