



## COURT CIRCULAR

*AUGUST 2008*

### *Chairman's Pre-Season Message:*

Winter has arrived early! A horrendous August has resulted in a healthy booking sheet- so please keep playing even if the sun does eventually shine!

As usual there is a full and varied fixture list this season. If you would like to play in a tournament or match, don't hesitate to call the professionals.

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I would like to draw your attention to two social events which I encourage you to support:

**The Annual Awards Evening on Friday 10 October at 7.30 pm**  
and  
**The MMTCC Mastermind Evening Friday 12 September**

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We held our first Awards evening last year which was a great success- it was well attended by trophy winners and "losers" and we were all sustained by another of George K's excellent **culinary extravaganzas**. This year's awards evening will be on **Friday 10 October** so please put it your diary now!

The MMTCC Mastermind event is a one-off – many of you will be unaware that Sally Grant, our former World Ladies Champion has taken part in a recording of BBC TV's "Mastermind" which is being shown at 8.00 pm on 12 September. Members are encouraged to organise tables of up to six to take part in an evening which will start at 7.00 pm. There will be a few rounds of light hearted and interesting general knowledge questions, including a round of questions that the Mastermind contestants will have been asked, and at 8.00 pm we will watch the contest live and see how Sally fared. As she is sworn to secrecy I have no idea how she performed! For the punters amongst you there will be an opportunity to predict the number of specialist and general questions she answered correctly. There will be fantastic prizes of course for those who guess correctly! The T.V. programme will be followed by refreshments and a few more rounds of quiz questions. Further details will follow in email circulars but if you are interested in organising or joining a team please let me know on **hamilton.a@btconnect.com**

You will know now that Jo Iddles has decided that travel

and other commitments have made it difficult for her to continue coaching at the club. This is a shame particularly for the juniors who benefited from her sessions. On behalf of the Committee and members, I should like to wish her all the best in the future.

Members of the game's national body, the Tennis and Rackets Association, will know that the membership subscription has been raised to £55 per annum but it now includes the affiliation fee. For non members of the association, the affiliation fee has been raised to £20 and in my capacity as Chairman of the T&RA's Tennis Committee I would hope very much that non members might consider joining rather than paying an affiliation fee. I will be sending details of what the T&RA does for the game and membership details in the near future.

Next year the World Doubles Championship is to be held in the U.K. After our highly successful centenary tournament which attracted some of the world's top players, it would be another great coup for the Club if we could hold the championship at Moreton Morrell. If anyone knows of a potential sponsor for this event please let me know.

Hoping you have an enjoyable year of real tennis

Andrew Hamilton  
*Club Chairman*

## TENNIS EVENTS

Please note in the fixtures list and enter the early events.

Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>  
**The Lady Hamilton Trophy.**  
28<sup>th</sup> September **Bristol & Bath** away

Try to qualify for the  
**H.L.Barnes National Interclub Tournament**  
to be held in November.



## QUESTIONNAIRE.

As the 2008 – 2009 season is upon us the committee would like to hear your views upon the sorts of tennis you would like to play and the sorts of social events that you would be interested in. Therefore, we would be most grateful if you could complete and return the enclosed questionnaire by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The questionnaire should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete and would help the committee to continue to run the club for the benefit of you, its members.

## SUMMER BBQ and TOURNAMENT

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The BBQ and tournament were much enjoyed and were both financial and culinary successes.

Tim Messer and Bill Slora took the honours in the tournament.

## PONSONBY CUP

10th May 2008. Report by David Bryant.

Andrew Hamilton and John Miller had won this competition 4 years out of the last 5 but this year the old! partnership lost to both Wilson-Gunn & Grant and Bryant & Rogers. Will they persevere with the partnership next year?

All three pairs were judged to be 24 handicap so all matches were played off level handicap. Bryant & Rogers handicap, if calculated from their singles handicap, would have been somewhere around 27. It was reduced to 24, judging Martin Rogers to be a much better doubles than singles player with a doubles handicap in the region of 21 or 22. Hamilton & Miller's handicap was (quite rightly as it turned out) left as that of their singles handicap despite obviously being very good at winning doubles tournaments over the last 5 years.

The first match between Bryant & Rogers and Wilson-Gunn & Grant was extremely close. At 8-8 W-G & Grant had a game point to go 9-8 (each match was first to 10 games). Somehow B&R hung on and eventually won the game and then won the match 10-8.

In the second match W-G&G stormed away against Hamilton & Miller to a 7-1 lead. Late on in the match Hamilton played in a very determined fashion and H&M won 3 games in a row. Wilson-Gunn and Grant however were too strong and won 10-4.

In the last and deciding match Bryant & Rogers played much better than in their first match and despite Hamilton playing very determinedly, B&R won reasonably convincingly 10-5.

We think this was the first MMTCC club tournament win for Martin Rogers and it certainly was for David Bryant (who had won the Inter-Club doubles twice but never won a club tournament). There was much discussion afterwards about the use of doubles handicaps for doubles tournaments. Unless doubles results are recorded continuously at MMTCC then the debate about their validity is likely to rage.

## **THE BRITISH LADIES OPEN SINGLES & DOUBLES**

*Moreton Morrell. 16th to 20th April 2008*

In the Doubles semi-finals Cornwallis & Lumley, as expected, played well and consistently to win 6/1, 6/1 against Hird & Castley. The other Doubles semi-final was enthralling (at least for some) - the Vigrass' went 4/2 up in the first set and looked like they were certain winners but Grant & Iddles somehow got to 4/4 and eventually won 6/5 in an extremely close first set. The final score was 6/5, 6/2 to Grant & Iddles, justifying their number 2 ranking.

In the Singles semi-finals Charlotte Cornwallis beat Freddie Adams 6/1, 6/2 and Claire Vigrass (the number 3 seed) beat Karen Hird 6/2, 6/5. Both Charlotte and Claire are playing well, the final will be an interesting battle between youth and experience.

### **Finals - Sunday 20th April**

1100 Singles: Charlotte Cornwallis beat Claire Vigrass 6/2, 6/3

The tennis was of an extremely high standard. In each set Claire matched Charlotte shot for shot for the first 3 or 4 games but Charlotte varied her game very

effectively, made some fantastic retrieval shots and overall made very few unforced errors and won 6/2, 6/3.

1400 Doubles: Charlotte Cornwallis & Penny Lumley beat Sally Grant & Jo Iddles 6/2, 3/6, 6/3.

The match was very exciting up to about the fifth game of the final set when it became apparent Cornwallis and Lumley had finally got the upper hand. The "home" dedans had become very animated in the second set when Grant and Iddles both played exceptionally well and coincided with Lumley and Cornwallis making a number of seemingly unforced errors. Jo was playing much much better than earlier in the week. Throughout the match Penny Lumley and Sally Grant played lots of wonderful completely unanswerable volleys from the net. In the last set Charlotte Cornwallis was at her best, really focussing on every shot, and played many outright winners.

Sir Andrew Hamilton presented the winners and runners up with their cups and/or glasses.

Charlotte and Penny said a few words at the end thanking everyone - Penny announced (sadly for the tennis world) that this competition was her last in competitive tennis but that she was delighted to be a winner this year and had many fond memories of tennis and the past competitions.

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## **NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2**

*Report by Peter Stevenson..*

*April 2008 .*

Tom Granville and Craig Greenhalgh representing Moreton Morrell versus Gareth Rees (Handicap 7) and Gerard Eden (Handicap 9) representing Burroughs for the National League Division 2 final.

In the first match Craig played near faultless tennis to gain a lead of 6-1 in the first set. His retrieving was outstanding and combined with the quality of his returns must have left his opponent wondering what to do next. Gerard did recover to make the second set much more hard fought and clawed his way back to 5 all in the second set. After some tense set points, which neither player could convert, Craig won through to win the second set 6-5. Result: Moreton Morrell won 6-1; 6-5.

In his semi-final victory, Tom initially was unable to hit the grille; he had no such problem in this match against Gareth Rees. An immaculate length of shot, tight serving combined with consistency and accuracy gave Tom's opponent no chance and he cruised to a well deserved victory winning 6-0, 6-1. Result: Moreton Morrell won 6-0, 6-1.

There was no need to play the doubles with the dynamic Moreton Morrell team winning this play-off match to take the Division 2 title and to confirm their first place in the league. A great result and a shame that more people could not be there to see some outstanding tennis.

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## **NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 6.**

Martin Rogers—although part of the MMTCC team which came in 5<sup>th</sup>— was crowned MVP—Most Valuable Player. He won a fine watch which was presented at Queens Club by HRH The Earl of Wessex. Along with HRH, is the CEO of Maurice Lacroix and Ged Eden who organised the day.

FYI the presentation was part of a days worth of tennis at Queens. The Div 1 and Premiership finals were played, followed by the MVP presentations and Div1 and Premiership presentations.

Each MVP received a Maurice Lacroix watch.



## **MORETON MARAUDERS AND THE T & RA CENTENARY TOURNAMENT**

April 2008. Report by AH.

The Moreton Marauders started their campaign to win the T&RA's Centenary Tournament consisting of 40 teams with an emphatic win against Manchester Disunited at Hatfield on Saturday April 19th. Unlike the real Manchester United, the match was played at 3.00 pm in the afternoon and without the cameras present. Such a civilised hour of play clearly suited the Marauders with all four pairs recording wins and a total of 32 games won to 20. Andrew Hamilton and David Sutton prospered against a pair with a low handicapper playing, John Lambdon and Howard Shipstone frightened the opposition by their mere presence and the power and lack of radar of their shots. David Prophet thought that he and Peter Stephenson were playing a canny game and Jonny Cook and Keyvan (Kev to his team mates) Farmanfarmai looked at times as if they were employing skill and tactical nous.

Not so popular with the Marauders was a 9.00 a.m. start at Lord's the following morning. Challenged by their trip up from St John's Wood, the Lord's Locusts enjoyed their home court advantage against a non marauding team who perished 4 matches to nil.

Even more unpopular with the Marauders was a 9.00 a.m. start at Queen's Club first thing on Monday morning. The M25 was at its most welcoming as a car park and the poor old provincials walked into Queen's Club bleary eyed and breakfast-less. But the Hardwick Roses withered in the face of a garden marauding party who plucked the Roses for a 4 match pruning.

And so to the key match against Oratory Orks at a more acceptable time of midday at the Queen's Club. But cometh the hour and the thought of more travelling further into the week acted as a powerful disincentive and the Marauders went out with a whimper especially the Malvernians Jonny and Kev who arrived hot foot from the Iranian, sorry, Persian Embassy after queueing for a visa for the former Persian prince. What a truly shambolic entrance- late and in Jonny's case, shoeless. Despite Malvernian efforts at sang froid, they failed miserably, effortlessly bombing out in the same time it takes to boil a runny egg..

Despite the travel lag from all the travel, highlight of the four day tour was the visit to Kev's fave Persian restaurant somewhere in West London. Having sat down to his first kebab, John Lambdon was informed by a flustered waiter that he had received a parking ticket. What the hell? When tis done, tis done and John tucked on into his kebab. But just ten minutes later the same waiter was even more perturbed. "You mussa moof dee corr seir, Ah prawmeess you NOW!"

Lambdon languidly went out to survey his car and then moved like Rob Fahey to a short ball at the net. It was a great sight for the rest of the team as Lambdon dashed into the car and drove it off at the very moment the clamps were put on his wheels and the claw turned and dropped from the car removal wagon.

After all the excitement, the intrepid Maraudsters tucked into the rest of their Persian fayre and agreed with an uncommon unanimity that their earlier tennis loss was in the best interests of all.

## **THE WORLD MASTERS**

*International Team Event*

*New York – April 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2008.*

*Report by Philip Shaw-Hamilton*

Two players from MMTCC were chosen to represent GB in the 'over-age' tournaments held at the prestigious New York club on Park Avenue.

David Bryant was selected for the over-60 team, playing for the 'Bostwick Cup' and Philip Shaw-Hamilton was selected for the over-50 team, playing for the 'Cockram Trophy'. The teams are made up on the same lines as the Field Trophy - that is three singles and two doubles matches. Regrettably, whilst playing in the British over 60's in Manchester the week before departing for the USA, David badly strained a calf muscle which ended his chance to go, but was replaced by the very capable Bob Hurrion for the same age group.

With the three age groups (50/60/70) and teams from each of Australia, GB and the USA, the matches were played on two courts both concurrently and consecutively over two days - there was a LOT of tennis to watch!

Despite the Australians propensity to 'fiddle' the order and 'bend' the rules, and the USA putting forward a very strong team, GB managed a clean sweep of all age groups including the newly formed over 70 category (playing for the 'Danby Trophy') - so keep on playing everyone...there's an opportunity yet to give your name to the over 80 category!! Winners returned with crystal decanters from Tiffany & Co. Losers - particularly the Australians - returned with a hangover.

Bob Hurrion stayed on (before joining his family in the Caymans Islands - well someone has to do it!) to play in the individual Masters Singles and Doubles tournaments losing to John Ward (the eventual winner) in the second round of the o'60s singles having been 4-1 up in the first set.. and then partnering Robin Barlow from Manchester in the o'60s doubles, managing to win the first set against the top seeds but then losing 2-1. These tournaments demand staying power! Bob says that he has learnt a lot from the experience and is keen to try out some new tactics at Moreton - watch out anyone playing in the Tuesday night doubles!

From your despondent correspondent who is kicking himself for not having been able to stay on for the individual event having beaten John Prens (the winner of the world over 50 championship) in the British 0/50s just two weeks before at Petworth. Oh well - there's always the 0/60s to look forward to!

In 1914 in Philadelphia Jay Gould (USA) beat Fred Covey (UK) in the World Championship Challenge.

# Funnygrams from the Sporting World

MAY THE BEST  
MAN  
WIN

GET THE  
FIRST GAME  
AND YA'LL  
HAVE THEIR  
GOAT

YES  
SIR.

JAY  
GOULD

ENGLAND

DR. BULL

COVEY

OWW.



## **HYPOCROTEASE**

Hypocrotease has received a number of comments on his 'glimpse into the future' in the last edition of the Court Circular.

He has had a further look through the gloom and will clarify the following issues:

It was not Norman but Richard (Freedom of Information Act) who was approaching the Club in a Spa town in the Midlands (Data Protection Act).

The cars parked 2 feet from the curb were correctly positioned by the men inside them who were waiting for the shopping to be placed in their vehicles without obstruction to the footpath (Highway Code 2011).

Richard stepped past the Card room - no longer called the Bridge Room as the game played therein was unlike any known version of that game- (Gambling and Gaming Act) and paused at the Fragrance, Lingerie and Tennis Boutique (Trades Description Act).

The bar – now called the Drawing Room- was closed (Child Protection Act/licensing/alcoholic beverages) as the crèche was in session.

He would not have found a copy of the Telegraph (renamed the Crusty following the 2012 MBO) Hypocrotease was clearly in error on the regular LRTA meeting at the club- "we would not meet at that place before hell freezes over".

He was correct in the mens doubles that Richard was to play and points out that this was a legal game as the designated first aid observer (the assistant pro) was in place in his chair in the Dedans (Health and Safety Act).

## **MMTCC GOLF SOCIETY**

The Annual competition for those MMTCC real tennis players who also attempt to play golf takes place

on:-

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

at:-

**Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club.**

We home for a fine afternoon on this excellent course.

Please contact Simon Allen at his new email address:

**[simonallenassociates@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:simonallenassociates@tiscali.co.uk)**

to enter or Sir Andrew Hamilton.

**THE DISPUTED HOLE. By Will Owen.**



# MMTCC – Tennis & Social Questionnaire 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Please provide us with your up to date Contact Details:

	Contact Details	Preferred Method of Communication (please number accordingly: 1 is most preferred & 4 is least preferred)
Home Telephone		
Work Telephone		
Mobile		
Email Address		

2) Please indicate which days of the week and times of the day you are **mainly available** to play:

	Morning (9am -12pm)	Lunchtime (12pm - 2pm)	Afternoon (2pm - 6pm)	Evening (6pm - 10pm)
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				

3) Please indicate any days of the week and times of the day you could play on an **ad-hoc basis**:

	Morning (9am -12pm)	Lunchtime (12pm - 2pm)	Afternoon (2pm - 6pm)	Evening (6pm - 10pm)
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				

4) Please tick which forms of tennis you would like to play:

	Handicap	Level
Singles		
Doubles		

5) Please indicate if you would like to be considered for friendly matches against other clubs:

	Home	Away
Saturday		
Sunday		

6) In addition to the existing tournaments & social functions (see [www.mmtcc.co.uk](http://www.mmtcc.co.uk) for latest information) please indicate if you would be interested in any of the following **social** events:

Description of Social Event	Please tick (if interested)
Monthly / Quarterly mix-in followed by food and drink e.g. a Curry Night	
Champagne Doubles Event	
Winter Singles Handicap Ladder / Pool (October – December & January – March)	
Winter Doubles Handicap Ladder / Pool (October – December & January – March)	

7) *What other tennis, social or competitive events would you like to see at MMTCC, if any?*

8) *Please state any general feedback about the club which you would like to give to the committee:*

*Dear Members,*

*You may like to make a note of the Club events which are detailed in the Handbook.*

*Please indicate in your response if you are considering entering.*

## 2008

			Please tick	
<b>Mastermind Evening</b>	Friday	12 September	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>MMTCC Golf Day at S on A G.C.</b>	Thursday	25 September	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Awards Evening Supper</b>	Friday	10 October	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Lady Hamilton Trophy</b>	Saturday	27 September	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T &amp;RA Category C Championship handicaps 20-29</b>	Friday - Sunday	3-5 October	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Moreton Shield (Handicap Singles)</b>	Saturday / Sunday	18-19 October	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ogilby Cup (handicap doubles)</b>	Saturday / Sunday	29-30 October	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Christmas Tipples</b>	Tuesday	9 December	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Garland Cup (Men's Handicap Singles)</b>	Saturday / Sunday	10/11 January 2009	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>

## 2009

<b>Ponsonby Cup (Handicap Doubles handicaps 12-25)</b>	Saturday / Sunday	7/8 March	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Hobson Cup ( Handicap Doubles handicaps 26-55)</b>	Saturday / Sunday	7/8 March	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Midsummer Handicap Doubles Bryant Cu</b>	Saturday / Sunday	6/7 June	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Barbecue</b>	Sunday	7 June	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>

### ***FIRST FEW MATCHES:***

Sunday 28 September	<b>Bristol and Bath</b>	at	Away
Sunday 12 October	<b>Hardwick House (Bickley Bowl)</b>	at	Home
Sunday 26 October	<b>Dedanists</b>	at	Home
Sunday 2 November	<b>Hatfield and Oxford Ladies</b>	at	Away
Saturday 15 November	<b>Oratory Ladies Away and Manchester</b>	at	Home
Sunday 16 November	<b>Holyport</b>	at	Away
Sunday 20 December	<b>Petworth</b>	at	Away

Please return your response to [responses@mmtcc.co.uk](mailto:responses@mmtcc.co.uk) or by mail to: **The Tennis Court Club, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9AL**