

WHAT'S NEW

CLUB CHAMPS

The club champs are currently being played with round robin matches to determine semi finals/finals. Finals will be held on the weekend of 13/14 April with a schedule to be updated on the website [here](#) Pop in to see some great tennis and enjoy a BBQ.

PARKING

There have been some parking tickets issued by Council recently for cars parked on the grass at the rear of the parking bays behind Courts 1 and 2. We have spoken with the Council and they have clarified that the carpark is public access and not part of the lease the Club has with Council. They also confirmed parking other than in marked parking bays is against regulations. Consequently, we have asked them to look at installing some extra "no parking" signs to make such areas clearer, and to ask By-Laws officers to ensure time restrictions are enforced and that there is no double parking (as happens at school pick up times).



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the last couple of weeks there have been four incidents of bad behaviour involving players at our club and at other clubs. The Committee takes a very dim view of these and will fully investigate each one with referrals to the Disciplinary Committee where appropriate. I encourage anyone observing such behaviour to report it to the Secretary (secretary@northbalwyntc.org.au) as this is not something to be tolerated.

A number of Subcommittees have also now been established and these are in the process of being listed on the website with a contact email address. We are still looking for an additional person on the Member Protection (incorporating child safety) SC. If you are interested, please contact chrisgeorgiou@northbalwyntc.org.au

We have now moved from mailboxes held by individuals on behalf of the club under various domains to a standardised approach under our own northbalwyntc.org.au domain. This has included creating individual mailboxes for club Officebearers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and committee members, plus some others including membership, maintenance. This has created a more professional look for the club and will also make it easier for members to directly contact who they need.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Two Committee meetings have been held since the last Newsletter.

The first was in mid February where mostly routine reports were noted and administrative items were dealt with. We noted there were 439 current financial members which was an increase of just over 20% on the same time last year (356 members).

The second was specifically to discuss court availability and is mentioned in detail below.

The next Committee meeting will be in April.

COURT AVAILABILITY

The Committee had a special meeting in mid March solely to discuss court availability and priorities. This was an important discussion that has followed a lot of feedback from members as a result of the 20% increase in total membership in the last year. Our driver in the discussion was how best to balance the needs of all members and the Club.

The following guidelines have been adopted:

- We prioritise competition but will always have an allocation for casual play.
- Peak time is 4pm to 10.30pm Monday to Friday, 1pm to 10.30pm Saturday, 1pm to 10pm Sunday.
- A minimum of 2 courts will be available for non-competition use during peak times.
- On Monday and Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm, the two non-competition courts will be reserved for organised social. This will be a time when all members and visitors (after paying the visitors fee) may play with others in a social environment. There are other designated times for organised social play on the website as well.
- The maximum booking time allowed on the ClubSpark system will be 90 minutes.
- Members may make no more than two (2) bookings per week on the ClubSpark system in peak hours (after 4pm). Members may additionally participate in all organised social play and competition.
- If you have made a booking but have not occupied the court 15 minutes into the start of your booking time, the booking will be considered forfeited and other members will be free to use the court.
- Visitor fees must be paid before the visitor plays by EFT – details are at the bottom of the bookings page.
- For Adult competition, a maximum of 4 teams will be allowed for home matches each week and where this occurs, court sharing to a ratio of 1.5 courts per team will occur. The entry of teams into competitions is to be capped to ensure this ratio is not exceeded.

These changes will be implemented over the next couple of weeks. We recognise these changes may not be popular with everyone but we are aiming to meet the needs as best we can of a growing membership. **Members are expected to act/behave in good faith with these changes in the spirit of being a good club member.**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Your 23/24 membership expires on 31 March. You should have now received an email (check your inbox and/or junk folders) about renewal rates for 2024/25 subscription which are as follows:

- Adult: \$260
- Student: \$165
- Junior: \$165
- Family: \$555
- Non-playing: \$25

Payments should be made by EFT to: **BSB:633000 Account:137756144** and include a Payment description: **RENEWAL-[MEMBER NAME]** (or primary contact if family membership).

Please contact Peter McCaw on 0402 085 347 or email membership@northbalwynntc.org.au if:

- You haven't received a renewal email
- Any of your contact details have changed.
- Are uncertain of your membership category or want to change it.
- You are not renewing your membership so that we can take you off our list. Please return membership cards for reuse.

We welcome all new members who have joined in recent months and hope they have a long and enjoyable association with the Club.

COACHES CORNER

Tennis coaching so far this year has mirrored last term's strong participation by players of all ages and standards who are keen on improving and enjoying their game.

Tennis Matters continues to offer a wide range of learning opportunities ranging from game-based group lessons to the super keen player looking for technically detailed private tuition, as well as physically demanding extended length squad sessions inclusive of coach designed drills and games that mimic specific patterns of match play.

Junior competition participation numbers for the upcoming season are at the highest number ever and this is testament to our highly experienced and motivated coaching team and junior competition sub-committee headed by Jerry Chang.

Andrew Halford and Stuart Brown

www.tennismatters.com.au

CLUB CHAMPS

This Years 2024 Club Championships have so far been a resounding success. Over 60 individual entrants have joined this years events. Round robins have all been concluded and semi and grand final dates will likely be 13/14 April which will be confirmed on the website and via email.

We welcome all members to come down and watch some fantastic matches from our clubs best with a free BBQ on the day.

COMPETITION REPORTS

JUNIORS

As the summer season draws to a close, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our junior teams. A total of seven teams have battled their way into the finals, showcasing exceptional talent and dedication. We extend our heartfelt wishes to these teams as they prepare for their semi-finals and grand-finals. 🏆

The Winter season is just around the corner, scheduled to kick off at the end of April. We're thrilled by the overwhelming interest from players eager to represent the Club. With close to 100 registered interests, we anticipate welcoming many new junior members to our vibrant community. Our Junior Subcommittee and Coaching team are collaborating on team selections, ensuring a competitive and supportive environment for all players. See you on the courts! 🎾

SENIORS

The Summer Season has recently been completed with by 5 teams spread across ERT and WDTA competitions. We had premiers in our Open Sets 6 team, captained by Lachlan McDonald who won their grand final this past weekend, bringing another flag for the club.

For the upcoming Winter season, we have three teams playing, looking to have fun and play some tough tennis.

MID WEEK LADIES

No report

METRO MASTERS

MMTA is a Thursday afternoon competition open to men and women over 50 year of age, with the current season ending in June. North Balwyn has two mens teams playing currently.

Section 1: just over the halfway point of the season, the team are in the race for the finals despite having lost our number 1 player to a new job.

Section 4: it has been a busy time for captain John Coulson to put a team together each week. We welcome new member Michael Shi to the team and with John Nemaric back from injury the team should make the final and be a good chance for the flag.

NIGHT TENNIS

There are a total of 20 NBTC teams this season spread over Mon-Thur nights. The season is just over half way through and we have 17 teams currently in the top 4 of each section which is a great effort.

FENCING

Everyone will have noticed the gaps in the new fencing at the north and south ends of Courts 3-6 which occurred because of the unevenness of the ground. After much effort, we have agreed with the original contactor on a solution to the gaps in the fence at the south/street end of Courts 3-6. These works will occur in the second week of the school holidays to ensure minimal inconvenience as the courts will not be available for use on those days – we will update the booking system when dates are confirmed. The north end is particularly complicated due to the condition of the brickwork and the levels of the footpath and the contractor is looking at what options there may be with a date to fix this yet to be determined.

COURTS 7 & 8 REDEVELOPMENT

Significant effort has also been put in to get quotes for the conversion of Courts 7 & 8 from en-tout-cas to a synthetic surface. It is surprising how difficult it is to get quotes and ensure we are comparing apples with apples, but we are nearly there. The committee will hopefully be in a position to make a decision at its next meeting in April with the works likely to be done in/around September 2024 school holidays.

Beyond that we will be looking at replacing the surface on Courts 3-6 with a timeline yet to be worked out.

CLUBHOUSE

There have been a number of occasions lately where the clubhouse has not been left in an acceptable condition. All users of the Clubhouse (social/competition players, other members, coaching students/families) are again reminded that you are expected to clean up after yourself, including:

- do not leave any crockery/cutlery in the sink - wash, dry and put away all dishes, or run the dishwasher if you choose to use it
- wipe benchtops
- vacuum the floor and carpets if
- empty the bins
- As our contracted cleaner only comes once a week, we have to do our own part in helping to maintain the clubhouse for other members to enjoy.

Magpies: if you are at the courts on a quiet day you may notice our resident magpies. Please keep the club doors closed as they have learned that the clubhouse floor has the odd crumb of food and they walk in. While it is good that they help clean up they do leave their own deposits that are not so easy to clean up.

ORGANISED SOCIAL TENNIS

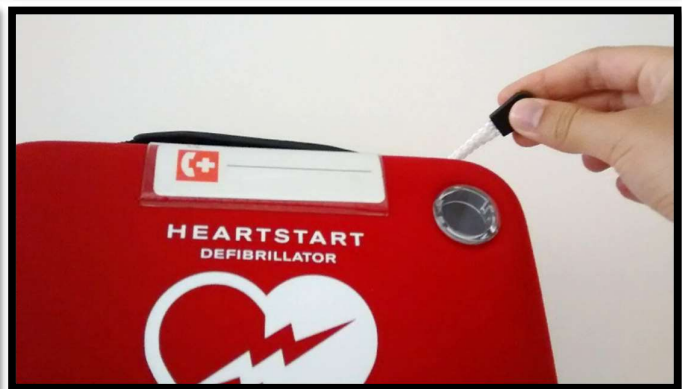
There are a number of opportunities for all adult members to play social tennis at NBTC. "Organised social tennis" means there are courts allocated for doubles play, with good used tennis balls supplied by the club.

Allocated times are available on Monday and Thursday mornings and afternoons, as well as Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. On Friday Nights, the North Balwyn, Canterbury, East Camberwell and Deepdene Tennis Clubs take turns to host a Twilight Tennis event one Friday evening of each month, with North Balwyn hosting it on the second Friday of each month. The evening starts at 7.30pm. Entry by gold coin donation, with tennis balls and a light supper provided. All members are welcome, including friends and family.

With the changes outlined above under Court Availability, we are introducing Social night tennis on Mondays and Wednesdays between 7pm and 9pm. This will be a time when all members may play with others in a social environment

A reminder that visitors are welcome to join these times (after paying the visitors fee) up to a maximum of 6 times, after which they need to join as a member.

DEFIBRILLATOR REMINDER



To access it, you need to reach up and unzip the casing which remains attached to the wall.



Once open, remove the defibrillator and follow the instructions.