

# THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT

## Hampton Court Palace



## CLASS IS PERMANENT

DAVID WATSON REGAINS THE BARKER CAMM CUP  
WHILE SUE HASWELL CLAIMS THE LADIES' MASTERS

*See pages 3 and 4*

The Summer Newsletter 2011

*Number ninety-six*

# chairman's chat

On behalf of the board I would like to thank all those members who so enthusiastically supported the sell-out dinner at Hampton Court Golf Club at the end of March. The formula of a dinner to celebrate the season's playing successes is clearly very popular, although the time lapse from the end of the 2009-10 season was obviously a challenge to the short-term memories of some members, given their unfeigned surprise at being called up to receive an award!

I would particularly like to thank those members who sent messages of thanks to me and other board members. I should also respond to those who mentioned that it was unfortunate that we were unable to hold the event in the Palace itself. The fact is the Palace is able to command very high rates for holding events in such unique surroundings, and the board felt unable to recommend the very high ticket prices (and the club subsidy) which we incurred last time.

At the risk of appearing like London buses, the board has decided to hold the dinner celebrating the 2010-11 season in November this year, to put the event on a regular and more relevant footing, and further details will be issued in due course.

The recent AGM was well supported (see picture) and we were pleased to see the dedans full afterwards to watch the final of the Club Championship between David and James Watson, more of which on page 3. We hope that these events will continue to be held on the same day in future.



On the playing front I must mention two notable successes. Karen Hird recently reached the final of the World Championships in Melbourne, which is an exceptional achievement of which RTC is very proud. Closer to home, the Ladies' Masters was hosted by the club in March and was won convincingly by Sue Haswell (see page 4).

On a personal front, I continue to be a non-playing chairman, so I apologise for not being at the club on a more regular basis, but if anyone needs to raise matters with me I am very happy to be contacted by email via the professionals. I must thank those members who provide a regular source of cures for tennis elbow; one must work eventually. In the meantime I have decided to get fit by embracing the latest mid (*late? Ed*) life crisis and have taken up road cycling and training for a triathlon, so please be kind to anyone in Lycra when driving around the Surrey hills.

Finally, I would again like to remind members that the summer barbecue will be held on Saturday 16 July and will coincide with the King's Goblet (summer handicap doubles). Tickets and entry forms are available from the pros, and we do hope members will come along with family and friends. Have a great summer!

**Paddy Sweetnam**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Kings Goblet Summer Doubles

☛ Not involved in the Open Championship golf this July? One alternative is a three-day weekend of hectic doubles play for the Kings Goblet (won last year by Kate Lawrence and John Priestland). Over the **15-17 July** weekend we will find out who has hit the hottest streak on court in what will no doubt be tropical temperatures. Entries will be closing any day now, so if you'd like to play and haven't entered yet, contact the professionals right away.

### Summer Barbecue

☛ The middle day of the summer doubles, **Saturday 16 July**, will also herald the summer barbecue, which provides members with a chance to socialise with fellow members away from the confines of the court. You can also take the chance to enjoy some of the competitive doubles on display. There is a limited number of tickets for this event, so contact the pros without delay if you're interested in coming along.

## SEAL SALVER 2009-10

Yes, the 2009-10 season is finally over. The traditionally late-running Seal Salver concluded when an injury-plagued Paddy Sweetnam succumbed to the defending champion, Bernard Weatherill. Congratulations to Bernard, and good luck to all those who are still involved in the 2010-11 tournament.

## COMING UP

### RTC

**15-17 July:** Kings Goblet summer handicap doubles

**16 July:** Summer barbecue

### ELSEWHERE

**19-21 Aug:** British Junior Championships (Queen's)



# Watson the champ again at last

*Dad proves too strong for son as David regains the Barker Camm after eight years*

After too many years of missing out on the Barker Camm Cup in finals against Simon Barker, David Watson came up with an ingenious plan this year: let his offspring take care of the pesky Mr Barker instead.

David's son James provided the highlight of semi-finals day back in April by upsetting Simon, the defending (and 11-time) champion. In a tight first set Simon just had slightly more control at key moments as he sneaked it 6-5, and at that point we looked set for a marathon encounter. However, James upped the tempo with some forceful hitting that was increasingly finding its target, and soon Simon had no more answers to the onslaught. After levelling the match with a 6-2 set, James continued in the same vein as his confidence grew and adrenalin kicked in, and another 6-2 set earned him a final slot.

Earlier on David had been ruthless and very impressive in seeing off James Sohl 6-1 6-2. The result never looked in doubt, with David consistently finding the corners – indeed, it was one of those accurate shots that led to a worrying



*James Watson puts on a brave face as father David savours the trophy that had eluded his grasp for too long*

moment, as James slipped on the court while stretching and banged his head firmly against the main wall. Although he seemed dazed, he carried on and valiantly produced his best tennis of the match in the next five minutes. But David was not to be denied.

Fast-forward six weeks and the final between father and son, in front of a packed dedans fresh from the club AGM and some bubbles courtesy of Pol Roger. Before his semi-final James

Watson's handicap was 15; by now it was down to 11 after a run of huge victories. Was he ready to beat his father?

The first two games, which were long and tight provided few answers, and the audience settled in for a long match. David had other ideas, however, and after those first two games James was never in the hunt again. David's control was masterful, and he gave James nothing in the way of unforced errors, while James struggled with his return of serve. When he did produce a shot he might have expected to win a point, the ball often came back with interest.

After less than an hour it was all over, 6-1 6-1, and

David had won the Barker Camm Cup for the second time, eight years after the first. The Barker-Watson duopoly is clearly being challenged, though, and next year no one will be more determined than James Watson to dethrone the champion.

**Simon Edmond**

● In the B grade final, Tom Freeman confirmed his steady improvement over the course of the winter by defeating Jed Dalton 6-5 6-2.

## Premises roundup

### Central heating boiler

This boiler has now reached the end of its useful life and new parts are no longer available. The Palace has now agreed to replace the boiler with one that meets the current energy efficiency levels.

Possible alternative locations to the present one in the boiler room are being explored. It is hoped that the new boiler will be installed during September, subject to necessary approvals being granted. The boiler also provides hot water to the changing rooms and we are trying to manage using the electric immersion heaters, but this has at times been problematic.

### Court lighting

The present light fittings are over 30

years old and are inefficient. We are currently investigating the installation of LED-type floodlights for the court, which use approximately 10 per cent of the electricity used by the present fittings. We hope to have the new system installed during the autumn.

### 2011-12 maintenance programme

The new programme of works has just commenced with the application of matt slip resistant varnish to the court floor. Other works to the court, club rooms, changing rooms and the professionals' apartments are proposed to be undertaken over the next 12 months.

We are grateful to the Palace for undertaking the redecoration of the main corridor.

**Julian Sheraton-Davis MRICS**

## Club dinner

The club dinner, which has been made an annual occasion that encompasses a celebration of playing success at the club, was itself deemed a success after the March event at Hampton Court Golf Club.

It was remarkable to see so many members in the same place at the same time, with the excited chatter broken only by our chairman's charismatic speech and announcements of the winners of various trophies – not least Lathom Browne club handicap champion Dorian Drew (above).



# Haswell reigns supreme

*RTC hosted the British Ladies' Masters and was rewarded with a home winner*

**R**TC welcomed back the British Ladies' Masters in March after a gap of several years – a homecoming of sorts for the event, as it was first held at the Palace in 1987.

The competition attracted a record entry of 34 players. Indeed, owing to the large entry it was decided to divide the tournament into two: the 16 lowest singles handicap players competed for the singles championship, played off level over the best of three sets throughout, while the rest took part in a handicap doubles event, with pairs balanced out as evenly as possible and playing in two round-robin groups, with the winners of each playing a final. There was also a plate handicap doubles for the eight players who lost in the first round of the main competition.

In the early rounds of the main event there were a few close matches, and Friday's play did not finish until about 11pm. Lucy Hutchinson had two three-set matches, in which one game had a remarkable 16 deuces.

In the quarter-finals, Alex Garside eased past Ros Hedges, Tiff Fielden saw off RTC's Carolyn Nicholls, Jill Newby



*Alex Garside and Sue Haswell before their final encounter*

beat Sara Reston and RTC's Sue Haswell strolled through against Sarah Brownlee. The first semi-final saw Alex beat Tiff in straight sets. Tiff managed to keep Alex on the run in the first set, but then she ran out of steam. The second semi was a similar story, with Jill losing out to Sue, 6-3 6-0.

So the top seeds, Haswell and defending champion Garside (herself an RTC member), had duly set up the expected final. In the final Sue was dominant from the start and had the upper hand throughout. She served well and cut the ball low into the corners, making Alex stretch all the

time. From both ends Alex made the mistake of feeding Sue's famously strong backhand. A well deserved win for Sue, 6-2 6-1.

The plate handicap doubles was won by Sarah Brownlee and Gabrielle Smart, who won some close encounters. The handicap doubles produced some interesting matches, and it was good to see some relative newcomers to the game doing so well. Annabel Wyatt and Candida Nicholls beat Barbara Bush and Michelle Bucknell 8-6 in the final.

A very big thank you to our sponsor Burnham Rosen (Katy Weston) and to Pol Roger for supporting us; to the professional team for working long hours; and to Linda Sheraton-Davis for organising the catering, accommodation and the dinner. Finally I would like to express the LRTA's appreciation to the RTC for so kindly hosting the event and offering such a warm welcome. It was encouraging to see 14 clubs represented, including Paris and Fontainebleau, and I hope this will be repeated next year, when the championship takes place again at the RTC, from 15-18 March.

**Sheila Macintosh**

## Lathom Browne latest

**T**he Lathom Browne Cup continues to move along roughly according to schedule, with only four contenders remaining and the semi-finals just around the corner as the newsletter winged its way to the printers.

Paul Wright, last year's runner-up, is turning out to be a Lathom-Browne specialist. Having won Grade B (as he had last year), he faced a quarter-final against Grade A winner Philip Squire, but sadly injury intervened and Paul was forced to give Philip free passage into the semi-final.

There he meets Oliver Watson, the youngest of the Watson production line and a rapid improver. Having entered in the autumn off a handicap of 39 (and thus still playing off that for the duration of this competition), he now stands at 32.

In the other half of the draw, John Harbord-Hammond continues to impress, but he now has a unique challenge: a semi-final against Robin "Dr Feelgood" Mulcahy. The good doctor shocked Andy Anderson 9-4 in his quarter-final and will be keen to wreak more havoc.

## Professional tournaments

**I**t has been a curious season in the professional ranks, with Rob Fahey hitting the heights at times but not dominating as consistently as he has in the past. Having defended his world title last May, he is no doubt already planning his next defence, at Queen's in 2012.

The final event of the season for the pros was the US Pro Singles (for the Schochet Cup) at Newport. With Camden Riviere back after a shoulder injury, nearly all the world's best players were present. This meant there were some mouth-watering quarter-finals, and in one case a first-round match not to miss: RTC's Chris Chapman vs Prested's Ricardo Smith. After losing a tight first set, Chris was simply too good, and although he then lost emphatically to Steve Virgona he did win the satellite event to complete a good week.

The two decisive matches both featured Riviere: first he outfought Virgona in the latest in a long line of titanic tussles between those two, and then he completely outplayed Fahey in the final. Food for thought for the world champion...



# New world order in ladies' game

*Claire Vigrass has won her first world title – but RTC's Karen Hird made her work for it*

With the retirement of the 2009 world champion Charlotte Cornwallis, a vacancy opened up at the top of the women's game, and Prested Hall's Claire Vigrass grabbed it in style. Over the past 18 months she has proved unbeatable against other women, and she even won the National Under-21 title last year against many of the country's best young male players.

However, despite already holding all the four women's Open titles and despite possessing the lowest handicap any woman has ever had, Claire still needed a world title to complete the full set and to confirm her superiority.

The last woman to beat Claire was our own Karen Hird, in the 2009 French Open final, and after several months of injury worries Karen appeared in the spring to be timing a return to form and fitness nicely, although a lingering shoulder problem was still restricting her use of the railroad serve. Joining Karen at the head of the chasing pack was Claire's elder sister, Sarah Vigrass.

The World Championships took place in Melbourne in May – but a few weeks before that there was a tasty *hors d'oeuvre* at Seacourt in the shape of the British Open. This event also offered the intriguing prospect of a return to competitive action for Penny Lumley, who won the first of her six world titles back in 1989 and last surrendered it to Cornwallis in 2005.

Penny was (somewhat controversially) seeded third, between Sarah and Karen, which meant that Karen had to face top seed Claire in her semi-final. Although she showed that she can still trouble Claire at times, the Essex girl was close to her imperious best in winning 6-1 6-1.

The other semi-final was remarkably one-sided, as Penny found herself unable to turn back the clock and Sarah punished her ruthlessly. After barely half an hour the elder Vigrass had set up a family final without losing a single game.

The final was a competitive affair – no one watching would have guessed that there were a full 11 handicap points between the two



*Karen Hird in action in Melbourne, on her way to her second World Championship final. Picture © Doug Grant (see also [realtennisaustralia.com](http://realtennisaustralia.com) and [tennistrekking.com](http://tennistrekking.com))*

sisters, as Sarah matched her sister for power and control. Claire was relatively comfortable in the first set, but the second could have gone either way and she must have been very relieved when she pulled away to record a 6-1 6-4 win and another title.

In the doubles, the Vigrasses were expected to romp home. However, Aldona Greenwood and RTC's Nicola Doble had exposed chinks in their armour in their semi-final, and in the final Karen and her partner, Frederika Adam, pounded away until the armour shattered. In a dramatic seesaw battle, it all came down to 5-5 in the third set and it was the favourites who faltered, allowing Karen and Freddy to pull off a stunning upset victory.



*British Open doubles champions Frederika Adam and Karen Hird with Claire and Sarah Vigrass*

This would have buoyed Karen as she set off for the Australian Open in Ballarat and the World Championships in nearby Melbourne. In Ballarat she was downed 6-2 6-4 by Sarah Vigrass, who again pushed her sister before succumbing 6-1 6-4 in the final. In the big one in Melbourne, Karen would meet Sarah again in the semi-finals. Despite dropping the first set 6-1, Karen dug in and imposed her will on the match, claiming the next two sets 6-3 6-2 to reach her second consecutive world final.

Claire took the first set of the final 6-1 – but everyone knew by now that Karen Hird does not give up easily. By now employing her railroad far more (plenty of time to rest the shoulder after this one), she worried the champion elect through a long second set, before Claire steadied herself to take it 6-4 and become world champion.

With the top three players all aged between 20 and 23, the ladies' elite game seems in rude health (although there is always room for more players to start pushing this trio). Let's hope that Karen can continue to challenge the new champion, who has already raised the bar in the ladies' game.

# Two league titles for RTC

A feverish spring schedule saw most of RTC's seven National League teams very much in contention in their respective divisions...

## Premier Division

World champion Rob Fahey quickly assumed control of the top flight, despite the frequent unavailability of his nominated MCC team-mate, Jamie Douglas. With Queen's being able to call on British No 1 Bryn Sayers and Prested boasting the crack duo of Ben Matthews and Ricardo Smith, it was always going to be tough for Nick Wood and Peter Wright.

Ironically it was our own Chris Chapman who did much of the damage, beating Peter while filling in for both the Prested and Queen's teams. Peter did play one of the matches of his life to defeat Chris (this time playing for MCC) in RTC's final home fixture, but by then fourth place was inevitable.

As expected, Fahey and Douglas won the title for MCC.

## Division 1

Chris Chapman may have been a hired gun in the Premier League, but in Division one he was strictly an RTC man. When it came to the end of the regular season, Chris and Charlie Crossley, back from the USA, were in second spot, just missing out on the top position on sets won. In a home preliminary final against Oxford, Chris won easily and Charlie beat Craig Greenhalgh 6-3 6-2 – a fine win. This led to a final at Petworth, where Chris beat the improving Tom Durack in three sets before Charlie took on Paul Knox. On paper Paul should have won at a canter – but Charlie stormed to a three-set win, RTC claiming the title without any need for a deciding doubles match. Charlie had peaked at just the right time.

## Division 2

This was a highly unpredictable eight-team division, and the RTC trio of David Watson, Simon Barker and James Sohl were no exception to its roller-coaster nature. Still, when the final table emerged our boys were in second place, which meant a home semi-final against



Chris Chapman and Charlie Crossley, Division 1 winners

Queen's. On the night, John Prens and Tom Seymour Mead were just too strong for Simon and James.

## Division 4

RTC punched above its weight at times in Division 4, with notable wins for several players over the course of the

season. A third-place finish meant a preliminary final at Queen's, a club that has a wealth of resources at this level (handicap 15-plus), and the home team duly advanced to the final, 3-0.

## Division 5

This was the tightest division of all: not a single team won or lost more than five of its eight matches. RTC went to Seacourt needing a win to reach the preliminary final, and although Geoffrey Russell threatened to pinch the top match, they eventually succumbed to miss out on the playoffs.

## Division 7

RTC were at or near the top of the table throughout the season, and they ended up edging Oxford out of first place.

After a comfortable semi-final win over Radley, they then played host to Oxford in a final that promised to be close, with all three matches pitching together players of almost identical handicaps. Fraser Shorey lost out to the hard-hitting Richard Oliver in three sets before Nicola Doble gradually took control in her tussle with fellow left-hander Ed Wigzell, leaving captain Simon Edmond to play the decider.

Almost three sets later, there was nothing to separate Simon and Tom Monk, who had battled back from 3-5 to 5-5 in that third set. At the Hazard end Simon saved a match point at 30-40 before setting two chases and successfully defending both, and RTC were champions at 11.45pm. Never in doubt.

## Division 8

Despite some very narrow defeats, RTC lifted themselves into third place in this nine-team league. Their reward was a semi-final at Hatfield, who fielded two very strong players: Hatfield triumphed both there and in the final at Petworth.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLES

### PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	Pts
MCC	8	8	49
Prested Hall	8	6	40
Queen's	8	4	27
<b>RTC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>
MURTC	8	0	7

### DIVISION 1

Petworth	8	6	40
<b>RTC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>
Oxford	7	3	27
Queen's	6	2	12
Leamington	7	1	7

☛ Preliminary final: RTC bt Oxford 3-0

☛ Final: Petworth lost to RTC 0-3

### DIVISION 2

MURTC/Hatfield	8	6	40
<b>RTC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>
Queen's	8	5	32
MCC	8	4	28
Oratory	8	4	27
Seacourt	8	4	27
Petworth	8	2	19
Cambridge	8	2	17

☛ Semi-final: RTC lost to Queen's 0-3

### DIVISION 4

Oratory	8	7	43
Queen's	8	4	34
<b>RTC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>
Prested Hall	8	3	19
Oxford	8	1	13

☛ Preliminary final: Queen's bt RTC 3-0

### DIVISION 5

Moreton Morrell	8	5	31
MURTC	8	4	30
Seacourt	8	5	29
Canford	8	3	27
<b>RTC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>

### DIVISION 7

<b>RTC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>
Oxford	8	7	43
Prested Hall	8	5	29
Radley	8	4	28
Newmarket	8	3	27
Paris (Prested-based)	8	3	27
Holyport	8	3	21
Hardwick House	8	0	4

☛ Semi-final: RTC bt Radley 3-0

☛ Final: RTC bt Oxford 2-1

### DIVISION 8

Petworth	8	7	45
Hatfield	8	6	40
RTC	8	6	36
Oxford	8	6	36
Prested Hall	8	5	33
MURTC	8	2	24
Canford	8	2	20
Oratory	8	1	13
Newmarket	8	1	5

☛ Semi-final: Hatfield bt RTC 3-0



## End of the 2010/11 season

At the beginning of the season Chris Chapman joined the team of professionals. He took to the role incredibly swiftly, settling in and getting to know the members. Within months of starting, Chris passed the UK's professional certificate, proving his ability to be a quality club professional.

On the playing front, he has improved his game from a 4 handicap to +1.5. He also recently led the Royal Tennis Court Division 1 team to victory over Petworth House in the National League (see opposite).

Overall it has been a successful season for the club. The court has been incredibly busy, with 5,539 courts used in 2010 compared to 5,422 in 2009. We have seen the introduction of the new booking system; we are now stocked with more than six sets of balls; the calendar of tournaments has progressed well. Through the regular phone calls, emails, newsletter and website updates, the communication to the membership has greatly improved. Thanks to Simon Edmond (newsletter) and Martin Daly (website) for all the work they do.

Communication with the Palace (HCP) has also improved considerably. I attend regular meetings with HCP, which has helped to improve the relationship between HCP and RTC and has also helped to increase the awareness of the Royal Tennis Court as being an important part of the visitor's experience to Hampton Court Palace. New information for visitors will be added to the side gallery over the summer.

## Balls

We are still experiencing difficulties with the quality of the cloth used to cover

the balls; as a result the cloth is wearing out much sooner than before. We have not yet heard from the Tennis and Rackets Association, which is in the process of talking to the manufacturers to resolve the problem.

## Court

The court has recently been industrially cleaned to try to resolve the slipperiness. This was successful up to a point but didn't improve the floor's grip for those who are swifter of foot. Research was undertaken to find the solution, and with some advice from Petworth House, who have recently

revamped their court floor, we applied an additional finish to the existing floor and will be monitoring the results.

## Merchandise

We have a new and exciting range of tennis clothing on order. The new stock will hit the shelves in June.

If you'd like a Royal Tennis Court cricket sweater, we are now able to order through Grays. Long-sleeved or sleeveless, let me know your size and I can order it in for you.

For all your tennis equipment requirements, please contact the professionals.

## Wood's Words

*Head pro Nick Wood addresses the free points many of us give away*

**M**atches often come down to a point or two to decide the victor. When working at improving your tennis, nearly all your time is spent on improving point conversion and reducing the error rate. But what about the points we gift to our opponents?

### The most obvious gift: the double fault

A double fault is totally unnecessary. At the time it may just seem like a lost point, but that lost point may lead to the loss of a game which could lose you a match.

### Not so obvious (but oh so common): not leaving shots that would lose a chase

How many times during a game would you strike a ball when in fact

by leaving it the point would be yours? Believe me, watching the last ten minutes of members' games we see this happening a lot. Over the course of an hour, I would dare to suggest that members gift 5-10 points to their opponents – that is potentially two games' worth! On some occasions balls would have lost the chase by yards and yet the ball is still struck. Yes, you might still win the point, but why take the risk?

Improve your judgement of chases – improve your ability to play the game.

**NB** Real tennis is a friendly game of fairness, traditions and etiquette. If you are uncertain of the whereabouts of a chase, always be fair and if in doubt, consult your opponent.

## PETER ROWELL

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of one of our members – especially of one who was so greatly liked. Peter died at the age of 63 on 18 May following a long and courageous battle against (chronic) lymphoid leukaemia.

He was a very long-standing member of the Sunday morning doubles that I joined on a regular basis some eight years ago, which was about the time that Peter was diagnosed with his disease. At no time during the great number of Sunday mornings on which he played did any of us ever hear him complain about his condition. On the

contrary, he was always the epitome of cheerfulness, friendliness and common sense.

He had a very distinguished career in the technology industry and had frequently been voted one of the most influential people in that field in the UK and Europe. He was a highly accomplished speaker at conferences. In 1987 he founded Regent Associates, which has occupied a leading position in the technology industry.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his widow Jeanette, to his son Simon and to his family.

*David Seelig*

## BE PART OF RTC SUCCESS ON COURT

### Support the RTC Professional Development Fund

- ☛ Add a dimension to your enjoyment of the game
- ☛ Help our professionals to hone their skills and bring the Royal Tennis Court to the top ranks of tournament play
- ☛ Follow the progress of Chris Chapman (below) as a committed supporter by funding training, travel and equipment
- ☛ Give regularly with your subscription or make a one-off contribution to RTC Professionals Development Trust



Trustees: Simon Barker, John Clark, David Watson

Collect a form from the pros' office, or contact  
John Clark on 020 8940 4979

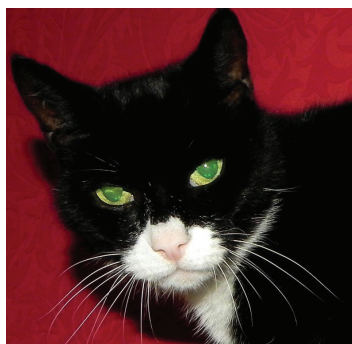
## SPRING NIGHT PENNANT

Congratulations to Mike Shattock, Neil McEvoy and David Glover (pictured below), the winners of the Spring Night Pennant. In the final they defeated table-toppers Kate Lawrence, Andy Anderson and John Mather (substitute for Simon Pearce) 9-4.



## Bobs remembered

**B**obs was put to sleep on Tuesday 10 May. He had lived with his sister Bits in apartment 53 before the Ronaldsons moved to flat 69 in 1993. The beautiful kitten, Bits, had been chosen at the Cat Protection League. Chris was about to leave with her when



Bobs ran up Ivan's leg as if he were a tree and perched on the teenager's shoulder – so Bobs had to come home to the Palace as well. As the Ronaldsons were getting into the car with the various items of paperwork, the manageress called: "Have you got all your Bits and Bobs?"

Many will remember Bobs's love of being smacked as hard as possible on his backside as he groped the carpet with his claws in ecstasy. During the music festival he would charm the

picnickers for their smoked salmon, but as soon as he was called by name he would come racing back to the tennis court. Like a dog, Bobs would go for walks and stay near Lesley and Chris as they strolled through the Palace grounds.

After Lesley's hip replacements, while she was on crutches, the family wanted her to stay out of trouble in the morning. She was brought a cup of tea in bed and Bobs was put on her lap, tummy up, to be cosseted. Both Lesley and Bobs became used to this treat. However, if the tea was made and Chris was distracted by a member, Bobs would meow loudly and butt Chris's legs to get him to hurry up. As Chris opened the bedroom door, Bobs would push past.

Many will miss him.

Photograph by Murray Glover

## RTC Top Ten

Leading handicaps  
June 2011

1	Peter Wright	3.7
2	Dave Harms	5.8
3	Robert Hird	7.1
4	David Watson	10.3
5	James Watson	12.2
6	Nick Hatchett	14.6
7	Simon Barker	15.7
8	James Sohl	15.8
9	Tom Freeman	17.9
10	James Rothman	19.4

## 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 autumn issue, either via the professionals or by email at the address below.*

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## RESULTS

### Barker Camm Cup

**Semi-finals:** David Watson beat James Sohl 6-2 6-1; James Watson beat Simon Barker 5-6 6-2 6-2.

**Final:** David Watson beat James Watson 6-1 6-1.

**B Grade final:** Tom Freeman beat Jed Dalton 6-5 6-2.

### Lathom Browne Cup

#### Grade winners:

Grade A: Philip Squire  
Grade B: Paul Wright  
Grade C: Oliver Watson  
Grade D: James Simpson  
Grade E: David Stephens  
Grade F: John Harbord-Hammond  
Grade G: Robin Mulcahy  
Grade H: Andy Anderson

**Quarter-finals:** Squire beat Wright w/o; Watson beat Simpson 9-1; Harbord-Hammond beat Stephens 9-3; Mulcahy beat Anderson 9-4.

### National League finals

#### Division 1

*Petworth House lost to RTC 0-2*

Tom Durack lost to Chris Chapman 3-6 6-3 3-6; Paul Knox lost to Charlie Crossley 4-6 6-3 4-6.

#### Division 7

*RTC beat Oxford 2-1*

Fraser Shorey lost to Richard Oliver 6-4 1-6 3-6; Nicola Doble beat Ed Wigzell 6-5 6-3; Simon Edmond beat Tom Monk 6-4 3-6 6-5.

### Spring Night Pennant

**Final:** Shattock/Glover/McEvoy beat Lawrence/Anderson/Mather (sub) 9-4. Mike Shattock beat Kate Lawrence 6-4; David Glover beat Andy Anderson 6-3; Neil McEvoy lost to John Mather 6-2; Shattock & Glover lost to Lawrence & Anderson 6-2; Shattock & McEvoy beat Lawrence & Mather 6-3; Glover & McEvoy beat Anderson & Mather 6-3.

### Seal Salver

**Final:** Bernard Weatherill beat Paddy Sweetnam w/o.