

Received 29-12-1977

WALLABIES

PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

K.Luttin,
31 Cochrane St.,
MITCHAM, 3132

V LLEY BALL CLUB

R.Newman,
1 Barbara St.,
VERMONT, 3133

20th December, 1977

The Secretary,
V.C.V.C.,
c/- P.O. Box 426,
BENDIGO, 3550

Dear Sir,

This is an explanation of our Wallabies II team's withdrawal from the Morwell Tournament Grand Finals on 4th December, 1977.

Let me firstly state that we do not wish to dispute the rights of a tournament organizing committee - any large tournament is a headache to conduct and problems that arise must be dealt with promptly and often under duress.

Our Team's position was that it finished on top of the Round-Robin section and therefore was automatically to play in the Grand Final. Geelong, in easily defeating Latrobe Valley, was to be the other finalist by one point.

Apparently, the Tournament Organising Committee, which included several Latrobe Senior teammembers, "found" that its Junior team had on the previous day lodged a protest against duty-team Geelong in one of the early matches. The Organizing Committee saw fit to penalize Geelong due to the protest and thereby enable Latrobe Senior team to take Geelong's place on percentage...

Many points were felt by Wallabies to be unacceptable due to the sheer weight of questionable and unethical occurrences -

- . only when it was obvious Latrobe could not get into the Grand Final did the Organizing Committee take action on the protest
- . Geelong, nor any team had apparently been told of the protest
- . Latrobe Juniors, according to their opponents and Geelong, were not unusually disadvantaged by Geelong being several minutes late for duty (after just completing a match) ... this apparently leading to the surprise over the protest
- . Latrobe Juniors are coached by a Senior player
- . No mention of the protest was made, nor any penalty applied on the Tournament Scoreboard until after the Round-Robin section

- . Reference to International Rules was made in order to impose the Geelong penalty, yet even scoresheets were rarely completed, signed, etc. - to be technical is to be technical in all respects, not just those which are convenient

There may be other aspects of relevance to add, or even minor detail discrepancies in this notation, but those should be made complete by any protest by Geelong and answers from Latrobe Valley ... the point we wish to pursue is that the conduct of the end of this Tournament was unethical - especially from the host team and Organising Committee - and was particularly unnecessary in that Latrobe's team was notably inferior to Geelong as shown by the 2-0 defeat!

It was with great regret that, on a full team vote, a unanimous decision to withdraw from the Grand Final was made by Wallabies. In fact, at least one player returned to Morewell from a Saturday night social engagement at 6 a.m. Sunday to play!!

Please record our disappointment and sincere hope that such matters will not arise in future tournaments.

Regards,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R.C. Newman', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

R.C. NEWMAN,
Hon. Secretary

c.c. V.A.V.A.