

**Match Report 17/18**

**Winter 17/18**

Three mixed teams battled through the winter In Divisions 3, 5 & 6

The A Team were promoted to Div 2, the B team remain in Div 5 narrowly missing successive promotions by 1 point and the C team remain in Div 6

Team Captains:

A Team: Fraser MacMillan

B Team: Tina MacMillan

C Team: Jenny Chambers (David Stephenson for the 18/19 Season)

**Summer 2018**

City League – 4 Men’s & 3 Ladies Teams

LTA Jewson Mixed – Two mixed teams (one each in Div 1 & 2)

LTA Jewson Veterans Mixed – One team in Div 3

**City League Results**

**Mens A Team –** Div 2 / Team Captain: Rob Hall / P12 W7 L5 Remain in Div 2

After the first 3 matches when we had won 1 & lost 2 and my initial thoughts were purely of survival but some great results in the middle of the season changed this around being 6 wins and 3 losses at one point. This year has been the closest City league division I have ever known and the standard as good as the top division at times.

The most disappointing/frustrating match was being beat by Cromer away in our 10th match - Cromer have fielded some relatively weak teams this season but managed to get their full team out plus an extremely strong A team player for our match! Think this may be the one that means we just miss out on promotion.

Thanks to the 14 players that played for me this season (including Fraser & Stuart who helped get a couple of crucial 34-30 wins).

**Mens B Team –** Div 3 / Team Captain: Adam Fryatt / P12 W7 D3 L2 - 2nd Promoted to Div 2

Having started as captain in 2012 and division 7, this was our 3rd year in division 3 and beginning to think we had found our level.  Again, this year we failed to beat a team that was or will be relegated, but at least drew both matches which was an improvement.

We lost both matches to Stanmore B who finished top but only by 34-30 in the away fixture.

Our last match of the season was away to Acle, needing 1 point to gain promotion but with only Adam and Nathan available from the squad.  Stephen Jeffs who played well was called in from the D team and Rob Hall, who drives back from Cromer arriving at 18:40 having already played 3 matches in the Cromer tournament that day looking like he needs a bed not a tennis racket :) Anyway, at the half way stage and trailing 18-14, Rob and Nathan win 10-6 leaving A & S needing a draw to secure promotion.  A & S won 11-5 making the final score 39-29 win.

So Division 2 "here we come!" which will be a challenge but as most of the B team played for Rob's A team at some stage we know what to expect.

Many Thanks to all who played this season and hope you have enjoyed.

**Mens C Team –** Div 4 / Team Captain: Rob Atkinson / P12-W9-L3 1st Promoted to Div 3

This has been a fantastic effort by the C team squad. When I joined the club three years ago we were in Division 6, since this time we have been promoted as champions in three consecutive seasons.  
  
2016 – Div 6 Champions  
2017 – Div 5 Champions  
2018 – Div 4 Champions  
  
I think for the first time in the clubs history we have the C Team in Division 3. Next year will be tough, but our small but dedicated squad (Chris Hardwick, Fraser, Stuart Malone, Stuart Murray, Me) have improved our game year on year and developed great partnerships.  
  
Slow start to the season with a loss to Brooke, but to finish with 7 straight wins with nail bitters away to Cromer and a strong win at Stanmore (last game of the season) secured promotion.  
  
We really have some strong men at the club and healthy competition for the teams. We have a had a few surprised opponents stating “You’re the C team, hate to face your other teams!’’ I think continued success really raises Cringleford’s profile in Norfolk.  
  
Well done to all teams!

**Mens D Team –** Div 7 / Team captain: David Stephenson / P8 W6 D1 & L1 – 1st Promoted to Div 6

A great season, the only team we lost to (Gorleston) we then beat at home convincingly.

Thanks to our C team comrades and 4 new players who joined the club and were immediately selected to great effect.  My greatest contribution was being injured in the first match and enabling better players to beat the opposition.

Our team showed their tremendous commitment by threatening Reepham with physical violence after severe provocation and, equally positively, in finding a pub and fish and chips after our only loss.

Onward and upward!!

**Ladies A Team** – Div 1 / Team Captain: Anna Linton / P12 W5 L7 – 4th Remain in Div 1

We started the season with a group of fit dedicated ladies - and we ended the season with a group of fit dedicated ladies - just different ones!

Injuries took 3 of our main A team players out for large chunks of the season but thanks to having such a large pool of great players and the support from the other captains we were able to field a strong team for every match.

The standard seems to be getting higher every year in Div 1 so even with a good team it is tough.  It all came down to our last match against Brooke to decide who went down.  Holly and Mandy had started the year in the B team but thankfully had been able to step up to the A team for most of the second half of the season.  With Verena and Harriet they won a very tough final match 35-29 against a very strong Brooke team - this meant we stay up and get to play with our B team in Div 1 next year.  Phew.

It was a fantastic team effort this year with lots of support from the B team (and from our stalwart A teamers who were still standing!)

**Ladies B Team** – Div 2 / Team Captain: Sally Hardwick / P12 W7 L5 – 2nd promoted to Div 1

Following promotion to Division 2 last year my initial thoughts were how on earth were we going to fare in the next division, knowing the standard would be much higher. I need not have worried!

We luckily had a large pool of players and had an excellent start to the season.

The fantastic weather this summer meant no rearranging except for the day when England played in the semis of the World Cup!

The second half of the season proved to be very different. Injuries, holidays and the new rules coming into effect meant hours juggling between the 2 other captains to fulfil all our fixtures.

A total of 16 different ladies played for the team with Sarah Cooper, Mandy Bailey, Holly Reding, Lauren Henery and Ann Starkey playing in the majority of matches.

CTC have a great group of very talented ladies who should all be very proud of their achievements this summer.

**Ladies C Team** – Div 4 / Team Captain: Jenny Chambers / P12 W4 L8 – 4th Remain in Div 4

We were facing the challenge of playing in Division 4 for the first time this year, having finished in second place in Division 5 in 2017.  No sooner had the rota been drawn up than Tina, one of our core players, suffered an eye infection that prevented her from playing for most of the season.  Other players suffered shorter-term injuries and ailments and several became unavailable as they were needed by the B and C teams.  In spite of all that and a lot of rejigging, we managed to field a team for all matches and had some very enjoyable encounters.

With the exception of the David Lloyd A team (who, who will probably win Division 3 next year and Division 2 the year after), we discovered as the season progressed that the opposition was generally not insurmountable and most results were extremely close.

Tenacity was very much the key word, as we all battled away in deuce after deuce.  One game included a mammoth rally (probably 40 – 50 balls) that was well underway when our other pair reached deuce and continued until after their game had ended.

All in all, it was a good season, we finished on a high note with a 49-15 win over Wymondham B, which put us into fourth position.

**LTA – Jewson Mixed Results**

A Team (Div 1), Team Captain: Fraser MacMillan

B Team (Div 2) Team Captain: Stuart Malone P3-W2-D1 – promoted to Div 1

Jewson Plate Cup Final V EA (B) – We won!

Veterans – Div 3 Team Captain: (Tony Gammage/Stuart Malone) P4 -W4 Promoted to Div 2

I took over from Tony’s winning start and with some very late Sep matches we beat all four opposition teams gaining promotion to Div 2

**In Summary**

A very competitive and highly successful season, of the 13 teams entered in all competitions 7 were promoted, 6 remained in their division and none were relegated! With this success many players will experience competition at a higher-level next year which will be both challenging and rewarding!

A big thank you goes to all the Team Captain’s and players for their efforts in being both very competitive and great club ambassador’s whist playing throughout Norfolk and Suffolk.

We may need some silver polish as quite a few trophies are coming our way!

Stuart Malone

CTC Match Sec

Oct 2018