



MCC REAL TENNIS SECTION

March 2011

INTRODUCTION

The MCC Real Tennis Section has had a busy period both on and off the court. A highlight on-court was the victory against the Marylebone Cricket Club for the Cowper Cowdrey Trophy. Other on-court activities included an inter-club match in Hobart and the regular monthly club nights at RMTTC. As well, two MCC teams competed in the 2011 Boomerang Cup in January. Off-court the Section hosted tables in the Ebeling Room at the MCG for the Boxing Day Test and One Day International, and during the football finals. A number of members also enjoyed the MCC Sections Grand Final Lunch, one of the big events held during Grand Final week.

The MCC generously enabled many of the international visitors to the Boomerang to attend both the T20 and ODI cricket in the Members' Pavilion.

We are looking forward to an active year including the inaugural Club Championship and matches against the other Australian real tennis clubs. We encourage all members to participate in the Club Championship as it will be played off handicap. The Section will again host tables in the Ebeling Room on a number of occasions during the football season. It is a great way to attend some of the season's big matches among friendly faces.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MCC Real Tennis Section will hold its second Annual General Meeting on 30 March 2011. Time and venue will be detailed in the formal Notice of Meeting to be issued later this week.

Jane Nathan, who is responsible for liaison between the Section and the MCC Committee, will be present. Jane will give a short talk explaining her role and the importance of the Sections to the Melbourne Cricket Club. Jane will respond to questions.

Drinks and nibbles will be served after the meeting. Please come along and participate and learn more about real tennis within the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Andrew Gould and Greg Reid have accepted nomination to the Committee. Andrew, a past President of RMTTC, and Greg, a more recent convert to the game, bring a mix of real tennis experience and connections with other MCC sporting sections to the Committee. Both are enthusiastic about assisting the Real Tennis Section to grow.

INTER-CLUB MATCHES

Hobart - October 2010

The annual match at Hobart was played in October with a team of nine players from the MCC. The weekend was highlighted by the MCC turn around on the second day following a dismal start on Saturday. Hobart led on Saturday evening 8 rubbers to 1, but MCC recovered strongly on “double or nothing” Sunday winning 4 rubbers to 2.

The weekend was a mixture of tennis and social activities with an excellent dinner at the Marque IV restaurant on the waterfront at Sullivan’s Cove on Saturday night - clearly the MCC team showed better recuperative powers than their hosts on Sunday!

The MCC team consisted of Andrew & Rhonda Shelton, Greg & Lydia Reid, Paul Tabley and Suzie Lindsay, Owen Guest, Henry Turnbull and Fred Kininmonth.

Marylebone Cricket Club - January 2011

Cowper/Cowdrey Trophy

As advised previously the MCC has sponsored an exquisite trophy for the match to be played between the two MCCs in association with each Ashes Test. The trophy will shortly be on display in the Members’ Pavilion where it will remain regardless of the outcome of each match; just as with the famous urn residing at Lord’s.

The match was part of a series of contests against the Marylebone Cricket Club, a reciprocal club of the MCC. A full report of the Marylebone matches in cricket, golf, and real tennis is written-up in the latest MCC News magazine.

It is both satisfactory and delightful to record that the first match to be played for the trophy *in esse* was won by the Melbourne Cricket Club by 4 rubbers to 2. Scores:-

Melbourne		Lord’s	
Fred Kininmonth/Henry Turnbull	lost to	Andrew Gould/Ronald Paterson	7/8
Andrew Shelton/Greg Reid	def.	Barry Peek/Nick Carew Hunt	8/4
Paul Wheeler/Iain Buchanan	def.	Patrick Sumner/David Pearmain	8/7
Frank Filippelli/Paul Tabley	lost to	Graham Hyland/Ruaraidh Gunn	6/8
Charlie MacKinnon/Will Fowles	def.	Izzy Duncan/Richard East	8/5
Richard Simpson/Howard Mason	def.	Oliver Wise/Richard Wyse	8/3

Needless to say, the match was played in an excellent spirit with at least three very close rubbers, especially the third where at one stage Melbourne was losing 6/3. The match is open to professionals with the fourth rubber, played between Frank Filippelli and Paul Tabley against Ruaraidh Gunn and Graham Hyland, creating a lot of interest. The rubber was a tight, high quality contest through to the final point.

After four rubbers the score was 2 all and the match could have gone either way but Melbourne moved away winning the last two rubbers easily. Doubtless Lord's will do their best to ensure their defeat is avenged on their home court in August 2012, coinciding with the Olympic Games in London.



Ronald Patterson, Bob Cowper and Andrew Shelton.



The Home Team

Boomerang Cup Tournament

Once again the MCC entered two teams in the biennial Boomerang Cup tournament at The Royal Melbourne in January. MCC Prime consisted of Fred Kininmonth, Henry Turnbull, Richard Simpson, Graeme Richardson, Rose Snell and Steve Wood, while MCC Demons consisted of Andrew Shelton, Greg Reid, Will Fowles, Charlie MacKinnon and Simon Berry.

As was the case two years ago the MCC teams acquitted themselves well but could not quite make the final. Closest were the Demons who got through the round-robin stage and the round of 16 but lost in the quarter finals to the eventual winners. Impressive shots played by a couple of Demons during the tournament are shown below.



Greg Reid
Eye still on the ball after the stroke!



Will Fowles
Total control!

2011 ARTA INTER-CLUB MATCHES

This year all clubs will be playing a competition against each other with the various “home and away” fixtures counting towards the inter Club championship.

MCC will play home and away matches against the other clubs as set out below. Currently, we propose to play our home matches at Romsey, but this may change depending on court availability.

CLUB	DATE	VENUE
Ballarat Tennis Club	May 2011 November 2011	Ballarat Romsey
Hobart Real Tennis Club	August 2011 October 2011	Romsey Hobart
The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	June 2011 September 2011	Melbourne Romsey

We also hope to play a match against the Jesters in the middle of the year.

Playing in these matches will be a great way to support the Section and to represent the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Will all those wishing to play please contact Paul Tabley or Henry Turnbull.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The inaugural Club Championship will begin soon with members being entered automatically. The event will be played off handicap, either official or as determined by Paul Tabley (unbribeable, or so he tells me) so everyone is encouraged to play and seek to become the inaugural Melbourne Cricket Club Real Tennis Champion.

The draw is attached to this newsletter. Matches will be arranged through Paul Tabley at venues to be agreed by the participants, subject to court availability and access rights. This will include RMTTC and Romsey.

Matches are likely to be included as part of Club Nights in Melbourne and during the various weekend fixtures at Romsey.

The Championship will be decided by October with the winner and runner-up to be invited to the annual MCC Sections Dinner held in the Members Dining Room. The dinner and review of the year's activities of the various MCC Sections, including cricket and football, is a highlight of the MCC calendar.

NEW MEMBERS

A welcome to recent new members who include Karen Brock, Jon Brock, James Butler, Frank Filippelli, Michelle O'Rorke and Philip Roberts.

HANS EBELING ROOM

Iain Buchanan has recently circulated details of available days where the Section will be involved in arranging tables during the football season. Use of the facilities of the Hans Ebeling room is available to all members and their guests. As excellent reserved seats on Level 2 of the Members' Pavilion are included it is a particularly pleasant way of watching the football, and enjoying a meal with fellow supporters and Section members. (Even Richmond supporters have been known to enjoy themselves - Ed.)

Booking forms will be distributed as and when we are able to participate.

CLUB NIGHTS

As usual Club Nights are in full swing, usually on the first Friday of each month starting at 6.00 pm for the more experienced and at 6.30 pm for beginners. Apart from the tennis these are sociable occasions and a pleasant way of rounding off the working week. The evenings are a primary opportunity to introduce new players, particularly from other MCC sporting sections, to real tennis. Already a number of enthusiastic players have taken up the game, notably Greg Reid whose game has developed to the point where he played very well for the MCC Demons in the Boomerang Cup and

represented the MCC in the Cowper Cowdrey match. There is plenty of talent among the Sections and we will continue to attempt to unearth it.

The evenings are open to all members. To make arrangements or ask for details please contact Paul Tabley on 04035 94576 or at tabs01@hotmail.com or Fred Kininmonth at robert@amacdougall.com.au .

CLUB DAY

The Section intends to introduce Club Days at Romsey so as to provide further opportunities for members to play in organized events, particularly newer members who have recently taken up the game. All members though are welcome and are encouraged to join in. The first Club Day has been arranged at Romsey on Saturday, 16th April 2011. The cost will be \$30 for plenty of tennis and a light lunch will also be available. The format has not been finalised as yet but is likely to include a match between two teams, doubles and singles and possibly a clinic. These days are great fun so please put a note in your diary.

PW