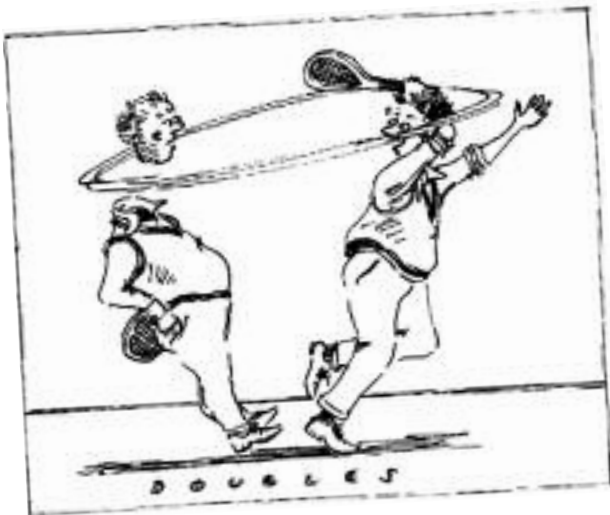




COURT CIRCULAR

JANUARY 2012

THE OGILBY CUP 23rd-25th September. Report by the Editor.



Semi-finals.

It was not until 0/5 that Alastair Robson & John Lambdon (47.2) showed any of the tennis that had taken them to this stage but one or two points were just not enough against Henry Piney & Lyndon Haworth (45.8) who hardly put a foot wrong. They won 6/0.

Howard and Oliver Shipstone (47) had saved 4 match points to reach the semi where they met Matthew Fattorini & Tom Bomford (36). With Fats playing like a man possessed they only lost 4 points in the first 4 games (3 unforced errors by Bommsers). Bomford could have taken most of the play but saw his partner striking the ball so well that this became a partnership of equals. The father and son opponents stood no chance.

Fats Finds First Final.

Piney and Haworth (45) had won the group match against Fats and Bomford (35)5/2 but could they repeat this?

The opinion in the dedans was mixed but the editor was firmly tipping Fats and Bomford. Bomford has only recently started tennis but he has played regular racquets since school days at Malvern (see previous stars Shaw-Hamilton, Seymour Mead, Farmanfarmai).

Would receive half 15 owe half 30 make the difference?

Bomford has to work on his serve and when his ground strokes have been refined he will become quite a player.

Fats has put in many hours on many tennis courts. His standard has improved almost beyond recognition in the last 4 years.

Both Piney and Haworth have the knack of getting the ball onto the strings and keeping it in play- often with pace.

Sadly as your correspondent jotted these words Haworth middled a backhand onto Piney's nose.

Much blood and ten minutes later Henry bravely continued.

The play up to this stage had been of high standard and very close. Injured and 4/2 down the wounded were not giving in. They came back to 3 - 4 but could manage no more.

The Winners:

Matthew Fattorini & Tom Bomford won 6/3.



CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

I hope you will have been impressed by the improved ambience of the club after works achieved last autumn - e.g.

- The entrance hall, windows on the east elevation, the ceiling in the dining room and gutters and down pipes, have all been re painted
- The guttering round the building has been repaired
- The area above the American Squash court has been plastered, painted and a table tennis table installed
- A shed has been bought to house the clutter that has proliferated along the corridor

Plans are afoot to:

- Improve the character of the bar area and to provide a 'station' for the professionals
- Improve the recording and disseminating of bar bills
- Complete the work to the ceiling of the American Squash Court
- Carry out works as necessary to the flat roofs
- Provide members with a range of club merchandising

Much of the above is a direct result of the Strategy discussions held in the late summer but needless to say, it has been costly and will continue to burn a hole in our reserves so it is vital therefore that court income, membership levels and social events provide sufficient funds.

Members can play their part by supporting:

THE ITALIAN FOOD AND WINE EVENING:

Friday 30th March

Due to a clash with the Leamington TC Torpedo weekend, George's extravaganza has been moved to Friday 30th March- these evenings are always gastronomic delights- make sure you book early...

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

It is crucial we add to our membership levels- please make every effort to introduce friends who you think might be interested in playing real tennis- more on this in due course by email.

DEDANISTS vs NEWMARKET DIV 1 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCH

Friday 23 March 2012

This is an excellent opportunity to see 4 of our best young real tennis pros in action playing singles and doubles- Ben Matthews, David Woodman, Mark Hobbs and Chris Chapman. The Dedanists raise a lot of money for junior real tennis and it is hoped to incorporate a juniors' coaching session on the day. - Ticket details to follow...

NICK JURY:

Nick has decided to retire from full time employment at the club but will be available to help us out on a part time basis when required. Amazingly it is 5 years since Nick's dreadful accident and he has worked very hard to overcome the effects of it but has decided that he would like now to concentrate on his horticultural interests and newly purchased and refurbished narrow boat. Nick has been a loyal, reliable and popular assistant professional- his ball making has been as good as any in the game and his marking accurate and confident. I'm sure we all wish him the very best for the future.

I would like to thank Committee members for all their hard work in 2011- we are indeed fortunate to have so many who are prepared to give of their time to ensure the club continues to be one of the most popular of real tennis destinations.

PAUL WILSON-GUNN:

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for the huge amount of work he has done for the club as a committee member for many years. As Assistant Treasurer he has kept a tight reign on daily income and expenditure, has been 'hands on' with the maintenance of the fabric of the building and has, for example, built the log store outside the bar area. Put briefly, his retirement is a massive loss to the club but I hope very much he will continue to grace the court with his idiosyncratic and dynamic style of play!

ARMONICO CONSORT

On Court Concert: 10 September

The Club and the Consort are indebted to Jonnie Cook for his most generous sponsorship of the Armonico's performance of Rachmaninov's Vespers- a work of great richness and complexity. The level of performance was again uplifted by the extraordinary acoustics in the court- wonderful for the singing voice and absolutely abysmal for the spoken word!

Andrew Hamilton

PAYMENTS:

New Year Resolution! Please pay off your bills promptly - you will as a result save us considerable time and angst.

STOP PRESS

7-8/1/2012

Garland Cup win for Charles Hamilton at Moreton Morrell.National Fathers & Sons Championship win for Richard & Tom Seymour Mead.

"FULL REPORTS IN OUR NEXT EDITION"

CHETWOOD TROPHY

24th-25th September

The club had two representatives in the finals of the Club handicap competition- David Aldwinckle lost all 3 of his matches 5/6- so the killer wasn't present on the day! Alan Moug is to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final in what is always a tough competition with the disparity of national handicapping.

BRITISH OVER 60 AMATEUR DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Radley 18th September 2011.

Semi-Finals	M.Dean & P.Weaver	bt	A.Fine & D.Brazier	8-2
	D.Bryant & J.Bebb	bt	M.Carter & R.Moore	8-4
Final	M.Dean & P.Weaver	bt	D.Bryant & J.Bebb	8-2

Bryant/Bebb won a tight 8-4 over Carter/Moore in the semi-final, only really gaining the upper hand at the death, while Weaver/Dean beat Brazier/Fine by 8-2 after a very tight and uncomfortable start to 2-2.

The final, unfortunately, saw the gallant Jamie Bebb, who had patrolled the dedans back wall throughout the day begin to tire slightly and that is no way to face a rampant Paul Weaver, who maintained a high pace throughout and enabled the holders to retain the title by 8-2.

T&RA CATEGORY 'C' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Level Singles for 20-29 Handicaps
Moreton Morrell 30 September - 2 October 2011

Handicaps 20-24:

Phil Dunn (R.T.C.) beat Lloyd Pettiford (Moreton Morrell) 6/3, 6/4

Tom Lewis (Moreton Morrell) beat Simon Talbot-Williams (MCC) 6/2, 6/1

Jules Camp (Canford) beat Tom Dwyer (Assistant pro Manchester) 1/6, 6/0, 6/3

Nick Jury (Assistant pro MMTCC) beat Nick Warner

Camp beat Jury 6/3, 6/3

Dunn beat Lewis 6/4, 6/4

Dunn beat Camp 6/2, 6/1

Handicaps 25-29:

John Miller (Moreton Morrell) beat Guy Stanton (Leamington) 3/6, 6/0, 6/2

Andrew Hamilton (Moreton Morrell) beat Chris Swan (Petworth) 6/2, 2/6, 6/0

Simon Hobson (Moreton Morrell) walk over to Ben Boddington (Radley College) 6/4, 5/6, 5/2

Mike Henman (Moreton Morrell) walk over to Simon Edmond (RTC) 6/5, 6/4

Boddington beat Hamilton 6/0, 6/0

Edmond beat Miller 5/6, 6/1, 6/3

Boddington beat Edmond 6/5, 6/4

The Category 'C' Championships for Handicaps 20-29 were played in truly unseasonable temperatures of 27C! Not surprisingly the younger competitors progressed to the later rounds...

Philip Dunn formerly of Bristol and now RTC was worthy winner of the 20-24 Category defeating en route to the final, Moreton Morrell's Lloyd Pettiford and Tom Lewis. Finalist Canford's Jules Camp did well to defeat Manchester assistant professional Tom Dwyer who has only been playing 6 months and eased past Moreton Morrell's assistant pro Nick Jury who was suffering from his hard game the day before with Nick Warner but congratulations to Nick for returning to his standard of play before a road accident 5 years ago. In the final, Phil Dunn's consistency and power of shot proved too much for Camp.

In the 25-29 tournament there were quarter final wins for John Miller (Moreton Morrell) against Leamington Chairman Guy Stanton who won the first set but fell away thereafter. Andrew Hamilton faltered in the second set against Petworth's Chris Swan but returned to form in the third set. Moreton's Simon Hobson retired when in the lead against 17 year old Radley College student Ben Boddington, suffering from the effects of an unfortunate injury in a T&RA tournament five years ago. Mercurial Moreton Morrell's Mike Henman was also suffering from injuries- sustained in a skiing accident 3 years ago and decided to retire against RTC's Simon Edmond.

In the semi-final young Boddington showed no mercy to the T&RA Chairman of the Tennis Committee in a superlative display and Miller squandered a 3/1 lead in the third set against Edmond.

In the final Boddington emphasised his huge potential with a confident display against Edmond who struggled against the youngster's power of shot and pace about the court.

Many thanks to Tom Granville and Nick Jury for supervising an excellent and enjoyable tournament played in magnificent spirit throughout.

AWARDS EVENING

DREAMS COME TRUE

21st October. Report by Lloyd Pettiford.

If the success of an evening is judged by an inability to remember it, then this one was a roaring success. Though the possibility of running out of wine must have been very real, it fortunately never happened and oblivious swilling continued to the last. Indeed there were even enough bottles to dish out as thanks to the cooks and bottle-washers who performed their tasks beautifully, efficiently and with a smile. George K may well have been outside his comfort zone when asked to provide for something called a vegetarian, but managed to do so superbly (so I am reliably informed by said veggie).

I'm assuming this report can be accompanied by a list of winners because having been asked to pen these words after the fact, as it were, I didn't keep a record and – as intimated above – destroyed a fair number of brain-cells. What follows is obviously padding as a result! In any case, as one would expect, quite a few awards were picked up by newer/newish players whose handicaps are on the way down such as Haworth and Piney. On the other hand, there was some hope for more seasoned players too, with Slora and Hamilton also amongst the winners.

Probably the most noteworthy winner was Owen Pettiford. Although a new player his handicap is stubbornly refusing to budge from the mid-60s, but his appearance at this dinner said much about this wonderful sport. As a racket-sports resister since an early age, he has nonetheless taken to tennis like a duck to err...a jet engine? In 2010 he thrilled a packed dedans by beating Steve Watson in the Garland Cup quarter-final from an impossible position; coming back from 4-1 down he won several short-chases at match points by Barnes-Wallising the ball into the dedans with casual aplomb. Of course he lost the final but that was the match that made him to real tennis what Russell Grant is to ballroom dancing. A plump, camp, crowd pleaser (it's OK, he's far too busy to read this!)

Not winning in 2010 might have crushed a lesser spirit, but in 2011, back he came and won the Garland Cup. Not only that, he also picked up the summer doubles title with Sir Andrew. On this occasion it was not his lethargic lobbing that won the day but his mercurial ability to be any where the ball wasn't; ducking, bobbing, weaving and avoiding in any way possible more than the minimum number of shots, he allowed Andrew to win the tournament for them both.

Of course it makes this a very Pettiford centric report but it's odd the way things turn out. A couple of days before the dinner Tom Granville was urging me (Lloyd Pettiford) to put more weight on my shots or I'd never have a chance of claiming the Owen George Club Champs. Well, how wrong could he be! In the absence of Winner PSH and runner-up Tom Lewis, I collected the Owen George Trophy as the losing semi-finalist (0-6, 1-6) present on the night. Dreams can come true, and they often do at the MMTCC Annual Awards Dinner.

MMTCC GOLF DAY

13th October. Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club.

Report by Hypocrotease.

EDITOR AMBUSHED.

The editor's team was sent out on an early skirmish. Martin Trees scouting ahead, George Hayward astride a stagecoach and RSM scavenging in the rear. They finished with abundant Stableford scalps some 100 minutes ahead of the final posse.

Sir Andrew rode out with another trio armed with six-shooters. The Knight was clearly in the wrong sketch-and shooting six is never a good golf score.

Back at the bar the editor was seen slugging bourbon, munching scones and dusting off a winner's speech.

Even as the suggestion of sending out a search party was made there was a rifle crack.

Mike Muscles Metcalfe had attacked the 18th green from 80 yards with such ferocity that his ball – had it not struck the plate glass window of the saloon - would have ended in the Tiddington Road.

He caused the Mayor of Shirley Golf Club to choke on his bacon bagel and seriously upset the Stratford Lady Sheriff. A lynching was suggested.

He also alerted the editor to the trap that had been set.

John Lambdon (posing as a 22 handicap golfer) had sneaked up the back 9 with 22 points- the same as RSM. They both had totals of 39.

John- the Stepford Kid- had however played the back 9 at the back and RSM had played the back 9 at the front (non golfers will have given up by now) so Simon Allen (our town gaoler) awarded the Kid the Harry Vardon prize.

The team prize went to RSM, Trees and Hayward.



THE MORETON SHIELD

15th-16th October. Report by our correspondent.

It was gratifying to see the work on Junior Development by Tom, Nick, Tim Messer and Beverleigh Tweohig-Howell coming to fruition with Ben Irwin and Charles Hamilton doing so well- Ben reached the semi-final and Charles the last 16, and it's worth pointing out that neither of them have parents who play the game.

So a good mix of age, gender and handicap got through the boxes- Tom Bomford after only a few months of play looked a good bet until he fell to Irwin. The Walsh combo caused some problems until they hit the buffers provided by the Chairman. The ever green Anthony Parmiter despite taking his time to draw breath, showed how experience and nous are so important in real tennis especially in his match against Ben Irwin when the sages felt that at 4/1 he was doomed...

In the final the Chairman was 3/2 up at which point a weekend of owe 40/30, ban tambour and one serve seemed to catch up with him and Parmiter took the honours and a well deserved celebratory glass of claret!



Quarter-finals:

Parmiter v Richardson 5/1
Irwin v Bomford 5/2
S. Walsh v Phillips 5/1
Hamilton v F. Walsh 5/2

Semi-finals:

Parmiter v Irwin 5/4
Hamilton v S. Walsh 5/3

Final:

Parmiter v Hamilton 6/4

THE BRODIE CUP

6th November. Report by the editor.

MMTCC 2 MCC 3

Away against MCC on the fast floor of Lords is never an easy draw. Starting 1 down as a clash with the Interclub tournament took out our 30 handicap singles players was even harder.

Our 45 doubles pair John Cook and Tim Messer made a fine start beating James Leeper and David Bugge 6/4 1/6 6/1

Alastair Gouly – a little stiff from his Saturday Rugby football match- nearly made his young opponent Francis Moore work for a third set but lost 1/6 5/6

The match of the day was the 50 singles in which Stewart Hodges came back from 1/5 in the 3rd set to beat James Coley 6/5 2/6 6/5. A fantastic and very exciting performance.

At 2 rubbers each Captain Martin Trees playing with Richard Seymour Mead should have clinched the match against Giles Pemberton and Roger Cotton but regrettably having got back to 1 set all they lost their way going down 3/6 6/1 0/6.

The black eye sustained by RSM in the third game as both players attempted to return a ball off the tambour is in no way to be blamed. Captain Trees would never poach when playing with such an old and experienced partner and besides a blow to the head is probably the only way to sharpen up the editor these days.

THE LADY HAMILTON TROPHY

Even greater success for Phillippa Twohig Howell. Phillippa made her mark on the club (and the honours board) by winning the Lady Hamilton Trophy at her first attempt.

Victories over the hardened campaigners Jill Slora, Fran Walsh and Tracey Thomas gave the junior player the recognition she deserves for the hard work she has put in.

NATIONAL INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT

5th and 6th November.

Sponsored by H.L.Barnes, Stratford upon Avon

Leamington won everything this year - Ed Steele beat Chris Knight in the final of the Singles, Guy Stanton and Ian Steele beat RTC's Richard East and Owen Saunders and Leamington Second team won the overall Team Trophy.

In the initial rounds on Saturday Oxford's Mark Partington and Leamington's Andy Dixon looked to be playing very consistently.

However the final rounds of the singles were dominated by the winner and runner up of Box 2 who contested the final.

Ed Steele improved in every match he played and at the end was playing noticeably better than at the beginning. Chris Knight played well but Ed (handicap 37) looked to be playing about 4 or 5 handicap better towards the end. This has happened a number of times and the organiser was left wondering whether or not he should introduce a handicap adjustment during the tournament.

The finals of the doubles was a victory for the underdogs - between RTC who came second in their box and Leamington 1 who came 8th overall. Guy Stanton played very well, ably supported by Ian Steele who is now a complete bandit off his newly acquired handicap of 53.

There were many close matches, in Singles Box 2 all except one match went to 6/5.

Thanks to Tom Granville and Nick Jury of Moreton and Marc Seigneur of Leamington for marking. We are very grateful to Leamington Tennis Court Club for the use of their court on the Saturday.

And thanks to H.L.Barnes for continuing to sponsor this very enjoyable event.

LRTA UNDER 21 COMPETITION.

Radley 27th November. Report by Tim Messer.

Here come the Girls.....

Moreton Morrell sent five representatives to the Ladies Real Tennis Association's Under 21 Competition at Radley on the 27th November. Despite only a handful of competition appearances between them, they acquitted themselves very well.

In Group B Madeline Grant used her height and reach well and volleyed superbly with many forces to the dedans. She only lost one match to Jess Bethall from Seacourt, but had to settle for second spot in the group on games won after finishing level top with Suzy Peters from Canford.

In Group C Phillippa Twohig-Howell again won two of her three matches. She opened by beating both Lottie Fullerton and Georgie Willis from Canford and Seacourt respectively. The group came down to a final match against Hannah Doyle of Canford; unfortunately Phillippa whilst holding to 3 games all eventually succumbed 6-3, to finish second.

Group D saw two Moreton players in Hattie Sharman and Felicity Sargent fighting it out with Matilda Rhodes of Oxford and Charlotte Hoskins of Radley.

Unfortunately, home court advantage proved too much for our girls despite Felicity volleying well and Hattie dominating with her serve, Charlotte won the group.

Group F saw the final competitor from Moreton, Alice Messer, up against Radley girls Eleanor Blackhouse and Izzy Taylor. They were joined by Artemis Patterson from Cambridge. Alice and Izzy both won their first two matches and it came down to a shoot-out between the two. Alice's serving, ground strokes and use of chases made her the favourite, however, handicapped at owe 15-30 the task proved too much for the Moreton girl.

Well done to all our girls, the entry and results show the strength of the Moreton Morrell junior section.

Our girls now sit comfortably alongside Seacourt, Canford and Radley, so keep up the good work!



THE WILLOUGHBY de BROKE TROPHY

Under 21 Championship. 19th December 2011.

For the full report by Tim Messer please see the MMTCC website Junior Scene special issue.

There was full day of tennis with 16 competitors all hopeful of taking the Under 21 title.

Ben Irwin reached the final against Felicity Sargent. Ben was giving away owe 15-30.

Felicity showed no mercy and played some lovely tennis winning the match 5-2

CHRISTMAS TRIPLES

Report by the Chairman.

This was a most enjoyable preliminary to Christmas as per usual. Groups of three fought for supremacy during the course of the evening with the higher handicaps being legally entrusted with the responsibility of taking balls off the penthouse. Lower handicaps weren't as disabled as usual, occasionally being allowed to participate!

The final was a close run thing: Hyde, Krusinjjjy and Robson just edged out Hamilton, Pitts-Tucker and Shipstone. It has been suggested the score was 6/5.

This was followed by Tom's 'serve the ball into

the basket perched on a stool just beneath the penthouse...competition.' (To clarify- the basket is perched on the stool!) He demonstrated how to perform the task and either by complete chance or skill- popped the ball into the basket at the first attempt. To underline the enormity of this achievement the fifteen participants thereafter failed despite 3 goes each! It was looking as if we would be serving in hope till well past midnight until Steve Walsh mercifully basketed the ball and the winnings with an inch perfect bobble serve!

George's turkey curry was very well received on one of the colder nights of the season. The learned(sic) Dr. Robson was happier than most at the end of the evening having trousered the first prize in the 50 club draw of £200...(thank you Barbara Nicol for organising an exciting draw for some...)