



Chair's Report 2019

It has been another great year for the tennis club with lots to report both on and off court including completion of the new floodlight project.

I trust you will find this report informative and if it leads to new ideas and initiatives coming forward then that would be great.

A short summary of the report will be presented to the AGM which is being held at The Red Lion in Eaton on Saturday 9th November starting at 12 noon. Members questions will be taken after presentation of the report.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Regards

Chris Mitchell

Chair

Thank you

The smooth running of the club, organisation of events, management of teams and running of on court activities is totally dependent upon club members giving their time up to arrange, so it is only right to start by thanking each and every one of those who do so for their efforts which I am sure are appreciated by all members.

Floodlights Project

The biggest step forward for the club facility in many years saw the completion of new LED floodlights on the top courts. We successfully navigated the planning process in late spring, having previously tendered the installation to a number of contractors. The lights were installed in July and Heather Bottomley the Norfolk LTA President came along and carried out the official 'switch on' with over forty members present for the occasion. This has been a huge step forward for the club in allowing play until 10.00 pm on four courts rather than two, enabling club evenings to continue on all four hard courts throughout the year and opening up opportunities for further organised activities.

On Court

In the Smith & Pinching tournament, 57 entrants competed in nine events, with 68 matches played. An extra big thank you to Jenny Hall for organising such a great event again this year as she is stepping down from the S&P organiser role after a number of years running the event on behalf of the club. Alison and Hugh Gilmour will be taking on the organisation of the S&P next year and will I am sure carry on the smooth running of the tournament.

Smith & Pinching Knockout Tournament Roll of Honour 2019

Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s)Up
Men's Open Singles	Ollie Palmer	Chris Lambert
Ladies Open Singles	Juliet Chambers	Mandy Bailey
Ladies' Doubles	Anna Linton/ Harriet Curtis	Alison Gilmour/ Mandy Bailey
Ladies' Doubles Plate	Anne Palmer/ Sarah Palmer	Catherine Henery/ Francesca Starling
Mixed Doubles	Anna Linton/ Will Thomson	Holly Setchell / Paul Henery
Mixed Doubles Plate	Alison Gilmour/ Hugh Gilmour	Nicki Mitchell/ Chris Mitchell
Men's Doubles	Not yet played	Not yet played
Mens Doubles Plate	Chris Mitchell/ Ian Nunney	Tom Dymoke/ David Burton
Men's Over 60s Doubles	Chris Mitchell/ Martin Hendry	Hugh Gilmour/ Mike Hansell

Match Secretary Stuart Malone has prepared his annual Match Report which contains an overview from each Team Captain of their team's performance- click [Match report 18/19](#) to read the full report on the Team Tennis page on our website. The highlights this year were promotion for the winter league mixed B and C teams and for the City league Ladies C and Mens D team. This demonstrates the strength in depth we now have in the club with some 13 teams turning out in the course of a year.

For the first time, we held four Sunday tournaments over the summer with the introduction of a new Davies Cup style team tournament which we ran twice. In each case four teams of six players competed for the Jane Bellinger Memorial Trophy, with bottles of bubbly for each member of the winning team. France were successful in the first event which saw 16 men and 8 ladies take part and the USA in the second when we had 12 men and 12 ladies playing. The team format proved very popular and we will definitely be repeating next year. The annual Waitrose Cup run in June was won by Alison Gilmour and Fraser MacMillan, with the Challenge Cup run in September being won by David Burton and Ann Starky.

Club mornings and evenings continue to be popular as in previous years with the notable enhancement of the new floodlights which have enabled evening sessions to continue on all four courts on a turn up and play basis rather than through use of a 'Doodle Poll' as in previous winters.

September saw changes in our coaching team with Charlotte Groves and Greg Rostron leaving the club and Katie Brooks joining. Katie is the Norfolk ladies over 40's captain and has been coaching locally for almost twenty five years. Katie is an enthusiastic and dedicated coach who lives in Cringleford and we are delighted that she has joined CTC. A new adults coaching Improvers Course has already been introduced and is running very successfully, with further adult coaching opportunities planned for the New Year.

Off Court

The main annual fund raising event was once again the quiz run by the Henery families at Cringleford School. Total income for the event was £915 with a profit of £626 being raised for tennis club funds and we really appreciate the Henery's organising another brilliant event for the club.

Despite the unreliable weather this summer we held four Social Serve Offs run by Gini and Jenny. This year also saw another new social event in the form of a Beetle Drive held in the Pavillion and organised by Nicki and Holly. This proved very enjoyable and it was particularly pleasing to see the wide age range of those attending. We will be holding another Beetle Drive this year on 23rd November in the Pavillion so please come along for a fun and sociable evening.

The annual 'Mulled Wine and Mince Pies' event took place in a December after Saturday morning tennis at which Gill Ellis was presented with the Nick Brewin Trophy by CTC as a recognition of her outstanding contribution to the club over many years. This was the first of two awards for Gill as in February she was also presented with the Norfolk Lifetime Achievement Award for 2018 by Norfolk LTA demonstrating further her commitment to Norfolk Tennis.

Smith & Pinching once again agreed to sponsor our summer knockout tournament which is hugely appreciated as their contribution allows us to enjoy a great finals day with a first rate lunch available to all attending. Waitrose continue to provide strawberries and cream for the Waitrose Cup event so a very big thank you to them for doing so.

93 members - the highest ever - took the trouble to 'opt in' to the Wimbledon ticket ballot giving us an allocation of 15 pairs of tickets at The All England Club in July.

Membership

Ann Starky our membership secretary has advised that the current membership numbers for the year are 152 adults and 36 juniors. This has resulted in fees of £11,817 year to date which compares with £10,965 income at the same time last year when we had 138 adults and 39 junior members. Overall a very pleasing increase in adult members notwithstanding a disappointing reduction in junior membership which we are considering how to address.

Safeguarding

As a club we are committed to '*prioritising the well-being of all children and adults at risk and promoting safeguarding in our Club at all times*' and continue to develop our safeguarding policies in line with national LTA guidance. We have invaluable input from our two welfare officers, David Stephenson and Mandy Bailey who lead in this area and attend the appropriate courses to ensure we keep up to date in this area. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Our policies are displayed on the [Safeguarding](#) page on our website to ensure all members understand the club expectations in this important area, together with contact details if you have a concern.

Future Planning

The situation with Juniors as mentioned above has been disappointing in terms of reducing numbers, however the recent changes in the coaching team have given us an opportunity to address this and to

develop a new strategy. This topic is being considered by committee with a view to agreeing the best way forward.

Members may recall that when the floodlight project was being considered the issue of a practice wall was raised but left in abeyance with the floodlights being given priority. There have been discussions about this with our summer tournament sponsors Smith & Pinching Insurance Brokers as there is an opportunity to bid for funding through the broker section of the Aviva Community fund. Smith & Pinching have indicated they may be interested in working up a proposal for this with us to be submitted when the next funding round opens in 2020. Discussions are ongoing.

The bottom courts were power washed this year for the first time since they were last painted however repainting will be required in either 2020 or 2021 to ensure they are kept in good condition, the exact painting date will depend upon the condition next spring.

Some of the fencing is in need of repair and possibly replacement, particularly that between the bottom and grass courts, this is likely to be required sooner rather than later.

Consideration is being given to whether the court padlocks should be replaced with 'smart padlocks' which are card activated devices that would involve issuing cards to all members, these would then be cancelled when a member left the club to ensure they could no longer access the courts.

The grass courts were planned to be improved further this autumn with the addition of new topsoil and levelling with a view to improve playing conditions next year. Currently the grounds man is off sick so this may not now happen to the spring.

Replacement of the metal halide lights on the bottom courts with LED's is another project that will benefit the club in reducing energy (LED lights use around 20% of the electricity of metal halide lights) costs and maintenance - we are averaging one bulb replacement per annum currently. These works are a major cost, circa £15,000 and timing will depend upon the clubs finances.

Committee

Hon Secretary Stuart Malone, Hon Treasurer Rob Hall, Gini Anderson, Mandy Bailey, Jenny Chambers, Nathan Dickinson, Jenny Hall, Jane Hendriks, Fraser MacMillan, Nicki Mitchell, Monica Roffey, Ann Starky and David Stephenson.