

THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT

Hampton Court Palace



WRIGHT FIRST TIME

PETER WRIGHT WINS HIS FIRST
BARKER CAMM CUP

See page 3

The Summer Newsletter 2012

Number 100

chairman's chat



This newsletter should hit inboxes or doormats during the Olympics and before the Paralympics, and I hope all our members are enjoying these unique events and are not unduly inconvenienced during the brief period that we cannot access the Palace by car.

I must say thanks to the 60 or so hardy souls who braved the elements to support the Summer (?) Barbecue, and to all those who put so much effort into ensuring the event was a success. On the same weekend the King's Goblet Summer Doubles featured the full allocation of 24 pairs and our congratulations to the winners Peter Mather and Paul Casha, who beat Tom Carew Hunt and Helen Frances Pilkington in the final (see page 4).

There are a number of other notable playing successes to celebrate, not least Peter Wright winning his very first Barker Camm Cup (see opposite), triumphing over Charlie Crossley in the final. This season has also seen no fewer than three RTC teams winning their respective National Leagues, in Divisions 3, 6 and 8 (page 6). This is the most successful season for some years.

Although we moved the AGM in May to a midweek evening slot in order to improve attendance

numbers, we seemed to attract a slightly different mix while ending up with a similar attendance! Nevertheless, our thanks to those who came, and to my fellow board members for their time, support and understanding over the past year. I would particularly like to mention our honorary secretary, Geoffrey Russell, who has undertaken a huge amount of work on a variety of complex matters behind the scenes.

As you may already know, the court will be out of action from Monday 10-Saturday 15 September for essential maintenance work which will leave it in prime condition for the new season.

Finally, on behalf of the board, I would like to wish our senior professional Stef King and his fiancée Jemima a wonderful wedding, and a long and happy married life.

Have a good summer, no matter how short it may be!

Paddy Sweetnam

Rising Fahey is one to watch

Promising young newcomer Rob Fahey of Australia continued his steady progress at Queen's in May, underlining his potential by retaining the World Championship with a 7-3 victory over three days against countryman Steve Virgona (6-5, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 5-6, 6-2, 6-3).

Having held the title since 1994 and defended it a record ten times, Fahey, 44, has proved that he could develop into quite a player one day if he applies himself properly. However, the shy and unassuming Tasmanian would surely be the first to admit that he still has much to achieve, having won neither the de Laszlo Bowl nor our Autumn Night Pennant during his brief career.

Perhaps if he can add those titles and also surpass Pierre Etchebaster's 26

years as world champion, then we can truly begin to compare Fahey with the greats of the game, such as ten-time RTC club champion Simon Barker and two-time Lathom Browne winners DJ Warburg, ACS Tufton, Carolyn Nicholls and Nicola Doble. But let us not get ahead of ourselves...

World champions since
Pierre Etchebaster (1928-54)
1955-57 Jim Dear (Eng)
1957-59 Albert "Jack" Johnson (Eng)
1959-69 Northrup Knox (US)
1969-72 Pete Bostwick Jr (US)
1972-76 Jimmy Bostwick (US)
1976-81 Howard Angus (Eng)
1981-87 Chris Ronaldson (Eng)
1987-94 Wayne Davies (Aus)
1994- Rob Fahey (Aus)

REMEMBER THE (MAIN WALL) FORCE...

Thanks to Saverio Campione for sending in this helpful advice from a master tactician whose distinctive turn of phrase you may recognise (he is small, green, wrinkled and hundreds of years old but is *not* Richard East)... ***"If no mistake have you made, yet losing you are... a different game you should play."***

COMING UP

RTC

8-9 Sept: De Laszlo Bowl

16 Sept: RTC v Hurlingham Pigeons

21-23 Sept: Chetwood Trophy

29-30 Sept: Barker Camm Cup

Grade F (hcp 60+)

21 Oct: RTC v Oratory

27-28 Oct: Barker Camm Cup Grade

E (hcp 50-59)

ELSEWHERE

10-18 Aug: Australian Open (Hobart)

17-19 Aug: Junior Open Singles Championship (Queen's)

7-9 Sept: Jesmond Dene Invitation Handicap Tournament

8-9 Sept: Over 70 Amateur Singles and Doubles (Holypport)

9 Sept: Mothers and Daughters (Hardwick)

11-17 Sept: French Open (Bordeaux)

14-16 Sept: Ladies' Doubles Tournament (Leamington)

15-16 Sept: Over 60 Amateur Doubles (Radley)

28-30 Sept: T&RA Category B Championship (10-19 hcp, Hyde), Category C (20-29, Moreton Morrell), Category F (50-59, Leamington)

13-17 Oct: European Open (MCC)

20-24 Oct: IRTPA Championships (Manchester)

All the Wright moves

Peter Wright breaks the Watson/Barker duopoly on the club championship

For the first time since the court was built 400 years ago, the names Barker and Watson do not appear on the club's championship trophy. Well, yes, there is a slight exaggeration in the first sentence, but Simon Barker and David Watson have fought for the title so many times in the past decade that they could have re-run the videotape and saved them both from running around a court for the past five years.

Last year neopotism reared its head, in a sense, as Watson the Elder played Watson (James) the Younger, with James assuring his future inheritance by allowing his father to win.

Despite a far stronger field this year, James almost made it into another final, putting up a gritty fight before losing to Peter Wright in the semi-finals. Wright's victory was responsible for the absence of the Barker/Watson names.

Charley Crossley was the other finalist, and the experts I consulted forecast that Crossley, despite his flashes of brilliance, would not overcome Wright's steadiness.

While Crossley had youth on his side (32 years to Wright's 43), Wright held a handicap advantage (4.1 against 6.6). Further to the mix, Wright had a bad cold and sniffed and snuffled his way through the match (his wife said he should not have played).

WHO IS PETER WRIGHT?

Our new club champion is a pedigree racket player having spent 4 ½ years as a professional (lawn) tennis player. When he gave that up to become a management consultant, he joined Holyport at the time Nick Wood was the head pro. Four years ago he joined RTC because of the shortage of elite players at Holyport.

WRIGHT WISDOM:

"You don't have to run a lot in this game. The skill is running short distances very quickly."



New club champion Peter Wright and Charlie Crossley

Crossley started nervously, making errors to put Wright 40-0 up in the first game. Crossley set a half-yard chase which Wright failed to beat, making the score 15-40, and then Wright laid a chase of better than last gallery. From the service end Wright played a wicked shot that came off the back penthouse a couple of inches from the wall. Crossley gave the ball a mighty thwack off the back wall and the ball arced high across the net and bounced far enough to threaten to the beat the chase! Wright, however was waiting and cracked it to the base of the tambour to win the point and first game.

Wright took the second game, with Crossley again slamming the ball into the net on the final point. When Crossley won the third game to 15, it appeared that he had gotten over his nerves and was settling down to give Wright some real opposition.

But then Wright won the next two games to lead 4-1 and it appeared that the experts had been correct. The tennis was bitty, with few long rests, and those of us who had seen the Barker/Watson duels, with their long, clinical cross-court duels and their mounting tension, were not getting involved.

Once again Crossley cut down his errors and took the next two games with the help of some fine cutting to trail 3-4. And once again, the promised battle dissipated when Wright won the next two games to 15 to take the first set 6-3 in just 33 minutes.

Crossley was unhappy with his game, and when he missed the grille from a ball that sat up in the middle of the

court begging to be put away, he berated himself with a muttered "It's not rocket science", a wonderfully anachronistic comment considering the ancient game that was being played.

The second set started off in the same vein as the first, but now Wright was in charge, with no unforced errors and rarely seeming to be under pressure. He won the first two games to 15 and the next two to 30, to lead 4-0. In the fifth game

Crossley failed to return a Wright serve to put Wright 15-0 ahead before setting chases of last gallery and worse than three. On the changeover, Wright skied the ball to the roof to lose the first chase and Crossley found Hazard second to successfully defend the second chase to lead 30-15. Wright laid chases of three and last gallery, Crossley beating the first chase after one of the match's best rallies and then taking the game with a clinical main-wall dedans winner.

So 4-1, to Wright: was this the comeback? Crossley won the next game, finding the dedans no fewer than three times in six rallies to give cause for hope – but Wright was not deterred by this detour, and he took the next two games to take the set 6-2, the match in straight sets and have his name inscribed on the trophy.

Martin Bronstein

BARKER CAMM CUP ROLL OF HONOUR

2012	Peter Wright
2011	David Watson
2010	David Watson
2009	Simon Barker
2008	Simon Barker
2007	Simon Barker
2006	Simon Barker
2005	Simon Barker
2004	Simon Barker
2003	David Watson
2002	Simon Barker

The acts of Peter and Paul

Peter Mather and Paul Casha used the patience of saints to win the King's Goblet

The King's Goblet, the club's summer handicap doubles, is the most social of RTC's main competitions, offering as it does an opportunity for members to meet and play against (and in some cases with) people they wouldn't otherwise come across due to the differences in handicap. Indeed, this year's event saw a range of handicaps from seven to the seventies.

Common wisdom suggests that evenly matched pairs tend to be the most successful, and the defending champions, Robin Mulcahy and Nick Carew Hunt, fell into this category. They duly eased their way through their opening group with three wins, including a 4-3 success over Peter Mather (47) and Paul Casha (64), a pairing who were hoping to defy the theory about evenly matched pairs and who also progressed from the group.

The holders came unstuck in the second group stage, however, and it was a couple of RTC stalwarts who did the damage. A 7-5 score was enough to propel Martin Bronstein and John Clark into the last four.

In the semi-finals they would meet Tom Carew Hunt and Helen-Frances Pilkington, who had pulled out several tight victories on their way. The semi was anything but tight, however, as the younger pair were almost faultless while this sixth match was perhaps one



King's Goblet winners Peter Mather and Paul Casha with their Pol Roger; runners-up Helen-Frances Pilkington and Tom Carew Hunt



too many for Martin and John. 8-2 was the final tally.

Peter and Paul, meanwhile, had just made it through to a semi in which they had to give up a tricky handicap to Tom Mayhew and Ron Slade. This match could not have been tighter, and when

away, making the last ten minutes of the match seem like a victory lap.

It was a fabulous performance that tore the 'evenly matched pair' theory to shreds – although Paul's play suggested that his handicap will soon fly down.

Simon Edmond

SUMMER BARBECUE

The Annual Barbecue took place on Saturday 14 July. Given the persistent appalling weather that preceded this date, hopes were not too high for user-friendly meteorological conditions, but in the event rain held off until about 9pm.

Attendance was lower than usual – about 60 – due, no doubt, to a variety of factors. However, those who came and tucked into the sausages, burgers, chicken and salad said they enjoyed the evening and were served up with a.

Credit for the organisation of this successful event goes entirely to Kate Lawrence and Julian Sheraton-Davis, who did a tremendous amount on the evening itself, too, and I can't thank them enough.

My thanks go also to Nick Wood and to Kate's husband David for their stalwart barbecuing, to Stef for manning and organising the bar, to Nick again for all that he did before and during the event, and to those others who gave up their time to help with the assembly and dismantling of the marquees.

David Seelig

BARNEY GIBBENS

As many of you will know by now, Barney Gibbens passed away a few weeks ago. He had been suffering from parkinsonism for a number of years.

He was a past RTC club chairman and an active and passionate supporter of the Second Court Project. His positive and friendly manner endeared him to members, and his consummate sense of humour will long be remembered.

Prior to retirement, Barney had been involved in the computer world, establishing his own company; he had trained originally as an accountant. He continued to play tennis as long as he was able to do so, being an integral

component of the long-established Sunday morning doubles, and was a raconteur par excellence when play was over and we had retired to the Members' Room.

I have happy memories of playing with or against him; less happily, perhaps, of the time when we were partners and Barney got a thick outside edge when receiving a ferocious volley, the outcome of which was that the ball travelled hard and fast towards my jaw (before I could raise my racquet to protect it) and almost dislocated the aforesaid mandible!

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his widow, Tina, and to the rest of his family.

David Seelig

Who's the fairest of them all?

Bragging rights for a whole gender were at stake in a recent intra-club team match

Billed as the 'Battle of the Sexes', the inaugural RTC men versus women match saw the ladies, led by Nicola Doble, triumph over the men by a convincing 4½-1½ points margin. Naturally the men chivalrously let the women secure a healthy victory, as anything else would have been caddish behaviour.

On a balmy afternoon and evening in late May, competitors also engaged in a range of subsidiary competitions to decide overall athletic supremacy. The negotiations for what these competitions should be included suggestions from men's captain Owen Saunders of hunting/gathering, arm wrestling and reading a road atlas, with suggestions from Nicola of home baking, soaking in a hot bubble bath with a Marian Keyes book and giving partners the silent treatment. In the end they settled on a boules tournament, a coconut shy and a mini-golf-style putting contest through the club rooms.

By general consent it was agreed that none of the couples involved should be pitted against each other on court.

In the main event, Glyn Saunders led off the men against double varsity Charlotte Barker, with steely determined

Charlotte's giraffe serve and piercing ground strokes proving too much for Glyn, who went down 10-6. Next up was experienced Alec Miller and newby Elwyn Hughes against steely determined Helen-Frances Pilkington and steely determined Kate Lawrence. The ladies got off to a great start, but somehow the men fought their way to a 7-5 lead...before losing the next seven games in a row to lose 12-7.

Things didn't look much better for the men with Simon Edmond 4-0 down against women's world No 2 Karen Hird in the top singles match. However, Simon persevered with accurate width and well-judged forcing, bringing mistakes from the steely determined Karen and winning 8-6, although Karen did have her chances at 6-6.

In the next doubles, Owen Saunders and George Sleightholme took on the world's top two left-handed women, the steely determined Sue Haswell and the steely determined Nicola Doble. The boys had their dander up and raced out into a 4-0 lead, but were eventually pegged back in an entertaining game with some frantic rests. The ladies clung on to level the match at 8-8 with the last hit of the match.

Karen Prottey fought hard to hold off Saverio Campione in a very tense battle that could have gone either way, especially when Saverio's railroad started firing, but with steely determined Karen's 10-8 victory came an unassailable lead for the women. In the final rubber, Dick Cowling and Dorian Drew looked all at sea as Sue Haswell and Elvira Campione, both playing with steely determination, volleyed their way to a 10-7 win.

The Most Valuable Player awards, decided by the opposing captains, went to Helen-Frances and to Simon, with Elvira and Dick taking the champagne for the subsidiary events. The glorious trophy now adorns the trophy cabinet, to spur men on to trying harder throughout the year.

It was great to see such a range of handicaps in action – 21, 24, 27, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 42, 43, 45, 49, 50, 56, 57, 62, 64 – showing that everyone can join in these sorts of events.

The men have now decided that this formed the first leg of a three-match challenge. No more Mr Nice Guys: the next challenge will be full-contact 15-a-side rugby in the club garden.

Owen Saunders

Club competitions round-up

After nine months and more than 120 matches, we are down to the final two in the **Lathom Browne Cup**, the club's handicap singles competition that begins each autumn with eight grades each containing 16 players.

In the top half of the draw, Don Ganson, the 1995 champion, made very short work of Chris Swan in the quarter-finals before carrying out a even more severe hatchet job, 9-1, on David Lawrence in his semi-final.

In the other half of the draw, Saverio Campione fought his way past Sarah Parsons 9-7 to earn a semi-final place against long-time tournament favourite John Mather, whose handicap was updated from his autumn 2011 mark of 68 to the 61 he was at the quarter-final stage. He has since reduced it to 58.

Saverio made the most of his main weapon, his railroad serve, to stay

close, but in the end the handicap he had to concede was too much and John closed the match out 9-6. In the final he will receive even more of a start from Don, but there are six victims who will testify that you underestimate Don Ganson at your peril.

The **Seal Salver**, in which over-50s compete using their age as their handicap, for the first time includes David Watson among its participants. With more than 40 points between his age and real handicap (yes, the right way round!), he will be hot favourite to wrest the title from the grip of Bernard Weatherill, who has emerged victorious in each of the past four seasons.

Graham Prain has already secured a semi-final place in David's half of the draw, while in the bottom half the main danger to Bernard may turn out to be the fleet-footed John East. Fred Satow stands in John's way first, however.

DOUBLES IN HEAVEN

Two old men, Peter and Paul, have been friends for years. When it's clear Paul is dying, Peter says: "Paul, we both loved real tennis so much. When you get to heaven you must let me know if there is real tennis there."

Paul agrees and shortly afterwards passes away. A couple of nights later, Peter is awakened by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to him. "Peter, Peter."

"Who is it?" asks Peter sitting up.

"Peter, it's me Paul," says the voice.

"Paul, where are you?"

"In heaven. I have some really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first."

"The good news," says Paul, "is that they do play real tennis in heaven, all our old friends are here playing off their best handicaps."

"That's fantastic," says Peter. "So what's the bad news?"

"You're playing doubles on Saturday."

Pook

Three strikes for RTC

It was a landmark spring for the Royal Tennis Court's National League representatives, with three titles coming our way, two of them in away final wins over table-toppers.

In the **Premier Division**, the RTC/Holyport team of Nick Wood and Peter Wright missed out on a playoff place, but the Dedanists duo of Ben Matthews and Chris Chapman, third in the table, pulled off a fine eliminator final victory in Cambridge over David Woodman and Andrew Fowler.

Their reward was a trip to neutral Seacourt to take on the Queen's outfit of Bryn Sayers and Andrew Lyons. Bryn, the world No 3, had been the dominant force of the division all season, and he took care of Ben and inspired a doubles win to put Queen's on the verge of the title. Chris, though, fought hard while receiving just half the actual handicap difference between him and Bryn, and the whole season came down to a decisive game at 7-7. The Seacourt-reared Sayers held his nerve, though, to give Queen's the title.

In **Division 2**, the team of David Watson and Simon Barker, supplemented by James Sohl, just missed out on the playoffs. There was an RTC connection in the final, though, as James Watson led the Cambridge team to a win over Holyport.

The crack **Division 3** (15-20 handicap) line-up of James Sohl, Phil Dunn, Tom Freeman and Karen Hird duly topped the league, earning a home final against MCC. With James absent, Phil played the top rubber against the classy Horatio Cary and just fell short, but Tom and Karen reeled off easy wins to seal our first title of the season.

As predicted, the improving Oxford students made mincemeat of **Division 4**. Bernard Weatherill's RTC team, having finished in third place, lost out 2-1 at Canford in the eliminator, before Canford suffered a monumental shellacking in the final.

Home advantage was the key all season in **Division 5**. RTC lost a tight eliminator in Oxford, despite a fine win for Fred Satow, before Hatfield won the final easily on home turf.

With all table-toppers so far taking advantage of their home finals, our boys in **Division 6** (30-35) faced a stern challenge in their final against a very strong Middlesex outfit. What's more,

RTC No 1 Stephen Goss was watching from the dedans, out injured.

Skipper Paul Wright made a sound start to the opening No 3 rubber on the lively Hendon court, opening up a 5-3 lead, but it was all downhill from there as the first set slipped away and the second was lost all too quickly.

The task was simple, then, for No 2 Fraser Shorey: beat an opponent whose handicap was four points better to keep his team alive. The match began impressively, with Middlesex's Jonathan Conway playing some eye-catching winning shots while Fraser settled into his steady groove, returning naggingly into his opponent's backhand corner. The long first set could have gone either way, but the home favourite pulled away from 4-4 to 6-4.

Fraser's consistency began to pay off, though, with errors coming from the Conway racket. When our man won a long fifth game in the second set to move 3-2 up, it signalled a shift in momentum and 3-2 soon became 5-2 and 6-3. Fraser raced away to a big lead in the final set, and the win never looked in doubt at any stage in the set. The 6-2 win sealed a remarkable comeback.

There was still a problem for RTC, as No 1 Simon Fox had to take on the unbeaten Professor Nic James, a left-handed former squash international. But as it turned out it was a procession for Simon, who took control from the start and totally outplayed his man. Such was his dominance that the 6-1 6-3 scoreline barely does him justice. A magnificent night for RTC.

Home advantage returned to the fore in **Division 7**, with Owen Saunders' third-placed RTC team succumbing in a Petworth eliminator before Prested took care of Petworth in the final in Essex.

Our **Division 8** team looked strong all season, with Dick Cowling dipping under the 40 handicap mark and Bill Chambers soon following him. Having secured second place, they strolled through their semi-final to set up a final at Holyport. An away win for RTC always seemed likely here, and after Dick had won his rubber Bill secured a three-set win to bring home the bacon.

All in all, a fabulous end to the season. RTC has plenty of people to call on in each division, but even so three titles is a remarkable haul - matching or surpassing it next year will be difficult.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	Pts
Queen's	8	6	39
Cambridge/Newmarket	8	5	34
Dedanists	8	4	29
Holyport/RTC	8	2	20
MCC	8	3	16

*Champions: Queen's
Division 1 champs: Hatfield. (No RTC team)*

DIVISION 2

Cambridge	8	7	41
Holyport	8	6	38
Queen's	8	6	36
Canford	8	5	32
RTC	8	3	27
Hatfield	8	4	24
MCC	8	1	16
Radley	8	0	10

Champions: Cambridge

DIVISION 3

RTC	8	6	40
MCC	8	5	37
Prested Hall	7	4	28
Queen's	7	2	12
Moreton Morell	6	1	9

Champions: RTC

DIVISION 4

Oxford	8	6	42
Canford	8	5	37
RTC	8	4	28
Moreton Morrell	8	4	24
MURTC	8	1	9

Champions: Oxford

DIVISION 5

Hatfield	8	4	30
Oxford	8	5	29
RTC	8	4	28
Canford	8	4	28
Cambridge	8	3	25

Champions: Hatfield

DIVISION 6

MURTC	8	6	44
RTC	8	4	34
Cambridge	8	5	27
MCC	8	4	24
Newmarket	7	2	16
Holyport	7	2	16

Champions: RTC

DIVISION 7

Prested Hall	8	6	40
Petworth	8	6	38
RTC	8	5	31
Oxford	8	4	30
Hardwick	8	2	18
Oratory	8	1	11

Champions: Prested Hall

DIVISION 8

Holyport	8	7	39
RTC	8	6	36
Oxford	8	5	35
Moreton Morrell	8	5	31
MURTC	8	4	26
Hatfield	8	3	25
Newmarket	8	3	23
Prested Hall	8	2	22
Canford	8	1	15

Champions: RTC

Pro news

By Nick Wood

National League

Next season the Royal Tennis Court would again like to have representation in the IRTPA Premier National League. Each of the matches creates a unique and affordable opportunity for members and their guests to watch some of the best players in the world, in the palatial surroundings of Hampton Court Palace.

To help provide the opportunity for RTC members to watch and support a team, we are looking for a member or company to sponsor the professional players to assist with expenses and costs of the event. Sponsorship benefits could include free seats, marketing opportunities and guest/client entertainment.

If you would like more information about the opportunities, please contact Nick Wood (020 8977 3015, nick.wood@royaltenniscourt.com).

Tournaments 2012/13

Included in this issue of the newsletter is the entry form and dates for next season's RTC tournaments. Be sure to sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Stef King

Nick, Clare, Chris, Carly and Lesley would like to wish Stef and Jemima all the very best for their upcoming wedding on 25 August.



Wood's Words

Head pro Nick Wood looks at how handicaps mess with our heads

Having just completed the King's Goblet, it seems appropriate to talk about handicap tennis and how to play a handicap match.

The King's Goblet nearly always throws up a few big handicap differences, and that is where I will start. How do we play when the handicap is, say, rec 30-owe 30? The answer is simple: your handicap is calculated on how you play during your everyday performances, thus the handicap difference between opponents is based on the way they regularly perform. Therefore, one needs to play no differently from how one would normally play.

So why is it not as simple as all that?

Nerves, anxiety and ego all play a huge part in any kind of competition, and handicap tennis is no different. In fact, these factors can often be amplified when playing a handicap match. These states of mind can get hold of a player and it can be incredibly difficult to shake them off.

Even though the better player is giving points to an opponent, the ego will still believe that the better player is exactly that – better – and should therefore win. For the player receiving the handicap, the ego will believe that receiving so

many points makes it impossible not to win.

If the ego is struggling, the nerves kick in, followed by anxiety. Anxiety hampers decision-making and shot production, as well as affecting the emotions – some players drop their heads, others become frustrated and angry.

The key is to keep the correct frame of mind, to appreciate the contest you are about to take part in and to understand your own abilities. Making sensible shot selections and executing the shots effectively will put you in a good position to do well.

This is where I come back to my repetitive mantra: line and length wins over pace and cut. When anxiety takes hold, your game can go one of two ways – increased

aggression involving big, fast swings in the vain hope that wild pace or super cut will beat your opponent; or a timidness that prevents freedom to the stroke, which in turn creates nervous push shots in the hope that your opponent will make the error and hand you the match.

So, as it is with any competition, to perform well you must understand your own game, play with clear objectives and keep your emotions in check. Good luck!



SPRING NIGHT PENNANT (HCP 20+)

Dick Cowling continued his remarkable run of Night Pennant victories, playing a full part in a triumphant campaign alongside Sue Haswell and Scott Levy in this 20-40 handicap division. He has now played in three RTC Night Pennants at three different levels and has won them all.

At the end of the round-robin stage, the eventual winners were tied atop the table with Simon Edmond, Fraser Shorey and Owen Saunders, with the latter trio missing out on top spot in the head-to-head tiebreaker. This meant an eliminator against David Blizzard, Dorian Drew and Martin Daly in which two key

6-5 doubles wins ensured progress for the second-placed side.

Sue was unavailable for the final, so fellow leftie Nicola Doble filled in, and she was in stellar form in defeating Simon 6-1 in the opening singles. When a red-hot Scott

peppered the dedans on his way to a 6-0 win over Owen, it was almost all over.

Fraser sneaked a 6-5 win over Dick, but when Nicola and Scott teamed up for a 6-4 doubles win, they only required one single game from the final two sets. That was soon achieved, and although Fraser and Simon gained the consolation of a 6-3 win, Scott and Dick then rounded things off for the champions with a 6-0 stroll.



From left: Spring Night Pennant winners Scott Levy, Dick Cowling and Nicola Doble (sub for Sue Haswell)

Junior championships

A new name makes his mark on the under-25 scene

Chairman's Cup (level singles)

Ed Kay beat Karen Hird
6-4 2-6 6-1

In the first of her three finals on this weekend of under-25 competitions, defending champion Karen Hird was beaten in a really hard-fought match. The first set in particular was a very impressive display from two such young players.

Ed Kay, who is studying at Cambridge, is a recent convert to the game and his speed around the court is something to behold. He was chasing down everything Karen hit, denying her not only short chases but chases in general. Karen did get the score back to 4-4 before Ed gained control of the service end and took the set 6-4.

Karen started strongly in the second set and was finally able to set up shop at the service end, throwing down railroad after railroad on her way to taking the set 6-2. But Ed turned the tables again, and he raced to a 5-0 lead in the deciding set before taking it 6-1 to take his first Chairman's Cup.

Wollaston Cup (handicap singles)

Justin Gregory beat
Karen Hird 6-5
Playing in her second



Chairman's Cup winner Ed Kay with David Vaughan

final of the day, Karen missed out again in a close match. This time it was a handicap affair in which she was giving away a forbidding rec 30-owe 15 one serve, banned tambour.

Justin Gregory had prevailed over Karen 6-5 their pool match so was possibly a slight favourite – and so it proved, with Justin

winning the final by the same scoreline.

Vaughan Trophy (level doubles)

Ed Kay & Karen Hird beat Justin Gregory & Peter Mather 6-2 6-0

Justin and his partner Peter Mather were up against it in the doubles final, as it was played off level and there was a significant handicap difference (around 25) between the two pairs. With Karen and Ed proving too strong, Karen could at last enjoy a winning

final, while for Ed it meant a clean sweep of the level competitions. All credit to the runners-up for even winning two games when so outmatched on paper.

A big thank you to the five players involved and a very big thank you to Jane and David Vaughan, who came down to present the trophies to the winners.



Jane Vaughan and Wollaston Cup winner Justin Gregory

RTC Top Ten

Leading handicaps
July 2012

1	Peter Wright	4.1
2	Robert Hird	9.4
3	David Watson	11.3
4	Marcus Ward	14.2
5	James Watson	15.1
6	Simon Barker	15.7
7	James Sohl	17.8
8	Phil Dunn	18.0
9	Tom Freeman	18.7
10	Mike Bray	20.2

The Royal Tennis Court Newsletter

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

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RESULTS

Barker Camm Cup

Grade B final: Jed Dalton beat Geoffrey Russell 6-4 3-6 6-3.

Grade A, 1st rd: Tom Freeman beat Geoffrey Russell 6-4 6-2. **2nd rd:** James Watson beat Freeman 6-4 6-4; James Sohl beat Phil Dunn 6-4 4-6 6-4. **Semi-finals:** Peter Wright beat Watson 4-6 6-1 6-4; Charlie Crossley beat Sohl 6-3 6-2. **Final:** Wright beat Crossley 6-3 6-2.

Lathom Browne Cup

Quarter-finals: Donull Ganson beat Christopher Swan 9-2; David Lawrence beat Dick Cowling 9-4; Saverio Campione beat Sarah Parsons 9-7; John Mather beat Will Squire 9-6. **Semi-finals:** Ganson beat Lawrence 9-1; Mather beat Campione 9-6.

Spring Night Pennant

Group stage table:

Haswell/Cowling/Levy	30 pts
Edmond/Shorey/Saunders	30 pts
Blizzard/Drew/Daly	24 pts
Doble/Wright/Lawson-Smith	23 pts
Fox/Day/Dagnall	23 pts

Preliminary final: Edmond/Shorey/Saunders beat Blizzard/Drew/Daly 10-4.

Final: Doble (sub)/Cowling/Levy beat Edmond/Shorey/Saunders 8-5.

Nicola Doble beat Simon Edmond 6-1; Scott Levy beat Owen Saunders 6-0; Dick Cowling lost to Fraser Shorey 5-6; Doble & Levy beat Edmond & Saunders 6-4; Doble & Cowling lost to Edmond & Shorey 3-6; Cowling & Levy beat Shorey & Saunders 6-0.

Seal Salver

Last 16: David Watson beat Richard East 9-4; Graham Prain beat Peter Ohlson 9-7; Fred Satow beat Robin Mulcahy 9-0; Bernard Weatherill beat Anthony Wolfe 9-0. **Quarter-finals:** Prain beat Eric Butterworth 9-4.

2011/12 HONOUR ROLL

Barker Camm Cup (level singles):

Peter Wright

Lathom Browne Cup (handicap singles):

Don Ganson or John Mather

Harris Watson Trophy (level doubles):

David & James Watson

Kings Goblet (handicap doubles):

Peter Mather & Paul Casha

De Laszlo Bowl (handicap doubles):

Alan Dallamore & Sarah Parsons

Chairman's Cup (junior singles):

Ed Kay

Wollaston Cup (junior handicap singles):

Justin Gregory

Vaughan Trophy (junior doubles):

Karen Hird & Ed Kay