

## Winter doubles social tennis – Lancaster Tennis Club

We are running Thursday and Friday sessions again.

Each week you will be put in a group with three other players of a similar ability. This will change weekly depending on results and availability. We will order the players according to our best guess at ability – so apologies in advance if we get it wrong for newer players. It will soon sort itself and if anyone feels they have been put in completely the wrong group, let us know and we will correct it.

Each 'match' involves playing 8 games with each partner – 24 games in total. Normal rules for deuces etc apply. At the end of the session, you record how many games you won. We use three courts, so can have 12 people maximum on any evening. On Fridays we use two and leave one available for informal social play. Start time is 7pm. It should take about 90 minutes to complete. If we get more sign-ups we could have 2 sessions – but at the moment this isn't an issue.

A list is sent out each Sunday (or Monday) of players who said they may be available on that date. If circumstances have changed you can let us know and we will omit you. On Monday (or sometimes Tuesday!) the groups for the week will be sent out. **If you have a problem after this it will be up to you to try to find a replacement, not the organisers.** There will also be one 'lead' person who has the task of deciding whether or not it is fit to play and to inform the others if it is (usually a collective decision – it's up to you)! **Please then send me the scores each week.**

If there are spare players, there will be a list of subs. These are people who should be available and are the ones to try first if you have to drop out. We try to guarantee anyone missing out one week will get a game the next week.

It would be useful to know if you would normally be available Thursdays or Fridays. Some people are OK with either and a few (the fit ones!) are happy to play both if needed. If you are very organised and want to send me a list of future availability, I can log that on the spreadsheet. Every week, you will have an opportunity to change this.

These sessions are open to members only, but will be suitable for older juniors as well as adults to join in.

***WhatsApp makes this easier, and everyone participating is on there in the Winter Doubles group. I'm afraid it isn't practical for me to communicate by other means as it gets too time-consuming.***

It is OK to join in – even if you are only available for a few dates and all standards of players are welcome.

Finally – people asked me how we organise the ladder – we try to move people up and down based on results, but obviously the people playing change from week to week. The aim is to put people with players of similar ability, but also to move people around so you get a variety of opponents. Some weeks there may only be four available, so my choice is obviously limited!

Do be patient if weekly lists are sometimes a little late – it does rely on me or Maxine getting this done – amongst many other things...

### Communications – the success of this relies on good communication!

Sunday – email/WhatsApp of available people will go out. **If you're on the list but can't play let me know asap. Likewise, if you aren't on, but want to play – let me know.**

**Monday/Tuesday – team lists for the week goes out – with list of subs available. After that – any changes are up to you. Too complicated for us otherwise.**

*Most of all – just have fun*

Steve Garland & Maxine Norman

Email: [steve@stevegarland.co.uk](mailto:steve@stevegarland.co.uk) or join on our Facebook page 'Lancaster Tennis Club'

**To defray some of the cost of floodlights, we are asking each participant to contribute £10. If you think you may not play often, you can pay £1 a session – when you reach ten, you will not need to pay any more. This will cover both this autumn session and the spring one in the New Year. All in – there are about 25 weeks of play!**