



COURT CIRCULAR

MAY 2009

MMTCC PRO AM 9/10 May 2009

I'm pleased to announce that Tom has drawn together 8 of the world's best tennis players for the Club's Pro Am weekend on 9/10 May. The following have confirmed their availability:

Rob Fahey	- World Champion - Handicap	+13
Camden Riviere	- World Number 2	+13
Nick Wood	- UK Number 1	+8
Bryn Sayers	- British, young and fast improving	+5
Steve Virgona	- former World No 2	+11
Chris Bray	- also former World Number 2	+2
Dan Jones	- always around top 10	+2
Ricardo Smith	- young heading for the top	+2

This is another fantastic opportunity for Club members to watch the finest players in action at Moreton Morrell.

Tickets are on sale from today and MMTCC members will have **priority booking until 21 April**.

MMTCC vs LRTA

December 7th 2008

Our annual match against the Ladies produced the annual defeat but a day of enjoyable tennis.

The first match was tight but never in doubt.

COOK & PROPHET V NEWBY & MILLER
5/6 6/4 4/6

Martin Rogers and Andrew Hamilton produced some fine tennis in the second set getting back to 5all from 3/5 but could not sustain it.

HAMILTON & ROGERS V CORNWALLIS & HIRD
4/6 5/6

Simon Hobson produced the best tennis we have seen from him since his severe injury 3 years ago - Strong volleying and steady play to balance the mercurial W-G.

WILSON GUNN & HOBSON V IDDLES & GRANT
6/0 6/2

John Miller and RSM made the mistake of changing receiver in the final set when they might have had a chance to halve the day.

MILLER & SEYMOUR MEAD V GARSIDE & GREENWOOD 6/5 4/6 3/6

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday 8 May:

3.30 to 6.30: 16 MMTCC members to play doubles box matches - each win will provide prize money for their allocated Professional

Saturday 9 May:

9.15am - 11am: MMTCC members' Doubles

11.30am - 5 pm: Professionals to play 2 box singles matches each in 8game sets

6 pm: **JUNIOR CLINIC** for MMTCC juniors with Rob Fahey, Camden Riviere and Nick Wood (to be confirmed)

Finest Persian Cuisine, Sandwiches, Teas, Cakes and Scones will be available during the day -

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE FOOD

SUNDAY 10 May:

10.00am - 12.40pm Professionals to complete box matches

12.40am - 1.40pm MMTCC Doubles Semi-Finals

2.00pm - 3.20am Professionals Semi-Finals

3.25pm - 4pm Doubles Final

4pm Professionals' Final

4.40pm Prize presentation

Buffet will be provided during the day by George K-

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE FOOD

TICKETS and PRICES:

Saturday:	Dedans (26 seats)	£20.00
	Back Dedans (30)	£15.00
	Galleries (20)	£10.00 adults £5.00 juniors
	Standing (10)	£7.50
Sunday:	Dedans	£25.00
	Back Dedans	£20.00
	Galleries	£10.00 adults £5.00 juniors
	Standing	£7.50

ALL PRICES INCLUDE FOOD

Please contact Tom Granville stating how many tickets you require and if you would like them to be charged to your account.

If you would prefer to pay by cheque, make it payable to MMTCC and send it please to: Martin Rogers, 30 Fastley Crescent, Warwick CV34 5RX

This promises to be a superb weekend and I am sure that members will support it to the full.

Please make the most of the priority booking period. I hope that parents will take up the opportunity to bring along their children to see Rob, and Camden and Co. in action.

I should like to thank our sponsors of the event particularly our main sponsor Jonny Cook, without whom this tennis-fest would not have been possible.

Andrew Hamilton

JUNIOR TENNIS

Our thanks Tim Messer and Jo Iddles who are organising our Junior Programme.

They have produced a Newsletter devoted to the Junior Scene.

The full Newsletter is available on the website:

www.mmtcc.co.uk

Extracts are below:

For Youngsters with *Real* attitude!

The Voice of the Young at Moreton Morrell Real Tennis Club
No. 1 January 2009

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

On the 19th December Moreton Morrell held its inaugural Junior Championships starting in the early morning with the Under 12s. Following lunch it was the turn of the Under 15s, the day being concluded by the Under 21s playing for the Willoughby de Broke Trophy. Throughout the day the tennis was of the highest standard with even the youngest competitors surpassing the expectations of coach and parents.

Willoughby de Broke Under 21 Trophy.

Following the completion of the younger age divisions it was hard to see how the relevant standards could rise, but rise they certainly did. Whilst only having four competitors the Trophy proved a close fought affair, with all players showing abilities well above their handicap level. The competition took the form of a group stage with all entrants playing one another, the top two from the group meeting in the final.

It was decided that as Tom Lewis, Roly Grant and Ed Steele had very similar handicaps the competition should be played off level. The exception to this was promising newcomer George Greaves who received a small advantage. The group round was exciting with Tom and Roly filling the top places. George played well and shows good promise for the future. Ed Steele whilst playing attractive tennis did not reach his true potential or play the standard of tennis that has entertained us in the past. We hope he will be back next year to deservedly challenge for the title.

Tom Lewis receives the Willoughby de Broke Trophy from the Chairman Sir Andrew Hamilton.

The group round had seen Tom beat Roly 6-4 without ever being behind, however, the final turned out to be a very different affair. The game was played to the very highest standard by two players who have similar athletic qualities and appear to know one another's games inside out.

Roly started the stronger and led 4-2. At this point he looked as if he would reverse the group match result to take the title.

Tom, however, showed an increased level of confidence in his shot making and managed to find another gear. Roly whilst playing well, found it hard to match the increased tempo and more aggressive style of his slightly older opponent and the game found the almost inevitable score of 5-5. Tom, now playing with a new confidence was not going to lose from here and closed out the match, winning 6-5. Well done to both players. There was praise for the incredible standard of tennis played from all those who watched the final. I will quote a couple of examples of the eulogies heard, "...these lads were playing 20 handicap tennis for vast tracts of the match" and "...wouldn't it be great if the youngsters playing today could one day form the backbone of our Field Trophy team". Credit goes to all four players and we look forward to great things from you this and next season.

OTHER EVENTS

Moreton members Ian and Ed Steele won the **Invitational Fathers and Sons** Tournament at Leamington at Christmas. Richard and Tom Seymour Mead failed to retain their **National Championship**, the level event, losing to Mark and William Nicolls in the final.

The Field Trophy Final was held at Moreton on 15th March.

A full dedans enjoyed the POL ROGER champagne contributed by the sponsor and watched Cambridge defeat Hampton Court. The full report will be in the T & RA Annual report.

The Allen Associates annual competition started in March.

This is the Handicap Knock Out event for the Templecourt Trophy and the opportunity for the winner to play in the Chetwood Trophy at Hampton Court in September.

Please try to get you matches completed asap as summer holidays seem to come by surprise every year!

THE GARLAND CUP

January 10th/11th 2009.

Tennis Royale.

by Hypocrotease. With apologies to Ian Fleming.



8 groups of 4 men. Each man with his own special skills. Each man determined to play his part in this annual event. These were no ordinary men- these were Moreton Morrell Men and this was no ordinary cup , this was the Garland cup. When Lord Hamilton had first won this event in 1980(repeated in 2003) it was a simple battle of handicap tennis. Now there was product placement to negotiate and the ever-present danger of falling over poorly constructed clichés.

But H, while ageless in fiction was now ageing and he failed to get out of his box. He made the usual excuses about handicap bandits and left.

Bush of the CIA had entered but withdrew citing he couldn't find his shoe. - He had the one marked right but no one could find the other one – marked 'the other right' and in any case he was busy being disinauguralised.

M (SM to some) was fancied after a fine box performance but fell at the considerable hurdle of " the Persian". Known to summon evil forces- and chases-, constantly harping of his younger, more sinister years, the Persian was a formidable adversary.

Fats had no difficulty against The Dentist. The latter failed to show; perhaps too many fillings in his glass on Saturday night.

In the first of the quarterfinals The young Turks, Roly Grant and Tom Lewis showed that tennis can be played at a decent pace- some excellent stroke play from Grant and too many loose shot from Lewis led to his quick exit.

Roly Grant(33) beat Tom lewis(34) 5/0

Money Penny and other gamblers had odds on for Big Al to deal with the Persian .

Moving with the deceptive speed of an Egyptian mummy the Persian took an early lead which he never relinquished.

Keyvan Famanfarmai (48) beat Al Goulty(38) 5/2.

The Hirsute twins took the court in the 4th quarterfinal at 2.20.

One hairy grey agent beat the other grey hairy agent. They left the court at 2.36.

Tim Messer (51) beat John Lambdon(42) 5/0

In the semis Grant beat Steele 5/3 and Farmanfarmai beat Messer 5/3.

The name's Grant, Roly Grant.

Grant looked and felt strong for the Final Confrontation. He knew he had a hard battle to come against such an experienced enemy on such a handicap.

Dark haired and handsome, his shorts by Sergio Tacchini, his Gray's racket personally strung by T Granville of Moreton Morrell to 90psi - not 95, Grant looked the part.

The black shoes were his personal eccentricity.

The Persian.



1st played at Queens. 1960. Leamington finalist in '71, '74,'75, and '80. He won in '71. A master of the darker arts of tennis.

The Persian stuck to his game plan. 49 years of treachery and trickery. Is he louche or is he lazy? Has he ever moved fast in a half century? The Persian plays with a deceptive nonchalance learned in the bazaars of Isfahan. (bars of Islington, more likely :ed). Put a ball near him and he slides or slithers it into a corner.

Inspite of continuing excellence in serves and ground strokes Grant was put to the slow sword. He was shaken as the Persian stirred but he will return stronger.

The Result.

Kevan Farmanfarmai beat Roly Grant 6/3

THE HOBSON CUP

14th/15th February. Report by the editor.

Eight pairs contested the annual >30 Handicap doubles tournament.

In the first semi, Martin Trees and Rob Woolston (52) beat Flo Holland and Grant Arthur (53) 6/2

In the second semi, Peter Stephenson and Simon Allen (42) lost to Johnathon Lambdon and Alex Turner (48) 6/1

Turner is a product of the excellent Seacourt junior programme and played many shots far better than his handicap he is one to watch. With the support of Lambdon - only a few years his senior, the two young men were far too strong for Stephenson and Allen to be giving shot each game.

The Winners :

Johnathon Lambdon and Alex Turner 6/1 Simon Hobson presents the winners with their prizes.



THE PONSONBY CUP

14th/15th February. Report by the editor and staff.

In the first semi-final Richard Seymour Mead and Rob Allsop were receiving owe 15 against Simon Hobson and Paul Wilson-Gunn.

They lost the first set 2/6 but persevered with R SM receiving the W-G serve and playing up when at the service end. SM and Allsop won 2/6 6/3 6/4.

2nd Semi. Andrew Hamilton and John Miller, receiving owe 15 against Martin Rogers and Alex Reynolds lost the first set at 5games all with a double fault by Miller.

Our Chairman said not a word but had the look of a Prime Minister who has just bought a bank.

The second set had some really excellent play from all 4 and went to Hamilton and Miller 6/2.

The final set went to 5 all with the result in favour of the younger pair.

Reynolds and Rogers won 6/5 2/6 6/5.

Our editor stepped on court in the final (a position with which he is unfamiliar) looking somewhat surprised. With skilful use of the frame and avoiding play as much as possible - leaving the hard work and running to the far superior skills of Allsop, he looked even more surprised to be 6/3 3/1 up.

At about this stage the errors forced by good returns by SM and solid striking by Allsop came to an end. Even receiving? 15 owe 15 they were unable to keep their advantage. They lost the 2nd set 3/6.

The 3rd went rapidly to 5/2 before Rogers and Reynolds stumbled but they regained their poise and won the final game. A triumph of handicapping by Tom Granville, and a great final for the full dedans.

The Result:

Alex Reynolds and Martin Rogers beat Richard Seymour Mead and Rob Allsop 3/6 6/3 6/5.

Sir Andrew Hamilton and Kevan Farmanfarmi making the presentation.



THE OWEN-GEORGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

7th/8th March 2009. Report by Andrew Hamilton.

1	B HURRION	V	J LAMBERT
	6/1		6/3
2	P WILSON GUNN	V	P SUTTON
	6/4		6/1
3	J MILLER	V	M HENMAN
	6/5		3/6 6/2
4	A HAMILTON	V	M ROGERS
	6/1		6/5
5	A REYNOLDS	V	B HURRION
	6/0		6/4

SEMI FINALS

P WILSON GUNN	V	M HENMAN
W/O		
M ROGERS	V	A REYNOLDS
6/2		6/4

FINAL

M ROGERS	V	M HENMAN
6/4		6/4

Martin Rogers was in confident mood following his victory in the Ponsonby Cup a month earlier. Much quicker around the court than last year, he gave the Club Chairman a thorough working over in the first set but at 2-4 down looked in great danger but hauled himself back into winning ways to take the second. Mike Henman struggled past John Miller and serve, in a long 3 set victory. Alex Reynolds made light work of Bob Hurrion but was 'Rogered' in the semi-final and must have wished he had forgotten to turn up to that game as well! Mike Henman, still fighting for fitness after his nasty skiing accident, was relieved to receive a walkover from Paul



Wilson-Gunn who had earlier seen off the youthful challenge of Patrick Sutton. Paul fell foul of the slightly idiosyncratic tournament organisation which wasn't helped by the pleasingly large entry for the Parsons Cup.

The Final was an enjoyable spectacle as Rogers and Henman played some exciting volley-based rests. Both sets were 'nip and tuck' but at 4/4 on each occasion, Rogers sneaked the final 2 games to produce a new name at last on the Honours Board, like Tom Granville's, a single barrelled name!

The PARSONS CUP

In the quarter-finals George K made surprisingly short work of a John Lambdon still weary from fighting his parking ticket received outside Prince Kev's Persian restaurant during the T&RA Centenary celebrations. Despite hitting the ball relentlessly straight at the immobile Prince, Tim Messer squeezed past him 5/4. Ed Steele gallantly allowed Flo Holland 3 games in their match, and Professor Hodges had clearly lost his grasp of angles in a close 4/5 defeat at the hands of Gabby Savage.

In the semis, Tim Messer had no truck with George's biff baff technique and Ed Steele less gallantly allowed Gabby only 2 games.

In the Final, Ed showed a complete lack of gallantry to Tim who went down with scarcely a whimper 0-5. Following his victory in the Hobson Cup, Ed's excellent play now warrants can now some swingeing treatment of his handicap! It was most fitting that the ever-green ex Hon. Secretary should be in attendance to present his cup.



The OGILBY CUP

March 21st/22nd.

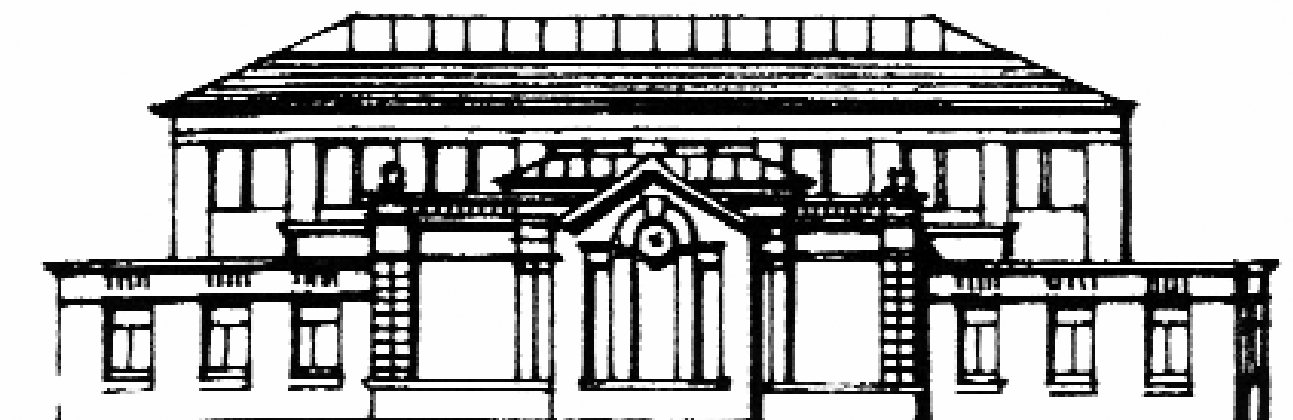
Means Handicap Doubles. Report by David Bryant. 20 people took part and 21 turned up, thanks to some e-mail confusion. Box A handicaps ranged from 32 to 54 while Box B went from 22 to 52. The “Royal Couple” (Hamilton and Farmanfarmai) played extremely well, winning all their matches in Box A recently comfortably. Steele Major and Minor came a close second. In Box B it was a much closer affair. Rogers and Bryant were the winners fractionally in front of George K and Martin Trees. On Mothering Sunday while the rest of the tennis community were doing their duty, the two semi-finals Hamilton & Farmanfarmai vs George K & Trees and Rogers & Bryant vs Steele & Steele took place. The “Dukes of Hazard Second Gallery” looked like they were going to lose to The Chef and Partner. Both Martin Trees and George K volleyed particularly well early on but nobility won through with Andrew Hamilton playing some very solid forces (yes) to win 6/3. Keyvan, as he told us afterwards (quite possibly more than once), masterminded the win from second gallery. In the second semi-final Rogers and Bryant went down miserably 6/2 to Ian and Ed Steele with Ian playing very soundly up front and Ed showing his doubles play may well be quite a bit better currently than his singles.



In the final, it was therefore Ian and Ed Steele versus Chairman and “Caveman”. The first 4 or 5 games were close but after that Andrew Hamilton played better than he has for a long time and we all knew the inevitability of learning in the bar just how well Keyvan had played. To be fair, he does know what to play and what not to play and the winning pair played very well together.

The Result:

Sir Andrew Hamilton & Keyvan Farmanfarmai
beat Ian & Ed Steele 6/3



CAMEL

A report by the Vice Chairman.

CAMpaign for Effective Lighting.

As many of you will know, we have been having problems with the courtlighting for a number of years. A few years ago, just before the Field Trophy Final, we established that there were severe voltage drops in the supply which was causing the lights to be quite dim at times. It had got to the stage when we were worrying that there was so little light and whether it was safe to play the final. The club electricity supply was cut off the day before the final and we were given generators. Eventually the solution presented to us by the electricity supply company was to build a substation for MMTCC, which was duly built and conneced.

Although the lights are better than they were during the "bad times", there are countless people who tell us that several years ago the court lighting was much brighter than it is now. It is still noticeable that in the evening between, say, 1830 and 2030 the lights can be slightly dimmer than at other times. We have had the electricity supply company put test meters on the supply but they say there is not a problem.

Light meters have been used to measure how much light the current 16 lights produce and I think the general conclusion was that the light levels are roughly 2/3 of what would be ideal from a theoretical standpoint.

The club does not have the money to completely re-vamp the lighting system. Also we are very aware of other clubs who have not, in our opinion, been completely successful with their change of lighting. The sodium lighting we have seems to work well when coupled with the colour of the court floor and it would take a very brave person to sanction using fluorescent or metal halide lighting instead of the sodium lighting.



So we (the committee) have decided to continue with sodium lighting but increase the wattage of the units. The court has 16 lights, each lamp being 250 watts. We are going to replace 8 of the lights (the 4 closest to the pros end and the 4 closest to the bar) with 400W units with special electronic control gear which is less susceptible to voltage drop and allegedly more reliable than the ones installed at the moment. This should make the lighting at each end of the court quite a bit brighter and much less liable to dim when there is a voltage drop. We will then leave the court like that for a number of months before deciding whether or not to replace the remaining 8 lights.

Before that could happen, we have had to replace some of the cabling and switches between the pros area and the top of the tambour. That work has taken place in the past week.

We hope to be able to install the 8 new lights some time in April.

Moreton Morrell Tennis Court Club

The **Annual General Meeting** of the club
will be held at the court at 6pm on Monday 27th April 2009
All members may attend.