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West Heath Club Tournament 2014

The web site draw results are updated each night.

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Club Tournament Drinks Sponsorship



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Please help yourself to one complimentary beer on days you visit the club during the Gourmet Dinners Week and Finals Day. Further bottles are £1.50p each. This rule is to ensure that supplies last until Finals Day at the end of the second week.

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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Order of Play

Due to circumstances beyond control of West Heath LTC the timing and schedule of matches may have to be changed at short notice. We apologise for any inconvenience to spectators that this may cause, and we advise spectators to occupy the seats with a good view over all courts first.

Order of Play	
Saturday 26 July - Finals Day	
Grass 1	Grass 2
<p>14:00 Ladies Singles Final</p> <p>Umpire : Greg Lim</p> <p><u>Marjan Denis (1)</u></p> <p>VS</p> <p><u>Elena Valarche (2)</u></p>	<p>14:00 Mens Singles Final</p> <p>Professional Umpire : James McKenzie</p> <p>Graeme Pearson (1)</p> <p>VS</p> <p><u>Cedric de la Chaise (2)</u></p>
	<p>Followed by the Champions Tie-Break completion of Mixed Doubles Final</p> <p>Peter & <u>Klara Fitzgerald (1)</u></p> <p>VS</p> <p>Marco Sugui & <u>Elena Valarche (3)</u></p> <p>6-3 6-7[5-7] TBC</p>
<p>To be followed by Ladies Doubles Final</p> <p>Umpire : John Knight</p> <p><u>Elena Valarche & Marjan Denis (1)</u></p> <p>VS</p> <p><u>Jane Boyle & Klara Fitzgerald (2)</u></p>	<p>To be followed by Mens Doubles Final</p> <p>Professional Umpire : James McKenzie</p> <p><u>Graham Pearson & Sultan Gangji (1)</u></p> <p>VS</p> <p><u>Cedric de la Chaise & Peter Fitzgerald (2)</u></p>
<p>16:30 - 17:00</p> <p>Presentation of Trophies</p> <p>and</p> <p><i>World Famous</i></p> <p>Finals Day Tea</p>	
<p>Social Tennis</p> <p>20:00</p>	
<p>Evening Party, BBQ and Champagne Celebrations</p>	

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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Tournament Reports and Gossip

Saturday 26 July - Finals Day

Mens Singles Final

The Mens Singles final featured **Cedric de la Chaise** determined to wrest back his crown from **Graeme Pearson** who appeared on the scene last year and took it off him.

Compared with previous matches where Cedric took some time to warm up to his task, in the final this year Cedric started like a bombshell. So much so that Graeme really did not know what had hit him and certainly was not sure what he could do about it as Cedric took the first set 6-0 with an ace following some double faults by Graeme in the penultimate game.

Cedric continued in similar vein for the first game of the second set, breaking Graeme. But that is where it stopped. Cedric's service game went to a number of deuces, but Cedric double faulted on break point to give Graeme his first toenail-hold on the match! But Graeme was now hitting deeper and with more confidence and held his next service game for the first time in the match. Cedric also held to bring the score to 2 all. Graeme's next service game was a titanic struggle with many deuces, but somehow he prevailed. Cedric then struggled on his serve and double faulted again on break point. After an easier service game, at 5-2 up Graeme was then able to focus on how to break Cedric to claim the set. At 30 all Cedric's shot went into the tape and on set point he steered the volley wide to allow Graeme to even up the match with a 6-2 set.



Serving at 0-1 down in the final set Cedric was involved in a 20-30 stroke rally but missed the smash at the end, which eventually resulted in losing the game to love; He soon found himself serving again at 0-3 down and held this time, continuing the run of form for the next two games to level the final set at 3 all. But Cedric then pushed his second shot long on break point and Graeme held for 5-3 to set the stage for the business end of the set. Cedric held on to his next service game, but could not prevent Graeme from serving out the match for a 0-6 6-2 6-4 victory with 12 games won by each player.

Ladies Singles Final

A similar thing happened in the opening set of the Ladies Singles Final when the challenger **Elena Valarche** sprang out of the traps to take the first set 6-4 off the title holder **Marjan Denis**. Now warmed up, Marjan started to hit her shots better in the second set to break Elena and establish leads of 3-1, 4-2 and 5-3 before breaking Elena to take the second set 6-3.

The third set went with serve until Elena served at 3-4 at which point she double faulted on break point to give Marjan an opportunity to serve out the match, which Marjan then took to win 4-6 6-3 6-3.

The play was generally what you would expect from Elena and Marjan with Elena coming to the net more frequently than Marjan, but more selectively than previously, whereas the outcome generally depended on whether Marjan could hit the ground stroke passing shot, and it was clear that Marjan's confidence and passing shots improved as the game went on.

Mixed Doubles Final Completion - Champions Tie Break





When **Peter and Klara Fitzgerald**, the top seeds, got to 6-0 then 8-2 against **Marcio Sugui and Elena Valarche** in the "first to 10" Champions Tie Break resumption of the Mixed final abandoned due to darkness on Thursday, most of the spectators probably thought "Here we go. Tea in a couple of minutes. I'll try the delicious-looking chocolate cake....." But a few net shots later, a superb topspin lob from Marcio and a double fault or two later and all of a sudden tea receded and the score was level at 8 all. At this point Elena dumped a volley in the net to stop the rot for the Fitzgeralds. Klara then did the same for 9 all. Elena put a difficult high overhead into the net on Klara's serve but Klara's return on the next point was weak and swiftly despatched by Marcio. Fate then intruded with the inevitable bad high bounce causing Peter to miss his shot but Klara then returned low to the feet of the incoming Elena who could only put the ball in the net. The last two points were all about determination and taking chances and

were won by Elena and Marcio who became Champions 3-6 7-6⁷⁻⁵ [13-11].

Mens Doubles Final

In this final the second seeds **Sultan Gangji and Graeme Pearson** played the title holders **Peter Fitzgerald and Cedric de la Chaise**. Graeme kicked off with a marathon game in which Sultan appeared to make Graeme do most of the running back for lobs, but which he and Sultan won eventually. Matters proceeded until Peter was broken at 2-3 down and Sultan then held to go 4-2 up, but this was Sultan and Graeme's last game of the set, won by Peter and Cedric 6-4.

However, Graeme was broken in the first game of the second set.

In fact the momentum swung so much to Cedric and Peter that Sultan and Graeme were 0-4 down before they scored their one and only service game of the second set. As a result Cedric and Peter won the match 6-4 6-1 to retain the title.



Ladies Doubles Final

In this final **Jane Boyle and Klara Fitzgerald** took on the holders **Elena Valarche and Marjan Denis**. In the first set, although the holders got off to a fast start, the challengers came into their own later in the set and took it 6-3. However, in the second set Elena and Marjan came into their own again and allowed the challengers only a single game to even up the match.

In the ensuing Champions tie break Marjan and Elena kept up the momentum, and took the title by losing only 4 points in the tie break for a 3-6 6-1 [10-4] victory.



Presentation of Trophies and Finals Day Socialising



Following the doubles finals, Jean Arnot congratulated the runners up and presented the trophies to the winners. Please note that the beer is unopened (except for Sultan's).

The day culminated in the evening barbecue which was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to everyone who made the tournament such a success and we look forward to seeing you all at social tennis at the weekends.

Postscript

With plenty of young Fitzgeralds, de la Chaises and Pearsons practising furiously, if you want your child to win the West Heath Tournament in their teens then there will be plenty of strong competition in a dozen years or so.

Hence it best to start 'em young, and, since babies of 6 months are encouraged to learn to swim, there seems no obvious reason to wait until they can walk before starting tennis by learning hand-eye co-ordination and some basic tennis strokes.

Gabriela Lee, daughter of Darren and Michelle does not seem to disagree with this approach, though it must be a bit daunting to start learning tennis when the racket is much bigger than you are.



Thursday 24 July

Lesley South (assisted by Moira Duncan) served a succulent chicken dish to the largest gathering so far - 36 gourmet diners - for the last of the dinners, and there was a dessert of ice-cream in coffee sauce with Biscotti.

In the semi-final in the top-half of the Mens Singles draw, played on grass court 3, **Marcio Sugui**, the distinctly lefty third seed played the title holder **Graeme Pearson**. There was no enthusiasm on either side for coming to the net, except to pick up balls and shake hands at the end of the match, so the game turned into a lengthy baseline war of attrition in which Marcio generally employed a sliced backhand (though at least one topspin backhand was spotted) and topspin forehand. Marcio has a typical lefty sidespin curved serve which comes into its own most on the backhand side. Graham's strokes are slightly stronger and his overall play is more consistent. Both players were hitting winners and making occasional mistakes, to which the West Heath grass court bounce doubtless contributed. The first set was won 6-3 by Graeme, who seemed to be in control of the match, but Marcio was well played in and warmed up in the second set which seemed from afar to be more even - certainly it appeared to take longer, but again Graeme came out on top for an overall 6-3 6-4 victory.



By contrast the bottom half semi-final between **Peter Fitzgerald** and **Cedric de al Chaise** was completely different, with Peter striving to get to the net at every opportunity and Cedric also coming in on suitable balls. As usual, Peter ended up on the floor a number of times, including those where he was able to get up quickly and resume the point. His aggressive play was often rewarded with the point, but anything readily hittable allowed Cedric to go for the passing shot, which he made more often than not, and he is very quick about the court so most things are hittable. Peter often hit his volleys down the centre of the court, with mixed results, and it was not clear whether this was deliberate or just due to lack of time to react to Cedric's pace. Cedric got the upper hand in the first set to take it 6-4. However, his smooth progression was somewhat

interrupted when he took his eye off the ball (so to speak) at the start of the second set and was broken by Peter, who then held his own serve to make it 2-0. Cedric's French at that point, while not worthy of a code violation, made it quite clear how displeased he was with his own performance in the second set, and also seemed to have the desired effect, because he then pulled out all the stops to take the next six games to win the match 6-4 6-2.

Mixed Doubles Final

This took place between the holders, **Peter and Klara Fitzgerald** and the third seeds **Marcio Sugui and Elena Valarche**. Marcio's lefty slice serve was effective. Peter approached the net where possible, but Elena stayed back until it was the right time to approach the net. Peter's volleys were often effective, but Klara's were invariably deadly. Somewhat as expected, Peter and Klara took the first set 6-3.

Although a similar result was expected in the second set it did not work out quite as planned. Later in the set one factor was the increasing gloom which made returning somewhat of a "black art"!! At 6 games all there was a normal tie break which could have gone either way, but in the end was won by Elena and Marcio 7-5 to even the match.

At this stage it was just too dark to continue, so the match will be concluded as the second match on Finals Day with a Champions Tie Break.

Wednesday 23 July

Today was the busiest day of the second week with six matches on the order of play.

Rachael Gangji prepared a delicious fish pie for the largest crowd of diners so far, and Julia Abbott provided summer fruits pavlova.

In the Ladies Singles, the third seed **Ros Norkett** played second seed **Elena Valarche** in the last of the semi-finals for this event. As you might suppose, Ros hit some excellent shots and Elena came to the net at every conceivable opportunity. The result of the match hinged on Elena's greater consistency, as she only had to cope with shots from Ros, whereas Ros also had to react to the vagaries of the West Heath grass court bounce. Elena won 6-3 6-3.

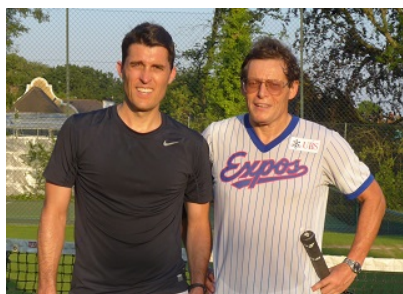




In the follow-up Ladies Doubles semi-final, **Ros Norkett** now paired up with **Vandana Talwar**. On the opposite side of the net once more, **Elena Valarche** was joined by **Marjan Denis**. Conditions were not ideal with the sun affecting serves and volleys at the far end. Elena and Ros were both well warmed up and playing consistently, and Vandana also got off to a quick start, hitting a variety of angled shots. Marjan took longer to get going and in the first set was more affected by the sun in her eyes at the far end. The net result was a very tight set which went to a tie break, narrowly won 8-6 by Elena and Marjan.

By the start of the second set the sun had retreated below the club house, and Marjan was fully warmed up and starting to play more consistently. As a result Elena and Marjan got to 5-0 up. Ros and Vandana dug in to take the next three games for 5-3, when, in danger of being taken to a Champions tie break, Elena and Marjan stepped up their game to stop the momentum swing and take the match 7-6⁸⁻⁶ 6-3.

In a Mens Doubles quarter final match **Vikramaaditya** (Vikram for short) and **Peter Davies**, an untried partnership, tried their luck against the second seeds **Sultan Gangji** and **Graeme Pearson**. In the first set Vikram served well and held his service game, but Peter served a lot of double faults and the seeds held relatively straightforwardly and took the set 6-1. In the second set the situation was reversed with Vikram's serve becoming suspect while Peter served better and held first time around. At 5-1 down Peter served to save the match and the game went to a number of deuces but, despite game points, the challengers could not prevent Sultan and Graeme claiming the match 6-1 6-1.



In the Mens Singles, on the show court the fifth seed **Geoff Isaacs** threw everything he had into the first set against **Peter Fitzgerald**, hitting positive shots with aggression and pace against Peter who was forced into errors. Geoff deservedly took the first set 6-4. However, in the rest of the match Peter improved his net play and gained the upper hand to first level the match with a 6-3 second set, then to take the tie on the third set 6-2 for a 4-6 6-3 6-2 victory, by which time Geoff was rather worn out!

Geoff Isaacs then had to play with **Jeff Fine** in the Mens Doubles against the second seeds **Sultan Gangji** and **Graeme Pearson** who followed on from their previous win. Jeff was the only one who had not yet played and in the first set made more mistakes than the others which allowed the second seeds to break and win the first set 6-4. However, by the second set, three strenuous sets of singles and one of doubles was taking its toll on Geoff, who ran out of steam rather, allowing Sultan and Graeme a 6-4 6-3 victory.



In a second Mens Doubles quarter final match **Marcio Sugui** and **Dave Glover** played the top seeds and holders **Cedric de la Chaise** and **Peter Fitzgerald**. The match had fewer rallies than normal, particularly in the first set because Marcio has a typical lefty slice serve which is difficult to return and Dave's more erratic serve stays very low causing similar problems. Marcio could have put a few more groundstrokes down the line when Cedric at the net and threatening to sneak in to the centre to intercept. The first set was decided at 4-3 when Dave was broken to give the holders the first set 6-3. In the second set the holders made fewer errors, ensuring they got more returns back irrespective of the quality of the shot, becoming more solid and the net and putting more away when they had the chance, so Cedric and Peter won 6-3 6-1.

Tuesday 22 July

Today's tasty Gourmet dinner of chicken curry was superbly prepared by Marjan Denis while Lesley South was responsible for the sorbet and frozen yoghurt sweet. Making the most of his second chance, leftie **James McKenzie** played well against last year's champion **Graeme Pearson**. He not only coped well with Graeme's pace of shot, but also had the time and presence of mind to hit some winners off it. He hit decent length backhand slices in response to Graeme's topspin drives to good effect. But in the longer rallies (and there were quite a few) it was James who generally, but not exclusively made the error. Since the match was played on grass court 3 and the spectators were sitting behind court two there were a few times where someone asked whether James' shot was in, but Graeme's shout of "Good shot!" confirmed that the ball was indeed in and James had hit another winner. In both sets, however, it was Graeme's consistency and heavier shot which counted and the winning margin by Graeme was 6-1 6-1 which does not really do justice to the quality of tennis mostly played by James.



In the first match of the evening **Moira Duncan** played last year's champion and top seed **Marjan Denis**. While Moira served and returned ably and generally consistently, Marjan had the power shots and awareness of tactical placement that enabled her to hit winners and force errors from Moira, who found it difficult to keep the ball away from Marjan in the centre of the court. Moira got two games in the first set, but Marjan warmed up to the task in the second set and Moira found it more difficult to win points which turned into fewer games, so in the end Marjan won the match 6-2 6-0.

In the second piece of entertainment for the spectators **Paul O'Flynn** encountered the significant stumbling block to further progress of the second seed **Cedric de la Chaise**. Paul served well, but Cedric was able to hit a good return, and if Paul came in Cedric's next shot tended to be out of his reach. Cedric made more errors than usual in the first set but still won it 6-2. As in the previous match, in the second set Cedric got his eye in better and played more consistently which gave fewer opportunities to Paul to play well. Nevertheless, Paul played some decent rallies to win points, but none of them translated into games, giving Cedric a 6-2 6-0 victory. The Mens Singles semi-finals will both be played on Thursday before the Mixed Doubles Final.



Monday 21 July

The first of the Gourmet dinners was masterminded by Vince Sudbery and Rosie and featured lamb roast - very much appreciated by all on a nice warm evening where it was possible to sit outside until midnight!

In an early start, **Julia Abbott** and **Moira Duncan** battled it out on grass court 3. Julia's aim was to keep it off Moira's forehand and Moira was worried about Julia's drop shot returns when Moira did not come in behind her serve. Moira also expected to have to mix it up somewhat to keep Julia guessing. Both thought that whoever made the best start in each set would probably win the set.

In the event Moira made the better start in the first set, taking it 6-2. But practical matters then intruded as Moira had to switch rackets due to a degenerating grip, and Julia took full advantage of the initial lack of touch to get ahead in the second set which she won 6-4.

By this time it turned into a war of attrition and, having started supposedly at 16:30, they had only just finished when I arrived at the club around 18:30. Moira appears to have got the upper hand in the deciding set 6-3, for a 6-2 4-6 6-3 victory.



The last time that **Marjan Denis** and **Paul O'Flynn** played the Mixed Double top seeds **Klara and Peter Fitzgerald** was in 2011 when Marjan and Paul won on a Champions tie break 4-6 6-3 [10-6] - possibly their finest hour! However, since then Peter has improved a lot. The script of the match seemed to be that the Fitzgeralds would hold their serve and so would Marjan, with help from her consistent and heavy serve and Paul volleying well at the net. But after a heavy day at the office (presumably making life or death decisions all the time), Paul did not serve well, and did not cope well with the returns, and this made it unlikely that the 2011 upset would be repeated.

So in the event Klara and Peter took the match fairly easily 6-1 6-2 with Marjan winning all her service games.

Following on from the lengthy singles, **Moira Duncan** and **Lesley South** were faced with the Ladies Doubles second seeds **Jane Boyle** and **Klara Fitzgerald**. This match seemed to have interesting possibilities as Moira has a strong forehand and Lesley usually shows good tactical nous when placing shots. And Jane Boyle is not as fast on her feet as she once was. Essentially, during the match, Moira and Lesley created chances to win points, but while some were taken, others were missed. The tactic of playing on Jane rather than Klara worked well, leaving Klara commenting afterwards that she had felt a bystander during a lot of the match.

The seeds took the first set 6-3, but the second was a closer-fought affair which reached 4 all before Jane and Klara were able to impose themselves to close it out for a 6-3 6-4 victory. After a few drinks, Sultan was expounding to anyone who would listen on how Moira and Lesley could have altered their tactics to do better. Taking one extra step on a number of shots would have resulted in a stronger stroke and more pressure on the seeds. Placement away from Jane, rather than directly to her would have induced more errors. And lastly more movement on court between points would have produced fewer errors and unreachable shots.



Sunday 20 July

It was lovely to see Ludwig Berlin and his daughter Carmen who came to tea today. Ludwig is now 93, joined the club in 1959 and played regularly until a few years ago. We hope to see him again on finals day.



In an interesting encounter **Richard Nightingale** played the Mens Singles 7th seed **Paul O'Flynn**. Richard lost the first set 6-0, though my money was on him getting a few games off Paul. However, he started the second set better, being 2 games to one up at one point and having broken Paul. He was hitting shots consistently and will run for anything, but in my opinion wasn't making the most of opportunities to put the balls down the line out of Paul's reach for winners. Richard also has a decent first serve, but in the games I saw did not get enough of them in to cause Paul a major problem. Paul got back to 2 all, and then gradually started to win the war of attrition, eventually winning 6-0 6-3.

The father and son pairing of **Walter and Philp Reid** played the Mens Doubles top seeds **Cedric de la Chaise** and **Peter Fitzgerald** in an exciting match. Both the Reids are tall and Philip in particular had a



habit of looking as if he was halfway across the net while still managing to put away volleys aimed down the outside line. Further, Philip seems to have perfected his topspin lob and used this to good effect every time both Peter and Cedric came in. In particular while at the opposite end of the court from the spectators he put three topspin lobs in a row 6 inches from the near left hand corner, none of which the retreating Cedric could reach. Presumably it was deliberate strategy too to lob the shorter Cedric rather than the much taller Peter. Walter struggled more to hold his end up while the seeds generally played strongly but were often surprised by good shots from their opponents and made a number of forced errors.



There wasn't that much in it in the end as breaks were traded in both directions, but Peter and Cedric did come out on top 6-2 6-3, though at times they were made to look distinctly beatable by Philip in particular.

Due to an unfortunate last minute door-leap by a third party in the tube on the way back from a Prom, Rachael Gangji has been injured and it looks like Sultan and Rachael Gangji may have to withdraw from the Mixed.

Moir Duncan and Lesley South are through to the semi-finals of the Ladies Doubles as Julia Abbott's likely partners ended up injured or unavailable so she had to withdraw.

At last the web site and photos are up to date with the exception of the mens biographies! The backlog of pictures has been added over the weekend so do take a look at them, particularly those of [Sultan's 40th year celebration as club captain.](#)

Saturday 19 July

Dudley Leigh played the eighth seed **James McKenzie**, won the first set 6-4 and was well up in the second set at 5-3. However, due to scheduling considerations, Dudley was deemed to have scratched at match point and James goes through to meet Graeme Pearson. Whether this is a real advantage is debatable!

Mark Webb and Vince Sudbery played father and son pair **Walter and Philip Reid**. The first set appears to have been very closely fought but the Reids took it on a tie break 7-6, but Mark and Vince fared less well in the second set, which the Reids took 6-1 for a 7-6 6-1 victory.

Lesley South and Mark Webb took on the Mixed Doubles third seeds **Marjan Denis and Paul O'Flynn** in what proved to be an uneven match in which Lesley and Mark won one game only in each set giving Marjan and Paul a 6-1 6-1 victory. Marjan and Paul now go on to face the Fitzgeralds whos have not lost a match in this event since 2011.

Moir Duncan and Peter Davies decided to risk a historically dodgy wife and husband pairing in the match against Mixed Doubles third seeds **Elena Valarche and Macio Sugui**. In one sense this was a success in that they are still talking to each other, but Elena and Marcio were too strong for the inexperienced partnership and won 6-0 6-1.

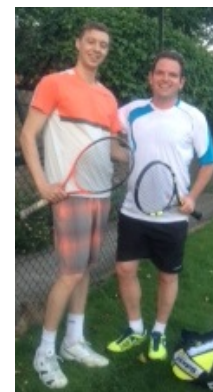


Thursday 17 July



Lesley South played the third seed **Ros Norkett** in the Ladies Singles. Contrary to my previous write-up on this match Lesley said she got off to a very slow start, having been both 3-0 and 4-1 down, but must have really accelerated at this point to take the next 5 games to win the first set 6-4. But Ros got going again after that and won the next two sets for a 4-6 6-3 6-4 victory. One hopes that Lesley's threat to hit her winning opponent over the head with a racket really was just a joke!!

Philip Reid and Gabor Felson played in the Mens Singles, Gabor having defeated the number 6 seed in the first round. As you can see from the picture, Gabor is giving Philip a few inches in height and this gives Philip a booming serve which you have to take high. However, Gabor continued in his winning ways and won in two sets 6-4 6-3.





Greg Lim and James McKenzie took on the third seeds **Dave Glover and Marcio Sugui**. According to the spectators it was a superb match with some really wonderful tennis. The first set went to 5 all and which point Greg and James broke to take it 7-5. But the seeds took the second set by the equally fine margin of 6-4, setting up a grandstand finale with a Champions Tie Break. Matters were a little more one-sided in this and Dave and Marcio took it 10-4 for a 5-7 6-2 [10-4] victory.

Marjan Denis defeated **Veronica Hollender**.

Peter and Klara Fitzgerald defeated **Susan Grossman and Stan Vasilyev**.

Wednesday 16 July

Anna Ganey and Susan Grossman played the second seeds **Jane Boyle and Klara Fitzgerald**, but took some time to get in to the match, losing the first set 6-0. In the second they got their eye in and fared a little better, but it was not sufficient as Jane and Klara won 6-0 6-2.

Sally Tornow and Richard Nightingale played **Rachael and Sultan Gangji** the second seeds in the mixed. Rachael was putting in her first appearance in the club tournament for a number of years, having played for the ladies first team this season. The match was tighter than the seeding might have indicated. Viewing the match towards the end, Richard was serving and returning well with Sally patrolling the net putting volleys away. But the match was won by the Gangjis 6-3 6-3.

Was it significant that the winners drove away in a Mercedes, while the losers can be seen in the accompanying photo departing in the twilight?



David Cohen played **Paul O'Flynn** and Paul's enthusiasm for pace proved too much for David, which must have meant either that Paul's consistency has improved or that David was not getting enough back to give Paul sufficient opportunity for errors. Paul won 6-0 6-1. Paul O'Flynn vs Richard Nightingale in the next round should be one worth watching.

Peter Davies took on the number 5 seed **Geoff Isaacs**. Geoff played very well and was very accurate in his shot placements whereas Peter knew what he needed to do but, apart from a few points, could not execute sufficiently well, though the final game which was on Geoff's serve went to a number of deuces. Geoff won 6-1 6-0.



Tuesday 15 July

Jeff Fine took on the 4th seed **Peter Fitzgerald** who must now be almost fully recovered from his leg injury, but Jeff did not fare too well, losing 6-1 6-1. <

Monday 14 July

With a couple of social games on other courts plus two very competitive tournament doubles matches the club was almost as busy as a normal weekend.

On grass court 1 **Paul O'Flynn and Maciek Janowski** played the Mens Doubles 4th seeds **Jeff Fine and Geoff**

Isaacs in a close encounter. The seeds took the first set 6-4 and seemed on course to finish off the match in two sets.

However, Paul and Maciek had other ideas, took the second set to 5 all and broke to take the match into a Champions Tie Break. But in this their energy and accuracy ran out a little, leaving Jeff and Geoff as 6-4 5-7 [10-6] winners.

On grass court 2 (centre court as far as the numerous spectators were concerned) **Sally Torrow and Sue Latimer** were also up against 4th seeds - this time **Ros Norkett and Vandana Talwar**. Ros and Vandana seemed to have things their own way at first and took the first set 6-1, but Sally and Sue then dug in and reversed



matters in the second set to take it 6-2. Light was starting to fade when the players started the third set, and Ros and Vandana were 3-1 up before they were all reminded that a Champions Tie Break is supposed to replace the third set in all Doubles events. However, since they had started on a normal set the instructions from the referee were to carry on, which they did, the score reaching 5 all. At this point they were "offered the light" so to speak and an option of playing either a normal or a champions tie break, and opted for the shorter of these. In the tie break Ros and Vandana had a slight edge throughout (possibly due to better eyesight as well as technique) and with the light fading closed it out 7-5, to give a final but unusual score of 6-1 2-6 6-5⁷⁻⁵



Vandana commented that she felt she played well in the first set but that her level dropped in the second and Ros had to carry her more at that point, which she was able to do, particularly in the third set. Sue hit some great ground strokes and Sally made some fine interceptions, though not all of them resulted in points for her side. By the end the light had all but gone and it was very difficult for the players to time the ball.

Sunday 13 July

Although it hadn't rained since the early morning, grass courts 1 and 2 were too damp to use for anything involving baselines, but an enthusiastic set of social and occasionally tournament players kept the other three courts in constant use throughout of the afternoon.



In the only match so far to be played outside the Mens' Singles **Anna Ganev** did her best to take points off the number two seed **Elena Valarche**. In the first set her efforts bore no reward as Elena won it 6-0, but in the second Anna forced Elena to concede one game as Elena won it 6-0 6-1. But both players enjoyed the match.

Vince Sudbery took on the number 8 seed **James McKenzie**, but struggled in the first set, losing it 6-1. He fared somewhat better in the second set but to no avail as James won the match 6-1 6-3.

Peter Newman took on **Sam Howard** in what was yet another marathon match in the Mens' Singles. The first set must have been pretty tight as it went to 6 all before Sam taking it on a tie break. The second set went to 5 all but this time Peter broke serve to win it 7-5. However, the effort must have told because the third set was much more one-sided as Sam won 7-6 5-7 6-1.

Well done to most of the men's singles competitors who have played eight first round matches, leaving only three outstanding matches for that round.

Saturday 12 July

In the Mens' Singles, **Mark Coxall** took on the 4th seed **Peter Fitzgerald**, and lost, but the score wasn't recorded!

Vikram Aaditya and **Philip Reid** slugged it out on a hard court. It looks like Vikram had some trouble adjusting to Philip's game plus Philip has a good serve to take advantage of his height so Philip took the first set 6-1. In the second set Vikram fared better but Philip still won it 6-4 for a 6-1 6-4 victory.

Walter Reid and **Peter Davies** played one of a today's two marathon matches in the men's singles. In the first set the score reached 2 all before Peter broke Walter twice to win it 6-2. In the second set the score reached 4 all with a few breaks when Walter held his serve and forced some errors from Peter to win the set. The last set went to 3 all at which point Peter switched from slice to topspin backhands and took the last three games for a 6-2 4-6 6-3 victory. Generally Peter hit some precise and often pacy serves and shots but Walter's height and reach enabled him to reach all but the best, and he came in as often as possible with some swervy lefty slices which often forced errors, particularly in the dipping far corner of court 3. Walter seemed to be feeling the energy-sapping afternoon heat the most but never stopped running and rarely made an unforced error which means you have to win the points rather than relying on him to lose them.

During the second set of **Richard Nightingale** versus **Alberto Zanatta** I asked Richard what the score was, but his only response was that his participation in the singles was about to come to an abrupt end. However, on copying down the results later it emerged that, having lost the first set 7-5 and been something like 5-1 down in the second, Richard had pulled out all the stops, got back to 5 all, and taken the second set 7-5. While the momentum was with him he also proceeded to take the third set 6-2 also for a 5-7 7-5 6-2 victory.

Celebration of Sultan Gangji's 40th year as Mens' Captain



In the evening was the **Celebration of Sultan Gangji's 40th year as Mens' Captain**, which was attended by many members both past and present. Speeches outlining Sultan's club history in the club and contributions were made by Kevin Ryan, Phil Hardy, Jane Boyle, Vince Sudbery, Moira Duncan and Rachael Gangji - a number of whom are actually longer standing members than Sultan. The most recent and most significant of Sultan's achievements has been the court rental agreement with St Margaret's School enabling the construction of the two new porous Macadam hard courts, which has provided the school with convenient local netball facilities, secured the financial future of West Heath for a long time to come, and given us all a decent second surface to play on when the grass is full or too wet.

On behalf of the members, club chair Moira presented Sultan with an engraved glass paperweight as a memento and announced a unanimous committee decision that Sultan would be made a Life Member, subject to ratification by members at the next AGM. / Sultan and Rachael presented each attendee with an embossed pen to mark the occasion.


Thank you Sultan for your many and varied efforts on behalf of the club. The praise lavished on you by the speakers was richly deserved.




Wednesday 9 July

The draw for the West Heath 2014 Tournament is now on this web page. Click on one of the event links to see that drawer.


Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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	Men's Open Singles Holder : Graeme Pearson Sponsored by SABMiller plc				
Round1 Sun 13 July	Round 2 Sat 19 July	Round 3 Tues 22 July	Semi-finals Thurs 24 July	Final Sat 26 July	Winner
		Graeme Pearson (1)	Graeme Pearson 6-1 6-1	Graeme Pearson 6-3 6-4	Graeme Pearson 0-6 6-2 6-4
Dudley Leigh	Dudley Leigh w/o (withdrew)	James McKenzie 4-6 3-5 (retired)			
Mark Webb					
Vince Sudbery	James McKenzie 6-1 6-3				
James McKenzie (8)					
	Marcio Sugui (3)	Marcio Sugui 6-0 6-0	Marcio Sugui 6-1 6-1		
Peter Newman	Sam Howard 7-6 5-7 6-1				
Sam Howard					
Vikram Aaditya	Philip Reid 6-1 6-4	Gabor Felsen 6-4 6-3			
Philip Reid					
Gabor Felsen	Gabor Felsen 6-3 6-1				
Greg Lim (6)					
Geoff Isaacs (5)	Geoff Isaacs w/o	Geoff Isaacs 6-1 6-0	Peter Fitzgerald 4-6 6-3 6-2	Cedric de la Chaise 6-4 6-2	
Bjorn Breytenbach					
Peter Davies	Peter Davies 6-2 4-6 6-3 (Phew!!)				
Walter Reid					
Jeff Fine	Jeff Fine 6-1 6-2	Peter Fitzgerald 6-1 6-1			
Stan Vasilyev					
Mark Coxall	Peter Fitzgerald				
Peter Fitzgerald (4)					
Paul O'Flynn (7)	Paul O'Flynn 6-0 6-1	Paul O'Flynn 6-0 6-3	Cedric de la Chaise 6-2 6-0		
David Cohen					
Richard Nightingale	Richard Nightingale 5-7 7-5 6-2 !!!!				
Alberto Zanatta					
		Cedric de la Chaise (2)			


Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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	Ladies' Open Singles Holder : Marjan Denis <u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u>			
	Round 1 Sat 19 July	Semi-final Wed 23 July	Final Sat 26 July	Winner
	Marjan Denis (1)	Marjan Denis 6-0 6-0	Marjan Denis 6-2 6-0	Marjan Denis 4-6 6-3 6-3
	Veronica Hollender			
	Julia Abbott	Moir Duncan 6-2 4-6 6-3		
	Moir Duncan			
	Lesley South	Ros Norkett 4-6 6-3 6-4	Elena Valarche 6-3 6-3	
	Ros Norkett (3)			
	Anna Ganev	Elena Valarche 6-0 6-1		
	Elena Valarche (2)			


Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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		<div>Men's Open Doubles</div> <div>Holders : Cedric de la Chaise & Peter Fitzgerald</div> <div><i>Note there is a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i></div> <div><u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u></div>		
Round 1 Sun 13 July	Round 2 Sun 20 July	Semi-final Wed 23 July	Final Sat 26 July	Winner
	Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald (1)	Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald 6-2 6-3	Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald 6-3 6-1	Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald 6-4 6-1
Philip Reid Walter Reid	Philip & Walter Reid 7-6 6-1			
Mark Webb Vince Sudbery				
	Dave Glover Marcio Sugui (3)	Dave Glover Marcio Sugui 5-7 6-4 [10-4]	Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald 6-3 6-1	
	Greg Lim James McKenzie			
	Paul O'Flynn Maciek Janowski	Geoff Isaacs Jeff Fine 6-4 5-7 [10-6]		
	Geoff Isaacs Jeff Fine (4)	Sultan Gangji Graham Pearson 6-1 6-1	Sultan Gangji Graham Pearson 6-4 6-3	
	Vikram Vikramaaditya Peter Davies	Sultan Gangji Graham Pearson 6-1 6-1	Sultan Gangji Graham Pearson 6-4 6-3	
	Sultan Gangji Graeme Pearson (2)			

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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		Ladies' Open Doubles Holders : Marjan Denis & Elena Valarche <i>Note there is a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i> <u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u>		
	Round 1 Sat 19 July	Semi-final Tue 22 July	Final Sat 26 July	Winner
		Elena Valarche Marjan Denis (1)	Elena Valarche Marjan Denis 7-6 ^[8-6] 6-3	Elena Valarche Marjan Denis 3-6 6-1 [10-4]
	Ros Norkett Vandana Talwar (4)	Ros Norkett Vandana Talwar 6-1 2-6 6-5 ⁷⁻⁵		
	Sally Tornow Sue Latimer			
	Julia Abbott ++ ANO	Moir Duncan Lesley South w/o	Jane Boyle Klara Fitzgerald 6-3 6-4	
	Moir Duncan Lesley South (3)			
	Anna Ganev Susan Grossman	Jane Boyle Klara Fitzgerald 6-0 6-2		
	Jane Boyle Klara Fitzgerald (2)			

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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Open Mixed Doubles Holders : Marcio Sugui & Elena Valarche <i>Note the champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i> <u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u>			
Round 1 Sat 19 July	Semi-final Tue 22 July	Final Thu 24 July	Winner
Peter Fitzgerald Klara Fitzgerald (1)	Peter & Klara Fitzgerald	Peter & Klara Fitzgerald 6-1 6-2	Marcio Sugui Elena Valarche 3-6 7-6 ^[7-5] [13-11]
Susan Grossman Stan Vasilyev			
Paul O'Flynn Marjan Denis (3)	Paul O'Flynn Marjan Denis 6-1 6-1		
Lesley South Mark Webb			
Moirá Duncan Peter Davies	Marcio Sugui Elena Valarche 6-0 6-1	Marcio Sugui Elena Valarche w/o	
Marcio Sugui Elena Valarche (3)			
Sally Tornow Richard Nightingale	Sultan & Rachael Gangji 6-3 6-3		
Sultan & Rachael Gangji (2)			

[Singles: Men's, Ladies](#) [Doubles: Men's, Ladies, Mixed](#)
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Player Biographies

Marjan Denis

Marjan was the 2004 champion, beating Christine Thompson in the final. In 2013 she beat Elena Valarche in a tightly contested final 7-6⁷⁻⁵ 6-7¹⁰⁻¹² 6-4 to hold the title once more. In the absence from the singles of Klara Fitzgerald or any up-and-coming wunderkind, this year's final is likely to be a repeat of last year's where Marjan's heavy serve and classic groundstrokes will be pitted against Elena's "hit-the-ball-and-come-to-the-net-at-all-costs" approach, and one suspects the result will once again depend on whether Marjan can once again win her own mental battle. Following that match the two of them had better make up quickly as they will probably be contesting the Ladies Doubles final against Jane Boyle and Klara Fitzgerald.

Elena Valarche

Elena was born in Siberia and was brought up on basketball. When she married the gorgeous Frenchman Antoine she realised she had to take up tennis or spend all weekend just watching him playing at West Heath with Sally, Gill and Moira. Simon Button didn't help much by failing Elena on her play-in test on the same day she also failed her driving test. But Elena is nothing if not determined and is now captain of two teams and a full member of three tennis clubs as well as the 2011 West Heath Ladies Champion. Her younger two daughters were mainly brought up at West Heath having unceremoniously been dumped at the club while Elena was on court and one of them is now in a high performance junior tennis squad, having won the Ladies title in 2012 following in the footsteps of her mother. Despite Elena's unorthodox style she is likely to be contesting the 2014 Ladies Singles final with Marjan Denis, who just got the better of her last year in a tight match.

Ros Norkett

Ros was the 2010 runner up in the Ladies Singles. When on form she has a very good server and hits the groundstrokes with pace, but can be inconsistent at times. In 2011 she played well in the semis to leave Margaux Valarche feeling she had a long way to go, but in the finals against Elena Valarche Ros could not sustain a consistent game and paid the price. This year the question is whether she can impose her game sufficiently on the Ladies Singles second seed Elena Valarche to prevent her from reaching the second final in two years.

Klara Fitzgerald

Klara was an unknown in the 2012 tournament. In 2012 she won the mixed with her husband, but did not enter the singles, and did not compete at all in 2013 due to a leg injury which kept her out of competitive tennis for 3 months. However, in 2014 she has been playing for the first team and is entering the doubles events this year. Watch this space.

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. Since then she won the Mixed in 2011 playing with Cedric de la Chaise, the Ladies Doubles in 2012 playing with Ludmilla Stapleton and the Mixed again in 2013 playing with Peter Fitzgerald. You write this septuagenarian off at your peril.

Lesley South

Now Ladies First Team captain, Lesley first won the Ladies Singles in 1999 and again in 2002 and 2010 after a few years in which she had not been a member of West Heath, and had been running the catering at the Globe LTC.

2011 Finals Day

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

1. The tournament officially begins on Thursday 10 July and the Finals will be played on Saturday 26 July except for the Mixed which will be played on Thursday 24 July. If rain prevents play the finals will be played on Sunday 27 July. The draw will be in the club house and on the web site on Wednesday 9 July to allow competitors to arrange matches during the week. First round matches in the Mens Singles and Doubles must be played before or on Sunday 13 July, and for all other events by Saturday 19 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 (before the shale court resurfacing starts), 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 24 July.
12. The Joint Referees are Sultan Gangji and Marjan Denis, whose decisions will remain final.

Sultan Gangji and Marjan Denis