



COURT CIRCULAR

H A P P Y C H R I S T M A S

DECEMBER 2006

THE LADY HAMILTON TROPHY.

October 2006. Report by Jane Sloan.

The start of the new tennis season, The Lady Hamilton Trophy. The entrance this year was small with some of the regulars unable to participating due to the birth of a new baby, ageing knees, high pressure of work commitments, but the tournament did see two new entrances, Jacque Roe & Madeline Grant. It was unfortunate that our reigning champion was also sadly unable to defend her title. It was also noted, the Hamilton household had run out of silver cleaner, so it was in their interest that the trophy should be passed to another for cleaning and engraving until 2007!!!

Sunday 1st October the weather started warm but turned to monsoon with a heavy storm brewing both outside and inside on court! The semi finals saw Sally Grant v Madeline Grant at 5 all, 40 all, the final forehand shot from Sally sadly ending in the net allowing the younger Grant to go through to the final. It was also another nail biting semi tussle between Barbara Nicol and Jane Terry with Barbara going through 6/3 to meet Madeline in the final.

The final proved too hard for Sally to watch, due to the family interest and so she retired to the bar for a stiff drink. With Barbara 4 love up, Madeline started to fight back winning the next game, after a returned tabor shot created a chase. Barbara kept her cool and with a tight service against the handicap of 15 – owe 30 did not allow another game to be taken, winning the trophy in style 6/1! The winner Barbara Nicol.

THE LODDERS NATIONAL INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT

11/12th November 2006. Report by John Miller.



Mike Henman elder brother of Tim the Lawn Tennis star represented Bristol & Bath in the National Inter Club Tournament held at the court in Moreton Morrell. Henman played some attractive tennis but despite his fierce volleying just failed to win through to the last day.

The competition sponsored by Lodders Solicitors drew twelve teams from all over the country.

Local player Gerry Slora of Moreton Morrell carried an injury through the early stages and even lost 6-0 to John Miller of Jesmond Dene in one of the group matches. But he loosened up enough by Sunday to beat the same opponent in the first semi-final. In the other semi-final Sir Andrew Hamilton of the MCC lost to Richard Marmoy of the Oratory club. In the final Slora completed a remarkable recovery by beating the very vocal Marmoy 6-2.

In the Doubles the competent Leamington pairing of Charles Wade and young golf pro Jamie Elson reached the quarter-final. The final was a good tussle between the Oratory (Alex Reynolds & Andrew Woodward) and Steve Brewerton & Nick Brodie of Hatfield House.

The Oratory won 6-3 to complete a highly successful weekend for the Reading club.

THE FIELD TROPHY

19th October 2006. Report by our correspondents.

When team captains wrote out their teams and laid them on the table there was a visible sign from RTC that it wasn't all going to wrapped up by lunch time!

First on was Paul Wilson-Gunn (20) versus David Watson (9). After a slow start - PW-G managed to avoid getting the ball over the net for two games and losing every point for four!

He found some form and had the RTC man working hard. Although the first set disappeared 6-1 the second was more closely contested to 6-3. And Watson was seen to be perspiring profusely which is a credit to PWG. One down.

Sally Grant (21?) was on next against Simon Barker (9). Apart from two dodgy knees (mechanically speaking not looks) she was game for a match. Sally hasn't played a great deal recently and stood in for Richard Carr (who has distinctly dodgy ankles) at short notice who has. Sally gave her all which is very painful to watch especially when she gives out an agonised cry just before sprint-limping across the court.

Again a very spirited performance which had Simon perspiring equally satisfyingly and it was a cold day too! I forget the score, could have been 6-3,6-3.

Two down

John and Philip Shaw-Hamilton went on against James Watson and James Sohl whom, we were told, were athletic hard hitters with fantastic volleys and who did not pay any heed to the giant reputations of their MM opponents. Well! That was their big mistake! John advised captain P S-H to receive if the toss was so that he could serve his giraffe to the young Watson (father looking on).

We lost the toss.....and our opponents elected to receive.....and chose the pairings that we had hoped for! After a tussle in the first two games when we were all finding our eyes and form we scraped through to a 2-0 lead. And then we just never looked like losing. John played really well producing some first class volleys and rallies and unreturnable serves.

I was on form thankfully and a bit lucky at times but quickly found the weakness in James Watson which put Sohl under even more pressure when the ball came his way. We won 6-0,6-1.

That is six games to nil and six games to one!!!! I have never had so much delight in beating two cocky youngsters - well not since beating Tom S M!

2-1 to RTC

The tactic of captain and cook Phil Shaw- Craddock to weigh our opponents down with lunch was employed and then Sir A went on, giving away 35 years to a very young Mike Bray. Our whole strategy revolved around winning the third singles. It was crucial to having any chance of winning the match.

Andrew was up for it. He played fantastic tennis. He outplayed an admittedly temperamental volatile inexperienced young man. Won the first set 6-3, 5-3 up in the second....and then the mars bars fuel ran out...slowly, agonisingly the match slipped away. Bray got more confident but still made a huge number of unforced errors. Andrew still had many but it was inevitable.

RTC 3-1 and the match.

The last doubles although a dead rubber was still a confidence boosting outing for David Bryant and Alex Reynolds versus Bernard Weatherill and Mark McMurrough. Our lads gave a spirited performance and with Alex playing very steady tennis coupled with the Bryant service wall boast into the dedans they took the first set 6-5 and then between them decided to call it a day.

CATEGORY C TOURNAMENT

Leamington Tennis Court Club

October 7/8. Staff Reporter.

The 20-24 handicap band competition was flooded by Moreton Morrell members, a mere 6 out of 9. Having failed to talk his way into the first round proper on handicap grounds, Richard Carr inevitably went out 5/6, 1/6, 5/6 to a non club member. Robert Allsop, comfortable on his home court, defeated S Ducat 6/4, 3/6, 6/5. Andrew Hamilton less uncomfortable on what for handicapping purposes is deemed a home court than David Bryant, triumphed 6/4, 6/5 and for once the vice Chairman's intimidating lobbing failed. In another all MMTCC tie, once youthful Alex Reynolds overcame permanently unyouthful Club Secretary John Miller 6/5, 6/4. "I just can't play at Leamington" he moaned...Holyport, MCC, Prested, Cambridge, Oxford, Jesmond Dene as well?

In the semi-final, for the first time ever, Hamilton defeated Allsop on his home 'turf' 6/4, 6/5. Reynolds lost to a mere 17 year old youth Robert Hird 2/6, 6/5, 1/6 clearly running out of steam.

In his second consecutive final (admittedly in the 25-29 last year) Hamilton had to give a mere 36 years' advantage in his second match of the morning- fortified by some sandwiches from Marks and Sparks he also ran out of steam losing 5/6, 2/6. At least Robert Hird will be in the next category in 2007.

In the 25-29 competition, Bob Hurrion flew the flag rather limply for MMTCC losing his first round match 2/6, 0/6.



Ant and Dick win over Tom and Gerry.

THE OGILBY CUP

December 1-2 2006 . Report by the editor.

Gerry Slora with Tom Lewis (35.8) played John Miller and Richard Marmoy (25) in the first semifinal. They were receiving owe 15/ 15 and made a poor start but with good team work they came back from 2 games to 4 and 15 / 40 down to defeat the 'better' pair 6/4.

Anthony Parmiter and Richard Wills (46) took on Oliver LeMaistre and Peter Stephenson (41) in the second semi. Wills is quite new to the game but can read the ball well and middles quite a few. For a while Parmiter and Wills were stuck at the receiving end and Wills was missing the slower volleys but they finally managed to stay a little longer at the serving end to go ahead.

It was a match played with more enthusiasm than competence and Parmiter administered the coup de grace at 5/3 40all 'cutting' the ball off the frame round the tambour into the grille nick.

Slora and Lewis conceding 15 owe 15 in the final never really get it together .

Parmiter and Wills took the title 6/2.

MMTCC vs LTRA

The annual Ladies Real Tennis Association doubles tournament was a success on 25th November. Pam Tomlin and Caroline Heslop won the event.

The gentlemen of MMTCC took on the LRTA on Sunday 26th November and rather unusually came out as winners by 4 matches to zero.

THE ALLEN SEDDON CHAMPIONSHIP

This premier handicap knockout event takes place throughout the year—with a magnificent prize and entry into the National Handicap Tournament into the Chetwood Trophy for the winner.

The editor has already played (and won!!--- surely some mistake).

Please check the board and get your matches arranged.

THE CHAIRMANS **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

JUNIOR TENNIS:

I'm pleased to announce that Sally Jones has agreed to be our Junior Tennis Coordinator.

The Willoughby de Broke Trophy will be held on December 21st for Under 21s.

The Tennis and Rackets Association Director of Junior Tennis Paul Weaver will be bringing his best juniors to play at MMTCC in the New Year and our juniors will be encouraged to join in.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to all new members and I thoroughly recommend the Christmas Supper to you on December 12th. Please let the pros know if you wish to take part in any tournaments and a handicap competition has been arranged for February 3rd.

NO SMOKING:

I make no apologies for the fact that the Committee agreed unanimously that smoking will not be allowed in the building as from January 1st, for health and safety reasons and in advance of national legal changes.

Smokers are fortunate that the Club offers such a marvellous garden as a facility for smokers.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS:

I apologise for the following unseasonable message. Due to the rapid rise in utilities bills in particular, after several years of no increases, the Committee has agreed a rise in subscriptions to £330 for full members and £230 for Off Peak members. This year the extra amounts will be charged to bar bills, but members are encouraged to act immediately on receipt of standing orders to amend the amount payable.

COMMITTEE REPORT.

Members will be pleased to hear that the drive into the club will have attention in the new year.

The light situation continues to cause concern but we are assured that the substation required to improve our voltage will be built in 2007—we hope in time for the season.

Members may be aware of the state of our Squash/Tennis Court on the left of the tennis court. This possibly unique facility is to have attention to the roof. It is a handy court to take light exercise on when the tennis court is in use — and a splendid court for children to get an idea of tennis.

Our regular caterer is moving away so Match Managers will be asked to provide suitable meals for their teams- and of course our visitors.

George Kruszynskyj may be able to offer advice--- and indeed may like to play in matches.



CLUB MERCHANDISE SALE

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

Before stocks go!

Various items of Club merchandise- centenary shirts, sweatshirts, ties etc will be on sale during the OGILBY CUP, CHRISTMAS SUPPER and MORETON SHIELD. Great bargains for Christmas presents for family, friends or more importantly yourself!

GOURMET FOOD AND WINE EVENING - 23rd February 2007

We have successfully held Food and Wine soirees in the past, and due to popular demand we have persuaded George Kruszynskij to impress us again. The evening will be open to all members and guests, on a first come first served basis (limited to approx 40/45).

It will be supported by John Freeland of CA Rookes who will provide the wines. There will be a three course dinner with three wines for each course (nine in total). John will also explain how

certain wines compliment certain foods and answer any questions.

Bookings will open in January once the menu and wines have been finalised.

This is really a great opportunity to support the Club, meet fellow members, and have a memorable evening.

All profits will go to the Club.

MORETON MORRELL GOLF SOCIETY

Report by the Editor.

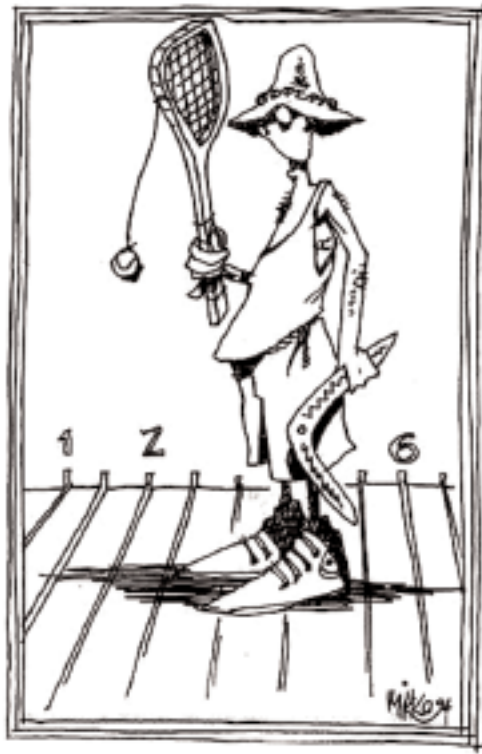
The competition was delayed until November 2nd so that a full field could compete in order to remove Sir Andrew from his smug position of title holder for the previous 3 years. We were fortunate as the planned day had pouring rain and the actual day a glorious late summer sun (yes it was November). Stratford Golf Club presented a course in excellent condition.

The winning guest was Robert Harper, the winning team Tom Granville, Paul Thompson, and Alison Seymour Mead, and the winner of the Harry Vardon Trophy was once again Andrew Hamilton.

The editor is not alone in his deep misery (a state well known to golfers) at being unable to depose Andrew but must offer congratulations. Andrew's handicap has been reduce to 15, he gained 38 Stableford points and with the exception of Robert Harper (also 38 points) he was 4 clear of any opposition.

Andrew was also pretty pleased and bought a round of drinks!!





COURT CIRCULAR APRIL 2007

Reports from The Moreton Shield, The Christmas Tripples, The Owen-George Championship and the Parsons Cup will all appear in the April Edition. and of course our Boomerang team The Moreton Centurians soon to depart down under will return with tales of gallantry and heroism which will inspire you to make the perilous journey down under in 2009.?

