

August 2023 Newsletter

Mt. McIntyre

Our membership continues to grow. We now have a record 147 members. And 67 of our members have purchased a summer pass to play at the Mt. McIntyre tennis courts. We have had an incredible summer for weather. Hopefully we will get a few more weeks of good weather for outdoor play before our fall weather forces us back inside.

Our board wishes to maximize the use of the outdoor courts. We have tweaked the schedule several times, to see if we can get more players out. Very few players have signed up for either the Beginner Round Robins or the Intermediate Round Robins. But the Open round robins and the drop-ins have been busier. So, effective August 20, we are eliminating the beginner and intermediate RR's and simply renaming them Open RR's.

We have also hoped to see more use of the "group booking" option. Here you can reserve a court with one other player for drills, or you can pre-arrange with a group of four to reserve a court. We have set up a "member directory" on our webpage to allow players who wish to be contacted to enter their contact information. Only 16 players have entered their names so far. If you wish to enrol, simply click on "member directory" and enter your details. This is the same process as you follow to reserve a spot in a round robin. There are several "group booking" court spaces throughout the week. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Yukon Championship, August 26

We are holding the first Yukon Championship on August 26 at the CGC. There are two events: an Open Event that will run from 10 am until 1:30 pm, and an Intermediate Event, from 1:30 until 5 pm. Each event can accommodate 20 players. As of August 16, the Open event is full and has a waitlist. The Intermediate event is also full. We expect that the CGC will be available. But in case the CGC is being used to accommodate the wildfire evacuees from Yellowknife (or elsewhere) we have received permission to use the tennis courts at Mt. Mc. **Assume that the CGC is our venue unless informed otherwise.**

Please remember to bring whatever food, snacks, etc., you may need. There are also commercial food facilities at the CGC (Subway, Booster Juice)

Fall Schedule

We again have the use of the Takhini School gym on the weekends this school year. Our times are the same as the last two years': Saturdays from 2-6 pm, and Sundays from 9-3 pm. In addition, we have 2 hours on Friday evenings at Elijah Smith School. To play indoors at Takhini and/or Elijah Smith, this fall you will need to purchase a Takhini/E. Smith fall pass for \$20, which is good until the Christmas break. A similar \$20 pass (Takhini/E. Smith winter/spring pass) will be required to play from January until the first weekend in June, 2024. You will be able to purchase the pass on our webpage once it is set up.

For September, starting on Friday, September 8, our plan is:

Fridays 5-7 pm at Elijah Smith: An Open Round Robin, maximum 15 players

Saturdays, Takhini, 2-4 pm: Facilitated round robin (12 players). This is intended for novice and intermediate players who wish to have some instruction and some round robin play.

Saturdays, Takhini, 4-6 pm, 3 courts available for personal court bookings

Sundays, Takhini, 9-11 am, advanced round robin (15 players)

Sundays, Takhini, 11 am-1 pm, strong intermediate round robin (15 players)

Sundays, Takhini, 1 pm-3 pm, intermediate/novice round robin (15 players)

Once the events are listed on our webpage you will be able to register. Indoor events will be posted on our webpage in early September. For those who have not registered for events before, it is a simple process. Click on Takhini Events (for example), (once you have purchased a Takhini/E. Smith pass), select the event you wish to register for and follow the prompts. You can reserve a space a week in advance.

Request for feedback: Ladder League

For the past three seasons we have offered a ladder league at Takhini. The ladder league is a means to allow players to play in a round robin event with others at close to the same skill level. Each level has 5 players. Games are doubles, to 11 points, win by 2. Each player's score is recorded for each game. Each player plays 4 games and has one bye. The player with the highest cumulative score moves up one level and conversely the player with the lowest cumulative score moves down one level the following week.

Thus, in theory, after a few weeks, players who may have been improperly positioned at the start of the season will find themselves shifted either up or down the ladder and thus playing competitive games regardless of their skill level. The ladder works best if there is a high level of participation. A five-game round robin can be completed in 90 minutes. So, we could accommodate 3 levels x 4 time slots (12 levels, 60 players). We propose trying this out in October, if there is enough interest. Last year there was not enough interest to make the ladder league effective or worthwhile. So, the board will only consider re-instating the ladder league if our members see it as a worthwhile event. Please let Jim Gilpin know if you are interested. Our expectation is that you commit for a month at a time. It could start in October. His e-mail is jgilpin@northwestel.net