

## ALBURGH TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

The club meets for informal group sessions with players of all abilities on Tuesday evenings in the summertime and Friday mornings all year round plus Tuesday mornings in the winter. The rest of the time courts are available for members to use on a first come first served basis. Alburgh Primary School also uses the courts for a few sessions in the summer.

The club has a shrinking and aging membership with the same few faces turning up to play at group sessions and the annual tidy up. Unlike other village clubs and organisations we have various annual maintenance costs to cover. We are maintaining the courts at the most basic level as cannot afford the c£17,000 and increasing cost of the required works to sort out the underlying root problem. Due to low membership numbers our income is falling and we are in a catch 22 position of not being able to afford works but can't raise membership costs to the amount that could raise the funds (probably £100s a year) as we we would lose all members! Any ideas as to how we could raise c£10,000 would be greatly appreciated as we have drawn a blank. As things stand the rate things are going we will inevitably be handing back the courts to the Village Hall or Parish Council (whoever owns them) when they are no longer fit to play on which would be a loss to the whole village.

One idea that was suggested would be to see if there was an interest in the village for us to paint in basketball markings and set up nets so that the courts could be dual use (and hopefully raise more funds) but there would be the added complication of access as the courts are accessible only by paid up members who know the code. If there was some way to set up a pay as you play system tied into a locking mechanism then this could be a way forward but my research indicates that there is no such system linked to locks and codes.