



March 2012

## **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2011**

To the surprise of many and due largely to the efforts of Paul Tabley the first Club Championship was duly completed within the calendar year. A “special correspondent” writes....

“Where is Hawkeye when you need it? Is the MCC Real Tennis Section taking on the Indian mentality and not taking advantage of the obvious benefits of technology? A controversial call at match point on whether the second serve was short or not almost decided the final match between two new players to the game played on 2 December 2011.

The championship started slowly with all members entered and the first two rounds were littered with walk-overs given by players overseas or unable to arrange their matches in a timely fashion. With some prompting from our pro, Paul Tabley, the matches were being played and competition was becoming strong with three pros still in the event along with some very experienced (read well matured) handicap players and a couple of newbies still learning the game.

Pros playing each other provided some outrageous claims that they would easily win against a bloke with bad hips who couldn't run and had little ability to force. Sometimes perception and reality work out differently. However, as is their wont, the pros played well up until the later rounds and then graciously took a competitive loss for the Club. Certainly this happened in a quarter final where Jonners was competitive but trailed all the way through to allow Greg Reid a passage through to the semi-final. This semi-final was played early morning (who plays tennis early morning anyway?) against the indomitable Will Fowles on the day before the final. Will said in the warm up, he would not be able to play in the final the next night as he would be in Brisbane and if he was winning, he would drop the last points unless it became seven all and then he would see. After Greg led most of the match and was 7/4 up Will hit his straps, the Hewitt “Come On” call became more vocal, Will stopped hitting the penthouse and was on fire.. At Advantage All in the in the last game, the question will remain, did Will deliberately hit the net on a return?

Mike Carroll had a couple of tough matches where he played against a well (and often) coached Euahna Varigos who can lay chases of immaculate length. Unfortunately Mike had his eye in and hit three dedans returns off tight serves chasing a yard and better to

put Euahna off her game. Following protests to the pros “he was far too good playing off a handicap of 38” Mike’s handicap was adjusted downwards and his next matches against Rob Fleming and then Jason Gray in the semi-final were both tight but Mike was on a roll.

The final on Friday night before a good crowd was between two squash players who had only started playing the Royal and Real game a little over a year ago. They both moved across from playing with MCC Squash to join the Real Tennis Section after being invited to play in introductory sessions on the first Friday of the month. They fell in love with the game and then joined RMTC as full members. As an aside, they brought across two others and reformed an RMTC Squash team playing in Club Circuit, so squash pennant is now back at RMTC after a 20 year absence.

Gamesmanship abounds as it does between these two friends. Greg rang Mike on the Friday morning and said he had had a word with Frank and Mike’s handicap was reduced again thus making the outcome more positive for the long handicapper. Mike took the bait and logged on to RTO to check. Point to Greg.

Mike Owe 15, Greg Receive ½ 15, the match was set. Mike takes an early and dominant lead at 4 games to 1 but was it a cunning ploy by Greg to lure Mike in to a false sense of security? 6/5 to Greg! Mike lifts his game again to lead 7/6. Then that fatal serve with Greg serving and down match point. Was it short?, did it hit the line or sneak in? Only Mike knows. As a gentleman he said it hit the line (neither player knows the rules) and refused to take the win, replay, take a let or anything and the match continued. Greg served out and won that game and the next with some unexpected tight serves.

A match played in great spirit and entertainment, unorthodox shots, use of the side walls, all sorts of serves attempted (mostly failed) and good retrieving from both players. A worthy winner –perhaps, more a lucky one but it was a fitting end to the inaugural MCC Real Tennis Section’s Club Championship with two players new to the game playing off. Bring on the 2012 championship.”

## **MATCH RESULTS**

MCC V Hobart Real Tennis Club 3 September 2011

MCC v Ballarat Tennis Club 20 November 2011

A close encounter with MCC hosting at Romsey

MCC	Ballarat	
I Bull & J Guest	def. R Jolly & B Hutchenson	9/6
R Middleton & A Willingham	def. R Thompson & G Reid	9/8
A Willingham & I Bull	lost to P Williams & I Chambers	7/9
J Guest & R Middleton	lost to R Thompson & B Hutchenson	4/9
I Bull & M Carroll	def. I Chambers & R Jolly	9/2
R Middleton & M Carroll	lost to P Williams & G Reid	7/9
MCC won, 3 rubbers each, 45 games to 43 games!!		

MCC v RMTC 12 February 2012

Another close encounter but with RMTC victorious taking two matches 6/5

RMTC	MCC
H Turnbull & D Lloyd-Jones	lost to M Carroll & D Reid 1/6
F Kininmonth & R Friend	lost to P Wheeler & A Shelton 3/6
R Friend & D Lloyd-Jones	def. P Wheeler & I Buchanan 6/2
H Turnbull & D Lloyd-Jones	def. A Shelton & G Reid 6/5
O Guest & F Kininmonth	def. I Buchanan & M Carroll 6/5
H Turnbull & O Guest(LH)	def. M Carroll & A Shelton 6/1
R Friend & F Kininmonth	lost to G Reid & P Wheeler 1/6
D Lloyd-Jones & F Kininmonth	lost to I Buchanan & G Reid 2/6
H Turnbull & R Friend	def P Wheeler & A Shelton 6/2
R Friend & D Lloyd-Jones	def. I Buchanan & M Carroll 6/2

RMTC won by 6 rubbers to 4

### **FORTHCOMING MATCHES**

Hobart Real Tennis Club (away) 24/25 March 2012  
 Manager ????

### **CLUB NIGHTS**

Club nights will be held on the following Fridays during 2012-

13 April; 11 May; 1 June; 6 July; 3 August; 7 September;  
 5 October; 9 November; 7 December.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

A welcome to the following recent members:-

### **2012 WORLD MASTERS**

We congratulate the following MCC members who were successful in the recent World Masters events held in Melbourne in January including

Mike Happell	Winner 50 Singles and Doubles
Wayne Spring	Runner up 60 Singles and Doubles
John Faull	Winner 65 Doubles
Paul Wheeler	Runner up 70 Singles and Doubles
	Winner 75 Singles and Doubles
Bob Malseed	Winner 75 Doubles
James Guest	Runner up 75 Doubles

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM will be held at 12.30 on 31 March 2012 at the MCG.

**HANS EBELING ROOM**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**