



THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT



Almost a corker

RTC just pipped in Pol Roger thriller

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Fancy Real Tennis Down under? Here's what you need to know

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Josh the giant-killer

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020 8977 3015 info@royaltenniscourt.com www.royaltenniscourt.com

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Through the dark days of winter from Christmas to the daffodils now in full bloom in the Wilderness...a lot has been happening at The Royal Tennis Court. Of all the indicators of success that the Board considers, court occupancy is central to measuring the club's performance. In 2018, the figure was 95% across the whole 12 months – counting all court usage from 7am to 11pm (for comparison, it was 91% and 93% in the two preceding years). This is an extraordinary figure: our court is the most intensively used in the world, thanks both to the work of the Professional team and the commitment of our members to play tennis at every possible hour of the day and night.

National League Premier Division tennis has been reorganised this year and it was good in February to host RTC's professionals Chris Chapman and Josh Smith against Leamington/Manchester. Josh had his best win yet - against Darren Long. Although the other two matches were narrowly lost, it was still a fine evening's tennis with a good RTC crowd in support.

I was also delighted to attend the final of The Chairman's Cup - the club's leading annual trophy for juniors. In a riveting final, which went to 5-5 in the final set, Ivan Barker just squeaked home against George Parsons, both playing fine tennis. The development of our junior programme under the leadership of Sarah Parsons and tutelage of Josh Smith has been one of the club's recent outstanding achievements.

I share my passion for tennis with a similar enthusiasm for skiing and, now retired from full time work and with the good fortune to have an apartment in the French Alps, we managed to spend eight weeks of the winter over there. This was highly beneficial for my skiing but equally detrimental to my tennis. I've spent the winter trying to keep my weight centred and balanced over both skis, only to find myself back on court with zero mobility and playing all my shots front on. As a consequence, my handicap has taken a hammering although, naturally, I am delighted at the corresponding handicap progress my opponents have made!



Finally, a nudge about two club events coming up. On Saturday 11th May, the Chairman's Event Quiz Night will again feature quizmaster Owen Saunders and promises to be another highly enjoyable evening. All proceeds will go to the new fund to support junior tennis, set up in memory of our old friend Ged Eden who tragically passed away earlier this year. Then on Sunday 12th May at 11am, the Annual General Meeting is your chance to express your support (or otherwise!) for the Board's proposals for the coming year and to contribute to discussion about the club's future. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Michael Day CVO

Board Talk 18/3/19

Professional's Report: NW noted that court usage continues to be healthy with what looks to be the best-ever January/February usage of 97/98%. The Board was pleased with the progress on reducing debtors overdue. It was noted that Richmond is twinned with Fontainebleau where there is a real tennis court, and there may be the opportunity for a future relationship.

Finance: The Board agreed the 2019/20 budget including future rates for Subscriptions and court fees, which will be presented to members at the AGM. Rates for Juniors will be maintained at current levels. We will consult with members on all payments becoming cashless at some future point. The reserve funds stand at £175,000, a 2.9% increase y/y. This is consistent with the Board's agreed reserves policy. However, IW will seek a quote for business interruption insurance, although we expect cover not to be cost effective.

Premises: The ladies' shower has now been replaced. The court will be closed from 13th May for two weeks to allow for replacement of gallery netting and fixings to posts, with play possible before 8am and after 5pm. There is concern that the lighting is not as reliable as we had been led to believe; discussions will take place with the original contractors.

Tennis and Tournaments: The Board discussed a response to the recent T&RA's highlighting of the risk of eye injury on the Real Tennis court after a recent injury to a player at Hyde. It was agreed that we will make members aware of the risk and leave it to members to decide if they take additional precaution, whilst reminding them that they play at their own risk. We will include this risk in our induction sessions for juniors.

Health and Safety: When there are acci-

dents on court the professional on duty sends an e-mail to the Pro team, including any likely cause. NW will review the template report to check that we properly recognise any future actions we need to take in case of an accident. The H&S Board rep will confirm the final template and will be copied on such notification emails.

Social: The proceeds of the Chairman's Quiz on 11th May will go to the fund supporting juniors, in memory of the late Ged Eden and in agreement with his brother.

Any Other Business: AGM: The AGM will take place at 11am on Sunday 12th May at the club rooms. John Halliday's term completes at the AGM, and, regrettably, he has decided not to stand again. MD thanked JH for his considerable contribution over his six years' service, and this was unanimously agreed by the Board.

MCC bursts our bubble

First Round: Manchester at Home (December):

RTC were buoyed by the news that Manchester would be forfeiting the second doubles meaning that James Sohl's calf strain could be allowed to heal properly and the absence of Charlie Packham would not be felt so keenly. In the first rubber, Phil Dunn played Rackets world number 6 Alex Duncliffe-Vines. The first set was tight but Alex won 6-4, the second set was a whitewash to Phil 6-0 and the final set was a repeat of the first with Alex keeping his best tennis for the final games, allowing him to snatch the set 6-5 and with it the rubber. The next rubber was the first doubles with RTC Champions the Watsons far too good for Adam Holloway and Jamie Bebb - RTC won 6-0, 6-1 to lead 2-1 overall. In the first singles, RTC's Peter Wright faced significantly younger opposition in the form of Rob Shenkman, returning from studying in Spain for the match. Peter was far too consistent for Rob as the latter's rustiness showed. Peter won 6-2, 6-4 so RTC now had an unassailable 3-1 lead. In the final rubber, the third singles, Tom Freeman played consistent tennis, building on his victory in the last Barker Camm Cup, to defeat Simon Shenkman after a tight first set 6-5, 6-2 giving RTC a 4-1 victory.

Semi-final: Cambridge at Home (January):

A potentially tricky semi-final was made more straightforward by the news that Cambridge were using a last-minute stand in following an injury to Under 21 Champion Ed Hyde. In the second doubles, Sohl and Packham were steady and showed their significant handicap advantage over Andrew Petrie & Aaron Wieners, cantering to a 6-0, 6-1 victory. In the first singles, Peter Wright faced Amateur Champion Ed Kay (making a return to RTC) - with home court advantage and positive tennis, Peter was able to record an excellent 6-3, 6-4 victory - RTC now lead 2-0. Phil Dunn played Alex Evans in the second singles - Phil had double-bageled Alex on his previous visit to RTC for National League and while the scoreline was a little different, Phil was always in control, winning 6-2, 6-2. The first doubles pitted the Watsons against Jules



David Watson receives the runners-up cup

Camp & Duncan Colquhoun in an entertaining dead rubber. The home team had a comfortable 6-1 first set but then the visiting team took the second 6-4. In the final set the Watsons regained control and won 6-2. Tom Freeman, playing the second dead rubber in a battle of the beards, couldn't find his best form and lost to Jimmy Cambell 4-6, 3-6 but RTC won 4-1 overall.

Final: MCC at Queen's Club

In a repeat of last year's final, RTC were confident of upsetting the reigning champions. The lead-up to the match was fraught as Phil Dunn might have been unavailable on the day - however his second daughter Ruth arrived the weekend before, leaving him free to play. In the second doubles, Charlie Packham and James Sohl won the first set 6-3 against MCC's Neil Roxburgh & Jolyon Symonds. MCC switched receivers at the end of the set and it paid off with a 6-5 second set. James and Charlie were able to switch back by virtue of being at the hazard end at the end of the set (and didn't need the captain's prompting to do so!) and were able to secure the final set 6-3. In the first singles, Peter Wright faced newly crowned Amateur Singles Champion (and his long-time doubles partner) Jamie Douglas. The tennis was a

treat to watch and the scoreline of 6-1, 6-2 to Jamie was a little harsh on Peter. In the second singles, Phil Dunn had points for a 3-1 lead in the first set as well as to get to 5-5 but lost against Jamie Giddins 6-4, 6-1.

With RTC 1-2 down the third singles was crucial. Tom Freeman played Horatio Cary; Horatio got to 5 in the first set first, but Tom kept his composure and was able to snatch the set 6-5. Tom built a 5-2 lead in the second set, but Horatio chipped away at the lead and soon the second set was also 5-5 and despite having set points, Tom lost the set. In previous seasons Tom may have crumbled but he carried on playing consistent tennis, waiting for mistakes from Horatio. The final set had 5-5 written all over it and this scoreline duly arrived. In the final game Horatio made too many mistakes and Tom won the set and the rubber and kept RTC in the match. A properly mature performance from the RTC Champ.

The final rubber pitched RTC Club Champions the Watsons against the formidable pairing of Peter Jarvis and James Acheson-Gray. Following a glancing ball to the face for David in the warm up the Watsons were uncharacteristically slow to get started, being 0-3 down in the first set. From there their tennis improved and the crowd were treated to some spectacular doubles play, but MCC won the first set 6-4. The second set was dominated by the Watsons as they won 6-1. The outcome of the tournament now hinged on the final set of the final match. The MCC pairing were able to put the second set behind them and build a lead of 5-3, however the Watsons were still confident of winning games - and they did win the next to reduce the deficit to 4-5, but that was to be all as MCC won the next game to lift the Pol Roger Trophy for the second year in succession.

The tennis throughout the final was of a very high standard and was a magnificent advert for amateur tennis. Thanks to Pol Roger for sponsoring the tournament and the T&RA for organising it - and to my wife for letting me be away all day so soon after Ruth's arrival!

Phil Dunn

Make your mark

Nick Wood will be delivering a Marking Workshop on Friday 24th May 2019 from 7pm - 10pm. Whether playing your own games, marking for friends, National League, or Night Pennant, this fun evening could help your tennis. It is open to RTC members of all standards. The workshop will cover many aspects of marking, such as a marking overview, accuracy of line calls, clarity of calls, authority, safety and general rules of real tennis. The event will run for three hours and will include a talk on marking, some on-court practical exercises and Q&A's. Cost is £20 and places are limited. To reserve a place please sign up with the Professionals.

The Best there is

David Best, RTC member and noted Real Tennis historian and author, has been awarded the 2018 Plimpton Prize for Literary and Artistic Excellence by the United States Court Tennis Association. The award was presented to David at the USCTA's annual dinner at the New York Racquet and Tennis club in early December. George Plimpton was a key player in starting the Paris Review and was also a real tennis player at the New York Club for 45 years. Paying tribute, the Club wrote to David: "We are all beneficiaries of your fine work as a tennis historian."



Top, the court at Melbourne; below, the Hobart court

A sneak peek at the land Down Under

Julian and Linda Sheraton-Davis spent November 2018 in Australia, visiting friends, touring - and playing Real Tennis! Here's Julian's take on the game

There are currently five accessible Real Tennis courts in Australia: Melbourne (two), Ballarat, Romsey and Hobart.

Royal Melbourne Real Tennis Club

The club is located on the east of the city in a residential area known as Richmond. Parking is limited, but buses and trams pass nearby. The two courts were built in 1974 and are constructed in concrete and blockwork, with a mid-green painted internal finish on cement render. The

penthouses have varnished timber boards, the floors are red epoxy painted and the courts have natural lighting from side windows and a partially glazed roof. The club has a small enclosed garden with an outdoor swimming pool and there is a club room, pro shop and changing rooms.

The courts play with similar characteristics to other modern courts such as Bath and Oratory. The club is very active with high court usage and numerous internal and external competitions and social events.

Ballarat Real Tennis Club

Ballarat is a town with a population of about 100,000 located approximately 100 km northwest of Melbourne. The

Josh the giant-killer claims his scalp

RTC's Josh Smith claimed the biggest scalp of his ever-improving professional career on his home court in February, beating World No. 11 Darren Long two sets to one in a thrilling IRTPA Premier League match.

In spite of dropping the first set 4-6 Josh rarely looked fazed, showing great athleticism across the court and keeping his opponent guessing with some outstanding hitting.

He found his best form in the second set, pinning Darren down time and again and cruising to a 6-1 victory to level the match, helped by near-hysterical support from (especially) the hazard gallery.

A truncated third set opened at 3-3 for time constraints; Darren might have been expected to rise to the occasion but Josh proved too strong for him, taking two games in a row and racing to 40-love up in the final game. One more superb shot and it was all over - set and



Above: Josh Smith winning the prestigious Henry Johns Cup for best young professional at a recent T&RA dinner

match to Josh and cue thunderous applause all round.

The second match of the evening saw a re-run of the French Open final with World No. 3 Chris Chapman, the victor in

Paris, facing off against World No. 4 Ben Taylor-Matthews. Neither player was perhaps on top form, and Ben eventually ran out winner two set to love, game score 6-4, 6-5. In the final match of the evening Ben and Darren beat Chris and Josh 6-3 in an entertaining doubles, a fitting round-off to a great evening.

At the Australian Open Singles Chris beat Matthieu Sarlangue in the first round before falling to Nick Howell in the second. In the doubles Chris and Steve Virgona lost the final to Camden Riviere and Tim Chisholm.

Chris reached the semis of the US Open singles but fell to Rob Fahey. Chris and Matthieu reached the semis of the Doubles but lost to Fahey & Howell.

Huge congratulations to RTC's Izzy Candy who was finalist in the Ladies' World Championship, losing to Claire Fahey. Izzy was also an Australian Open semi-finalist.



Left, the court at Romsey, right, the court at Ballarat

club is in a quiet residential street about half a kilometer to the south of the town.

The court was built in 1974 and has a green epoxy painted floor and dark burgundy painted walls. Construction is a steel portal frame with internally rendered walls. The court has a high ceiling and the penthouse roofs are varnished timber boards. At the rear of the court are the members' rooms with a glazed dedans, a pro shop and changing facilities. The club is quite well used considering that Ballarat, a former gold mining town, is sparsely populated.

Romsey Real Tennis Court - Cope Williams Winery

The town of Romsey is in a rural area about 60 km north of Melbourne. The court is on a 15-acre winery estate about two km to the west of the town. The complex including the tennis court was built and is owned by a real tennis enthusiast, Gordon Cope-Williams. The complex also includes residential rooms,

meeting and club rooms and a full-sized cricket pitch with pavilion, most of which were built within the past 30 years.

The court has a mulberry epoxy painted floor with off-white and cream painted walls. The penthouses are varnished timber boards. Being steel-framed, the court has a high ceiling apart from four small horizontal steel cross tie bars. The main wall and below the dedans are constructed in blockwork with cement render, whilst below the galleries the walls are of plywood sandwich construction. We understand that, for cost reasons, the court is about six feet longer at each end than a standard court. The dedans appears slightly smaller than normal. The two ends of the court are mostly glazed, thereby giving lots of viewing opportunities. The tambour, faced with varnished timber boards, twists, with the angle becoming less acute at the top.

Until recently the court was used

as an art gallery. However, Gordon Cope-Williams is keen to build up the membership, particularly after the Earl of Wessex's visit in 2018 stirred up much local publicity for the court and Real Tennis.

Hobart Real Tennis Club

Hobart is the principal city of Tasmania and is located on the south east coast of the island. Hobart has a population of about 220,000. The court, dating from 1875, is the oldest in Australia and is located close to the centre of town in a mixed residential and commercial area.

Recently the club has seen several improvements, including to the changing facilities and first floor lounge. The court has a red painted floor and black painted walls. Club rooms are located on the ground and first floors, with glazed dedans and upper viewing areas. There is some on-site parking. The club appears to be well used and, despite its distance from other clubs, manages to arrange home and

away matches. The court floor appeared to be quite 'bouncy', but this may have been because it had just been painted.

Proposed New Court in Sydney

Whilst in Sydney we met Sav Cremona, an architect and keen Real Tennis player who is instrumental in the scheme to build another court in Sydney, the previous one on the university campus having been put to other uses.

Sav has played on many courts around the world and hopes to combine the best of each. The reason for our meeting was that he wanted to know more about the lighting at RTC, with a view to using it for the new Sydney court. It is hoped this court will be built at the Cheltenham Recreational Club, which already has lawn tennis, croquet and bowls sections, in a residential suburb northwest of Sydney. They are currently fund raising. We wish them luck with this project and look forward to having a court in Sydney before too long.

Book your place at the Penthouse

You will have probably been told, or have heard of how essential a warm-up and warm down is when taking exercise, well - now there is no excuse! In the Penthouse Suite we have a Concept II rower, a static bike and various stretching aids, all of which will help you prepare for your game and recover post your exertions. Arrive early and give yourself 10 minutes to warm up and focus your mind on the game and then 10 minutes warming down. The Penthouse Suite is located



under the Hazard Penthouse and is accessed by the staircase to the upper viewing gallery. Before using the Penthouse Suite for the first time please

make sure you see one of the Professionals to show you how to use the equipment. Members use this facility at their own risk - take care!

Obituary

Ged Eden: 20th September 1976 – 8th January 2019

The consummate professional, Ged dedicated his adult life to Real Tennis. He was innovative in his thinking, and had great vision for the future of the sport. His love of the game began during his teenage years in Hobart, and he was passionate about encouraging young players into our sport. The 'Ged Eden Development Fund' has been set up by the family to perpetuate Ged's dream of sustaining the growth of Real Tennis by bringing young people into the game. You can contribute here: <https://www.gofundme.com/ged-eden-development-fund-gedfund>

Junior Development is going from strength to strength and we are delighted with the progress our young players are making. We continue to attract more juniors and now have more than 10 youngsters clamouring to get on court in the Beginner Squad. Our Intermediate, Development and Elite groups continue their fantastic progress and we are very excited to see new faces on court as they test themselves against adult players.

Under 25s Tournament - February 2019: We had 12 U25 players compete in this tournament weekend, the most since 2015/16, and a sign that our Junior Programme is growing. It was a delight to be able to showcase our junior tennis – for the entire duration of the Palace opening hours during that weekend, the only tennis that the tourists could see on the court were our juniors. This is a fantastic showcase for our sport and may have inspired other youngsters visiting

the palace to try the game. It was also wonderful to see so many members and parents turn up to watch and support the matches. We saw so much improvement over the weekend and it was inspiring to watch some of the matches, in particular between the higher and lower handicappers with some matches being played off a handicap difference of 50+. A fantastic weekend!

Finals Results: Wollaston Cup (Handicap):

George Parsons beat Henry Gibbons 6-4;

Chairman's Cup: Ivan Barker beat George

Parsons 6-4, 5-6, 6-5; **Vaughan Trophy:** Ivan Barker & George Parsons beat Alex Barker and Zac Jopling 6-1, 6-4

We are always on the lookout for future players.

If you know any juniors who might like to play, please get in touch with the Professional Team.

Sarah Parsons, Junior Development Officer

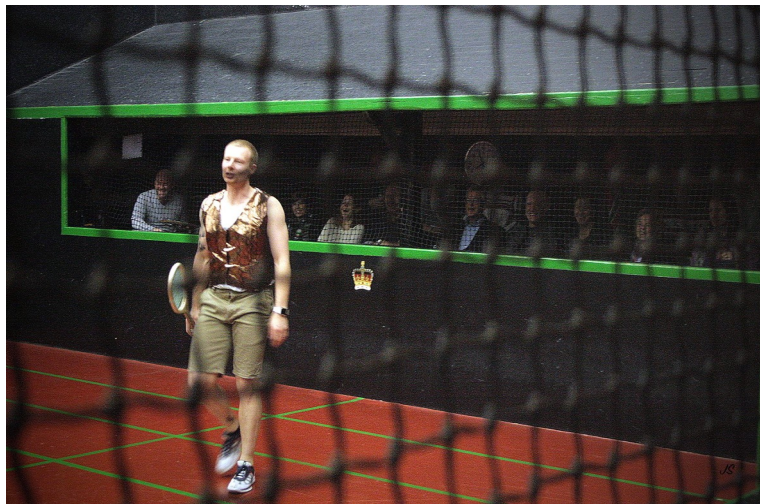
News in Brief

RTC welcomed nine players from Cambridge University Real Tennis Club, with their friends and family, on 15th December for a social match. Four doubles matches and one singles match saw RTC win the fixture 3-2. We were treated to some excellent tennis across all handicaps and the event was played with good spirit and a competitive vibe. Of particular note were Richard Lewis and Simon Cripps who won their match 6/1 6/2 in a dominant display of serving and fantastic floor shots. Equally, Minty Oldham's superb floor play earned a lot of support, though it unfortunately was not enough to win her fixture. A big thanks to Sarah Lambie and Ali Cryer who provided lunch. **GD**

A group of RTC ladies led the way representing the Ladies Real Tennis Association (LRTA) when the LRTA took on Wellington in mid-January. Nicola Doble partnered with Hardwick's Sarah Brownlee and drew their match 6/4 2/6 when time ran out. Linda Sheraton-Davis beat Richard Vallat 8/6, and after lunch the perennial pairing of Katy Doy and Sarah Lambie dispatched Wellington's Rosie Monk and Giles Stogdon 6/3 6/0. The LRTA organise matches against a number of nearby clubs (Radley, MCC, Queen's, Wellington), so LRTA members should watch for these and enjoy a sociable day of tennis! **GD**

Superhero showdown

Doug Sheperdigian (Captain America) and Chris 'Crocodile Dundee' Chapman faced off in an RTC fancy dress challenge, with Doug winning 9-5. As Doug said: "It was a privilege to be on court with the World No. 3. Not many sports where the average club player can do that!"



Degrees of preparation

It seems a stretch too far to be excited by the M40, but the panoramic view over the Chilterns is a pleasure and a pleasant reminder of my travels away from London and toward Oxford.

Approaching the city I pull in to Thornhill Station and recall a distant memory of my mother's voice lecturing me on the benefits of park and ride systems...quite useful as it happens and it saves me auctioning one of my vital organs to afford a car park ticket in the city centre (thanks mum!).

Two things strike me as I walk through Oxford: first, the magnificent architecture in the 'City of Dreaming Spires', and second, the number of homeless people residing beneath the glorious buildings. It's a reminder of my own fortunate position, but the money in my pocket can scarcely offer much support. It feels strange that a city of such intellect can't work out how to shelter all of its residents...

Like those residing on the street the history in Oxford is unavoidable and one feels surrounded by buildings vying to take the title of most impressive, awe-inspiring and at times, intimidating. Meandering down Magpie Lane one can sneak away from the hustle and bustle to a quiet cobbled street at Merton College, where the Oxford University Tennis Court is located.

Unlike the main city the front of the club is rather unassuming and belies the history of the site that has housed a court since 1595, as the welcome mat

Just Joshing

RTC's Josh Smith learns lessons on an historic court

gently reminds you. Warm and welcoming, the club rooms are festooned with the customary Real Tennis memorabilia and a history of the university teams, featuring some of our very own RTC members. The Professionals' Office is stage left with a view to the street; one can proceed up the small stairway through the hallway of a thousand doors to the changing rooms and dining room, or weave through the sofas towards the court.

Suddenly feeling literally larger than life I waft away the netting and step on court. The scale is quite different to RTC and bolsters my confidence (for the time being) as I feel eight feet tall within a miniature tennis arena. Smaller in both length and width than RTC, Oxford is a challenge in terms of spatial awareness.

As the first ball careers in to the corner my nose comes perilously close to breaking as within a pace and a half, and much to my surprise, I am accosted by the main wall! Adaptation is required...

Life at the service end is always rather enjoyable, though particularly so at Oxford. The penthouse feels at eye level, allowing a proper plan for my

first attack, specifically selecting the board that I will use to catapult the ball forwards and outfox the opposition. One can feel invincible as shots to the tambour careen around the angles, though this feeling quickly dissipates as the (slightly shorter) walk to the receiver's end is made.

Once my ally, the tambour now turns on me, the ball seemingly increasing in speed as the flash of yellow whips behind me. Adaptation is required once more, and it seems time to retake the service end.

Looking toward the court to plan my way out of trouble, the once-friendly penthouse diminishes the target galleries to the size of a letter-box and are banded red in warning to test one's accuracy and resolve.

The court presses on one's mind, encouraging tentative play and nervous energy; play positively and gratefully accept any chase one can take.

Back at the service end life is significantly more comfortable... channelling my inner hunter-gatherer I enjoy taking pot shots at the OUTC Unicorn rearing on its hind legs in the grille, and gleefully relish in a poor shot straight down the middle of the court that catches the join in the floor slabs and darts away from my adversary's racquet. Just as I planned...

The Oxford tennis court is a puzzle and like any other and will try to defeat you. One must prepare well, execute positively, and enjoy the challenge!



RTC played Petworth ladies in a friendly match at Hampton Court earlier this year. The Petworth ladies came out triumphant, winning three matches to one. An enjoyable time was had by one and all and a delicious lunch was eaten afterwards.

60, not out

Thanks to David Best's knowledge of the RTC archives it was discovered that Mike Banks had been playing tennis at the RTC for 60 years on November 4th last year. The occasion was celebrated with two hours on court with other players with whom he had played for many a year. Afterwards it was down to the pub for a couple before a roaring fire, a warming supper and a few more lubricants at his home. Fond memories, much gratitude and hope for a few more years dominated the occasion.



Alright on the Night...

Congratulations to Team 3 – RTC's worthy 2019 Winter Pennant Champions! Alex Fell, Sarah Parsons and James Durie saved the best for last as they triumphed over group winners Team 1 – John Mather, Stephen Barbour and Andy Anderson - to claim the overall Winter Night Pennant title. Team 3 managed to win two rubbers in both the singles and doubles, securing the championship for this year with an overall score of 9-5. As always the Pennant was a brilliant event and it was great to see both players and supporters at the final and dinner. A tight match went on long into the night, but there was still enough time to sample Nick Wood's dinner special – slightly crispy lasagne...



Challenge of the Champions

RTC is gearing up for what is fast becoming one of the biggest events in Real Tennis: The Real Tennis Champions Trophy, now in its third year.

From Tuesday July 16th to Sunday July 21 members,

guests and visitors can witness outstanding tennis at the most historic of courts as some of the world's best players compete at the season's grand finale: The Champions Trophy.



It will be a packed week of fantastic tennis, including the chance to compete in a new-format Amateur Handicap Doubles tournament, - sponsored by Gold Leaf Athletics - which is a unique opportunity to play against the world's best players in search of honour, glory, and some cracking prizes.

Entry fee this year is £200 per player - book through the Professional's Office or watch out for the links online in the Pros' regular mailshots.

There will also be a glorious Summer Garden Party at the end of the event to celebrate

the occasion. In addition, bespoke private Hampton Court Palace tours and hospitality packages can be arranged on request; contact hamptoncourtplaceevents@hrp.org.uk. This is an ideal way to introduce friends or business contacts to the glories of our game.

Tickets for all the events and matches are now on sale. With limited availability, please contact the Professionals' Office as soon as you can to secure your place at this historic battle of the giants.



Dates for your Diary

April 13th Saturday - Social match vs The Haphazards (@ RTC)

April Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th - A Grade Club Championship Quarter-Finals 7pm

May 1st Wednesday - A Grade Club Championship Semi-Finals 7pm

May 5th Sunday - RTC Croquet social event (Surbiton Croquet Club), 2pm onwards, entry £10

May 11th Saturday - Chairman's Event Quiz Night (on court)

May 12th Sunday - Annual General Meeting 11am

May 12th Sunday - A Grade Club Championship Final 12 noon

June 27th - June 30th King's Goblet – Entries now closed

July 16th - July 20 - Champions Trophy

Your AGM - your voice

At 11am on Sunday 12th May the Club will hold its Annual General Meeting. This is your chance to hear about the Board's proposals for the coming year and to contribute to discussion about the club's future. All members are very welcome - do please come along and make your

Starter for 10...

On Saturday May 11th, from 7.30pm to 9.45pm, the Chairman will host an on-court Quiz Night, compered by quizmaster Owen Saunders. Do come along, show everyone how smart you are and help raise money for a good cause. This year the Chairman is supporting the fund set up in memory of Ged Eden, a friend to many at RTC. Entry fee of £15 per person includes a glass of champagne on arrival and cold bar snacks for each table, as well as prizes. Teams are six people per table. See the Pros for tickets.