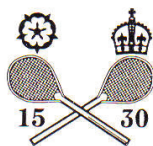


THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT

Hampton Court Palace



BAND OF GOLD

OLIVER ADDS TO THE WATSON SILVER COLLECTION

See page 3

The Autumn Newsletter 2011

Number ninety-seven

chairman's chat

Thanks to all the members who supported the summer barbecue and particularly those volunteers who helped so willingly before, during, and after the event. We received some excellent feedback from members and guests, we learned a few pointers on catering for ourselves, and I'm pleased to say that we even made a small surplus for the club. Thanks also to those who played in, and supported, the King's Goblet summer doubles, and congratulations to the winners, Nick Carew Hunt and Robin Mulcahy (of which more on page 4).

Misguidedly mentioned in my last piece that the board was keen to arrange the awards dinner in November to relate it better to the previous playing season. Unfortunately we misjudged the availability of suitable venues, so it will be held in late March, as before. I am pleased to say, however, that we intend holding an alternative event at the club in November, so read on.

You will read on page 7 of the changes to the Premier Division of the National League. It has to be said that these fixtures have not always been well supported in the past couple of years and the board will be addressing this prior to next season. For the coming season we will have three Premier League matches at RTC: two of these are to be held after Christmas and will feature a combined team representing RTC and Holyport. More immediately, we will host the Dedanists in their match against Queen's on Saturday 12 November, commencing at 5pm. The Dedanists are represented by Ben Matthews and Chris Chapman and we hope that

we can have a sell-out attendance – the evening will also feature food and refreshments. Details will be available very soon, but please put the date in your diaries. I would encourage members to use the opportunity to bring guests to see top-quality tennis and enjoy a social event in such special surroundings.

The other date to draw to your attention is Wednesday 14 December, when the annual carol service will be held in the Chapel Royal. This was a huge success last year and members are encouraged to buy tickets as early as possible and, again, to bring guests to enjoy a unique experience.

I am pleased to tell you that Nicola Doble and Kate Lawrence have been co-opted on to the board, and their enthusiasm and ideas will be a great benefit to the club. We are also grateful to Owen Saunders, who has agreed to organise social matches, following on from the legendary Richard East. Members are encouraged to participate in these matches and should look out for notices either by email or on the noticeboards.



Finally, I would like to wish everyone success for the new season, whether representing an RTC team, competing in the various club competitions, or simply in their quest for a lower handicap.

Paddy Sweetnam



Barbecue photograph by David Glover

DATES FOR THE DIARY

National League Premier Division: Dedanists v Queen's

As Paddy Sweetnam mentions above (and Nick Wood on page 7), the Premier Division of the National League has a new look this year. The first chance for members to see the top players in action at RTC is **Saturday 12 November**, when the Dedanists team of Ben Matthews and Chris Chapman take on Bryn Sayers and Andrew Lyons of Queen's. It's a mouthwatering line-up – Bryn and Ben are now the British Nos. 1 and 2, while Chris will be hoping to continue last season's progress close the gap to them as the season develops. Andrew Lyons may have suspect knees and may be at the other end of his playing career, but he remains a skilled strokeplayer and one of the game's great entertainers.

British Open (Queen's)

Just up the road from **13-22 November** is the British Open, which attracts all the world's top players as they scramble for world title challenge points. Why not go along and support RTC's entrants?

COMING UP

RTC

1-2 Oct: De Laszlo Bowl
29-30 Oct: Barker Camm Cup Grade E
6 Nov: RTC v Brigands
12 Nov: NL – Dedanists vs Queen's
26-27 Nov: Barker Camm Cup Grade D
4 Dec: RTC v Cambridge
14 Dec: Carol Service

ELSEWHERE

9 Oct: Bridport v RTC
14-16 Oct: Category D (30-39 hcps) Open Champs. (Hatfield)
14-16 Oct: Cat. E (40-49, Holyport)
14-16 Oct: Cat. G (60+, Prested)
17-24 Oct: IRTPA Pro Singles (Manchester)
13-22 Nov: British Open (Queen's)
19/20 Nov: Brodie Cup – Prested v RTC
11 Dec: Pol Roger Trophy – Oxford v RTC

The family that plays together...

The youngest Watson capped the family's fine season with Lathom Browne success

Not content with claiming the Barker Camm Cup (David) and Harris Watson doubles (David and James), the Watson dynasty completed a 2010-11 club hat-trick with the big handicap trophy, as the improving Oli Watson gave a mature display to lift the Lathom Browne Cup.

As summer rolled round there were just four competitors left standing from the original 100-plus. Oli (39) faced grade A winner Philip Squire (27) in his semi-final, while John Harbord-Hamond (51) was up against Robin Mulcahy (52). In both cases the players who had managed a greater improvement in their handicap since last September made the most of their advantage.

Despite giving a 12-point handicap to an opponent who was by then only six points weaker (and two months later was within two, having come down to 28), Philip battled valiantly, but Oli has a wide range of attacking strokes and pulled away to a 9-5 win. The other semi was tighter, but John has proved to be a solid, technically sound player and was just too consistent for Robin.

The resulting final was an intriguing proposition between players of contrasting styles: the raw talent and frenetic, excitable play of the teenager against the sound, steady defensive



Oli Watson with runner-up John Harbord-Hamond

play of the older, taller man. The big question was whether Oli could curb his high-risk instincts and play 'proper' handicap tennis, giving the net a wider berth than he does against lower-handicap players.

The opening two games did not provide an answer to that question, as Oli followed up an error-free opener with a game in which he handed John a couple of easy points. The early sparring certainly appeared to point to a close contest.

Oli had other ideas, though, and the next two games saw him take control and establish a rhythm, showing admirable patience as the ball came

back several times from John before Oli could find a winning stroke.

The fifth game was crucial, as Oli, 3-1 up already, fought back from 15-40 down to set up a 40-40 game point. A good serve gave Oli a chance to play an attacking second stroke, and a nicely weighted forehand found the base of the tambour. 4-1 rather than 3-2.

The next two games were shared before Oli added the eighth and ninth to open up a 7-2 lead that looked unassailable. He did falter in the tenth game, and John had a glimpse of an opportunity when 40-30 up in the next, but two errors brought Oli to 8-3

and one game from glory.

Oli continued his patient play, cruising to 40-30 and then ending the long final point of the match with a main-wall boast round the angles. So 9-3, and a fine performance against an opponent who offered stout resistance but did not have the attacking shots to trouble the better player.

Oli now departs for Cambridge University, where his tennis will no doubt benefit from the advice and encouragement of his brother James. Oli is defending his title, however, and with his handicap still in freefall, who would bet against a repeat victory?

Simon Edmond

Staying ahead of the Field

This season sees a new format for the national inter-club team knockout for leading amateurs. Formerly known as the Field Trophy, it has now been split into two divisions, with the upper division becoming the Pol Roger Trophy and the second tier assuming the Field Trophy name.

Having reached the semi-finals last season, RTC takes its place in the top flight – its opening fixture is at Oxford in December, and no doubt the team would appreciate any travelling support should you fancy a day out. The format of three singles and two doubles matches remains, but the rules restricting low handicaps have changed, enabling the likes of Peter Wright (3.3) to take part. It seems unlikely,



however, that the winning doubles partnership of James Sohl and Karen Hird (left), both of whom excel at volleying, will be broken up.

Before our Pol Roger team takes to the court, however, our Brodie Cup team will have headed off to Prested Hall in November for their opener. The Brodie Cup caters for players over 30 handicap, with one 30+ singles match, a 35+ doubles, a 40+ singles, a

45+ doubles and a 50+ singles. RTC is always competitive in this competition, but Prested Hall is a court that offers significant home advantage, with its notoriously dead bounce off the glass back wall at the Hazard end. Should our lot cope with it, a home quarter-final will lie in wait...

The Feelgood factor

Rosé complexions abounded as Nick Carew Hunt and Robin "Feelgood" Mulcahy cruised to an impressive win at the Summer Handicap Doubles

With 48 competitors involved over three days, the King's Goblet summer handicap doubles succeeded in bringing together many members who would never normally meet in other circumstances. The handicaps ranged from low to high by well over 50 points, leaving the pros with the trickiest of tasks when marking some matches.

The first round, played out over the Friday and Saturday, saw six groups of four pairs battle for 12 slots in the second round. Among those to progress with the most ease were Bill Chambers and John Halliday, David Blizzard and Simon Edmond, and Nicola Doble and Owen Saunders. Many were upbeat at the barbecue on the Saturday evening as they stocked up on, er, protein and alcohol for the day ahead.

Linda and Julian Sheraton-Davis had won one of the tighter groups, and it clearly hardened them for the second group stage on the Sunday morning. They won the tightest of matches against John East and Dan Callaghan, 5-4, before adding a 6-5 win over Robert Butler and Peter Flood.

Blizzard and Edmond produced their best performance of the weekend in defeating Doble and Saunders 6-2, and despite a 7-6 reverse against Richard East and Peter Ohlson it was enough to win the group and set up a semi-final against Linda and Julian.

In the third group, the experience of John Clark told against the youthful



Left: Jubilant winners Nick Carew Hunt and Robin Mulcahy. Above: Sheepish runners-up David Blizzard and Simon Edmond

exuberance of Bill Chambers. A 5-4 win for Clark and Mike Shattock was the key result in the group – not even a 13-2 shellacking of Simon Mansfield and Richard Gilbert by Chambers and Halliday could prevent Clark and Shattock advancing.

In the final group, the 73-handicap pairing of Ron Slade and Tom Mayhew took full advantage of their huge handicap allowance against Dick Cowling and Karen Prottey. However, the tried and tested Boomerang Cup pairing of Robin Mulcahy and Nick Carew Hunt knew exactly how to deal with the handicap, and they played the most solid of tennis to register an 11-0 win that sent shockwaves throughout the palace.

The first semi-final was not a classic but was at least a close affair all the way. When the bell for time went, Blizzard's energetic approach had encouraged the 27-handicap pair to eke out an 8-6 lead and a place in the final.

Carew Hunt and Mulcahy were by now playing with plenty of confidence, meanwhile, and they had little trouble with Clark and Shattock on their way to an 8-3 victory.

So the final offered a reasonable handicap difference – 27 against 50 – which meant that Blizzard and Edmond could not afford errors. Sadly for them, both opposition players continually returned difficult balls, and the errors duly came. Before long Mulcahy and Carew Hunt had opened up a comfortable lead, and despite a late rally they never looked in danger. An 8-6 win was less nervy than it might appear on paper.

Worthy winners, then, at the end of a fine weekend of competition. We must spare a thought for the pros, who between them valiantly marked every match for three days, thus witnessing even more tactical and technical naivety than we members normally inflict upon them in our singles play!

RTC's newest board member: Owen Saunders

Having been confirmed as a board member at the club's AGM in May, Owen Saunders is cracking on with his main role of organising the social playing calendar. As well as running this, he is also the Brodie Cup captain and skips our Division 7 team in the National League, and he has played in the last two Boomerang Cups in Melbourne.

An accountant by day (he helped out as finance director for the British Bobsleigh Association in the run-up to the last Winter Olympics), Owen is also an accomplished skier



(as you can see from the picture below) and can rightly claim to be one of the world's finest monocular real tennis players, having been born with sight in only one eye. He took up the game aged 18, having played squash through his teens, but drifted away until rediscovering the game again a few years ago around the age of 30.

Owen is keen to increase the number of RTC members taking part in the inter-club social matches, so if you're interested ask the pros for his contact details.



Club junior championships

Wollaston Cup (Handicap singles)

Oli Watson followed up his recent Lathom Browne success with victory in Wollaston Cup. Seven players, with handicaps ranging from 20 to 59, entered the club's singles handicap tournament for members aged under 25. The early stages were played on a round-robin basis, with the competitors split into two groups.

In group 1, Justin Gregory (59), making a welcome return to real tennis, took full advantage of his handicap to emerge victorious with three wins for the loss of only three games. Charles Ashbourne (24) took second place following wins over Alex Rozier-Pamplin (31), a recent and extremely promising recruit from rackets, and Peter Mather (47), a former Wollaston Cup champion.

In group 2, Oli Watson (32), Karen Hird (20) and Will Squire (59) traded wins so semi-final places were determined following a countback of games, with Will being the unfortunate one to miss out.

In the first semi-final, Oli produced a very steady display of handicap tennis to overcome a 27-point handicap difference and defeat Justin 6-3, while in the second match Charles used a



Oli Watson and Charles Ashbourne

four-point handicap difference in his favour to beat Karen 6-2.

And so to another handicap final for Oli. With the benefit of an eight-point difference, he was too strong for Charles, winning 6-1 and adding the Wollaston Cup to the bulging Watson family trophy cabinet.

Stef King

Chairman's Cup (Level singles)

Four players entered the Chairman's Cup, and the semi-finals went according to the seedings. The first of them started with a 12-minute first game to open proceedings, but Oli

Watson was always up against it against Charles Ashbourne. The eight-point handicap difference showed as Charles won 6-3 6-2.

In the second semi, young Alex Rozier-Pamplin gained valuable experience against 2011 Ladies World Championship runner-up Karen Hird. Karen eased through 6/2 6/2.

Early in the final an upset of sorts looked on the cards as Charles got off to a 3-1 lead, but Karen is very experienced for her age and she soon gained control. Charles hung on in, but Karen won the Chairman's Cup 6-3 6-1.

Chris Chapman

Vaughan Trophy (Level doubles)

The Vaughan Trophy, generously donated by Jane and David Vaughan, saw a final that pitted Karen Hird and Charles Ashbourne against Alex Rozier-Pamplin and Oli Watson.

On paper, Karen and Charles were the stronger pair, and so it proved as they won 6-2 6-1. They did not have it all their own way, however, and Alex and Oli may feel they deserved to win a few more games. But Karen's doubles prowess, seen in recent Field Trophy campaigns, came to the fore and she and Charles ran out worthy winners.

SK

The R.T.C. Annual Carol Service

*in the Chapel Royal with Chapel Royal Choir and Organ
Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 7.30pm*

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the club

Tickets: £12 (or £10 per head for groups of four or more)

PLEASE APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Available from the professionals

*If applying by post, cheques, made payable to the Royal Tennis Court,
should be sent to the club with the application (please enclose SAE)*

Ruling the Rhode Island roost

Roving reporter Richard East reports on a successful trophy hunt in Newport

Preamble

The ravages of time are taking their toll on the East Marauding Band. This time, in order to take on America's finest in Newport, we were reduced to three candidates for the title challenge (my 10th attempt, I think).

Robin Mulcahy drew the short straw and so partnered a local, which is always a tough call, with no opportunity to practise, and so it proved. Oliver Buckley and I proceeded to play together, looking the part of serious challengers, at least until after the first game. Our American hosts, John Murphy, Skip and Debbie Elliott, Frank Oliveira, Richard Gilder and Joe Tomaino, looked on our challenge askance but manfully declined to adjust our handicaps to our detriment when we offered (along with the Johnsonism "We haven't come here to play, you know, we're here to win"), no doubt figuring we would turn out to be our own worst enemies.

Consequences

So they were somewhat surprised when Oliver and I won our first outing in the round-robin stage against the favourites by 10-1, and even more so when we pulled off wins in the two remaining round-robin matches, one from an improbable position at 6-8 down against Tripp Estabrook and Sara Rogers.

Improbabilities

And so to the semi-finals, against the No 1-ranked Vietnamese pair in the world from Washington, Michael Do and Victor Huang. The opposition were pretty chirpy at 7-2 up, but our luck was about to turn. They became steadily more nervous as we started to win games from this point, and they got more and more so as we progressed to an improbable win at 10-7, more than somewhat to our surprise.

So there was only one more mountain to climb, and that against Frank Oliveira and Richard Gilder. Another calamitous start, but never fear: we fought back from 3-5 down to win 8-6.

The dinner on the Saturday night at the New York Yacht Club (Newport branch), courtesy of Kip Curren (whose tournament this is), had been its usual magnificent self, and Oliver and I had

confounded all their schemes to lift the trophy – a first here for RTC, I think.

Mirabile dictu

And then the next day, Monday, our hosts loaded us into vehicles and set off to drive to Tuxedo Park with us, which is a long way from Newport, and, when we arrived, we found the most opulent estate park I have ever visited.

Tim Chisholm was there to greet us, and a match was arranged, which we lost, and after which we had a very acceptable dinner with our opponents in one of their local restaurants. We were then all put up in his home by Chris Heffernan, who was up and gone on the train to NYC at 6am before we were anywhere near ready to muster. This we needed to do early, for the 8am breakfast at a roadhouse, before our hosts set off with us again to Lakewood (another long drive), where all was fixed again, college girls in assembly in the indoor polo pitch, we

on the immaculate, though barely used, tennis court. There are no changing rooms or facilities, but it is another estate to die for, with its own private dock so that Jay Gould (when he lived there) could take the boat to his office in New York, and an extraordinary range of statuary in his park.

Then John, Joe, Frank and Skip drove us all the way back to Newport, dropped us off, fed us again, and we were off and away the next day, somewhat weary but eternally grateful. Service beyond the call of duty. It was a wonderful trip. Our thanks in particular to John Murphy for organising everything, Debbie and Skip for putting all three of us up uncomplainingly for a week, as well as providing us with several dinners and at least one party, Joe and Lesley for another party and dinner, and Kip Curren for yet another dinner after his party at the Canfield House. It's a summer handicap doubles well worth the journey.

As is his habit on these occasions, Richard East delivered a missive from Her Majesty to her Rhode Island subjects...

My loyal colonial subjects,

We believe that We are still making progress towards the return of Our favourite colony to the Crown. Now that We have got rid of Gordon Brown as prime minister, and installed in his place that nice Etonian boy David Cameron (who was happily educated at the same Oxford college as Our ambassador who is with you tonight); and now that Barack and Michelle are more or less permanent house guests in Our palace; and now that the Scots are clearly on their way to a vote on independence from Us; the deal is on. Rhode Island to Us, Scotland and Ireland to you. The Irish may need some persuading, but the odd G or 2 of the folding, plus a state visit by Barack and Michelle in green, is, in Our view, all it would take. They went doolally over Us in green. And the Scots will be no problem, as they cannot wait to be awa' across the sea. And my dearly beloved nonagenarian consort says that Newport harbour is to die for, and we would have won WW2 much more easily if we had still had it. But then, he is 90.

But I expect you are all agog to hear Our views on the state of Our family. Well, for a start that Rep. Wiener of yours should be restrained from sending pictures of his six-pack to Our new favourite Princess. And her sister Pippa should be advised to think up another line to explain her figure. Does anybody believe Pilates? As to the wild rumours of Camilla being pregnant, We can assure you that this is just another of Charles' fantasies, similar to his delusion about his chance of inheriting Our throne. But King William V and Queen Kate of Rhode Island has a certain ring to it. Long may they reign over you, now that Kate has learned how to wave properly from an open-topped carriage.

It has been brought to Our attention that Our ambassador to you this evening was not invited to the wedding, in spite of his sterling efforts on behalf of Our Crown worldwide. His exclusion was deliberate. The unauthorised missives he has sent, which We have had to endure down the years as We read them in our club's newsletter, invited just such a rebuke. We had thought of omitting that fuzzy wuzzy the Archbishop of Canterbury as well, then reverting to Rome and getting the Pope to sprinkle the holy water instead, but We jibbed at the thought of how much it would cost to restore all those abbeys that Good King Henry destroyed. So We endured it as it was arranged, with all those carriage rides, and all those heads of state with unpronounceable names and ineffably repressive practices; much like Our forebears, really.

And next year there are the Olympics. Why us, We hear you cry? And it is a good question. Give it to the French, say We, and good riddance, except for the archery at Lord's. Did you know they are not even including the King of Sports and the Sport of Kings in the line-up? And anyway, you should all be striving now for tickets to Our Diamond Jubilee parade from 2-5 June 2012. Olympics be damned; Royal tennis, the Monarchy, and major pageantry henceforth, as We go ever on and on.

Our Royal Blessing for all your tennis endeavours, and Our profuse thanks for your hospitality to Our emissaries. We trust they will not steal the silver.

Professional team

September has seen the return of Ben Matthews, albeit part-time. Since leaving us in February 2010, Ben has been training and practising in Bordeaux and Prested Hall. He is replacing Stef for two days a week until the end of the year.

Stef will be using his extra time to progress his personal training programmes and gain greater experience with involvement at a top lawn tennis training facility in Buckinghamshire. If you need any advice on fitness, Stef is your man.

Inter-club tennis

There are many events for RTC members to participate in as we have a busy fixtures list of tournaments and events ahead of us. These include the National League, the Pol Roger Trophy, the Brodie Cup and social matches.

This season we have teams entered into **National League** Divisions 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and Premier. The National League creates the opportunity for players below 45 handicap to compete at other clubs and against new opposition while representing the club.

The Premier Division this season will take on a different shape, with the format of the matches changing and the creation of a combined Royal Tennis Court/Holyport team consisting of Nick Wood, Peter Wright and Chris Bray. Two of the "home" fixtures will be played at RTC and the other two will be played at Holyport. This arrangement cements the relationship between the two clubs and will provide some entertaining tennis for members of both clubs.

The Premier Division format is more Davis Cup-style this season, with the first and second strings playing a set of singles against each of their opponents, and the match will be completed with a doubles. The singles are played off

handicap and the doubles level.

In addition to this, we will also be hosting one of the Dedanists' National League matches on Saturday 12 November; their team consists of Ben Matthews and Chris Chapman. Keep the dates of these fixtures free and come along with as many friends and supporters as you can muster.

The **Pol Roger Trophy** has now superseded the Field Trophy and has the cream of amateur tennis competing in it once again, allowing the likes of RTC members Peter Wright and Robert Hird to represent their club. The rules governing team selection have changed (see page 3 for more details).

The Field Trophy is still in existence but has effectively become the second division – there will be relegation and promotion between the two competitions, and RTC, having reached

the semi-finals last season, will compete in the Pol Roger this season.

The **Brodie Cup** provides a similar event for members outside the top ranks (30-55 handicap) and is played in a more sociable yet no less competitive manner.

In recent years we have seen the reintroduction of social matches, with Richard East leading RTC to a couple of enjoyable seasons of home and away fixtures, as well as a West Country tour. The matches are now organised by Owen Saunders, and as you may have seen via email or on the noticeboards, Owen is encouraging more and more RTC members to participate.

These matches combine team tennis with singles and doubles, a hearty lunch, often followed by a stroll around the gardens. If any RTC member would like to be involved, please let Owen or the professionals know of your interest.

Wood's Words

Head pro Nick Wood on the importance of match preparation

On 1 September the new season officially began. With the Lathom Browne beginning and grade F of the Barker Camm Cup already completed, the tournaments are already well under way. Additionally there are National League and club social matches in which to participate.

To ensure you give each match your best shot, you should make sure you put some thoughts to your match preparation.

Avoid long or stressful days if you can – staring into a computer screen all day doesn't help either. Throughout the day, eat healthily and regularly (avoid big meals), and always have a snack on hand

in case you feel peckish prior to or during the game.

Make sure you hydrate effectively two hours prior to your game – drink 1-2 litres (not all at once); from then on sip water up to and during your match. Energy drinks are often better if diluted with water.

Arrive in plenty of time to allow for an appropriate warm-up and to set your mind to the competition ahead. Whether it be a regular opponent or a new foe, be disciplined in your game plan, ie shot selection and tactics.

If you would like some advice on how to warm up, please speak to your friendly professionals.

SUMMER NIGHT PENNANT

Congratulations to Oliver Buckley, David Blizzard and John Dagnall (pictured right), the winners of the Summer Night Pennant for 20-40 handicaps. Having topped the table, they drove home their supremacy in a one-sided final. David took a tight 6-5 set over Simon Edmond, while Oliver romped to a 6-0 win over Anthony Wolfe. A win for Martin Daly over John Dagnall was essential to keep in touch – but despite having a set point Martin also lost out 6-5. The writing was on the wall, and the three doubles sets all went the way of the winners.



Summer barbecue

Facing an appalling weather forecast for Saturday with as much stiff upper lip as possible, we were not best pleased to find that the Met Office had got it spot-on when we started the marquee/gazebo erection on Saturday morning. It poured down – accompanied by a gusting wind that always makes it so easy to put the canvas sheeting on.

Nevertheless we were blessed with (some) blue sky and no rain when the event took place. A large majority of the 100 people who had bought tickets turned up and all who did seemed to enjoy the evening. The offering of sausage, burger and chicken fillet together with salads appeared to satisfy empty stomachs and discerning palates. Wine, beer and soft drinks were available at the bar, run very efficiently by Nick and Stef.

There were no competitions (such as the horseshoe-throwing contest), so the habitual winner was deprived of his moment of glory this year. Nor was there any throwing of wet sponges at the pros (as health and safety officer for the club I really couldn't let that happen!). The nearest we came to official entertainment occurred at the end of the evening when a certain member demonstrated his complete inability to use a hula-hoop properly.

My heartfelt thanks to Julian

Sheraton-Davis, Lindsay Hatchett, Paddy Sweetnam, Nick Wood and Kate Lawrence (who organised and dished out the salads), all of whom are members of the social committee. My grateful thanks also to Owen Saunders, Richard Buxton, Simon Edmond and Robin Mulcahy, who did the actual barbecuing – uncomplainingly despite being semi-asphyxiated by smoke. My



thanks, too, to Phil Beard, Tony Whitfield, John Traversi and anyone else who gave a hand and whose name I have inadvertently omitted.

On Sunday morning the elements returned with a vengeance as the summer doubles resumed and we dismantled the marquees and gazebos. So much for the English summer!

David Seelig

BARKER CAMM GRADE F

Phil Beard and Henry Skinner (pictured below) opened the new Barker Camm Cup campaign in style, playing out a marathon grade F final that Phil (left) won 6-5 in the third set. Good luck to both players in grade E.



RESULTS

Lathom Browne Cup

Semi-finals: Oli Watson beat Philip Squire 9-5; John Harbord Hamond beat Robin Mulcahy 9-7.

Final: Watson beat Harbord Hamond 9-3.

King's Goblet Summer Handicap Doubles

2nd round: Group 1: Linda & Julian Sheraton-Davis beat Dan Callaghan & John East 5-4; Sheraton Davis x 2 beat Robert Butler & Peter Flood 6-5; Callaghan & East beat Butler & Flood 5-3. **Group 2:** Owen Saunders & Nicola Doble beat Richard East & Peter Ohlson 6-1; David Blizzard & Simon Edmond beat Saunders & Doble 6-2; East & Ohlson beat Blizzard & Edmond 7-6. **Group 3:** Mike Shattock & John Clark beat Bill Chambers & John Halliday 5-4; Shattock & Clark beat Simon Mansfield & Richard Gilbert 5-5; Chambers & Halliday beat Mansfield & Gilbert 13-2. **Group 4:** Ron Slade & Tom Mayhew beat Karen Prottey & Dick Cowling 6-3; Nick Carew Hunt & Robin Mulcahy beat Prottey & Cowling 5-4; Carew Hunt & Mulcahy beat Slade & Mayhew 11-0.

Semi-finals: Blizzard & Edmond beat Sheraton-Davis & Sheraton-Davis 8-6; Carew Hunt & Mulcahy beat Shattock & Clark 8-3.

Final: Carew Hunt & Mulcahy beat Blizzard & Edmond 8-6.

Summer Night Pennant

Final: Blizzard/Buckley/Dagnall beat Edmond/Wolfe/Daly 11-3. David Blizzard beat Simon Edmond 6-5; Oliver Buckley beat Anthony Wolfe 6-0; John Dagnall beat Martin Daly 6-5; Blizzard & Buckley beat Edmond & Wolfe 6-2; Blizzard & Dagnall beat Edmond & Daly 6-4; Buckley & Dagnall beat Wolfe & Daly 6-3.

Barker Camm Cup

Grade F, semi-finals: Phil Beard beat David Glover 6-5 6-4; Henry Skinner beat Glyn Saunders 6-2 6-2.

Final: Beard beat Skinner 6-2 5-6 6-5.

RTC Top Ten

Leading handicaps
September 2011

1	Peter Wright	3.3
2	Dave Harms	5.8
3	Robert Hird	7.1
4	David Watson	9.7
5	James Watson	12.3
6	Nick Hatchett	14.6
7	James Sohl	15.4
8	Simon Barker	16.1
9	Tom Freeman	17.7
10	Karen Hird	19.9

The Royal Tennis Court Newsletter

is published four times a year and the editor would love any contributions from members. Please get in touch if you have any ideas for the winter issue, either via the professionals or by email at the address below.

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