

Newsletter

14 April 2025

Chairman's Report

Rather like the FA Cup, our handicapped competitions are reaching the knock-out stages and some of the big names have fallen by the wayside. The matches are not yet televised on SKYSports or ESPN but our Pro will publish the dates and timings of the important matches, so please do come and support from the stands. Our Pennant team were pipped at the finish line by the Cambridge who retain the trophy for another year, but like Pep Guardiola, our manager believes that this season was a blip and next year we will bounce back and claim top slot. Others will report on our social matches and the Founders Cup, but will you all please put the Rose Bowl competition in your diaries: June 13th – 15th and remember that we have our Club dinner on the court on Saturday evening. Before that there is the small matter of our AGM. This will be held in the club at 6pm on Wednesday 7th May and we encourage all of you to attend (last year apart from the committee, 8 members attended; it would be lovely to get this into double figures this year!)

Hugo Johnson



Important
Dates!

**Rose Bowl
Event
13-15 June**

**AGM at
Club
7th May**

**Annual on
court
Candlelit
Dinner
14th June**

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:



Winter 2024 2025

The Brown & Co singles and the Fingleton Doubles are both now in the knockout phases and have been great fun and competitive. For those still in the competitions please get your next matches played; especially the Fingleton as its always more difficult to fix dates for four players. Please respect and try and meet the target dates for completing rounds.

Matches

We still have some matches to play this season. Please look out on the notice board for future home and away matches and get your name down! They are a fantastic way to develop your game. They are very sociable and a great way to experience the huge variety of courts around the country.

The East Anglia Pennants (see report) have been great for new and established players getting involved.

We have had three additional internal events: Hangover Doubles, The Founders Cup and the over 65 (age) Doubles tournament; well done all involved in creating great events!

National League

The National League are important to the health and activity of the club. We have done really well this year, represented in two Divisions, so many thanks to Colin Clifton Brown and Sandy Norman for managing our teams and well done for the successes!



HALF PRICE COURTS
Don't forget, all weekend court bookings are half price!

New Members

We have a large number of new members playing regularly and it's a delight to me to see how they are embracing the game at all levels. I expect to see some rising through the handicaps quite quickly but above all it's so good to see the enjoyment and competitiveness they are bringing to the club.

Future Dates for
your diary!

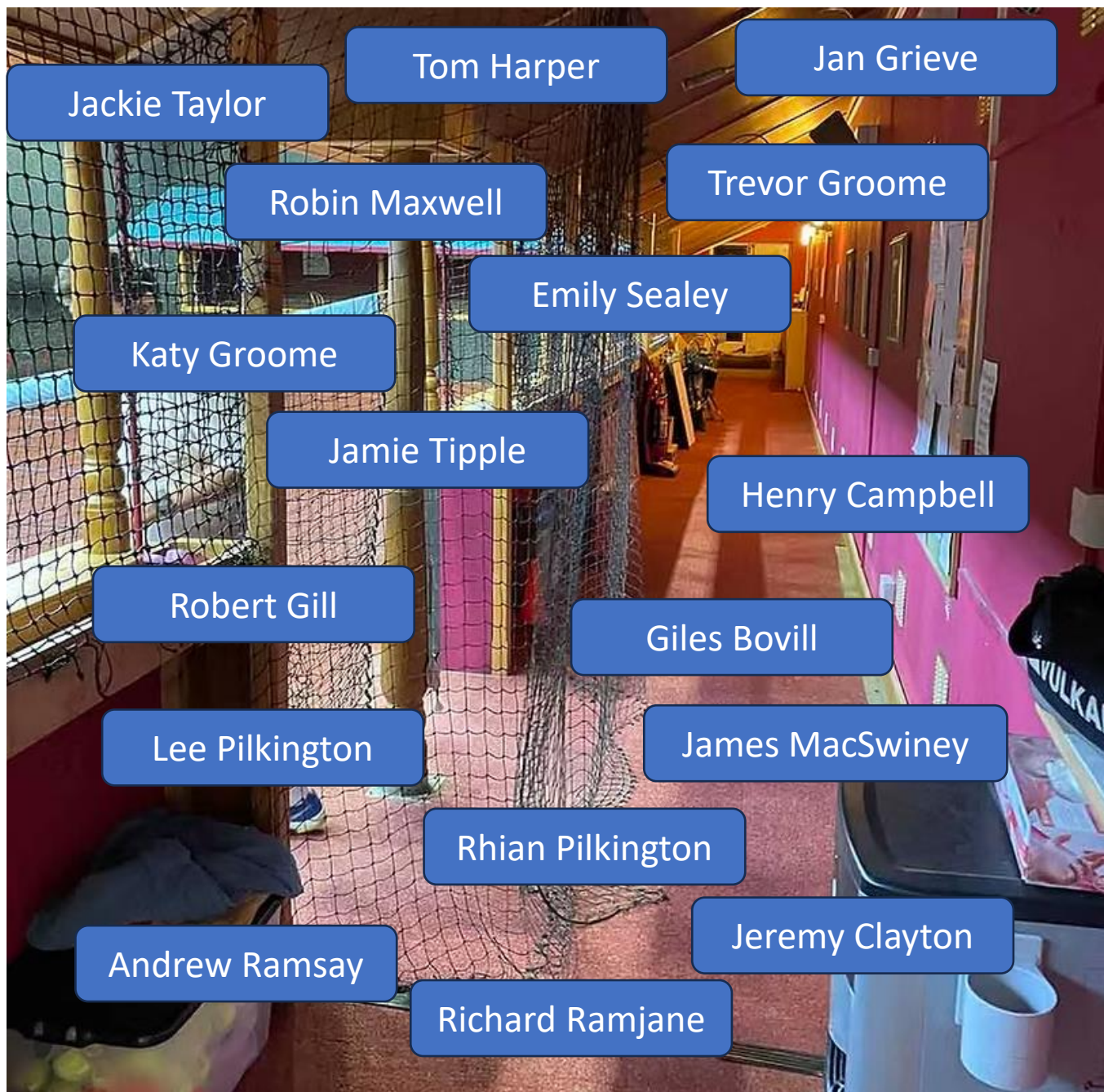
**Summer
court offer
and event**

**30th
Anniversary
27th April
2025**

A very warm welcome to our new Members!



In 2024 and 2025 the following joined and its great to see them become regular playing members



In October 2024 we held a Doubles event for new members which was a lot of fun and we plan to hold another event in October 2025.

In the meantime please continue to encourage your friends to come along for a free taster session with Andrew!

National League 2024 2025



The National League format comprises 10 Divisions broken into Handicap ranges of 5. For example, Newmarket 2 is Division 10 and comprises a team of 5 Nominated players but only 2 play in each match. The team players a selection of the clubs, home and away and the top 2 play a final.

Ladder		MVP (Top 5)	
Bristol 1	52		14
MURTC 2	45		14
Petworth 1	44		13
Oxford 5	38		11
Queens 4	35		10
Newmarket 1	33		
Cambridge 2	32		
Hatfield 1	28		
Holyport 1.5	27		
Oxford 4	18		

[Full MVP](#)

Ed Turner, Colin Clifton Brown and Mark Gooden represented Newmarket in Division 7 and had a good year; final position was compromised due to injury and dates of matches but overall in the matches played the team did very well.

MVP is "Most Valuable Player" in which Ed Turner came top of the Division!

The Division 10 team comprised Mark Elliott, Ben Turner, Sandy Norman, Dan Mules and Charlie Pittaway.

The team narrowly missed getting to the final but overall very well done all.

Ben Turner and Mark Elliott both came in the top 5 MVPs!

Ladder		MVP (Top 5)	
Wellington 2	50		14
Prested 6	49		11
Newmarket 2	45		9
Holyport 4	38		7
Petworth 3	37		7
Oxford 7	33		
Canford 3	33		
Cambridge 4	23		
MURTC 5	14		
Prested 7	11		
Leamington 4	6		

[Full MVP](#)

[Full ladder](#)

Next up! Our Annual big event , The Rose Bowl June 13 to 15th

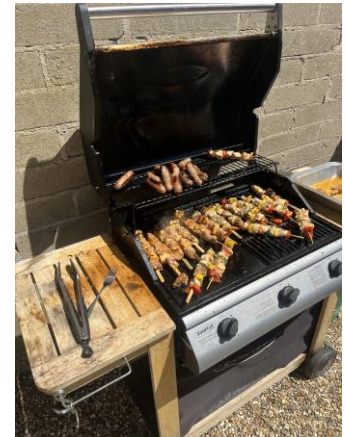


The Rose Bowl Cup and plate is our Annual and prestigious three day Doubles event , open to all comers.

We usually get a good balance of NRTC members and Guests from other clubs well represented.

It is a Handicap tournament so all members are welcome, whatever level. If you do not have a partner, Andrew will couple you up to make a balanced pair and will try to accommodate timings.

There will be a BBQ on the Friday evening
We need a Newmarket winner this year so please enter!



Annual Candlelight dinner on court Saturday June 14th

The Dinner is a special Occasion, open to all members and Partners are welcome



Book your places early as there may be a cap on capacity

Congratulations to Newmarket Ladies in the LRTA Ladies Doubles Hi Low tournament at Hatfield



Philippa Wells played with Kim Walker from Holyport and Katy Groome also from Newmarket was playing in her very first Real Tennis Tournament! Everyone was hugely encouraging to Katy and she was paired with Jane Taylor from Petworth, who had a great deal of experience.



Katy played brilliantly and they got through to the final against myself and Kim. It was a very competitive match with Kim and Philippa coming through in the end to win!



Annual 1st January "Hangover" Doubles

A huge thanks for Sue and Rob Bawden who have presented the Club with this magnificent jug for the Winners of this annual traditional competition. We had a full day's play of tennis and after presenting Andrew with the trophy, Rob promptly won it back in the final with Rob and Jeremy Barnett beating Sue and Jon Fistein in the final



Founder`s Cup 2025



A tournament and cup for the Founding members of the current club (not the original club....we are not that old!) Some great tennis and marvellous food.



Great to see John Burnett still winning tournaments, partnered by Sandy Norman

Over 65 Wine break doubles tournament

Very elegant silver wine coasters are the prize for this annual competition for the over 65`s (in age not handicap!)

Well played Bill Mackintosh & Mike Gouldstone (Mike winning again!)



Jamie Robertson and Jeremy Barnett were a very close second



NRTC Fixtures Jan to early March



Inter-club matches Jan/Feb

On Sunday 19th January we hosted the **Jesters** for our annual fixture at Newmarket, twelve players in all played one singles and one doubles match each (nine games in all) from which Newmarket emerged the victors (6-3), winning all three of our doubles. Representing Newmarket were John Burnett (MM), John Shneerson, Derrick Wells, Logan Crawford, Tim Middleton and Colin Clifton Brown.

On January 22nd a Newmarket team went to London for the annual **Queens** match. Of the six games of doubles played, Newmarket won 4, lost one and drew one. Team: Chris Swales, Jamie Tipple, Jamie Robertson, Phillipa Wells, Logan Crawford and Jeremy Barnett (MM).

On February 1st the Newmarket team visited **Middlesex University** in North London and won 5-3, Laura Shumiloff won her singles and double as did Mark Haworth, Phil Payne and Jamie Robertson (MM) won their doubles and Jamie Tipple won his singles.

On 15th February we hosted **Prested**, our team included Mark Haworth, Rodger Davis, James Tipple, Phil Payne, Chris Swales and Emma Sealey

On 16th February we hosted the **Cambridge University** ladies' team, our team comprising Bill Mackintosh, Logan Crawford, Laura Shumiloff, Rob Bawden, Jeremy Barnett, and Jon Fistein; we lost 1-8.

NRTC Fixtures Jan to early March (cont.)



East Anglia Pennant

The Pennant is captained and organised by Ben Turner. The team is open to a spread of handicaps matching those of the other clubs.

This year's Pennant featured Cambridge, Prested and ourselves.

We drew 3-3 with Cambridge in October.

In November we beat Prested 6-0 away-great result!

January saw a hard-fought draw with Prested, 3-3

We sadly lost our final match, 5-1 at Cambridge This meant Cambridge overtook us to take the Pennant, and we came second.

Thanks to Phil, Mark, Sandy, Jamie, Logan, Ben and Hugo.

NRTC Fixtures and Dates to come 2025

DATE	OPPONENT	HOME/AWAY	MATCH MANAGER
Saturday 3 May 2025	Dedanists	Home	Charles Granville
Saturday 10 May 2025	MCC	Home	Ed Turner
Saturday 17 May 2025	LRTA	Home	Philippa Wells
Saturday 24 May 2025	Jesmond Dene	Home	Sandy Norman
Sunday 25 May 2025	Jesmond Dene	Home	Sandy Norman
Friday 13 June 2025	Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells
Saturday 14 June 2025	Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells
Sunday 15 June 2025	Rose Bowl	Home	Derrick Wells
Saturday 28 June 2025	East Anglia Cup	Home	Rodger Davis
Sunday 29 June 2025	East Anglia Cup Plus	Home	Rob Bawden

Since the beginning of 2025 we have had over 30 different members represent Newmarket in matches!

30 Years Anniversary!

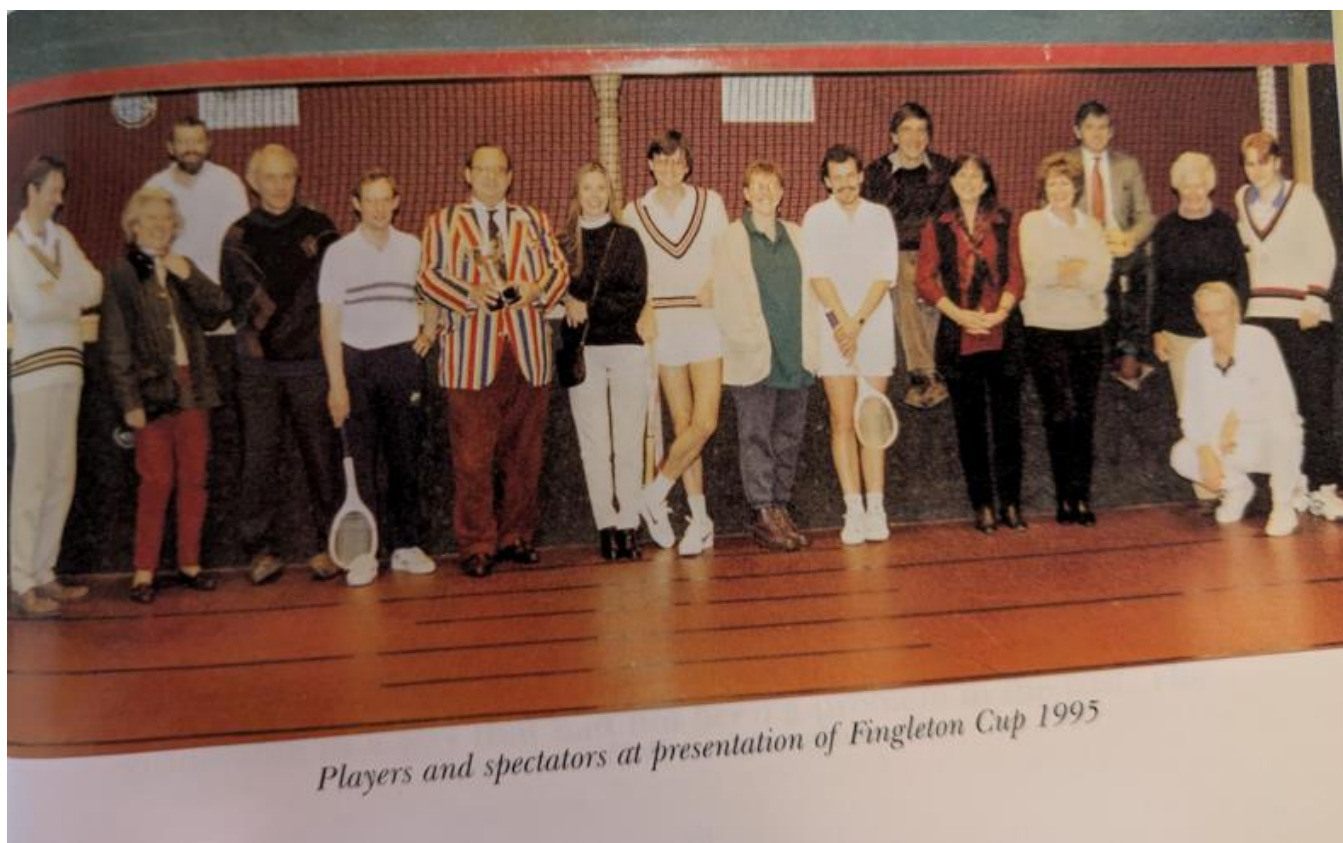


It's 30 years since the club reopened after 75 years of the building being used for other purposes!

John Shneerson says: "it was the morning of 27th April 1995 that I played the first shot on the court for 75 years, a side wall service!"

The picture below is the nearest dated photo John has of players and guests on court, the Fingleton Cup played shortly after the opening. John is in black, fourth from the left. At each end are the two Pros, Kevin King and Jonathan Dawes.

There is one other current playing member, looking exactly as he does now, Colin Clifton Brown



Players and spectators at presentation of Fingleton Cup 1995

NB: 2026 will be the court's 125th Anniversary! Celebrations must be planned!

Recognition of John Shneerson`s contribution to the World of Real Tennis Literature



The following article is from the T&RA Newsletter

Real Tennis Author John Shneerson Awarded 2024 George Plimpton Prize

PUBLISHED Jan 21, 2025



The United States Court Tennis Association (USCTA) has honored author John Shneerson with its 2024 George Plimpton Prize, an award given out for literary and artistic excellence in the game of Real Tennis.

Shneerson is the author of several court tennis books including: *Two Centuries of Real Tennis* (1997); *Real Tennis: Today and Yesterday* (2015); and *MCC: More than a Cricket Club: Real Tennis and Other Sports at Lord's* (2020). He received his award from the USCTA during the organisation's Annual Dinner in December.

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"We are all beneficiaries of your fine work as a tennis historian. Your books — a history of tennis at Newmarket, a history of tennis and other sports at Lord's, and most of all *Real Tennis: Today and Yesterday* — are fundamental to our understanding of the history of our game," states a letter shared by John from James Zug. "Your support of other historians, your passion for the game and your leadership in saving and reviving New Market make you a perfect choice for the Plimpton Prize."