

WNX COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT – 2025 AGM - 9TH SEPTEMBER 2025

General Update

Since the 2024 AGM we have completed the Spring 2024 competition, started and completed the Autumn 2025 competition and we are about to start the Spring 2025 competition. In 2024, we had 23 teams but unfortunately this has now dropped to 20 teams in 2025 (we may have 21 or possibly 22 teams in the Spring 2025 competition). The loss of teams has been due to a few main reasons: personal circumstances (injury, moving, travel, work/other conflicts), preference for a different format (i.e. not sitting off between sets) and preference for an earlier finish time (new people find 10.30pm too late to finish). We continue to find new teams, some whole teams coming from other clubs and some new members from other North West competitions or from the Midson Road social groups, who have been assisted to form teams.

The Spring 2024 competition had 160 players (not including reserves) in 23 teams, while for the Autumn 2025 competition there were 135 regular players in 20 teams and 62 additional players who played at various times as reserves. The Spring 2025 competition is likely to have between these two levels. Clearly, participation is still high and a lot of people are enjoying some fun and competitive tennis. We may need to find ways to increase community awareness though and possibly consider other formats to remain attractive for modern busy lifestyles.

It is probably fair to say that WNX is the 2nd competition for most players, with a large majority either playing in MNL (ladies) or TNM (men). In those other competitions though (particularly TNM), there is not the same high participation in WNX, most likely due to many players being unable to commit to more than one competition per week. Multiple invitations have been made to both MNL and TNM competition players to consider WNX but with low response levels. This seems to indicate that future (adult) growth will need to come from the community. In a minor highlight though, we have two Voyager coaches joining the next competition!

There has been a reasonably level standard of play across all divisions, with no team wholly undefeated and generally close positioning on the ladders. New teams have been able to play competitively and a good sense of camaraderie has been reported. It is likely that no teams will be relegated or promoted, as the affected teams feel they are playing at the right level.

Social Tennis

We held multiple social tennis nights over the year, since the last AGM. The first was the Xmas social function and tennis night, which about 80 people attended. Raffle prizes were organised, a barbecue and drinks were served, and presentation of a gift and thank-you card was made to Marina Hurst, who stepped down after 5 years as WNX Competition Secretary. The night was a very big success. Further social nights were held during the January, April and July holidays and these were also generally well attended. These nights are not only a good forum for the existing players to meet and socialise but also enable irregular and new players to experience first-hand what the club has to offer. Generally, this leads to increased participation.

There has also been regular weekly social tennis on competition nights but with just one court being used, due to low attendance levels. These will be monitored for ongoing interest.

Member Feedback

To ensure the ongoing attractiveness of and participation in our WNX Competition, members are encouraged to give feedback and their views are sought from time to time. For example, players in Divisions 2 and 3 (both with a 6-team format) expressed interest in playoffs between the lower finishing teams to be held while the top two teams played the final. This change was introduced in the most recent competition and received positively. Other items of interest have also been regularly communicated to members and this open interaction seems to be appreciated.

Ongoing progress of the competition will be communicated in the monthly reports.

Rod Berry, WNX Competition Secretary