

THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT

Hampton Court Palace



KING CHARLES

CHARLIE CROSSLEY TAKES PETER WRIGHT'S CLUB CROWN

See page 3

The Autumn Newsletter 2013

Number 105

chairman's chat

Welcome to Josh Smith, who joins the club as our new trainee professional. While Josh comes from a squash background, I am confident he will quickly improve his real tennis handicap on his way to becoming a full professional. Josh has already proved popular with the members with his engaging cheerful personality.

Some of you will have already met another new face at the club, Jean-Pierre Guillonnet. JP is a very experienced lawn tennis coach who has played real tennis for many years. He is helping the club to try to increase the number of juniors who play here by reaching out to schools in the area – as well as aiming to improve his own real tennis standard at the same time with some coaching from the club professionals.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the proposal to run a club open day on 28 September 2013. Following consideration it was felt that, with the high court demand at this time of the year, it would be unfair on members to take out so many courts on a Saturday. The Open Day will now take place on Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 2014 – further details to follow.

We have started on the process of undertaking some improvements to the club. The sitting room and dining room have been swapped over for a trial period, and initial feedback has been positive. We have purchased two leather sofas and a coffee table and TV cabinet will follow, while we will also be forming a

drinks station at the end of the galley kitchen. Hopefully these works will be completed by the end of the year.

Over the next few months we have social and team matches, the Club Dinner, the annual Carol Service and the aforementioned Open Day. The future success of any club relies upon not just providing a sporting facility, but also a place where members can socialise. Many members actively support club functions, but there are also many others who do not, and it would be fantastic if more members could actively support events.

Including myself, we have ten board members. Below I have listed their names and relevant areas of responsibility. All of us give our time for free, for the wellbeing of the club and the game of real tennis. We try, where possible, to limit costs of running events by undertaking most of the duties ourselves, but sometimes we have no choice. If you are able to give some time, please feel free to approach the relevant board member or myself to offer your services, if only for a couple of hours. To misquote from a Kennedy speech, "It is not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club"!



Julian Sheraton-Davis

RTC BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Crossley (membership secretary)
Nicola Doble (ladies' tennis and tournaments)
John Halliday (facilities)
Richard Lawrence (health and safety)
David Main (honorary treasurer)

Geoffrey Russell (honorary secretary)
Owen Saunders (social)
Julian Sheraton-Davis (chairman)
Fraser Shorey (premises)
James Sohl (men's tennis and tournaments)

CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS!

This autumn we are holding the first competition for members to design an image that will be displayed for a year in the main corridor.

The theme is 'Tennis at Hampton Court' and paintings, drawings or photographs are all eligible. The competition is open to all members and their children. The winning image will be framed and hung in the corridor throughout 2014 and will also be produced as a greetings card available for members to buy.

The deadline for entries is **Tuesday 10 December**. The winner will be announced and displayed at the Carol Service on 18 December. Photographs can be emailed to osaunders@hotmail.com and other pictures can be posted to the club or left with the professionals.

COMING UP

RTC

1 Nov: RTC v Bordeaux (social match)
2-3 Nov: Barker Camm Cup Grade E (50-59 handicaps)
9-10 Nov: Harris Watson Trophy doubles (early rounds)
24 Nov: Brodie Cup: RTC v Newmarket/Jesmond Dene
1 Dec: RTC v Cambridge (social match)
7-8 Dec: Barker Camm Cup Grade D (40-49)
15 Dec: Pol Roger Trophy: RTC v Oxford
18 Dec: Annual Carol Service

ELSEWHERE

1-3 Nov: US Ladies' Open (Washington)
2-3 Nov: Inter-Club Singles/Doubles (Moreton Morrell)
17-26 Nov: British Open (Queen's)
23 Nov: T&RA Annual General Meeting (Queen's)
29 Nov-1 Dec: Over-50 Amateur Singles (Oratory)
6-8 Dec: Doubles Handicap Tournament (Leamington)

Maverick shoots Ice Man down

Charlie Crossley has won his first Barker Camm Cup after a pulsating battle

Prost and Senna; Borg and McEnroe; Davis and Higgins; Faldo and Ballesteros; Lauda and Hunt; Gooch and Gower... so often the careers of great sportsmen run parallel with others, offering a fascinating contrast between their personalities and styles. Ice men versus mavericks.

So it is with our two Barker Camm Cup finalists vying for the title of club champion. Cast in the role of professor was the defending champion, Peter Wright – a deliberate, calculating player whose mission appears to be to get every single ball back in play, preferably off the middle strings of a perfectly perpendicular racket face. Up against him was Charlie Crossley, whose creative array of strokes ranges from Exocet-paced forces to heavily cut fuzzers and surprisingly soft-handed dinks. No prizes for guessing who wears out their strings more quickly here.

Last year Peter had dealt fairly comfortably with an unwell Charlie, but this time it was the latter who settled more quickly, taking advantage of some loose serving to establish a 3-1 lead. Peter needed a wake-up call – and it duly came at the start of the fifth game, although perhaps more violently than he might have liked. As he prepared to defend the dedans from a main-wall force, the ball kicked off the wall closer to him than anticipated, catching the inside edge of his racket and ricocheting into his face. It was a painful blow that required a short break



Before the battle: Peter Wright (left) and Charlie Crossley

so that Peter could gather his senses – but the restart saw a newly focused champion. At the service end he began to unleash his trademark volleying, while at the other end he returned some perfectly respectable railroad serves past Charlie's backhand side into the dedans, via shallow boasts off the side wall underneath winning gallery.

A 1-3 deficit soon became a 4-3 lead for Peter. People talk of the "crucial seventh game", but in this case it was the eighth, lasting several deuces, that held the key to this first set. Some of the best tennis of the match came in this game, and it was Peter who found the killer blow with a fine backhand.

Serving for the set, Peter hit a hot streak, finding winning gallery twice and making some tremendous reaction volleys when Charlie opted for power. First set to Peter 6-3, then, and when he quickly added the first game of the

second set it looked ominous for Charlie, whose focus had seemingly wandered.

This was just a temporary blip, though, and Charlie emerged from his rough patch with renewed consistency. Suddenly his cut volleys were finding the corners of the court rather than the tape of the net, as the quality of his returning left Peter struggling to find an effective serve. Having lost six games in a row, Charlie set off on a winning streak of his own, taking five on the trot to lead 5-1. Peter pulled one game back, but this time it was Charlie's turn to finish off a set with a backhand winner

and we were into a decisive third set.

Charlie carried his momentum into the third set, while Peter was now making more errors than usual. A love game gave Charlie a 3-1 lead, before a simple forehand error from Peter at 30-40 sent him 4-1 down. It wasn't long before Charlie had made it 5-1 and stood at match point, 40-15 up and defending a chase of better than four. Two desperate lunges in the corners kept him in the point, and when he got a chance to finish it he did, sending the ball off the main wall and tambour behind Peter and nestling too close to the back wall to retrieve. The comeback was complete, 3-6 6-2 6-1, and the club had a new champion to toast.

Straight after the match, Charlie was outside enjoying a well-earned cigarette, before returning to collect his prize of a magnum of Pol Roger. James Hunt would be proud.

Photographs here and on cover by John Halliday

NEWS IN BRIEF • NEWS IN BRIEF • NEWS IN BRIEF

Club competitions

Congratulations to David Stephens and Phil Beard on winning the de Laszlo Bowl, beating Scott Levy and Ron Slade in the final. Meanwhile the Barker Camm Cup is already under way, with Doris Siedentopf taking the Grade F (60+ handicap) title by defeating Ian Wimbush 6-3 6-2 in the final. Grade E (50-59) will take place on 2/3 November.

Holyport takeover

After months of uncertainty over its future, our Berkshire neighbour is under new ownership after its sale to a group of

Holyport members. The professional team remains in place under Chris Bray, and is boosted by the return of prodigal son Andy Chinneck from the Oratory.

Sydney project

With help from Claire Vigrass, the members of the homeless Sydney club have put together a brochure for their proposed two-court development in Moore Park. They are determined to raise the funds required to restore real tennis to Sydney, where the Macquarie University court closed in 2005. You can find out more at sydneyrealtennis.com.au.

Mather bursts Simpson's bubbles

Pol Roger man narrowly fails to win his own magnum in the Lathom-Browne Cup final

For the second consecutive year, a Mather has won the Lathom Browne Cup to become the club's handicap singles champion. Unlike John Mather's 9-0 final stroll, however, younger brother Peter had to dig very, very deep in order to keep the trophy in the family.

This year's final, as befitting a handicap competition, offered a contrast of styles and characters, if not such a large gulf in playing ability. On the one hand there was Peter: young, lithe, wristy and playing a range of strokes with a mixture of touch, spin and pace. Up against his was 'the Man from Pol Roger', James Simpson: slightly less young, broad-shouldered and with a blunt, uncomplicated game to match. Indeed, during the final he even remarked on his rugby background after one unsubtle blow.

Peter had been improving throughout the season, so it was no surprise to see him reach the final. Along the way he defeated 2011 finalist John Harbord-Hamond and, in an enthralling semi-final, his defending champion brother, winning the decisive 40-all point at 8-8.

James had come through some tight



Peter Mather (left) and James Simpson could hardly be separated in an hour of topsy-turvy fortunes

matches on his way to the semi-final, but at that stage things really clicked as he steamrolled grade A winner Chris Swan 9-0.

Both men were playing slightly better than their April-set final handicaps, but early on in the final Peter, giving owe 15, threatened to run away with it. At 3-0 he was firmly established at the service end and looking good.

As James got going, however, Peter started to hit too many balls up on to the penthouse. The first key moment came with the first 40-all point, with Peter 4-1 ahead. A fabulous chance of a 5-1 lead was spurned, a forehand into the net giving James a lifeline at 4-2.

After some good serving by James it was 4-4, 5-4 and then 6-4, after a good force down Peter's backhand side forced a framed volley into the net.

A forehand error from Peter made it 7-4 – six games in a row for James, and Peter's earlier consistency had totally evaporated. Just in time, he settled down and fought back, with fine retrieving helping him claim the next two games. The 14th game was beyond him, though, as James found winning gallery with a half-volley and produced a terrific low volley to lead 8-6.

Back came Peter, with his own volleying to the fore. 8-6 became 8-8 – and crucially Peter was serving at the start of the final game. James opened up with a main-wall force into the dedans, but Peter hit two winning forehands, James found the net and then the roof, and at 40-15 Peter struck a forehand to the main wall and tambour that sealed his comeback and a 9-8 triumph.

So, the Man from Pol Roger had to be content with a bottle of his own product, while his opponent made off with a magnum to share with his family. Father Paul was a keen observer in the dedans – surely, he must be thinking, next year will be his turn...

EDMUND COHEN (1926-2013)

It seems fitting for someone who loved tennis so much that Edmund Cohen spent his whole working life working for a company (his family's firm) called Courts. After serving in the war for the Royal Artillery and then studying economics at Cambridge, he joined the furniture retailer in 1950 and remained a director until 1999.

After losing his wife Daphne in 1994, Edmund devoted much of his time and energy to helping others, most notably founding and being a benefactor to the Edmund Cohen Vascular Research Laboratory in Barbados. He also supported many of the UK's most promising tennis players, including Andy and Jamie Murray, Anne Keothavong and Laura Robson. Shortly before his death he was present at the All England Club to see Andy Murray become Wimbledon champion.

He was a lover of football and cricket, but as he got older tennis became an ever greater part of his life – and then he discovered real tennis, playing at Queen's and the Royal Tennis Court until as recently as this summer.

SANDY SEMPLINER (1953-2013)

Sandy Sempliner, who succumbed to cancer in August, was an enthusiastic player of real tennis with whom every opponent enjoyed playing. He was an artist and aid worker who divided his time between the United States and Mayfair, where he used to drive around in classic cars. He taught art to international students in Marylebone and was an aficionado of gentlemen's clubs around the world.

Middlesex heavens

Once again the RTC welcomed the country's club handicap champions for the Chetwood Trophy, and again a talented young prodigy claimed the spoils

With the field comprising the finalists from many clubs' handicap singles competitions, the Chetwood Trophy brings together players of all ages, abilities, shapes and sizes. Last year 15-year-old Henry Mullan of Bristol beat a 12-year-old in the final; sadly an injury meant Master Mullan was unable to defend his title.

After more than two days of round-robin play, the final four had an Anglo-Russian Hendon feel, with Irina Dulbish and fellow Middlesex member Zuzana Botkova launching a joint assault. Irina, the captain of her university's lawn tennis team, is still learning the nuances of the royal game but displayed a talent way beyond the 49 handicap she was playing off here, especially if anyone was foolish enough to feed her volleys. In her semi-final she was too good for Pete Rose (52) of Prested Hall, who battled away and took his 6-4 defeat very graciously.

Zuzana (70) was then up against John



Winner Irina Dulbish with Nick Wood

Balfour-Lynn (60) of Hatfield House. This match was nip and tuck, but John's relentless side-wall serve won him a lot of easy points on the way to a 6-4 win, ending the hopes of a Middlesex final.

In the early stages of the final Irina held the service end and dominated, making light work of the handicap allowance she was giving up. At 4-1 (in a match to 8) she was cruising.

After two 40-all games were shared,

however, Irina lost her focus and John smelled blood. He spent more time up at the service end and was rewarded with a 6-6 scoreline. Honours even – but Irina was having a crisis of confidence.

She played a strong game to go 7-6 up, and the next game went all the way to 40 all – championship point. Attacking a hazard chase, Irina netted.

Remarkably, a tense final game also went to 40 all! After a few cautious strokes from both, John, at the service end, hit a ball to Irina's backhand side. Stretching to get it back, Irina looped it up, and the spectators in the dedans saw it dropping towards them with a sense of inevitability. John saw it too, but too late. The ball nestled into the dedans netting and Irina was an elated and very relieved champion.

It was a fitting climax, and great credit should go to Nick Wood and his professional team, who dealt with all manner of logistical challenges before and during the weekend and marked with authority and patience.

Hambusters breach Radley

Tuesday 3 September 2013 will stand out as one of the great days in the legend of this historic tennis court. It was on this day at 1400hrs that the RTC Hambusters team, led by Graham Aston, did administer a sound thrashing to a team from Radley.

It should now be admitted that previous reports of this biannual fixture gave the impression of Hambusters being victorious. The truth is that Radley won each and every encounter.

But this day was to be turned on its greying head. Captain Aston started off using his splendid touch and court sense (as you would expect from someone who plays squash, lawn tennis and real tennis six times a week), to earn a splendid 8-2 victory over John Miller. He then handed the baton to John Clark and David Glover for the first doubles. Their performance in the first four games would have been improved had they

used batons rather than rackets. But Hambusters had a cunning plan! Their opponents were lulled into a state of overconfidence, which was when Clark & Glover pounced to push the rubber to a nail-biting 7-7 scoreline. Sadly Radley squeaked home 8-7.

Next on was Martin Bronstein, who gave a dazzling, breathtaking display of racket ability, court sense and lightning movement that even had the many tourists cheering and whistling.

(I should point out that Martin Bronstein is the writer of this report. Ed.) His opponent, Ken Mannering, could do nothing with an array of serves and backhand cuts that would have had Rob Fahey begging for mercy. The rubber finished 8-1 and now Hambusters were well and truly in the driving seat on the front foot. *(Physically impossible, surely? Ed.)*

Aston & Clark turned the tables with an 8-7 win, this despite Clark falling over and hitting his head on the floor, as he had done at Radley six

months ago. On each occasion John's playing improved markedly after the head-bashing.

David Glover (having set up his many cameras, checked the lighting and acoustics) could now concentrate on the tennis and showed great strategic thinking with the use of his forehand crosscourt from the service end. Simon Holland put up a good fight but Glover would not be denied and won 8-6. Victory was ours!

In the final doubles, Aston and Maestro Bronstein led 4-1 but then succumbed to the consistency of the Radley pair and lost 8-5, the previously impeccable Bronstein returning the final four serves into the net. Final score: 4-2 to the Hambusters. Game count: 47-29.

Another great afternoon, a first for the Hambusters, who now have the measure of Chris Ronaldson's team selection. Roll on March 2014, when coaches will be laid on for the trip to Radley. Buy tickets on eBay now.

World title countdown

With the world title up for grabs again next May in Melbourne, we are now in a key phase of the race to challenge Rob Fahey.

The new season has seen Camden Riviere – who has usurped Fahey as world No 1 – continue his domination of the circuit. First off he took the French Open in Paris with a destruction of Steve Virgona, after the Australian had beaten Fahey. Then the American added the European Open at Lord's, edging a 3.5-hour, five-set thriller over Fahey.

As this newsletter went to press, Riviere and Fahey were preparing to go at it again, in the final of the IRTPA Championships up in Manchester.

Barring miracles, the quartet who will do battle in the new year for the right to face Fahey will be Riviere, Virgona, British No 1 Bryn Sayers (currently struggling with tennis elbow) and Tim Chisholm of the US. The man to beat right now is unquestionably Riviere.

Chris Chapman

Chris has enjoyed a very solid start to the season. In Paris he was unfortunate to face Virgona in the first round but did take a set off the world No 3. In the European Open he had an impressively smooth win over Jon Dawes before running into Fahey in the semi-finals, and at Manchester he again reached the semis and again fell to Fahey.

World Doubles

While they were in Paris, the world's elite also fought it out for the World

Wood's Words

Head pro Nick Wood on what we can do for the 'good of the game'

If I were to choose just one thing that stands out from training during my real tennis apprenticeship (a long time ago now), it would be the phrase "all for the good of the game". These few words were ingrained into me and have underpinned a lifetime's passion, as everything I have strived for has been for "the good of the game".

The final of the club championship saw an extremely high-quality match between Peter Wright and Charlie Crossley; as the match marker, I was being assessed to attain a level 3 marking certificate. Not only was it important to provide the best officiating for the players, I was also endeavouring to achieve a higher qualification as a professional – these qualifications are all part of the newly established Club Professional Development programme (CPD).

The CPD programme's underlying ethos is "all for the good of the game". The programme aims to assist in the future of the game by increasing the

quality of new individuals taking up the profession and developing pros' skills to help take the game forward in clubs around the country.

At the RTC, the membership has a team of professionals who are naturally enthusiastic and ambitious, who are all keen to be involved with the CPD programme. Their continued development brings an added level of skill to the RTC, shared with you as the members on a daily basis.

We are all fortunate to have found this wonderful game, and in our case particularly fortunate to be playing in such majestic surroundings. If we are privileged enough to enjoy the game, so can others; if we all, as the current custodians of the game, wish it to survive and grow, we must do all we can for the good of the game.

If you have any thoughts, ideas or the time and energy to help with the future of real tennis, or you want to know more about the CPD, please get in touch with me.

PS Level 3 marking result, pending!

Doubles, won the previous five times by Fahey and Virgona. As expected, it was Riviere and Chisholm who took them on in a best-of-9-sets final, and as expected it was close – very close.

While there wasn't much subtlety on display, the quality was undeniable, as all four players dealt admirably with the incredible speed of the rallies. Virgona and Chisholm in particular generated huge pace.

The champions leapt out to a 3-0 lead on day one, but the Americans hauled them back, saving championship points in a thrilling eighth set to level the match. The deciding set also went to 5-5, and at 30-30 no one could guess what might happen next. No one would have predicted two errors by Riviere – but that is what happened, and the Australians could breathe sighs of relief and celebrate a sixth title.



Start your Christmas celebrations by joining us at

The RTC Annual Carol Service

in the Chapel Royal on Wednesday 18 December 2013 at 7.30pm

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the club

Tickets: £14 (or £12 per head for groups of four or more) available from the pros.
If applying by post, cheques, made payable to the Royal Tennis Court,
should be sent to the club with the application (please enclose SAE)

Welcome... Josh Smith

Many of you will already have had the pleasure of meeting our new trainee professional, Josh Smith, who joined Nick Wood's team in September. If you have, you'll probably have noticed the relaxed, assured manner that helped him during the frenetic early weeks in which he had to absorb a huge amount of information about the game, the club and the varied elements of the job.

"The first week was... not quite overwhelming, but there was such an influx of information, and it was a case of trying to remember everything while doing the job at the same time," he says.

Fortunately for Hampshire-reared Josh, he comes equipped with some useful skills, namely a strong squash background (to help him on court) and a degree in psychology and criminology (the former of which, at least, will come in handy off court). So now it's merely a case of perfecting his game, mastering the mysterious arts of marking, ball-making and racket maintenance, learning the names, faces and foibles of a few hundred members, and remembering that Lathom-Browne is not a shade of Dulux paint and that the



De Laszlo Bowl is not a receptacle for breakfast cereals.

Among the most daunting tasks for any new real tennis pro must be ball-making. Not so for Josh, it seems, as he spent the 16 months between graduating from university and joining RTC making use of his hands: doing gardening work and also pursuing an entrepreneurial career with his girlfriend, making and selling hand-crafted items. "One of the things I like about this job is that it's hands-on, physical," he says. "I enjoy making stuff. When I'm making a ball, I know

it's going to end up on court, and I want mine to be as good as Nick's."

As for marking, Josh highlights an unease that many of us have felt at times: marking someone who is better than him at the game (for now, anyway). "It's a confidence thing, and I'm more confident marking players with handicaps in the teens now."

Of course, developing his own game is important too. His squash skills, athleticism and those 7am practice sessions with Nick and Chris will all help. "It gets the day off to a good start – you can be productive after that," he says. As you would expect with any pupil of Nick Wood, Josh says they have been spending "lots of time on the floor game – whatever comes over the net, making sure I get it back. Then I can develop other things later."

While a handicap is usually a fair reflection of someone's standard, it can also become too much of a focus for many of us – something Josh is already aware of. "I'm trying really hard not to think about it, to put it to one side," he says. Having reduced his by 10 points in just a couple of months, it seems that policy is paying dividends.

...and JP Guillonnet

At the other end of the experience scale from Josh Smith is Jean-Pierre 'JP' Guillonnet, a seasoned lawn tennis coach who is helping out part-time at RTC as a junior development officer, reflecting the club's commitment to nurturing the future membership of the club and long-term health of the game.

After 17 years as a lawn tennis pro, JP moved into banking as a financial adviser, although he did also keep his hand in with tennis coaching. In 2009, though, he had had enough of the financial world and moved back into tennis full-time, first at a David Lloyd centre and then ploughing his own furrow. He has had great success bringing kids along at Ham & Petersham and runs squads of players aged 10-18 at Roehampton, helping as many as 120 kids a week.



Now he's aiming to get the next generation playing real tennis – involving local schools such as the Vineyard in Richmond, Grey Court in Ham and Tiffin Girls in Kingston. The aim, he says, is to target children aged 12 and under, particularly those in the final year of primary education and

the first year of secondary school.

The club enjoyed a strong few years for youngsters a while back, thanks mainly to members' offspring (hence familiar names such as Watson, Hird and Halliday). But behind that now

twentysomething generation is a gulf that urgently needs filling.

While there's no formal structure yet for the junior development programme, we can expect to hear much more from JP in the coming months, as well as seeing more young people taking to the court.

Social v Jesmond

Our visitors from Jesmond Dene had enjoyed the evening before the match, which took its toll on the earlier rubbers in this social inter-club encounter. The handicaps were closely matched in most rubbers, but Robin Mulcahy did have to overcome an owe-30/rec-15 deficit to win his singles with some careful play.



Lunch saw a variety of Thai curries served and the club's wine stocks duly depleted – but the hospitality did not extend to the result, with the home team prevailing 5-2.

The visitors were given a brief tour of the palace gardens before being returned to their hotel in Kew to prepare for the following day's match against Queen's.

Oliver Buckley

Wimbledon champions

The organiser of RTC's inaugural golf day clearly planned it well...

How can such a wonderful day ever be matched? The inaugural RTC Golf Competition was held at the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club in late July. The weather was perfect, the sandwiches afterwards kept coming and the company was of course jolly, understanding, appreciative, sympathetic, consoling, encouraging and patient – all necessary for team golf.

Of course, the event was rigged by the organiser, who played as mascot only to an in-form team of David Watson, Richard Harris and Bernard Weatherill (team captain). Runners-up were David Jeffcoate's team, featuring Sara Stewart, Adam Stebbings and Fred Satow. Thanks also to the other hosts, Ralph Cake and Stephen Brook.



Weatherill, Harris, Ronaldson, Watson

The prizes were modest so that a donation of over £70 could be made to The RTC Junior fund to help the young tennis players of RTC afford to play and improve by contributing to their entry fees, lessons etc.

The day was a great success and next year will be repeated at St George's Hill Golf Club.

Lesley Ronaldson

ANAGRAMS

Can you identify the past and present real tennis maestros? (Answers at bottom of page)

- 1 Jail Now Sun
- 2 Breathiest Creeper
- 3 We Say Invade
- 4 Foyer Bather
- 5 Vinegar Stove
- 6 Scalds Iron Horn

A palace visitor overheard in the galley corridor...

"It's like squash – but for dead people"

Charming.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

On reading the Summer Newsletter I noted with some trepidation the inclusion of a ranking table (Top Ten) for left-handers. Now while I have nothing against left-handers, this sort of thing could be the thin edge of the web for endless Top Ten lists.

In the present climate would there be clamourings for a Gay Top Ten? Also, I am aware of one prominent club member who has the sight of just one eye; could this lead to a Nelson Top Ten? Would this then lead to a Gay, One-eyed, Left-handers Top Ten?

Do you think that in the archives you would find an historic ranking for Reigning Monarchs with Six Wives? I doubt it.

Yr. Obdnt. Svt.

Martin Bronstein (right-handed, heterosexual, binocular)

RTC Top Ten

Handicaps
October 2013

1	Peter Wright	4.1
2	Charlie Crossley	5.8
3	Dave Harms	7.6
4	David Watson	9.7
5	Tom Freeman	14.0
6	James Watson	15.5
7	Phil Dunn	16.1
8	Ed Kay	16.4
9=	Simon Barker	16.8
9=	James Sohl	16.8

UK Top Ten

(Not to be confused with world ranking points)

1	Bryn Sayers	+7.3
2	Ricardo Smith	+5.4
3	Ben Matthews	+3.1
4	Nick Wood	+3.0
5	Jamie Douglas (amateur)	+0.8
6	David Woodman	+0.7
7	Conor Medlow (amateur)	0.6
8	Tom Durack	0.7
9	Andrew Lyons	1.5
10	Jon Dawes	1.9

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.

Editor: Simon Edmond

newsletter@royaltenniscourt.com

RESULTS

Barker Camm Cup

Final: Charlie Crossley beat Peter Wright 3-6 6-2 6-1.

Lathom Browne Cup

Final: Peter Mather beat James Simpson 9-8.

RTC v Jesmond Dene (social)

RTC won 5-2. Oliver Buckley beat Gordon Reed 9-7; Buckley & Richard East beat Reed & Jon Hanson 9-5; Nick Carew Hunt lost to Hanson 7-9; Carew Hunt & John Clark lost to John Taylor & Ian Fairley 6-10; Robin Mulcahy beat Fairley 8-5; Julian Sheraton-Davis & East beat Reed & Taylor 7-6; Sheraton-Davis drew with John Taylor 8-8; Mulcahy & Clark beat Hanson & Fairley 8-7.

French Open (Paris)

Men's semi-finals: Camden Riviere beat Tim Chisholm 4-6 6-4 6-3 6-2; Steve Virgona beat Rob Fahey 5-6 6-2 6-3 6-3.

Final: Riviere beat Virgona 6-0 6-4 6-0.

Ladies' semi-finals: Claire Vigrass beat Frederika Adam 6-0 6-0; Penny Lumley beat Sue Haswell 6-2 6-1. **Final:** Vigrass beat Lumley 6-0 6-2.

World Doubles (Paris)

Final: Fahey & Virgona beat Riviere & Chisholm 5 sets to 4: 6-5 6-4 6-1 1-6 0-6 6-5 4-6 5-6 6-5.

European Open (Lord's)

Semi-finals: Rob Fahey beat Chris Chapman 6-0 6-3 6-1; Camden Riviere beat Ben Matthews 5-6 6-5 6-1 6-3.

Final: Riviere beat Fahey 6-4 5-6 3-6 6-2 6-3.

Anagram answers: 1 Julian Snow 2 Pierre Etchebaster 3 Wayne Davies 4 Robert Fahey 5 Steve Virgona 6 Chris Ronaldson