



COURT CIRCULAR

SUMMER 2012

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011-12

It is now seven years since the Club's wonderful Centenary celebrations, a marvellous moment in the Club's history when a platform was provided to take the Club forward in the next few decades.

It occurred to me last year that it was time to build on those efforts: complacency is to be avoided and I felt there was a need to review where the Club was and how to plan for the future.

As ever, oak trees grow from acorns planted in conversations round the Bar- it was decided to initiate a Strategic Review and I would like to thank Martin Trees for bringing his expertise to bear in this area- he has driven the process with great enthusiasm and success.

An important part of the process was to conduct a survey of members which proved to be a vital starting point- the message received was that the members greatly appreciate the court, the building, the facilities and the general ambience and atmosphere. It was pleasing to receive such a positive response.

There were areas that it was felt needed improvement- many of you mentioned that the 'Sticke' court and balcony were in need of refurbishment. Now accepted that it is an 'American Squash Tennis Court', I should like to thank George K. for his enthusiasm in fronting this project, to the extent that it now looks fantastic! Its official opening will be at the Summer Barbecue on the weekend of 14/15 July and will include a World Squash Tennis Tournament and a table tennis championship on the balcony. I hope members will support the weekend...

The members' report was that we 'could do better' in invoicing and collecting bar bills- I'm pleased to record, if you haven't already noticed, that Philip Shaw-Hamilton is doing an excellent job in keeping the day to day finances under control. He will also be responsible for membership now that Peter Stephenson has retired as Membership Secretary- Peter no longer plays tennis due to injury so understandably wishes to step down but has handed over a membership system in great shape.

It is important that the Club does not run at a loss and I'm pleased that for the 2nd year running a modest profit has been achieved despite the cost of repairs, painting of the east side windows and redecoration of the hall and dining room.

Many members regretted the lack of club merchandise: no new lines had been introduced since 2005. I'm sure you will all agree that David Aldwinckle has masterminded a fine range of club branded merchandise- who would have thought that the Chairman would proudly wear a Club hoody?! Many thanks to David for playing a vital role so professionally.

As court income is the club's main source of income, Tom has increased the court utilisation in recent months and will be investigating every avenue to fill more courts this year.

In my report last year I made the point that 'members of Moreton Morrell are most fortunate to have such an active and enthusiastic committee that does a huge amount of often unseen and unheralded work.' The club can ill afford to lose hard working members and it is a blow that Paul Wilson-Gunn has retired from the committee- for years he has done a huge amount of work uncomplainingly- re-stocking the bar, dealing with the day to day financial requirements and keeping an eye on the fabric of the building, to name but a few. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him and hope that he will once again parade his top spin volleys on court.

David Bryant has as ever kept an eye on the detail of the running of the club and initiated the vital work with Clive Barnes of updating the Club rules. He has dealt with computing matters, monitoring of planning for the flat, handicaps and many other administrative areas- my email inbox can testify to that!

Two years ago the court resonated to the wonderful sounds of the Armonico Consort's 'Naked Byrd' and thanks are in order again to Jonny Cook for his most generous sponsorship; we were indulged with another musical treat- Rachmaninov's Russian Vespers.

The social side of the Club has been as vibrant as usual and George K has been at the epicentre of activity- a soggy June day didn't dampen spirits too much for the barbecue, the Awards evening was an excellent occasion again and George's Italian evening was a gastronomic delight much enjoyed by those present.

We live in times when Health and Safety and Environmental Health are paramount- much as one complains about some of the pettifoggery involved, it is nonetheless incumbent on the committee to keep up with legislation and ensure the safety of the members and to that end Fran Walsh has done wonders in dealing with the necessary forms and instigating the requirements for Fire, Environmental Health, Child Protection and Health and Safety. For example, members may have noticed that the ageing gas cooker has been replaced by a smart new electric cooker that is not potentially combustible...

I receive many positive comments about the Club from visitors and much of that is down to the work of Tom and Nick. Many players are not used to playing with new and round tennis balls and markers who adjudicate from the net. Tournaments and matches have been well supported which is a tribute to Tom's organisation before and during the events. As we have not attracted a new assistant professional, Nick

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011-12 continued

has agreed to continue on a three day basis.

One of the Club's recent successes has been the provision for Junior club members- it was most gratifying to see Ben Irwin, Charles Hamilton and Philippa Twohig-Howell do so well in handicap competitions; several juniors have been taking part in national competitions and Felicity Sargent and Alice Messer have all benefited from playing on other courts. Tim Messer, Nick and Tom are to be congratulated on their work with the Juniors and Beverleigh Twohig-Howell for bringing over Warwick and Kings High boys and girls for coaching on Mondays and Wednesdays- as a result of the progress with Junior Tennis, it is pleasing to report that the club has been invited by the Dedanist Foundation to work with other schools in the area.

I should also like to thank John Miller for his conscientious Hon. Secretarial work, to Simon Allen for his sponsorship of the popular Allen Associates Handicap Trophy, Mike Harwood for the considerable work that has to be undertaken to produce yearly accounts and for Richard Seymour Mead for keeping us informed and entertained through the excellent Court Circular.

In 2013, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Club when James Dance MP handed the Club over to a group of enthusiasts who set up a Company to own the site and a Committee to run a members' club. In the next few months we shall start preparations for various events including hopefully another Pro Am event and a Dinner to celebrate the anniversary. It will also be a time to raise money and there are two areas that need improvement- the lights which are beginning to cost us greatly in scaffolding to repair fittings and change bulbs and the court floor - I detect that the joins are beginning to lift which is causing some nasty daisy cutters and some head hunting fliers more reminiscent of village cricket pitches!

The celebration will not be on the scale of 2005, but any help from members will be gratefully received!

The Club continues to prosper and provides members with facilities that improve every year but the aim is still to maintain the quality of experience at the club which has been so favourably commented on by members and visitors.

Andrew Hamilton May 2012

NATIONAL FATHERS AND SONS CHAMPIONSHIP.

7-8 January 2012. Report by Charles Wade.

Seymour Meads cruise to third fathers and sons title

At Leamington in January, the National Fathers & Sons Championship was won very comfortably by Richard and Tom Seymour Mead. This year's tournament's was not as keenly contested as in the past. The holders John and Henry Prenn had to withdraw at the last minute and, with other stalwarts not taking part, the Seymour Meads were top seeds and the only real opposition was expected to come from Anthony and Chris Wilson. However the Wilsons seemed out-of-sorts and were overcome in the semi-final round by Marek and Christopher Stefanowicz by 8-3. The Seymour Meads won the final 8-1, a scoreline that was a little harsh to the Stefanowiczs who contributed to some periods of exciting play. This was the Seymour Meads' third win in the event. The Stefanowiczs lost to the Prenns in semi-final round in 2011 and there may be a little more to come in the future.

P and M Raven beat M and C Harcourt 8-6

Semi-finals: R and T Seymour Mead beat P and M Raven 8-2

M and C Stefanowicz beat A and C Wilson 8-3

Final: R and T Seymour Mead beat M and C Stefanowicz 8-1

GARLAND CUP -a win for Hamilton!

6th-8th January 2012. Report by AH.

Don't be fooled! Those days are over...winner of the 2012 Garland Cup was definitely no relation of the chairman, who deals in daughters only, but the victor was Warwick schoolboy Charles Hamilton who has attended most of the twice weekly school sessions and is also playing regularly in holiday time.

Semi-finals: Hamilton bt Lambdon 5/3

Paxton bt Rawstorne 5/2

Final: Hamilton bt Paxton 6/3

Noteworthy results from early rounds were Tom Bomford's defeat of George K who is a tricky customer at the best of times- Tom, who has been playing for only 8 months and now plays off 27 lost only 3 points! Moreton Shield winner Anthony Parmiter (55 some misstake sshurely?) was



crushed by Bruce Paxton (65), another of our new members, and retired to the bar for a glass of claret to drown his sorrows!

In the quarters despite a deteriorating knee Jonathan Lambdon played decisive tennis against Bomford, Hamilton (57) proved too strong for the Club's Junior tennis coordinator Tim Messer, Julian Rawstorne's idiosyncratic bowler's run up serving technique bamboozled Steve Walsh and Lynden Haworth's progress to another final was halted by the fast improving Paxton.

Young Hamilton was fortunate that Lambdon's knee was swelling to the size of a football and Rawstorne found Paxton too hot to handle. By the Final, however, Bruce was visibly tiring but it was a great triumph for young Charles Hamilton whose nerve just about held despite some wobbles, and also the MMTCC Junior Tennis team of Tom, Nick and Tim Messer.

For those wishing to keep warm in the Bar, they were able to follow the score on Owen Pettiford's new scoring system showing on the smart new TV- a first for the Club!

WORLD OVERS

Philip Shaw-Hamilton triumphant

I'm pleased to announce that the Club's current No.1 player won the World Masters Over 60s Singles and Doubles Championships held recently in Melbourne. The standard was high and Philip defeated several players with a lower handicap.

In addition he played a vital role in the UK team's defence of the Over 60s Bostwick Trophy.

We can look forward to this year's Awards Evening when I'm sure he will celebrate his successes with us all!

Andrew Hamilton

Results:

Cockram Trophy: David Watson captained the team to a 4-1 win over Australia - team members Mark Drysdale, William Maltby, Mark Nicholls, Andrew Petrie, John Prenn, David Watson.

Bostwick Cup: Bernard Weatherill captained the team and secured a 3-2 win over Australia -team members Jamie Bebb, David Brazier (sub), Mick Dean, Alan Fine, Jill Newby, Philip Shaw-Hamilton and Bernard Weatherill.

Danby Trophy: Robin Barlow captained the team to a 2-1 win over Australia - team members Robin Barlow, David Brazier, Tony Crook, Paul Danby, Eric Nutter and Willie Wilks.

In the Masters:

50's Singles: Mike Happell beat Mark Drysdale 6/2, 6/3

50's Doubles: Mike Happell and John Prenn beat William Maltby and Mark Nicholls 6/3, 6/5

55's Singles: John Prenn beat Richard Hince 6/1, 6/5

55's Doubles: John Prenn and Mark Nicholls beat Paul Weaver and Mick Dean 6/3, 6/2

60's Singles: Philip Shaw-Hamilton beat Wayne Spring 6/5, 6/4

60's Doubles: Paul Weaver and Philip Shaw-Hamilton beat Wayne Spring and Tim Hurburgh 6/4, 6/4

65's Singles: Graeme Holloway beat Tim Hurburgh 6/2, 6/5

65's Doubles: Graeme Holloway and John Faull beat Paul Danby and Willie Wilks 4/6, 6/1, 6/4

70's Singles: Robin Barlow beat Paul Wheeler 6/4, 6/2

70's Doubles: David Brazier and Robin Barlow beat Paul Wheeler and Mike Garnett 6/2,6/1

75's Singles: Paul Wheeler beat Tony Crook 5/6, 6/4, 6/3

75's Doubles: Paul Wheeler and Malseed beat Tony Crook and James Guest 6/1, 5/6, 6/0

It gave me great satisfaction to have beaten the other Tasmanian Champion, Graeme Holloway, the UK's Paul Weaver and the Australian no.1 Wayne Spring. Subsequently I could hardly walk for three days let alone play!

I will add that the epic battle of the whole tournament was the 75's singles between Paul Wheeler and Tony Crook. Neither player was going to give up without a fight.

A 2-hour battle of the giants in 30 degrees heat with both players unable to speak when they came off! Paul Wheeler and Tony Crook then had to play in the doubles finals as well! Amazingly both were seen to be walking unaided and without any stiffness at the awards dinner later that day! Their masseurs obviously did a good job!

It should be noted that the USA failed to send a single player - let alone a team - they are all fairly successful men and I don't think the world's financial crisis has had that much of an impact so we put that down to running scared!

Next tournament - New York April 2013 - the Americans want to bring it forward one year.

Polish up your skills and have great fun.

MIDSUMMER DOUBLES & BBQ

14th-15th July. Report by our staff.



The sun at last some after a very wet few weeks so once again the BBQ was well attended and enjoyed. The Bryant cup was won by Lyndon Howarth and Jon Lambdon and the American Squash Tennis tournament was won by Phil (the Champ) Shaw-Hamilton.



NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 1

March 23rd.

A good turn out of members enjoyed some marvellous tennis in this match between Ben Mathews and Chris Chapman for the Dedanists as they defeated David Woodman and Andrew Flowers of Cambridge 3/2.

Tennis of this standard is a treat to see so let us hope for a repeat Div 1 match next year.

"YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!"

Calling all over 50's - (youngsters - you may have a while to wait but use your time wisely and hone your skills!) some of you maybe unaware of the 'World Masters Tournament' and the International Team events known as the Cockram Trophy (for the over 50's), the Bostwick Cup (for the over 60's) and the



Danby Trophy (for the over 70's). Every two years the best

players in the world in their respective age groups have a tennis jamboree over two weeks doing the circuit of London, Melbourne and New York (Paris featured in 2000 but the French have subsequently failed to put forward any players).

The first week is taken up by the team events which are based on a side of six, seven or eight men/women. (For the first time in the 14 yr history of the tournament GB had a very good woman play - Jill Newby, who played doubles in the Bostwick and defeated her opponents - much to her relief! She can't wait to go to New York next time to see how their committee cope with a lady player in an exclusively all-male club!) Each team of singles and doubles plays the other countries - the Australians normally play very well at home and can give some spirited barack-ing! GB look and play the part with matching kit and rampant lions. The Americans are normally more concerned with their hair and looks! The French still remember Agincourt and have given up!

Joking apart - it feels great to represent ones country and give it everything but nerves can get the better of one on the big stage.

The second week is the 'World Masters' - a huge tournament - o50's, o55's, o60's, o65's, o70's and even o75's singles and doubles... giving the organisers a bit of a headache and anyone foolish enough to enter four tournaments simultaneously find themselves unable to stand up after a couple of days! Only one man in the history of the tournament has attempted it and taken 3 out of 4 world titles - that was Howard Angus in 2002. Having played four semi-finals on the Friday and then four

finals on the Saturday his final match saw him stand by the galleries and gently sway!!

Paul Weaver attempted the same feat in Australia in 2006 but found he couldn't get out of bed on finals day...so won just one match. Be warned - one tournament may not be good value, two tournaments is safe, three is pushing it, four is forgetting your age!! Painkillers and cold showers are the only way to get through!

One gets invited to play in the team event (best players in the country should be known to the selection committee but sometimes one needs to shout out!) but anyone can enter the Masters. As far as standards go the over 50's handicaps currently range from 5 to 25. The over 60's - 15 to 35, and the over 70's - 35 upwards..but there is no limit. All matches for both team and masters are best of three 6-game sets and very competitive!

I would encourage anyone to have a go - New York, and the club, are stunning; London is convenient but Melbourne - with sun, warmth, swimming pool, blue skies, ice-cold beer and good company - is sublime!

Go on - treat yourself!

Philip Shaw-Hamilton

HOBSON CUP

10th-12th February 2012. Report by Jon Lambdon.

Professor/Pittaway Perfect Partnership. Stuart Hodges and Charlie Pittaway claimed the Hobson Cup after a weekend of the highest quality tennis and entertainment.

The first semi-final pitted Pete Jackson and Charlie Hamilton (50)– the latter continuing his good form having won January's Garland Cup – against Oliver LeMaistre and George Kruszynskij(49). The match epitomised the attraction of the sport with four unique playing styles providing an enthralling contest. In the end however, thanks to the consistency of Charlie's serving and Pete's groundstrokes, they emerged 6/3 winners.

In a complete contrast, the second semi-final could not have started any more one-sided. Lynden Haworth and James Richardson(50) had produced a phenomenal display of tennis in the previous round to dispose of Martin Trees and Jon Lambdon, yet found themselves the wrong side of a 5-0 scoreline within only a few minutes of their match against Stuart Hodges and Charlie Pittaway(49). Multiple unforced errors kept Lynden and James pinned at the receiving end before a chase offered some respite. A comeback was briefly on the cards as James's left-handed serve posed problems for Charlie, who eventually kept his nerve to fire a fine backhand winner into the grille to seal a 6/3 victory.

The final served up another closely-contested affair, with Charlie Hamilton showcasing the good work done by the youth system in place at the club with some fine tennis. Ultimately, the difference lay between the ears of the good Professor Hodges, who complemented his partner's fine returning with astute tactical play that swung the final in their favour. Good use of the galleries to take advantage of the service end paid dividends as Stuart and Charlie P ran out 6/3 winners to claim the trophy.

Thanks to Tom and Nick for the organisation and marking throughout the weekend, and to George for yet another outstanding concoction.



PONSONBY CUP

10th-12th February 2012. Report by the editor.



Richard Seymour Mead with his young partner Tom Lewis managed to grasp defeat from the jaws of victory in the first semifinal of the club's premier doubles tournament. They failed to win four match points against solid defence by Bob Hurriion and Andrew Hamilton in the second set.

The third set went away from them as the constant returning forced unforced errors from the lively Lewis whilst the editor remained in his statuesque pose near the second gallery.

David Bryant and Lloyd Pettiford made short work of Matt Fattorini and Tom Bomford in the second semi.

The final started at a very high level with over 20 shots in 2 rests in the first game. The enthusiastic crowd thought they were in for a long afternoon in the very cold dedans but the next few games went quickly-all to the Vice Chairman and his energetic partner.

At 4-1 up Bryant and Pettiford let up slightly allowing the Chairman and partner to find some self belief.

The match swung back to 4/3 0-40 but some poor play from Hamilton and Hurriion let their opponents back and the set was lost.

The second set saw some fine passages of play with particularly solid defending of the dedans by Hamilton but the stronger weight of shots by Bryant and Pettiford mixed with good Bryant teasing lobs proved the decisive factor.

Bryant and Pettiford won 6/3 6/2.

The WARWICKSHIRE WORLD SERIES

Report by Martin Trees.

The series of matches was between MMTCC and LTCC over 6 months with 6 Monday night home and away fixtures. 3 players from each team home and away with three singles and three doubles sets each evening. A total of 72 sets came down to the last set of 12 sets and then to the last low handicap doubles at Leamington! 36-35 in favour of Moreton with Guy (Chairman) Stanton paired with Robert (ringer) Frost versus David (Dep Chairman) Bryant and Martin (BAM BAM)Trees. As you would guess 5 all, 40-30 in a packed LTCC lead to a win for MMTCC when Guy netted a rather aggressive volley from "Bam Bam" and a final score of 37-35. What a great way to finish a series of excellent evenings full comradeship, conviviality and camaraderie. A Curry was organised by Henry Bryan and some drinking followed. We will be repeating this in the 2012/2013 if you want to play please let Tom know, you will get a home and away night with a matching handicapper from LTCC.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Fortress Moreton

(National League Div 4: Captain's End of Season Report)

Lloyd Pettiford

Deprived for whatever reason of the number one and number two players in last year's National League winning team, this season was always likely to be tough. Strangely, with Sir Andy freed of T&RA responsibilities as part of the team, MMTCC performed quite like Coventry City (pretty good at home and fairly disastrous on the road).

Season's record

Home:

Played	Won	Lost	Rubbers for	Rubbers Against
4	4	0	9	3

Away:

Played	Won	Lost	Rubbers For	Rubbers Against
4	0	4	1	11

Unfortunately, whilst this record was good enough to avoid the wooden spoon it didn't qualify the team for the knockout stages of the competition. And so I conclude that our player of the season is none other than the wonderful court itself. Thanks to Andrew, Rich, Paul, David, Tom, Alex and John – collectively I think we also won the biggest squad prize! There's always next year.

PARSONS CUP

3rd-4th March. Report by Andrew Hamilton.

As ever there was talk of 'bandits about' in the Parsons Cup- Would Bruce Paxton be making an acceptance speech in Mexican? Unfortunately it had to be congratulations in plain English to his nemesis, Professor Hodges, whose understanding of angles belied his 50+ handicap securing three 5/1 victories on the way to the final. Would Martin Trees overcome last week's deep vein thrombosis to take the cup? Unfortunately his blood was thinned by Andrew Hamilton on his debut in the lower division- Hamilton had already put paid to any thoughts Grant Arthur might have had of winning the Cup for a third consecutive year: spoil sport.

Having lost to the Professor in the group match, Hamilton was concerned about Stuart's serve but was suitably warmed up enough and in the groove to win comfortably and gratefully accept the cup from chief sponsor Johnny Cook.

Many thanks to Tom for drumming up 38 of us to play over the weekend- a tremendous number and a major feat of organisation! As ever the tennis balls and marking were top notch so many thanks to Nick and Tom, to George for providing the lunch and Lynden Haworth for sorting out the Cups and their engravings.

So the moral of the story is.. if your name is Hamilton, it may well find its way onto a cup in the near future... now there's an incentive to you all...

Shipstone v Haworth 5/2
Hodges v Paxton 5/1
Hamilton v Parry Evans 5/2
Trees v George K 5/1

Hodges v Shipstone 5/1
Hamilton v Trees 5/2

Hamilton v Hodges 6/1

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

3 tournaments have featured unrelated Hamiltons- Charles won the Garland Cup, Philip S-Hamilton clinched the Owen-George and Andrew Hamilton triumphed in the Parsons Cup.

OWEN-GEORGE CUP 2012

The Club Championship.

3rd-4th March. Report by the Chairman

The tournament started with a 2 hour marathon in which John Miller squeaked through 6/5 in the final set against Andrew Hamilton having been 5/2 up- after many match points he earned the right to take on Lloyd Pettiford and against the form book, won in two sets. Mike Henman defeated Tom Bomford having been 5/3 down in the second set- yet to have played for a year, hopes are high that Bomford will continue to progress. Tom Lewis was stretched by Alex Reynolds in the first set but cruised to victory in the second set.

In the semis S-Hamilton made short work of Miller and Henman's forcing and boasting proved too much for Lewis after losing the first set.

The final was a rousing and at times feisty affair between the 2 Old Malvernians (minor school on the edge of a hill). Henman's attempt to petrify S-Hamilton didn't work when 5/3 up in the second set.

Congratulations to Philip for his 12th victory in the Club's level tournament.

J. Miller v A. Hamilton 2/6, 6/5, 6/5
P. Shaw-Hamilton v R. Wills 6/1, 6/2
J. Miller v L. Pettiford 6/5, 6/4
M. Henman v T. Bomford 6/4, 6/4
T. Lewis v A. Reynolds 6/5, 6/0

P. Shaw-Hamilton v J. Miller 6/1, 6/1
M. Henman v T. Lewis 5/6, 6/4, 6/2

P.Shaw-Hamilton v M. Henman 6/4, 6/5

