

Newsletter

26 January 2026



Chairman's Update

Our club was officially opened in June 1901, so this is our official 125th anniversary. The opening of the court was marked by an exhibition match between Peter Latham, world champion, and Cecil "Punch" Fairs, head professional at Prince's Club, Knightsbridge. We are marking the occasion with an equally prestigious event – The Rose Bowl. This event will run over 3 days and is open to any member of any Real Tennis club in the world. We will have a celebratory dinner in the Jockey Club on the Friday 12th June, and throughout the weekend there will be a combination of social and sporting events, so please put June 12th-14th in your diaries.

On the Home front, our handicap tournaments are well underway, and we recently had a hugely enjoyable New Members Day, when we paired experienced and new members in a doubles competition. Suffice it to say that our 'old' members will have to look to their laurels as there are some talented new members coming through.

If any of you know of anyone who would like to give this game a try, please do bring them in and introduce them to our Pro. There is a very generous introductory package available involving 2 free lesson and 2 at half price, so no better time when it is cold outside and not many sports available, to entice new members in.

Finally I just wanted to wish our team down under all success in this year's Boomerang Cup, and hope they do better than our cricketers....



Please could Club members help us spread the message far and wide about what a fantastic club we have by following us on Facebook and Instagram, and when we post, please could you:

- Like the post
- Comment on the post
- Share the post

Important Dates!

Newmarket 125 celebrations and Rose Bowl June 12,13,14th More news inside & to come

Notes from our Professional, Andrew:

We have had a hectic and fun schedule running up to Christmas and the pace has continued!

A huge congratulations to:

Colin Sprott, the Winner, and Ed Turner, the other Finalist for a great match in the final of the Thurlow Champness open singles for 2025

To Katie Groome, winner of the Taylor Vintnor Ladies Singles 2025

To Ruadhri Duncan & Julian Stafford, winner of the 2025 Fingleton Cup Doubles



We have had a record level of matches being played in the Brown and Co. Please book in and plan to play your matches early .

Weekend Club Matches Well done and thank you for everyone who has been playing in our teams in Home and Away matches; these are great fun, the hospitality is always good and they stretch and develop your Tennis skills and experience! **Look out on the notice board for upcoming matches. OPEN TO ALL HANDICAPS!**

Brown & Co

After a record and matches played, congratulations to those who progressed to the first of the knockout stages! Please note the next round needs to be **BOOKED IN NOW!**

Fingleton Cup Doubles Handicap Tournament

Please enter by ASAP.; I shall shortly finalise If you don't have a partner , do let me know as there are others wishing to play and I will pair you up

2026 Thurlow Champness Open Singles

The draw for the entries is now made and the first rounds need to be played now.

Mills and Reeve Mixed Doubles Competition

I am inviting entries now please. Closing date XXXX

Important Dates!

**Founders
Tournament
March
7+8th
Enter now!**

Wine Break
Doubles for
over 65 yrs
26th March

**Grays Singles &
Doubles
Handicap
Trophy March
21,22**

Open Tournament at NRTC!!!



As part of our 125 year celebrations, our thanks and “well done” to Jamie Tipple organising a partnership with Grays (who make all our rackets) to sponsor the Grays Trophy , an open event to be held at Newmarket.

This is a new venture for the club and Grays and is attracting interest from very good players from inside and outside the club. Below is a copy of the promotional flyer to be released

The Grays Trophy

**OPEN SINGLES AND DOUBLES
HANDICAP TOURNAMENT
NEWMARKET REAL TENNIS CLUB
SATURDAY 21ST - 22ND MARCH 2026**

**TEAMS OF 2 PLAYERS WILL BATTLE IT OUT
TO WIN A TROUHPY GENEROUSLY HAND
CRAFTED AND DONATED BY GRAYS!**

SATURDAY

PLAY STARTS 0900
QUALITY BUFFET AVIALBLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY
PLAY FINISHES 1800
HAPPY HOUR DRINKS AVAILABLE & GRILLE COMPETITION FOR A
BOTTLE OF FIZZ
DINNER AT LOCAL RESTUARANT TBC

SUNDAY

PLAY STARTS 0900
QUALITY BUFFET AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY
PLAY FINISHES 1800
PRESENTATION EVENT WITH RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON

BILLETING AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS WITH HANDICAPS OF 55 AND LESS
SINGLE PERSON APPLICANTS WILL BE APPROPRIATELY PARTNERED

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND ENTER BY CONTACTING PRO@NEWMARKETREALTENNIS.CO.UK

Rose Bowl & 125 Dinner

You have the Dates!.....12,13,14th June, with a superb and special dinner to be held at the Jockey Club on Friday 12th June! Details to be released very shortly.



Defibrillator Training



Eight Members responded to the offer of training for a new Defibrillator at the club. From a position of owning our own we now have moved to a contract provider which is expensive but has the advantage that it is maintained, updated and replaced by the professional service company.

The defibrillator is an essential bit of kit for any sports club and literally saves lives.....if you know how to use it!

The training is extremely useful as the trainer talks you through all aspects of how to react to an emergency and to identify what response is needed, not just the functionality of the defibrillator.



If you haven't had the training already, or if it was a long time ago, do let Andrew know and if there are enough requests we could investigate the possibility of another session.

A special thanks to Jon Fistein for pressing the club to do this and especially Logan Crawford for organising the day and managing the contract and training.

Champions!

2025 Thurlow Champness Men's Open Singles Final



Colin Sprott won an exciting final in three sets, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 against the reigning champion, Ed Turner, in front of a noisy and overflowing Dedans



Champions!

2025 Taylor Vintner Ladies's Open Singles Final



The Chairman, Hugo, presenting the winner, Katie Groome with the trophy.

Katie won the trophy after a Finals day comprising of a Round Robin tournament with a lot of fun and closely fought matches

The Finalists
of the Ladies
Singles



Champions!

2025 Fingleton Cup Final, Doubles Handicap



Ruadhri Duncan and Julian Stafford with the trophy. Ruadhri & Julian won in an incredibly close and exciting match, ending on match point at 9 -9 and 40 – 40!!! Well played Lee Pilkington and Mike Gouldstone, so nearly winning!

Newcomer Doubles

Our 2nd “Newcomers Doubles” was again a very successful day, where more recently joined members play with established longer term members in Doubles helping bring a healthy social and playing mix.



Christmas Party

December saw an opportunity to celebrate the festive season and end of year and watch some fantastic tennis with the final of the open singles.



We had a great turn out of members and plenty of fine wine, the traditional Mulled wine and mince pies . A thoroughly enjoyable social occasion.



NYD Hangover Doubles

The traditional day in which we find out just who has hangovers and who doesn't! A good turnout and well done Jackie Taylor and Mark Haworth, overall winners.

And Logan Crawford and Suzanne Lindsay for their modelling our outfits!



Our members in “the land down under”



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As “we go to press” we await news of the self styled “Newmarket Nasties” and other members playing in the Boomerang tournament in Australia....it looks like a great mix of Tennis and fun



Some of our matches:



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Newmarket v Hatfield

Newmarket narrowly lost 3-2

Representing Newmarket were George Aretakis, Laura Shumiloff, Phil Payne, Chris Swales, Mark Haworth

Newmarket v Oratory

Newmarket lost 4-2

Representing Newmarket were Jamie Tipple, Jeremy Clayton, Mark Haworth, Jeremy Burnett

Newmarket v Jesters

Jesters won 5-2

Representing Newmarket were Hugo Johnson, Duncan Grindley, Ken Smith, Laura Shumiloff, Phil Payne

Apologies to those who played in any matches not reported here.



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NRTC Fixtures and Dates to come 2026

DATE		OPPONENT	HOME/AWAY	MATCH MANAGER(S)	
Saturday, 31 January 2026		Middlesex University	Away	Jamie Robertson	
Saturday, 14 February 2026		Prested	Home	Jamie Tipple	
Sunday, 15 February 2026		Cambridge University Ladies	Home	Bill Mackintosh	
Sunday, 22 February 2026		Moreton Morrell	Away	Graham Smith	
Saturday, 28 February 2026		Old Etonians	Home	Hugo Johnsen	
Sunday, 1 March 2026		Old Etonians	Home	Hugo Johnsen	
Friday, 6 March 2026		Inter-Universities tournament	Home	Andrew Knibbs	
Saturday, 7 March 2026		Founders Cup	Home	Andrew Knibbs	
Sunday, 8 March 2026		Founders Cup	Home	Andrew Knibbs	
Sunday, 15 March 2026		Petworth	Home	Derrick Wells	
Thursday, 26 March 2026		Over 65 wine break doubles	Home	Eric Nutter	Andrew Knibbs
Saturday, 11 April 2026		Hardwick	Home	Derrick Wells	
Sunday, 19 April 2026		Leamington	Home	Graham Smith	
Tuesday, 5 May 2026		AGM	Home	Andrew Knibbs	Hugo Johnsen
Saturday, 9 May 2026		MCC	Home	Ed Turner	
Saturday, 16 May 2026	TBC	Jesmond Dene	Away	Sandy Norman	
Saturday, 16 May 2026	TBC	LRTA	Home	Philippa Wells	
Saturday, 30 May 2026		Dedanists	Home	Charles Granville	John Burnett
Friday, 12 June 2026		Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells	Tom Marriott
Saturday, 13 June 2026		Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells	Tom Marriott
Sunday, 14 June 2026		Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells	Tom Marriott
Saturday, 27 June 2026		East Anglia Cup (Prested)	Away	Rodger Davis	
Sunday, 28 June 2026		East Anglia Cup Plus (Prested)	Away	Rob Bawden	