

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

November, 2024



Yulia Costello plays tough in the WCRC summer singles tournament.



Photo by Bob Satcher

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

P.O. Box 4574 • Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy November!

The days may be getting shorter, and the weather may be cooler, but there is still plenty of opportunities to get out there on the courts.



On the WCRC side, we have our **Fall Mixed Doubles** and **WING Singles** leagues going on, so get your matches in before it really starts to get cold!

Garvin Tom
2024 WCRC President

Winter Doubles is just around the corner starting in December, so stay tuned.

On the USTA side, we have a couple of teams representing the WCRC in Nationals in November. **Miwon Vella's** 55+ 7.0 Women's team will be in Surprise, AZ on the first weekend of the month to play for the national title, while **Lena Larionova's** 18+ 4.5 Women will also be in Surprise on the following weekend to play against the best in the nation. Congratulations and good luck to both teams, but more importantly, have fun!

For those of us not good enough to make Nationals (lol!), we have playoffs coming up for 70+ Adult, 55+ Mixed, and Combo seasons. It looks like all of our 55+ Mixed teams made playoffs while the Combo regular season is winding down with several teams either clinching playoff berths or still in the hunt to make it to the postseason. Good luck to everyone out there!

See you on the courts!

Garvin Tom



M E M B E R S H I P

Welcome to Our **19** New Members
Current Membership: 1,198

Andi Callaway	Alamo	4.0	Arnold Morse	Pinole	3.0
Lisa Chapman	Danville	4.5	Vikas Prakash	San Ramon	3.0
Robert Gee	Orinda	3.5	Premraj Rengaram	Livermore	4.0
John Hadley	Brentwood	4.0	Thomas Roddenberry	Clayton	4.0
Trupti Haldar	Orinda	4.0	Deanna Tanner	Walnut Creek	2.5
Darren Huynh	Dublin	3.5	Quoc Anh Tran	Lafayette	3.5
Deepak Jain	San Ramon	4.0			
Rahul Kuruvilla	San Ramon	3.5			
Somi Lim	Walnut Creek	4.5			
Amer Malik	Livermore	3.5			
Matt Matrisian	Clayton	4.0			
Beth Mintz	Moraga	N.A.			
Marilyn Morrell-Kristal	Pleasanton	4.5			



Membership questions contact:
 Pam Maloney at 925-787-3970 or
 email at: pam4tenis@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

Each month a random draw will pick a WCRC member's name to receive free WCRC membership for a year!

This month's winner is:

Debashis Panda



Tennis News



Tom Breza 2024

Tennis and Fundraising for Mt Diablo tennis!

On Sunday September 29th we held our annual tennis round robin and fundraiser in memory of Tom Breza and to benefit the tennis programs at Mt. Diablo High School. It was 8 years ago when we held our first, and this year was another tremendous success as we raised over \$1,000 for equipment and projects. In addition, The Walnut Creek Racquet Club members donated several racquets, bags, balls and much more. We had over 30 players and donors come out for a day of fun and competitive tennis.

Tom Breza, one of the original members of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club, wanted the youth to learn how to play this beautiful sport. This group of supporters and volunteers are honoring Tom's wish by providing the high school players with the resources that they need. Now, this help is also reaching Concord HS and Ygnacio Valley HS Tennis Programs.



You Win or You Learn: **Cristina Tudor**

Interview and article by Ian McLaughlin

As an effort to get to know our membership the Board has decided to have a monthly column "Member Spotlight". We will be interviewing WCRC members and getting to know them. This article will help us find out how they got introduced to tennis, their background, any favorite memories, etc. We hope you enjoy this commentary.

WCRC member Cristina Tudor is a very competitive player who enjoys her many victories on the court, but she also stresses that win or lose, there's a valuable lesson embedded in every match. She calls tennis a humbling sport, and believes that if you let your ego grow too big eventually the fates will grab you and bring you back down. And this comes from a person who is preparing for a second trip to Nationals in the last decade, so you can tell that Cristina has truly internalized this philosophy to the benefit of her tennis game as well as her mental health.

Cristina was raised in Romania and emigrated to the United States as an adult in 2011, moving directly to San Francisco, to enjoy all the things US had to offer and to live authentically. Growing up in Romania Cristina had an inclination for sports and learned tennis as a young child but her primary sport was soccer. By the time Cristina reached high school, however, she was focused primarily on her academic studies and deprioritized athletics.

After a lengthy hiatus from the game, after she settled in San Francisco Cristina decided to pick tennis back up so she joined USTA and self rated as a 3.5 player back in 2013, but surprisingly she had difficulty finding other players and learning about league play initially. That changed when Cristina moved to the East Bay Area back in 2018. After having so much difficulty finding teams and hitting partners following her emigration to San Francisco, Cristina's introduction to WCRC demonstrates concretely how the community at Heather Farm mobilizes to welcome new players into the tennis family, which is a hallmark of the club. By that time Cristina was living in Hayward and had begun hitting more regularly with a group of players she met through an informal tennis "meetup", and then at a party hosted by her brother in Walnut Creek it was WCRC member Tal Yahud, who told her about Walnut Creek Racquet Club and the wonderful tennis community we have here, and Tal in turn introduced Cristina to the unofficial mayor of Heather Farm, Tammie Snyder, who invited Cristina out to one of her famous Monday mega practices, where Cristina met all the WCRC glitterati. It's uncanny how many players were introduced to the WCRC community in



a similar fashion, and like so many others, Cristina was quickly and warmly welcomed at WCRC, which was the type of tennis environment she had been seeking but couldn't find elsewhere. A lot of players who have been spotlighted in this space have cited the incredibly warm and collegial tennis community we have at WCRC as their favorite feature of the club, but Cristina's experience truly demonstrates this inclusionary community spirit in action.

Cristina now plays almost daily and after originally self rating at 3.5, now competes at the 4.5 level after much success, including going to Nationals as a member of Tammie Snyder's 3.5 team. As of the date of this publication Cristina is preparing for her second trip to Nationals with a 4.5 team she co-captains with Lena Larionova. Aside from the fantastic community of individuals at Heather Farm, Cristina loves the fact that the quality of tennis is very high at WCRC and feels that it has definitely helped her raise the level of her own game.



When she's not on the court or preparing her team for a match, Cristina works in sales in the design-build industry, and enjoys traveling the world with her partner Giuliana. Although she graduated from law school in Romania, Cristina was not keen to work within the Romanian legal system, and when she arrived in the United States Cristina embarked on a completely new career path in design-build, with the upside that she can work mostly from home, which gives her a lot of flexibility to arrange her packed tennis schedule around her work obligations. Not surprisingly for someone who lives halfway around the globe from her native country, Cristina also loves to travel. At the time of this interview she had just recently returned from her most recent trip to Hawaii. (Aloha!)



Cristina Tudor continued...



Every player who has been interviewed for the “member spotlight” series has cited the community of players at Heather Farm as their favorite aspect of playing tennis at WCRC, and Cristina echoed this same theme but with a unique perspective. Cristina grew up in a very small town in Romania, living within a close-knit community in the most authentic sense of the term. When she moved to the crowded Bay Area, with its transient and diverse population, she missed the type of community spirit she knew in her native country and tried to find a similar niche here, but it wasn’t until she landed at Heather Farm that she found the type of community she had been seeking. Unfortunately we’re now missing one club member, as Cristina’s German Shepherd “Candy”, who would

often accompany Cristina to the courts, sadly passed away in April. Since our pets are part of our families, Candy’s passing leaves a void at Heather Farm. Perhaps Glenn McBee’s beloved canine companion “Ace” can pull double duty to make up for Candy’s absence.

So for Cristina Tudor, Walnut Creek Racquet Club not only provided an outlet for her obvious talent on the court, it also provided her with a tennis home and the type of community she had been seeking ever since leaving her native Romania.

A lot of organizations believe they have a strong community spirit, but at WCRC our actions speak louder than words. ▲





Tri-Level



Great fun, Sheer joy, and Pure Optimism in the hopes of procuring one more “claim to tennis fame!!”

An honor and a privilege to Captain and to find such an eclectic group of talented young ladies who came together to battle, to challenge and to compete for the love of Tennis! Love you guys! WooHoo! Arlene

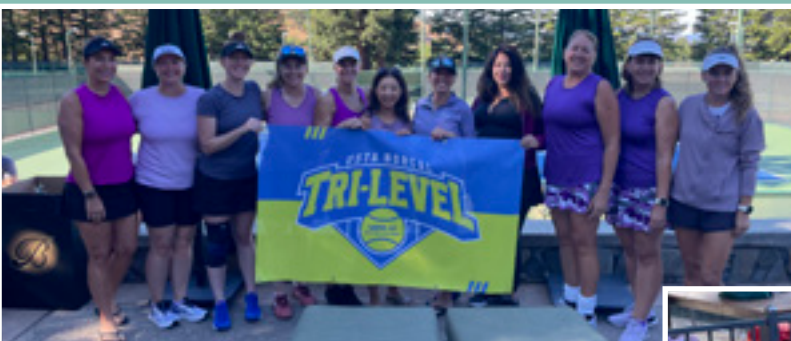


*Tri-Level Tourney “Mixie Chics”
Darcy Beauchemin,
Heidi Belton,
Captain Arlene Acosta, Maria Rueda, Bek Chee.
(missing: Christine Meng)*



“Mixie Chics” (Back:) Mary Akli , DeeDee Dyer, Kris Karr; (Front Row:) Natalie Duxbury, Jisun Yoo, Christina Kua, Captain Arlene Acosta.

Team Wild Things had an amazing run at tri level in Blackhawk. We swept our first 2 opponents on Friday and our first opponent on Saturday for a great start to the tournament! We eventually lost 1-2 to Mill Valley on Saturday afternoon but still made it to semi finals! Our first opponents we’re Palo Alto, let’s call them Rinconada lite, and we lost 1-2. But in the final match we beat Roseville 2-1 and took third place! We even got to celebrate Samantha’s birthday on Saturday afternoon. What a fun time hanging with some really cool women and enjoying great tennis!



Lisa Italia, Tami Lightle, Samantha Dullea, Stefanie Cohen, Kayla Baier, Ro Kim, Captain Cara Mia Barnacascel, Rebecca Kay, Melissa Bach, Sandra Harris, Ana Larner

*Captain Cara Mia Barnacascel, Ro Kim,
Tami Lightle, Melissa Bach, Stefanie Cohen,
Audra Lutter, Ana Larner*

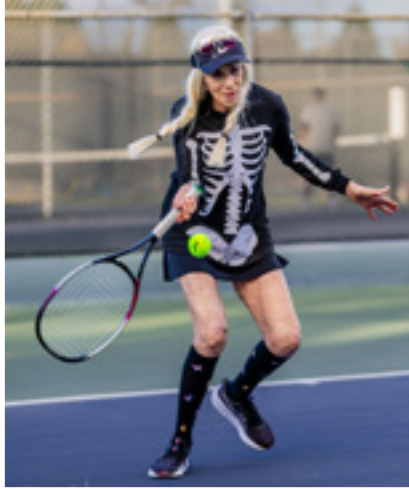


Samantha Dullea, Stefanie Cohen, Melissa Bach, Kayla Baier, Captain Cara Mia Barnacascel, Sandra Harris, Lisa Italia, Ana Larner, Tami Lightle, Ro Kim



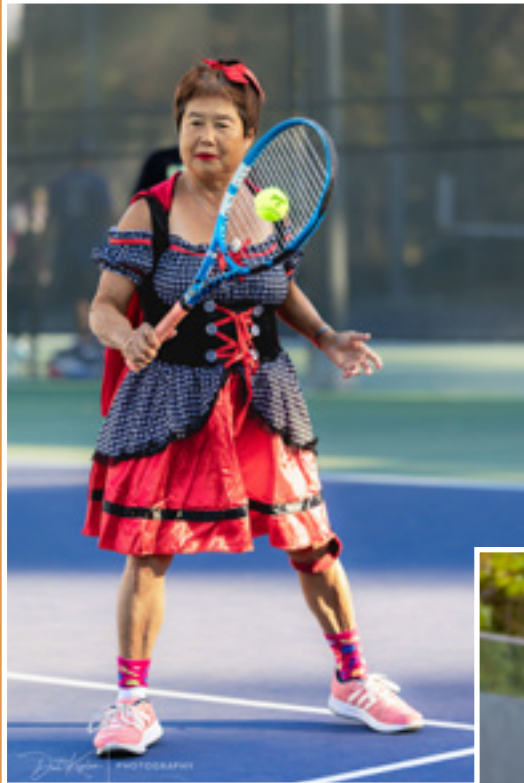


Halloween Potluck





Halloween Potluck





Halloween Potluck





Winter **s**pring

2024 Men's and Women's WING (**W**inter **S**pring) Singles Leagues

Registration Form

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Current Rating: 2.5 4.5
 3.0 5.0
 3.5 5.5
 4.0

I would like to enter the following division:

- Women's 3.0 Men's 3.0
- Women's 3.5 Men's 3.5
- Women's 4.0 Men's 4.0
- Women's 4.5/5.0 Men's 4.5/5.0
- Women's 50+ (3.0-5.0) Men's 50+ (3.0-5.0)

50+ Division is 1 flight with ALL levels (3.0 - 5.0)

- I am a: WCRC Member (\$10)
 Non-Member (\$10)

Dates: October 14th - April 13th

Entry Fee: \$10 (per bracket)

Format: Men's Singles/Women's Singles

Divisions: Men's 3.0 - 4.5+ & 50+
 Women's 3.0 - 4.5+ & 50+

Scheduling: This is an open schedule. Players are responsible for scheduling their own matches. Players will be provided with a contact list of participants within their division.

Match Format: Best best two out of three sets. When opponents agree, a super tiebreaker (10 point) can be used in lieu of the third set.

Match Site: Any site mutually agreed upon

Scoring: The winner is responsible for reporting the match score by logging on to www.wcrc.net.

Standings: Division standing will be updated on a real time basis as scores are posted

Tournament: End-of-season tournament by arrangement for top 4 players in standings. Playoff matches to be complete 4/13 to 5/31.

Match Min.: 1 match

Checks to: Walnut Creek Racquet Club (**NOT** WCRC)
 c/o Cameron Coltharp
 336 Blue Ridge Drive
 Martinez, CA 94553

Or Online: wcrc.net/login

Questions: camcoltharp@gmail.com
 510-717-2107

Summer Singles Tournament



After starting the regular season back in April, and running through the summer, Sept/Oct brought about tournament time for the Summer Singles league. Early rounds in the larger divisions were played at the rate of one per week until we reached the final weekend, which brought the semi-final and championship matches for each level. Most of the final matches were played onsite at Heather Farm in tournament format, with a tourney desk, results board, and some extra fans to watch, ramping up the fun. Congratulations to all the champions and finalists on a successful season with the league!

If you enjoy playing singles, or would just like to try it out, the next season of Summer Singles will start up again next April. Whether you are looking to play just a few matches, or you want to get on the court A LOT (2024 iron man – Jeff Smith, 32 matches, plus playoffs), Summer Singles is a good way to get the competitive juices going, without having quite the intensity of a USTA match. The competition then heats up a bit with the tournament stage, with both WCRC bragging rights, and some great swag at stake. For those looking for some singles play over the fall/winter, you can check out our WING singles league. Hope we see you out there! Play hard, play safe, and have fun! Steve Lehmer



Photos by Bob Satcher

Summer Singles Tournament



Photos by Bob Satcher

Summer Singles Tournament



Photos by Bob Satcher

Summer Singles Results



3.0 Women's

Champion – Miwa Yoneyama
Finalist – Laura Johnson
6-0, 6-0



3.5 Women's

Champion - Cora Bellamy
Finalist – Yulia Costello
6-1, 6-0

3.0 Men's

Champion – Dave Wong
Finalist – Jon Kawamoto
6-2, 6-1

3.5 Men's

Champion – Brian Hennessy
Finalist – Dorukhan Oguz
6-4, 6-4

4.0 Men's

Champion – Steve Lehmer
Finalist – Adam Chacksfield
6-0, 6-2



4.5 Men's

Champion – Ryan Lehmer
Finalist – Tommy Roddenberry
6-2, 6-0

2024 WCRC Fall Mixed Doubles League Registration Form (Also on-line at www.wcrc.net)

MALE PLAYER

FEMALE PLAYER

Name		
Mailing Address		
City		
ZIP Code		
Home Phone		
Work or Cell Phone		
E-mail address		
NTRP level		

WCRC Member? YES NO

YES NO

Division for which you are registering (please check one): Fill out a new form for additional levels.

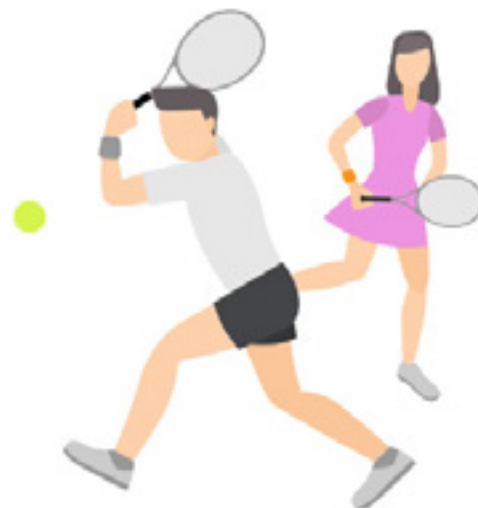
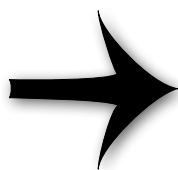
- Mixed 6.0
 Mixed 7.0
 Mixed 8.0
 Mixed 9.0

If you would like to register by mail, return this form by **December 1, 2024** with a check for registration fees (payable to Walnut Creek Racquet Club **NOT** WCRC) mail to: WCRC, P.O. Box 4574, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Questions?

**Call Lynne Weinshelbaum at 925.285.9503
or via e-mail lweinshelbaum@yahoo.com**

Find detailed Information on next page...



League Information: Players may enter the WCRC Mixed Doubles League in more than one division (i.e, 6.0 and 7.0), as long as he/she is not playing below his/her level. If a player is entering in more than one division, he/she may enter with the same partner or a different partner but may not enter with different partners at the same level.

2024 WCRC Fall Mixed Doubles League Registration Form (Also on-line at www.wcrc.net)

Don't forget that the league registration fee includes unlimited regular season doubles matches, a league gift and may include an end of the season tournament dependent upon weather and court scheduling.

LEAGUE COMMISSIONER Lynne Weinshelbaum: 925.285.9503

DATES September 1, 2024 – February 21, 2025

ENTRY FEES

WCRC Members	
On-Line Registration:	(\$40 per team)
Mail In Registration:	(\$50 per team)
Non WCRC Members	
On-Line Registration:	(\$60 per team)
Mail In Registration:	(\$70 per team)

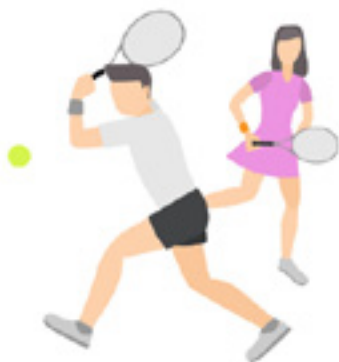
FORMAT Mixed Doubles
(players grouped by combined NTRP level; ie. 7.0 can be a 4.0 man and a 3.0 woman or two 3.5 players)

NTRP LEVELS Mixed 6.0–9.0*

SCHEDULING This is an open schedule. Players are responsible for scheduling their own matches. Players will be provided with a contact list of participants within their division.

MATCH FORMAT Best two-out-of-three set format.
A super tiebreaker can be played if all players agree, otherwise full third.
Both teams responsible for bringing balls to match; winning team gets the unopened can.
Matches should be played according to the "Rules of Tennis."

TOURNAMENT End of season tournament with draw determined by league standings to be held over the weekend of Mar 1–2, 2025 dependent upon court scheduling and weather. To qualify for the tournament, teams must have completed and reported at least 2 matches during the regular league season. Depending on the number of entrants tournament play may include Friday night play. In addition, draws with large numbers of players may be required to play matches prior to the tournament weekend. Seeding for the tournament will be based on regular season standings of the top 4 teams in each division. The more matches you and your partner play, the higher your ranking will be. A minimum of 4 teams are required to generate a draw.



* Teams with ratings more than 1 full step apart (i.e. 3.0 & 5.0 to make up an 8.0 team) are not eligible to play the end of season tournament.

OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC**Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm****App Store****Google Play Store****NEW RESERVATION/REGISTRATION SYSTEM ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Lifetime Activities has officially moved our court reservations and class registrations to the CourtReserve platform. In addition to a more streamlined approach, there is also an app that you can download for your phone that you will be able to use to make court reservations from!

NOVEMBER PASSHOLDER SPECIAL: WHEEL OF THANKS!

November is the month of thanks and giving! For this month's passholder special, Lifetime Activities Walnut Creek Passholders can come into the Pro Shop and spin our "wheel of thanks" for a chance to win prizes! Passholders may win up to 1 prize during the month.

1 spin per visit, prizes cannot be combined with other sales that may be occurring at the time of the passholder's win. Passholders have until 11/30 to redeem their prize.

WINTER 2025 CLASS & CAMP REGISTRATIONS IS OPEN!

Registrations for our Winter 2025 Classes and Camps are now live for Youth and Adults! Please note that all registrations for the Winter 2025 session will go through the new CourtReserve platform. For more information, please visit the office or view our offerings online at <https://www.lifetimeactivities.com/walnut-creek/>

USTA MATCH SCHEDULE WIDGET

View upcoming USTA matches here:

<https://widgets.courtreserve.com/Online/Public/EmbedCode/13230/41356?customId=71165>

**TAKE YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH SWINGVISION!**

Lifetime Activities is thrilled to announce our returning partnership with SwingVision, an app that provides real-time automated video analysis, stats, and line-calling for tennis and pickleball using an iPhone or iPad. Scan the QR code to claim a free trial of SwingVision Pro and try it out with a free demo of the SwingStick phone mount. You can record practice and match sessions and improve your game! Phone mounts available on a first come first serve basis. See front desk for details.

Visit us online at www.lifetimeactivities.com or stop by the the office at 1751 Heather Drive.

Please call with any questions at 925-945-0105 or 925-945-1102.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2024

Nov

Dec

Nov 1	USTA Combo Doubles DT Season Closes
Nov 3	USTA Combo Doubles Season Closes
Nov 4	USTA 40+ Team Registration Opens
Nov 4	USTA 40+ DT Team Registration Opens
Nov 4	USTA 18+ Mixed Team Registration Opens
Nov 7-10	USTA 55+ Mixed League Playoffs Round 1
Nov 11-15	USTA 70+ DT League Playoffs Round 1 USTA Combo Doubles DT Playoffs Rd 1
Nov 14-17	USTA 55+ Mixed League Playoffs Round 2 USTA Combo Doubles League Playoffs Rd 1
Nov 18-22	USTA Combo Doubles DT Playoffs Rd 2
Nov 21-24	USTA 55+ Mixed League Playoffs Round 3
Nov 21-25	USTA Combo Doubles League Playoffs Rd 2
Nov 18-22	USTA 70+ DT League Playoffs Round 2
Dec 1	WCRC Winter Doubles League Opens
Dec 2	USTA 40+ Team Registration Closes
Dec 2	USTA 40+ DT Team Registration Closes
Dec 2	USTA 18+ Mixed Team Registration Closes
Dec 2	USTA 65+ DT Team Registration Opens

WCRC LEAGUES/EVENTS

Winter Doubles League Opens - December 1st
 Fall Mixed Doubles League Closes - Feb 21, 2025
 Fall Mixed Doubles Tournament - Mar 7-9, 20235
 WING Singles League Closes - April 13, 2025
 WING Singles Playoffs Apr 13 - May 31 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

January - Sept, 2024



Income

Total League Dues	\$4,932.58
Membership Dues	\$18,231.14
Tournament Dues	
Calcutta Tournament	\$1,317.93
Calcutta Auction	\$4,025.00
Total Calcutta Tournament	\$5,342.93
Mid-Summer Night Tournament	\$867.91
Total Tournament Dues	\$6,210.84
Total Income	\$29,374.56
Gross Profit	\$29,374.56

Expenses

Board Meeting	\$683.34
Captains Meetings	\$825.18
Gifts	\$798.54
Total League Expenses	\$5,511.41
Licenses and Permits	\$20.00
Nationals Fee	\$1,125.00
Nationals Stipend	\$500.00
Office Supplies	\$87.89
Total Printing and Reproduction	\$557.79
Total Professional Fees	\$320.00
Rental Fees	\$1,270.00
Sectionals Fees	\$3,625.00
Software	\$78.94
Tax Preparation	\$335.00
Taxes	\$25.00
Total Tournament Expenses	\$11,396.39
Website	\$3,202.05
Total Expenses	\$30,361.53
Net Operating Income	-\$986.97
Other Income	
Other Income	\$-4.00
Total Other Income	-\$4.00
Net Other Income	-\$4.00
Net Income	-\$990.97

Balance through Sept, 2024 **\$73,643.95**

Mixed Doubles League - Standings

6.0

No matches played yet

W

L

7.0

Sandra Harris/Eugene Beyder
 Karlene Steelman/Phillip Johnson
 Stefanie Cohen/Brian Hennessy

1

0

1

0

1

0

8.0

Pru Pruden/Ben Feinberg

1

0

9.0

No matches played yet



WING Singles League - Standings



Men's

3.0

W

L

no matches played

3.5

Jim Wray

2

0

4.0

Dorukhan Oguz

3

0

4.5+

Sam Zeisler

1

0

Patrick Lane

1

0

Jeff Smith

1

0

50+

no matches played

Women's

3.0

W

L

No matches played yet

3.5

No matches played yet

4.0

No matches played yet

4.5+

No matches played yet

50+

No matches played yet