



THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT



Picture: Hayley Bray Photography

Camden recrowned

Riviere clinches Champions' Trophy for the second time, but Chappers did us proud

See pages 4 and 5

Sheperdigian smashes it in Latham Browne

See Page 3

Juniors on a roll

See Page 6

The Autumn Newsletter 2018

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

The summer is traditionally a quiet time in the Real Tennis world but the last few months at RTC have been anything but. The highlight of course was the second iteration of The Champions' Trophy, played across one of the heatwave weeks in July. We saw tennis of the highest quality from all competitors who brought panache and a vibrant atmosphere to the Court. We were privileged to see a brilliant four-set win by Chris Chapman over world champion Rob Fahey in the semi-finals, followed by Chris taking his first set off Camden Riviere in the final, before the world No.1 found another gear and played superbly to retain the trophy.

I was just as proud of the fabulous effort by all RTC volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the week - talking to Palace visitors about the game and the tournament, and helping in so many other ways to make this event an outstanding success, along with all the organisational effort by Nick Wood and his team. Thank you all. The tournament generated a considerable amount of general press and media coverage, which is one of its aims. We owe big thanks to Liz Young and all our friends at Historic Royal Palaces for their involvement and support, and to the event sponsors, Mitsubishi Electric SV.

In other playing news, Chris and Josh reached the semi-finals of the Professional Doubles at Prested Hall in July while Nick and Josh teamed up for the Newport doubles tournament in August and won two of their three matches.



By the end of August, we had a good time window to attend to some Court maintenance. During the two-week closure period, patches of flaking plaster at the hazard end have been repaired and repainted, and some remedial work has been done to the gallery posts, so we are now ready for a full and active autumn and winter.

During this period, I also managed to arrange a game on the excellent new court at Wellington – do give it a try if you haven't already played there.

As the nights begin to draw in, now's the time to make sure that you have entered all the Club's tournaments and have the annual Prizegiving supper on Saturday 13th October in your diaries. Please do support these important events in our calendar.

Michael Day CVO

Board talk...

Highlights from 18th June.

Matters Arising: IW and NW will decide on how to tackle long term outstanding debt, including implementing the decision that members with debt outstanding over a longer period could have it recovered by direct debit (after due notice), and temporarily suspending their booking of courts - both with suitable discretion sitting with NW.

Professional's Report: NW noted that court usage continued to be sound, and that we have around 100 members who play regularly. With the full support of the Board, NW will spend more time training and playing competitive doubles with Josh Smith. HRH's Global Tennis Challenge (Duke of Edinburgh Awards) are communicating with NW on their vision for their visit to RTC later in 2018. Court cancellations have become more troublesome and the Board agreed NW's proposal to change cancellation terms to a notice period of 5 days (after 12 noon) or fewer to incur a £4 penalty, and a notice period of 2 days (after 12 noon) or fewer to incur the court fee as penalty. Following the notification to members of their need to sign up to T&RA or RTO membership to continue to be able to access RTO, to use the booking system, and to seek the help of the Pro team to find them games, around 100 playing members have not yet signed up (as of June 18). The Pro team will continue to encourage individuals to sign up.

The objective of the Board is that the entire playing membership takes up these important benefits.

Finance: IW reported that income and expenses were in line with budget.

Premises: PM reported that the heat rising from the boiler room to Chris Chapman's flat has been addressed with the installation of a ventilation system to the boiler room. The benefits will be monitored. Repair work will take place to the court in late August with a two-week closure.

Membership: The Board agreed that the trial membership option has been a success, and supports its continuation. RTC is compliant under the recent EU GDPR regulations and has notified members. ND and NW are reviewing the holding and updating of the database to ensure that members' information is kept securely.

Tennis and Tournaments: Josh Smith and Sarah Parsons are looking at ways to encourage more U25 and Junior girls to enter the game. Giles Doy is working on a fixtures card that will be compatible with display on smart phones. Plans are well advanced for the Champions Trophy in July.

Social: ND raised The Richmond in Europe Association's link with Fontainebleau where

there is a tennis court. ND will go back to the Association to see if there is a way we can use this link to promote RTC in Richmond.

RTC Website: The Board agreed that whilst the website was of value we would seek to maintain it rather than expand it.

Should anyone be able to dedicate more time and skill to it, we could review that situation.

Review of members' input at the AGM: At the 2018 AGM, members were asked what topics they would like the Board to consider. Two questions were raised, firstly regarding access to court time, and in particular "what is the aspiration of the Board for target playing frequency, and what are the planned measures to achieve that?", and secondly regarding a 3/5/10 year plan to reflect RTC's strategic objectives, first published Autumn 2015 and reviewed annually since then. The Board will review the detailed plans by sub-committee in support of the strategic objectives at the next Board meeting in and will continue to monitor sources of court time conflict through the work of NW and the T&T sub-committee, and will continue to make adjustments in light of that.

Newsletter: Initiatives around publishing a summary of Board meeting discussions, and giving Josh Smith a regular spot have been welcomed by the readership. AA has secured a lower cost for the print run.

Doug digs deep on the day

Opponents no handicap in a masterly display in the Lathom Browne contest

Doug Sheperdigian proved himself a worthy winner of the club's Lathom Browne trophy held earlier this summer.

Doug, who was handicap 41 going into the match, triumphed in the final over Jack Marriott (handicap 53). Both players thoroughly earned their spots in the final, having played fantastic handicap tennis throughout the entire event.

On the night however it was Doug who found his form at the right time, playing consistently, avoiding racquet errors and controlling the service end with his court and chase management.

A huge congratulations to Doug, who was a credit to the Lathom Browne event and exemplified the way to play handicap tennis, putting in



From left, Jack Marriott, Doug Sheperdigian, marker Josh Smith

hours of practice preparing for each of his opponents and adjusting his game to suit the specific challenges that each new opponent presented.

A worthy Lathom Browne champion indeed!

A night to be prized

The Royal Tennis Court Annual Prizegiving will take place on the court on the evening of Saturday 13th October, from 7.30pm to 10pm.

Each year we gather to celebrate the playing successes of the most recent season. This year we are delighted to confirm that our Guest of Honour will be BBC Sports anchorman and Real Tennis fan John Inverdale. We are honoured that John will join us.

There will be a Pol Roger champagne reception and a hot buffet meal will be served at 8.15pm. After the champagne reception there will be a cash bar. The dress code for the night is 'predominantly white' - please interpret this however you wish!

Tickets are £20 for adults, free for Juniors. Everyone including partners and friends are welcome. For tickets please contact the Professionals.



Chris rises to the challenge

RTC's Chris Chapman (World No.3) and Bryn Sayers of Queens Club (World No.8) entertained a packed crowd with a superb display of Real Tennis skills early in September. Having issued a 'challenge' to Bryn earlier this year, Chris grabbed the game by the throat in the first set, playing some blistering boasts to the dedans and racing to a 6-1 victory. Bryn dug deep in the second set with some extraordinary gets and, after many a fantastic rest, pulled back to win 6-2. In the deciding third set Bryn raced to a 3-0 lead and the home crowd - fuelled by an earlier excellent buffet and open bar - grew restless. Chris duly moved up a gear to take the next four games and, although Bryn just nipped a long eighth game, eventually came out the deserved winner at 6-4.

Make mine a double



Camden Riviere retained his Champions' Trophy title at Hampton Court Palace in July in a thrilling four-set final against RTC's Chris Chapman - but not before a packed home crowd had dared to dream of a home victory.

Set One: World No. 3 Chris, receiving, started in dazzling form. His very first shot was a near mirror image of Steve Virgona's opening stunner against him earlier this year - Riviere firing down a railroad, Chris spinning on a sixpence and boasting the ball into the dedans. It was déjà vu all over again, only this time the home crowd roared rather than groaned.

The roars subsided as Camden took the first game, then the second, then the third. But then the tide turned. Chris took the fourth game to get off the mark, smashed the fifth to love, and took the

sixth with a grille shot to pull it back to 3-3. Camden seemed ill at ease - head down, breathing heavy, the lasting legacy of a bug he'd picked up in the US some days previously.

Whether Chris knew this or not, he took his chance with a vengeance. In the seventh game he led 40-15 with a one yard chase; a perfectly executed high looping serve gave Camden no chance and it was 4-3 to Chapman. The eighth game went to Chris in a flash. The ninth looked ominous with Camden 40-30 ahead, only to gift Chris a deuce with a net shot. Chris took advantage with a superb grille, then caught Camden napping with a tambour. First set, and six games in a row to Chapman. His arm pumped: this was the first set he had ever taken off the World No 1. Was it to be his day?

Steve wins the Am-dram

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the Champions' Trophy is the Pro-Am competition, which gives mere mortals the chance to play with - and against - the giants of our game.

This year saw six brave amateurs stepping up to the plate: from RTC, Andy Anderson, Ian Wimbush, Steve Hunt and Nick Jeffery, Simon Talbot-Williams from MCC and David Bevan-Thomas from Petworth.

The professionals aiding and abetting them were Camden Riviere, Rob Fahey, Ben Taylor-Matthews, John Lumley, Darren Long, Tom Durack, Nick Howell, Chris Chapman, Nick Wood and Josh Smith, all of whom were unstintingly generous in their choice of shots - and unnervingly uncanny in their joint ability



Pic: AA

to ensure matches always went to level pegging until the last few (usually desperate) shots.

Last year's winner Andy Anderson blew his chance of a final as, at 5-5 and 40-40 against Nick Jeffery, he blasted an easy shot out of court (*you buffoon! Ed*).

The final on Sunday pitted Steve Hunt against Simon Talbot-Williams. Although outgunned on paper, Steve played an exceptionally cool game with minimal errors to emerge a worthy winner. Both

were awarded a Gold Leaf racquet by the generous sponsors of this event.

Results: Anderson v Bevan-Thomas 4/4, Anderson v Wimbush 5/4, Anderson v Hunt 5/4, Anderson v Talbot-Williams 4/6, Anderson v Jeffery 5/6. Bevan-Thomas v Wimbush 6/4, Bevan-Thomas v Hunt 4/6, Bevan-Thomas v Talbot-Williams 4/7, Bevan-Thomas v Jeffery 5/6. Wimbush v Hunt 4/6, Wimbush v Talbot-Williams 3/6, Wimbush v Jeffery 4/5. Hunt v Talbot-Williams 5/5, Hunt v Jeffery 7/5. Talbot-Williams v Jeffery 7/2.

Final: Hunt def Talbot-Williams 6/5.

Set Two: Oh, what a game this is. Chris barely dropped a gear, Camden merely steadied himself and his breathing. The result: 6-0 to Camden. Move on...

Set three: The atmosphere around the court really picked up in an effort to rally Chris to even greater heights. He was playing tremendous tennis, but the World No. 1 was now covering the court with his trademark agility, firing down a succession of dedans winners. Chris picked up a consolation game as the onslaught continued, but the final scoreline of 6-1 to Camden was well deserved.

Set four: Never underestimate an Australian. The first game of what was to be the deciding set seemed to go on forever; Camden blasting sublime shot after shot; Chris proving to the home crowd that, at this level, there is no such thing as an ungettable get. It could have gone either way...but it went to Camden.

Games 2 and 3 went the same way and the momentum now swung back to the champion. Chris pulled one back in the fourth game, clinched the fifth, but then pulled a few loose shots to hand Camden a



love game. The end of the set was a tight affair, several games going to deuce - Chris just would not go down

without a fight. But the World No. 1 was on sublime form, leaving Chris with a half-yard chase to beat on the final

shot of the match. It was too much of an ask...set (and match) 6-2 to Riviere.

A deserved champion...but hats off to Chris, who had earlier pulled off a stunning semi-final victory against World Champion and World No. 2 Rob Fahey. Once again, he did RTC proud.

Adam Phillips was the match marker. Thanks also to the army of stewards who did a great job educating the public; Oliver Buckley and Giles Doy on streaming; Peter Mather for brilliant social media coverage; to HRP and to sponsors Mitsubishi Electric BV, Coates and Seely Champagne and our Pro-Am Sponsor, Gold Leaf Athletics.

Results: Final: Camden Riviere bt Chris Chapman 3/6 6/0 6/1 6/2. **Semi-finals:** Camden Riviere bt Ben Taylor-Matthews 5/6 6/1 6/5 6/3, Chris Chapman bt Rob Fahey 6/4 6/4 4/6 6/4. **Quarter-finals:** Chris Chapman bt John Lumley 6/3 6/1 6/4, Ben Taylor Matthews bt Nick Howell 3/6 1/6 6/4 6/4 6/4. **First Round:** Camden Riviere bt Chris Chapman 6/4 6/3 6/3, Rob Fahey bt Ben Taylor-Matthews 6/2 4/6 6/4 6/5, John Lumley bt Kieran Booth 6/0 6/1 6/1, Nick Howell bt Matthieu Sarlangue 6/3 5/6 6/4 6/1

Andy Anderson

RTC goes the whole hog...

After the final players and supporters decamped to the Club Garden to enjoy a superb hog roast and (considerable) well-earned refreshment. Camden, after being presented with the Champions' Trophy by Hans-Joerg Hinkel of Mitsubishi Electric BV, the event's main sponsor, gave a gracious victory speech and a gloriously sunny day rolled on long into the evening. Here's to next year!

All pictures by Hayley Bray Photography



You've been framed: Charlie Jenkins from HRP, Nick Wood, Hans-Joerg Hinkel and Liz Young from HRP



Champions all: Chris Chapman, Steve Hunt, Camden Riviere



Toddler training: a new approach

Juniors go from strength to strength

The Junior Programme is continuing with great enthusiasm, the Intermediate, Development and Elite squad all having coaching sessions during the summer term or holidays, with regular sessions booked on weekends during the Autumn term.

We are also happy to have run beginners' introductory courses in the summer holidays which were exceptionally well received and this has led to us starting a Beginners' course this Autumn term, which is fantastic.

We are also delighted with the junior progression system: coaching beginners through the Intermediate and Development groups, all the way up to Elite players. This system has been set up to enable support for juniors of all levels, integrating them into the club and sport, which will hopefully run for years to come and provide a stream of young players. You will have seen some of our juniors on court and do keep an eye out for our Intermediate players, who are now taking to the court to play RTC members.

We had representation at the British Junior Open at Queens in August with three members taking part.

In the U14s, George Parsons (Development) came second in his group so missed out on going through to the next stage. In the U16s, Ross Morrison (Development) narrowly missed winning his group stage on game count-back, after a number of hard fought matches.

Ivan Barker (Elite) represented RTC in the U18s and also qualified for the Junior World Championships which is a truly fantastic achievement and a great experience. He was one of only 16 players selected. He won his first match against Woody Wilson 6/3, 5/6, 6/3 but then came up against the eventual winner, Freddie Bristowe, in the quarter finals.

Well done to all the Juniors for their continued effort and commitment! There is a real energy to the Junior Programme at the moment, which is just great for the future of tennis here at RTC.

Sarah Parsons

New membership secretary

For those of you who haven't heard, I have recently taken over from Helen Crossley as RTC Membership Secretary. Helen was Membership Secretary for 17 years and was the first person I came into contact with at the point of joining the club, which I'm sure is true for many of us.

I have sat on the Board of Directors and been part of the membership committee for several years so was lucky enough to work closely with Helen and see how much of her time she gave up to assist with the running of RTC. I would like to add my thanks to Helen to the many others she has received, and hope to continue her good work.

I joined RTC in 2005, taking up tennis as a non-competitive hobby having recently stopped playing competitive badminton. Turns out I don't do non

-competitive, so I do appear on the honours boards a few times, as well as having a handicap that starts with a 2 - long may that continue!

I am at the club pretty regularly (especially during school holidays), so do say hello if you see me. I'm pretty easy to spot, being 6 foot tall and having a purple racquet, to match my hair!

If you want to get in touch e-mail nicola.doble@gmail.com or speak to the Pros. Direct debit payments are taken quarterly on 1st Feb/May/Aug/Nov, so if you would like to make any changes to your membership, including bank details, please do let me know at least a month in advance of these dates so we can make sure that all runs smoothly.

Nicola Doble

Royal rumble

In November, our historic court is honoured to host HRH The Earl of Wessex and the final event of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Tour.

HRH Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, will play a series of sets against RTC's top juniors and also against three lucky RTC members, chosen via an open raffle, with all proceeds from the event going to the DoE scheme. Children from local schools will be invited to trial the game, supporting HRH in his role as Chairman of the Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation.

The event will also feature some famous faces from the world of Lawn Tennis - so expect some surprises on what promises to be a momentous day! This is a work in progress - check your e-mail for more details soon.

See picture Page 7

Bookings & cancellations

The club professionals will now be sending e-mails to remind players of bookings. To assist in managing bookings, to act as a reminder and to enhance the service to members, e-mails will be sent 5 days and 1 day prior to a booking. These e-mails will be sent from the RealTennisOnline system.

If you would like to make a booking, please contact the professionals' office. You can check availability and your bookings at RealTennisOnline - log in using your user RTO number or e-mail address, and password.

Cancellation after 12 noon, 5 days prior to a booking: If a booking is cancelled after 12 noon, 5 days before the booking, a fee of £4 will be due. Cancellation after 12 noon, 2 days prior to a booking: If a booking is cancelled after 12 noon 2 days before the scheduled booking, the full court fee will be due (£14 Singles, £8.75 Doubles).

Courting favour

The court is looking splendid after recent renovations—but it takes time and effort to look after our historic venue. Paul Mather, who heads the RTC Board Premises team, is looking for some help in future projects. You don't need to be a qualified surveyor or builder. This is an exciting opportunity to get up close and personal with one of the UK's finest buildings. Contact Paul through the Pros' office if you want to get involved.

Dedanist Social and Skills Evening

We will be holding a social evening at The Royal Tennis Court on Saturday 6th October 2018 from 6pm to 8pm to explain to RTC members about the Dedanist Society and Dedanist Foundation and about the workings and differences between the two organisations. Wine and cheese will be available, and for those who wish to take part, there will be a Fun Skills event on court.

If you wish to support Junior Real Tennis in the UK, then this is a 'must go to' event. RTC members will be given the opportunity to apply to become members of either the Dedanist Society or Foundation. All attendees at the event will be asked for £10 to cover the cost of the event; any surplus will go to the Dedanist Society. We propose limiting numbers to 25 for the Skills Test, and partners are also invited to enjoy the evening. To apply please ring the Professionals' Office on 020 8977 3015, or e-mail info@royaltenniscourt.com

Wood's Words

To cover the large expanse of the tennis court and get to as many balls as we need to, we need footwork - but footwork is more than just getting from A to B. Footwork also plays the major role in a shot. We need to transfer momentum from back foot to front foot as we hit the ball; through this transfer the hips and shoulders should rotate. It is this rotation that makes up the majority of the swing (not the hinging and leverage of the shoulder and arm).

What's inside is important

Healthy living and high performance, both on and off the tennis court, is the product of dedicated effort to support the body and its natural processes. One of these key areas is diet, providing the body with the minerals, vitamins and amino acids that we need for peak biological function. For the past three months Nick, Chris and Josh have been fortunate enough to have been sponsored by Simply Naturals, who have provided dietary support, promoting general health and improved recovery through mineral and vitamin supplements.

Simply Naturals produce plant-derived food supplements designed to improve bodily functions and

performance and the Pro Team have been trialling the products with great success! Certainly Chris Chapman, who has gone from strength to strength in this past year, is a great example of how these products can really help, but the whole Pro Team is happy to endorse the company and their wares.

Nick, Chris and Josh have all experienced the benefits and we want to share what we have learnt with you, having seen a boost to our energy, focus and recovery. We all know the difficulties of eating healthily and giving the body the nutrients it needs, but Simply Naturals help make that easier.

We are delighted to have

worked with Simply Naturals and will be hosting a seminar here at RTC on Tuesday November 27 at 7.30pm at which interested members can find out more about the company, their mission and their products. If you are interested in attending the seminar, please register your interest with the Pro Team.

The Professional Team would like to extend their thanks to Simply Naturals for our introduction to natural supplements, and also to Steve Hunt, to whom we are indebted for his extended support. Steve helped to arrange the sponsorship and will be with us at the seminar.

The Pro Team



HRH Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex is touring Real Tennis courts of the world to raise awareness of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme and to introduce potential DofE candidates to the game

Using your footwork to transfer energy into the ball allows for a shorter, more manageable swing of the racquet arm, therefore providing reliable shot control which allows you to apply strategies throughout your rallies.

Momentum is the 'work horse' of your tennis, the strong machinery that will always assist your stroke. Momentum doesn't work well with stops and brakes; to brake and come to a stop we would have to decelerate before getting to the ball yet, by definition, we haven't got to the ball, so why are we slowing

down? Stopping takes an enormous amount of energy, to only then have to start moving again. Instead, use momentum to get to the ball and carry the energy through your shot.

There are situations where foot-speed is not so important to the shot, such as serves, shots off the penthouse and other 'sitters'.

For these the transfer of weight to create momentum is still of utmost importance. Effective transfer will add true weight of shot and also cut.

Nick Wood

Goblet runneth over with success

RTC welcomed players from Australia, the USA and clubs across the UK for the 2018 King's Goblet at the end of June. The King's Goblet is a handicap doubles tournament open to all tennis players to take part; everyone plays five matches in one large group, and the top 8 teams progress to a knock-out stage. This year we extended the field to 24 pairs over 4 days in the hot June sunshine. With handicaps ranging from +3 to 103, we were sure of some fantastic handicap tennis matches.

Grant Miller and Chris Lintott from Oxford raced to the top of the leaderboard at the end of Day 1, recording three wins from three matches. One victory came over Julian Snow and current US Open Ladies Champion Saskia Bollerman. Julian and Saskia rallied on Day 2, securing two wins from four matches, but a close loss against Nick Brodie and Simon Edmond on the Saturday ended their chances of a top 8 finish.

Arguably the match of the tournament was on Friday night after the barbecue in the RTC garden, when Mike Philpott (from Washington) and Paul Bollerman took on Izzy Candy and Clare Bucknell. The packed dedans were treated to some superb doubles tennis, with Mark and Paul edging it 6/4.

RTC's Benedict Treloar and Simon Cripps began their charge late and registered three quick wins on Friday afternoon. Two more wins from Benedict and Simon against Candy & Bucknell and Brodie & Edmond secured third position in the group. Anna Dalton and Mike Pope had also come through the group stage undefeated. No-one was able to find a way past them, and at the end of the stage they qualified for the knock-out in top position.

On Saturday afternoon, as temperatures soared, the 8 players with the lowest handicaps competed in a short exhibition doubles tournament, for the right to play RTC Pros Nick and



Josh. Nick Brodie and Simon Edmond fought off the competition to challenge the Pros. There were ominous signs after Nick Wood blasted a forehand shot into Winning Gallery for the first point of the match. But in the end, Nick and Simon came through to win 6/5.

On Sunday, Nigel Penna and Owen Saunders needed two wins to secure a top 8 finish. After defeating Bollerman and Philpott first thing, a full dedans saw Nick Hyams and Ali Cryer come up short against Nigel and Owen. Penna and Saunders had qualified in 7th.

All four quarter finals were tight affairs and well represented by RTC players. Geoffrey and Rhona Russell couldn't stop Dalton and Pope's charge, while Penna and Saunders ended the dreams for Miller and Lintott. Sue Haswell and Simon Talbot-Williams played sublime, disciplined tennis in the group phase, but couldn't repeat the feat against Benedict Treloar and Simon Cripps. The last quarter final saw Laurence Brook and Giles Doy get past Stuart Kerr (Middlesex) and Nicholas Hewitt (MCC), in part helped by some unorthodox serving from Laurence.

Laurence's not-very-orthodox serving also helped Brook and Doy win their semi final match against Dalton and Pope, putting them into the final for the second year in a row. Joining them were Penna and Saunders, who proved too strong for Treloar and Cripps.

Critics would claim a fix for noting two of the organising committee in the Final. Few spectators remember the first four games while everyone played Chase Bingo (which was eventually won by Simon Cripps). Some high loop serving kept the scoreboard ticking over for Nigel and Owen, and they won by 7 games to 4.

Many congratulations to Owen and Nigel on their win - a first RTC honours board title for our Social Secretary. And another year of being the bridesmaid, not the bride, for Laurence and Giles. A big thanks to everyone who took part and helped out. We are establishing the King's Goblet as one of the biggest handicap tournaments in the UK, if not the world, so do spread the word!

Giles Doy

A life more colourful

Dear reader: did you know you that can receive this Newsletter by e-mail on your electronic device, in full and glorious colour, on the day it is complete, without having to wait for a mono version in the post? Doing so also saves the club money in postage, paper and printing costs. Please inform the Professionals if you wish to take up this option.

Calling budding authors

The Editor of the RTC Newsletter, Andy Anderson, welcomes contributions from readers on any subject relating to RTC and Real Tennis in general - articles on foreign or other UK courts played, West Country tours or similar, sporting triumphs (or disasters) are all welcome. Pictures are particularly useful, for which an iPhone/similar is fine. E-mail Libbyandy@Hotmail.com, or chat to Andy or the Professionals.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday September 29th/Sunday 30th - de Laszlo Bowl Doubles
Over 50s (age category) Amateur Doubles at Prested Hall, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th October
RTC Annual Prizegiving: Saturday 13th October 7.30pm-10pm
Simply Naturals seminar - Tuesday 27th November 7.30pm
RTC Carol Service: Tuesday November 11th