

# THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT

## Hampton Court Palace



## THE HOT TICKET

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CLUB BARBECUE...  
ONCE THE RAIN RELENTED

*Read more on page 5*

The Autumn Newsletter 2014  
Number 108

# Chairman's Chat



The credit and debit card payment system is now up and running in the pro's shop. Payments can be made in person or by phone for virtually all expenditure at the club. There is a supplementary charge of 2% to cover running and transaction costs, but this is a small charge for what is a great facility for members and visitors. If we find enough members and guests use the facility, it might be possible in the future to waive the charge.

The drinks station is also up and running and seems to be working well. Some members and guests may perhaps appear to occasionally forget to pay for their drinks etc. It is an honesty bar, so please make sure you settle up in full when you leave, or if you forget to pay, ring up and pay by card.

At present juniors are under-represented at our club. The pros have held coaching sessions during the half-term February break, at Easter and during August. The majority of the participants appear to be coming from contacts outside the club, such as through advertising or external contacts, but I am sure that there are also many members with children, grandchildren and children of friends who would love to come and play on our court. Perhaps when the next round of coaching for juniors is advertised, you could try to sell our great sport and encourage them to come along? Well done,

meanwhile, to those eight juniors from the Royal Tennis Court who played in the recent British Junior Open at the Queen's Club (see page 7).

Thank you to the board members, Nick Wood and the team, Graham Aston and Miriam, Paul Wright and others for the catering etc, and to George Sleighthome and his band for the music, which all went together to make a fantastic Summer Barbecue, not forgetting the 80 people who came along to make it all worthwhile. (See page 5.)

This year the Club Dinner will be held on Friday 7 November in the Garden Room at Hampton Court Palace. I hope that as many of you as possible will come along to support this event, which will also be a fund-raising event for juniors. Tickets will be limited, so please buy yours early.

Finally, the Carol Service will be held this year on Wednesday 17 December at the Chapel Royal. All members and friends are invited. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on court after the concert.

**Julian Sheraton-Davis**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### National League Premier Division

☛ The Premier Division is back! Our own Chris Chapman and Peter Wright take on the Leamington team of Ben Matthews and Jon Dawes on **Saturday 1 November**. More details on page 6.

### British Open Qualifying

☛ The club will be holding the qualifying stages for the British Open on **Friday 7-Sunday 9 November**. The top 16 entrants go straight into the Queen's draw, leaving some strong pros and amateurs battling to join them. Well worth a watch.

### Annual Dinner

☛ Get your tickets now for **Friday 7 November** in the Palace's lovely Garden Room. See page 3.

### Pol Roger Trophy

☛ Will this be the year for RTC in the national inter-club event? Come and support Phil Dunn's crack outfit against Manchester on **Sunday 14 December**.

### Christmas Carol Service

☛ Members will be opening wide (and not just to scoff mince pies) on the evening of **Wednesday 17 December**. See page 6 for details.

## COMING UP

### RTC

**27-28 Sept:** Barker Camm Cup Grade F (60+ handicap)  
**12 Oct:** RTC v Hurlingham (social match)  
**18-19 Oct:** Barker Camm Cup Grade E (50-59)  
**26 Oct:** RTC v Cambridge (Brodie Cup)  
**1 Nov:** RTC v Leamington (NL Premier Division)  
**7-9 Nov:** British Open Qualifying  
**7 Nov:** Annual Dinner  
**15-16 Nov:** Harris Watson Trophy doubles (1st stage)  
**6-7 Dec:** Barker Camm Cup Grade D (40-49)  
**6 Dec:** RTC v Queen's (NL Premier Division)  
**14 Dec:** RTC v Manchester (Pol Roger Trophy)  
**17 Dec:** Annual Christmas Carol Service

### ELSEWHERE

**22-29 Sept:** French Open (men's and women's, Paris)  
**6-14 Oct:** IRTPA Championships (Manchester)  
**10-12 Oct:** Over-50 Doubles (Holyport)  
**29 Oct-2 Nov:** MCC 175 Doubles (Lord's)  
**1-2 Nov:** Inter-club Singles & Doubles (Moreton Morrell)  
**13-16 Nov:** British Open Doubles Qualifying (Queen's)  
**14-16 Nov:** British Ladies' Handicap Singles & Doubles (Moreton Morrell/Leamington)  
**16-25 Nov:** British Open (Queen's)  
**28-30 Nov:** Inter-Universities Tournament (Cambridge)  
**28-30 Nov:** Over-50 Amateur Singles (Lord's)  
**28-30 Nov:** LRTA Junior Tournament (Radley)  
**7 Dec:** Cambridge v RTC (social match)

# Crossley's crown

*Charlie Crossley has a second Barker Camm Cup title*

**D**efending champion Charlie Crossley has retained the Barker Camm Cup and the label of club champion, dispatching James Sohl with relative ease in the final.

The absence of Peter Wright from the event had left one half of the draw relatively open. David Watson was seeded second, but he has had injury problems this year and he was unable to fend off the relentless assault from James's racket in their semi-final. In the other half, Charlie glided past James Watson with little trouble.

On paper, then, the final had a clear favourite and underdog, with Charlie's handicap some 7.5 points better than his opponent's. The champion controlled the first set with few alarms, and although James fought hard (as ever) and volleyed firmly and consistently (as ever) when given the chance, Charlie took it 6-2.

The second set had a different feel to it, as Charlie's focus wandered slightly and James sensed a chink of light at the end of the tunnel. He ground out some long games, but in the end Charlie re-established the upper hand and ran out a 6-2 6-3 winner. While it meant a deserved second title for Charlie, James can take heart from his efforts,



*Charlie Crossley and James Sohl*

particularly in light of how rarely he gets on court these days.

So, can anyone stop Charlie Crossley, who has won both the club singles and doubles titles two years in a row? Find out later in the season.

## **BARKER CAMM CUP CLUB CHAMPIONS**

- 2014** Charlie Crossley
- 2013** Charlie Crossley
- 2012** Peter Wright
- 2011** David Watson
- 2010** Simon Barker
- 2009** Simon Barker
- 2008** Simon Barker
- 2007** Simon Barker
- 2006** Simon Barker
- 2005** Simon Barker

# Social matches

**T**he club organises a number of inter-club social matches throughout the season. The matches give members a chance to play at other courts, and vice versa. Although they are friendlies, pride – and in some cases a trophy of dubious origin – is always on the line!

All levels have played, with handicaps from single figures to 80 – so no one should worry that these matches are not for them. If you haven't played in one, they are an excellent way to mix competition with pleasure and to meet new tennis enthusiasts.

The fixtures are below. Anyone who fancies playing can either talk to the professionals or email Owen Saunders (osaunders@hotmail.com).

**Sunday 12 October**  
v Hurlingham (home)

**Sunday 7 December**  
v Cambridge (away)

**Saturday 7 February**  
v Manchester (away)

**Sunday 22 March**  
v Brigands (home)

**Saturday 30 April**  
v Haphazards (home)

**Sunday 7 June**  
v Bristol (away)

## **Annual Dinner**

After a gap of several years, the Royal Tennis Court Annual Dinner and Prizegiving is returning home to Hampton Court Palace.

The event will take place in the magnificent Garden Room on the evening of **Friday 7 November**. There will be a champagne reception and three-course dinner to accompany the prizegiving.

Tickets are £80 for adults and £50 for under-25s and can be obtained from the professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you and your partners and guests to join us in celebrating the many playing successes of the Royal Tennis Court over the last season.



# Youth over experience

*The King's Goblet handicap doubles went the way of two of the fresher-faced entrants*

**H**andicap doubles is a strange beast that requires skill, patience and tactical acumen in order to tame it. Thus we often see older hands faring well in such competitions while younger, more impetuous players are found out.

Of course, the beauty of sport is that there are always exceptions that prove the rule, and so it was in this summer's King's Goblet, which saw a mature performance from Matthew Webb and Harriet Ingham. Having advanced from their first-round group despite one narrow defeat, they stepped up a gear on the Sunday, winning their second-stage group before putting in a very impressive semi-final

performance, taking care of Phil Beard and Tony Cooke 9-4 despite having to concede a tricky handicap allowance of 22 (rec 30-owe 15).

Their opponents in the final were Ian Scoffield and Alan Dallamore, who had survived a tight semi-final against those grizzled veterans of handicap doubles tennis, Richard East and Nick Carew Hunt. After a strong start in the 40-minute final, the younger pair were pegged back to 4-4 by worthy opponents. Matthew and Harriet were not to be denied, though, and they settled again into their rhythm to close out the match 6-4 and claim the title.



## Inter-club knockout draws – home sweet home

**F**or once the draws for the Pol Roger Trophy and Brodie Cup smiled on the Royal Tennis Court, offering the carrot of a potentially good run in both these national inter-club competitions.

In the Pol Roger Trophy (the national amateur team knockout tournament), our leading players will host Manchester in the quarter-finals on 14 December. If they avoid that banana skin, the reward for Phil Dunn's team will be another home match, against 2013-14 finalists

Cambridge or Holyport. As RTC hosts the final, this means no travelling for our team, no matter how far they advance.

In the Brodie Cup, which features singles and doubles matches with players handicapped 30-55, RTC is also at home, against Cambridge. Should they prevail, however, a tough trip to Radley will follow. Further success would mean home quarter-finals and semi-finals before a final down in Bridport. Dick Cowling takes over as skipper this season from Owen Saunders.

### Summer Night Pennant (handicaps 20-40)

**T**he Summer Night Pennant was a victory for the handicap system, having produced a plethora of evenings in which the difference between teams was paper-thin. In this competition a team can score 11 points by winning all six sets or 10 points by winning five sets – but not once in the 10 weeks of the group stage did this happen.

By the end of those 10 weeks, team 3 (Simon Edmond, Scott Levy, Justin Gregory) had just edged to the top of the pile, giving them a final place. In the preliminary final, team 4 (Robert Frost, Paul Wright, Martin Daly), who had finished second in the table, advanced thanks



largely to an unbeaten evening from Paul.

The first two singles matches in the final were shared, but while Scott was defeating Martin in the third singles, Paul discovered that his other half was in hospital after a bike accident. Naturally he had to make a smart exit

(thankfully Linda is recovering well from an arm injury), and Michael Day, who had been watching proceedings, manfully stepped up to stand in for Paul, in borrowed kit.

Alas, it was to no avail, as team 3 rattled through the three sets of doubles to wrap up the title. An exhausting evening for all – as this picture confirms.

# Satow is first among equals

*Fred Satow emerged as the victor in the closest of Lathom Browne Cup finals*

When the powers-that-be tweaked the handicap rule for the 2013-14 Lathom Browne Cup in order to give all entrants a realistic chance of glory, they could hardly have imagined a better climax to the competition.

The rule change – meaning a player’s handicap on the day is now used in the Lathom Browne, rather than a handicap fixed from 1 September – was designed in the wake of rapid improvers racking up huge wins in recent years as their fixed September handicap lagged way behind their playing ability (winners often improved by 10-15 points during the season). Effectively, if you weren’t relatively new to the game you didn’t stand much chance of winning the club’s singles handicap title – hardly encouraging to most members.

The benefits of the new rule became evident as several long-time members progressed through the competition. When the dust had settled, Fred Satow and Karen Prottey were the last two standing, with Fred giving up a handicap allowance of 19 (rec 30-owe 15) in a battle of two accomplished volleyers. Fred clearly needed to make as few mistakes as possible and Karen needed to stay in rests as long as she could, hoping to force errors from her experienced opponent.

Karen took first blood and then had opportunities to force home her advantage as the second game went to 40-0, but Fred retained his composure and made no errors to level the match. He added the third game, but Karen responded with a fighting fourth, retrieving well and using her potent forehand whenever the opportunity presented itself.

And so the match progressed, with neither player giving ground in an increasingly intense atmosphere. The score progressed to 6-6, and at no point had the lead been more than a single game. Fred then took two games on the trot to sit one game away from victory, and anyone not familiar with Karen’s über-competitive, never-say-die attitude may have expected the match to end quickly. But Karen, a former

ladies’ captain of lawn tennis at Oxford University, dug deep and came through two closely contested games, setting up a thrilling 8-8 finale.

Although Karen was serving at the start of the final game, Fred played well to reach 40-30, but Karen forced the match to a deciding point: 8-8, 40-all. By now Fred was serving, defending a six-yard chase. Karen returned well down the line, Fred played a wonderful cross-court shot that Karen managed to dig out, but only to second gallery. Game and match to Fred Satow. It was a wonderful game to watch, with two determined competitors doing themselves proud in a match that had a fitting end and a worthy winner.

So, the Lathom Browne Cup is again a competition anyone can win. Could it be you? **Thanks to Dick Cowling**

## LATHOM BROWNE CUP – THE FINAL STAGES

Quarter-finals	Semi-finals	Final	Winner
Fred Satow Owen Saunders	Satow 9-7	Satow 9-5	
Adrian Larkin Dan Callaghan	Callaghan 9-2		Satow 9-8
Karen Prottey Zac Jopling	Prottey 9-6	Prottey 9-5	
Will Cockerell Giles Doy	Doy 9-4		

## Club Barbecue ‘meat and greet’

The annual barbecue in the club garden was a great success, supported by over 100 members and their families and children.

Despite a downpour in the early afternoon and some worried faces (indoor barbecues just aren’t as much fun), the rain abated just in time for the kids’ activities. The World Cup penalty shoot-out was a hit with the children, although our guests of honour, world champions Rob Fahey and Claire Vigrass, couldn’t be persuaded to have a go. It was wonderful for Rob and Claire to support the event and chat to members, and to help with the fund-raising raffle. On the evening over £450 was raised for the club’s Young

Professionals Fund, and over £150 for junior development.

Innovations this year included a wine tent from a local wine merchant, and Charlie and Tom’s Pimm’s bar for the Young Professionals Fund, while we saw the return by popular demand of (newsletter cover star) Graham Aston’s lamb pit roast and fine music from George Sleightholme and friends.

Thanks to all those who gave so generously of their time and ideas to make it a success: Graham Aston and Miriam, Paul Wright, Fraser Shorey, Lindsay Hatchett, John Halliday, Nick Wood, Josh Smith, Tom Freeman, Charlie Crossley, Nicola Doble, George Sleightholme and Julian Sheraton-Davis. **Owen Saunders**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Champions match

Congratulations to world champions Rob Fahey and Claire Vigrass, who tied the knot in July. Not one to rest on her laurels, Claire has also recently started a new job, as senior pro at Holyport.

### World Doubles

The Tuxedo Club in the US has been designated as the host club of the 2015 World Doubles. It is the home court of Tim Chisholm, so he and Camden Riviere will be gunning for champions Rob Fahey and Steve Virgona.

### Josh Smith

Josh has been hampered by an ankle injury that continues to keep him away from competition. Get well soon, Josh.

# National League

*More success for RTC...*

As the last newsletter went to press, RTC teams had already won two division titles (4 and 6) and had three more finals to contest. Here's how they got on...

## **Division 2 (5 hcp +)**

After Tom Freeman and James Watson had stood in admirably and won their semi-final for them, Charlie Crossley and David Watson reclaimed their places and travelled east to take on a young Prested Hall duo.

On his home court, an improving Lewis Williams had too much firepower for David, and then Claire Vigrass underlined the great strides she had made over the season by defeating Charlie with ease, taking her handicap down to four in the process. A disappointing end to the season, then, for RTC's pair, but Prested is a notoriously difficult place for anyone to notch up away wins.

## **Division 7 (30+)**

Having topped the table, Paul Wright's team hosted Hatfield House, and the skipper led the way by taking the No 3 rubber against John Savage in straight sets.

Next up, in the top rubber, was Mr Dependable, Fraser Shorey, who came up with the sterling performance he always delivers when it matters most, crushing Silas Manhood 6-2 6-2 to seal this division title for a fourth consecutive year. George Sleightholme, after a long struggle with Chris Aley, wrapped up a 3-0 win.

## **Division 9 (40+)**

Justin Gregory's outfit had to travel north-west to take on a strong Moreton Morrell trio. As in Division 7's final, our captain led the way, beating Martin Trees 6-3 6-2.



*David Watson and Charlie Crossley with Prested Hall's Claire Vigrass and Lewis Williams*

Harriet Ingham then had a thrilling marathon against home No 2 Alan Moug. Harriet had a couple of match points at 5-4 in the third set, but they slipped away and the Moreton man managed to level the match.

The decider was another epic. RTC's Richard Lawrence lost the first set 6-5 but took the second by the same scoreline. At 5-4 and 40-15 in the third, Richard beat chase two on the floor to claim a remarkable away win for RTC.

So the final tally for the club was four titles and one runner-up spot – matching the fine 2012-13 haul.



*...and the top pros are back in the National League too*

The Premier Division of the National League makes a return after a one-season hiatus, with Chris Chapman (left) and Peter Wright representing the Royal Tennis Court. Their opening home match is at 5pm on SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER against Leamington, featuring prodigal son Ben Matthews, who has just started his new job at the Warwickshire court, and Hatfield House head pro Jon Dawes.

This is a great chance to see the best players in the country in action, and Chris and Peter would love a strong, vocal home support. Tickets are available from the pros (dedans front row £25, back row £20, top gallery £15; prices include food. Under-18s can watch from the top gallery free of charge).

*Start your Christmas celebrations by joining us at  
The RTC Annual Carol Service*

*in the Chapel Royal*

*Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 7.30pm*

*Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the club*

Tickets: £14 (or £12 per head for groups of four or more) available from the pros  
(No charge for under-18s)

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

# Junior update – a growth industry

*JP Guillonnet on why the future is looking bright after the British Junior Open*

All our eight juniors at the British Junior Open in late August were really excited – and also a little bit nervous as Queen’s can be an imposing place. Chris Chapman and I met with the under-12s and under-14s, who were competing on the Friday. The draw is fairly simple in that all players play in a round robin according to handicap and the winner of each group moves up to play in the next level.

In Group A of the under-12s we had three players: Ross Morrison and Matthew and Sophie Wood. After Chris had provided them with their sponsored RTC shirts (thank you, Kim Software Solutions), Ross won one of his three matches and we were very happy with his performances. Sophie also won one out of three and competed really well. Matthew was a very worthy but apologetic (having beaten his sister) winner of the group, winning all three matches – a great result.

The next round was more difficult and while Matthew competed hard, he

did do well to come third at this level.

Sadly Ben Farrow was injured in his first match in the under-14s and it was clear that he was in too much pain to carry on. I hope the experience hasn’t dampened his enthusiasm for the game as he really does hit the ball well and will carry on improving. Bad luck!

Alice O’Hagan played some really good tennis and won one match 5-4 before losing the next 1-6 to the eventual winner of the group and having a very close third match.

Chris and I were back early on the Saturday and it was great to have the Elmitts playing in the under-16s. In the first group, Emily played very well but the opposition was too strong, although the scores in her matches didn’t reflect her competitiveness. She came joint third in her group. Charlie Elmitt played extremely well and won the group, winning all three of his matches. In the next round, Charlie won one match, lost a very close second match 2-3 and then lost to the group winner.

Max O’Hagan competed really well in the under-18 competition. He didn’t lose a set in the first stage and looked very authoritative. In the next stage he played four opponents and came third in the group. For a (scratch) golfer he is a very good real tennis player.

All our juniors competed brilliantly and were great to watch, despite some of them having started to play less than seven weeks prior to the tournament. Their understanding of the game was incredible. Their parents and the RTC professionals, who have put in a lot of time training the players, should be very proud of the way they handled themselves and the way they represented their club.

The tournament was excellently organised by Paul Weaver, for which we are grateful, and he made us all feel very welcome. The Queen’s Club professionals did a great job with their marking and a big thank you goes to sponsors, Neptune Investment Group, for supporting junior real tennis.

## Four ways to prosper in the new season

*Important and clearly serious tips on how to gain that little edge over your rivals*

### **Do your homework**

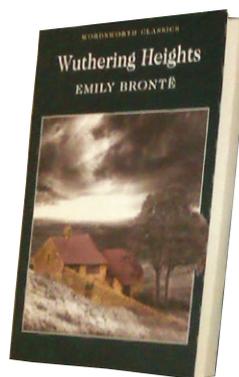
Real tennis is a complex, tactical game, so there are always new things to learn. You could, nay *should*, immerse yourself in Chris Ronaldson’s tennis bible, *A Cut above the Rest*, or perhaps maverick Australian pro Graham Hyland’s *How to Really Play Tennis*.

Then again, you can always just turn to the copy of *Wuthering Heights* that has mysteriously lived in the men’s changing room for a couple of months. It’s likely that Heathcliff was thinking of tennis when he said: “I have to remind myself to breathe – almost to remind my heart to beat!” Similarly, Isabella is surely proselytising on the folly of over-hitting when she says: “Treachery and violence are spears pointed at both ends; they wound those who resort to them worse than their enemies.”

### **Develop a new serve**

Struggling to master the giraffe or the caterpillar? No problem: simply wait until a horribly misdirected serve proves accidentally effective, and then copyright it by giving it a suitably warped animal-based name. (Warning:

your correspondent’s lawyers will be in touch if you claim to invent the murderous vole or the limping yak.)



### **Practise hitting targets**

Finding the targets can be tricky, especially if you can’t get the court time to practise. The solution? Arrange the largest room in your home accordingly with an angled bookcase (tambour), microwave (grille), shoebox (winning gallery) and a massive hole hammered through one wall (dedans), and you’re good to go. All for the cost of a few thousand pounds and possibly a marriage.

### **Work on your speed**

As you know, and as Nick Wood constantly reminds us, footwork is a key part of the game. The body doesn’t always respond to the brain’s commands at a certain age, however, so an alternative transport method is sometimes welcome. The recent Concours d’Elegance at the Palace offered some fine examples of how you

might add some extra pace, including this shapely vehicle. (NB: May not fit through the door to the court.)



# A Victorian love story

*Chris Chapman writes...* My wife, Carly Chapman, and I would like to thank all members of the Royal Tennis Court who made a contribution to us for our wedding, which took place on 22 June in Melbourne. Your generosity and kind words mean a lot to both of us, and being able to catch up with so many of you who attended the drinks for us on Friday 18 July was fantastic. Thank you in particular to Owen Saunders for planning that evening.

Carly and I married in our home city of Melbourne in front of over 100 friends and family and then went on our honeymoon to Los Angeles, San Francisco and a very hot Las Vegas. Luckily we walked away from the Las Vegas tables having broken even!

Once again thank you to everyone from both me and Carly.



# Junior club tournaments

Over one August weekend, three tournaments and 11 hours of tennis, the under-25s gave it their all, delivering a very high level of play in a true sporting manner.

Ed Kay scored a hat-trick of titles, displaying skill and plenty of stamina to win the Chairman's Cup (level singles), Wollaston Cup (handicap singles) and Vaughan Trophy (level doubles, with Alex Rozier-Pamplin). Perhaps his most impressive win was in the handicap competition, having had to give a gigantic 46-point allowance to Max O'Hagan.

## RESULTS

### Barker Camm Cup

**Final:** Charlie Crossley beat James Sohl 6-2 6-3.

### Lathom Browne Cup

**Quarter-finals:** Fred Satow beat Owen Saunders 9-7; Dan Callaghan beat Adrian Larkin 9-2; Karen Prottey beat Zac Jopling 9-6; Giles Doy beat Will Cockerell 9-4. **Semi-finals:** Satow beat Callaghan 9-5; Prottey beat Doy 9-5. **Final:** Satow beat Prottey 9-8.

### Wollaston Cup (handicap singles)

Ed Kay (13) beat Max O'Hagan (59) 6-3.

### Chairman's Cup (level singles)

Ed Kay beat Alex Rozier-Pamplin 6-0 6-3.

### Vaughan Trophy (level doubles)

Ed Kay & Alex Rozier-Pamplin beat Peter Mather & Harriet Ingham 6-3 6-1.

### King's Goblet (handicap doubles)

**Semi-finals:** Ian Scoffield & Alan Dallamore beat Richard East & Nick Carew Hunt 7-5; Harriet Ingham & Matthew Webb beat Phil Beard & Tony Cooke 9-4. **Final:** Ingham & Webb beat Scoffield & Dallamore 6-4.

### Summer Night Pennant

**Final:** Simon Edmond, Justin Gregory and Scott Levy beat Robert Frost, Paul Wright and Martin Daly 10-4; Edmond beat Frost 6-3; Gregory lost to Wright 3-6; Levy beat Daly 6-3; Edmond & Gregory beat Frost & Michael Day (sub for Wright) 6-3; Edmond & Levy beat Frost & Daly 6-4; Gregory & Levy beat Day & Daly 6-1.

### US Pro Singles (Newport)

**Quarter-finals:** Camden Riviere beat James Stout 6-4 6-1 6-4; Steve Virgona beat Kieron Booth 6-2 6-2 6-4; Ricardo Smith beat Bryn Sayers 6-4 1-6 6-2 6-3; Rob Fahey beat Ben Matthews 2-6 6-2 6-4 6-3. **Semi-finals:** Riviere beat Virgona 6-5 6-1 6-3; Fahey beat Smith 6-3 4-6 1-6 6-2 6-3. **Final:** Riviere beat Fahey 6-4 2-6 6-4 6-0.

## Tournaments latest

**A**s this newsletter goes out, Chris Chapman will be heading to Paris for the French Open, where a harsh draw means the ultimate test in the first round: world champion Rob Fahey. Also in Paris will be RTC's Peter Wright (who is up against Bryn Sayers), Charlie Crossley and Harriet Ingham. Best of luck to all.

Then, in October, comes the IRTPA Championships in Manchester, where

Chris will meet a qualifier before a likely quarter-final against Bryn Sayers. A few weeks after that, another strong field will assemble for the British Open at Queen's.

World No 1 Camden Riviere gained some consolation in June for his world championship defeat by beating Rob Fahey at Newport to retain his US Pro Singles title. He is seeded to meet Fahey again in the final in Paris.

### RTC Top Ten

Singles handicaps  
September 2014

1	Peter Wright	2.4
2	Charlie Crossley	6.2
3	Dave Harms	10.0
4	Ed Kay	12.9
5	Tom Freeman	13.4
6	David Watson	14.4
7	James Sohl	14.6
8	James Watson	15.3
9	Phil Dunn	16.4
10	Nick Hatchett	16.8

### Ladies' World Rankings

Handicaps, Sept 2014

1	Claire Fahey	4.0
2	Kate Leeming	20.6
3	Sarah Vigrass	23.9
4	Penny Lumley	25.0
5	Sue Haswell	25.3
6	Amy Hayball	28.6
7	Amanda Avedissian	29.6
8	Frederika Adam	31.1
9=	Irina Dulbish/Alex Garside/Tara Lumley	32.0

## The Royal Tennis Court Newsletter

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

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