



## COURT CIRCULAR

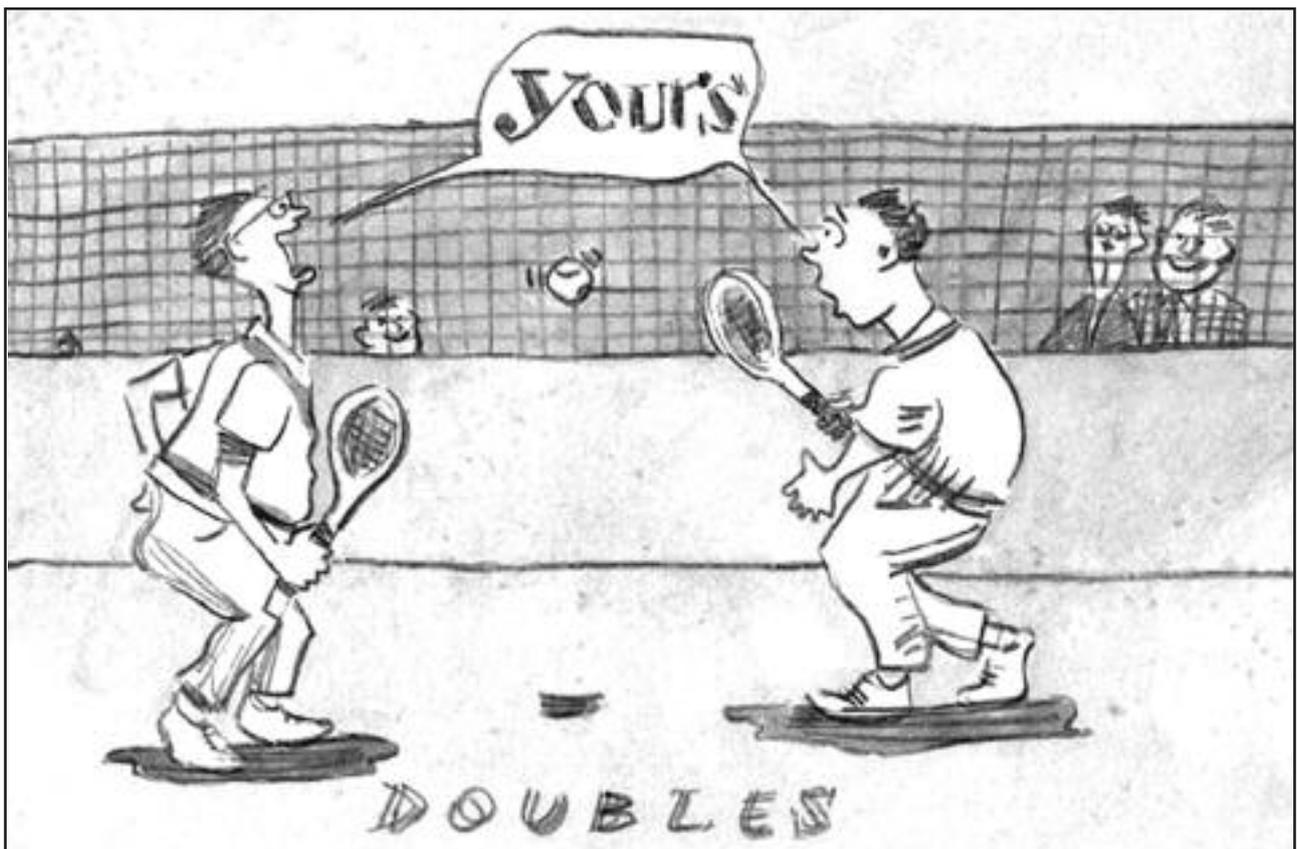
SEPTEMBER 2009

### THE NEW SEASON.

At last we can stop thinking there is to be a hot summer, and can put our thoughts to autumnal pursuits - that is to TENNIS.

Our first match is away against Radley- a great opportunity to see and play on this newest court in the world. Ring Tom to see if there is a place on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Ogilby Cup - the men's doubles event is at home on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> September.



The Category C Open event (Handicaps 20-29) is on 20<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October.

The H L Barnes National Interclub 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Awards Dinner. 9<sup>th</sup> October.**

Please come and support the stars of 2008/9 and enjoy a great meal.  
Keyvan Farmanfarmai - a man with a promising future left far in the past has finally found that the delights of the handicap system enable him to mop up awards in the present.  
No doubt he will delight us all with his tales of prowess and success into the early hours.

## **MMTCC Pro Am.**

May 2009.

What a splendid weekend. A Friday evening dinner with all the participants enjoying our sponsors' Champagne - Perrier - Jouet (thanks Howard), excellent food and a few glasses of 1999 La Source - (thanks Jonny).

Some people seem to recover more quickly than others - or perhaps consume less.

It must be said that one of our eventual winners looked a little peaky on Saturday morning and was seen standing closer to the door than usual to avoid any possibility of having to play any tennis.

The source of the sauce looked on in amusement!

### **The amateurs all enjoyed themselves but only a few made it to the Sunday:**

#### *1<sup>st</sup> SemiFinal:*

Diverse playing methods and parts of the racket were used against the two Johns. Cambden Riviere (the W-G/Shipstone attached pro) expressed "total confidence in my boys" at 4/6 but he did appear to be peering through crossed fingers. Rob Fahey encouraged his men after two good serves. "Great serving Jonny" - leading to 2 consecutive double faults!

Paul Wilson-Gunn & Howard Shipstone *beat* John Miller & Jonny Cook.

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Semi:*

The stronger pair maintained their dominance throughout the match.

Martin Rogers & Keyvan Farmanfarmai *beat* Rob Allsop & Richard Wills

#### *Amateur Final:*

Rogers made a poor start with unusual unforced errors and some great play by the opponents - particularly Shipstone.

The pair then settled taking the next 4 games.

At 5/7 0/40 down W-G and Shipstone changed pattern, getting back to 40all with Howard making a brilliant winning gallery to take the match to 6/7.

They continued to play 1/2 court each and finally came unstuck to the more usual (and stronger) formula of 'best player back'.

It did, however, make a great final. Great fun to play and to watch.

Martin Rogers & Keyvan Farmanfarmai *beat* Paul Wilson-Gunn & Howard Shipstone.

### **The Pros.**

#### *1<sup>st</sup> Semi:*

Bryn Sayers was momentarily ahead at 6all 30/15 but in spite of brilliant retrieves he could not master the master who concluded the match with a wonderful backhand glide into the winning gallery.

Rob Fahey *beat* Bryn Sayers 8/6.

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Semi:*

Two lefties. Virgona, in spite of some fine play never really matched his young opponent.

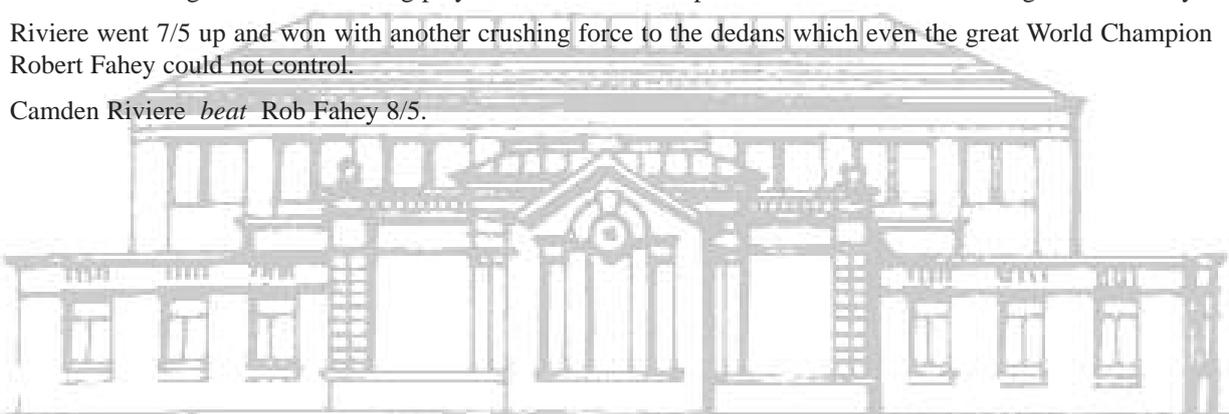
Camden Riviere *beat* Steve Virgona 8/1.

#### *The Final:*

From 5 all - ten games of astonishing play that had thrilled the packed dedans - it could have gone either way.

Riviere went 7/5 up and won with another crushing force to the dedans which even the great World Champion Robert Fahey could not control.

Camden Riviere *beat* Rob Fahey 8/5.



## SUMMER DOUBLES & BARBEQUE. THE BRYANT CUP.

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June. Report by the Chairman.

On Saturday morning it was so cold and miserable that Tom lit the fire - on 6 June! Yesterday morning when my dog and I were drenched to the bone, the prospects for the barbecue looked distinctly soggy. But at 11 am blue skies opened up over south Warwickshire and the sun blessed another MMTCC outside event. The general mood of the helpers improved as the temperatures rose. George K's gazebo posed some tricky IQ problems for those unfortunate enough to be charged with its erection. Coleslaw was adeptly mixed and handicap tennis a million miles away from the efforts of Fahey and Riviere a month ago, nonetheless amused and entertained a growing crowd in the dedans.

As ever, George is to be thanked and congratulated on masterminding an excellent day and producing a superb spread ably aided and abetted by Mat Fat, David Bryant and washer upper David Prophet. Pimms and Keyvan's beer flowed from the marquee under the watchful and efficient aegis of Flo and Lute Holland. Tim, Sue and Alice Messer pounced on the unwary for a punt at the tombola and the Jazz Band added foot tappingly to the happy atmosphere. Jill Slora's three line whip amongst the newly joined from the village was a great success; children rushed around the gardens with carefree abandon.

Tim and Jo organised a wonderful afternoon for the juniors of all ages and sizes with plenty of coaching and competition. Their sessions culminated in a superb final

between Molly Thomas and Jamie Taylor- 3/3 and 40 all with Jamie steering one into the dedans under the watchful eye of a full and appreciative dedans.

Tom gathered together and organised 10 pairs for the Bryant Cup, numbers adversely affected by weddings and other summer pursuits. In the one semi-final the Chairman and his Persian Open holder Keyvan F were confronted with Jill Slora and Sarah Gordon's owe 15/30 banned tambour one serve handicap. They struggled against Jill's mastery of the lob onto the penthouse that plops into half a yard. 'Kev' served the pair to victory, the chairman failing to win any of his 'faulting' service games - inevitably the match went to 5/5 40 all and brought to a close by Kev serving a deadly nick to take the tie. In the other semi Ed Steele and Professor Stuart Hodges couldn't get to grips with the challenge of Peter Jackson and Grant Arthur's handicap and duly perished with a whimper. In the final Kev in between leaning on the second gallery ledge and chatting to the marker served to a good length and neither he nor the Chairman made any errors and cruised through 6/2 to take the Bryant Cup. As Tom wryly pointed out, this year's Awards Dinner will be short of attendees due to the Persian Open winner's insatiable hoovering up of trophies, a situation that has been noted by the chairman of the Tennis/Handicapping Sub Committee. No doubt the Kev will return from his Iranian sojourn (Ayatollah permitting) stripped of his Persian Open title but raring to go with his new handicap!



*So a most enjoyable and fun day and many thanks to all those who played their part as mentioned above.*

## **ROLAND OWEN-GEORGE**

It is with great sadness that I report the recent death of Roland Owen-George. He was an important and hard working member of the MMTCC Committee from the early 1970s to 1990.

Roland's real tennis playing career started at the Leamington Tennis Court Club when he would pop in for games from the offices of his law firm Blythe Owen-George, now Blythe Liggins, which he founded in partnership with Jimmy Blythe in the 1950s. He was one of the better players at the club participating in the Club Championship and quite successfully in the annual handicap tournament. He was described in Charles Wade's 'The Leamington Tennis Court Club 1846-1996' as 'steady and determined', 'a persistent performer' and a 'tough competitor'. Under the current handicap system he would have, at his best, been a 20 handicapper.

After he gave up playing, he was cajoled into joining the MMTCC Committee by my father. He became one of the founding members of the club in 1963. They proved to be

a formidable partnership and Roland's decisive contributions in committee were rarely overridden! They regularly met for lunch in Leamington eating houses, undertook the necessary club business before swapping gossip and stories!

Roland generously contributed a cup to be played for annually from 1991 by the best players in the club. Until fairly recently he conscientiously drove up from his new home in Herefordshire to watch the Final and present the Owen-George Cup. It was a day he always enjoyed to the full and appreciated the quality of the play he witnessed except for the one year when I reached the final for a slaughtering by Philip Shaw-Hamilton!

Roland was a wonderful character and his input was sadly missed when he moved from the area.. He will be remembered for being a major influence in keeping the club afloat during the difficult days of the early 1970s.

*Andrew Hamilton.*

### **ONLINE COURT BOOKING**

Members are encouraged to use this facility now available *online*.  
Except Anthony Parmiter who will persist with *online* - probably on a postcard.

### **MEET AT DAWN, UNARMED**

Our learned and literate chairman has followed in the footsteps of his parents and joined the ranks of Moreton Morrell authors.

His book vividly describes events from the diary of his grandfather around the famous Christmas Truce in 1914.

Maps, cartoons and photographs illustrate the extraordinary lives and events of 1914.

*Copies are available from Andrew Hamilton.*



### **MORETON MORRELL TENNIS COURT CLUB GOLF**

Our annual event will be held at Stratford-on- Golf Club on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact the editor [richardsm@doctors.org.uk](mailto:richardsm@doctors.org.uk) or Tom [pro@mmtcc.co.uk](mailto:pro@mmtcc.co.uk) to enter.

All are welcome if they have a handicap and there may be a few places for guests.