



## MARCH 2016

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## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

### By Philip Robinson

Normally when writing this part of the Newsletter I have tended to look back at high points in the previous year but this seems less necessary now that our new website is up and running, and is being used to report news on a regular basis. In addition as 2016 will be a year of exciting developments for the Club I would instead like to look ahead and deal with the Extension.

### New Website

However firstly I would like to comment on our new website. A few weeks ago Jon Petersen who is one of our members and an expert in IT kindly offered to redesign our website (on a pro bono basis) so that it was generally more user-friendly and easier to add (for those authorised to) any news such as match and tournament results.

In a short space of time he managed to do just that. I hope that all members are pleased with the finished product and find it more informative than before. I am personally delighted with its new look and content, and I would like to express my thanks to Jon for doing this for us.

### Extension

With building starting soon hopefully we have reached the critical stage of completing the working drawings, finalising the terms of the construction contract, signing the Agreement for Lease and raising the balance of funds needed. I am greatly encouraged by the way many aspects have fallen into place and by the amount of progress made over the last year.

Whilst building is taking place (estimated to last 6 months) the court will still remain in use for most of the time as the back of the 'dedans' will be screened off. Although we are aiming to have a portaloo outside the court, there will unfortunately be no shower or cooking facilities during this period and I hope that members will please bear with us during this period.

Once the Extension is built we aim to have an official opening and an unveiling of Philip Jackson's bas-relief sculpture, followed a few months later by a week-long invitation tournament and a party. Details of these events will be circulated once they have been finalised.

First stage of  
work



I suppose, above all, the thing that has astounded me most over the last year is the generosity shown by so many members (including many who don't play anymore) and a number of non-members who happen to have a particular fondness for the Club. Without mentioning names funding from the membership can be summarised as follows:

About 170 members have donated of whom nearly half have donated £1,000 or more, comprising:

one donation for £50,000

three donations for £25,000

one donation for £15,000

five donations for £10,000

eleven donations for £5,000

fifty donations from £1,000 up to £5,000

I hasten to add that all members' donations of whatever amount have been greatly appreciated.

I should however stress that further donations are needed and would be most welcome.

Special thanks go to those who have given grants, particularly Sport England, T&RA, Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council, and the Brigands.

In addition significant donations were received from The Jesters, Jesmond Dene, Lancing Old Boys and Tonbridge Old Boys - so thanks also go to them.

Finally I would like to mention that over the last few years as the Extension has gone from being just a dream to a real project I have realised that without having the key skills amongst our members to draw from we would never have been able to take the project forward in such an efficient way, and so I would like to thank those involved on the various committees for all their invaluable help and support.

## Our Professionals

The Club has for many years been particularly fortunate in having great Pros and this has undoubtedly been an integral part of our success.

I am delighted therefore that, following Chris's departure in September, Tom has responded so well to the role of Head Pro and I would like to thank him for all that he does for the Club.

I am also delighted that Louis has settled in so well and with such enthusiasm - so my thanks to him as well.

One particularly notable achievement of our Pros has been the development of our Schools' Coaching Programme to the point that it not only attracts 4 private schools but now includes Midhurst Rother College as well.

Although due to a shoulder injury I am not able to play anymore and don't have the opportunity of meeting members so often, I try to come to the court as much as possible, particularly on match and tournament days. This gives me a chance to keep in touch with members and to meet new ones.

By the time that our next Newsletter comes out, all being well, it will be devoted to the completion of our Extension and an opportunity to celebrate!

# EXTENSION DEVELOPMENTS

By David Fortune

What's happening?

The answer is quite a lot. As with most projects it is important to get the preparation right. We have been busy finalising the design, supervised by a committee consisting of members from PHTC, the NT, our architects and M & E and Structural Consultants. The detailed design has to meet building regulations, the design criteria approved by South Downs Planning and the NT Architectural Panel and, most importantly, the needs of existing and future members.

We are within the curtilage of a Grade I listed building and the extension will face gardens designed by Capability Brown. To date we have had two bat surveys, an asbestos survey, a buried services survey and archaeological supervision of the digging of trial holes. The planning authorities treat the application in a similar way to a sports or leisure centre. The design of the foundations, the roof and the inclusion of all M & E work will generally not be on view in the finished building and that will mean that they have been successfully executed.

I would like to give you a flavour of the work that will be on display or will make the club more comfortable and how the members will benefit from it. Much of this work has been driven by the Fixtures and Fittings Committee (Carole Muir, Shirley Baring-Johnstone, Ian Lambert and David Fortune) who have had a major input into the kitchen, changing and club rooms so that they will meet the needs of members.

The picture shows how the new kitchen will be equipped (not the colour scheme), and will feature a range with gas hob and electric oven. We have included underfloor heating throughout that will also partially extend into the Dedans. We are required to have compliant non-slip tiles in the changing rooms and we have managed to source tiles that should look good and be comfortable and safe to walk on. There will be a heat recovery system to reduce heating bills and ensure a fresh atmosphere throughout. There should be adequate purpose-built benching and shelving in the changing rooms and the layout and design of the ladies' changing room has been modified to take into account the preferences expressed by many of our lady members, such as one large shower arrangement rather than the two for the men's room. Sanitary fittings have been specified to provide clean and hygienic facilities that will be easy to keep in pristine condition.



Two of our members, Tom Compton and Ian McNally, kindly offered to supply oak flooring and wood for door frames, dado and skirting rails, at cost from English Woodland, this will be seen in the clubroom and areas outside the kitchen and changing rooms. In addition as we have received some generous grants from the County and District Councils we have tried to make sure that local suppliers will have the opportunity of competing for the supply of materials and labour for the project.

We have provided for cabling in the club room to allow games and/or scores to be displayed and we have redesigned the seating (this will be done after the main build) to give the club the option of hosting top level matches with suitable spectator facilities for such matches and importantly our own club matches and tournaments.

This is just a snapshot of what is happening and naturally until you see more physical evidence it is difficult to appreciate the effort being made by all the parties to ensure that we get everything right.

## LOUIS GORDON - NEW TRAINEE PROFESSIONAL

Many of you will already have got to know Louis who has been with us since November.

Whilst working full-time as assistant to Tom, Louis is also working on his professional qualification (CPD1) programme with the RTPA and T&RA. He takes the exams in the Summer. A former Seacourt Junior (and holder of the Seacourt Silver Racquet in 2011), his handicap is already coming down. He can hit the ball as ferociously hard as anyone in the game but when he gives a lesson, he can be relied upon to be more gentle!

## MARTIN PATERSON 1927 - 2015

Martin Paterson, who became a member in 1980, died on 21 November 2015, aged 88, just 20 days after his wife, Marjorie.

Martin became a very successful actuary, playing tennis at Queen's during the week and at Petworth, from his home in Fittleworth, at the weekend. He will be remembered in particular (during his later years) for his Sunday 9am "Matins" doubles which became something of a Petworth institution. Martin was an assiduous student of the game, playing and taking lessons from the Professionals well into his 80's. He developed a drag serve that could on occasions be lethal.

A man of wide interests, Martin was a talented artist, an enthusiastic gardener and a lover of literature. We send our condolences to his family.

## SIMON BRETT AWARDED OBE

Congratulations to PHTC member, Simon Brett, on his OBE in the 2016 New Year's Honours for services to literature. Many members will have read with pleasure his 2012 real tennis detective novel, "The Corpse on the Court".

## CHAMPS HILL PARTY, SATURDAY 28 MAY 2016

Do put this date into your diary for this Summer. This drinks and canapés party is the Club's only regular off-court social event. It takes place by kind permission of David and Mary Bowerman in their house near Pulborough. They allow us to use their concert hall (hung with pictures from their collection) and their gardens. It is an excellent opportunity to meet other members, their families and guests in very pleasant and relaxed surroundings.

The canapés are provided by a group of club members which results in tickets being reasonably priced at £15 per head. All members and their guests are welcome. Full details will follow in due course.

## NEW PHTC MEMBERS FROM 1 JUNE 2015

A warm welcome to our new members, namely:

**Full Members:** Adrian Warburton, Carole and Rod Matthews, Anthony Palmer, Scott Greenhalgh, Harry Chetwood, John Howard-Smith, James Deuchar, Paul Langtry, Neil Heilpern

**Junior Members:** James Howard-Smith, Henry Lunt, Archie Godman-Dorrington, Nick Newton, Sebastian Scott

## A NOTE FROM OUR COUSINS

Tucked away off Sheepdown Drive within easy range of The Angel lies The Petworth Lawn Tennis Club.

It boasts two grass courts along with two all weather hard courts. The grass courts are maintained to a high standard providing members with extra pleasure in summer. Tennis can be social as well as competitive. Fees are reasonable. Open Day is on 24 April. Do contact Michael Crawley, club@petworthtennis.co.uk, 01798 344 462.



## JUNIOR NEWS

By Tom Durack

### PHTC Schools Programme

In September we had over 55 pupils from 5 schools taking part in coaching sessions at Petworth, one of which was Midhurst Rother College (pictured below), a state School. The sessions were funded by the Dedanists Foundation who have very generously given the School a grant for the first two terms.

In the last term the School bought along over 25 pupils to try the game for the first time and Westbourne House, Windlesham House, Cottesmore and Seaford College continue to bring along new students to play.

Louis and I are very pleased and encouraged with the level of commitment from all of the Schools and I would like to thank the teachers who do so much to make it happen.



### PHTC Juniors

It has been another strong year for our juniors with 6 taking part in the National championships at Queens in August.

In the under 18 handicap Tournament held at Seacourt congratulations go to one of our very promising juniors Gus James, who played some outstanding tennis to fight his way through to the final, only just coming up short to one of the home court Seacourt juniors William Flynn. A mention also to one of our new junior members Nick Newton who just lost out in the semi-finals. Petworth had a strong presence with 5 players out of a draw of 20.

This season I will be looking to introduce a weekly group coaching session on a Saturday morning and hope to encourage a lot more of our juniors to attend regularly.

A special mention to Monty Dix who has been working really hard on his game over the last six months and has improved his handicap from 65 to 56. Let's keep it going Monty!

## TOM'S TIP

### Use of Galleries

Apart from hitting the odd gallery by mistake, have you ever thought of using both the service end and hazard end galleries to give you a big tactical advantage?

We all get fixated on aiming for the tambour but when you next play and are defending a chase at the service end try and hit your shot into a hazard gallery to win the point outright (when defending a chase, effectively all the hazard galleries become one big winning gallery!) The same thing also applies when you are defending a hazard chase, try to look to chip the ball into the service end galleries to win the point.

It is also worth using the service end galleries in general play as it is all too easy to spend too much time at the hazard end searching for that elusive half a yard chase!

## TOURNAMENT WINNERS



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*Robinson Trophy  
A Falk & S Armstrong*

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*Ellis Rich  
M Drysdale & L Danby*

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*Hennell Plate  
R Blackburn & K Rowe*

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*Two Generations  
R & S Scott*

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*Secretary's Cup  
O Harris & S Allison*

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*National Under 18 Handicap Championships  
(Seacourt)  
Gus James*

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