



Chair's Report 2021

Thank you

To all committee members for their involvement and input, without you the club would not be able to function in the way it does and provide the activities outlined in this report.

A Year of Two Halves....again

Once again a year of two halves but this time in reverse with the first six months more or less wiped out by Covid before a return to near normality in the second half of the year.

October - March: a tricky six months!

We were unable to run club sessions for the first six months of the year due to Covid restrictions however we were able to get the first round of box league matches off the ground with Men's and Women's doubles commencing in **November**. Unfortunately, these matches had to be suspended before completing the first set of matches when on 5th November we went back into lockdown. Courts reopened at the beginning of **December** and the first round of box league matches were completed just prior to play being restricted to singles when we entered tier four. On the 4th **January** we had to close altogether when the Country went back into national lockdown.

In the midst of the winter gloom and in the middle of a seemingly interminable lockdown out of the blue we received some fantastic news. In **February** Cringleford Tennis Club was voted Club of the Year by Norfolk LTA and Katie Brooks voted Development Coach of the Year. We were delighted with these awards and the recognition they brought with them which reflect the great efforts put in by the committee over the previous twelve months. Finally on the 29th **March**, we were able to relaunch tennis on our courts as many of the Covid restrictions were lifted.

April - September: a very busy six months

The beginning of **April** is normally the start of our new club year however due to the playing time lost to Covid we decided to put membership renewal back to 1st July at no cost and to allow all members renewing to benefit from a nine month membership for the price of six. This was also the month where we had the first organised club sessions for over a year. We were very grateful to Jenny Chambers, Margaret Robins and Malcom Clarke, our club session organisers who helped to put in place procedures to ensure that each event met the LTA Covid requirements for organised tennis of larger groups.

The Men's and Women's box leagues also recommenced in **May** with the addition of Mixed Box leagues, which attracted immediate interest with 32 players signing up. May is the month when tennis really begins to get going for the summer and in addition to the box leagues starting matches also began again after a years absence.

Our first club Sunday tournament since 2019 took place when sixteen members battled it out for the Waitrose Cup. With strawberries and cream provided by Waitrose, a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all, with Fraser MacMillan and Juliet Chambers coming out on top. More Covid restrictions were lifted with the rule of six being removed and socialising before and after play finally being allowed!

As the weather improved, we held our first social tennis event in **June** when thirty members enjoyed a day of tennis and chat, as well as bubbly and beer at lunchtime. The sun shone in the afternoon and it was a real pleasure to have the chance to play some enjoyable tennis with other members, prospective members and actually socialise!

July saw us playing the Davis Cup style team event in which 24 members participated in four teams of six in unrelenting heat! We had a great mix of team and club players with some excellent competitive tennis played on all six courts. Team GB were the winners and were awarded the Jane Bellinger Memorial Cup plus a bottle of Prosecco each. The last remaining Covid restrictions were released as we moved to Step 4 of the Government roadmap and life really did feel like it was returning to normality.

In **August** the top courts were painted some five years after they were last resurfaced; regular repainting extends the life of the surface, so it is prudent to do this every five to six years to ensure the court surface remains in good order and does not wear prematurely. The repainting has definitely added more grip underfoot and should hopefully last us well. We were also able to launch a new range of club clothing this month thanks to Holly Setchell who organised on behalf of the club.

The finals of the S&P Summer Tournament took place in **September**. Smith & Pinching continue to sponsor our tournament which is greatly appreciated as it enabled us to have a first rate finals day where we provided refreshments at lunch time, cake and Prosecco in the afternoon and prizes to both winners and runners up. It was great to see so many members, family and friends relaxing in the sun and enjoying a chat whilst spectating.

Well done to Alison and Hugh Gilmour for organising and steering the tournament through a number of twists and turns as injuries affected quite a number of players across the various events.

Smith & Pinching Summer Tournament Roll of Honour 2021		
Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s)Up
Men's Singles	Rob Hall	Neil Henery
Ladies Singles	Amanda Bailey	Lauren Henery
Ladies Doubles	Amanda Bailey & Alison Gilmour	Ann Starky & Sarah Cooper
Ladies Doubles Plate	Lauren Henery & Holly Setchell	Sally Hardwick & Nicki Mitchell
Mixed Doubles	Paul Henery & Holly Setchell	Alex Goodall & Lea Denley
Mixed Doubles Plate	Alison & Hugh Gilmour	Andrew & Sally Hardwick
Men's Doubles	Ollie Palmer & Chris Lambert	Fraser MacMillan & Alex Goodall
Men's Doubles Plate	Chris Hardwick/David Van Den Bergh	Martyn Denley & Stuart Malone
Over 60's Doubles	Chris Mitchell/Sally Hardwick	Mike Hansell/Ann Starky

Our final event of the summer, the Challenge Cup, took place at the end of September with Chris Hardwick and Ann Starky carrying off the trophy following a very enjoyable afternoon's tennis.

Membership

We are delighted to see membership numbers over 265 with 180 adults and 85 juniors. This has resulted in fees of £9898 year to date which compares with £13063 income at the same time last year, when we had 156 adults and 55 junior members. Bearing in mind that existing members have only had to pay for six months subscription this year rather than twelve, the income level is very pleasing.

Coaching

Junior memberships which were down to 23 at their low point, increased to 55 now stand at 85! The success of the Junior Coaching is all down to Katie who has put an enormous effort into building this up to the current level so a real well done to our Coach whose efforts were recognised by Norfolk LTA in presenting her with the Development Coach of the Year award. Further expansion of the coaching is a key aim for Katie in 2022.

The Autumn Term Junior Coaching Courses were fully booked three weeks before the beginning of term and three additional courses are planned to start after half term. The Summer Holiday Coaching Programme was also a huge success with 109 places sold on the courses and camps.

Anna Linton stepped down from organising Friday Ladies Morning before they recommenced after Easter with Katie taking this over. The sessions have been as popular as ever with twenty players signed up for this activity. A new initiative under the LTA 'Pair and Play' banner has been introduced for ladies and is running on Thursdays during the daytime. Indications are that these will also be very popular with ladies in the club.

Teams

Whilst some of the team events were affected by Covid (winter league matches for instance were suspended) the City League did go ahead this summer with four men's teams and two ladies teams turning out for the club whilst we also now have two Vets teams playing. The highlight was the men's A team who won all their matches and were promoted back to the top division. Click [Match report 20/21](#) for full details and to read Match Secretary Fraser MacMillan's report.

As I finish writing this, it is good to see that Winter matches have now commenced with four mixed club teams taking part this year reflecting the strong interest in playing competitive tennis in the club.

A more normal twelve months will hopefully now follow where we can all concentrate on simply playing tennis!

Chris Mitchell - Chair

Committee

Chair Chris Mitchell, Hon Secretary Fraser MacMillan, Hon Treasurer Rob Hall, Membership Secretary Sally Hardwick, Mandy Bailey, Jenny Chambers, Nathan Dickinson, Jane Hendriks, Nicki Mitchell, Ann Starky, Paul Henery and Katie Brooks.