



VIEW FROM THE GRILLE



APRIL 2015

Inside This Issue

Chairman's Update

Donating

World Champions come to
Petworth

Junior News

Champs Hill Party

Book Corner

*A facility that's great
for our members and
guests*

FACILITIES EXTENSION LATEST

Chairman's Update by Philip Robinson

Progress

Since our Newsletter in April 2014 we have made excellent progress with our extension although a few things have arisen that have delayed the start.

On the positive side we now have all the approvals in place in respect of our extension plans, firstly from the Architectural Panel of the National Trust and then from the South Downs National Park giving us planning permission and listed building consent. Also we have been advised by the National Trust that we will receive a 99 year lease on very similar terms to our existing lease.

Also thanks to the generosity of so many members our fundraising has progressed well – we have received 150 pledges which with Gift Aid totals approx. £420k. This is amazing and enormously appreciated.

However there are still some regular playing members who have not yet pledged and who I naturally hope would want to contribute and be part of this exciting project.

Project Changes

Contrary to earlier indications the latest estimate of the project (carried out by our quantity surveyors) has gone up, mainly brought about by the cost of the high outer-wall at the Clubroom end, representing 25% of the total cost. The reason for this is that the wall has to have top quality sandstone to meet the planners' requirements due to the building's Grade 1 Listed status and the need to be in keeping with the walls of the Estate.



Perhaps therefore I should briefly summarise where we are at:

- There is still a significant shortfall in our funding although we have applied or are applying for grants from Sport England, the District Council and the County Council and if successful the maximum amount we would receive in total would be in the region of £100k (this would be on top of a grant of £16.5k already offered by the T&RA). By July we should have had answers to all our applications.
- Consequently building will have to be delayed until 2016.
- Our fundraising committee, comprising Robert Dolman, David Godfray, Andrew Falk, Carole Muir, Michael Power, Gordon Woodman, Nick Chambers, Lucy Hutchinson and myself, will continue to be responsible for our fundraising campaign.
- We believe that there are friends of the Club here and abroad who might be willing to donate and approaches will be made to them soon.
- We may have to consider borrowing for a limited period - I am aware of certain members being willing to lend which is extremely generous, but I would like to regard that as a fall-back position only.
- I hope that those of you, who haven't yet pledged and would like to pledge, will complete pledge cards to be found at the court. Otherwise please feel free to contact me and I can email a pledge card to you. This also applies to anyone who might be inclined to increase their pledge.
- When considering how much to pledge it may be worth bearing in mind that the average amount pledged by members so far is just over £2k and that the fundraising committee alone have pledged £57k. However I do of course recognise that donations will inevitably vary depending on individuals' means.
- If any member would like to discuss the extension with me, I would be more than happy to have a chat and answer any questions.

The Value of Gift Aid

- Here is an example showing the Gift Aid benefit of donating;

Donor	Gift	Gift Aid Added	Value to Extension	Tax Benefit to Donor	Net Cost to Donor
Highest Rate Tax Payer (45%)	£10k	£2.5k	£12.5k	£3.125k	£6.875k
Higher Rate Tax Payer (40%)	£10k	£2.5k	£12.5k	£2.5k	£7.5k

- We will not call upon those who have pledged to donate until the construction contract is in place at a fixed price (see below), it is fully funded and an Agreement for Lease has been signed. This is hopefully going to be towards the end of this summer.
- Because of the logistics of carrying out work on the Estate we have decided to enter into a negotiated contract with the Leconfield Estate contractors on an 'open book' basis with advice from our quantity surveyors so that the price quoted is the most competitive available. Please rest assured that every effort is being made to keep our building costs down.
- David Fortune who has considerable experience in this field will be leading these negotiations from our side with suitable help from other members with similar expertise.
- We are actively looking at ways in which we might be able to save on VAT.

Looking Forward

In conclusion I would like to say that over the last year I have had many discussions with members about the extension in the course of which there have been varied reactions ranging from 'very excited' (the majority) to 'it is too expensive', to 'I never use the facilities', and to 'why do we need an extension at all'.

In response to those with reservations about the cost, I hope that you will understand that, unlike building your own house, much has been outside our control in terms of design and decision making and that the plans have had to satisfy not only us, but also the National Trust, Lord and Lady Egremont and the South Downs National Park. However I am delighted that with the help of our architect we eventually managed to come up with plans that have met the needs of all parties.

As regards those who play but never use the facilities, and therefore feel disinclined to contribute I hope that they will reconsider and be willing to make a contribution to this project. Interestingly there are a few members who are no longer playing or hardly ever play at Petworth, but have pledged in total £91k.

Furthermore if we were to have no extension it is questionable whether, with so many female and junior members, the Club would be adhering to Health & Safety and Child Protection rules. It is therefore important that we address the issue of having two changing rooms and more clubroom space as a matter of urgency.

Finally I hope that the water-colour on the front (kindly painted by Terry Adsett, our architect) gives a good impression of the view from the dedans towards the Clubroom through the sliding glass-doors which is one of the exciting features of the extension.

As mentioned previously another exciting feature of the Clubroom will be a wonderful bas-relief sculpture by Philip Jackson depicting the history of real tennis at Petworth House – bearing in mind that he has just completed the Gandhi statue in Parliament Square we are extremely privileged and grateful that he has agreed to sculpt and donate a bas-relief for us.

I hope that you will agree that this extension is without doubt an exciting development which once built will greatly enhance all aspects of the Club and secure the future of real tennis at Petworth for many years to come.

WORLD REAL TENNIS CHAMPIONS COME TO PETWORTH

By Alan Chalmers

Petworth House Tennis Court was the scene of as scintillating an evening of highly skilled and competitive Real Tennis as has been seen on the court for many years. A very knowledgeable crowd of members watched enthralled as Petworth's Bryn Sayers and Tom Durack took on the might of Holyport's husband and wife world champions, Rob and Claire Fahey, in the National League.

Rob Fahey has been undefeated Men's World Champion for more than 20 years; Claire Fahey has been Women's World Champion since 2011 and has the lowest handicap of any woman player in the history of the game. They married last year.

Petworth's players were Bryn Sayers, currently World number 4 and British number 1, and Tom Durack, Senior Professional at the Petworth court.

The first singles match (best of 3 sets) was between Tom Durack and Claire Fahey. It



Rob, Claire, Adam (the Marker), Bryn, Tom

became clear very early on that Claire was not getting special soft treatment just because she was a woman, and in fact on several occasions hit the ball so hard that Durack's racket was nearly knocked out of his hand! Fahey took an early lead, but Durack, exploiting his home court advantage, forged ahead to take the first set 6/2. The second set remained highly competitive with Fahey finding the grille on several occasions. Durack led 5/2 with the match in his sight, but Fahey was not yet finished and came back to 5/4 before Durack ran out the match at 6/4.

In the number 1 singles, we saw Rob Fahey against Bryn Sayers, two great players who know each other's game so well. Sayers is the Senior Tournament Professional at London's Queen's Club and has won the USA and the British Open singles. The first set saw the usual exchanges from corner to

corner interspersed with ferocious forcing for the dedans from Fahey. Some of us recalled in Fontainebleau a few years ago in the last session of the World Championship match how Fahey actually broke the dedan net with his forces!

Fahey built a lead of 5 games to 2 before Sayers found his rhythm and came back to level the score at 5 games all. Fahey stepped up and duly took the set by 6 games to 5.

The second set saw Fahey making errors, particularly driving the ball into the top of the net; but his volleying remained solid as did his formidable retrieving abilities. Fahey hit the winning gallery and the grille on several occasions and took a 3 games to 2 lead. Sayers was not yet beaten and held on to 5 games all. But once again Fahey raised his game and took the set and the match.

At one match all, the decider was the doubles which the Fahey husband and wife team ran out the winners at 8 games to 5 giving Holyport the match. The many Petworth members who attended this special night of world class real tennis will remember this evening for a long time.

JUNIOR NEWS

By Chris Bray

Under 21 and Under 24 Tennis at Petworth on 11th & 12th April



Monty Dix (age 14) successfully defended his Under 21 Handicap title winning the George Cooke Racket against one of our most promising young players Gus James (age 12) by 8 games to 6.

Charlie Braham continued his dominance of the Under 24 scene winning the Page Cup for the fifth time in a row over the talented Oscar Wright 6/1 6/4. Charlie is now two short of the record seven titles set by Will Fortune.

Tom and I are immensely proud of the standard set by PHTC Junior members. The level of play exhibited by all players in the George Cooke and Page Cup is higher than ever, especially in the young Ladies section with Isabella Rothman and Isabella Maxton leading the way.

We are the envy of many Clubs and have over 70 juniors playing tennis at Petworth. Our three schools and supportive parents play a major part in our continued success. The only other Club to rival our achievements is Seacourt with whom we have a regular junior match, currently level at one win each. We also participate in the Junior National League and are holding our own as well.

The Junior Scene in the UK is thriving with Petworth at the forefront. Many thanks again to our fantastic parents and the sponsors of junior tennis in the UK – Neptune, The Dedanists and the Tennis and Rackets Association. The ultimate aim of UK's Junior Programme is that the top ten players in the world are British, including the World Champion – with Petworth preferably leading the way.



CHAMPS HILL – 30th May 2015

Our summer drinks party is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and members that you've not seen for a while, and to enjoy the wonderful food which is lovingly put together for us all.



The Champs Hill setting remains one of our favourite places and is very relaxed as well as interesting and informative. If you've not been before I urge you to bring some friends for an early evening of drinks, nibbles and warm company.

THE NEPTUNE BOOK OF TENNIS AND RACKETS

Privately published in February by the author, James Bruce, the standard edition of this new book has already sold 60% of its print run (900 copies only), with big sales coming in from many clubs and private individuals in the Real Tennis and Rackets world in the UK, Australia and the USA.

This large book has 448 pages beautifully illustrated with over 300 colour photographs. It recounts in great detail the history of both Real Tennis and Rackets on a century-by-century basis from their earliest days all the way through to 2014. The author has painstakingly described how the two games developed into their formats of today. And the major championship record has been brought right up to date, the earliest starting as far back as 1740.

Every club in the world has provided accounts of their local activities, describing their court's history, the major matches played there and accounts of local personalities who have been so pivotal in the continuing of the club's success. There is a major new 5 page chapter about Petworth House Tennis Court, with team photographs as well as a photo of the board in session at the Chairman's house. Especially important is the photo of the founder members group taken at the 50th anniversary lunch in April 2010.

Ladies' Tennis and Rackets are also well covered. The book contains so much to recommend it to players of our games and cannot fail to be of interest and entertainment. It is undoubtedly the major work on Tennis and Rackets and will remain so for many years to come.

As well as the standard edition at £35, there is also a deluxe leather-bound edition at £350 limited to 100 numbered copies. If you would like to own a copy of either edition, please contact Alan Chalmers on 01730-816116 or alan@tennisbookshop.com.