



**CROMER TENNIS,  
SQUASH & TABLE  
TENNIS CLUB**

After a very mild winter February has seen some windy and chilly days with this week introducing hard frosts which has come as a shock to most of us.

Our chairman is still on his French break where it is to be hoped that he and Sherry are not buried under snow drifts.

The club is coming out of its winter quiet period and gearing up for the beginning of the spring season.

Already the club diary is showing signs of the increase of bookings which announce the opening of the grass courts which by the way are only just over two months away.

By that time, the new table tennis facility will have been completed and we will be looking to maximise its usage by re-introducing Pilates & Zumba.

It came as a shock therefore to hear that the present facility has been abused by users who left half-full beer cans and general rubbish all over the place and damaged the match table.

Whilst the hut is in use mainly by the table tennis members, it is the duty of all our members who use club equipment to make sure that all our facilities are

used safely and with due regard to the care of all equipment provided. The club has never had to introduce security measures or deposits before and we do not want to do so now but we cannot afford to keep replacing equipment damaged by a few thoughtless people.

When the new facility is opened and in use, a new system of care by its users will be in place and this will help keep any thoughtless behaviour under control.

The club were lucky enough to secure a grant for the building but did not gain the full amount required to equip it as we would have liked to do.

The shortfall for the building work has been met by the club so we are now looking for some help in raising funds to equip the new building with a new table tennis table and other sporting/dance materials.

Can any of our members who would like to help please contact me at the club and we can discuss ideas on fundraising for this worthy cause.

If anyone would like to make a financial contribution toward new equipment please talk to Jordy who will be only too pleased to talk to you.

On another note, as said in my last news letter, I asked for material regarding the club history and items on The Norfolk Open Tournament.

Martin Braybrook, in between major retuning in the body & fender workshop, has given me his folder with a potted club history which he put together for the centenary celebrations in 2008.

I contacted the LTA who put me in touch with the Wimbledon Museum. They have so far sent me an actual copy of the first ever tournament results held here at our club in 1908.

I also received copies of the first ever Norfolk Open results in 1919, 1920 & 1921. They make fascinating reading and allow us to get a picture of the history of our club and its influence in the local area.

I will be having a go at writing a small potted history of the Norfolk Open Tournament for general distribution during its centenary year as part of the celebrations.

Cromer museum has also provided me with some material information regarding programmes etc from earlier years which again was informative and very useful.

Although its three years away, the club cannot afford to ignore the major part it has played in the development of our sport or the impact our club has had on our local environment and celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will highlight why we are a major asset to Cromer and Norfolk in general.

I am inviting our club members to take part in a series of events during the 2019 summer season which will highlight the changes in tennis equipment and clothing, the club and its players since the courts opened in 1908.

A small committee will hopefully be in charge of planning events, fund raising etc so can I ask members to come forward to help with this.

I am sure the majority of club members have no idea how the club they love has survived since the council bought it in the mid 1920's and how many times the great and the good have supported our survival.

It makes our efforts since 2013 to save our club worthwhile and all our members and volunteers who have worked so hard so noteworthy.

The club's annual dinner dance is on the 9<sup>th</sup> April at the Cliftonville Hotel. If you have not yet received an email with the menu attachment, please let me know.

Heather Bottomley is our liaison with the Cliftonville and will be arranging the table bookings etc. We are also holding a raffle at the dinner with some lovely prizes. Please do make an effort this year and come along. Belinda & Robert always give us a very good deal and if you would like to attend and stay the night at the hotel, contact Belinda to arrange this.

Andy, our head coach has begun various coaching programmes for both junior and adult players. If you would like to attend any of these please contact Andy on 07956450194 or on [awm730802@outlook.com](mailto:awm730802@outlook.com)

I will be sending out all the information regarding the AGM, date etc, as soon as possible after our next committee meeting.

If you would like to be involved in helping organise and run the club, please think about joining the committee. There are many positions still waiting to be filled and it will help the smooth operations of the club if we could enlist some new willing bodies with fresh ideas and the abilities required.

The present committee members and chairman will be reporting at the AGM on the past years activities so please do come along on the night. It is your club and if you have any suggestions or proposals you would like to be included at this year's meeting; please do let me have them so they can be included in the AGM's agenda.

All proposals must be received at least three weeks before the AGM so the club remains within the legal requirements which govern all AGM meetings.

Could all our members remember to wear appropriate footwear when the grass courts open?

The grass will be soft to start and all players must be careful not to damage themselves playing softer lower shots until the courts harden up.

We will be hosting Men's Division two this year for county week and we will be looking for our cake makers and other volunteers for kitchen rotas to help during the tournaments.

Last year's catering was wonderfully organised and run by Kathy Seville & Derek Mackey and we had a successful tournament season financially.

This allowed the club to carry out some much needed improvements to the showers and also look at re-modernising the club house interior. This is an ongoing programme of improvements which with the aid of grant monies will help refurbish the lighting in the squash courts and replace the bar furniture as required.

As with all improvements, we ask our members to respect the hard work of our team of grounds men. Please do thank them for this as they help the club avoid having to pay large bills for other specialists.

Thanks as always to our bar volunteers who have worked through the winter, all our cake providers and all our other members who have freely given time and work around the club.

With the coming of the warmer weather, when all the pale legs reappear hopefully to get tanned, let's have another good year of sporting fun. If you wish to play in one of the teams in the City League or North Norfolk League, contact Steve Lowe or Martin Lovell via the club.

Carol W