

Liquor laws ace club

By DENISE S. CAHILL

NEW liquor laws have stopped pennant players at Bull Creek Tennis Club from doing what is considered good sportsmanship.

Under new requirements for all clubs serving alcohol, host club members are unable to buy their opponents a beer after a match unless a licensed bar manager is present.

Bull Creek Tennis Club committee member David Wickham said the few people that fit this description at the club were working and could not man the bar five or six days a week to cater for all the pennant matches.

Mr Wickham said there were four people on each pennant team and generally everyone would have one or two beers after the game to be social.

"Frankly, the new laws are an unjust impost on all small clubs," he said.

"I can understand it for the restaurants and pubs, but we are being treated in the same manner as a tavern."

Club president Paul Breuer said five members had completed a "responsible service of alcohol" course and the club had applied for three of those to be considered qualified bar managers.

Mr Breuer said the club had met the deadline to apply for an



Anyone like a cuppa? It's all we can offer... Devdutt Sharma and Rosemary Dunn (front) and Dave Wickham and Dave Dunstan at the Bull Creek Tennis Club. Picture: Bruce Hunt

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exemption that would allow people who had completed the responsible service course to be considered as approved bar managers.

He said the club had four approved bar managers, including the bar licensee.

"The pennants can finish at 10.30pm and players want the bar

open for a few drinks, but with only four bar managers that cannot happen unless those people are playing," Mr Breuer said.

"Our club turns over \$3000 in profit a year through the bar so it (the restrictions) could affect us financially if we have to close the bar down,"

Clubs WA executive director

Peter Seaman said some small clubs were considering surrendering their liquor license because they were struggling to comply with the new laws.

But Mr Wickham said Bull Creek Tennis Club would not surrender its licence because it was necessary for the bigger functions the club hosted.