



*COURT CIRCULAR*

**THE CENTENARY SEASON**

**DECEMBER 2004**

Moreton Morrell Club Champion is now the World Champion.



**Phil Shaw-Hamilton** defeated all comers from around the world to win the Over-50 World Amateur Championship held at the Queens Club in October. The Times reports that Phil won 'with an awesome display of power and aggression, crushing the dogged Paul Weaver of Seacourt, for the loss of only one game.'

A week earlier Phil had been one of the victorious Great Britain Team who beat Australia in the Ted Cockram Trophy at Burroughs.

In the Over 60s event held at Lords - the Pete Bostwick Cup- Moreton Morrell members **Clive Barnes** and **Anthony Hothfield** were in the victorious Great Britain Team.



At Manchester M.M. member **Julian Snow** led the Great Britain team to victory in the Bathurst Cup.

Also in October Phil had reached the final of the 10-15 Handicap Band held at Oxford loosing to Bristol and Bath Professional Kevin King.

And **Charlotte Cornwallis** took the French Womens Open Championship. We hope to see her winning the LRTA Open to be held at Moreton Morrell 23-24th April 2005.

**THE ALLEN SEDDON TOURNAMENT**

Richard Thornton as last years winner represented MMTCC in the Chetwood Trophy- the National event held at Hampton Court in September. Sadly he did not escape the box.

This year's tournament is underway. Please arrange your matches promptly. This is an opportunity to beat all comers in a three set handicap event and win a new racket from our generous sponsors Simon Allen and Roger Seddon.

**THE MORETON SHIELD** 9th and 10th October. Report by Andrew Hamilton.

There are one or two stalwarts of Club Tournaments who have yet to add their names to the Honours Boards. When some of those "losers", to use modern teenage parlance, are within a hair's breadth of inscription for posterity, we draw in our breath and watch the 40- love lead at 5-5 slowly dissipate into 40 -all and then, as the elbow goes flaccid and the ball bobbles into the net, the chance for glory has slipped away yet again.

So it was then, that our esteemed sawbones, Richard Seymour Mead(25) found himself for the first time tantalisingly close to troubling his Lettraset collection for use on the Moreton Shield Honours Board. Playing the crispest and most thoughtful handicap tennis of his career, Richard had reached the final courtesy of a hard fought semi-final against fellow cack hander Alex Reynolds(24) whom he edged out 5/4 and John Archard-Jones(54) 5/3 in the quarter-finals. His opponent in the Final, Terry Drane, armed with a handicap in excess of 60, had swept past a plaintive "what sort of handicap is this?" Norman Hyde(36). At 3-3, Norman must have fancied storming through to the Final but a couple of nicks and a lucky shot and his dreams evaporated into the ether.

Would our Court Circular Editor, Collector of Tennis Cartoons, milliputter of our pock-marked court floor, Director and Keeper of Honours Boards and custodian of court moral welfare and etiquette, achieve his goal at last and overcome a monstrous handicap difference? With such a curriculum vitae, his was indeed a deserving case. ?



He was giving 30 owe ½ 30 with one serve, banned the tambour and chases more than 3 &4.

At 2-3 down, the situation was far from rosy and the doctor was in need of something from his pharmaceutical hold- all and at 40- all with only one serve, backed by a wobbly elbow, the match was at a critical stage. The doc. raised his racket to propel another railroad to test Terry's lacklustre footwork....and then horror, a mobile phone trilled out its inane metallic ring tone at an ear-shattering decibel. There was an audible intake of collective air from the packed dedans, so strong that Terry was almost dragged towards the net. And then? I need hardly say that the serve was, of course, a fault. From the Dedans, you could have heard a tiny piece of hardened milliput drop to the floor beneath the Tambour.

Thankfully, your Committee has been keen to pursue a health and safety strategy and risk assessment policy and the sorry doctor, suffering from the very worst symptoms of servus interruptus activated this by turning to the dedans and with some force projecting his racket at the watching masses. I'm delighted to say that the netting survived the safety test, no one was injured and with another tick on the Club's risk assessment form, the Doc could battle on.

He was now faced with a true test of nerve. Our man from the HSE was in dire trouble at 2-4 down and Drane was far from going down his namesake. However, the railroad held steady. Slowly but surely and indeed miraculously points were culled and at 5/5, 40- 40 one point would decide the winner. Would another of Leon's customers phone in for a Monday morning haircut?

The mobile phones had been nervously de-commissioned, the railroad thudded into the nick, and after many years of endeavour, the Doctor can now climb his ladder and imprint himself on the Honours Board.

Many congratulations to Richard, who gives those other anonymous "losers" a chance to gain access to the Honours Boards!

But will this report escape the delete button of the omnipotent censor?

The Result: Richard Seymour Mead beat Terry Drane 6/5

## REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE

At the September meeting the Committee decided that the Annual subscription for Full members should remain at the same level in 2005 but that there needs to be an addition of one pound to the court fee. There will be slight adjustments to the subs for Junior members and in the arrangements for Off-peak and Country members. New categories will be available to enable occasional visitors to join and to keep in touch with our club.

Full details are posted on the notice board.

The enclosed flyer gives the opportunity to buy two splendid prints - smaller versions will be in the Editor's Minor Opus -

The Moreton Morrell Cartoon Collection which will be published in 2005. The full details of this will, I hope, be circulated with the next Court Circular.

Here is another glimpse of Jeff Avery's work which will be included in the book.

Please remember to clear your diaries so you can join in or watch the spectacular tennis events that are coming to Moreton Morrell .

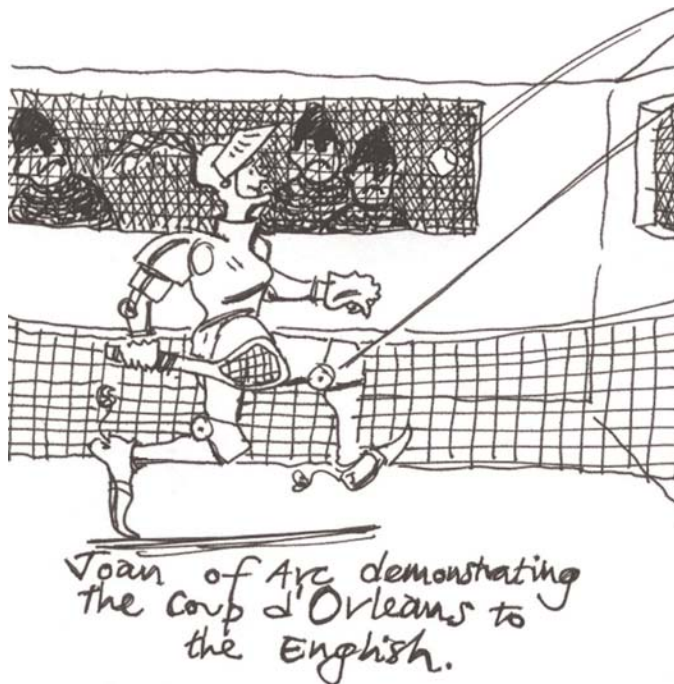
**The LRTA Open Singles and Doubles      March 23rd/24th.**

**The Centenary Celebrations      June 17th - 26th.**

**MMTCC Website.**

Phil James has set up our website- it is still under development but check out the Centenary pages for latest details.

**[www.mmtcc.co.uk/centenary.htm](http://www.mmtcc.co.uk/centenary.htm)**



### A BRUSH WITH THE LORDS

By Hipocrotease.

Moreton Morrell President, Lord Willoughby de Broke was a superb tennis player. It is a shame that we now rarely see his style on the court. He is modest about his tennis prowess as he is about his noble work for the Special Needs Institution called The Lords.

According to the October School Newsheet , Hansard, David has been giving talks on Nature from nursery books to the unfortunate inmates.

Apparently Ratty, Peter Rabbit, Flopsy Bunny and Basil Brush have been pursued through forest and field by Dougle the Dog for thousands of years.

Basil Brush chases Ratty and Flopsy Bunny at every opportunity but now the boys at the New Labour school next door want Basil Brush protected from the horrid hound.

David thinks there will then be so many Basil Brushes, that Crack Marksman will have to come and shoot all the extras and as the marksmen can't hit a mad cow in

broad daylight (apparently that is how they practice) there will be carnage in the countryside.

Also poor old Ratty and Flopsy will not be protected and that's NOT FAIR.

Anyway there is a bit of a spat going on between the Hice of Lords and Ouse of Commons and if the New boys get their way the Lords will be closed down just because its Old and possibly inbred.

Then the old Lords will be sent back to their estates where they will chase Basil Brush (without Dougle) and David will come back to play tennis. BOOM BOOM.

## **THE RICHARD HAMILTON ROOM**

A generous gift by Lady Elizabeth Hamilton and much work by Paul Wilson-Gunn, Flo Holland, Nick Mills and Phil Shaw-Hamilton has revived the dining room.

After the Ogilby Cup presentation there was a short dedication to Sir Richard by Vice Chairman David Bryant followed by some delightful memories of Sir Richard's enthusiasm for Tennis, the Club and his fellow members.

We were also reminded that Lady Hamilton was also a player and had lessons from Ted Johnson. "Stoop my lady, stoop to the ball"!



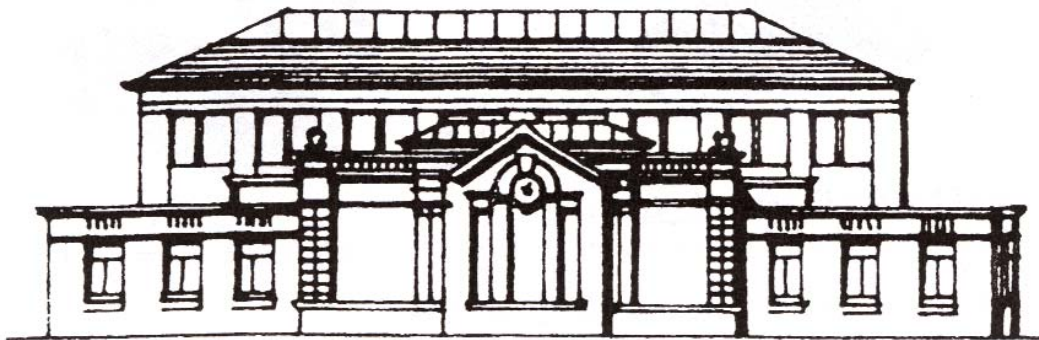
## **MORETON MORRELL GOLF SOCIETY** 15th October 2004. Report by the Editor.

The annual golf day was held at Brailes Golf Club on a damp but well kept course. The weather was kind, the players numbered a dozen and none found their performances entirely satisfactory- but that is the way of golfers. The guest prize went, for the second year in succession, to Barry Jackson. The honours for the Trophy were shared as were the prize bottles.

Alison Seymour Mead and Andrew Hamilton, who won last year, could not be separated by any regular count back method so close were their scores.

As Alison is a 'Friend of the Court'- (friend of the editor: surely ed) she was not eligible for the Trophy so Sir Andrew will have his name inscribed on the Trophy and remembered on the Honour Boards yet again.

We hope to see him deposed next year or he will be insufferable.



## **THE OGILBY CUP** 30/31st October. Report by the Editor.

Sixteen pairs took part. Handicaps were spread from 22 to 53 but most pairs were well balanced in the 25-40 area. This led to many close and good matches but the final was contested by pairs separated by 27 points (that is a wonderful 30 over 40 start for the receivers). Thus the final of the second tournament in October was also between two widely separated contestants. The result on this occasion was also very close but went the way of the higher pair.

In the first semi Phil James and George Kruszynski (53) beat David Bryant and David Prophet (28). The losing pair seemed to be going well but then lost their way going down 6/4. In the second semi Richard Seymour Mead and George Hayward (30) lost to Andrew Hamilton and Howard Shipstone (26). Howard had been parachuted in at a late hour as Andrew's partner pulled out (some landing: ed).

The editor was solidly supported by George but Andrew was just too steady and the ed too feeble!

In the final the Shipstone Sharks went to a 3/0 lead in 5 minutes and with Phil and George both able to hit any ball coming off the penthouse roof the better pair looked in serious trouble.

Andrew then had a spell of 4 games (these took 15 minutes) where a huge number of forces at the dedans were successfully defended and Howard received serve with the no errors- very important when you are starting every game at over 40 30.

The ninth game was gained by Phil making successive freak shots- the first a huge bash that went up from the penthouse roof high into the ceiling to fall vertically down the back wall.

The second a reasonable floor shot that struck a crack and jumped over Andrew's outstretched racket.

At 5/4 and 15/40 down Howard had to make chase worse than 2 - this he did saving one of many match points.

The inevitable and well deserved 5all was reached but there were just too many match points to save and George and Phil took the third one available.

Lady Hamilton presented the prizes.

## **THE LADY HAMILTON TROPHY** 6th November. Report by Barbara Nicol.

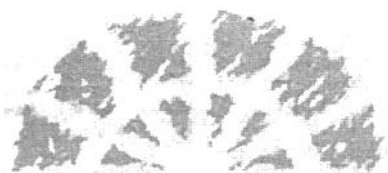
This year the tournament failed to materialise in September due to lack of entries and instead made an appearance in early November.

Whether it was to be on the Saturday or Sunday became a game in itself, as entrants swapped their plans back and forth. Finally nine "good women and true" did battle in two boxes on the 6th.

Your correspondent tried to take matters "seriously" watching the four J's in close fought matches and writing scores and quotes feverishly into a diary. By one o'clock frostbite in the dedans had set in. Fun and female conversation and camaraderie was being missed-not to mention alcohol and food (thanks go to chefs Jane Terry and Jane Sloan.). Had I been conned by the editor who claimed that all new members to the ladies section traditionally had to produce a report????!!!.

The answer was obviously yes! Suffice it to say that Jill Slora and Jane Sloan triumphed to meet Flo Holland and Vicky Leitch in the semis. It was truly Vicki's day as she dropped only one game in the box matches and one in the semi-final against Jane Sloan. On a roll she seemed to get better and better as Andrew Hamilton commented in his prize presentation on behalf of Lady Hamilton. A member of Jesmond Dene as well as Moreton, she beat Jill Slora in the final 6/1. This was a delight for our Warwick University student whose mother and father have both been tournament winners up in Newcastle this year. I'm delighted to say ours is apparently the most beautiful Trophy of the three!

Our thanks go to Tom and Nick who lit fires, brewed coffee and scored, as usual with aplomb. Also to the unmentionable gentleman whose mobile phone rang in the dedans thus "making the day" for the ladies who insisted I record the fact. (For future bribery?)



## **Lodders** SOLICITORS

## **LODDERS NATIONAL INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT**

November 13th/14th. Report by Sir Andrew Hamilton.

The number of clubs participating this year was reduced to twelve rather than sixteen but this made little difference to a tournament that always exudes bonhomie and fun.

The main shock in the Singles competition was the dismissal of Manchester's Graham Heap by MMTCC's John Miller in a tense affair which Miller shaded 6/5.

Obviously Graham's handicap of 30 was too low to cope this year, having made the Cup his property year upon year! Other quarter-finalist winners were Colin Butler of the Oratory who received a walkover, David Prophet returning to the Club with an eyebrow raising 38 handicap inched past fellow cack-hander Alex Reynolds 6/5, and the Chairman and correspondent who gained revenge for a box defeat by Sarah Neston of Manchester, triumphing on this occasion 6/3. In the semi-finals, Prophet, playing inexplicably for Hatfield, beat Andrew Hamilton of the M.C.C. 6/2. Eighteen year old James Bates from Oxford proved too steady for John Miller coming in a 6/4 winner. In the final, Prophet continued his good form by beating Bates 6/4 after a slow start to the set. When presenting the runner's up prize, the Chairman commented that young Bates's handicap was sure to fall quickly, at which point Graham Heap, quick as a flash, interjected "not if he plays at Manchester". Shameless!

In the first doubles quarter-final, the MCC pairing of Chris "Bomber" Griffith-Jones and Angela Reichardt, (yes, you read it right, Angela was fast-tracked to MCC membership for the weekend, now joining Rachel Heyhoe-Flint as one of a handful of female MCC members), lost 3/6 to Tess Fielden and Bob Cooke, ex Essex leg spinner, batsman and raconteur. As one wag put it, the Marylebone team of three consisted of Angela as Mary, Griffith-Jones as the single-barrelled "le" and Hamilton as the "bone". What it is to be blessed with a sense of humour. The Leamington combo of Bill Slora and Paul Holland found that the Oxford pairing of academic Steve Watson and Bates senior asked too many questions, and Manchester's Aldona Greenwood and Tim Parker swept aside Brewerton and Brodie of Hatfield. Leamington's Richard Starkey and Ian Steele found the Hatfield pair Williams and Dadd too hot to handle.

In the first semi-final Bates and Watson prevented an all Manchester final when they defeated Williams and Dadd. Their opponents in the Final were Greenwood and Parker after they crushed Dadd and Williams 6/1. Aldona Greenwood maintained her crisp volleying and sound groundshots in the Manchester pair's victory over Bates and Watson by 6 games to 3.

After the tennis, thanks were extended to Tom and Nick for their excellent marking and ball making, David Bryant for once again organising a most successful weekend, and Paul Thompson for presenting the cups on behalf of our sponsors Lodders.

**REAL FOOD AND WINE** 19th October.

How splendid our newly curtained and redecorated dining room looked and how friendly the club with both log fires blazing.

The evening - food by George Kruszynskij and his team, and wines ably described by Phil James was another great success.

Three delicious courses each accompanied by wines to enhance, contrast and educate the palate.

Notes were taken, estimates made and honours went to the advanced palate of Wendy Nekar.

The editor lodged a protest (turned down) that his estimate of the average price for these far from average wines was the most accurate bearing in mind that MMTCC members will be offered a generous discount by Edward Sheldon Wines.

We hope this capable team will repeat the format in 2005.

**FIELD TROPHY** 21st November. Away at Petworth.

Our gallant 2nd pair Alex Reynolds and Simon Hobson followed by no 1 singles and team captain Philip Shaw-Hamilton put us into a 2 -0 lead. Sadly no more matches were won so no progress this year.

**BRODIE CUP** 21st November. At home against Canford.

A 4 rubbers to 1 loss so no full report!

**LRTA WEEKEND** 4th-5th December.

Our guests enjoyed a fine handicap tournament on Saturday with Jo Miller and Jane Terry losing in the final to Sheilagh Owens and Virginia Henry.

The Ladies took on the MMTCC men on Sunday and lost 3 matches to 2.

**THE LEAMINGTON WEEKEND** Sponsored by the PQP Partnership. 28th / 29th / 30th January. 2005

A message from Guy Stanton.

Playing for the prestigious Leamington Silver Racket, this open, mens singles, tournament takes place at Leamington and Moreton Morrell Tennis Courts over three days. In recent years the tournament has suffered from reduced numbers, and we are very keen to improve quality, and quantity of entrants. We are especially keen to encourage as many Moreton Members as possible to take part, as it is played on both courts. A lot of potential entrants have always complained of lack of warning, so this is an attempt to give you plenty of time to book the tournament in your diary. The event is capped at 45 handicap so there is no fear of playing very long handicaps!!

Richard Seymour Mead has entry forms which are also available at Moreton; Please fill in details and return to LTCC. Alternatively call Kevin Sheldon or Marc Seigneur at Leamington: 01926 424977, to book your place.

As a footnote there is also the very well attended and enjoyable casino evening on the Saturday.



Wishing you all a  
Happy Christmas and a  
successful Centenary Year