

## Chairman's Report 2010-11

The Club enjoyed a successful year financially, socially and for player participation. Moreton Morrell remains a popular destination for national and international real tennis players who appreciate the quality of the playing surface and the welcome extended to them. This was exemplified by the very successful match against the M.C.C. which was an excellent example of Tom's organisational, marking and culinary skills- an excellent meal provided for 24 players!

I should like to thank the professionals for their efforts this year and I am pleased to compliment, once again Nick on the quality of tennis balls he manufactures on a weekly basis. Those of us who play at other clubs know only too well how fortunate we are at Moreton Morrell... Tournaments have been as well supported as ever and club matches enjoyable, relaxing and played in the right spirit.

A major advance this last year has been the growth of junior tennis- sadly Jo Iddles has taken a break from tennis but her contribution to enthusing our juniors was vital but Tom and Nick have embraced the need to develop junior tennis at the club most successfully. We now have a number of new junior members and every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, up to 10 boys and girls from Warwick School and King's High play and are now competing in national junior and schools' tournaments. Committee member Tim Messer has been instrumental in enthusiastically driving junior tennis and he and the professionals will be visiting Seacourt, the hub of national junior tennis, to add to their knowledge and skills base. Not many clubs boast a website specifically for junior players! Encouraging young players is fundamental for the good health of the sport and the Club is definitely playing its part.

As ever, our magnificent Edwardian edifice has offered the Committee its own brand of challenges but it is comforting when those who haven't visited for some time, once they have ascertained that the former gents' loo in the changing rooms is now a cupboard, comment favourably on how much the facilities have improved of late! Work is constant and this year major repairs will be carried out on the roof and plans are afoot to redecorate the dedans and bar areas. The American Squash Court and balcony must receive some attention this year- any volunteer plasterers would be welcomed with open arms. A programme to improve the area will be announced shortly.

I should like to thank Paul Wilson-Gunn for the huge amount of work he does uncomplainingly- re-stocking the bar, dealing with the day to day financial requirements and keeping an eye on the fabric of the building. After water ingress once too often caused problems over the marker's box, major work has been carried out on the roof and the drainage from it. The guttering will be painted during the summer.

On the social side, George K. has once again laid on super events: the summer barbecue, the Awards evening and a Spanish evening, all of which were much appreciated and well received. Many members enjoyed seeing Tom struggle (wrong word he tells me!) to beat the Ladies World Champion Claire Vigrass in a close contest.

A tremendous first for the club was a choral evening by the internationally renowned Armonico Consort; the quality of sound was extraordinary given that speech making on court is a total waste of time acoustically! Monteverdi and Byrd sounded sensational and the Consort's 'Naked Byrd' album has received praise on Classic FM and mention has been made of its place of recording! There have been stirrings of excitement that, thanks again to Jonny Cook's very generous sponsorship, Armonico will be performing Rachmaninov's Russian Vespers on Saturday 10 September.

For the second year running the Club has made a slight profit which, it has to be pointed out, will soon disappear in bricks, mortar and paint. I should like to record my thanks to Mike Harwood for putting the accounts together so effectively: no mean task.

I should like to thank committee members for their work- Richard Seymour Mead continues to keep us informed and entertained by his Court Circular as well as doing the more mundane but essential hole filling on the court. Paul Thompson has cast his professional eye over the Club rule changes, Fran Walsh has done

a much needed and major job in sorting health and safety issues which is a great relief to the Chairman! Peter Stephenson has spent much time on rationalising the Membership list for which many thanks, and Martin Rogers has brought fresh ideas to the Tennis Sub Committee but it's time his injury healed enough for him to return to Tuesday night doubles! Simon Allen ( generous sponsor of the Simon Allen Associates Trophy) and Alex Reynolds offered Tom and the Club Committee assistance in monitoring the construction of the kitchen extension which has proved a great success. John Miller continues to keep us agenda-ed and minuted most efficiently and thanks are due to Barbara Nicol for running the profitable 50 Club.

Special mention should be made of David Bryant who puts in endless hours on providing the club's I.T., maintaining and updating the website, producing data from RTO Online for analysis and among other things has put together an online survey which I hope members will respond to. The Committee is keen to listen to members and take on board their views and wishes- so for the many of you who don't attend the AGM this will be your chance!

It is always sad when members of the committee decide to retire but after a tenure that goes back thirty years to 1982, Jane Terry feels it's time to step aside. Jane did a huge amount of work developing the Ladies section and worked incredibly hard on social events which were always a great success- I'm delighted to report that Jane has had successful heart surgery and plans to start playing again in the near future.

So as you can see, members of Moreton Morrell are most fortunate to have such an active and enthusiastic committee that does a huge amount of often unseen and unheralded work. As you will see on your online survey, we are always on the lookout for help- do please volunteer your expertise/ skills and maybe consider helping out on the annual working party day, details of which to follow.

To guarantee a thriving club we do need more members- the committee plans to instigate a membership drive this year- if every member introduced one person to membership of the club.....

Filling courts is hugely important- please play as regularly as you can and reduce your handicap! Put the date of the Summer Doubles and club Barbecue in your diary- June 11/12.

Andrew Hamilton

Chairman MMTCC