



COURT CIRCULAR

APRIL 2008

OGILBY CUP

7-9 December.

A good entry to the men's handicap doubles trophy saw **Johnnie Cook** and **Anthony Parmiter** surprisingly beat old perennials **Howard Shipstone** and **John Lambdon** 6/2, **Gerry Slora** and **David Prophet** mopped up **Ian Sloan** and **Ed Loades** 6/2. A similar scoreline sounded the death knell of **George K** and **Richard Mamoy** against **Professor Hodges** and **Tim Messer** and young bucks **Roly Grant** and **Ed Steele** proved too strong off handicap against the Chairman and Richard Thornton squeezing to a 6/5 victory.

In the semis Slora and Prophet asked too many questions for Cook and Parmiter winning 6/3 and the youngsters improving with every game destroyed Hodges and Messer 6/1. In a well fought final **Grant** displaying his mother's qualities of determination and consistency and **Steele** showing his father's tenacity, put in a dogged performance that proved too hot to handle for **Slora** and **Prophet**.

CHRISTMAS TIPPLES

Tuesday 11 December 2007

Report by the editorial team.

It seemed a good idea to rechristen this annual event and to play lighthearted doubles between eating and drinking.

Eight pairs took part in the seasonal doubles. A few Christmassy hats were donned but not doffed and generally the Court Circular Editor and Simon Allen were soberly dressed for the occasion.

Some matches lasted longer than others- Richard Seymour Mead and Simon managed to get on court, knock-up and get back to the bar in seven minutes having won no more than 6 points against Howard Shipstone and Stewart Hodges.

In Group One clear winners were Anthony Parmiter and Keyvan Farmanfarmai who defeated Johnnie Cook and Jane Terry 4/2, David Prophet and Barbara Nicol 4/2 and Matthew Fattorini and Peter Stephenson 4/2.

Group 2 was a closer affair with Club Chairman and Club Chef defeating Rob Allsop and Ian Sloan 4/3 and Howard Shipstone and the Club Professor 4/1 but inexplicably losing to natty dressers Club Doc and the Club Sartorial 1/4. Group winners were Allsop and Sloan whose one loss was less deleterious than Hamilton and George K's.

Contrary to perceived wisdom in the Bar, favourites **Parmiter** and **Farmanfarmai** were outgunned by **Sloan** and **Allsop** who secured their first ever trophy at MMTCC.

The grille challenge went to an accurate Jonny Cook.

The evening concluded with the 50 Club draw.
Barbara Nicol has taken over the organisation of this

fundraiser and has swelled the number of participants to 50 for the first time. She was congratulated by our Chairman on this feat and she was assisted by him- and other upright and honest parties- in making the annual draw. Other lucky winners will be informed but the editor and the onlookers were amazed and impressed when the BIG one was drawn. The lucky ball was picked out of the bag by Barbara and found to be her own number.

So 200 quid—well done doc.

A most enjoyable and fun event with special thanks to George for the excellent meal, Barbara for the decorations and Tom and Jo for organising the tournament and for marking.



HARDWICK HOUSE vs MMTCC

15 December 2007. Report by Andrew Hamilton

To celebrate the two clubs' centenaries, the inaugural match was played at Hardwick for the Bickley Bowl. On a bitterly cold day, the Chairman was reminded of Moreton Morrell in the 60s and 70s when it was always perishing at the club in winter!

Four doubles matches were arranged and in the first Andrew Hamilton and Richard Thornton raced to a 3 game lead against David Weston and Chris Billington. However wheels fell off thereafter and 6 games were lost on the trot. In the second set the MM pair proved once again that they were at their least dangerous at 3-0 up, losing the set 6/4. The Chairman had a shower in a bid to warm up.

Chris Northcote-Green and Stewart Hodges struggled to make headway against Tim Tomalin and Julian Brind, Chris insisting on testing the bounce of the penthouse and the Professor struggling to master the subtle angles of the court.

So 2-0 down and MMTCC in trouble but steady play (amazingly) from Jonny Cook and David Prophet undid valiant opposition from Pam Tomalin and Julian Brind.

Cometh the hour and bludgeoning John Lambdon and Peter Stephenson flew the flag successfully for MMTCC, winning their two set match 6/4, 6/5.

An excellent day was had by all and I'm sure Joseph Bickley, builder of both courts would have been pleased that such convivial tennis was being enjoyed by members of both clubs. Hopefully he would have been watching over us all from a rather warmer vantage point!

WILLOUGHBY de BROKE CUP

19 December. 2007. Report by Sir Andrew Hamilton.

Illness and unavailability reduced the field to only 5 Under 21 players. Tom Lewis (40) beat Roly Grant, 5/3, Freddie Dixon 5/2 and Jonathan Lambdon 5/3. Freddie lost to Roly Grant 2/5 and beat Lambdon 5/4. Lambdon and Grant's game differences were the same so Lambdon went through having defeated Roly.

It was good to see young Oliver Shipstone make a creditable debut in a Club tournament.

In the final, **Tom Lewis** and **Jonathan Lambdon** had some good rests but Tom's superior consistency helped him to take the trophy.

The contestants were delighted to be marked by Chris Ronaldson one of the greatest of World Champions.

THE HOBSON CUP.

16th-17th February 2008. Report by our fair winner.



Having been phoned by Tom at 10.30am on the morning of the Kick-off, I had no time to do my usual preparation for such combat, press ups, stretches, or get my sports therapist

It was such a relief when I arrived at the club and found I was to partner Chris, for in 1994 we had won the doubles together. We won the 1st two matches (why do some people talk themselves out of winning before they have even hit a ball, complaining about handicap?)

We fell in the 3rd match -- perhaps after a good GK lunch to the de C Parmiter duo but after that we were a force to be on the up.

The final : Yes the old team had made it against a formidable team of Gerry Slora and Alastair Goultly, I hope we all put on a good show for the kind spectators in the dedan who stayed to watch. We all played well and it was nip and tuck until we were 5 all 40/30 against us.

Chris was serving to Gerry who being the best player on court was trying to make better than a yard at my feet! and was a perfect cut shot in to the NET.

40all and again I knew what was coming but as he was still thinking about the last shot it didn't have quite the cut and it came over the net to me and I managed to get it back along the side wall to the bottom of the tambour, Alastair was slightly bemused and Gerry took a great dive from the other side of the court ending up at his partners feet SPLAYED on the floor 5/6 to us.

Semi Finals:

Richard Thornton & Peter Stephenson v Chris Creighton-Thomas & Jane Terry 2-6

Keyvan Farmanfarmai & George Kruszynskj v Gerry Slora & Alastair Goultly 2-6

Final:

CCT & Terry beat Slora & Goultly 6-5

Simon, Anthony Hobson's son presented the cup.

JUNIOR TENNIS

On 23 February, the Club was visited by the Tennis and Rackets Association's "Junior Roadshow". The Association's Director of Junior Tennis, Paul Weaver, brought along his five best national junior champions from 14 to 18 years of age who displayed their skills and high levels of attainment to twelve enthusiastic Moreton Morrell youngsters. Having seen the standards that can be achieved, our own juniors then had their chance on court and participated in a number of drills and exercises directed by Paul and assistant professional Jo.

In retrospect we probably had too many taking part but nonetheless, the event acted as an inspiration to children and parents and since then we have been organising 3 hours of court time booked on a regular basis for junior tennis. There are now over twenty juniors "on the books" for these sessions which is extremely encouraging. The future of the game depends on the development of young players so I would like to thank Paul Weaver for successfully helping us to start a junior development programme at the Club.





GARLAND CUP

11th - 13th January

Some very good tennis was played over the weekend. Most notable were the excellent performances of Rob Woolston, Roly Grant, Norman Hyde and Tom Lewis.

On his way to the final Norman Hyde beat Farmanfarmai 5/3, Andrew Hamilton 5/1 and then John Miller 5/2

Tom Lewis beat **Jon Cook** and **Roly Grant** 5/1 then **Rob Woolston** 5/3 and finally **Norman Hyde** 6/3 in the final.

Norman fought bravely but in the end was no match for someone much younger, faster and who soon will have a much lower handicap.

THE OWEN-GEORGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

28-30th March 2008. Report by the editor.

The club championship got underway with a short battle between Paul Wilson-gunn and Simon Hobson - P W-G won 6/1 6/1.

Next was a grumbling and long affair between Andrew Hamilton and John Miller. Sir Andrew saved 3 match points and went on to win 2/6 6/5 6/3.

Richard Seymour Mead and Phil Shaw-Hamilton had a very brief and groaning(RSM) contest. RSM went into an early lead!! But failed to take the next 12 games! P S-H won 6/1 6/0

Much muttering occurred in the last quarter-final- R Allsop beat Alex Reynolds 4/6 6/2 6/3.

The semi-finals involved some wonderful tennis and hardly a mutter, murmur or groan!

Hamilton lost 3 set points but managed to win the first set against Allsop 6/5.

Allsop had 16 grilles in the match to Hamilton's 2 and he had a 5/3 lead in the second set. Hamilton improved his already excellent retrieving and blocked volleys to win 12 of the last 16 points to take the match 6/5 6/5.

Wilson-Gunn started very strongly against the club champ Shaw-Hamilton but as the initial onslaught was resisted, the flail that lurks within WG started to appear. He had opportunities to take the set but couldn't complete.

Phil is now a very experienced and dogged player – indeed it was a scampering Labradoodle against a racing Bulldog. S-H won 6/5 6/4.

Paul Wilson-Gunn is a very gifted player and will continue to press the club number one until he gets the better of him in the next year or two.

The final was one sided.

Shaw-Hamilton plays at a level much higher than Hamilton's. While Hamilton is a very competent and complete player he lacks the power, pace and precision of the Champion who won his 5th title in succession.

Philip Shaw-Hamilton beat **Sir Andrew Hamilton** 6/2 6/0.



THE ALLEN SEDDON COMPETITION

Progress is being made,.
The editor is assured by the professionals that there will be a winner in time for the Chetwood Trophy for the national winners.

THE PARSONS CUP

15th-16th March. Report by David Prophet.

Saturday dawned cold and with a number of boxes to complete a couple of well wrapped professionals lit the fire and prepared to freeze. By the last box to be played, which, needless to say, started rather late, the remaining standing professional was deemed too cold to continue after three matches. So we retired to the bar where Richard Marmoy was honing his fire making arts. This thus became the box of life with all four returning for the Sunday.

Sunday was no warmer and, at 9:00am promptly, Ed Loades progressed through to the quarters. Richard Wills despatched Farmanfarmai who then stayed to gallantly complete a beer tasting and expound on the glories of the North Cotswold Brewery (is that worth a pint or two as a fee?). The following matches ensured the bar crowd was joined by Prof Hodges, the Cookie monster, the ever languid Peter Stephenson, George Kruszynskj, Tim Messer and Jane Terry.

Ed Loades met the still fast improving Richard Wills in the first of the quarters, with Prophet then managing to bemuse Oliver LeMaistre by playing a cut shot or two, Flo Holland magisterially defeated Ed Steele and Jerry Slora ensured that Matthew Fattorini could warm himself in the bar.

By now the bar was positively warm which ensured only the hardy sat in the Dedans. However the support for Richard Wills was surprisingly vocal who then stumbled from a 4/2 lead to capitulate on 5 all 40 all. Flo and Jerry then played tennis which belied their handicaps with Jerry finally scraping home to be the other finalist.

The final, well suffice to say that Jerry tired more than a little sore from his efforts with Flo and lost to a heaply handicapped Prophet.

David Prophet beat Gerry Slora 6/4

Our esteemed Chairman tried to present the prizes along with a few well chosen Andrewisms but was finally prevailed on to let Tony Parsons present the cup. Our thanks to the markers, ball makers, fire-raisers, drinkers, chef (a large Thank You to George K) and champagne providers for all of their efforts in ensuring a good time was had by all. And finally to placate the dedans, one of the finalists will either be buying larger shorts or slimming.

NATIONAL FATHERS AND SONS CHAMPIONSHIP

5th & 6th January 2008. Leamington. Report by the editor.

In the handicap event played alongside the Championship, MMTCC members John and Jonathan Lambdon (46) played very well to reach the finals where they lost to LTCC members Ian and Ed Steele (45)

Richard and Tom Seymour Mead in the level event had a tough semi-final against Mark and William Nicholls from Prested Hall who have held the championship for the last 2 years. SMs won 8/5.

The final was remarkable for the speed of footwork and pace of forces by the two sons and some unusually effective play from MMTCC's editor. Their opponents Nick and Luke Danby from Seacourt are both excellent players and were strong favourites.

The partnership between the Seymour Meads worked very well and Tom's speed about the back of the court and brilliant retrievers won the day.

The Result : Richard & Tom Seymour Mead beat Nick & Luke Danby 8/1



The TENNIS & RACKETS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY.

The team to represent the Club in the T&RA Centenary Handicap Doubles Trophy has now been finalised- it will be

Andrew Hamilton and David Sutton
Johnnie Cook and Keyvan Farmanfarmai
Peter Stephenson and David Prophet
John Lambdon and Howard Shipstone

Rigorous training sessions started in February with an opening session at the Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons... they wish.

The FIELD TROPHY FINAL

Sunday March 9th 2008. Moreton Morrell.

Petworth beat Queens Club in the final rubber of a very closely contested match.

There was tennis of the highest order to watch and the excellent product of the sponsor POL ROGER ensured that the event was enjoyed by all.

1st singles Adam Dolman lost to Harry Eddis 6/4 0/6 5/6
2nd singles Mark Drysdale beat John Prens 6/5 6/2
3rd singles Alistair Mackeown lost to Tom Seymour Mead
2/6 6/4 3/6

1st doubles Andrew Page & Will Bristow
beat Dom Wilson & Roy Fraser 6/5 6/2

2nd doubles Harvey Rawlings & Charles Fuente
lost to Ben Bomford & Andrew Reid-Thomas
4-6, 6-4, 6-2

OFF COURT

Keyvan Farmanfarmai has kindly donated two smart new fridges to improve our display and presentation of drinks. Ian and Jane Sloan have donated a new photocopier.

Many thanks to all three.

MORETON HALL

Members who live away from the club will be saddened to hear of the fire that gutted Charles Garland's magnificent mansion in March.

It is hoped that the building will be restored to its former glory but this will take several years.

MMTCC AGM.

The committee meets on May 12th at 6pm.

All members are welcome.

SUMMER BARBEQUE AND DOUBLES TOURNAMENT.

8TH JUNE 2008.

Last year we had a very successful tournament over 2 days with a Sunday lunchtime BBQ - the Chefs were superb, the Bouncy castle a great hit with many children and apparently the tennis was good. Your editor was concentrating on enjoying the sunshine.

DO
NOT MISS
THIS SUMMER
EXTRAVAGANZA
7th-8th
JUNE

HYPOCROTEASE

Hypocrotease has been fortunate enough to have had a glimpse into the future.

He – or is it she- was recently in receipt of a communication from our sister club in Leamington. The Leamington Tennis Court Club rightly calls itself the oldest Tennis Club in the world. Founded in 1846 as a Club for Gentlemen to play at Tennis, it takes pride in its origins as a Victorian club ‘always devoted to the same manly game and never appropriated for other purposes’.

Recent communications have asked members for their views on a variety of topics relating to the future of the club including the encouragement of membership by ladies.

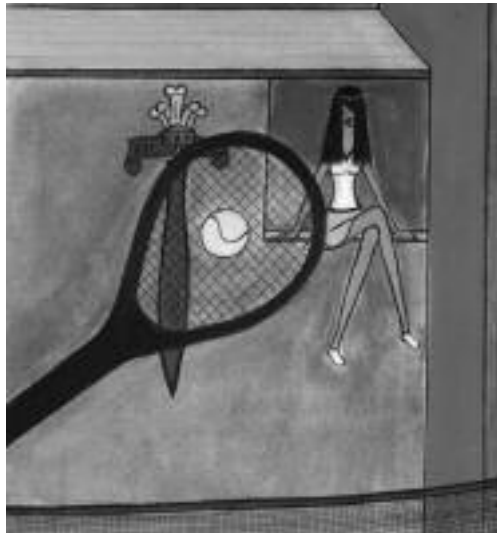
As he approached 50 Bedford Street, Norman admired the 3 cars ‘neatly’ parked 2 feet from the curb in the 4 spaces reserved for lady members.

He had never been entirely happy about encouraging the Lady Mayoress to become a member but recognised that she had enabled the parking regulations to be relaxed after the 2013 council election.

She had of course been equally helpful in registering the squash court as a ladies smoking room saving the ladies the indignity of sharing the lean-to in Mr Harrison’s garden to which gentlemen had been retiring for a smoke since 2008.

He stepped into the hall inhaling the latest fragrance for sale by the pro in the pro shop/ perfumery.

He had hoped to purchase a new racket- having found his last one being used to hold rose stems in one of the weekly flower arrangement classes now so popular at the club. Sadly the pro was still off sick- she had broken a nail when carrying that big basket with the 6 balls in it when she was giving a talk on ‘Men in Victorian Society’ to the ladies of the Inner Wheel.



Norman generally avoided the Bridge room these days- he used to enjoy a quiet rubber or two but Georgina – the Captain of Bridge- and her regular 2 tables held rather noisy and high pitched post-mortems- which depressed him as invariably they found him ‘in the wrong’. He decided to pop into the bar hoping to find a copy of the Telegraph that the committee still allowed once a week.

He was in luck- under The Lady, Vogue, Red and Good Housekeeping --- he spotted the sports section – he hoped to see if the Ryder Cup order of merit was included. He was generally enjoying golf with the LTCCGS which still for some reason had no lady members- perhaps they didn’t wish to participate in the regular trips to the Donald Trump Links in Aberdeen each November.

The steward was busy serving luncheon at the monthly LRTA committee meeting in the Dining Room so Norman was able to see what might be available in the bar apart from the usual Smoothies and Detox beverages. He found a bottle of Old Peculiar at the back of the shelves behind some Cranberry juice.

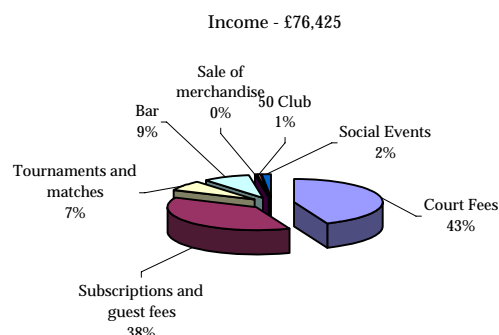
He had just settled down to read to see if Lorena Ochea and Paula Creamer had made the Americas Ryder Cup team when three chaps burst into the bar saying they needed a fourth for tennis.

Norman was delighted- off they all went to the one place they were safe- apart from Ladies from Moreton Morrell during the MMTCC mens tournaments, no ladies ever played on the Leamington court however much they enjoyed being members of the club.

SUMMARY OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

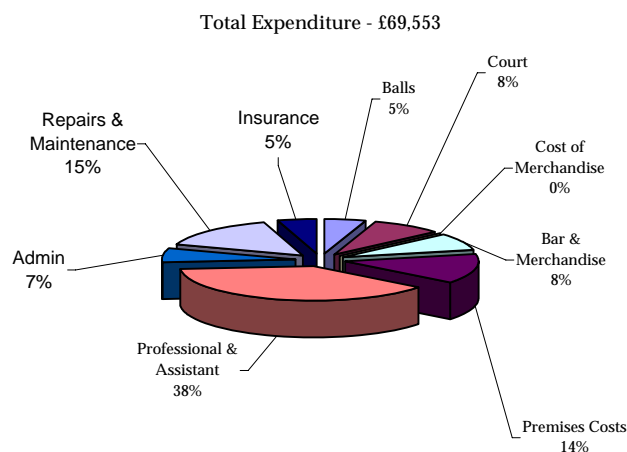
Income & Expenditure

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Income:	76,425	67,466
Cost of Sales	(15,160)	(17,171)
Expenditure	(54,393)	(51,048)
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>6,872</u>	<u>(753)</u>



Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets:	2,579	1,965
Current Assets:		
Stock	1,204	1,200
Debtors & Prepayments	21,192	12,112
Cash at bank & in hand	27,394	36,107
	<u>49,790</u>	<u>49,419</u>
Current Liabilities:		
Creditors	4,268	9,390
T & RA Loan	-	-
MMTCC company	12,047	11,847
	<u>(16,315)</u>	<u>(21,237)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>36,054</u></u>	<u><u>30,899</u></u>
Financed By:		
Centenary Fund	24,189	24,189
Life Members Fund	717	717
Floor Fund	2,655	2,655
Accumulated Revenue	8,493	2,586
	<u>36,054</u>	<u>30,147</u>



Summary

Whilst finances remain finely balanced the years outcome is satisfactory, however there are factors to be borne in mind.

The serious injuries suffered by Nick in December 2006 have meant we have needed the excellent services of Jo to ensure members have additional teaching as well as ensuring that Tom was not overburdened. This was managed at no additional monetary cost to the club. We recognised our moral obligation to Nick by maintaining his cash flow and we have loaned him £5,680 during the year which we hope will be recovered as part of his compensation claim - this sum is included in debtors.

The electricity supply continued to be a problem and the new substation appears to have "brought light" although at a vastly increased price. We have claimed compensation from the electricity supplier and await the outcome. We have upgraded the electrical wiring and lighting at a cost of £5434

The club has benefited from the excellent barbeque awards evening and supper and we thank George Kruszynsky in particular as well as other members for their help and support.

Finally we have continued to maintain and improve the facilities at the club with new tables in the dining room.

I thank Paul Wilson-Gunn, Jane Sloan and David Bryant for their valuable support during the year.

Michael Harwood
Honorary Treasurer
17 April 2008