

Tributes to Jeremy Cameron from Members of the Norfolk Tennis Community – Feb 2024

Jeremy was a highly respected member of the Norfolk County tennis team, playing in many friendly matches before making his County Cup debut on 1st March 1971. Playing against Northants he won his first match 6-4 4-6 6-3. Jeremy had many long matches as he was a particularly tenacious player, especially at singles.

He had to wait until 1978 to make his Summer County Week debut – against Yorkshire at Ilkley. I remember him asking me if I could get him an orange when I went into town. This I did and got a very nice looking Jaffa, only to be told on my return that I was politically incorrect to purchase a Jaffa – he still ate it though!

He was a great supporter of Norfolk Tennis, not only being men's captain for many years, but also as President. I enjoyed reading his book on the latter.

Jeremy played in 39 matches for Norfolk, covering 84 rubbers. He won 45 of those, over a 50% success rate.

And for those of us who went, who can forget the Special Birthday bash in Monte Carlo – a great time was had.

Thanks for the memory Jeremy.

Robin Lincoln – Norfolk Men's Team Player, Captain, Archivist and Friend

I have shared many tennis memories with Jeremy over the years, mainly relating to our doubles partnership back in the 1970/80s. Jeremy was far too modest (or embarrassed) to talk about it but I know that he regarded winning the Norfolk Closed Doubles title in 1981 as a highlight of his playing career. He makes reference to this in his book "How to be President". The advice he received from his partner at a crucial stage of the final he maintained changed his doubles play forever. It probably fuelled his tennis philosophy that if you hit the ball back in court more times than your opponent you had a fair chance of winning. Bright chap that Jeremy.

We also had some success in the former Robinson Barley Water tournament. On one occasion we managed to beat a couple of semi-professional players who were on the full time circuit. They were so distraught at losing to a couple of "hackers" they decided to give up tennis as a career and were never heard of again. We had that effect on opponents!

Jeremy was certainly a one off. Fond memories of our tennis exploits as partners in the 1970/80s; always competitive but never without humour.

Jeremy remained a good friend to both Lynda and myself and will be sorely missed.

John Love – doubles partner and friend

I have known Jeremy for well over 50 years so have experienced his eccentricities and enthusiasm for a very long time. He was a wonderful Norfolkian who supported all things Norfolk with incredible and heartfelt loyalty. I have many great memories of this idiosyncratic character from teenage years to the present. These include:-

- * His "exhibition" award to Oxford University;
- * Playing chess and cards with Buster Mottram at Queens Club;
- * Playing against him for Leicestershire when he was trying to get me to return to my Norfolk roots;
- * Turning up to watch Norfolk in the Winter County Cup having travelled on the train for many hours and then getting the wrong one for the final destination in Birkenhead;
- * His walk across USA when he was blown into a ditch not realising it was Hilda Hurricane;
- * His walking to Greece and getting frostbite in the mountains in what was once Yugoslavia and being forced to give up;
- * His hard court singles matches in the 1970s that lasted for hours, he always thought if it was less than three hours it was not a proper match;
- * His novel (about London low life) that turned into a film with Thandie Newton who turned down Charlie's Angels to be in it;

The list goes on and on for a stalwart of all Norfolk sport. An enormous chasm will now exist for everybody who had the good fortune to know him and be his friend. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

Eddie Fox – Fellow Norfolk Team Member and friend

Part way through the 3rd match at County Week, Jeremy missed a service return. I said to him "you missed one". "yes, the first one" Jeremy replied. In 4 hours play, Jeremy has just failed to return serve for the first time. On that day, Jeremy and I, Norfolk no 7 and 8, combined to be Norfolk's most successful pair winning 2 in a 5-4 loss to East of Scotland.

At County Week in the early days of Jeremy's captaincy. I had a sore neck, couldn't rotate to the right. Jeremy was guiding me as I reversed out of the hotel in the morning. He directed me straight into an Austin Allegro, putting a very large dent into it. The younger members of the team found this very amusing.

Playing against Cambridge University, singles in the morning, then lunch followed by 3 doubles in the afternoon. Jeremy was always very careful what he ate. I was not. When I had a second helping of pudding, Jeremy was so dismayed with me that he stomped off and disappeared for a couple of hours or so.

In recent years, while he had Parkinson's, my dog and I would go and visit him a few times a year. We would walk into Castle Acre and back, around 5 miles, then Jeremy would cook us lunch. The 5 mile walk would always be filled with endless tennis memories.

Many times over the years Jeremy would travel to matches on his own because he was going from London not Norwich. Most of the others would be in a car from Norwich. There would be the occasional chance to get a lift with Jeremy, BUT this opportunity had to be treated with caution. A long trip with a driver who considered 40 mph adequate and 50 an absolute maximum, was a trip to save for another day.

During the years of Jeremy's captaincy, each Tuesday in the summer he would travel back from London to Norwich to take county practice at East Anglia Tennis and Squash club. He hardly ever missed. I only remember him missing one county match in that period of captaincy. He not only captained the first team in that period but showed a lot of interest in the county second team. Nick Smith, as 2nd team captain, benefitting from Jeremy's words of wisdom.

When faced with Parkinson's, Jeremy didn't just accept his fate. He did all within his power to combat the illness. He continued to walk considerable distances, attended a gym regularly where he got exercises specific to his needs, paid an American Parkinson's expert for advice, went several times to a clinic in Italy, had all his teeth fillings removed and replaced, and THEN as if that was not enough, got me to play table tennis against him because he had heard that was good for people who suffer from Parkinson's.

Mick Musson – Fellow Norfolk Team Member and Friend

Jeremy had a great sense of humour, I remember one captain's report when he likened County week to having a baby, nine months of preparation and one week of hell.

I shall remember him with great fondness

Hilary Kerrison - Former Norfolk Women's Captain and Past President

I first got to know Jeremy when I got into the men's County tennis team in the late 1990's. I was immediately struck by his passion for Norfolk county tennis and specifically the men's and women's County teams. His presence at the annual County Week and Winter County Cup was ever-present, often travelling from one end of the country to the other to support both teams and yo-yoing hundreds of miles on buses, trains and on foot to make sure he was in attendance for crucial final day fixtures.

I enjoyed sharing many a conversation with Jeremy on various subjects and his desire to help other people shone through. There were several times he was a great help to me when I was a county

player and, in later years, county captain. He always had time for me and I cherished seeking his advice and I will continue to draw upon those chats today and in the future.

It was only in November last year at Winter County Cup that, as ever, Jeremy was there having come from Italy where he was receiving treatment, travelling by train through France to Northampton where we were playing.

Having spoken to the team I know his presence is going to be hugely missed this summer at our next event which happens to be in Norfolk at Cromer, a tennis club that I know Jeremy was very fond of. The team have decided to name an annual tennis event each Christmas after Jeremy, meaning each year there will be a winner of the Jeremy Cameron Trophy. A fitting way to honour such a legend within Norfolk county tennis.

Nicky Crawley - Norfolk Men's Tennis Team Captain 2015 - Present)

I will always be incredibly grateful to Jeremy for his passion for offering tennis opportunities to people in Norfolk with disabilities. It was his determination to have a dedicated position within Norfolk LTA and I was lucky to get that role. Thank you Jeremy for everything you have done for tennis in Norfolk, what a legacy you have left.

Norma Bowen - Norfolk LTA Disability Tennis Officer 2014-2020)

I will always remember our 'chats' in the car going from one venue or another.

You were an inspiration to me and always incredibly supportive of what I am trying to achieve in Norfolk.

You made me laugh with your anecdotes from your playing days for Norfolk and your life experiences.

I did, of course, read your book!!

I will always miss you at County Week.

Heather Bottomley - Past President, Norfolk LTA Committee member and LTA Councillor

I first met Jeremy in 1982 as a tough but honourable opponent

We played many times and became friends

He always had great humour and I enjoyed reading his books

He will be badly missed

David Rawlinson – LTA Past President

He was a true gentleman and will be missed by many. I was particularly appreciative of his support and genuine interest in the work that we did with the junior players. His family will hopefully find comfort from the knowledge that he was so well respected by all generations across Norfolk tennis. This is the end of an era but we have all gained from sharing time with such a delightful person.

Sue Bradley-Watson – Norfolk LTA Junior Tennis Co-Ordinator (2010-19)

I feel honoured to have got to know Jeremy a little bit over many years. Firstly when I was having a chat with him about a young player with Cerebral Palsy who at the age of 7 was blowing my mind with her enthusiasm for tennis. To which Jeremy said he wanted to come and see her play. His visit ended up as a chapter in one of his books simply titled Georgia. He was always wanting an update on her progression. So much so we were arranging a meeting on his return from holiday after Christmas to share the great news that 13 years later Georgia was actually going to be able to play the game of tennis and compete in a new category which was suitable for her. I feel he is looking down on us all the time giving such encouragement and eloquent chat on the whole experience. Secondly, Jeremy turned up nearly every year at Ladies county cup and this support was so appreciated by the team. His presence and chat always so delightful. We will all miss him so, but are all blessed with having known him, even in a small way. Rest in peace Jeremy.

Donna Andrews – Tennis for Life

I got to know Jeremy when he became President of Norfolk LTA from 2012 to 2014 and I was Hon Secretary. I knew he was already a well-loved figure within the tennis community in Norfolk and very quickly I understood why.

While President of Norfolk LTA Jeremy was, and continued to be, a fierce champion of the less privileged and was the driving force for establishing the County Disability Tennis programme. Money was tight, but funding was found for a paid disability officer to get things going, and this set the tone for attracting sponsorship and other funding to develop a very successful programme that grew to enable more than 200 people with a range of disabilities to access tennis every month.

Being a very strong advocate for inclusivity in all its forms, Jeremy constantly challenged us to ensure we were actively seeking and encouraging volunteers regardless of gender, race, etc. We also became well drilled in ensuring non meat options were available at Norfolk LTA Council meetings and events. I think Jeremy could genuinely be regarded as a male feminist if there is such a thing.

As a published author, Jeremy's skills helped to promote tennis. During his captaincy he would deliver humorous match reports to the Eastern Daily Press, ensuring that the humour would be retained by submitting his copy as close as possible to the deadline. I have thoroughly enjoyed all his books, fact and fiction, but cannot quite reconcile myself to the fact that he wrote all the language in the Nicky Burkett series. Have you got to the sex scene yet he asked me?!

His book "How to Be President (of Norfolk Lawn Tennis Association)", has become something of a cult classic and captures in his inimitable style the quirks of life as a volunteer. It has been read and enjoyed by many LTA Presidents and tells you everything about his passion for people and the game. Another book, "Life Begins", takes a humorous look at the trials and tribulations of a season with the otherwise unheralded Norfolk Women's Over 40s team. His description of Katie (no surnames) playing a singles match had me in stitches.

And then the wonderful "significant birthday" bash in Nice and Monaco. Quite how I was worthy of an invitation I don't know, but it was a truly memorable occasion with some terrific socialising and great tennis with the magnificent backdrop of the Mediterranean. And of course the irony of a committed socialist partying in the midst of a millionaire's playground.

In all the years I knew Jeremy (sadly, all too few) I cannot recall him ever losing his calmness, and that covered the time when he bore his increasing disability with Parkinson's with great fortitude and stoicism. Perhaps the only things that would cause demonstrable signs of annoyance were the regular two page spreads in the Eastern Daily Press devoted to angling (a vicious blood sport to use Jeremy's own words) to the detriment of any tennis coverage.

He never lost the desire to help people. We will all miss him immeasurably.

Richard Palmer - Past President and Life Vice-President of Norfolk LTA

At the inaugural playing of the over-35s inter-county championships played at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, Jeremy played the first doubles with David Henderson (Hendo). The latter had not played at County Week, but he was the classic late developer and blossomed in the vets age groups. This occasion was his County debut and he was a nervous wreck. Jeremy used his experience to settle Hendo down and this guided them to a win. Looking back this was quite an achievement by Jeremy - Hendo rarely took my advice on court!

Philip Tye – Fellow Norfolk Veteran's Team Member

My thoughts and best wishes go to Jeremy's family as I know how much he will be missed by all. He was a truly inspirational man who could see things from so many points of view. As Men's County Cup Captain he delivered team talks with such great humour and insight, making you really think and consider his opinion. At the close of play, he would give incredibly detailed feedback, making your match sound like a movie. This in itself made me feel like the lead character, he really was a master of man management and I loved playing for his team.

Jeremy was so open, honest and inclusive. A great innovator whose vision would provide opportunities for so many. In sport we sometimes talk about generational talent and Jeremy was certainly that. Elvis has left the building but his music will live for ever!

Stuart Silvester – Past Norfolk Men's Team Member and County Press Officer



2021 LTA Meritorious Service Award Presentation with Sandi Procter, LTA Deputy President at the Time (LTA President from 2023)



With Nicky Crawley – Norfolk Men's Team Captain – at Cromer 2021



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LTA tribute to Jeremy Cameron

On behalf of the LTA, I would like to express my sincere condolences for Jeremy Cameron's recent passing. I met Jeremy several times and was honoured to present him with the LTA Meritorious Service Award in 2021. His achievements and involvement as a player were outstanding as were his many years of being Captain of the Norfolk Men's County Team. But his contribution did not stop there. He supported up and coming young players, was a fierce champion of the less privileged and the driving force behind establishing the County Disability Tennis programme, the first in the country. He was of course, also a published author, and I have personally enjoyed reading his books particularly those set in the tennis world. 'How to be President' was particularly notable for me. I remember having such fun talking to him at his MSA presentation, about his writing and he gave me many tips which have been invaluable. Jeremy will be much missed but always remembered.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandi Procter'.

Sandi Procter
LTA President

County Week 1978 Group 2 Ilkley

Jeremy Cameron Paul Moulton Paul Sussams Mike Musson

Richard Pattrick Martin Smith Robin Lincoln Eddie Fox



Norfolk Team for Jeremy's County Week Debut

County Week 1980 Group 4 Felixstowe

*Paul Cassano Martin Smith Mike Mason Jeremy Ginnerson
Mark Nicholls Robin Parnock Richard Jenner Eddie Fox*

