



MCC Real Tennis Section Summer Newsletter 2015/6

Upcoming events

11 Mar

Intro and member night

2-3 April

Match against Hobart TC (at Hobart)

30 Mar

AGM at MCC

15 Apr

Intro and member night

17 Apr

Match against R.MTC

All year

***Gold Racquet Tournament
Handicap Club Championship***

Welcome to the Summer newsletter for 2015/6.

2015 Handicap Tournament

We were privileged to watch a quality match between Owen Guest (a very well credentialed and experienced player) take on a new comer to the sport in Matt Downey. With a considerable handicap difference of 27 (owe 15, one serve banned tambour, receive 30) all Matt had to do was force a couple of errors to win a game. It was a tight match with Owen having to be careful on his serve and mostly having to play to Matt's forehand when at the service end. While Matt does play squash for R.MTC, his background is a lawn tennis player with a strong volley, which proved decisive winning 9/6. Well done to Matt Downey.

MCCRTS Website

We now have our own dedicated website for MCCRTS. Many thanks for the work by Mike Carroll, go to

www.mccrts.com.au

This is where we will post results, match summaries, calendar of events, news, sport and weather and whatever else takes our fancy. The handicap draw is available online as well as upcoming events.

Match Results

22nd Nov saw MCCRTS take on Ballarat at Romsey. MCCRTS represented by Vince Scopelliti, Dave Cutler, Robin McAllen, Saskia Bollerman and Greg Reid up against Cora Trevarthen, Andrew Hall, Richie Robinson, Nick Oates and Jim Stephen. After a close series of matches, MCCRTS prevailed winning 4 rubbers to 3.

24th January was the match against MCC Lords. While this was not the official Cowper/Cowdrey trophy match (played during an Ashes series) it was a match for pride. Michelle O'Rorke and Yvonne Rout, Chris Nobes and Mike Carroll and Russ Middleton with Euahna Varigos took on Justin Dowley and Oliver Wise, Ronald Paterson and Richard Wyse and Jeremy Hawkins and Oliver Wise respectively. It was 2 rubbers to 1 for MCCRTS with Michelle and Yvonne coming back to win the vital third set. Lunch followed at the Club.

4th and 6th March the match against BTC started on a Friday night with a mix of players and a combination of singles and doubles. Rob Jolly, Stuart Strange and Greg Reid finished up 3 rubbers all at the completion of the night although the stewards are still out on whether Stu Strange decided his loyalties lay with BTC half way through his doubles match, inexplicably hitting the net numerous times in the latter half of the match. Dinner was a very enjoyable and relaxed BBQ at the club after. BTC was represented by David Hay, Malcolm Rogers, Ian Chambers and Bruce Christie

Saturday saw an influx of players, Matt Downey, Sam Bowman, Paul Scally, Mike Carroll, Dave Cutler and Yvonne Rout joining Greg Reid matched up against Jo Edwards, Bruce Christie, Jasper Follows, Annie Strange, Will Hoskin, Tanya Baker, Stuart Strange and Laura LeMarshall. MCCRTS was up for most of the day but lost the last 2 rubbers to finish 8/6 down. Dinner at an Italian pizza/pasta restaurant (Carboni's) followed for those of us who stayed.

Sunday saw Greg Reid, Paul Scally, Yvonne Rout and Stuart Strange take on David Hay, Jo Edwards, Rod Unmack, Bruce Christie, Andrew Rowan and Nathan Baker who proved too strong winning the day 4/3. For those who went to the Theatre on Sunday matinee, a high recommendation for the Rock of Ages.

Boomerang Cup Report

MCCRT entered a team in the international tournament called The Boomerang Cup which is held at the Richmond based real tennis courts every second year.

There were teams entered from all over the world, including teams from USA, UK, France and Holland along with Australian teams from Melbourne, Sydney, Ballarat and Hobart.

The MCCRT team members were Wendy Whitehead (Captain), John Piccolo, Vince Scopelliti, Luke Piccolo and Jackson Brand.

We were in a pool of five teams, where we had to play four 8 game sets against each team in our pool.

The first day we played a RMTC team called The Eagles.

Some tough opponents, with handicaps slightly better than ours, at the end of the 4 sets we were 2 sets all, but MCC had 2 more games over the opposition so came out with a win.

The second match was against Hampton Court from the UK.

Handicaps were fairly even, again proving a challenge for the MCC team.

At the end of the 4 sets, again we had won 2 sets each, but it was Hampton Court who won with 2 more games than MCC.

The third match we were contesting the four sets against another Melbourne team.

Their handicaps were fairly comparable with ours, the end of the four sets saw MCC have a comfortable win.

Our final competition in our pool saw MCC playing against a team from Radley, UK.

The Radley team had higher handicaps than us, so we tactfully chose to rest our No 1 player, John Piccolo so that we weren't owing our opponents too much with the handicap difference.

This worked in our favour, winning by 3 sets to 1, and only losing the last set 7/8.

We were now sitting in a good position in our pool, with a good chance of progressing throughout to the finals.

As we did.

However this was no mean feat.

We were playing against a very strong Dutch team, consisting of a family.....Mother, Father, Daughter and Son team, along with another team member.

We went in to the last rubber where we had to win 8/4 for an overall win, or 8/5 would see an absolute draw on sets and games.

Luke and Jackson played amazingly well and managed a win for that rubber, however it was an 8/5 which resulted in a draw for the team.

So the rulings of the tournament meant the last 2 pairings on the court had to stay on and play the best of 3 games, so the first team to get to 2 games would be the winners for the day.

Excitement and tension in the dedans.

Luke, with his amazing retrieval skills, and Jackson with his powerful net volleys managed to win the first game.

However the next game they were unable to fight off the strong opposition and the Dutch team equalled the games at 1 all.

So the whole days result rested on the last game of this playoff.

The result could have gone either way.....the MCC boys played valiantly but the Dutch pairing won the last game to give them the final game.

This gave the Dutch team an overall win on the day by one game.

Which saw the end of the MCCRT challenge for the Boomerang Cup title and the Dutch team progress to the next stage of the finals.

A wonderful two weeks of tennis was had by all.

We look forward to returning to the competition when it is next held in 2 years time. (report by Wendy Whitehead).

Upcoming Matches

The big event, travelling overseas to take on Hobart happens on 2nd and 3rd April. After Sydney defeated Hobart last weekend, it is time MCCRTS won again away.

Sunday 17th April MCCRTS will take on RMTC, the venue is booked to be Romsey but there is a rumour that Romsey has been leased and will no longer be used as a tennis court, this is being checked with calls into Gordon Cope-Williams to confirm either way.

Annual General Meeting

Notice has been sent for the AGM, to be held at 12:00 noon, Wednesday 30th March at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Lunch at the MCC at the conclusion of the meeting.

Handicap Tournament 2016

This is our annual handicap tournament, run from March and cumulating in the final on 9th December 2016. An e-mail will be sent to members inviting participation. It is up to players to arrange their own matches, once a draw has been produced. Keep a look out for the e-mail to respond to.

Membership

We now have over 130 members. If you know of anyone who has an interest in the game please let them know about the section. Subscriptions for 2015 are \$35 per year, or you can take advantage of the best bargain going around and pay \$90 for 3 years.

There are a number of benefits, being able to play at or against different clubs more regularly than you may be able to do just being a member of RMTC for example, an additional series of matches and pennants, access to MCC functions including Sports Sections Dinner annually, the use of the Hans Ebeling Room and Grand Final lunch at the 'G.

Hans Ebeling Room

This is one of the best kept secrets associated with being a member of the section. You can come to a blockbuster game, get a great dinner and drinks, then go out to your reserved seat on level 2. Non member guests merely need a visitor's ticket to get into the ground and they will have access to level 2 and the dining room bar, no need to get a balcony pass, if you can get one at all. It is made available for both the footy and cricket.

Once we have details from MCC of the cricket matches to be played, information will be sent out to members.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, now is a good time to do so, contact Iain B for details if needed.

New members

We welcome the following new members:

- Tim Raw and Jim Stephen.

Update on Court Development

There is not much to report on as yet, concept plans have been drawn, information on financial viability given but it is with MCC to be able to locate and then negotiate on a suitable venue. The concept that MCC will build a 'racquets' complex for its members is high on their priority list to include squash courts (an MCC section that has been without a home for over a decade) real tennis courts and possible lawn tennis courts with gym etc.

Hassle your local MCC committee member to give them a push along.

Tennis Calendar for 2016 – We have added in some inter-club pennant matches during the year as well to give newer members in particular the chance to play matches and get some further court time.

Feb	12	MCC intro & member night
March	4-6 11 30	BTC vs MCC (Ballarat) MCC intro & member night AGM 12 noon
April	2-3 15 17	HTC vs MCC (Hobart) MCC intro & member night MCC vs. RMTc (Romsey) tbc
May	13	MCC intro & member night
June	10	MCC intro & member night
July	8 23	MCC intro & member night RMTc vs. MCC (Richmond)
Aug	12	MCC intro & member night
Sept	9 23 & 25	MCC intro & member night MCC vs STC (Richmond)
Oct	8-9 14	MCC vs HTC (Romsey) MCC intro & member night
Nov	11 20	MCC intro & member night MCC vs BTC (Romsey)
Dec	9	Club Championship Finals night

Committee

Just in case you have forgotten, your committee looks like this:

Chairman/El Presidente
Secretary
Treasurer
General Committee

Andrew Gould
Iain Buchanan
Greg Reid
Henry Turnbull
Mike Carroll
Wendy Whitehead
Robert Jolly

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Mike Carroll and Greg Reid will be responsible for tennis this year – Mike is running the championships and gold racquet, while Greg will be doing the inter club pennants. Get involved no matter what standard you are and enjoy some fun both on and off the court.

If you have any feedback, ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact any or all of us