

Newsletter

Issue. 6
Nov 2023



Chairman`s Report

Congratulations to all who participated in the Ladies Taylor Vintner Singles Cup and a special thanks to Philippa Wells whose energy and drive ensured it took place and a fun time was had by all.

It`s been a busy time for matches and we are always looking for participants; there is a place for every level or standard of the game to compete and it is a marvellous experience visiting and meeting courts and players from other clubs.

It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of Keith Banks. He was always full of enthusiasm for the game and brought much fun and passion to the club and those close to him.

Finally in this brief introduction, a big thank you to Stuart Arrandale who has just retired from the onerous post of Treasurer, which he has carried out since the foundation of the new club. We will sorely miss his knowledge and advice in all matters to do with running the club.

Hugo

Important
Dates!

1st JAN
Hangover
Doubles!
All levels

15 June
Candlelight
Dinner on
court

14/15/16
June 2024:
Rose Bowl

This Newsletter has been compiled by Sandy Norman. Thanks to all contributors. If you have any news you would like included in the newsletter, or suggestions for how to improve the content, please contact Sandy at Sandy.norman1@gmail.com..

Notes from our Professional, Andrew:



Brown and Co

The Brown & Co singles handicap competition is now well underway with some great closely competitive matches already.....it takes a lot of organising to have your matches completed by the cut off for Round 1 so please start them now!

Hangover Doubles

I am shortly sending out a notification for entries; teams of family members and friends all welcome!

Pennants

The club Pennant matches are a great opportunity for players of all levels to participate in competition. Ben Turner organises them and please contact him if you are interested



Upcoming Fixtures and Events

See the fixture list at the end of this Newsletter and the [NRTC website](#) for a full list of fixtures and details. Please contact match managers to get involved or just come along, watch some tennis and support your club!

Watch this space as Mark and I are kicking off more events and activities!

More Dates for
your diary!

**Thurs March
28th Over 65
Wine break
Doubles**

**Founders
Cup
April 27th,
28th**

Lessons and practice sessions:

Mark and I both will continue to give tailored lessons and great drill sessions for you in a group or individually at times that work for you. Speak to us and we will organize!

Notes from Mark Hobbs (1)



New members!

Recruitment drive

We are actively taking steps to bolster the Newmarket Real tennis Club membership in the forthcoming season.

As a club recruiting new members is paramount to the club's success for both court fill and making sure that all players have lots of players to participate with in games, tournaments and social matches within their handicap brackets.

We are looking at running several introduction evenings and weekends for potential new members to come and try the fascinating game of Real Tennis.

Your help

We need your help in making this achievable !

Andrew and I will be running group sessions and one to one session on specific evenings and weekends - dates to follow.

We are looking for members to actively call on friends and sporty colleagues or groups you may already participate in to come and try our beautiful game. We all know once you are on court its addictive and you fall in love with the quirks of Real Tennis and our cosy club.

If all members could bring one potential new member into the club that would make a huge difference. Also, group sessions up to a maximum of 4 players will also be available. We can run groups up to 8 players, but we would need to make a full evening or weekend morning to make this a success and to make sure all those players hit lots of tennis balls.

Great Offers!

Cost for the sessions will be £10 per head for a one- hour session which is just a great opportunity to come and try a new game for such a reasonable cost. So, one player session £10, two player lesson £20, three players £30 and a group of four will be £40. Group of 8 players, £80 in total. The group sessions with 4 players would be 1.5 hours and the sessions of 8 players 2.5 hours.

The sessions will include an introduction talk about the history of the game, strokes, serve, return and Matchplay to learn the fascinating rules of Real Tennis.

Please can you all start thinking of potential new players and groups and contact Mark directly and he will get this into motion immediately.

Notes from Mark Hobbs (2)



Bringing on the Juniors!

We are very lucky as a club to now have the support and funding from the Dedanist foundation www.dedanists.org to help us generate a thriving junior section for the club. We are actively looking for schools in Newmarket Bury St Edmunds and surrounding areas to take part in junior sessions both as an afterschool activity and weekend events.

Open days

The first junior open day will be on Saturday the 16th December 10.00am till 4.00pm all are welcome and its free.

Junior holiday camp days

We are also running two Christmas junior holiday camp days on Monday the 18th December & Wednesday 20th December 9.30-3.30 £10 per head for the day.

All ages welcome. This will include fun on court Christmas games.

Your help!

Please can you all start to think of juniors that you know that are sporty and would like to come along to have fun and try the exciting sport of Real Tennis.

We would really appreciate all members support which will only help the club flourish in the future.

Notes from Mark Hobbs (3)



Bringing on the Juniors! Posters:



NEWMARKET REAL TENNIS CLUB



Christmas Holiday FREE OPEN DAY!

Junior OPEN DAY
ALL AGES WELCOME

Run by Qualified Coaches, First Aid,
Safe-Guarding & DBS Checked

S SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER
10am - 4pm

Sponsored by
The
Dedanists'
Foundation

Please contact Mark Hobbs to book on:
Mobile 07572 036569 or
mark@newmarketrealtennisclub.co.uk

NEWMARKET REAL TENNIS CLUB



Christmas Holiday MULTI-ACTIVITY & REAL TENNIS CAMPS

WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER
THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER
9.30am - 3.30pm

£10 a head

ALL AGES WELCOME!
Run by Qualified Coaches, First Aid,
Safe-Guarding & DBS Checked



Sponsored by
The
Dedanists'
Foundation

Please contact Mark Hobbs to book on:
Mobile 07572 036569 or
mark@newmarketrealtennisclub.co.uk

Social Media

We now have an active Facebook page and an Instagram account; the more these are looked at, photos upladed, "liked" and posts made, the more value is created for all of us as individuals and for the club.....please have a look and participate in any small way you like! Click on!





Many of our members streamed Mark Hobbs playing in the British Open and went on to watch other matches.

Several of our members also went to Queens to watch matches and all gave the feedback of it being a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable experience

A message from Mark Hobbs:
 Thanks all you wonderful people for the support you gave me in the British Open!
 Whilst it was a tough experience I feel that I will come out of it stronger! Next Year!

Real Tennis British Open

One hardly needs an excuse to visit London, but when a front row seat in the dedans at Queens Club to watch world class Real Tennis is proposed, this is gold plated!

Queens, away from the early summer tennis tournament, is an inviting peaceful club easily accessed by underground. The Real Tennis Courts are an integral part of the members club. Attendance at the championships allows access to the members bar and dining room; a comfortable, relaxed club room which boasts an impressive light lunch menu at remarkable value.

Viewing sessions are in two-hour blocks, seats priced accordingly as to your preferred viewing point. Dedans' front row seats at £40.00 for two hours of masterful play by the doyens and doyennes of Real Tennis seems a snip.

It is a shame that there is little spectator support for these exhibitions of thrilling play, added to which there is the access to the club facilities.

We shall be back
 Suzanne Lindsay



Ladies Taylor Vintner Cup (Handicap Singles) 2023 2024

On Saturday 14 th October, the Ladies' Taylor Vintner competition was played at home.

We had a team of 5 ladies but unfortunately both Suzanne Lindsay and Trish Rolph were injured in the last week and had to withdraw.

Philippa Wells, Tricia Gray and Laura Shumiloff entered the fray, and we had some close matches with some great rests proving the handicap system works well!

Match 1 – Philippa Wells vs Tricia Gray – Philippa won 8-5

Match 2 – Philippa Wells vs Laura Shumiloff – Laura won 8-5

Match 3 – Laura Shumiloff vs Tricia Gray – Laura won 8-3

Laura was the overall winner, and after some great tennis we had a delicious lunch kindly prepared by Suzanne Lindsay.



National League

Our **Division 10** team have been busy playing their matches:
First. At home to Middlesex on the 14th (team comprising Mark Elliott, Steve Milton and Ben Turner and result 1-2),
At home to Cambridge on the 28th (team comprising Mark Elliott, Charlie Pittaway and Sandy Norman and result 1-2)
Away to Prested on Nov 18th (team comprising Mark Elliott, Sandy Norman and John Burnett and result 1-2)
Unfortunately due to injury and other unplanned commitments the team has suffered in a group in which we expected to perform better.



Pennant

Two of the annual Pennant matches have taken place with exciting and close matches against Prested Home and Away, both resulting in 3-3 draws.

Cambridge is up next in Deceember and then three matches in the New Year.

Ben Turner has been doing a sterling job of all the organising. Ben is always looking for players to join the Singles and Doubles format.

Club Matches



See the fixture list for matches in 2024; new participants very welcome, so please contact the listed Match Manager if you want to take part in matches home or away

- On Saturday 23rd September we played away to Cambridge and emerged as close winners by 5/4. The Newmarket teams comprised Jamie Robertson, Julian Stafford, Dom Tomalin, Richard Ramjane, Eric Nutter and Jonathan Becher.
- On Saturday 30th September we played at home to Bristol, match manager Ian Lindsay.
- On Thursday 12th October we played at home against Prested in the East Anglian Pennant, and drew three games all. Our team was Colin Clifton Brown, Ben Turner, Dominic Tomalin and Logan Crawford.
- On Saturday 21st October we played The Oratory at home. The result was a 6-0 victory to Oratory and Jeremy Barnett, our match manager, commented that it was almost ten years since a team from the Oratory had come to play a match at Newmarket. Thanks to Jamie Robertson, John Burnett, Dave Isherwood and George Aretakis for playing and to Andrew for scoring and being, as always, an amiable host.
- On Sunday 29th October we played at home to Petworth, the team comprised Tom Marriott, Ed Turner, Julian Stafford, Ben Turner, Jonathan Agar, Derrick Wells (match manager) and Jonathan Becher. Newmarket won 5 ½ to 2 ½



Old Leysians Cup

On Saturday 25th November the Old Leysian Real Tennis Club held their annual doubles tournament at Newmarket.

Pairs of mixed ability played out a round robin tournament expertly overseen by Andrew Knibbs. With handicap adjustments mid set (!) most matches went to the wire with Jack and Mark Elliott winning the final match 8-7 to secure the Humphrey trophy. The OLRTC would like to thank Newmarket for their hospitality once again and very much look forward to visiting again next year.

Worlington Cup

The new season opened with your club retaining the Worlington Cup; a match where you play Handicap Real Tennis in the morning followed by a Golf Handicap Foursomes in the afternoon. Tom Marriott again picked a winning combination of 'ambisporting' members to win 3 -1 overall.

Annual Suffolk v Norfolk fixture

Tuesday 31st October, we played the annual Suffolk vs Norfolk fixture, the respective teams comprising Roger Davis, Trevor Salt, Jonathan Becher, Graham Smith, Derrick Wells, Eric Nutter and Jamie Robertson for Suffolk and Andrew Beeson, Robin Broke, Jeremy Richardson, Billy King Harman, David Brooksbank (Captain), Christopher Kingsett and Richard Jewson for Norfolk. Suffolk won 5-2.

Claire Fahey at Newmarket



In October the Club welcomed Claire Fahey, the Ladies World Champion and Professional at the Oratory Club.

She brought with her a group of young players from the Oratory, to help them pick up experience of different courts. It is great for the game to see this building and investing in the young players and something Mark Hobbs hopes to develop in our own right.



Feature: Some of the people who have made or make Newmarket Real Tennis Club starting with Andrew Knibbs

When did you first hear about Real Tennis as a sport?

First time I heard about real tennis was I was shortly leaving school and looking at jobs. I was sent to the Cambridge University to have a look at a groundsman job. And when I turned up they said they'd got a job as a Real Tennis professional, which I never heard of, at the time, real tennis, and they asked, what would you prefer to do? So I said I think I would like to have a look at the real tennis court. So I turned up at the Real Tennis court in Cambridge, know nothing about it, and spent the day there with the assistant pro at the time, which was Adam Phillips.

Had you played any Racquet sports already?

No. I played cricket from probably about 12 till probably 17. I played table tennis in the Huntington league. I played rugby for the school. cricket for the school and basketball for the school. So I sort of played a mixture of sports really beforehand,

They didn't have any idea whether you would be any good at it?

No, they didn't gave me a two week trial and that two weeks ended up about five years, I think.

Can you remember your first lessons?

My first lesson was with Adam. And he took me on court and then probably after that I did most of my work probably with the university team. In those days, they had some very low handicappers. So I probably did most of my practice with those.

When did you decide that it was you're going to go become a professional?

Well, my father's got a family business. So from school I always expected just to go into the family business. I spoke to him about it and he said if you want to give it a go, why not? So probably at that stage, I was expecting to sort of do 10 years or something like that of running around playing sport, and then going back into the family business, but that just never happened. I just carried on playing real tennis!

And what was your first professional role or appointment?

As soon as I started at Cambridge as the assistant professional I gave lessons, there's racket stringing and marking. I did squash coaching with St. John's after work five days a week and marking matches on the weekend.

And then your next step?

From when I left Cambridge, I went to Moreton Morrell, which was a very different club. No students, lots of tournament's, marking weekends, that sort of thing. So that was a very different type of club to work for.

You obviously made a success of that. Why did you move to a new market and how did you hear about it?

Well, Newmarket or Cambridgeshire is where it kind of originally came from so it was chance to sort of get back home. And then to take that next stage from going from an assistant professional to head professional

How did you find the Newmarket club when you arrived here?

It was very different to Moreton Morrell, less tournaments going on a lot more coaching. Running a club is very different to being an Assistant Professional. The club hadn't been going that long. It was only about three years old when I came here. Whereas Moreton Morrell had been going a long time; you've got generations of people playing. So it was a very, very different type of job to go to.

What were the sort of first things you thought you wanted to set out to do at Newmarket?

Well to begin with, it was really getting more members, filling the club up. I think when I first came here we probably only had about 40 members, something like that and we got it up to about 150, which was really nice.

What are you most proud about in your career?

Well, I got down to single figures which I was quite pleased with. I knew I wasn't going to be one of the top players but to play at that level was always very nice. I had a few people to hit with here at the very beginning that helped to get my handicap down, so that was good. I played National League in a lower division landed at Morton, o that was nice. Then running a club was very different, very satisfying. Very different to being an assistant Pro.

What would you like to see changing further new market? What do you want to achieve further?

Well, I can't see myself getting my handicap down to nine anymore or single figures. So I think really just at the moment is a question of trying to build the club get more members in, and a few more tournaments, that sort of thing. And a few more social events, I think would be nice as well.

NRTC Fixtures and Dates Dec 1st 2023 to End June 2024



Day	Date	Opponent	Home/Away	Match Manager
December:				
Thursday	December 07, 2023	Pennant - Cambridge	Home	Ben Turner/Andrew Knibbs
Saturday	December 09, 2023	Prested	Away	Mark Sampson
January:				
Monday	January 01, 2024	Hangover Doubles	Home	Andrew Knibbs
Saturday	January 13, 2024	Leamington	Home	tbc
Sunday	January 14, 2024	Dedanists	Home	Charles Granville/John Burnett
Thursday	January 18, 2024	Pennant - Hatfield	Away	Ben Turner/Andrew Knibbs
Saturday	January 20, 2024	Jesters	Home	John Burnett
Wednesday	January 24, 2024	Queens	Away	Jeremy Barnett
February:				
Saturday	February 03, 2024	Middlesex University	Home	Jamie Robertson
Thursday	February 15, 2024	Pennant - Hatfield	Home	Ben Turner/Andrew Knibbs
Saturday	February 17, 2024	Prested	Home	Mark Sampson
Sunday	February 18, 2024	CURTC Ladies	Home	Bill Mackintosh
March:				
Friday/Saturday	8/9 March 2024	Inter-Universities tournament	Home	Andrew Knibbs
Thursday	March 14, 2024	Pennant - Prested	Away	Ben Turner/Andrew Knibbs
Saturday	March 16, 2024	Old Etonians	Home	
Saturday	March 23, 2024	Manchester	Home	TBC
Thursday	March 28, 2024	Over 65 wine break doubles	Home	Eric Nutter/Andrew Knibbs
Sunday	March 31, 2024	Easter Sunday		
April:				
Monday	April 01, 2024	Easter Monday		
Saturday	April 06, 2024	Hardwick	Home	Derrick Wells
Saturday TBC	April 13, 2024	Seacourt - TBC	Home	Chris Hollinsworth
Saturday	April 20, 2024	LRTA	Home	Philippa Wells
May:				
Monday	May 06, 2024	May Bank Holiday		
Tuesday	May 07, 2024	AGM	Home	Andrew Knibbs/Hugo Johnsen
Sunday	May 12, 2024	MCC	Home	Sam Sheppard
Saturday	May 18, 2024	Hyde	Home	Jeremy Barnett
Monday	May 27, 2024	Spring Bank Holiday		
June:				
Saturday	June 08, 2024	Jesmond Dene	Away	Ian Lindsay
Friday	June 14, 2024	Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells/Tom Marriott
Saturday	June 15, 2024	Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells/Tom Marriott
Saturday	June 15, 2024	Annual Candlelight Dinner	Home	Derrick Wells/Tom Marriott
Sunday	June 16, 2024	Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells/Tom Marriott
Saturday	June 22, 2024	East Anglia Cup	Away	Ian Lindsay
Sunday	June 23, 2024	East Anglia Cup	Away	Bill Mackintosh



And finally , a date for next October! Organise now!

SAVE THE TRIPOTS DATES!

TTT2024 will take place between Thursday 10th – Tuesday 15th October 2024, playing on the oldest playable Jeu de Paume courts that we have found in the Pays Basque, with up to 24 teams competing for the TTT trophy and the Coupe D’Arcangues.

Teams must comprise a minimum of 5 players (no maximum) and will play at least 6 matches.

If you would like to be kept in the loop to receive further information as further notices are issued, including an application form, please acknowledge this email to simon.mansfield@hotmail.com

It is a very quirky competition so important that anyone interested understands what is involved. [Various members can advise including Derrick Wells and Rob Bawden.](#)

[Newmarket members have played many times but we have never entered a specific Newmarket team.....5 players needed!](#)