



COURT CIRCULAR

APRIL 2007

CHRISTMAS TRIPLES

Report by Hypocrotease.

Our own Escoffier, Craddock, and Ramsey was the main draw—but to eat his food- not to watch his tennis.

George K presented Punch, Pheasant Tureen and Chicken Tikka—all were delicious and enjoyed by 30 or so Christmas Doublers.

In fact only 16 played tennis—many had the good sense to come just for the Christmas Grub.

The tennis was normal handicap doubles—no fancy variations this year, and was better for it.

Some were more involved than others. There is no honour board to commemorate the triumph of those who remained focussed and determined and sober after eating!

Top of the heap were **Sally Grant** with her son **Roly**. In spite of being constantly ‘encouraged’ by his mother, Rowley maintained his concentration, his strong volleying and his nasty little serve. Losing finalists **Tim Messer** and **Howard Shipstone** never really threatened as they were pinned in the receiving end for most of the match.

Sally also took the Grille Challenge—indeed no-one really challenged at all.



THE MORETON SHIELD

16th-17th December 2006. Report by the editor.

There were 32 entrants and it was a pleasure to watch the progress of 2 younger members and 1 new one into the later stages. All sports clubs need newcomers and young players so in spite of them carving their way through the old stalwarts on the committee, they will not be harassed too much—other than the handicap reductions they have earned.

The Vice chairman **David Bryant** didn't escape the box. The editor **RSM(26)** fell to Richard Wills(44)—(what opportunities he missed what calamity, oh so close ! ed)

In the last 8:

The Shield holder and club secretary **John Miller** (22) went out to **Paul Gillam**(35). Our Chairman **Sir Andrew Hamilton**(22) was 3 love up against **Tom Lewis**(44) but in a most unusual fit of charity allowed Tom the next 5 games to win 5/3.

One of the most memorable matches was **Alex Reynolds**(25) against **Roly Grant**(41).

Rowley with his thundering volleys and forces had a 4/0 lead when Alex at last found a length on his serve. He clawed his way back with alternate games starting at owe 30/15 or owe 30/30. At 3 games to 4 down he made a poor serve to let Rowley have 40/owe30 and 6 match points. Alex didn't give up- indeed he won that game and was 40/15 up with 3 match points of his own. He lost the service end.

The Grant grit ground on (sorry : ed) and at 40 all Rowley served the inevitable nick railroad!

Richard Wills made easy progress over **Stuart Hodges**(44).

In Semi finals:

Wills removed the talented Lewis. Wills has only been playing for 9 months or so and for a player of his inexperience he has developed 3 remarkable serves including a viciously kicking and effective railroad. He won 5/3.

Gillam decided to try to out slug Grant but this is a tactic that may be effective if the slugs are accurate. He reached 40 all in the first 3 games and slugged into the net! He made his way back only to lose 5/4.

The Final:

Rowley Grant thrives on pace- he is fast , sees the ball well and likes to hit back. Richard Wills gave him nothing to feed on. He retrieved well along the walls although often confused by shots into the corners. His soft hands and soft returns with some teasing lobs made Grant increasingly anxious and prone to errors on shots he will make with no difficulty when less pressured.

Richard Wills beat **Roly Grant** 6/3

The WILLOUGH de BROKE TROPHY

18th December. Report by Tom Lewis.

After two closely contested semi-finals **Jonathan Lambdon** and **Tom Lewis** met in the final. However, Jonathan, having thrown himself across the court to return a ball in his semi-final match, had injured his knee.

Despite this, he played brilliantly in the final to beat Tom, 6-2.

Thanks to Sally Grant for her marking in Nick's absence.

Prested Hall, National Under 18's Handicapped.

On an extremely foggy and icy morning in late December, **Tom Lewis** played in the National under 18's handicapped tournament at Prested Hall. He came runner up in his group and proceeded to the semi-final stage, where he won convincingly 6-1.

The final seemed to be a one sided affair, with Tom easing his way to a 5-1 lead. However, his opponent Huw Rowlands stepped his play up a gear, and had match point at 7-7, 40-30.

A nicked serve, and a force towards the grille, saw Tom win the closest of matches 8-7. He now goes on to play the winner of the Seacourt tournament at Lords in late April.



The GARLAND CUP

January 13th / 14th 2007

Report by Phil Shaw-Hamilton.

There were many very closely fought matches by many of the contestants and it was all very enjoyable to watch. Young Tom Lewis appeared to be the favourite (again) by showing no fear - even when trailing in a couple of matches he managed to play his way back to victory. My own progress could have been very short-lived - although I won my box I was let off in the next round by saving a match point against John Miller. Fortunately my match against Tom Lewis wasn't as bad as I feared - he simply did not like soft serves! He obviously likes something to hit but with 'one serve, banned tambour, chases 2-3' I wasn't able to give him anything!

The final itself was a classic 5-5 40 all finish. I am so glad my opponent (Tim Messer) forgot on two occasions that he could have left chases falling worse than 2-3! I must have had 3 match points against me but Lady Luck was on my side. Everyone had a great time and it is rather better attended than the Owen-George but it may be a few years before I pluck up courage to play again!



The HOBSON CUP

17th/18th February 2007.

Report by the editor.

In a full entry in the over 30handicap doubles the recently undefeated pair from the Boomerang Cup marched through their box and went on to win the first semifinal.

Anthony Parmiter & John Lambdon (43) beat Julian Rawstorne & Roly Grant(40) 6/4

Hard hitting **Al Goulty & Paul Gillam** beat **Nick Mills & Flo Holland 6/4**

In the final, the fierce onslaught by Goulty and Gillam was countered by Parmiter's slick footwork and Lambdon's delicate volleys (surely shome mishtake: ed).

The result: **Parmiter & Lambdon beat Gillam & Goulty 6/4**

The PONSONBY CUP

18th February 2007.

Report by the editor.

Richard Seymour Mead & David Bryant(26) made **Andrew Hamilton & John Miller (22)** work hard for their 6/2 2/6 6/4 place in the final.

Richard Carr & Paul Wilson-Gunn(22) won the first set against **Simon Hobson & Rob Allsop(23)** and went 1/5 down in the second. They then rallied and took the match 6/5 6/5.

In the final both pairs had a very steady first set which Miller and Hamilton won 6/4.

Brickwall volleying from Carr and sharp, hard play the Wilson-Gunn took this pair to a 3/0 lead.

Change of pace from the 3 times past winners nearly worked but after a long set of close games the sets were 1 all.

The final set was well under way at 3all 40 all when W-G netted an easy volley. Good serving from Carr gave 4 games all.

A winning gallery by Carr gave 5/4 but again at 40 all (match point) they were outplayed.

5 all—the crowded dedans had been shown a doubles match of high standard with very few unforced errors, long rests, superb steady volleying and some fierce forcing.

Hamilton and Miller went 40/15 ahead but found their lead eroded back to 40all (match point each way!).

After a long rest Wilson-Gunn played an overly cautious volley from the second gallery. This approach is not Paul's normal way- a force to the grille or tambour would be usual. The ball fell at Hazard ? yard.- change ends- still matchpoint.

Miller fails to put his Undertaker serve into action (the serve didn't die in the corner) and the ball comes back hard – Hamilton volleys under the grill. Wilson-Gunn hits hard cross court behind Miller into the service corner – at about chase3. Hamilton with a despairing muttering of “ Oh No Not There”, hurls himself across court to play an equally desperate backhand.

He middles it perfectly- it goes like a rocket over the low part of the net to win the point and the Ponsonby Cup. A remarkable shot to complete a remarkable match.

The result:

Sir Andrew Hamilton & John Miller beat Richard Carr & Paul Wilson-Gunn 6/4 4/6 6/5.



Winners of the MMTCC 50 Club for 2006

17th December 2006. Report by David Bryant.

This is the list of the members for the 2006 draw

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. G.B.Hayward | 2. P.W.Barrows | 3. Sir A Hamilton |
| 4. D.Sutton | 5. S.M.Jones | 6. C.S.Dixon |
| 7. D.Hay | 8. R.O.Graham | 9. R.L.Thomas |
| 10. G.Stewart | 11. A.W.Parsons | 12. A.W.Parsons |
| 13. T.J.Harper | 14. T.J.Harper | 15. T.J.Harper |
| 16. P.B.Hay | 17. T.Pugh | 18. H.M.G.Braddell |
| 19. M.A.Pattison | 20. P.A.Dempsey | 21. Lady E. Hamilton |
| 22. P.A.Wilson-Gunn | 23. J.D.Lambdon | 24. J.B.Miller |
| 25. A.M.Seymour Mead | 26. A.M.Seymour Mead | 27. M.Dunne |
| 28. R.Greaves | 29. S.Wratten | 30. C.L.Barnes |
| 31. P.Channer | 32. M.L.Harwood | 33. P.N.Shaw-Hamilton |
| 34. Lord Willoughby de Broke | 35. O.R.LeMaistre | 36. J.R.Boswell |
| 37. D.J.F.Sheehan | 38. J.Terry | 39. J.Terry |
| 40. AHamilton | 41. B.Nicol | |

These are the winners/runners-up for 2006.

	<u>Winner (£40)</u>	<u>Runner-Up (£10)</u>
February	AM Seymour Mead	J Terry
March	RO Graham	Lord WdeB
April	CL Barnes	PA Dempsey
May	PB Hay	O Le Maistre
June	Sir Andrew Hamilton	S Wratten
July	SM Jones	AW Parsons
	<u>Winner (£200)</u>	<u>Runner-Up (£60)</u>
August	Lady Hamilton	P Shaw-Hamilton

However, for those of you who were planning to invest your winnings immediately, I regret that the first opportunity to issue the cheques will be the middle of January 2007.

A special "thank you" to *Barbara Nicol* who has very kindly volunteered to take over the administration of the MMTCC 50 Club from 2007 onwards. And thank you all for your continued participation in the 50 Club, which helps towards the club's operating costs.

The PARSONS CUP

17th/18th March 2007. Report by the editor.

Tom Lewis(43) took on **Ed Loades**(47) in the first semifinal. Ed has a great eye and great speed but has no concept of the gentle shot or of a short swing—he will benefit from lessons. Tom is maturing rapidly. His low corner to corner shots and his volleys are match winners. He took the match 5/1

Gerry Slora(31) and **Richard Marmoy**(39) battled for the second final place. Gerry used excellent width and accurate shots to the grille to win 5/1.

In the final, good serving and clever play onto Lewis' weaker left side was not enough for Slora to have much chance with the handicap difference. Lewis was just too strong on the shots he could reach.

The result : **Tom Lewis** beat **Gerry Slora** 6/2.



WINE AND FOOD EVENING

February 23rd.

George K with his marvellous team of assistants- Judy K, Nick Mills and Flo Holland put on 3 splendid courses for 40 members and friends. John Freeland of C. A. Rookes wines greeted the guests with a sparkling Saumur Ch. De la Durandiere Rose. Unusual, delicious and a bargain!

Three wines were presented with each course, tasted, discussed and described. John has a good wine list at very reasonable prices. He is based in Stratford.

Look out for the next George K event—and treat yourselves.

THE BOOMERANG 2007

January 2007. The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club.



68- against our 39, 45, 45, 48.

RSM and Anthony had a memorable win—owe 40, 30 every game. Only 4 points were lost (8/0 win) Miles (the 14th Lord Hobart - but happy to remain an Englishman) had a nail biter with Mike. He is unused to giving points and found himself owe 40, 30. 1 serve banned tambour! At 5/7 owe 40 40 down the position looked grim—but as they saved 7 match points, the match turned and they won 8/7.

An 8am start against Bristol and Bath Buccaneers looked bad at 2 matches down. John and Mike turned the tide, and RSM and Anthony had a good 8/3 win to draw 2 matches all- but winning the rubber by 2 games.

Our final group match was against the lowest handicapped team in the tournament the RMTCC Cardinals. Miles and Anthony were spotted watching the first match with a beer and red wine calming the nerves at 8.10am. They were due on second.

We won the rubber 3/1.

We met Manchester United in the last 16 and sadly did not perform as we had hoped.

Richard Christmas' team went on to lose to the Newmarket Nasties who went on the win the Boomerang. It was an excellent final. Congratulations to them all and particularly the two MMTCC members who were in their team Tim Parker and Aldona Greenwood.

Alongside the Boomerang runs the RMTCC Handicap doubles. Miles and Anthony won their group without losing a match but went no further. No comment about the rest of us!

The hospitality, the dinners and receptions. The City. Summer sunshine, Cricket, Australian Open Tennis (lawn), wonderful golf courses make the Boomerang a really remarkable 16 days. Make a note in your diaries for January 2009 or 2011, it really is worth the effort.



NICK JURY BENEFIT DOUBLES

9th/10th March 2007

Members and many friends of Nick were delighted to see him back at Moreton Morrell after his dreadful accident in December. He was cheerful and a little lame but enjoyed watching the exhibition put on by his friends and fellow professionals **Mark Seigneur** and **Kevin Sheldon** from Leamington, **Andrew Davies** from Oxford and of course **Tom Granville**. The match was superb- inspite of the rather dim lights (soon to be rectified).

The crowded bar and dedans was noisy and enthusiastic. The result 6/5 6/5 to Kevin and Andrew was just right and the buffet to follow was superb.

The 'out of a hat doubles' partnerships playing on the Saturday produced some fine pairings and some fine matches. The 2 group winners both went on through the semifinals to meet in the final. The winners were **Paul Holland** with **David Sutton** who beat **Anthony Parmiter** and **Nick Mills**.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I should like to thank, on behalf of Nick Jury, all those who so generously contributed in different ways to the Fund set up for him. I am delighted to report that the Fund currently stands at in excess of £4000. This will, I'm sure, ameliorate the most unfortunate situation that Nick has found himself in.

More than 50 packed the dedans and bar on Friday 9th March for an Exhibition Doubles match kindly provided by **Kevin Sheldon, Marc Seigneur, Andrew Davis and Tom Granville**. An excellent buffet was produced by **George K, Jane Terry and Jane Sloan**.

On the following day an enjoyable handicap doubles tournament in aid of the Fund was won by **David "Out of Retirement" Sutton and Paul "Out of Africa" Holland**. Tom Granville with great generosity waived his marking fees for the day.

May I thank a number of you who have offered your cleaning services to the Club! Everywhere has looked gleamingly tidy and welcoming. Tom who assessed everyone's performance to ensure that targets were achieved, would like you to know that "You all did a great job- everyone did their bits, but some bits were better than others!"

I will make special mention of **Jane Sloan's** incredible cleansing of the kitchen which was brilliantly timed because we received an Environmental Health inspection the following week for which, wait for it, the club received a Gold Award! Life's full of surprises.... And **Matthew Fattorini** deserves praise for doing 2 cleaning stints which Tom has placed high on his clip board list for targets achieved. Matthew assures me he isn't planning a career change at present!

SUMMER BARBECUE: Sunday 10 June

Plans are under way for a summer social which will include a doubles tournament. I hope very much that you will support the event, details of which will be available soon by snail mail, e-mail and on the website. Whatever is planned must raise funds! This year the club will be faced with several major expenses including £1800 for the excellent new driveway, £4000 for electrical re-wiring and extra expense as a result of Nick's absence.

In May the Electricity Supply Company will be building a special sub station which will hopefully improve the power output which has been lacking for the court lights at night. There is an outside possibility that the Club will be faced with a bill for a new lighting system....so please do support the summer social!

The OWEN-GEORGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

14th-18th March 2007. Report by Richard Seymour Mead.

Some of us played fewer matches than others! Those reaching the semi-finals were David Bryant who pressed our Champion Phil Shaw-Hamilton who won 6/5 6/4.

John Miller had his chances against Paul Wilson-Gunn and led 5/4 in the final set. Paul was irked by the relentless undertaker serve but managed to get a few back when it really mattered.

He won 6/5 3/6 6/5.

In the final **Shaw-Hamilton** started at the receiving end, laid chases 2 and 3, moved to the service end and took the game to love. The spectators imagined that this pattern would continue but **Wilson-Gunn** had other ideas. His play is difficult to describe. It is not conventional- but he can play classic shots on occasion. Generally he imparts fierce spin – topspin, side spin and even cut to nearly every shot. Sometimes he seems to try all three at the same time –with both feet off the ground!

He has as quick an eye as Phil and as steady a volley. He was about to take the first set 6/2 when he pulled a calf muscle. Phil pulled back to 5all but after a deuce game lost the first set 5/6.

At 2/0 to Paul in the second set, the watching committee members were becoming anxious. What would be the consequences of a Wilson-Gunn victory? How would the club pecking order change?!

A back and forward set followed which Phil won 6/4. Paul looked tired and in pain and had lost his pace. He was 5/0 down before a brief revival but lost the set 2/6.

Phil Shaw-Hamilton took his 10th club Championship. A brilliant record.

In his excellent speech he congratulated his opponents, the Professionals, the gallery and the balls.

The Result : **Phil Shaw-Hamilton** beat **Paul Wilson-Gunn** 5/6 6/4 6/2



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This year's A.G.M will be at 6.15 pm on 30 April- any non committee members will be most welcome to attend.