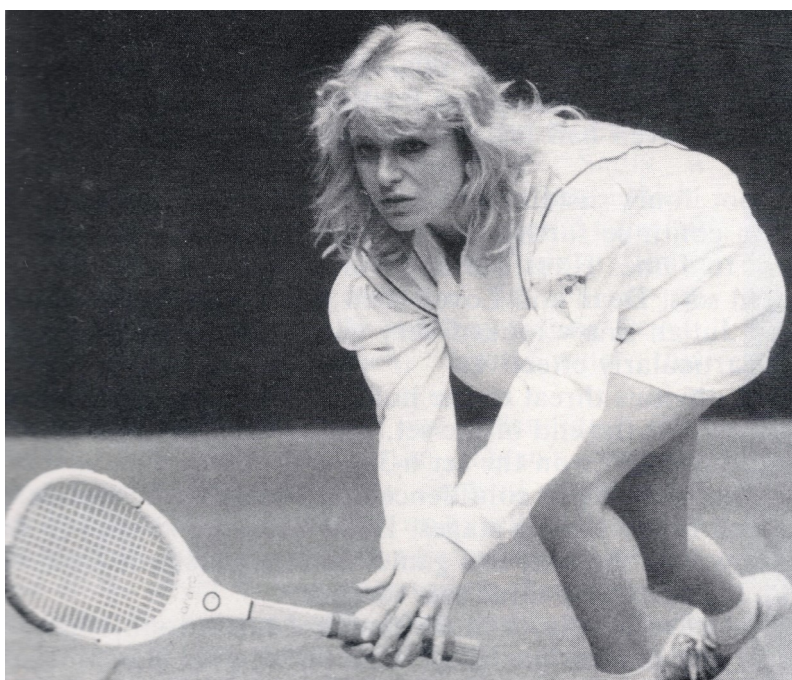


THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT



Hall of famous (again)

A deserved honour for RTC's First Lady of Real Tennis

See Page 2

Farewell to our Patron - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

See Pages 3, 4 and 5

Get your Carol Service tickets now!

See Page 7

The Winter Newsletter 2022

Number 133

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

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As you read this, I hope that our Carol Service on 13th December, an event especially for the Royal Tennis Court, is over-subscribed. It's a special night in a special place.

You'll see in this Newsletter that word has gone out for a major social event on 25th March with the purpose of bringing as many of us together as possible together. It is high time to rekindle relationships and reconnect with friends after the many long months of Covid.

I recognise that the bug is still with us and remain hopeful that its virulence and prevalence are reduced to the point that we can safely meet together for a party.

I emphasise that this is not a Prizegiving ceremony; it is for **all our members** (and non-members!) to meet and enjoy a return to normality.



Each month, I play doubles in a little group of members of similar handicap, the People's Collective of Groan-up (*sic*) Doubles, following which we cook dinner for ourselves in the club room—see picture above! In the summer, that might be a barbecue outside. We use a What's App group to decide who is coming and who is bringing the food. I encourage all similar groups to self-organise.

If you fancy watching a match, perhaps a home National League, Barker-Camm or one of your mates, you'll find it is easy to identify yourself at security, drop in and take a seat in the Dedans or upper gallery. Please don't be put off by our very excellent security. It is there to protect us, not prevent us!

You'll notice that Friday and Saturday nights are often "quiet", or at least as quiet as our court gets! We find that is an excellent opportunity to invite friends to the club for an introduction to the sport and a dinner in the club dining room.

A Safety Thought

You'll notice that we have a posted policy on eyeguards

which leaves it up to you to decide whether or not to wear eye protection and if so, what sort to purchase. We are encouraging the T&RA, our governing body, to sponsor testing of specific eyeguards so that we can recommend them. In the meantime, please consider the existing policy very carefully. An eye injury, although rare, can be life changing and the consequences don't bear thinking about.

The Future of the Game...

One of the joys of the last few months has been seeing the future, the young Professionals including our very own Jack Josephs improving their standards by leaps and bounds. And It's great to see that our Junior membership is at a high, with many improving geometrically.

It remains a delight to work with our Board and Professional team. Please take a moment to thank them personally for the service in helping the club and its members achieve their goals.

The Board covers areas such as Strategy, Finance, Facilities, Membership, Juniors, Social Events and, of course, the Newsletter. We recently co-opted Dick Cowling to head the Tennis and Tournaments Committee and Ali Cryer to oversee our Communications plan.

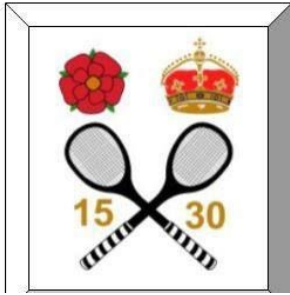
We will strive to keep up to date with your thoughts regarding Club operations. Financially, despite the pandemic, RTC is in good health, with strong reserves. We are working to understand the impact of double digit energy increases (remembering that we pay to heat the court and our Professionals' apartments).

And finally... Huge congratulations go to Lesley Ronaldson, our own First Lady of Real Tennis. As you read this, she will be travelling to New York City for her induction into the International Court Tennis Hall of Fame (Court Tennis being the American name for Real Tennis). More on this in our next Newsletter.

If I don't see you on court before 2023, wishing you and yours a fabulous holiday season!



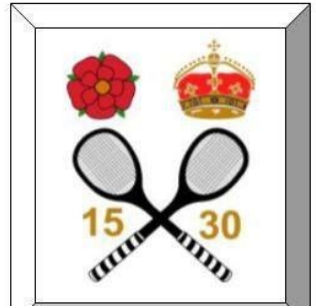
Doug Sheperdigian



Her Majesty

Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 1926 - 8 September 2022



Farewell to our Patron

Among the many things that make our Court and club "Royal", perhaps the most poignant has been the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her picture (right) in the club room will remain to remind us of that support and our Royal connection. To commemorate her at this sad but inevitable milestone, we have asked RTC's historian-in-chief, David Best, to reflect on her reign and that of her royal predecessors, and for our Newsletter editor, Andy Anderson, to bring together a story befitting a monarch of 70 years' standing. I am writing on behalf of our full membership to thank them for this record and to thank Her Majesty for being our Queen and Royal Patron. **Doug Sheperdigian, RTC Chairman**

The Club Newsletter Number 15, dated September 1980 and typed in the style and language of that era, still exists as a historic record of a momentous day in our club's history, *writes Andy Anderson*. Read on for the full account...

All other events of recent months were overshadowed by the visit to the Court of Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip on 24th June. It was a singular honour, unrivalled in the recent history of the Club and, indeed, the game.

It also proved to be a hugely enjoyable party and was voted as an unqualified success by those fortunate enough to have been present. Much hard work lay behind that success and the club's appreciation is due to Commander Harman, the Superintendent of the



Palace, and his staff for their considerable contribution to the smooth running of the arrangements. On the Club's side the burden was carried almost singlehanded by Michael Morton, to whom must go the credit for the success of the occasion.

Thanks are also due to Henry Wollaston who, as our Chairman, was instrumental in issuing the invitation to the Queen and Prince Philip and so admirably played the role of principal host to them on the day. *[Henry Wollaston stepped down following the Royal visit after nearly seven years as club Chairman, to be replaced by Ronald Swash - Editor.]*

Michael Morton's efforts did not end with that evening for he has kindly also produced the account of the Royal Visit which follows here:

The long awaited and much heralded visit by Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to Hampton Court Palace to mark the 450th anniversary of the playing of tennis at the Palace took place on 24th June 1980.

Due to the inevitable traffic jams around the Palace during the evening rush hour Her Majesty's arrival at the door to the Tennis Court from the East Front was delayed – and the weather did not exactly shine for the occasion.

The late start and the wet weather did not, however, put a damper on the auspiciousness of the event.

Inside the Tennis Court Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were first introduced to Lesley Ronaldson, Mr and Mrs Peter Dawes and Mr and Mrs Henry Johns.



Floral and other tributes to our late Queen outside the entrance gates to Hampton Court Palace

The Royal party then proceeded into the dedans where, for ten minutes or so they watched (under instruction) a four-handed game of tennis then in progress between Chris Ronaldson, Alan Lovell, David Cull and David Johnson, which was marked by Derek Barrett. By all accounts this game was splendid entertainment – hard, fast and furious – and was in particular enjoyed by Her Majesty's Private Secretary, who was nearly laid low by a hard force to the dedans.

As the game ended, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness walked onto the Court where all the Professionals, who represented nearly every Court in Great Britain as well as Australia, together with the players and several members of the RTC Committee, were assembled for presentation. One professional was heard to remark that Cambridge was not the same place since the Duke's son left it – and another that he did not yet know much about the game. (This was not altogether

A history of Royal Patrons

Although royal associations with tennis at Hampton Court go back as far as Henry VIII, it was not until 1903, soon after Edward VII came to the throne, that a reigning monarch became Patron of the Royal Tennis Court. He had learnt to play the game at Hampton Court in 1858 as a 17-year-old. Six years later he played on our court against the great world champion Edmond Barre.

Edward VII was the first of five monarchs to have been Patrons of the Royal Tennis Court. There followed George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II. Edward VII and George V were both playing members of the RTC and both insisted on paying five times the annual subscription.

We owe our use of Apartment 53 to George V, who was adamant that Alfred White be given the rooms when he became Head Professional. At the time the palace had wanted them for the resident electrician.

Our new King, Charles III, while at university, played at Cambridge, which is also where Prince Edward learnt to play.

Her Majesty The Queen came to the Court with his Royal Highness Prince Philip on the occasion of the Club's 450th anniversary, as outlined here.

David Best

surprising since he had only been in post for a fortnight!)

Television cameras had whirled on the Court, both before and after the Royal arrival and departure – the BBC filmed the entire proceedings including the party in the Cartoon Gallery for inclusion in a later Royal heritage series – and the

Press were present in force. Many of the Professionals were photographed with either The Queen or The Duke of Edinburgh, and their wives and others watching from the Galleries had equal enjoyment from the proceedings and the party held in the Court afterward.

In the meanwhile, under the

television lights there had been gathering in the Cartoon Gallery some 180 members and their wives together with sundry other specially invited guests.

Representatives from Courts in France, the USA, Australia and Tasmania as well as from Courts in Great Britain, the Tennis and Rackets Association, the Lord Chamberlain's office, the Privy Purse, the game's present sponsors, Unigate, the Press and the staff at Hampton Court itself (including the RTC's own reserved 'Professionals' Mr and Mrs Evans) thronged the huge Cartoon gallery, eating and drinking whilst awaiting Her Majesty's arrival.

On leaving the Tennis Court, the Royal Party walked along the East Front to be met at the entrance to the Palace by the Chief Steward and Lady Moore and, after pausing for refreshment in one of the many rooms adjacent to the Cartoon Gallery (where further members of the RTC Committee including Howard Angus and Sir Ronald Prain with their wives, and Vernon

Ely were presented). Her Majesty and the Royal Party entered the Cartoon Gallery, in keeping with the intention of the function, informally and unheralded.

For the ensuing half hour Her Majesty and His Royal Highness progressed down the length of the Gallery being introduced to various official guests either by the Chairman of the Club, Henry Wollaston or by the President of the Tennis and Rackets Association, Morys Aberdare.

What was said, what questions were asked or answered, what impressions were given or got must be the prerogative of each individual who was present. It is perhaps enough to say that the process, the first in 450 years, seemed to pass in 450 seconds.

At the end of the Cartoon Gallery, Her Majesty and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh proceeded into the Communication Gallery where, after presentation of various members of the staff of the Department of the



Her Majesty The Queen outside our court

Environment to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, she and His Royal Highness signed photographs which, when framed, will hang in the Ely Room.

Before the Royal Party's final departure down the Queen's Staircase, the Chairman presented Her Majesty and His Royal Highness with engraved glass goblets to commemorate their visit and conducted them around an exhibition of pictures reflecting all aspects of the game of Tennis, which had

been garnered together by Mr & Mrs Peter Railing for the occasion in the Haunted Gallery. The Cartoon Gallery, meanwhile, continued to hum with conversation. Old friendships were renewed, and tennis players the world over and their wives discussed the game, and the events of an evening which the Royal Tennis Court are proud to have been afforded the opportunity to arrange.

It would not be right if in this Report the Club forgot to express its grateful thanks to

the very many members of the Staff of the Department of the Environment who coordinated all the services with naval efficiency; to the Press and television who were far less obtrusive than had been feared, and lastly to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness themselves, who graced an occasion which will not soon be forgotten by those who were present.

Michael Morton, Sept 1980

And finally...it was a day that our own Lesley Ronaldson would never forget, as she recounts: "It was a great day. I remember that Her Majesty shook my hand inside the court corridor by the back door. I was hugely pregnant with Luke at the time! It was the only time she ever came to RTC, although I met her a few times afterwards."

"When Sophie, The Countess of Wessex, brought her daughter Lady Louise as a baby to RTC she showed her our picture of the Queen and Louise repeated 'Amama, Amama!' as she pointed to it – it really was very sweet!"



travelled from Australia to play). George also represents RTC in RTC's NL Division 7 team. Darcy Blaber has been selected onto the British Junior Girls

Academy. She has qualified for the U-19 Girls World Championships which will take place in April 2023. Harry Dalton (partnered with David Blizzard) won the De Lazlo Bowl in September. James Derrick won the Barker Camm F Grade competition in November. And the picture shows Robert Blizzard, who beat Richard Coughtrie 9/5 off rec 30 owe 1/2 15 one serve, banned tambour in the final of the Latham Brown.

With our aim to encourage more juniors to play the game, we are delighted to announce that we now have more than 50 junior members. Many are playing regularly which is great to see. Successes in the last 3 months include:

George Parsons (H31) played in the World U-19 Junior World Championships at Seacourt in August (an invitational event for the top world 16 juniors which included two players who had

Sarah Parsons

Comms: a new future

Since the start of the 22/23 season we have been working on building RTC's online profile, predominantly through Instagram, the website and Twitter. The posts and stories on the Instagram page from the Champions Trophy in June 22 (including videos and photos) were well received by many people including RTC members, other clubs and Professionals, with a mix of likes, comments, an increased in followers and many tennis emojis!

We have looked to capitalise on this stream of activity and support, focusing on using Instagram as the main visual online platform to ramp up RTC's activity post-Covid. To date, we have posted results from tournament matches at the club, recognising members' involvement in tournaments at other clubs, provided the 'Farewell to our Patron' statement, shown a glimpse into the infamous Early Bird Training Sessions and promoted Professional tournaments at the club and beyond.

There is much more activity planned as the season is well under way including professional tips, an RTC/HCP history corner and a writeup from the Bordeaux trip! Do let us know if you are organising any social matches and would like us to post about the day or get in touch if you want to share any special memories from your time at the club for our social media pages. If you have Instagram please follow us to keep in the loop and if not, you can catch up on all our activity via the website link here! <https://www.royaltenniscourt.com/news/social-media>

Araminta Oldham

Our objectives explained

Each year the RTC Board of Directors consider the club's overall strategic directives over a number of areas to test whether these best reflect the club's circumstances, and sets priorities for the year ahead. The table below lists both current and future objectives and priorities for the coming year.

RTC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	2022/23 PRIORITIES
1. Members' Tennis Experience: All members should have the opportunity to achieve their potential as players. They should be encouraged to play both socially and competitively and to enjoy viewing high level tennis, within the club and beyond. We shall seek a reasonable balance between the different aspirations of members	Focus also on retaining existing members (recruitment is harder than retention) by continually enhancing the member experience (through the stimulus of the pro team, the quality and upkeep of facilities, and the variety and quality of social events)
2. A World Class Court in a Unique Historic Setting: The playing experience should be excellent for all standards of player from novice to world champion. The club facilities should reinforce this experience, in keeping with the historic Royal Palace	Work with HRP to achieve more timely and effective maintenance and repairs of the court, the club and professionals' apartments, with value for money
3. Supporting the Game and its future development: The RTC should promote the Game within this unique setting and in the wider community for the benefit of the present and future generations. We seek to maintain a constructive and supportive relationship with the T & R A and other organisations in the Real Tennis community	Run an annual development tournament for junior Pros from all clubs
4. Juniors: The RTC will actively encourage young people of all backgrounds to take up the game. We will continue to support the development of their game	Continue to drive an exceptional programme of recruitment and coaching to increase the number of juniors and to retain them
5. The Professional team: The Professional team are the key to a successful club. The RTC will aim to attract and retain a team of the highest quality and support their continuing development	Develop a strong and cohesive Pro team, accelerating the development of our junior Professional Support our team's participation in the IIP programme to further develop their skills and potential
6. A Sociable club: The RTC should be a friendly and sociable club both on court and off, providing a variety of events for members and guests	Re-activate our social programme post-Covid
7. Membership: The RTC seeks to attract an engaged and thriving membership. All are welcome	Continue the drive for new members, with the objective of increasing net membership numbers by at least 10 this year
8. Communication: The RTC Board will ensure that members and potential members are well informed about the playing and social opportunities at the club, and will seek to inspire members through a variety of communication vehicles including appropriate use of social media	Inform and inspire both existing and potential members about what is happening at RTC, and what is coming
Governance and Sustainability: The Board will represent all sections of membership and be proactive in working to achieve the above objectives. We aim to maintain a healthy financial base for their pursuit	Continue to maintain a stable financial base for the club's activities while selectively releasing funds to support priority actions.



Speaking of Boards and Directors, this lovely drawing (by Mikko) was presented to our retiring Chairman, Michael Day CVO, on behalf of club directors, Professionals and all members in recognition of his exemplary stewardship over the years

Well done our Jack!

Great news! RTC's newest Professional, Jack Josephs, has received a *distinction* for his L3 Leadership/supervisor course, part of his Investing in Professionals (IIP) qualifications.

This course is a level up on the other IIP individuals, given Jack's previous qualifications gained at University. Which confirms the strong belief, held by so many, that he has a great future in club and the RT world.

Jack said: "Over the past 18 months, I have been working towards completing my Level 3 team Leadership and Management apprenticeship and I am delighted with my distinction. At the end of October I took part in a three-hour final assessment, a 20-minute presentation and an interview, as well as discussing my studies and the portfolio of evidence that I had gathered throughout the course. I was over the moon to have been awarded a distinction in both the presentation and also the interview section.

"I am very grateful for the knowledge and experience I have gained during the course and I am hoping to use this knowledge as I progress in my role at RTC."



Where to start with the Hampton Courtiers' (representing RTC) five-day campaign in the Tournoi Trois Tripos (TTT) doubles tournament in a glorious corner of Basque countryside in SW France, other than to say that the team won the much prized Coupe d'Arcangue?.

The Hampton Courtiers team was made up of Geoffrey Russell, Rhona Russell, Julian Sheraton-Davis, Linda Sheraton-Davis (capt), Lucy Hutchinson and yours truly, plus our "artist in residence" Francesca Learmount painting watercolours of the courts and matches we played during the tournament.

The tournament feels very similar to the bi-annual Boomerang at Royal Melbourne Tennis Club. In TTT has 20 teams competing with players from all over the globe (US/Australia/France/UK/the Netherlands/Ireland). It is similar also in terms of the group stages with matches played on a round-robin basis. There comparison starts to fade, as TTT is set around the city of Bayonne (next to Biarritz) where historically there has always been a strong relationship between this part of France and Britain and probably where jeu de paume (tennis) found its way to Britain.

The TTT court locations are in the most picturesque French Basque countryside around Bayonne, la Bastide-Clairence, Urrugne & Bidarray. Geoffrey Russell had the responsibility of team selection and running order which needed to be confirmed in advance to the TTT organisers the Simons (messrs Mansfield & Berry) by 7.30pm every day. I should add our congratulations to the organisers Simon Mansfield, Simon Berry & Isabelle Riou for running such a large and complex tournament.

The Hampton Courtiers visited the Bayonne court (called Trinquet st André) on our first night. It is in the oldest part of the city on the Rue de jeu de paume. The court is small, the roof is wooden as are the viewing galleries. The back wall at the hazard end has no penthouse and there is no tambour as on a RT court. The penthouse only runs along two sides and is lower and narrower and the floor is rough concrete. These features would typify all the courts we played in the TTT.

This visit gave the Courtiers much to think about in terms of tactics. We started our campaign in the beautiful village of Bidarray, close to the Spanish border. The court still came as a shock as it was tiny. The penthouse roof appeared even narrower than Bayonne and the bobble serve reigned supreme over the railroad.

It proved a steep learning curve (without having time to practice with the fluorescent orange Real Tennis balls!) against an experienced Prested Bleu side and despite a combative performance we lost. The Courtiers returned to Bidarray the following day to take on the Royal Dutch team led by Theo Bollerman, another TTT veteran. Although picking up our first game win the Royal Dutch team prevailed in a close encounter.

Scheduling stepped up a gear the next day with matches v Queens at Bayonne and against Petworth at la Bastide-Clairence (and although there were no overall team wins for the Courtiers our performances continued to improve significantly).

Hampton Courtiers needed something special in the final round of matches and found inspiration in Urrugne with a convincing win over Jesmond Dene, followed in our final group match in Bayonne by another big win against the unbeaten Oxford Unicorns which put Hampton Courtiers into the quarter final of the Coupe d'Arcangues.

A special mention for the team of markers at the TTT, led by Real Tennis and rackets legend Howard Angus, who all had the unenviable task of making the right calls on courts. This included the courts measured in Napoleonic feet (an actual, ancient system of measurement) plus the very faded markings on the court. This occasionally led to some interesting calls, and the use of gaffer tape to highlight particularly faded floor markings! Hampton Courtiers entered the quarter final against Royal Melbourne Tennis Club (all the finals games played at the la Bastide-Clairence court) and won a tough match to set up a semi-final with Prested Blancs. This proved an equally tough encounter but Hampton Courtiers found a way to win and make it to the final, where Middlesex (MURTC) awaited. The match could not have been closer and went to games count-back to decide the winner, where HC triumphed 20-15 to lift the Coupe d'Arcangues - a deserved reward for a magnificent team effort throughout the tournament.

Alas, I could not stay for the finale which included the gala dinner hosted by the Marquis Michel d'Arcangues at his chateau (for which many thanks) and the presentation to Hampton Courtiers of the Coupe d'Arcangues. My fellow courtier Geoffrey described TTT as this "most extraordinary event" – an observation with which I believe all the competitors in the 2022 TTT would concur. Planning starts now for 2024!!

Simon Cripps

Your club needs you!

We urgently need two to three members to join our Social Committee to help plan and organise RTC's social events. Without additional members joining the committee the club will not be able to maintain our current calendar of social events and the membership will miss out on this key benefit of our club.

We usually run four events per year, spread over the season. We need people who can help organise events (eg identifying and liaising with caterers, organising decorations or entertainment for an event) and would also be keen to hear from members who have ideas about new events to keep our programme fresh and engaging. The committee usually split responsibilities so each person takes the lead on one event per year, with input and support from the rest of the committee. Please speak to the Professionals or e-mail Katy Doy (katydoy86@gmail.com) if you are able to help. Thank you! Katy Doy We require a bunch of green-fingered people to get together to maintain and love our gorgeous RTC garden.

Volunteers are required to come together a couple of times a year, as a workgroup and then sporadically during the summer. The plan is for a major workgroup in the spring and again in the autumn plus intermittent meetings, in particular before major events such as the Champions Trophy, to get our lovely garden ready for presentation. We will have a BBQ to celebrate the garden on the most suitable of these occasions.

Those who would like to be involved, from horticultural experts to advise to a bunch of workers to dig and replant, please contact premises@royaltenniscourt.co.uk if you are willing to help. Paul Wright

Carol Service

A highlight in the RTC social calendar is the Royal Tennis Court Carol Service at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, on Tuesday 13th December 2022 from 7.30pm.

There is a maximum capacity, so get in touch with the Professionals today to purchase your tickets and take advantage of the early bird ticket rate of £15. Offer ends at the end of November. Tickets: Earlybird £15 per person, otherwise, £18 per person. Under 18s free.

The service will start at 7.30pm and, as ever, will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies served on the tennis court for members and their guests.



Blissful in Bordeaux

RTC members went to France on tour in October, this time to Bordeaux to play on the new court against some of the local members. A Silver Cup was played for by the two teams from RTC and Jeux de Paume Bordeaux. Nick Howell, the local Pro, ran the tournament and scored the matches, which for those of you who have played in France before is crucial as he is bi-lingual!

A mixture of doubles and singles on Saturday included RTC players Ian Wimbush, Sylvia Warren, David Cunningham, Nick Hyams and Alison Cryer. Ian, Nick and Ali arrived a day early to get to know the court, enjoying a delicious lunch next door and having a go at Padel, while Ian had stayed on in France after a great time at the Trois-Tripots Tournament.

Most games throughout the Saturday went to 40-all with JdPB winning the last point and

the Silver Cup. The Bordeaux players enjoyed themselves so much they came back the next day for more and a friendly doubles and mixed team doubles resulted in a win for RTC. Bordeaux will travel to Hampton Court next year to defend their Cup victory.

The atmosphere was amazing throughout the weekend. JdPB provided two great lunches, Henri (and Sybille) Blanchot, former president and architect of the club, hosted the RTC team in their stunning home (also designed by Henri) for an aperitif followed by dinner in their very trendy area – in fact much gastronomy and tennis was enjoyed by all. For those who don't know it Bordeaux is a beautiful city and a great weekend break, especially if a game of tennis can be included – the club members are extraordinarily hospitable!

Ali Cryer

Board Talk - September 12 2022

Michael Day: A presentation was made over a live link to previous Chairman Michael Day in recognition of his service from 2017 to 2022. See picture on Page 6

Communication update: The Board is delighted that Minty Oldham has agreed to help with RTC external communication over social media platforms. She has set up an RTC Instagram account with more than 600 followers. See article Page 5

Strategic Objectives – see article Page 6

Professional's Report and events calendar:

The Board is enthusiastic about the Development Tournament, organised successfully for the second consecutive year, and thanked NW for his work in setting it up. Jack Josephs is injured and will be replaced in the Development Tournament (Josh King). We are running below our court usage norm of 95%. There may be a reluctance to return

from Covid, and, with cardless payment, members have less need to visit the Pro shop when their next court(s) would be booked.

Finance: YTD accounts show a surplus of £24k which is artificially high with some incurred costs outstanding. Income is healthier than budgeted though there is concern over court usage.

Premises: The Board thanked Paul Wright for his efforts in resolving maintenance issues. The gents' changing room shower surround has been remedied. There is concern over rising energy costs, plans are afoot to address this.

Social: KD noted that there urgently needs to be a revitalised social committee. See article Page 7. The carol service will go ahead on December 13th and is a significant contributor to balancing losses on other social events. The Board's objective is to run social events at breakeven. A Prizegiving event will be held in January 2023.

Put that light out!

With energy prices nearing all-time highs it makes sense for the Club to save money where possible. A working party has been set up to investigate how best RTC can save energy both to cut costs and to reduce our carbon footprint. In the meantime, please turn OFF any light that is not being used, especially the Court lights if you are the last player, keep doors shut to keep the heat in and, when in doubt, put it out!

Squash success

RTC's James Dubois is not just a Real Tennis ace. He became UK National champion for Over 75s squash players earlier in the year and followed that triumph by captaining the England Over-75s team to victory in the Home Internationals—well done James!

A small victory

In response to myriad requests (well, an amusing e-mail from Owen Saunders) the wire-and-ball scoring counter in the Dedans has been lowered so the Club's more vertically challenged players can reach it. *Good move - The Editor (5' 5" on a good day)*

Membership: This year 41 members have been lost, with a further 15 moving to social from full membership. The club has attracted 27 new members, of whom 15 are full members. This is a net financial loss to the club. The Board discussed the importance of retaining existing members, with action to get dormant members back on court.

Tennis and Tournaments: DC thanked Giles Doy for his considerable efforts in running a successful King's Goblet. Owen Saunders will run it from 2023. The club will run a handicap doubles tournament over a single weekend, with a provisional date of 22/23 April in 2023. The change to court timings to the half hour seems to have been successful in increasing court usage and has been generally well-received

Juniors: George Parsons took part in the World U19 Junior Championships at Seacourt in August. The club intends to enter a junior team in this season's Peter Lucke-Hill Cup.