



COURT CIRCULAR

APRIL 2006

CHRISTMAS TRIPLES

December 13th

It is a shame that the pantomime season arrives but our members are too staid to enter into its spirit.

In the absence of Simon Allen, it was left to the editor to dress as an ugly sister and to play about as well. It was this same ugly sister that led his team to taking the honour of the wooden spoon.

The new rules were a success- allowing all 3 team members to take part- and the sliding handicap scale introduced by Tom added another element.

Andrew Hamilton captained the winning team but the strength of the team was provided by the highest handicap player, Tom Lewis, who was obliged to take all balls off the penthouse and the gravitas of the team was provided by Alistair Goulty.



THE WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE CUP-Under 21's Tournament

December 19th. Report by Alice Hamilton.

Due to a couple of late cry-offs, eight players competed for semi-final places from two boxes of four.

It proved to be a tournament of one-sided encounters. In only two of the matches did the loser achieve more than 2 games.

In Box 1, Jonathan Lambdon and Rory Sutton eased through to the semi-finals with comfortable defeats of the Grimston brothers.

In Box 2 there was closer competition with Alice Hamilton, Tom Lewis and Freddie Dixon all winning 2 of their matches. Despite being the only player to beat Tom Lewis comprehensively 5-2, Alice's 5-0 defeat by Freddie Dixon counted against her and Freddie and Tom went through on game difference.

The semis were also one-sided affairs with 5-1 triumphs for Tom over Jonathan and Freddie over Rory.

In the final, Tom Lewis demonstrated the strides he has made in his game when he cruised past Freddie Dixon 6-2, thus guaranteeing him a handicap cut!

We would all like to thank Nick for organising us so efficiently, providing us with refreshments and for marking uncomplainingly!



THE FIELD TROPHY FINAL

12th March 2006. Report by the Editor.

Champagne Championship.

The Field Trophy - the National Interclub Amateur Championship sponsored by Pol Roger Champagne generally produces tennis to match the excellence of the sponsor's products and 2006 was no exception.

Five rubbers are played, - 1st doubles then 1st, 2nd, 3rd, singles followed by 2nd doubles. The finalists were The Queens Club (West London) and Seacourt (Hayling Island).

1st Doubles started well for Seacourt - Paul Weaver and Andrew Blossie beat Tim Cockcroft and Simon Stevens 6/2 6/5.

In the premier match, Tom Seymour Mead (formerly Moreton Morrell champion before he moved to London) went down 6/2 6/3 to Seacourt star Luke Danby who plays wonderful fierce cut strokes into both corners.

Queen's no 2 Harry Ellis, playing at his best, rather surprisingly beat hard hitting Charlie Danby 6/5 6/3 to keep the competition alive.

Charlie and Luke Danby, who are cousins, won the British Amateur Doubles together 2 weeks earlier.

Former world rackets champion John Prens - for Queens - beat Tim Tassle 6/1 6/1 to leave the last match to be the decider.

The Seacourt pair Tom Weaver and Martin Higney made light work of Dominic Wilson and James Burger winning 6/1 6/2 to take the Field Trophy for Seacourt once again.

THE GARLAND CUP

13-15th January 2006. Report by the Editor.

The men's handicap singles is a popular event. 32 entries from across the age and handicap spectra took part. Of the lower handicap players only John Miller and Paul Wilson-Gunn made it to the quarter-final stage. Miller (21)-a steady player with a deadly serve(see previous reports) was fancied but with a 35 handicap difference against Tom Lewis (56) he was conceding 30 owe 15, banned chases >3 &4, banned the tambour and confined to 1 serve. Tom showed no mercy when given half a chance and won 5/1.

In the first semi, John Lambdon (40) took on Stewart Hodges(45). On many occasions both players enthusiastically employed every part of their rackets producing some alarming bounces and interesting rests.

They also displayed some fine classic strokes and had a close and exciting match. John had match point at 4/3 but could not beat chase 1yard. At 4all he had match point against him but beat chase 4 with a bounce into the winning gallery. He went on to win the 4 all 40 all matchpoint with a direct force to the dedans.



In the second semi, Richard Marmoy(36) and Tom Lewis also went to the wire but Tom was victorious. Tom watches the ball well and has strong shots on his right side. His double handed volleys are particularly good but he remains weak on his left side. Richard is a strong hard hitter with a good variety of serves. The match was punctuated by Tom's powerful force returns to the dedans which led to a bellow of dismay from Richard reminiscent of a cow that has lost her calf.

The final was a very one sided affair. Lambdon has great ability to take advantage of a handicap in his favour (giving him points) but seems a trifle put out by conceding to others-he is not used to this.

He played way below his usual ability and certainly below the standard he had displayed when thrashing your correspondent 5/0 in the first round.

The result: Tom Lewis beat John Lambdon 6/1.



The HOBSON CUP

February 18th/19th 2006. Report by the editor.



David Prophet and Gerry Slora (34.4) played John Lambdon and Howard Shipstone (38) in the final of the over 30 handicap doubles competition. Both pairs had won their group events (5 pairs in each of 2 groups).

Shipstone started well with some particularly good firm flat forehand service returns. Lambdon had his usual selection of splendid serves. Slora was carrying the 'stylish Prophet' (an extraordinary statement recently seen in another tennis report). They were rapidly down 1/3 but Slora started moving well, showing good footwork and racketwork. They reached 4/3. At 4 all 40 all Lambdon served another nick but 4/5 down Prophet made 2 excellent service returns to lay chases and get back to the service end.

He then served very effectively to make 5 all.

Slora served to 40/15 before losing the service end, then 30/40 and a hazard chase brought them back to the service end where Slora made the winning shot.

The result: David Prophet and Gerry Slora beat John Lambdon and Howard Shipstone 6/5.

The gallery were delighted to see the presentation made by Simon Hobson just 3 weeks after his dreadful accident at Hatfield House.

The PONSONBY CUP

February 18th/19th 2006. Report by Hipocrotease.

The premier club doubles event had just four pairs entered. It is a rare treat for the Doc (surely only for the doc :ed) to find himself in a final. This year he had help from the reduced number of entries- 3 regulars having had recent surgery, another on holiday and one away for exams.

The long term holders were eliminated in their first match so Richard Seymour Mead and Robert Allsop (26.5) had their golden opportunity against Paul Wilson-Gunn and Bob Hurrion (22.6).



They started poorly, continued poorly and soon found themselves down 1/6 1/5 before briefly rallying to 4/5. It was a case of two handbaggers against two rackets. Seymour Mead was waving weak handbags at the ball and Allsop heaving overweight ones.

It was fortunate that the gallery had seen a more exciting demonstration of doubles in the preceding vicious serves. Wilson-Gunn was as awkward as ever (for his opponents) and was serving some vicious serves. Hurrion was solid in both defence and attack.

Perhaps getting back to 5 all in the second set would have rattled their opponents but despite 2 game points the handbaggers failed and lost 1/6 4/6.

The result: Paul Wilson-Gunn and Bob Hurrion beat Richard Seymour Mead and Rob Allsop 6/1 6/4.

TOMS TENNIS TIPS

Doubles requires complex and delicate team work.



GET IN THE
BUCKET!!!!!!

LADIES REAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION **Vs MMTCC 5TH March 2006.**

Report by Jo Miller.

The second day of the LRTA / Moreton Morrell weekend started at the civilized hour of 10.30 with a doubles between David Prophet & Nick Mills and Jill Newby & Catherine Walker. It was a close match, the home side winning the first set 6-2 and the ladies fighting back to win the second set 6-4 before the final set was clinched by Prophet and Mills for Moreton Morrell, 6-3.

At this point both sides brought out their big guns and the Chairman and Secretary of Moreton Morrell, Sir Andrew Hamilton and John Miller took on the Ladies World Champion, Charlotte Cornwallis and Freddie Adam. Despite giving a handicap of owe 15 each game the ladies eased ahead in the first set to win it 6-4. Hamilton and Miller worked hard on their floor game cutting beautiful shots down into the corners and teasing the odd mistake out of both ladies to win the second set 6-4. The third set started at 3-3 and rapidly turned in the direction of the ladies due to

some sparkling volleying by Adam and relentless pace and accuracy by Cornwallis. A sizzling cross court forehand from Adam clinched the third set for the LRTA 6-4.

The third match on court was between David Bryant & Bob Hurrion for Moreton Morrell and Alex Garside & Jill Newby for the LRTA.

(I missed this because I was having a lovely lunch!!!)

The result was Moreton Morrell won 6-2, 6-3 I think. Alex had no problem with her tennis elbow but pulled a calf muscle during the match which can't have helped!

The day was tipping in favour of the home team when Victoria Horn & Jo Miller playing for the LRTA took on Nick Mills & Flo Holland for Moreton Morrell. The first set was just won by the ladies 6-5 due to some accurate floor play from Horn and occasional sharp volleys from Miller. The ladies forged ahead in the second set and were leading 5-1 when Mills and Holland started to fight back. But the ladies managed to clinch the set 6-3 and level the overall match 2-2. A most enjoyable day.

THE OWEN-GEORGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

5th -9th April 2006

Moreton Morrell Real Tennis Club staged the annual Club Championship at the weekend.

Chairman Sir Andrew Hamilton Bt lost in the first Semi-Final to the mercurial Paul Wilson-Gunn 4/6 6/5 2/6.

Current Champion Philip Shaw-Hamilton beat John Miller 6/4 6/1 to claim his usual place in the final.

Wilson-Gunn took a 2 love lead and then a 4/2 lead using his usual combination of fierce service returns, extraordinary top-spins and splendid speed into both corners. Shaw-Hamilton concentrated throughout the onslaught, kept his nerve and took the first set 6/4.

Wilson-Gunn perhaps ran out of luck, over hit just a few shots (really only a few? Ed) and couldn't force as many errors out of his experienced opponent as in the first set. Shaw-Hamilton took the match and the Owen-George Championship. 6/4 6/4

This is his 9th Moreton Morrell Championship since 1993 and comes this year just 2 months after knee surgery. There is no truth in the rumour that Phil arranged the power cut a month earlier that caused the Championship to be postponed until his knee was fully recovered.



THE PARSONS CUP

7th-9th April 2006

In the semi-finals Tom Lewis (handicap 52) beat up David Prophet 6/2.

Paul Gillam (38) and Flo Holland (44) battled to 5 all. Flo laid chase Better than 1/2 a yard on the first point and gained the service end at 40/30.

Paul drilled the dedans. So 5all 40all.

Flo then served a tricky bobble which was too much for Paul's anxious state and his return didn't reach the net!

The Final:

Tom still lacks a reliable serve but his double handed ground shots are improving.

Probably the two lightest players in the club surprised one another with the weight of shots they can generate. They battled through ten games to 5 all. Tom laid chase 3 yards twice with excellent service returns but Flo beat them both and took the match 6/5.



CAMEL

Due to the efforts of the editor's campaign (with considerable work from David Bryant and Paul Wilson-Gunn) the electricity suppliers finally visited the club at the correct time of day in March.

Assessing the situation and adding somewhat obvious statements like 'that shouldn't happen' and 'those fuses seem too hot', they sucked their teeth, scratched their heads and then told Tom that 'it might all go up in flames- you must turn everything off and evacuate now'.



This was 2 days before the Field Trophy final and 15 minutes before Richard Thornton was due on court. Sending Richard to the pub was not difficult for a man with Tom's persuasive skills but calling off the Field Trophy was not an option.

Tom and his family spent the night in the warmth of the Charlecote Pheasant and the bright sparks from Central Network installed a generator the following day.

Field Trophy crisis was averted but many holes in the road appeared as sparkie was working weekend and nights to cure our problem.

Two weeks were spent with ever larger holes appearing in the road outside our gates. Traffic lights controlled access to the village.

Finally : "It's all sorted" and the go-ahead to test lighting up took place on court.

Sadly 8 bulbs were blown in the excitement! These have now been replaced, new fittings installed and with all lights working our brilliance is ensured.

Well that was the theory! In practice there is still a reduction in voltage during the early evening when demand in the village is highest. It seems that the main cable to the top of the village has never been replaced to enable increasing numbers of houses to be supplied adequately.

If this is not corrected by the autumn then Tom will be advising members that play between 5 and 9 in the evening will be in dim light but for those insomniacs who wish to play later through until dawn there will be excellent and full illumination.-but PLEASE PLAY QUIETLY!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Takes place on Monday 8th May 2006. 6pm. At the club.

Do not miss this opportunity to voice your concerns and exercise your democratic rights.

Cash for peerages may not be on the agenda but handouts for handicaps could be.

(Please place your orders wrapped in a £50 note in a brown envelope for the attention of the editor).

2005/6 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

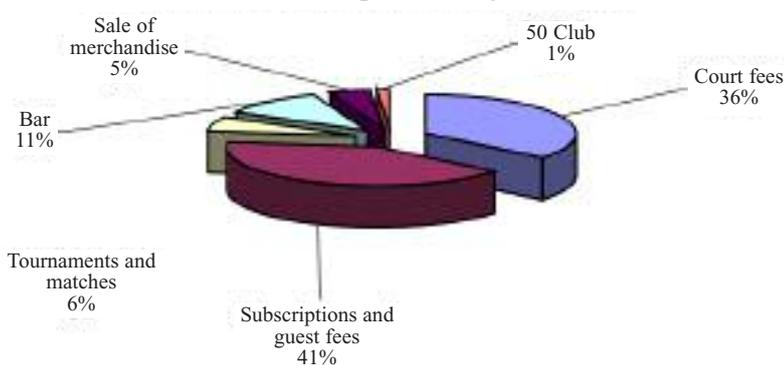
The summary is below. Should members wish to see the full version this is available at the club or by email-the editor has a copy. rsm@doctors.org.uk

SUMMARY OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

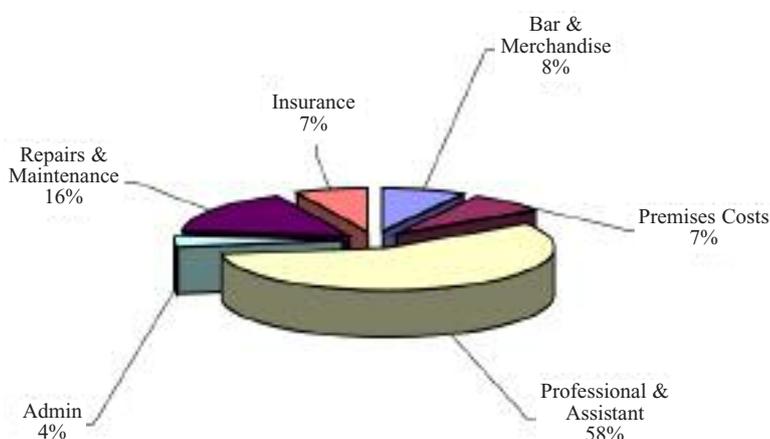
Income & Expenditure

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Income:	59,278	60,035
Cost of Sales	(17,882)	(14,453)
Expenditure	(48,227)	(45,598)
Deficit before centenary	(6,831)	(16)
Surplus on centenary celebrations	<u>24,188</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance Sheet		
Fixed Assets:	2,319	2,736
Current Assets:		
Stock	2,185	1,844
Debtors & Prepayments	9,822 "	0,800
Cash at bank & in hand	34,247	22,505
	<u>46,254</u>	<u>35,149</u>
Current Liabilities:		
Creditors	6,027	5,264
T & RA Loan	-	2,000
MMTCC company	11,647	11,712
	<u>(17,674)</u>	<u>(18,976)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>30,899</u>	<u>18,909</u>
Financed By:		
Centenary Fund	-	5,367
Life Members Fund	717	717
Floor Fund	2,655	2,655
Accumulated Revenue	27,52	10,170
	<u>30,899</u>	<u>18,909</u>

Income (excluding centenary) - £59,278



Total Expenditure - £66,109



SUMMARY

The centenary celebrations have dominated this years finances. Court bookings have shown a small decline in the year but membership has increased and therefore we hope this will reflect in future income to the club. The committee sanctioned expenses ahead of the celebrations which increased our repairs to £6,824. This ensured the club was at its best.

The normal income and expenditure show that the finances are finely balanced and any exceptional expenditure at present has to be financed from our reserves. I am grateful for the valuable support of Paul Wilson-Gunn who has looked after the daily transactions during the year.

The success of our centenary event was important to increase our financial reserves. I would like to thank committee members and other club members for their help with the bar, organising, fund raising and finances during this hectic period.

I am pleased to report that our finances have now been substantially boosted by the superb surplus of £24,198 from this event. The club I am sure has greatly benefited in many other ways as well as financially.

Michael Harwood
Honorary Treasurer
7th April 2006

2007 BOOMERANG TRIP

The editor is arranging a Moreton Morrell team to go to Melbourne in 2007.

Initial approaches by Moreton Morrell have been accepted by the organisers.

If any one would like further details or to be considered for selection please contact Richard Seymour Mead.

Our team - the MORETON CENTURIONS - has already paid the deposit and has been accepted in the tournament.



The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club Est 1882

Preliminary Notice - dated 7th March 2006

Fun in the sun Down Under

Sunday 7th January to Saturday 20th January 2007

The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club

Presents and invites expressions of interest from Overseas and other Australian Tennis Clubs to

The premier World Handicap Teams Doubles and Handicap Doubles tournaments

BOOMERANG CUP 2007

Inter-Club Handicap Teams Doubles - Teams to be minimum 5, maximum 8 players

Preliminary round played Round Robin in pools, Knock-out Round of 16, Quarters, Semis and Final together with

RMTC HANDICAP DOUBLES 2007

To be played in 2 divisions

Preliminary round played Round Robin in pools, Knock-out Round of 16, Quarters, Semis and Final

Note - Both tournaments are for amateur players who have never played as a professional real tennis player

Social events (included in entry fee)

Welcoming Cocktail Party - Monday, 8th January

Mid-tournament Dinner - Thursday 11th January

President's Mid-tournament Cocktail Party - Tuesday 16th January

Presentation Dinner - Saturday, 20th January

Other activities (optional and at participants' cost where applicable)

Drinks and snacks from bar

Lunches available at the Club throughout the tournament,

DIY informal barbecue dinners, Cricket, Wineries, Golf

Australian Open lawn tennis (first week),

Visits to Clubs at Ballarat, Hobart and Romsey,

Cultural and heritage tours

Accommodation:

We will attempt to accommodate visiting players (in the tournaments)

and their partners in members' homes should they wish,

or you can make reservations at nearby hotels

- contact Gary Lee if you need advice.

Tournament Organisers: Tony Poolman:

anthony.poolman@bigpond.com - (613) 9826 2600

Andrew Gould:

SunburyVC@aol.com - (613) 9428 4313

Gary Lee:

leeeg@bigpond.net.au - (613) 9428 3830

We have already received unprecedented enquiry about the tournament. Players and teams will need to be available to play at and from 8.00 am on Sunday 7th January 2006. Some evening and/or middle weekend play will likely be required. There will be an optional Plate event for players finishing last in their Handicap Doubles pool AND whose Boomerang Cup team misses the finals.

- Initially we will accept expressions of interest for one team only from each Tennis Club - except for those Clubs which have supported the Boomerang Cup since its inception and which may enter two teams (they know who they are, but if in doubt, contact Tony Poolman). Please ask your Club's Secretary to confirm to us the name(s) of the captain(s) of your Club's official team(s). Please let us know as soon as possible where other Clubs would like to enter more than one team;
- Formal expressions of interest should be made immediately or as soon as possible by E-mail to Tony Poolman, accompanied by a bank draft of AUD \$1,000 (non-refundable deposit) per team payable to Royal Melbourne Tennis Club, which should be sent to Tony Poolman c/o RMTTC, 18 Sherwood Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121, Australia - but, see immediately below;
- Expressions of interest will be acknowledged and acceptance into tournament will be advised - but, see immediately below;
- The available court time during the period puts a finite limit on the number of teams that we can accept into the tournament. When that number is reached, entries will close - subject to a wait list;
- Formal Entry Forms and further information should be available soon after entries closing date - (say) mid-July 2006. Entry will be by team, but is likely to equate to around AUD \$900 per player.

THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

