

# OUTC Newsletter - September 2008

## **CLUB EVENTS**

**Simms[Bower&Bailey]**

### **Champagne League**

The league section has just finished and the knock-out rounds are now getting under way. Over 80 players took part in 10 Leagues, of which those in League D did best in terms of getting their matches played. See below for this year's Roll of Honour:

#### League Winner Runner-up

A: Ashley Prior, William Rowsell

B: Matt Rowland-Jones, Seb Stoddart

C: Ray Cooke, Simon Horobin

D: James Gunn, Nick Manby-Brown

E: Rob Dance, Derek Williams

F: Gordon Wilson,

R.Alden/A.Mackintosh

G: Adam Jeffrey, Charlotte Barker

H: Julian Knight, Harry Burn

J: John Murphy, Liz Leach

K: Darren Clahane, Gary Bloom

**Club Champions 2007/8.**

## **NEWS**

### **Car Parking Problems!**

Members are invited to read the correspondence with Merton College on the main notice board. This illustrates how easily College Fellows can be upset by the presence of the tennis court if they are held up, even for only a few moments.

It is all too easy for them to then punish us by removing the few parking rights that we do have and by increasing the Club's rent.

Please be considerate and strictly follow the guidelines set out on the notice board if you are ever tempted to bring your car to the court. The new 'No Parking' sign means exactly what it says!

### **Court Lighting**

Lighting our tennis court for up to 14 hours every day has become a major expense as electricity costs steadily

Knight Cup (Level Singles) Anthony  
Clake  
Wroth Cup (Level Doubles) Will  
Fortune  
& Horatio Cary  
Alden's (Club H'cap Doubles) Will  
Fortune  
& Horatio Cary  
Aberdare Cup(H'cap  
Singles)DerekWilliams Beard  
Cup(40- H'cap Singles)Richard  
Oliver  
P.WallisCup(40+H'capSingles)Simon  
Horobin  
60+ [age] H'cap Doubles Gordon  
Wilson  
& Julian Eeley  
Rupert Lawrence Challenge  
[A] T Carew-Hunt  
[B] M Marks  
John D. Wood Team Competition  
The Band[it]jeaus

Entry sheets are already up for  
the Knight, Aberdare, Beard and  
P. Wallis Cups, so make sure that  
you get your entry in promptly if  
you wish to take part.

### **National League**

There were some great home  
matches last season in the  
premier league which attracted  
good sized crowds. We are very  
grateful for the sponsorship  
provided by Matchbet.  
Unfortunately Spike and Roman

increase. The old lights were  
also inefficient, noisy, and  
slow to start up, and the  
glare unduly encouraged the  
tactical lob! The Committee  
have sought to improve this  
in recent months, and as a  
result you may have noticed  
that we have updated the  
lighting with a system which  
diffuses the glare while still  
delivering a clear white  
light, is quiet and quick, and  
uses 55% less power (so  
pays for itself in under  
three years and helps us to  
contain the electricity  
costs). We have aimed for  
the right balance between  
bright lights and energy  
efficiency, but if you have  
any comments about the new  
lighting then please let the  
pros know. We would like to  
thank Ray Cooke for his  
excellent work in pushing  
this through.

### **Red Paint!**

Some may have noticed that  
the red paint on the court  
was badly flaked in many  
places. Led by Lesley Smith,  
a number of working parties  
took place in August to  
prepare the surfaces and to  
apply several coats of paint.

are unable to enter this season, but we still hope to arrange an occasional challenge match to enable members to see some top class real tennis. Our most successful team was in Division 7 [30-35], where Ed Wigzell, Roger Boning, Richard Oliver and William Rowsell got to the final but lost 2-1 at Prested. This season we'll enter teams in Divisions 5, 6, 7 and 8.

#### **New Court in Oxfordshire**

A brand new court opened at Radley College in July with Chris Ronaldson as professional. The court was built thanks to the efforts of Mick Dean, teacher at the school and former professional at the Oxford club. This should prove a valuable addition to the real tennis world and being so close to Oxford will provide a great opportunity for joint events and for players at both clubs to have a wider circle of opponents within easy range.

#### **Club Handicap Winners National Tournament**

Many congratulations to Derek Williams on being the most successful Oxford player for many years in the Chetwood Trophy played at Hampton Court. He progressed all the way to the final only to succumb to a very

Although a final session is still planned, the red is now fresh and glossy thanks to the efforts of Lesley, Simon Stubbings, Ray Cooke, Derek Williams and James Fleetwood.

#### **Students on Tour**

The summer term did not see a lot of play from our top student players, but with most of last year's men's team returning and some very promising new female players, prospects are good for the coming season. The captains will be Horatio Cary [Trinity] and Charlotte Barker [New]. In the vacation, last year's captain Emma Ormerod led 4 players on a tour of the 3 French courts where they had some good matches combined with lively off-court entertainment.

suspect 67 handicap from Hatfield!

### **O.U.T.C. Golf Society.**

The latest meeting was held on a lovely afternoon at Frilford Heath on Thurs. Sept. 18th. A three a side competition was won by Adam Jeffrey, Jon Conibear and David Young. The idea was mooted of a Real Tennis/Golf Tour to Fontainebleau and Bordeaux, which hopefully will come to fruition. Anybody wishing to be added to the list of those invited to our golf events please contact the Pros.

### **Oliver Parkinson**

Ollie Parkinson sadly died of a sudden heart attack shortly after his 59th birthday this summer while playing (Lawn) Tennis.

Ollie played Real Tennis at Oxford once a week for eight months of the year for more than 27 years. He loved competitions; in 1994 he won the Aberdare Cup - and as a result he qualified for the Chetwood Trophy - the National Real Tennis Handicap Singles - which he won. He also won the club handicap doubles tournament a record four times. He had played on every court in this country and several of the others in the



### **O.U.W.T.C @ M.C.C. Feb 08**

Emily Johnson, Vicki Ormerod, Emma Ormerod, Charlotte Barker.

### **T&RA (Martin Mercer)**

Those of you who are not members of the T&RA may find enclosed a letter from Andrew Hamilton, Chairman of the Association's tennis committee. In this letter he explains the importance of the T&RA to the health of tennis as a whole and invites you to take out an annual subscription. I believe it is important to support the T&RA and ask you to give the matter your

world; his ambition was to play on them all.

### **OUTC Restoration Fund and Draw**

The club has recently incurred some heavy expenditure for the maintenance of the court - mending cracks in the main wall, new lighting, re-painting the wood etc. The Restoration Fund is a valuable addition to club funds for this purpose, and is always keen to have new subscribers. In addition to helping a good cause there are several chances a year to win some of your money back from the regular draws. The winners (£40) and runners-up (£20) in the four draws so far this year have been:

#### Draw Winner Runner-up

- 1: Stuart Herbertson, Tim Goodacre
- 2: Sir Oliver Popplewell, Bryan Brown
- 3: Roland Knight, John Stevens
- 4: Mark Partington, Bryan Brown (again!)

Each 'share' costs only £20 a year. Entry forms - standing orders only, please - are available from the Pros' shop or from me at

consideration.

### **Sponsorship (Simon Stubbings)**

The Club has for some time been looking at ways of making the most of the talent available in order to develop the strongest possible University team. Our aim is to select an elite squad of 6 males and 4 females after trials during the first two weeks of the Autumn term, and then to make it as easy as possible for them to play by subsidising their coaching, playing, equipment costs and travel and accommodation for away matches. It is difficult to be certain of the amount but as a general estimate the cost of this initiative is around £5-600 per season per player. In financing this we have been very fortunate in securing a generous offer from the trustees of a local charity, Mr and Mrs J A Pye's Charitable Settlement, whereby they have agreed to match any funding raised by us for the next three years up to a limit of

[simonwratten@compuserve.com](mailto:simonwratten@compuserve.com).

Simon Wratten

£3,000 a year. In order to take full advantage of this offer, therefore, we need to raise an equivalent sum of money ourselves. The aim is to obtain these funds in respect of 2008 by the end of this calendar year. Since the payment will be for charitable purposes the donors will receive the tax benefits afforded under the gift aid regime. All wishing to contribute should contact either the Professionals or Simon Stubbings ([sstubbings@go2uti.com](mailto:sstubbings@go2uti.com))

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