



CHAIR REPORT

51st AGM 11th Feb 2025

I am pleased to report that 2024 was a year of further growth & development for the club. Membership numbers increased & court utilisation improved. The new club house has made a big difference.

Katie Brooks has run an extensive junior coaching programme with Sam Howlett doing Saturday morning groups. Sam has also continued to run Cardio tennis sessions & coached a Rusty Rackets course in the autumn. All the coaching groups are well supported, enquiries come in every week & there are waiting lists for many courses.

Club nights continue to be well supported with many members also playing in groups at other times. Several junior members have been joining club nights. Friday night timings were changed for the winter with an earlier start time on 2 courts. The Monday morning session is going to be open to non members on a pay & play basis from March. A ladies session has been running monthly to encourage more ladies to get involved in group play.

In June an American tournament was held in conjunction with the official opening of the new clubhouse, it was a great afternoon which got coverage in the local press. Another doubles tournament was held in September. In July after Wimbledon we had our Big Tennis Weekend Open Day which was massively successful with nearly 90 people attending including 50 juniors. A further Open Day was held at the end of August in connection with Ketts Park. I would like to thank all members who attended & supported these events, their input & involvement is key to the success.

Over the summer a singles tournament was run by Mike Wonnacott, a big thank you to him. There were some fierce competition culminating in an exciting final match between Callum King & Jack Salmons with Callum taking the first prize. The Plate competition was won by Peter Elphick.

Four teams were entered into the City League, 3 mens & a ladies. The ladies finished mid division in Division 3, very respectable from a very small squad. Men's teams struggled a bit through injuries & it is a very competitive league in all divisions. I would like to thank the captains; Mary Howell, Stephen Halls, Jasper Felton & Peter Elphick for marshalling the players, never an easy job. Stephen & Jasper are not continuing while they recover from shoulder injuries, fortunately Owen Tudor & Mike Wonnacott have volunteered to take over. In addition thanks to Malcolm Clarke for running the Veterans team. Mary also captains the winter league team which is currently doing very well.

The new clubhouse has been a great success, well received by members & visitors alike. There are still a few things needed, like noticeboards, nevertheless it is a great space. The outside area has been enhanced by the 2 picnic benches which were kindly provided by South Norfolk Council.

During the past year the committee have continued their great support to me with their thoughts & helping to keep the club running for which I thank them. Roger Tudor continues to oversee financial & membership matters plus lights & court bookings for club sessions. Simon Spanyol is the liaison with South Norfolk & has tackled communication by using Mail Chimp. Jerry Hazell has been busy with various jobs around the clubhouse, Callum King continues to administer the website. Malcolm Clarke with his professional photographing skills has provided us with some great pictures. A special thank you to Jo Dyer in her role as welfare officer, it is vital to our LTA registration. Volunteers are the lifeblood of clubs & we will be very pleased to hear from any members who want to get more involved.

Finally, a measure of the club's progress & success is that it has been shortlisted for the Norfolk Club of the Year award; the winner will be announced in early March.

Sue Lord
February 9th 2025