



## COURT CIRCULAR

September 2004

### THE NEW SEASON

This season of tennis heralds the Centenary of Moreton Morrell's foundation. The usual Tournaments, Matches and Competitions will take place but we have the additional build up to our World Open Tournament and the many activities on and off court that will take place in June 2005.

The message in the following pages from our Chairman enlarges upon this.

As usual the season starts with **Lady Hamilton Trophy** on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The **Moreton Shield** is on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> October and the **Lodders National Interclub Tournament** will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Many tournaments and matches will give us a very full and active season. Please take part as much as possible.

There is an away trip to the North which will be a good opportunity to see two splendid clubs- Falkland Palace on 11<sup>th</sup> September and then Jesmond Dene on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Would any members wishing to join in please contact Tom Granville.

### CONGRATULATIONS

To **Phil Shaw-Hamilton** our Club Champion who retained the Bridgeman Cup in February. This is the British Seniors (Over 50) Amateur Singles Championship. He defeated Mick Dean 6/5 6/2.

To **Charlotte Cornwallis** on reaching the final of the M and G British Womens Open. She lost to current World Womens Champion Penny Lumly.

To **Tom Seymour Mead** on winning the Queens Club Championship in April.

To **Alex Reynolds** and **John Lambdon** on winning the Ogilby Cup-see below.

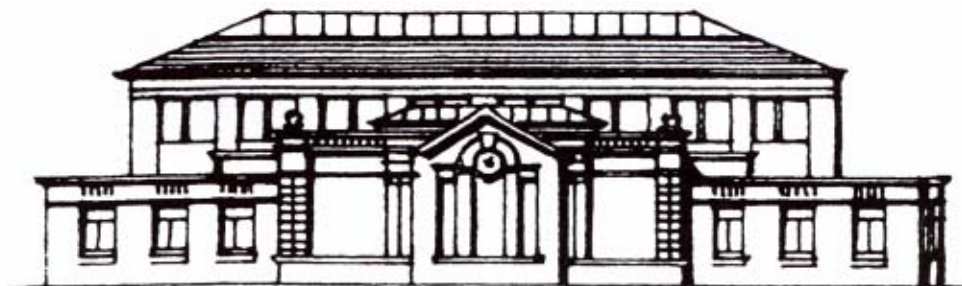
To **Tom Granville** and **Duncan Hughes** on winning the M and G National League Division 2---see below.

To **Clive Barnes, Richard Carr** (MM members) and **Guy Stanton** on winning the M and G National League Division 6 in April.

To **Andy Blossie, Phil Shaw-Hamilton** and **Nick Jury** on reaching the final of the M and G National League Division 3 in April. They lost to a strong Hampton Court team.

To **Phil Shaw-Hamilton** and **Sir Andrew Hamilton** on winning the British Over-50 Doubles Championship at Lords in May. They defeated holders John Ward and Mike McMurrugh 6/3 6/5.

To **Tom Seymour Mead** who was a member of the England team competing for the Van Alen trophy against the USA. England won 5 rubbers to 1 at Queens in July and retained the title.





### **CENTENARY PLANS UPDATE**

You will be pleased to hear that plans for the festivities next year are progressing well. During the ten day period from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, I can confirm that the following will be happening:

- **The VETCELL WORLD DOUBLES AND SINGLES TOURNAMENTS:**

This will involve the eight highest ranked players in the world and Robert Fahey, the World Champion will be taking part. The Doubles semi-finals will be played on the first Saturday and Sunday, and the Final on the Monday evening. The Singles qualifying matches will be held on the Thursday and Friday, the semi-finals on the Saturday and the Final on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The tournaments will be overseen by the International Real Tennis Professionals Association and sponsored by VETCELL, a company at the forefront of equine stem cell research.

There is a most generous sponsorship without which it would not be possible to hold such prestigious tournaments. Members will be offered priority booking opportunities - do not miss out as demand will be high.

- **THE LODDERS HANDICAP SINGLES AND DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS:**

These will run from Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> and the Finals will be on the Thursday afternoon. They will be open to men and women with handicaps of under 55 for singles and combined handicaps of 45 for the Doubles. Leamington have kindly agreed to make their court available for play. I should like to extend the Club's thanks to Paul Thompson and Lodders, locally based solicitors, for their generous sponsorship.

- **THE CENTENARY DINNER THURSDAY JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Please note that this will now be held on the Thursday at Moreton Hall and not on the Saturday as originally planned. Do put this in your diaries as it promises to be a fitting occasion to celebrate one hundred years of real tennis at Moreton Morrell. Former member, Tim Parry, has kindly agreed to be the Master of Ceremonies - I have seen him at work, and I can assure you he will keep us well entertained and keep us in good order throughout. In a departure from the usual set speech format, the entertainment with a sporting slant will be provided by David Troughton, son of Dr. Who! David is a fine actor well known for his TV and Royal Shakespeare Company roles. He will be supported by his wife who is also an accomplished thespian. The evening will finish with an auction of promises.

- **PIMM'S PARTY**

To launch the festive period a Pimm's party will be held at the Club on the first Saturday afternoon, 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Throughout the ten days, catering will be available and the opportunity for members to entertain business clients. Details for these opportunities will be made available in due course.

- **MERCHANDISE**

The Committee is hoping to provide an interesting range of merchandise in time for Christmas, including a souvenir brochure, cases of wine, wine glasses and goblets, Polo shirts, T Shirts and sweatshirts, posters, ties and umbrellas. And don't miss the Editor of the Court Circular's pioneering book of cartoons!

- THE BRITISH LADIES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

As part of our celebrations we will be hosting the British Ladies Open in April and will offer Club members an excellent chance to see how good the top ladies in the game are and to see if either Sally Jones or Charlotte Cornwallis can topple Penny Lumley!

I hope that your appetites are truly whetted for what promises to be a memorable year.

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR DIARIES FREE FOR THE TEN DAY PERIOD!**



I should like to thank all those who have already put a lot of effort into the preparations so far and would like to remind those who wish to be involved of a vital CENTENARY MEETING on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> when further important decisions will be made.

**The OGILBY CUP**

20/21 March 2004. Report by the editor.

The left corner of the dedans- that tiny target behind the gallery player in doubles changes once it is found early in a match from a small corridor of uncertainty for the gazelle at the back to a chasm of doubt- Will the partner cut it off? Will it miss the dedans? Will I reach it?

Alex Reynolds found this target from the receiving end as well as volleys from the service end.

Partnered by John Lambdon (Joint handicap 29) who gave very capable support they crushed the fancied pairing of Sir Andrew with Bomber Griffith-Jones (24) 6 games to 1.

Richard Seymour Mead playing with multiple winner in the eighties George Hayward (30) met Paul Holland and Martin Ryan (27). Holland's fierce returns of any serve less than perfect were too much for the editor.

Valiant efforts to 4 all provided good entertainment but the threat of an editorial final came unstuck. 4 games to 6.

After such good tennis the final was not a pretty sight.

Holland and Ryan took the first 3 games and then repeatedly hit balls off the penthouse into the net.

As it was Mother's Day perhaps the players had their minds elsewhere.

It was a case of 'Handbags at Noon'.

The score went to 3/3 then 4/4 then 5/5 with little sign of the excellence displayed in the semifinals.



The Result: J Lambdon and Alex Reynolds beat P Holland and M Ryan 6/5.

### **The ALLEN SEDDON TOURNAMENT**

Richard Thomas (31) and Simon Wratten managed to beat off the high handicap challengers in the semi finals.  
Richard beat Robert Wolston (60) and Simon defeated Colin Wyman (65).

The final – played in the heat of August :

Richard Thomas beat Simon Wratten 6/5 6/1.

Richard will represent Moreton Morrell at the Royal Tennis Court for the Chetwood Trophy in September.  
The splendid prizes generously provided by Simon Allen will be presented in the new season.

### **The ALL STAR PENNANT**

The Monday night team tournament at MM and Leamington ground to a conclusion in June when the two teams with the most points gained over the last five months competed in the final.

Andrew Hamilton, David Bryant and Tom Granville were defeated in a close match by Paul Holland, Guy Stanton and Duncan Hughes.

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2**

April. At Home. Report by the editor.

MM represented by Senior Professional Tom Granville and Duncan Hughes took on Newmarket in an exciting semifinal.

Tom was first on against Mark Hobbs- a terrific first set unpleasantly punctuated by the excessively loud noises made by the young Hobbs ended at 6/5 to Hobbs. Tom had a few too many unforced errors. Tom gathered himself to take the second set 6/3 but in winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> set point he broke his racket- a cunning way to play a short winner!

This also broke his run of games and he went 0/5 down rapidly. No way to recover and the set was lost 6/2 .

Andrew Knibbs (yes the LARGE ONE- known to many as he was assistant at Moreton Morrell a few stones back) then played Moreton's Duncan Hughes.

His inclination to force fiercely into the net rather than into the dedans helped Duncan to a fine victory 6/4, 6/0.

The deciding doubles (first to 8) went 6/0 to the home team when Tom looked up to note 2 members waiting at 6.50 to play on the 7 o'clock court.

No problem one would think. 2 more games . Members on court happily at 7.

Tom's brain became anxious to complete the match and of course 6/0 soon (actually 15 minutes)

became 6/4, then 7/6 then fortunately 8/6 and the match.

Our patient members started their game at 7.35!

#### **Division 2 Final. Away against Canford.**

Tom and Duncan travelled the many miles to Canford where they defeated the home players in all 3 matches.

Tom beat Austin Snelgrove 5/6 6/3 6/3. Duncan beat Tom Durack 6/4 6/1.

Tom and Duncan won the doubles 8/5.

### **OFF COURT**

Hipocrotease is delighted to share an item featured in our President's shopping catalogue- Country Club UK.

This item is apparently not to be missed and has 'Cult status'.

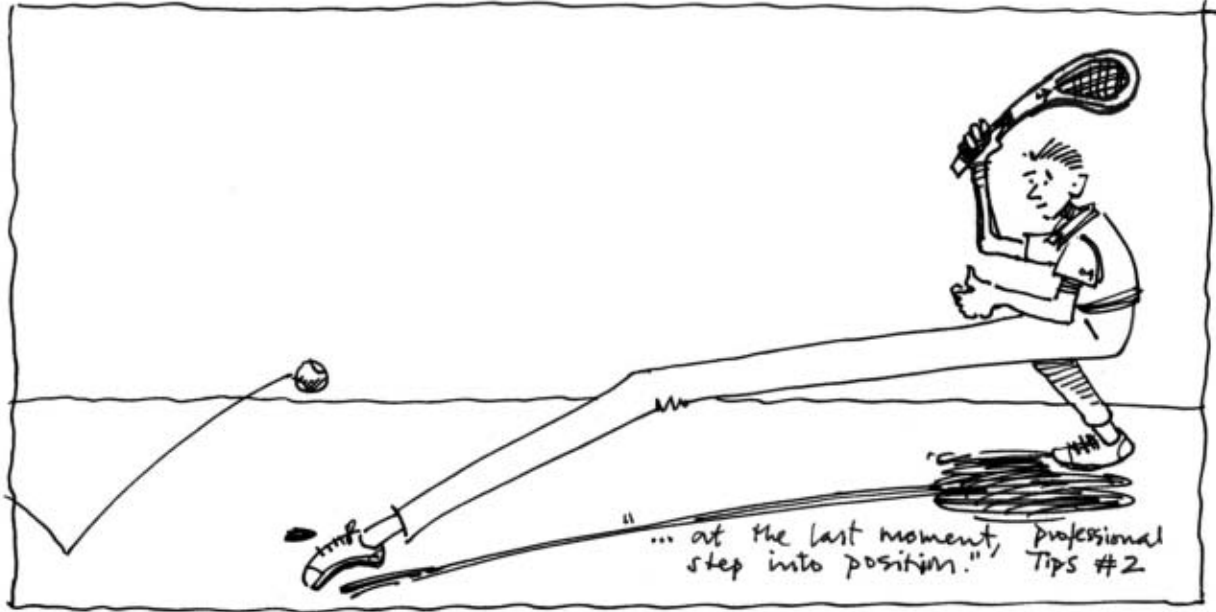
"Our shooting kilt has become a top-seller. Made in *rip-stop nylon, coated with neoprene rubber*, it is waterproof and easy to put on over trousers etc. Just wrap it around your waist, the Velcro sticks together then tighten with the adjustable buckle.

Kilts come in two lengths, men prefer the 'top of the welly' length, women the longer version. The kilt also has its uses whenever you need to protect your clothing: in the garden, with horses, or washing the car."

And in the bedroom or the Christmas Triples (surely not: ed)

TOM'S TIPS TO TOP TENNIS

Illustrated by Jeff Avery



## **REAL FOOD & WINE.**

28<sup>th</sup> April. Report by Hipocrotease.

### **Kruszynskij and James win the Gourmet Plate.**

This new event will surely need repeating and without a doubt the winning team of George and Philip with helpers Flo, Jude and kitchen porter Nick will be favourites.

The game plan was to serve 3 winning courses cooked by George with 3 suitable but contrasting wines described by Phil.

As in Tennis, it is wise to mix spin and length and pace, so it is in gastronomy.

Phil introduced the idea of varying wines to compliment or contrast to enhance the appreciation of the dishes.

Forty or so gourmands enjoyed the splendid dinner and the fascinating explanations.

The first course of goat's cheese with a red onion confit was a wonderfully executed opening shot that hit the grille for a winner with an interesting dry Riesling. The guinea fowl was awarded chase better than 5 at this table but with the Volnay 1er Cru it won the point.

The Lemon Brioche was a force to the winning gallery of great style. It hardly needed the wines but they served to emphasize its perfection.

The Connoisseurs table – the Wilson-Gunns and the Loades's took the 'estimate the price of the wines' trophy lead by overall winner Nicola Loades.

The editor's table was cribbing from an Edward Sheldon price list from 1990 so their estimate was woefully inadequate.

The secretary was made aware of 9 healthy alternatives to his much loved Abbeywell.

The chairman was seen to blanch at the concept of tannins and red meat.



He did find time to fill the oft empty glass of the chairman of Leamington Tennis Court Club, Olaf Dixon.