



## COURT CIRCULAR

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2008

The annual Christmas Triples—more recently doubles – took place this year to raise funds for a Cardiac Defibrillator. Full report in the next CC.

It would be unseasonable to suggest that if you don't contribute you won't get sparked back to life should you be the one needing it and a contributors book will NOT be kept beside the machine!

It is not too late to contribute—cheques please to MMTCC.

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A date for next year. **The World Champion, Rob Fahey**, has agreed to come to a Pro-Am event at Moreton Morrell on May 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> 2009.

There will be 8 of the top players playing a round robin singles event and 16 amateurs playing a doubles event. Each pair will be attached to a pro who will benefit from their success on court - Points, Prizes and Pounds to the winners!

More details in the New Year. But if you are already interested let Tom Granville know.

The Ogilby Cup was recently postponed – there was a clash with both the Manchester and Leamington Open weekends.  
It will now be played on 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Website. [www.mmtcc.co.uk](http://www.mmtcc.co.uk)  
gives a regular update on results, match reports and much more.  
*Please visit this excellent site.*



## **The 21<sup>st</sup> LADY HAMILTON TROPHY**

Saturday 27th September. Report by Chief Correspondent Sally Grant & assistant Jane Terry.

Reigning champion Barbara Nichol started in style with an error free victory over the fluent Flo Holland 5-2. Flo, back on court after a lengthy absence then underlined her natural talent with a tactical win against Jane Terry who then upset the form-book beating Barbara by the narrowest of margins, thanks to doughty volleying.

With all 3 players in the group on a win and loss apiece, it came down to a count back, which left Barbara as group winner and Flo as runner-up.

In the other group Sally Grant found the steep handicap difference and spectacular retrieving from both Jill Slora and Gabby Savage too much to handle and bowed out after gleaning just 2 games. Jill then squeaked through a high quality thriller 5-4 to win the group with Gabby runner-up.

Flo, visibly improving with every game came through an entertaining semi against Jill, while Barbara cutting the ball to an immaculate length held her nerve against Gabby, hanging on to snatch it 5-3.

In the Final, match fitness told as Barbara raced to a 5-1 lead and a hint of weariness crept into Flo's game. But Flo dug deep and managed 2 games in a row, but Barbara held her nerve to win 6-3.

With thanks to Lady Hamilton for coming to watch and present the prizes.

To Tom for all his marking and Gerry Slora for providing excellent cake and biscuits. (cooked by him that morning!).

## **CATEGORY C OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

Moreton Morrell 3rd-5th October 2008



The tournament for handicaps between 25 and 29 attracted 11 entries including two promising youngsters Holyport's John Lumley and Roly Grant of Moreton Morrell both of whom no doubt tire of reference to chips and blocks. Sadly, however, both were given an object lesson by Moreton Morrell committee member and fast improver, Martin Rogers, whose pace of shot and consistency proved too much for the young hopefuls, Lumley succumbing 4/6, 4/6 and Grant 1/6, 2/6.

There was little daylight between Freddie Adam (Oxford) and Juliette Lambert (Moreton Morrell) in a close match which Freddie just shaded 6/2, 4/6, 6/4. Nick Brodie struggled in a close fought contest to defeat Chris Swan of Petworth 6/4, 2/5, 6/5.

In the quarter finals, Adam defeated David Lockhard 6/3, 6/2, Manchester's Aldona Greenwood cruised past Peter Harding 6/1, 6/2 and Robin Barlow of Manchester found Nick Brodie short of energy in the final set to win with a bizarre shoreline of 1/6, 6/3, 6/0.

In the semis Adam continued her rich vein of form with a hard fought victory over Rogers 2/6, 6/4, 6/4 and

Barlow reached the final by beating Greenwood 2/6, 6/2, 6/2.

The final saw Freddie Adam emphasising the huge improvement in her game in the last year and proved too strong for Robin Barlow winning in two sets.

In the 20-24 handicap category, number bolstering Chairman of Moreton Morrell and the T&RA Tennis Committee was plucked from the higher category and asked to face last year's victor Mike Henman who only 3 months previously had rejected his wheelchair after suffering an horrendous skiing accident. Delighted to see Mike on court again, no mercy, however was shown by the host club's chairman who won the first set 6/1 ("that wasn't in the script" his opponent moaned as he went down 0/3 in no time at all) and then dragged back from 1/5 to take the second set, as not surprisingly Mike tired as the match progressed.

Moreton's John Miller, renowned service practiser both day and night, much to the delight of Tom Granville's family in the flat, was given a major fright by Adrian Fawcus of the Oratory squeaking by 6/3, 5/6, 6/4. Ashley Prior of Oxford perished to the top spin and whirling dervish play of Paul Wilson-Gunn (Moreton Morrell).

In the semis Jo Iddles of Radley was too steady for Paul who had decided that running was too much like hard work, going down 3/6, 1/6. Hamilton decided to make up for earlier 'friendly, recorded' losses against the phantom server whose service failed to perturb the fill-in who triumphed 6/3, 6/4.

The Final was a one way affair; Jo Iddles was in devastating form and Hamilton could do no more than book himself in for some mid night service practice.

Tom Granville was congratulated for his excellent organisation, ball making and catering all of which contributed to an excellent weekend of tennis. With a magnificent sense of timing the winners' tankards arrived on the following day!

## **THE MORETON SHIELD**

October 17th to 19th 2008

At the beginning the serious money would have been on either Roly Grant or Alastair Goultly winning this competition - Roly for his speed around court and Alastair for those well timed shots with all his weight behind them. In the semi-finals Alastair Goultly beat Roly Grant 5/2 with Roly conceding a fairly large handicap considering Alastair's form. Paul Wilson-Gunn beat Anthony Parmiter 5/1 - mainly down to bobble serves which seemed to fool Anthony (I'm going to try that too next time I meet Anthony!). Paul showed what a good handicap player he can be when he is interested in winning, demonstrating considerable restraint throughout in not playing his normal table tennis like top spin with both feet off the ground.

In the final, Alastair looked as if he would beat Paul at a canter, leading 4/2 (or was it 4/1?) and playing some beautifully timed shots and laying chases around 1 and 2. Then Paul went through a purple patch, returning everything and playing some unbeatable shots into the corners. Perhaps Alastair ran out of steam a little and Paul Wilson- Gunn won through 6/4 in one of the best handicap finals for a few years.



### **Quarter Finals:**

Loades vs Wilson-Gunn 3/5

Messer vs Parmiter 4/5

Grant vs Miller 5/3

Farmanfarmai vs Goultly 2/5

### **Semi Finals:**

Wilson-Gunn vs Parmiter 5/1

Grant vs Goultly 2/5

### **Final:**

Wilson-Gunn bt Goultly 6/4

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## **THE BICKLEY BOWL**

MMTCC vs Hardwick House October 12th 2008

Strange omens for the FTSE - wonderful weather all weekend and then Johnnie Cook and Keyvan Farmanfarmai narrowly won their match for Moreton to win 3-2.

Gerry Slora (33) lost to Gordon Robertson (33) 5/6, 6/5, 5/6

David Prophet (38) beat David Fox (41) 5/6, 6/5, 6/3

Richard Seymour Mead (30) lost to Peter Harding (31) 4/6,3/6

Tim Messer (50) beat Angus Robertson (48) 6/2, 6/4

John Cook & Keyvan Farmanfarmai (41.8) beat Ian Wood & John Steeds (43.8) 5/6, 6/4, 6/4



## The SIMON ALLEN & ASSOCIATES TOURNAMENT

August 2008. Report by Tom Granville.

The first semi final between George K & Richard Wills was a close encounter with the smart money on Richard who with a handicap of 36 is very competitive. George however played very well and was always in front and it stayed that way to give him a well deserved 10/7 win.

The second semi final saw new member Gabby Savage (former Oxford member) take on Martin Ryan. Gabby got off to a great start going 4 love up, Martin had the look of a player who was giving too many handicap points & decided the only thing to do was hit it harder (instead of the norm "hit it hard") This seemed to work for a while & unsettled Gabby's game. The match reached 7 all before Gabby was able to win the next 3 hard fought games to take the match 10/7.

The final on paper should have been a close affair with only a 2 points difference in handicap (in George's favour) Unfortunately George had had a long & busy week with many miles driven up & down the country & he looked tired. However he did put up a good fight for the first half of the match, but at 5 all tiredness seemed to catch up with him & Gabby went on to take the Match 10/5.

A big thank you to Tournament sponsor Simon Allen who presented the prizes.

Gabby went on to play in the national final for the Chetwood Trophy but sadly did not return victorious.



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# ***THE NATIONAL INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT***

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Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th November  
Sponsored by **H.L.Barnes & Sons**, Stratford upon Avon.

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*Report by David Bryant*

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12 teams took part, each team playing once at Leamington and twice at Moreton on Saturday in the early rounds and at Moreton on Sunday in the final rounds.

Jesmond Dene won the Singles, Moreton Morrell won the Doubles and Moreton Morrell won the Team Trophy.

Clubs involved in the tournament:

Bristol & Bath  
Leamington 1 & 2  
Hatfield  
Jesmond Dene  
Manchester  
MCC  
Moreton Morrell  
Newmarket  
Oratory 1 & 2  
Oxford

### *Doubles:*

The tournament showed that you never can tell from the first day's play just who is going to make good on the second day. Ian Steele and Paul Holland (Leamington 2) played exceptionally well on Saturday despite their low handicap but narrowly lost in the quarter finals to Jesmond Dene (Paul Raven and Keith Anderson) 6/5. On the other foot (or was it mouth?) Leamington 1 (Norman Hyde and Geoff Broome), both nursing injuries and who were written off at the start, survived to the semi-finals on Sunday. On Saturday Norman miss-struck a shot and the ball glanced off his racket into his face/mouth. So he was well and truly in the wars, partly limping and partly holding his face.

Hatfield got off to a poor start but played very well in their second two matches. Unfortunately their zest for life let them down and I think the kindest thing to say is that on Sunday morning they looked somewhat jaded in losing to the walking (they certainly weren't running) wounded.

In the semi-finals Moreton Morrell beat Jesmond Dene 6/2 and Manchester beat Leamington 1. Mark Seymour Mead for Manchester volleyed extremely well throughout and Robin Barlow was very solid. It seemed as if Manchester were invincible but in the final Anthony Parmiter and Tim Messer rescued shot after shot and seemed to play better against the more difficult shots from Manchester. In the end Moreton were probably slightly fortunate with a handful of shots and ended up worthy winners 6/5 in a very close match.

### *Singles:*

At the outset my money was on Richard Oliver and Tom Lewis, the latter demolishing a couple of very good handicap players in the box rounds. However, in the final rounds Tom came up against Richard (expletive deleted) Marmoy who, while nobody would call him stylish, certainly does have a knack of keeping the ball in play despite all odds.

Matthew Fattorini was also playing well but lost in the semi-finals to an in form "no fooling about" Paul Wilson-Gunn and lost 6/2. The dedans was somewhat noisy during the Marmoy<>Wilson-Gunn match, Paul playing some amazing shots and showing us that if he concentrated on his game he could be 10 handicap better at least. However, there were periods in the match when he played such atrociously poor shots into the net that you wondered if it were the same person playing. In the end Paul scraped through 6/5.

Richard Oliver was unfortunate to have to play Tony Harrison, who played the best tennis I have seen him play. Tony had a marvelous Sunday beating Richard Oliver 6/4 in the semi finals and then Paul Wilson-Gunn 6/4 in the finals.

Sir Andrew Hamilton introduced Robert Harper who presented the trophies and prizes. Robert was the first organizer of the competition in 1984 and thanks to him for a format of competition which has stood the test of time and is enjoyed by everyone who takes part.

### *Numerous thanks are due to:-*

All the teams who traveled some distance - particularly Jesmond Dene, Manchester, Newmarket and Bristol & Bath.

H.L.Barnes & Sons for sponsoring the tournament

David Bryant who organized this year's event (and those from 2001 to this year)

The court professionals - Tom Granville (Moreton Morrell Head Professional), Marc Seigneur (Leamington) and Jo Iddles for their excellent marking and support over the weekend .

Tom Granville for all the non-marking duties during the tournament

Leamington Tennis Court Club for the use of their court and Marc's marking on Saturday

Full results can be found on the website.  
[www.mmtcc.co.uk](http://www.mmtcc.co.uk)

# MORETON MORRELL TENNIS CLUB GOLF SOCIETY

25<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Report by R Seymour Mead.

18 members and 1 guest had a splendid sunny afternoon at the Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club organised by Simon Allen.



The team event was won by John Miller, Ian Sloan and Martin Rogers who used their high handicaps well under the expert supervision of Simon.

Alison Seymour Mead took the Ladies' prize. The Harry Vardon Trophy went to John Miller—an occasional golfer – with a handicap of 23 with 38 Stableford points. Very well played.

Perhaps he was overcome by emotion, or embarrassment. Or perhaps he had not prepared in his usual efficient and methodical way a winners speech. So we waited in vain for a few words.—Surely not a difficult task.

Perhaps the editor is getting prickly with the years. Just three words “It’s my round” would have sufficed.

*Hey-Ho.*

In second place with 36 points were Andrew Hamilton, Tom Granville, RSM and Mike Metcalfe—all Stratford-on-Avon GC members.

## **OFF COURT**

The editor and committee on MMTCC are delighted that our neighbour the Leamington Tennis Court Club has started to accept Ladies into membership.

We all look forward to the first match between the two Ladies' sections.

This momentous change after 162 years of constancy has not gone unnoticed in the press.

In case MMTCC members missed it, here is an announcement found in the Daily Telegraph of Monday, September 1, 2008.:

**Leamington Tennis Court Club.**

**-In affectionate remembrance of a Gentlemen's Club which died at Bedford Street, Leamington Spa, on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances, R.I.P. The body will be cremated and the ashes preserved in perpetuity.**

In another Daily Telegraph article—on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, reporting on the LRTA tournament held at Leamington, we are to understand that our own chairman has been elevated to the peerage.

Sir Andrew went to bed a Knight and arose a Lord.

He learnt this while on a golfing trip with several MMTCC members.

They discussed this possible 'Cash for Honours' scandal while permitting Sir Andrew—now apparently Lord Hamilton—to continue with the washing up.

Sally Jones- a regular contributor to the Daily Telegraph and to the MM Court Circular- has issued an apology on behalf of the editor of the DT. Sally was recently a star performer on the Television programme Mastermind where her specialist subject was Fiction.