



# FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH ...

## NSRTC Club News October 2011

Welcome to the new season of tennis at Newmarket and the start of a new year for our members' club

### TENNIS

Congratulations to all of the tournament winners from last year, particularly to Colin Clifton-Brown who won the Thurlow Champness Level Singles competition and the Watts Trophy Level Doubles with Tim Breitmayer. Taylor Vinters Ladies champion this year is Helen Prandy. Web editor Adrian Thurley battled through many rounds to win the Brown & Co Handicap tournament.

Make sure you've signed up, *new members too*, there's an event for everyone, book your courts early and get playing! New events this year – **Christmas Handicap Doubles 18 Dec & Categories Doubles** – see Fixtures list & talk to pros now

We were very pleased to meet some of our Founders in September when they arrived to challenge for the first **Founders Cup**. Ian Lindsay, our Fixtures & Tournaments Manager, staged a great weekend, and we congratulate John Burnett and Chris



Hollingsworth on their win – rather fitting as they had previously owned and managed the club for the last 11 years.

The new **Fixtures List** is out, on the notice board, on the website and about to be published. Club matches are social, friendly ?!, well, competitive, games against other clubs. Usually teams of 4 or 5 play singles or doubles, have lunch, play home and away on alternate years. Sign up on the notice board or contact the match manager if you would like to play – matches are really open to all members as the visiting team set the handicap levels to be matched. We're also excited to be playing in the **Premier Division of the National League**. This will give us 2 home matches at Newmarket, and 2 at Cambridge, of Exhibition standard tennis with refreshments.

Make sure you book your place at the club for the first exciting match on **9 December**. **Sponsorship** for the National league is welcomed.

Our pros, Andrew & Mark, are keen to promote games, matches and tournaments to make sure that members enjoy their tennis. They are both available for lessons and marking – why not book

them for marking your game, particularly if it is a tournament match with a tricky handicap! They will be making an effort to observe the last 10 minutes of games to give feedback on play strategy and technique.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We're continuing the Newmarket tradition of **Annual Club Dinners** – so another date for the diary is **Friday 18 May 2012**. Julia has



booked the Derby Room at Bedford Lodge and we hope that as many as possible Members and Founders will be able to come and enjoy this social occasion. More details after Christmas.

Next summer there will be lots going on at the club as we co-host the Corinthian Cup. This is a version of the Boomerang Cup, designed to run parallel with the Olympics and is attracting national and international teams. So join in the fun, organise your team (5-8 players) and enter. Forms will be available shortly from the club. See the Booking system

<http://www.booknowplus.com/memberlogin.aspx> for a link to more details.

### FEES, LEVIES, SUBSCRIPTIONS



Court fees and coaching fees remain at the same price for the coming year. Please make sure that you pay these on time. Why not have a monthly standing order for court fees to save you the task of remembering!

**Subscriptions** are due annually on 1 October, preferably by Standing Order. Please check that you are paying the correct amount (£140 for full members). The **Annual Levy** (£120) which is used to repay Founders Loans is due in April each year from all full and country members who play more than 4 times p.a. If you have not yet arranged a transfer or standing order, please do so, this year's will be added to your court account.



### UPKEEP & MAINTENANCE

We are planning to make gradual but systematic improvements to

our surroundings during the year. Starting with low cash reserves, it is our main way to make a difference.

Any members with practical skills will be welcomed onto our working party. Contact Richard Dunn or Colin Clifton Brown if you are handy with a paint brush or can contribute or help in any way.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Do you all make use of our online resources? The club has a great **Web site** <http://www.nstrc.co.uk/> hosted and managed by Adrian Thurley who updates it regularly with all club news. The committee has decided that in the interests of economy and accessibility, the main source for all club documents will be the web site. Any document can be printed at the club for those who do not have online access. You will see that our website has some new sections – in addition to the **Fixtures List**, Ian Lindsay has drawn up documents for our Child Protection Policy in the **Junior Section**, while the **Information Section** includes the Constitution and an online Application Form. Any members who have ideas for improving the club may use the 'Contact the Committee' form in the new **Committee Section** which has details of names & responsibilities. Perhaps the most useful part is the **Home Page** which has all the latest club news and future events, but also the important link straight into the online Booking System. If you don't know your Member Number, ask the pros.



### BookNowPlus

<http://www.booknowplus.com/main.htm> is the online system which supports the central functions of the club by providing the court booking timetable and our billing system. It has the advantage of being available 24/7, not just when the club is open or one of the pros available to answer the phone, and can be accessed from comfort of your own home! You enter to the page showing court and pros' messages. Click on **Real Tennis Court** for the week's timetable. Click on a vacant (white) time slot to book your own court or a yellow slot to play someone who already has the court, and click on the green button to confirm.

While you are logged in, the **Profiles list** will give you a list of your bookings or a statement of your court bill and recent payments and debits like a bank statement. You can also find a full list of

members & their phone numbers; this replaces the old paper based club booklet.

If you need to check your current handicap, follow the link from the Club Website to the **T&RA site** [www.realtennisonline.com/](http://www.realtennisonline.com/) You will need to ask the pros to set up your name and password to use this for the first time, but it is useful for seeing the record of your own games, and handicap changes, and for checking those of opponents. It also does other clever things like working out your world ranking!

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Committee have now held 3 meetings since the AGM and are taking up their individual responsibilities which are shown on the website. We have decided to retain the identity of Newmarket & Suffolk Real Tennis Club, together with the existing logo and clothing, so have a seamless progression to the members' club.

Financial management has been a priority in setting our activities. Our Treasurer, Stuart Arrandale has reported that we managed to break even in the year October 2010-Sept 2011 despite the changes in management and uncertainty for members. We go through to the new year with a membership of around 160, only half of whom are full members, and not all of whom play. A look at our court bookings shows overall use of around 50%, with lots of room for improvement at weekends and in the evenings. Taken together, these factors point to a need to recruit more members to use some more of those empty courts and generate more income which can be invested in improvements to our club.

Can you bring another member in? Andrew and Mark have been working on special deals, and introductory lessons to help, and new members are excused the annual levy for their first year. We are also keen to develop our Junior Section to provide for the future of the club. Lessons for local schools will be supported by the T&RA, while there are special rates for family membership to encourage your children to play.

We are also working on the Club's structure and pursuing charitable status via becoming a Community Amateur Sports Club. This brings tax advantages in the future from any donations to the club.

*So, sign up for your tournaments, matches games... and working parties.*

**ENJOY YOUR TENNIS and YOUR CLUB**