



COURT CIRCULAR

APRIL 2005

CENTENARY EDITION

Smart members will already have checked our new and excellent website- created by much hard work by Phil James.
www.mmtcc.co.uk

Not only does this give access to the Centenary events but also to our history and much more.

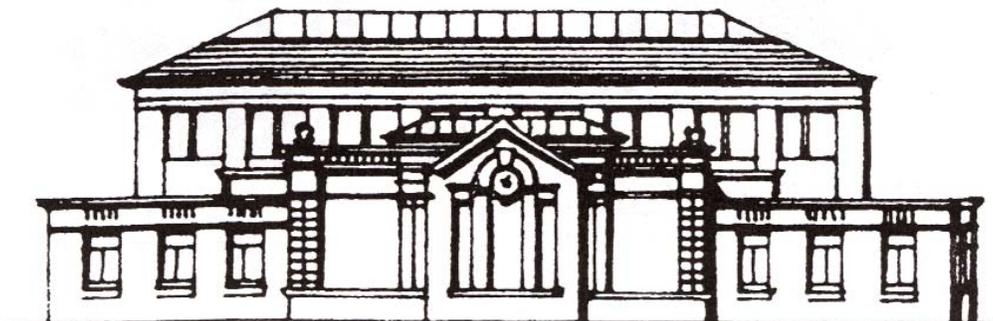
Tickets for the Tournament are going fast- so book on line (availability is on the site) as soon as you can.

The Centenary Dinner will be marvellous- Moreton Hall has been made very smart, our marquee will take as many as wish to come and the gardens in June will be glorious. Book your table soon. See the message overleaf from our chairman.

THE BRITISH LADIES OPEN SINGLES AND DOUBLES

The Club is delighted to be hosting the British Ladies' Tournaments from **Monday 18th to Sunday 24th April**. Seventeen pairs will take part in the Doubles Championship with the two seeded pairs being Charlotte Cornwallis and Sue Haswell and Alex Garside and MMTCC's own Sally Jones. The number 1 seed in the Singles is Charlotte Cornwallis and the number 2 Jo Iddles. Five MMTCC members will be participating- Sally Jones, Sarah Holland, Victoria Horn, Angela Reichardt and Jo Miller. The semi-finals of both tournaments take place on Saturday 23rd April and the Finals on the Sunday.

Please support the major event this year in the Ladies' game.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18th April 2005. 6.30 at the Club.

Your regular opportunity to influence events. Do come along.

THE CHRISTMAS TRIPLES

December 14th. RSM.

It is a shame that few dress up for this essentially fancy dress occasion. Even the clearly overworked editor could only manage a silly hat.

Hamilton, Thompson and Shipstone narrowly missed the wooden spoon as Andrew took constant evasive action (the best player must return any ball via the penthouse) by avoiding hitting any balls at all. (OK - just one lob into the dedans:ed) The stars of this glittering evening (steady on :ed) were Jane Terry and Flo Holland for providing the food.

On court the stars were Flo, Jane Sloan and Peter Stephenson-a seriously dressed but smiling trio who took on the might of Simon Allen (Ozzy Osbourne or a Chinese laundryman), Roger Seddon (Father Christmas) and Phil Scrooge-Hamilton (- now Phil is your Great Britain Team kit really fancy dress? Do we not already know of your prowess? Did we not see 2 pictures of you in the last Court Circular? Could you try something more modest next year? How about the editors frock?)

The final was the only match to be close.

6 match points were lost including a near(it missed) perfect Coup d'Orleans by Jane Sloan before Peter laid Chase a Yard at 5all 40 all to achieve the win.

THE GARLAND CUP

8/9th January 2005. Report by the editor.

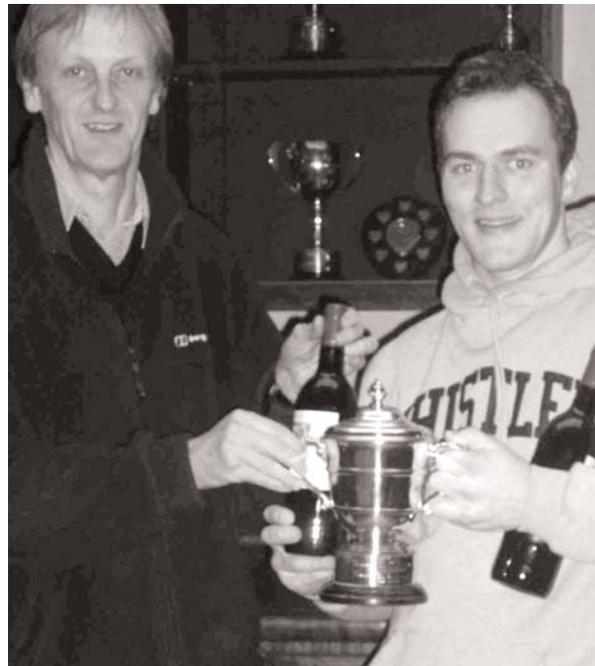
28 entered the annual mens handicap tournament. With no restrictions on the handicap level for entry this year there was always going to be a problem for those lower handicap players prepared to enter starting with enormous mountains to climb and indeed for the 'mid-range' players finding themselves having to give a large start to some of their opponents.

As some had predicted semifinalists with handicaps of 42, 59, 60 and 63 took the spotlight on Sunday afternoon.

The first was between Paul Gillam (42) and Terry Drane (63). Superior mobility and a very good serve enabled the lower handicap player to take the match 5/2.

The second could have been a tedious affair but both players are mobile, enthusiastic, improving and able to hit a ball.

Paul Evans(60) started as he went on - a fine return of serve off the frame to chase one yard, followed up by two forces to the dedans and chase 5.



Sir Andrew Hamilton presents the Garland Cup to a delighted Paul Evans

Rob Woolston (59) was not to be discouraged. He battled on using just as many parts of his racket as he had paid for. Both protagonists had good shots but the winner was always the one who used his wood most effectively on the crucial points. Paul was that one. Tom Granville grinned throughout as he added two new rackets to the weekends takings.

In the final Paul Evans was receiving 30 owe 15 from Paul Gillam. As usual Law taking points from Education and putting them to the use of the Law.

Paul Gillam reached 1 love and 30 all before Paul Evans earned a point but then that 1 point was enough to give him game point. The Lawyer learnt rapidly about the Teacher's rather neat sidewall serve and before you could say chase 2, it was 4 games to 1 and looking like a quick return to the bar.(get it :ed).

Not wanting a caning our teacher pulled off six of the best strokes and reached 3/4 but he could not withstand the slick legal framework which tied up his strings.

Both Pauls deserved their places in the final, they are both recent converts to our great game and we look forward to seeing both their handicaps in lower figures in the very near future.

The result: Paul Evans beat Paul Gillam 6/4.



David Prophet and Angela Reichardt beat Howard Shipstone and Jo Miller. 6/3.

In the Final David started with some perfect railroad serves and solid defence while the opponents lost their way. The match regained some balance and both pairs played some excellent shots- particularly Angela who forced her volleys firmly at the base of the tambour.

The Result: Prophet and Reichardt beat Gillam and LeMaistre. 6/4.

The PONSONBY CUP

19/20th February 2005. Report by Hipocrotease.

The Handicap Doubles for below 30 handicappers is another popular event- this is played as a knock-out event in matches to best of three sets.

The first semi saw a double barrelled assault on the title- sadly they were firing blanks. If Seymour Mead and Shaw-Hamilton thought this was a turkey shoot they were soon gobbled up by Reynolds and Bryant.

The 11 handicap difference was too much even for the ever agile Phil.

Richard Seymour Mead and Phil Shaw-Hamilton lost to Alex Reynolds and David Bryant. 6/2 6/2.

The holders Hamilton and Miller took on Meades and Hobson in the second semi.

Unforced errors helped the champs to the first set. The challengers made a spirited fight back and they had set points at 5/3 and 5/4 which they failed to take. They had a 30 love lead at 5all but then lost 4 points and the match.

Andrew Hamilton and John Miller beat Nick Meades and Simon Hobson 6/2 6/5.

The final:

We can all see that the winners- for the miraculous third year in a row- had divine assistance.

Not content with his knightly epithet our chairman Sir Andrew will now expect to be called Saint Andrew. Can any others clubs be so fortunate?

The match started with some wonderfully angled mainwall forces by Bryant and great serving by Reynolds. This pair romped to a 4/1 lead when thoughts of his victory speech and his name at last upon the honour boards robbed David of his judgement and his partner of support.

The holders came back from the grave.

Hamilton defended solidly and Miller produced his sepulchral undertaker serves. The match became very close.

Perhaps now was the time for Andrew to look to the heavens.

The HOBSON CUP

19/20th February. 2005. Report by the editor.

The popular doubles event for Over 30 handicaps saw a full dedans witnessing some tight, well fought matches which occur when handicap differences are small.

The first semi went 6/4 to the more steady pairing of Paul Gillam and Oliver LeMaistre against Stewart Hodges and George Kruszynskj.

In the second there were two men who occasionally substitute aggression with ability balanced by more refined partners. When the initial exuberance settled the steadier pair took the place in the final.



Sir Andrew looked up.

*Saint Andrew saw John- his disciple- change to a railroad serve.
And he saw that the Railroad was Good,
And he saw that the ball Nicked.
And that the Set was Won*

*And John the Disciple turned to the Dedans.
And the people in the Dedans saw John the Disciple turn.
And John Smiled
And the people in the Dedans, they Trembled. (surely with mirth:ed)*

*The second set was exciting but one sided.
St Andrew continued his miraculous ways ably supported
by John. On their side there was Faith, Hope and Charity
but also Force, Cut and Accuracy
but Greater than these was Tenacity.*

The result:

*Sir Andrew Hamilton and John Miller beat
David Bryant and Alex Reynolds 6/5 6/3.*

CENTENARY UPDATE

The countdown to the period of our Centenary Celebrations is now scarcely two months away and I should like to inform you about the following:

DINNER:

At present there is every likelihood that more than 300 members and guests will attend the Dinner on Thursday June 23rd which should make for a very special occasion and one definitely not to be missed!

To help the organization of such a major event, it would help us greatly if you would be kind enough to finalise your plans as soon as possible and return to me your application forms for tickets and wine orders either for tables of ten or for smaller numbers to Dene House, Walton, Warwickshire CV35 9HX

N.B. DO NOT WORRY IF YOU CANNOT MAKE UP A TABLE- tickets can be ordered in smaller amounts and the organizing committee will allocate you to a table.

VETCELL WORLD TOURNAMENTS:

To avoid disappointment, please book your tickets now rather than later from David Bryant (The Red House, Norton Grange, Little Kineton, Warwickshire, CV35 0DP or make your orders from the website www.mmtcc.co.uk). The International Real Tennis Professionals Association's deadline for entries is after the CC's publication but I believe that Rob Fahey the World Champion, Chris Bray, Steve Virgona and Nick Wood are all definites. I recommend that you make an effort to see them playing Doubles- it's a different world.....and a spectacle not to be missed!

PIMMS PARTY AND CARTOON COLLECTION LAUNCH:

A welcoming Pimms Party will be held in the grounds on the first Saturday, June 19th. Tickets as such won't be sold but drinks, Pimm's or whatever, should be purchased from the bar. There will be a Vetcell Doubles to watch in the afternoon so if the weather is kind to us, it should be an excellent way to start the celebrations off.

At this occasion, Dr. Richard Seymour Mead hopes to launch and unveil the publication of his collection of real tennis cartoons. He has put a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm into this project and I hope members will support his effort.

* * * *

Throughout the period, refreshments will be available, the bar will be manned throughout and strawberry cream teas will be on offer every afternoon.

Parking at all times will be either side of the driveway to the College opposite the Club's entrance.

ACCOMMODATION: many of you kindly offered accommodation for players and visitors- please expect a phone call in due course

I should like to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for your many and varied contributions in the build up to the Centenary. The Club is in fine shape- the gardens now look excellent, the driveway has been hugely improved, the steps to the Club have been renovated ,the dining room spruced up, the main corridor has been painted and a new carpet fitted. There will, however, be plenty more to be done- stewarding for the tournaments, manning the bar, catering, accommodating visitors etc Your help in these areas will be greatly appreciated!

Andrew Hamilton



THE UNDER 21s TOURNAMENT

December 20th. AH.

Ten under 21's took part in the tournament, divided into two box groups.

In the first group, Alice Hamilton, Roly Grant and Madeline Grant all won three matches but Madeline went through rather than Alice on the basis of her victory over her 4/1. In the other group, Tom Lewis and Jonathon Lambdon came through with three victories.

In the semi-finals, Tom defeated Madeline 5/1 and Roly beat Jonathon in a close game 5/4. In the final, Tom confirmed the progress he has made with a 6/3 victory to take the Willoughby Cup.

Nick Jury was thanked for his organisation of the tournament and for his day- long marking.

THE FIELD TROPHY FINAL

13th March 2005.

Petworth vs MCC. Played at Moreton Morrell.

Petworth won the first 3 rubbers and the trophy with some fine tennis from both sides.

Real Tennis and Real Champagne- sponsored by Pol Roger.

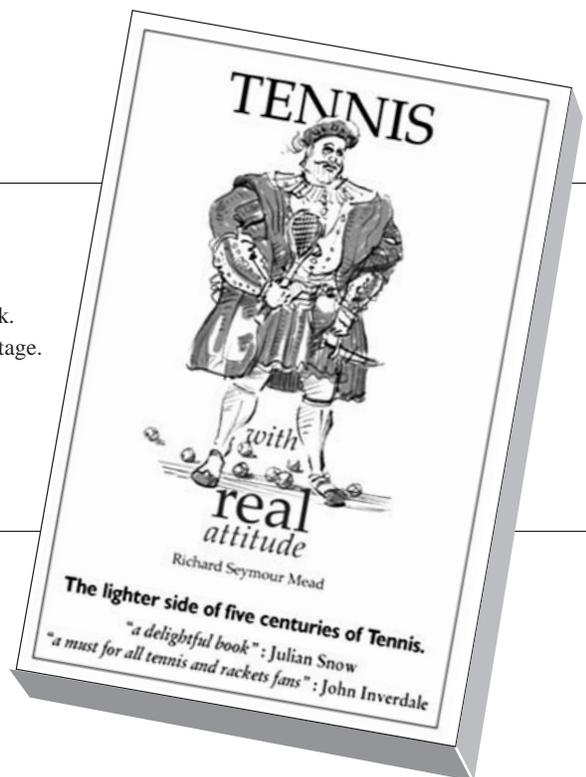
The third and clinching match was a wonderful display of tennis from two old rivals both playing in the first singles slot.

Nigel Pendrigh lost the first set 5/6 but came back to win the second 6/5 - a really superb set by both players. Mark Howard lead the final set 5/1 with beautifully paced and placed railroad serves but then lost his length. Nigel dug in and ground out the next 5 games to take the trophy to Petworth.

THE EDITORS OPUS

Please do not feel shy about buying several copies of the book. Price is not yet finalised but it will be about £9. £10 with postage. Orders via the website or direct to richardsm@doctors.org.uk

All proceeds will go to the Court Appeal Fund.



THE OWEN-GEORGE

Philip Shaw- Hamilton beat Paul Wilson- Gunn in the final. Full report in the next issue.

THE PARSONS CUP

George Kruszynskij added this trophy to his Ogilby Cup. Full report in the next issue.

NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 3.

Congratulations to Nick Jury, Phil Shaw-Hamilton and Andrew Blossse who beat the Harbour Club 2/1 in the playoffs.

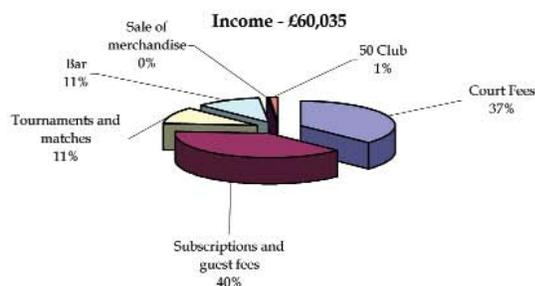
They now travel to Queens to play the final on April 19th. Support will be very welcome.

Match report in the next edition.

SUMMARY OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

Income & Expenditure

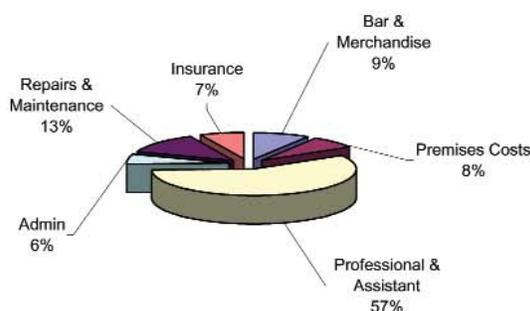
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Income: | 60,035 | 59,847 |
| Cost of Sales | (14,453) | (15,920) |
| Expenditure | (45,598) | (42,588) |
| Net (Loss)/Profit | <u>(16)</u> | <u>1,339</u> |



Balance Sheet

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fixed Assets: | 2,736 | 3,197 |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Stock | 1,844 | 1,255 |
| Debtors & Prepayments | 10,800 | 12,966 |
| Cash at bank & in hand | 22,505 | 16,803 |
| | <u>35,149</u> | <u>31,024</u> |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Creditors | 5,264 | 5,856 |
| T & RA Loan | 2,000 | 3,000 |
| MMTCC company | 11,712 | 11,807 |
| | <u>(18,976)</u> | <u>(20,663)</u> |
| NET ASSETS | <u><u>18,909</u></u> | <u><u>13,558</u></u> |

Total Expenditure - £58,508



Financed By:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Centenary Fund | 5,367 | - |
| Life Members Fund | 717 | 717 |
| Floor Fund | 2,655 | 2,655 |
| Accumulated Revenue | 10,170 | 10,186 |
| | <u>18,909</u> | <u>13,558</u> |

SUMMARY

2004 has been a productive year leading up to our forthcoming celebrations - we have continued to improve the club's premises and facilities which we trust members have noticed. We have been fortunate to rely on the committee's and other members support with their valuable time and expertise. In particular we are very grateful to Lady Hamilton for the very generous support given for the renovation of the dining room.

The commitment to two professionals does not give us scope for a significant surplus. But we have matched our expenses without imposing on our members too much.

We are now in our Centenary year and your committee have attracted sponsorship and donations to meet the committed and anticipated additional expenditure. We now hope that with your support we will have a very enjoyable and successful year which will provide us with a sound financial foundation for the next 100 years.