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## West Heath Club Tournament 2010

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Through their representative, Christine Thompson, SABMiller have generously agreed to sponsor the Club Tournament for the seventh year running by providing free beer for players and spectators during the second week. We are very grateful and wish SAB Miller every success in the drinks market in the hot summer tennis season!

Please help yourself to one beer for each day if (and only if) you visit the club house during the Gourmet Dinners Week and finals Day. Further bottles are £1 each (this rule is to ensure that supplies last until Finals Day at the end of the second week).

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## Tournament Reports and Gossip

### Saturday 24 July - Finals Day



The **Men's Singles Final** was contested, as usual, between Mark Stapleton and Cedric de la Chaise. Cedric has won the tournament for the last 6 years in a row, and as a result the crowd tended to root for Mark. The final this year was very high quality tennis and much appreciated by an enthusiastic crowd.

Matters were pretty tight until 3-3, with most games going to a number of deuces but the server managing to come through without a break. Mark's strategy tended to be to hit an approach shot down the middle and come in behind it, leaving Cedric to hit passing shots if he could, and mostly Cedric was on form and did so. But at 3-3 on Cedric's serve Mark had one or two break points and managed to convert one of them for a 4-3 lead, holding his own serve to get to 5-3. To everyone's surprise Mark then broke again to take the first set 6-3.

This put Mark serving first in the second set. We all fully expected Cedric to apply greater pressure and for Mark to be forced to concede this second set as this is the way things have gone in previous years. Matters went to plan for Cedric, breaking Mark at 1-1 and holding himself for a 3-2 lead. Mark then held his own serve to take it to 3-2 on Cedric's serve. On this game Mark hit some good returns down the centre and came in. Cedric hit good passing shots, but missed a couple which enabled Mark to break back, also holding his own serve

for 3-4 on Cedric's next serve.

On this game Mark changed his tactics to hit his approach shots to Cedric's backhand, within 1 or 2 feet of the side line, and on the poor West Heath bounce this year Cedric was struggling to hit decent passes. On the ensuing break point Mark called a baseline ball from Cedric out, but Vince Sudbery calling the line was unsighted, and Kevin Ryan ordered that the point be replayed. Cedric proceeded to win the point, but double faulted on his next service point to give Mark another chance. Mark hit this ball out but earned a third break point, only to get a bad bounce from the service court and dumping the ball in the net. But Mark got a fourth break point which Cedric saved with a fantastic drop shot. The quality of the tennis remained very high throughout. It is a shame the same could not be said for the bounces this year. On the next 2 points Mark peppered Cedric's backhand and won both to break.

When serving for the match Mark was 30-15 up, but there was a very high and unexpected bounce which caused Cedric to dump the return into the net. With 2 tournament points Mark then displayed some very good net play to close it out 6-3 6-3.

And thus West Heath has a different Men's Singles champion for the first time in 7 years.

The quality of the tennis remained very high throughout. It is a shame the same could not be said for the bounces this year. On the next 2 points Mark peppered Cedric's backhand and won both to break. Cedric later attributed his defeat to the fact that he had not been able to hit good length against Mark, which had given Mark the opportunity to hit take advantage of the grass-court bounces by hitting approach shots and coming in.



In the **Ladies' Singles Final** Lesley South was competing with Ros Norkett. Although this is the first appearance in the final for Ros, Lesley has won the tournament twice before, in 1999 and 2002, before dropping out of West Heath to take over the catering at the Globe. In the first set Lesley broke first, but Ros broke back to take it to a tie break, in which Ros proceeded to take the first 4 points, and was 5-2 ahead when Lesley came into her own to take 5 straight points in a row to win the set 7-6<sup>7-5</sup>.

In the second set Lesley broke at 3 all and held for a 5-3 lead, breaking again to take the match 7-6<sup>7-5</sup> 6-3.

The fashion nowadays is for the ladies to have their photos taken only before they play and mess up their hair. Whoever took the pre-match photo has not yet sent it to me, so here is a picture of Sally Tornow, the umpire, looking very businesslike.







In the **Mens Doubles Final** Cedric de la Chaise partnered with Paul O'Flynn while Joris Fletcher is unavailable through injury, and they were challenged, as usual by Sultan Gangji and Mark Stapleton. In the first set Paul served very well, assisted by some excellent kills from Cedric at the net. However, Sultan was struggling to hold his serve early on and got broken a couple of times, but the pair made up for it by breaking the number 1 seeds towards the end of the set, which resulted in a tie-break. Again, in this Sultan struggled, resulting in Cedric and Paul taking the first set. In the second set the number one seeds seemed to lose it a little, allowing Mark and Sultan back in to level the match with a 2-6 set. In the champions tie break Sultan's serve was again challenged and the top seeds closed it out for a comprehensive [10-5] victory.



On exiting the court, it was, of course, Paul who got the resounding cheer from the spectators as he mostly gave a good performance despite supposedly being outgunned by the other players, and thereby rescuing Cedric's tournament challenge.

In the **Ladies Doubles Final** Lesley South and Liz Goodfellow were challenging Jane Boyle and Ludmilla Stapleton. The tale of the match was firstly of Jane and Milly's matching black Nike tops, which definitely gave them the edge in the fashion and team appearance stakes, and secondly that of Jane's variety of placement and Ludmilla's powerful volleys rather exposed some inconsistency in Lesley and Liz, and the eventual result was a win by Jane and Milly of 6-3 6-2.



**In the resumption of the Mixed Doubles Final**

Ludmilla and Mark Stapleton were already up a set 7-6 from the previous meeting before the courts got too slippery and it got too dark. The resumption was equally close and went to a tie break, which was also won by the Stapletons.



At the **Presentation of Trophies** the special guest presenter was Alan Rogers who was West Heath LTC chairman from 1991 to 1999. Interestingly, later this year Moira Duncan (1999 to 2010) will become the longest standing chairman of West Heath LTC, beating the previous record of 11 years held by Mr Horley (1936-47), although the latter's stewardship included the 2nd World War years 1941-5 during which the club was effectively mothballed. Here are some photos from this year's presentations.









For the **Evening BBQ** Yanni and his family came along with some very professional-looking BBQ equipment. Members provided rice and salads to accompany the BBQ and there was a good selection of excellent puddings to top it all off. We all ate reasonably early for a change. Sultan insisted on making two speeches as he deemed his first not to be long enough. Anne-Marie Williams declared herself well satisfied that she had avoided an excess of alcohol this year unlike 2009 when she left decidedly wobbly. And it was well after midnight when few remained when this photo of two fashionably-dressed ladies was taken.



And so, dear reader, this brings us to the **end of the web coverage of the 2010 West Heath Tournament**. I hope you had a super time playing your matches and were not too disappointed in the results, that you have been suitably informed and entertained throughout the fortnight by the web coverage, and that most of you are still speaking to me. For my part I have enjoyed reporting and playing gossip columnist, and look forward to a relaxed first summer of retirement, which will now include time for physics revision in preparation for starting my PhD in solid-state physics (Condensed Matter Theory) on a topic something like "Voltage Breakdown in Thin Dielectric Layers" in October. Such matters could be an important part of Green technology (honest!). Hopefully next year's West Heath Tournament will live up to the expectations created by this one, and the grass courts will start the season in much better shape than we experienced this year due to resignation of the groundsman at a particularly critical time in the growing season. If anyone would like to help with coverage of the 2011 Tournament please let me know (do not all shout at once).



Yours,  
Peter



**Thursday 22 July** - Today the Gourmet dinner was Chicken Mediterranean and was cooked by Brian Coffey, while Marjan Denis provided Tiramisu for pudding. The chicken was so good that various people were trying to prise the recipe out of Brian, but he was not letting on.



Taking the two Mens Singles semi-finals together, the challengers both put up a brave fight of it, but were outgunned. Admittedly conditions were a bit dodgy, it having rained earlier, and the courts were a bit slippery..

When he could get to the ball, Jonathan Bell hit some excellent forehands against Cedric de la Chaise, and Dan Braverman, perhaps not know for his sartorial elegance on court, though normally distinguishable by his straw hat, also hit some good shots against Mark Stapleton. The eventual scores

were 6-0 6-1 and 6-1 6-0 respectively, so it is clear that this year the top two seeds were in a class of their own.

The main question everyone asked about the Mixed Doubles final was why on earth didn't someone insist the ladies start their warm up after the first set result of the two Mens Singles semi-finals was known. This would have avoided the delay of a 20 minute knock-up before play commenced. A very tight first set was won 7-6 by Mark and Ludmilla Stapleton, playing against Cedric de la Chaise and Jane Boyle. But as a result of the delay in starting play the match then had to stop as it was too dark and too slippery. The match will be completed on Finals Day.



And lastly, what were those two handsome men doing at West Heath on the first Sunday of the tournament? All is now revealed. Apparently there was a burst water main and the flow from our reservoir had to be increased, so they took it in turns to wind the large handle to open the valve to restore full water pressure to the affected area.







And what is in the vast concrete construction that adorns our seating area. Well the real answer is not a lot, as can be seen below.

Here's a question that most of you might be able to guess the answer to. Who wrote the following? (Hint - it was a while ago)

#### MIXED HOCKEY

Nobody can claim they have experienced the highlight of Westfield College's Social Scene if they have not played a mixed hockey game whilst spending 3 years at College. Most people seem or appear to give the impression that they are very busy at week-ends. Many disappear home only to be disillusioned with life. By remaining at College there is an appealing alternative — playing mixed hockey on Sunday afternoon is one of the most entertaining aspects of College life. Here one can enjoy exclusively the company of an inspiring, friendly, sexy, delightful, charming, handsome, smart, clean, hairy legs, shapely legs, mini-skirts, pink panties, large and small boobies, persons of the opposite sex; and it all happens in such a short span of time on a Sunday afternoon. There just isn't time to assimilate all that in a couple of hours. Well, you can continue the gossip on the coming week. You might say such a delightful opportunity should be exclusively reserved to the few. Quite rightly we ought to run a clique but fortunately in the past couple of years interest has been so enthusiastic from non-regular playing members of our community that this right to enjoy oneself has been extended to all Westfield College. It is because of these great connoisseurs in the 'field' of social unity and harmony that the Club has been so successful. If you want to enjoy life at Westfield and have an abundance of friends (both sexes guaranteed — call it a party every Sunday afternoon) then please do not hesitate to inform us at the Freshers' Squash. If after spending a few weeks at Westfield and feeling neglected and lost, ask Simon Cowdry for a game of Mixed Hockey. He will be only too pleased to oblige.

A bit of information on the technical details. Quite a remarkable season from the success angle. We played 15 games losing only 3 games which is absolutely fantastic considering 30 players played fairly regularly and about another 40 members played in just one game through the season. Mixed Hockey players are easily distinguishable on Monday mornings when they hobble around College. Rumour has it that it is not due to the bruises acquired during hockey but incurred afterwards when mixed showers are indulged.



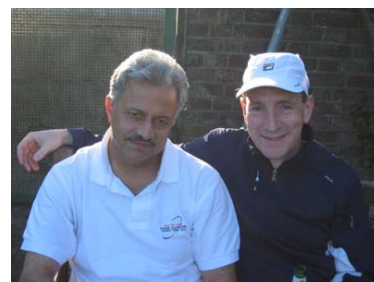
**Wednesday 21 July** - Today the Gourmet Fish Pie was cooked by Rachael Gangji and by common consent was delicious. Marjan Denis was spotted eating an extra portion well after the puddings had been served.

In the first Ladies Singles semi-final, Lesley South found herself playing against Jane Boyle - the same opponent against whom she started her West Heath Ladies Singles tournament career. Lesley was also sporting a big red patch and swollen ankle as a result of the notoriously vicious West Heath mosquitos. For her part Jane Boyle was feeling a bit out of sorts, to the extent that she declined the fish pie later on. This was after a comment overheard at the weekend from one West Heath lady that Jane's preparation for a tournament singles match was typically to have another slice of cake and cup of tea. Anyway back to the point. Both Jane and Lesley have very similar tennis styles, consisting of accurate and awkward placement when returning a ball, provided that they can reach it in the first place. On this particular occasion Lesley seemed to be a little more mobile than Jane, and Jane did not seem to be able to pull out the power shots required to thwart Lesley in a sufficiently consistent manner. The net effect of all this is that Lesley took the first set 6-4 and then proceeded to take the second 6-2 for a shock defeat of the top seed.



In the second Ladies Singles semi-final Moira Duncan took on Ros Norkett. Ros took the first set 6-4, and we were all expecting an easy victory for Ros in the second set. However, Moira was playing at a very consistently high level, and started to make very few errors. Moira was 3-1 up and had points for 4-1, but Ros got a lucky net cord to take this game and restricted the damage to a single break. Moira held serve for 4-2 up, and we were all expecting her to take the set eventually. But at this point Ros stepped up her game and forced some errors from Moira, although in one game there were a number of deuces. Moira could not get any more games out of Ros, who started hitting longer and more powerful shots, and the eventual result of the second set was a 6-4 victory to Ros for a 6-4 6-4 win.

Earlier The number one Mens Doubles seeds Cedric de la Chaise and Paul O'Flynn played and despatched Sanjiv and Dhananjay Talwar 6-0 6-1.





In the other Mens Doubles match Jonathan Bell and Maciek Janowski were challenging Mark Stapleton and Sultan Gangji. Jonathan has already dumped Sultan out of the Mens Singles, of course, so the match might have had an added edge.

The "West Heath bounce" conditions favoured those with the stronger serve and the general flavour of the match was that Sultan, Mark and Maciek tended to hold their serves, but Jonathan struggled, and the net effect was a 6-3 6-2 victory for Sultan and Mark.

One match that was played yesterday but which went unreported was that Cedric de la Chaise and Jane Boyle beat David Glover and Sue Ehr. in the Mixed Doubles., though I do not know the score.

**Tuesday 19 July** - Today the tournament was hotting up nicely with some excellent and entertaining matches.



Tonight's scrumptious Thai Gourmet Dinner was cooked by Lesley South with Moira Duncan providing mixed fruit puddings. Lesley would like it to be known that when she joined West Heath 20 odd years ago she ended up playing Jane Boyle in a Ladies Singles match. Clearly nothing much has changed and this semi-regular annual event will be re-enacted again tomorrow night for the entertainment of all the Wednesday Gourmet diners. Lesley has rejoined West Heath after a break catering for the Globe, and is a two-times West Heath champion (1999 and 2002). Perhaps she will now forgive me for not taking a picture of her gorgeous food before it all got eaten. See picture of Rachael Gangji above and our local engaged lovebirds below clearly enjoying it.



By the way, Moira would like to apologise to Vandana Talwar and her mother for telling me that the food last night was Gujarati, when in fact it was Punjabi.



Vandana and Dhananjay Talwar acquitted themselves well against Mark and Ludmilla Stapleton in one Mixed Doubles quarter final. Dhananjay seems to be improving match by match, and Vandana is becoming a very steady player. But the number two seeds gained the upper hand in both sets and won 6-2 6-4.



The other Mixed Doubles quarter final played tonight was an altogether much tighter affair. Moira Duncan and Maciek Janowski were matched against the number 3 seeds, Sultan Gangji and Ros Norkett. Moira is a very consistent player, and Maciek has beautiful serve and volley technique. But Sultan and Ros took the first set 6-3 to gain the upper hand. In the second set Moira and Maciek pulled out all the stops, and were rewarded with a 6-3 set to level the match. Then came the champions tie-break (first to 10 provided that they are winning by 2 points). Maciek thought he had won it at 7-5 up. Later Maciek and Moira played strongly to earn a match point on Maciek's serve, but Maciek's double-faulted, though he took his second service point to earn the pair another match point. But despite an opportunity for a winner down the centre of the court, the challengers failed to convert and the seeds took this and the next 2 points to squeak through the match 6-3 3-6 [12-10].



For that half of the draw the ensuing Mixed Doubles semi-final followed on, Sultan and Ros taking on Mark and Ludmilla. This was equally close. Mark and Milly took the first set 6-2. In the second set there was some excellent play by Sultan and Ros. Particularly noteworthy was Ros's play at the net, and this resulted in the pair taking the second set 6-3 to force the Champions Tie Break. This started as a very even affair, reaching 3 all, then 4 all, but after this it was increasingly clear that Mark and Milly were holding their nerve well and pressing strongly. When it came to Mark's turn to serve he delivered two unreturnable bullets, and Sultan and Ros got no more points for a 10-4 score to the number 2 seeds Mark and Milly.



**Monday 19 July** - Today the excellent Punjabi Gourmet Dinner was cooked by Vandana Talwar and her mum. The main course was a selection of mild curries with rice, and there were two delicious puddings to choose from.

In one ladies doubles Semi Final Moira Duncan and Sally Tornow challenged the number one seeds Jane Boyle and Ludmilla Stapleton. Moira and Sally played well but still lost 6-3 6-2 to the number one seeds.

In the other ladies doubles Semi Final Anne-Marie Williams and Julia Abbott took on the veteran pair of Lesley South and Liz Goodfellow. It is great to see Lesley and Liz back in harness, and they played consistently well, as you would expect. However, Anne-Marie and Julia also put on a very good performance and took some very spectacular points, but afterwards Anne-Marie commented that she had not played as well as her partner though Julia said that her own play of the critical points had not been as good as it might have been. To

the surprise of the watchful audience the score ended up 6-2 6-3, which we all thought was nowhere near representative of the tennis we had just watched.



Sultan Gangji has been grinding out semi-final appearances almost since the year dot, and generally knows how to get there somehow, so no-one gave good odds on Jonathan Bell beating him in the men's quarter final despite Sultan's increasingly dodgy hip. But the first set was a very tight affair which ultimately went to a tie break, which Jonathan took to go one up. The second set was similarly close and reached 5 all, but Sultan managed to get the edge in the last two games to take it 7-5. Clearly the momentum had swung and all Sultan had to do was wrap up the third set. Unfortunately for Sultan, no-one had told Jonathan this so he still believed he could win it, and proceeded to run down all Sultan's placed shots down the lines, delivering the occasional down the line drop shot or drive which Sultan just could not reach this side of a hip operation. The net of all this was that the murmur went around the crowd at 5-2 to Jonathan that an upset might be on the cards, and this was confirmed when, on Sultan's serve at match point down Jonathan went on to win the point to earn himself a semi-final against Mark Stapleton later in the week.

**Sunday 18 July** - For the middle Sunday of the tournament only **one** tournament match was played today.

Jane Boyle, the number one seed and multiple tournament winner, was challenged by Julia Abbott. Julia got off to a cracking start by taking the first 3 games, but Jane overhauled her to get to 5 all. Julia's tactics were to hit deep or angled shots and come in. A lot of the time this worked well, but she did fail to pick up a lot of pattern of Jane's returns short to the backhand, and could have had a lot more cheap points by hitting short down the lines (i.e. not crosscourt or straight to Jane). Jane took the last 2 games of the set for 7-5. The second set was similar in that Julia got off to a flying start, but got overhauled by Jane again for another 7-5 set to give victory to Jane 7-5 7-5.



**Saturday 17 July** - A few matches were played today, but due to the number of walkovers this was fewer than normal.

Cedric de la Chaise seemed to feature in most of the matches today. In the first of these he defeated Simon Nelson. I



do not have the score..

In the mixed Cedric was playing with Jane Boyle against Nikhil and Mallika Sood. This proved to be a very tight match as the top seeds only won 7-5 6-4. Clearly Mallika is in a class of her own now, but Nikhil must have also played a good game to get this close.

In the mens doubles Cedric was partnered by Paul O'Flynn who brought boundless enthusiasm into their encounter with Dan Braverman and Peter Davies. Though Paul's serve was threatened on at least a couple of occasions he held his nerve, and the only games which the opposition got were on Dan's serve.

Though defeated in the doubles, Dan Braverman was the number 5 seed in the singles and had a cracking match against Jeff Fine in the singles. Dan lost the first set 6-2, but proceeded to take the next two sets 6-3 6-4 for a fine victory against the number 4 seed.



At last Julia Abbott and Ann Marie Williams managed to schedule their first round singles match. This was a real ding dong battle Julia took the first set 7-5, but Anne Marie responded with a spirited comeback to win the second set 6-4 and equalise the match. In the third set Julia once more got the bit between her teeth and took the match by winning it 6-2. One cannot help wondering what the outcome would have been if Anne Marie by her own admission had not been to the pub with friends the night before and let them persuade her to drink something like 3 or 4 pints, which she claimed made not the slightest bit of difference to the tennis today!!

In the ladies doubles Lesley South and Liz Goodfellow, the number 2 seeds, appeared to have an easy conclusion to the match ahead after taking the first set against Vandana and Anahita Talware 6-0. However, the Talwars had other ideas and the second set was a titanic struggle which the seeds only just managed to win 7-6. Well done Vandana and Anahita.

**Friday 16 July** - I have missed a few days, but there is only one match to report this evening.

Having defeated Vandana Talwar in the previous round of the singles, 11 year-old Margaux Valarche now took on Ros Norkett.

Clearly Ros is a much stronger player, and this showed in the score as Ros won 6-2 6-0. However, Margaux acquitted herself well on the service returns and Ros had to step up to the mark on her own serves to win these games.



**Sunday 11 July** - There was a real buzz about the club today with a lot of tournament matches played.

### In the mens singles:-

It looks like Simon Nelson beat Mark Webb, but only after a bit of a scare in the first set, which Mark won 6-3. Thereafter Simon found his range (as I remember him doing against me a few years ago) and took the next two sets relatively easily for a 3-6 6-0 6-3 victory.

Jeff Fine seems to have had no problems against Nikhil Sood in the first set of their singles match, taking it 6-0. But then Nikhil must have played himself in as the second set was much closer, but still won by Jeff for a match score of 6-0 6-4.

Dan Braverman had little problem against Dhananjay Talwar, beating him 6-1 6-1. My guess is that Dhananjay hit some good shots but was too erratic to threaten Dan's consistent game. I certainly hope so as Dan is partnering me in the doubles.

Apart from the tennis **one highlight of the day was the tea** made by the Talwars - Vandana, Sanjit, Anahita and Dhananjay. This was well received by all, especially the honey coated lattice.

#### In the ladies singles:-

The surprise of the day would have been the heavy defeat of Lesley South by Elena Valarche 6-1 6-3. Lesley thought Elena ran around all over the court very effectively and hit some good shots. But Elena and her family are off to Sicily next Saturday for her daughter's wedding - Daria (pronounced "Dasha") is marrying Rob just before Finals Day which the Valarche family will miss. So the official result was a victory for Lesley South 1-6 3-5 (retired). As usual this web site will be available to carry all the latest scores direct to Sicily and the rest of the world.

Margaux Valarche also won her match against Vandana Talwar 7-5 6-3. Margaux felt she played consistently and strongly enough to deserve the victory.

In the only **mens doubles** match to be played Jonathan Bell and Maciek Jaowski beat Vice Sudbery and Charles Rubinstein 6-0 6-1.

#### In the ladies doubles:-

Jane Boyle and Ludmilla Stapleton, the first seeds, beat Ros Norkett and Carine Valarche 6-2 6-4. Ros and Carine acquitted themselves well in the second set particularly, though some unforced errors crept in which made it more difficult against the seeds extra power.



Jennifer and Sue Ehr, the third seeds, beat Julia Abbott and Anne-Marie Williams 6-0 6-2. The problem for Julia and Anne-Marie was to find a solution to Jen's power first serve, consistency and pace, and to the slow but very curvy leftie serve of Sue. This task proved too difficult in the end.

In a match enjoyed by all parties Vandan and Anahita Talwar beat Cindy and Erin Trish 6-4 6-2. Erin is Cindy's daughter and temporary member and is over from the US to experience England including the joys of grass-court tennis tournaments!



#### In the mixed:-







Bill Thom and Liz Goodfellow beat Jonathan Bell and Susan Grossman. The seasoned veteran campaigners were not likely to make too many unforced errors and could probably gain the ascendancy by sheer placement and consistency.

Moirra Duncan and Maciek Janowski beat Jeff Fine and Carine Valarche 7-5 7-6. Maciek provided the winning edge in a very tight match.

Darren Lee and Ute Csiser-Bernhardt beat Charles Rubinstein and Margaux Valarche in a thrilling 6-2 2-6 [10-4] (champions tie break) victory. Better make the most of it, Darren and Ute. You won't beat Margaux next year.....

And finally here is a **teaser** for you. What are these two handsome guys doing at West Heath? Find out in the next thrilling installment of West Heath gossip.

**Saturday 10 July** - Three new matches were inserted into the Mens and Mixed draws today, so be a little careful in assuming that you know what the draw is - best to check first! Two of these involve a new member Phil whose surname I do not yet know. He is replacing Laurent Deckers in the mixed as Laurent is injured.

Sanjiv Talwar beat Vince Sudbery 6-3 6-4



Mark Stapleton beat Charles Rubinstein 6-1 6-1. In my opinion Charles did well to get 2 games. In the process Charles managed to break a string - surely due to the weight of Charles own shot rather than trying to return Mark's serve.....

The broken string might have led Jonathan Bell & Maciek Janowski to suspect a bit of gamesmanship on Charles' part at the start of their doubles match against him and Vince Sudbery (or so Charles thought). Charles when went through a very short knock up and the 1st game before noticing that he was playing with broken strings. Jonathan & Maciek beat Vince and Charles 6-0, 6-1. Charles thought he played poorly. Maybe he was disheartened after the drubbing at the hands of Mark.

It looks like Mark Stapleton went on to beat Paul O'Flynn. It was something like 6-0 6-1, but I did not write it down when Paul told me.



Margaux and Elena Valarche beat Susan Grossman and Ute Csiser-Bernhardt 6-1 6-3. Margaux and Elena are certainly a consistent pair and difficult to beat, though Susan thought her side could have done better. I think that the four of them would make a good synchronised kissing team (see photo on right). Apparently Margaux (11) is desperate to play with her mother, but Carine Valarche (13) is desperate not to.

Vandana and Dhananjay Talwar beat Sally Tornow and Richard Nightingale. Apparently there were few normal rallies. Dhananjay served hard, but not always accurately, and hit good groundstrokes. Late at night in the club house Sally and Richard were to be found consoling themselves with the remains of a bottle of wine.....

More fun and excitement to be had on the morrow!





Some of the women of West Heath will stop at nothing to chat up males who play reasonable tennis to secure themselves a decent partner for this year's or even next year's West Heath tournament. Here is a typical example.

If you do not recognise the handsome man in the photo then think Jelena Jankovic.

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**Friday 9 July** - The matches are now under way. Four were played today.

**Tuesday 6 July** - The 2010 West Heath Club Tournament draw is now on this web page and in the Clubhouse. The tournament will start on Thursday 8 July and first round matches must be completed by Saturday 10 or Sunday 11 July. If you are in the men's singles and are not seeded then check carefully to see if you have to play a Round 0 (preliminary round) match before the first weekend of the tournament. Joint referees are Sultan Gangji, Jane Boyle and Marjan Denis, so please let them know if you have any questions or issues.



The cost is £3 for one event, and £5 for 2 or 3 events. Please pay Jane Boyle, Moira Duncan or Marjan Denis. As always, semi finals will be played during our Gourmet Dinners week, from Monday 19 to Thursday 22 July. Sign up for the Gourmet Dinners on the sheets in the clubhouse. Finals day is Saturday 24 July.

The tournament rules are in the clubhouse but can also be found [here](#). The aim is to publish results on the web site each night along with the occasional match report!

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		Men's Open Singles Holder : <a href="#">Mark Stapleton</a>  <b><u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u></b>			
Round1 Sat 10 July	Round 2 Sun 11 July	Round 3 Sun 18July	Semi-finals Thurs 22	Final Sat 24	Winner
	Cedric de la Chaise (1)	Cedric de la Chaise 6-1 6-0	Cedric de la Chaise 6-1 6-3	Cedric de la Chaise 6-0 6-1	Mark Stapleton 6-3 6-3
Sanjiv Talwar	Sanjiv Talwar 6-3 6-4	Simon Nelson 3-6 6-0 6-3			
Vince Sudbery					
Laurent Deckers	Mark Webb 6-2 1-1 (retired)				
Mark Webb					
Simon Nelson (5)	Simon Nelson w/o				
Phil (new member)					
	Jeff Fine (4)	Jeff Fine 6-0 6-4	Dan Braveman 2-6 6-3 6-4		
	Nikhil Sood	Dan Braveman 6-1 6-1			
	Dhananjay Talwar				
	Dan Braveman (5)				
	Jonathan Bell	Jonathan Bell w/o	Jonathan Bell 7-6 5-7 6-2		
	Paul Rubie	Sultan Gangji 6-3 6-2			
	Richard Nightingale				
	Sultan Gangji (3)				
	Paul O'Flynn	Paul O'Flynn w/o	Mark Stapleton 6-1 6-0		
	Peter Davies	Mark Stapleton			
	Charles Rubinstein		Mark Stapleton 6-1 6-2		
	Mark Stapleton (2)				





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Ladies' Open Singles  
 Holder : [Lesley South](#)

**Sponsored by SABMiller plc**



Round 1 Sun 11 July	Round 2 Sun 18 July	Semi-final Wed 21 July	Final Sat 24 July	Winner	
	Jane Boyle (1)	Jane Boyle 7-5 7-5	Lesley South 6-4 6-2	Lesley South 7-6 6-3	
Anne Marie Williams	Julia Abbott 7-5 4-6 6-2				
Julia Abbott					
	Elena Valarche (3)	Lesley South 1-6 3-5 retd.			
					Lesley South
Margaux Valarche	Margaux Valarche 7-5 6-3	Ros Norkett 6-2 6-0	Ros Norkett 6-4 6-4		
Vandana Talwar					
	Ros Norkett (4)				
Moir Duncan	Moir Duncan 6-4 6-2	Moir Duncan 1-6 1-5 (retd)			
Carine Valarche					
	Jen Ehr (2)				

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)  
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Men's Open Doubles  
 Holders : [Cedric de la Chaise](#) & Paul O'Flynn

***Note the change to a champions tie break  
 instead of a 3rd set***  
***Sponsored by SABMiller plc***



	Round 2 Sun 18 July	Semi-final Wed 21 July	Final Sat 24 July	Winner
	Sultan Gangji Mark Stapleton (1)	Sultan Gangji Mark Stapleton	Sultan Gangji Mark Stapleton 6-3 6-2	Cedric de la Chaise Paul O'Flynn 7-6 2-6 [10-5]
	Darren Lee Paul Rubie	6-1 6-0		
	Jonathan Bell Maciek Janowski (4)	Jonathan Bell Maciek Janowski 6-0 6-1		
	Vince Sudbery Charles Rubinstein			
	Sanjiv & Dhaninjay Talwar	Sanjiv & Dhaninjay Talwar w/o	Cedric de la Chaise Paul O'Flynn 6-0 6-1	
	Dave Glover Bill Thom (3)			
	Peter Davies Dan Braverman	Cedric de la Chaise Paul O'Flynn 6-1 6-1		
	Cedric de la Chaise Paul O'Flynn (2)			

**Singles:** [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) **Doubles:** [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)  
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Ladies' Open Doubles  
Holders : [Jane Boyle](#) & [Ludmilla Stapleton](#)

***Note the change to a champions tie break  
instead of a 3rd set***  
***Sponsored by SABMiller plc***





Sunday 11 July	Round 1 Sun 18 July	Semi-final Tue 20 July	Final Sat 24 July	Winner
	Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton (1)	Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton 6-2 6-4		
	Ros Norkett Carine Valarche			
	Moira Duncan Sally Tornow (4)		Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton 6-3 6-2	
Margaux Valarche Elena Valarche	Margaux Valarche Elena Valarche 6-1 6-3	Moira Duncan Sally Tornow w/o		
Susan Grossman Ute Csiser-Bernhardt				
	Julia Abbott Anne Marie Williams	Julia Abbott Anne Marie Williams 0-6 2-5 (retd)		Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton 6-3 6-2
	Jen Ehr Sue Ehr (3)			
Cindy Trish Erin Trish	Vandana Talwar Anahita Talwar 6-4 6-2	Lesley South Liz Goodfellow 6-0 7-6	Lesley South Liz Goodfellow 6-2 6-3	
Vandana Talwar Anahita Talwar				
	Lesley South Liz Goodfellow			

	(2)		
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Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)  
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		Open Mixed Doubles Holders : <a href="#">Ludmilla Stapleton</a> & <a href="#">Mark Stapleton</a>			
Note the change to a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set <u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u>					
Round 1 Sun 11 July	Round 2 Thurs 15 July	Round 3 Sun 18 July	Semi-final Tue 20 July	Final Thu 22 July	Winner
		Jane Boyle Cedric de la Chaise(1)			Ludmilla & Mark Stapleton 7-6 7-6
			Jane Boyle Cedric de la Chaise 7-5 6-4		
Julia Abbott Vince Sudbery	Nikhil & Mallika Sood (?-? ?-?)				
Nikhil & Mallika Sood		Nikhil & Mallika Sood 6-3 6-2			
Bill Thom Liz Goodfellow	Bill Thom Liz Goodfellow 6-2 6-3			Jane Boyle Cedric de la Chaise	
Jonathan Bell Susan Grossman					
	David Glover Sue Ehr (4)	David Glover Sue Ehr 6-4 6-1			
	Mark Webb Lesley South		David Glover Sue Ehr w/o		
	Darren Lee Ute Csiser-Bernhardt				
	Charles Rubinstein Margaux Valarche	Darren Lee Ute Csiser-Bernhardt 6-2 2-6 [10-4]			
Phil (???) Anne Marie Williams	Sanjit & Anahita Talwar w/o				
Sanjit & Anahita Talwar		Moira Duncan Maciek Janowski 6-1 6-0			
Moira Duncan Maciek Janowski	Moira Duncan Maciek Janowski 7-5 7-6		Ros Norkett Sultan Gangji 6-3 3-6 [12-10]		
Jeff Fine Carine Valarche					
		Ros Norkett Sultan Gangji (3)			
				Ludmilla & Mark Stapleton 6-2 3-6 [10-4]	
Sally Tornow Richard Nightingale	Vandana Talwar Dhananjay Talwar 6-3 6-4				
Vandana Talwar Dhananjay Talwar		Vandana Talwar Dhananjay Talwar w/o	Ludmilla &		

	Peter Davies		Mark		
	Elena Valarche		Stapleton		
			6-2 6-4		
		Ludmilla & Mark			
		Stapleton (2)			

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## Player Biographies

### Cedric de la Chaise

Strong right-hander who was singles champion for six years in a row. However, in 2010, after yet another singles battles between him and Mark Stapleton, Mark managed to break the trend and emerged as champion.

### Sultan Gangji

While Sultan's eye is as good as ever, his mobility on court reduces year on year and the hip operation must be looming. Once again, an appearance in the semis is the most that Sultan can hope for this year.

### Mark Stapleton

Strong right-hander. Mark is married to Ludmilla whom he partners in the mixed doubles. Mark had his work cut out to defeat Cedric de la Chaise in the 2010 men's singles final, but proved equal to the task to emerge as champion, despite my prediction at the start of the tournament!

### Jane Boyle

Jane holds more West Heath ladies singles titles than any other West Heath member, past or present (1974, 1976 - 1981, 2000 and 2001), a record of which she is justifiably proud. In 2010 Jane won the Ladies Doubles, partnering Ludmilla Stapleton, and was runner up in the Mixed Doubles, partnering Cedric de la Chaise.

### Lesley South

Lesley first won the Ladies Singles in 1999 and again in 2002. For a few years she has not been a member of West Heath, and has been running the catering at the Globe LTC. However, Lesley rejoined West Heath in 2010 and has proved to be consistent enough to win the Ladies Singles title again in 2010 in a final against Ros Norkett.

### Jennifer Ehr

Jennifer's tennis has come on in leaps and bounds in the last few years and her serve ought to be the envy of all the ladies and most of the men. Jennifer is capable of holding her nerve in a tight spot and delivering the shots to beat an opponent. Although only seeded 2, my money is on her to win the Ladies Singles this year, or if not to give Jane Boyle a real run for her money in 3 sets.

### Ros Norkett

Ros is Ladies first team captain and was the 2010 runner up in the Ladies Singles. When on form she has a very good server and hits the ground-strokes with pace, but can be inconsistent at time.

### Marjan Denis

Marjan was the 2004 title holder, beating Christine Thompson in the final. In 2006 she lost in 6-4 in the third against Malika Sood, and in 2007 lost in straight sets to Christine Thompson, so the record says that a semi-final appearance is the best that Marjan can hope for again this year. She currently plays her league tennis for Brampton (who put on some good quizzes in which Marjan has appeared in the winning team at least three times that I know of).



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### 2007 Finals Day



Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)  
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## Tournament Rules

1. The tournament officially begins on Thursday 8 July and the Finals will be played on Saturday 24 July. If rain prevents play the finals will be played on Sunday 25 July. The draw will be in the club house and on the web site on Tuesday 6 July to allow competitors to arrange matches during the week. First round matches must be played before or on Saturday 10 July.
2. A chart of available court times is drawn up and competitors are asked to book the courts they intend to play on.
3. The player(s) whose name(s) appear at the top of the fixture is(are) responsible for challenging their opponent(s).
4. The Tournament is to be played on all the courts, apart from the Semi-Finals and Finals which will be played on grass, unless the weather does not permit. In the event of disagreement between the opponents on the surface to be chosen, this will be decided by the spin of a racquet.
5. New balls will be available for the Finals.
6. All rounds are to be played within the scheduled times indicated at the top of each draw sheet to allow smooth progress. **Extensions will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and with permission from the joint referees.**
7. All singles matches will be best of 3 tie-break sets. The doubles events will have tie breaks in the first two sets but the 3rd set will be a match tie-break (i.e. Champions tie-break where the team reaching 10 points with a margin of 2 will win). The rules of the tie-break are displayed in the club house.
8. All matches must be continuous and appeal for bad light will be considered after 9 p.m.
9. Please give your entry fee to Moira Duncan or Marjan Denis. The fee is £3 for one event or £5 for two or more.
10. Competitors are expected to volunteer to be lines persons on Finals Day.
11. The Mixed Doubles final will be scheduled for Thursday 23 July.
12. The Joint Referees are Sultan Gangji, Jane Boyle and Marjan Denis, whose decisions will remain final.

Sultan Gangji, Jane Boyle and Marjan Denis