



West Heath LTC,
Croftway, Ferncroft
Avenue, Hampstead,
London NW3 7PQ
020 7435 7707

Membership:

020 8452 1455

email: [Membership](#)

email: [Webmaster](#)

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West Heath Club Tournament 2009

(printed draws look best with Internet Explorer)

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Club Tournament Drinks Sponsorship



SABMiller plc is one of the world's largest brewers with brewing interests or distribution agreements in over 60 countries across six continents. The group's brands include premium international beers such as Miller Genuine Draft, Peroni Nastro Azzurro and Pilsner Urquell, as well as an exceptional range of market-leading local brands. Outside the USA, SABMiller plc is also one of the largest bottlers of Coca-Cola products in the world. SABMiller plc is listed on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges.

Through their representative, Christine Thompson, SABMiller have generously agreed to sponsor the Club Tournament in 2008 for the fifth 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).

Order of Play

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the West Heath LTC the schedule of matches for an individual court 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	
Grass 1	Grass 2
Saturday 26 July - Finals Day	
	13:00 Mens Doubles Semi Sultan Gangji & Mark Stapleton vs Jeff Fine & Simon Nelson 6-4 to complete
14:00 Ladies Singles Final Umpire : Marjan Denis Jane Boyle vs Malika Sood	14:00 Mens Singles Final Umpire : Kevin Ryan (by popular demand) Mark Stapleton vs Cedric de la Chaise
To be followed by Ladies Doubles Final Umpire : Moira Duncan Ros Norkett & Jen Ehr vs Jane Boyle & Ludmilla Stapleton	To be followed by Mens Doubles Final Umpire John Knight Cedric de la Chaise & Joris Fletcher vs Mark Stapleton & Sultan Gangji
World Famous Finals Day Tea (17:00)	
	To be followed by Mixed Doubles Final Marjan Denis & Paul OFlynn vs Jane Boyle & Cedric de la Chaise
Trophy Presentation followed by Social Tennis and	

Evening Barbecue (20:00)

(Cypriot BBQ with professional rotisserie spits)

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

Finals Day - Saturday 25 July - A capacity crowd watched the mens and ladies singles and doubles finals.

In the end the day belonged to Cedric de la Chaise as he took singles and two doubles titles. Jane Boyle also improved on her considerable haul of doubles and singles titles by adding two more doubles titles, and Ludmilla Stapleton made her first appearance in the ladies doubles final, adding that title to the two mixed doubles titles she already has to her name. Mallika Sood proved that she is getting stronger each year as ladies singles champion.

Elena Valarche organised the usual sumptuous tea. Jani and his friends and family provided an excellent barbecue which fed the forty-odd members attending in the evening. Sultan's speech was lucid, clear, short and to the point (for once), and one might even have suspected that he was still relatively sober when delivering it. Sultan thanked all concerned and also thanked Paul Rubie for over a decade on the West Heath committee as Paul has now decided to stand down from the committee.

For the Stapleton family this year was important because it was the first year that Ludmilla has brought home a trophy without Mark doing the same. However, Mark enjoyed himself at the Final's Day barbecue, and had to be gently stabilised and steered out of the club house at the end of the evening by Milly.

As for me, this is the tenth year in which I have been reporting on the club tournament, despite Sultan's AGM speech containing a reference and thanks to me for doing the web site for the past 5 years!! I hope this has increased the interest, involvement and buzz for the tournament that was already there when I first mooted the idea of a club web site in 1999. This year the number of web site hits in June and July were down, although the interest in the new members page seems consistently high at a few hundred hits per month, which is encouraging. The web site statistics themselves can be invoked directly from the column on the left and are the fourth most popular page viewed (after the home page, new members page and tournament draw page).

The technology has already moved on, of course, and Charles Rubinstein has proved this by incorporating a number of his photos from the tournament onto his external Facebook page ([click here for Charles' tournament photos without having to join Facebook](#)). He has also invited various members to become his Facebook friends. The more coverage of the tournament the merrier!

And lastly our thanks go to SAB Miller for sponsoring the West Heath 2009 Tournament with supplies of Peroni and other bottled beers from their tempting range..



Men's Singles Final

Mark Stapleton (2) versus Cedric de la Chaise (1)

Umpire : Kevin Ryan

In last year's final Cedric started slowly, but it was Mark's turn to be slow off the mark this year. Mark served first and lost 5 straight games to make a first set begel look a distinct possibility. However, with Cedric serving in the 6th game Mark got his game together and put sufficient pressure on Cedric to force a break, which spurred him on win his own service game to leave Cedric serving again for the set at 5-2 up. This time Cedric raised his game and closed out the set, but the impetus was still with Mark.

In the second set Mark was playing at a much higher level than the first set but Cedric was yet to respond to this. Games went with serve until Cedric served 1-2 down. Mark forced a break point, and looked as if he was going to hit a winner down the line for the break, but a gust of wind appeared out of nowhere and caused him to hit wide. Mark overcame this slight disappointment to finally break Cedric, held his own service and broke Cedric again for a 5-1 lead. At this point it looked like Mark had the set in the bag, but when serving for the set Mark made some errors and allowed Cedric in with a break. Cedric took full advantage of this shift of momentum by holding his serve and breaking Mark again, leaving himself serving at 4-5 to level the set. This game got really interesting at 30 all. Cedric went for a cross-court winner but the ball ended up in the net. On the break point Mark had an opportunity to hit a winner but gave the ball back to Cedric who hit a winner for deuce. Mark again forced a break point, on which he came in and hit a volley winner to take the set 6-4 and force a final set.



In the final set Mark served first. Cedric applied pressure and forced a few errors and weak returns from Mark, of which Cedric took full advantage to break Mark. Games then proceded with serve until Cedric was serving for the match at 5-4. Having left matters a bit late Mark now came into his own. Mark took the first point, but Cedric replied with a winner in the corner for 15 all. Mark's good placement then forced a high short ball from Cedric which Mark put away, but Cedric replied by winning the next two points to get to match point, but put the ball long for deuce. The game went on for quite a while with Mark getting more break points and Cedric a few more championship points. The match record will not clear this up as Kevin ran out of paper to score this particular game, but Mark finally managed to break to level the match at 5 all in the final set.

It's not quite clear just what happened next. Perhaps Mark let up a little because of the effort of the previous game, but certainly Cedric managed to get the break once more and was serving for the match again. This time he made no mistake taking the match 6-2 4-6 7-5.



Thanks go to the umpire Kevin Ryan and linesmen Jeff Fine, Jimmy Lee and Michael Goldman. Vince Sudbery commented that this was the most exciting mens final he could remember, and the concensus was that this had been a titanic struggle well worthy of the mens final. The question is still what does Mark have to do to beat Cedric in this series of annual finals where such fine margins give Cedric victory every time? One thing which would have helped Mark in the first set is to be more agressive when he had the upper hand in a point, for instance going for a volley winner near the sideline instead of a deep volley to the centre of the court to try to force a mistake from Cedric which Cedric typically handled very well, often hitting an unreachable winner in response. Another aspect was that Cedric was able to read Mark's serve, and this was worth a few points along the way.

This was a fine display by both players.

Ladies' Singles Final

Jane Boyle versus Mallika Sood (1)

Umpire : Marjan Denis

Mallika Sood had already won the Ladies' Single in 2007 and 2008, and, as an improving and maturing 14-year old, it was unlikely that anyone would be able to stay with her for long enough to deprive her of her third singles title. Jane Boyle is no slouch either, having won the Ladies Singles title no less than 9 times, the first in 1974 and most recently in 2001. Jane did her best to stem the onslaught of winners, but Mallika is mobile, accurate, thinking and not sufficiently prone to error that she was going to be denied, and Jane could not find a consistent strategy to prevent Mallika first setting up and then executing winners, though she managed to force a series of deuces in the first game of the second set before that game went the way of all the others.

The inevitable result was a 6-0 6-0 victory to Mallika.

Men's Doubles Final

Sultan Gangji & Mark Stapleton versus Cedric de la Chaise & Joris Fletcher (1)

Umpire : John Knight



A single early break of serve to Sultan and Mark was sufficient to give them the first set, though Mark struggled a little on his serve to close it out before he finally succeeded in doing so.

In the second set mark was broken in the second game, while Sultan managed to hold serve, but Mark was broken again allowing Cedric and Joris to take the set 6-1 to level the match.

In the ensuing Champions tie-break Cedric and Joris leapt into an early 5-1 lead. Sultan and Mark pulled it back a little to 6-3, but then got only one more point as Cedric and Joris took the tie-break 10-4.

Ladies' Doubles Final

Jane Boyle & Ludmilla Stapleton (3) versus Ros Norkett & Jen Ehr(4)

Umpire : Moira Dunca

This final started evenly as the score reached 3 all, but at this point Milly and Jane's better consistency told, as they each held serve and broke Ros and Jan to win the first set 6-3.

At the beginning of the second set Ros and Jen put on a determined effort and were rewarded with a 3-1 lead, but could not sustain this, and Milly and Jane took the match with a string of 5 games in a row to also win the second set 6-3.

Jen ran for everything, but, with the exception of the early part of the second set, Jen and Ros did not hit form at the same time, whilst Jane and Milly were resolute in approaching the net and volleying consistently. A few more well placed lobs might well have upset Jane and Milly's rhythm, but there were too few attempted to test them.



Mixed Doubles Final

Jane Boyle & Cedric de la Chaise (3) versus Marjan Denis & Paul O'Flynn (4)



This was the dream timeable for Paul and Marjan as Cedric and Jane had each been involved in their respective gender's both singles and doubles finals, and hence were somewhat tired from their previous exertions.

This match was made notable by the fact than Marjan and Paul broke Cedric's serve 3 times. Cedric started the match by serving and volleying, and in particular Marjan was able to hit low returns at his feet which he probably was not expecting and could not cope with, and this was instrumental in helping to break his serve. This unexpected turn of events forced a rethink from Jane and Cedric, and later in the match Cedric adopted a policy of staying back on his serve, at least for the initial return.

With this exception, the match was generally one of pace, placement, consistency and mobility at the net from Cedric, with Jane contributing a variety of serves a staunch defence, and awkward slice shots, all of which tended to force errors from Paul and Marjan, who were not consistent enough to get sufficient games to deflect Cedric and Jane. from their intent. The first set went 6-3 to Cedric and Jane, and the second set went 6-1 to them also. Since Cedric was broken 3 times, Marjan and Paul held serve only once throughout the match.



Friday 24 July - The weather was nearly kind enough, but not quite, and the large puddles on the shale courts at 19:00 said it all. The unfinished mens doubles semi-final and the mixed doubles final have been rescheduled for finals day.

Thursday 23 July - The mens semi-finals were played tonight on the shale, but a brief but very intense downpour then put paid to any possibility of playing the Mixed Doubles Final tonight as there were extensive puddles. The weather tomorrow is forecast to be worse, but Sultan is hoping to play the Mixed Doubles final at 19:00. Spectators welcome (unless the club is already under water).

In the top half semi-final **Cedric de la Chaise** let **Sultan Gangji** have two games in the first set before depriving him of any more for the duration of match to win 6-2 6-0.

In the bottom half semi-final **Joris Fletcher** was not expecting to play on shale and has beaten **Mark Stapleton** on grass before, so his chances were severely restricted by the enforced change of surface. Joris is not as consistent as Mark, but has the shots to win points off him. On shale the scope for winners is reduced but the penalty for inconsistency is increased. Nevertheless, Joris started well and played consistently to take the first two games, but could not maintain this as Mark raised his level. Joris got only one more game as Mark won 6-3 6-0.

The really interesting question is what Mark Stapleton intends to do differently in the final against Cedric de la Chaise. He has come pretty close to winning once or twice but since Mark defeated Cedric in a tight semi-final 7-6 6-4 in 2003, Cedric has always had the edge on the really important points. Mark has always had the capability of breaking Cedric's serve but Mark's problem in the final has always been to hold serve himself against the strong pressure which Cedric can exert when returning, and Mark's volleys have not always been good enough against

Cedric who is highly mobile and can hit winners from any part of the court if he can get to the ball. It will surely be another interesting match.

The mixed doubles final competitors got as far as knocking up before the deluge, but then that was that. The same fate befell the completion of the outstanding mens doubles semi-final. Keep your fingers crossed for tomorrow.

Wednesday 22 July - There was a packed program this evening as the enforced rain delays meant there was some catching up to do. An excellent meal was provided by Michelle Ganz and Penny North, and the menacing pose adopted by Michelle to all intruders in her kitchen ensured that too many cooks did not spoil the broth.

In the last mens singles quarter final **Simon Nelson played Mark Stapleton**. Mark took the first set easily 6-2, but Simon came into his own in the second set and at 6 games all could easily have forced a third set. However, Mark won the tie break for a 6-2 7-6 victory.



The unfinished match between **Elan Valarche and Ros Norkett** was resumed with Elena winning 6-3 and Ros 1-0 up in the second set. Elena played very well on the resumption, and Ros is typically a slow starter, with Elena taking full advantage, and polishing off the second set with 6 games in a row to win 6-3 6-1.

Elena Valarche then took on Mallika Sood. Mallika served well, with few double faults, and Elena is not used to this sort of pace. She hit some good shots to move Mallika wide, but failed to take advantage by hitting the next ball to the other tramline, instead tending to hit it down the middle which tended to give Mallika an

open court, and Mallika won the match 6-1 6-1 for a place in the final.



Charles Rubinstein has become a keen facebook addict, and has been keen to capture as many action shots as possible to put on his facebook page. Now most of us would use a digital camera for this, but Charles has other ideas and maintains that his old film SLR provides much better pictures than his 7 megapixel digital camera, so that is what he uses. Apparently the photo processors will provide you with a digital version of the photos on request, so you do not have to go to all the trouble of scanning them in from the actual photos. Charles can be seen here in action during the match between Elena and Mallika. Photos is courtesy of Jen Ehr, taken on a Canon Ixus 750 digital camera.

However, as well as a film SLR camera, Charles also has an iPhone, which is one of the reasons why Margaux vValarche thinks that he is cool. Oh but the picture is slightly tarnished by Charles' liking for classical music.



Jane Boyle and Jen Ehr played the other semi-final very early in the evening. The match was a patchwork of hot and cold. The wind also blew, tending to favour Jane's low slice rather than the topspin of Jen. Jen started fast for a 4-1 lead, but as the wind got up became a little tentative and Jane won 5 games in a row to take the first set 6-4. Jen broke early in the second set too, for a 2-0 lead, but again could not keep up the pressure, particularly when Jane's serve started to go in more consistently and she was able to generate more pace, and Jen got only one more game for a 6-4 6-3

victory to Jane.



Sue Latimer and Sultan Gangji took on **Marjan Denis and Paul O'Flynn** in the top half semi-final, which turned into an exciting game.. It was won by Marjan and Paul, who said he was "very happy that he had messed up Sue's game plan." Sue described herself as very disappointed.



In the bottom half mixed doubles **Cedric de la Chaise and Jane Boyle**, the third seeds, took on **Mark and Ludmilla Stapleton** the number 2 seeds. In contrast to last year's match Jane played very well having to hit only one second serve after her match with Jen, and Cedric more than held his own. Cedric and Jane upset the seedings with a 6-3 6-2 victory.

In the top half of the mens doubles **Bill Thom and David Glover** beat **Jimmy Lee and Jani Petrou** 7-6 6-3. However, Dave suffered a stomach injury during the final game, and despite much discussion, neither pair thought it worthwhile to try to squeeze the next round match in, so **Cedric de la Chaise and Joris Flether** were granted a walkover into the final!

In the bottom half semi-final **Jeff Fine and Simon Nelson** played **Mark Stapleton and Sultan Gangji** towards the end of the evening. Games were split evenly until 4 all, at which point the lower-ranked seeds lost a little concentration letting Mark and Sultan take the set 6-4. At this point although there was still some light left, it looked unlikely that the match would finish before it became pitch black so they decided to call it a day, have some dinner, and resume another evening at the start of the second set.

The resumption of the unfinished match between **Vandana and Anahita Talware** and **Ros Norkett and Jen Ehr** started with Ros and Jen winning 6-0 3-1. They took the last 3 games to win 6-0 6-1 to book a place in the final.

Tuesday 21 July - Despite the inclement weather, a few matches took place on shale followed by tasty Moussakas from Liz Goodfellow and Julia Abbott and tempting lemon pie from Jane Boyle.

In the mens doubles, **Jeff Fine and Simon Nelson**, the number 4 seeds were challenged by **Ed Nightingale and his uncle Richard**. There were some unconventional shots from Richard in the tight first set, which was played on a damp shale court which was compared by one of the competitors with playing on corrugated iron in the rain where the big hole in the net kept everyone concentrating to make sure the ball had not gone through. Once the set reach 5 all, Jeff and Simon took the next two games to win it 7-5, and then went on to win the second set 6-2.

To be completed

In the gathering gloom, **Vandana and Anahita Talwar** started their match with **Ros Norkett and Jen Ehr**. The first team pairing walked the first set 6-0, but the darkness won in the end as the match had to be abandoned with the score at 3-1 to Ros and Jen in the second set.

Monday 20 July - A crowd exceeding 30 gathered to watch the evening's entertainment and partake of Vince and Rosie's excellent spicy roast lamb.

Today was Vince and Rosie's 8th Wedding Anniversary, and Sultan said a few words to describe the initially slow pace of their romance as they had actually known each other for 33 years before getting married. There were replies from Vince and Rose and a celebratory cheer from everyone else.

Mark Stapleton took on Kevin Ryan on number one court in a fascinating encounter.. Kevin held his own until 3 all in the first set with a selection of sliced forehands and backhands which were highly effective on grass and had Mark make quite a few errors, but Kevin found it difficult to deny Mark on serve. Mark's better mobility was also telling, and Mark took the first set 6-3. Due to pressure from the baying crowd, on completion of the previous match on court 2 they were then asked to move over to entertain the centre court crowd which, by now was well warmed up and lubricated. In the second set the crowd naturally cheered on Kevin every time he won a point. Had there been one or two more of them the score in the second set might have been more even , but there were not quite enough of them to stop Mark. Mark took all the applause and shouting in good spirit, knowing that the West Heath crowd was there



to be



entertained and always roots for the underdog, and he proceeded to win the second set 6-1.



Simon Button and Paul Rubie had to face the might of **Dave Glover's** serve and the experience,



consistency and native cunning of **Bill Thom**. As the match was staged on centre court, the crowd were also keen participants. Simon and Paul were playing the role of the underdogs against

some very heavy serving and ground strokes from Dave, from whom they elicited some occasional errors, but neither were really used to the pace of the shots which Dave can produce, and neither were playing as well as they can, making a number of unforced errors when going for their shots. The result was a 6-0 6-2 victory to Bill and Dave.



Dave is always keen to do more stringing if anyone has a broken string.....

In the ladies doubles, the top of the draw has been re-arranged to maximise the entertainment for the ever-keen West Heath spectators, and Mallika Sood is now able to defend her doubles title, this time with Sue Ehr, reversing the walkover which was previously granted to the Talwars.

In a slightly surprising score line, **Jane Boyle and Cedric de la Chaise** beat **Jen Ehr and Dave Glover** 6-2 6-1.

In the final entertainment of the evening on centre court, **Sue Ehr and Huw Crompton** challenged **Mark and Ludmilla Stapleton**. Again, it was apparent to the crowd who the underdogs were and they cheered them on vociferously. On Milly's serve, Mark creeping over to intercept was punished occasionally,

but not as much as it should have been. Huw and Sue played some good tennis, but could not match the consistency of Mark and Milly. They could have scored more points over Milly's head had they gone for their lobs more, but rarely took this option. Mark's serve, as usual, was pretty difficult to beat. Though generally uncertain of the score, the crowd felt they had been excellently entertained, and the result was a 6-1 6-2 victory for Mark and Milly.



Sunday 19 July - There were light showers late afternoon, but most competitors play their scheduled matches today. There was plenty of interesting golf when the spectators had had their fill of scintillating tennis. We are now reaching the interesting part of the tournament where the top seeds start to take the tournament very seriously and are taking no prisoners, so there are more zeroes appearing in the score lines, particularly in the men's doubles.

Funnily enough, most of the scores today were paired except two - the same score cropped up in two matches! How odd is that?

Elana Valarche and Marjan Denis on paper are potentially a strong partnership, with Marjan supplying the heavy groundstrokes which force short returns for Elena to volley away. They beat **Anne Marie Williams and Michelle Gantz** 6-3 6-1. Let us see how they get on against the veteran partnership of Jane Boyle and Ludmilla Stapleton in the semis.

Joris Fletcher played two singles matches and won them both, firstly against **Simon Button**, 6-1 6-1 (the only score not also recorded today by someone else), then against **Dan Braverman**, 6-3 6-1 (same score as above).

Simon Nelson appeared to have a real battle with **James Angus**. Simon took the first set 7-5, but James returned the compliment to take the second set 7-5 and level the match. The final set went to Simon 6-3. This was the only other score not also recorded by someone else.

Sultan Gangji beat Charles Rubinstein 6-0 6-1.

Mallika Sood beat Liz Goodfellow 6-0 6-1 (same score as above).

Cedric de la Chaise and Joris Fletcher beat Daniel and Brian Coffey 6-0 6-0.

Sultan Gangji and Mark Stapleton beat Dan I'Anson and Kalyan Dasgupta 6-0 6-0 (same score as above).

In one of the closer matches today, **Richard and Ed Nightingale** beat **Charles Rubinstein and Vince Sudbery** in a champions tie break for a 6-2 4-6 [10-3] victory.

Assuming that the notes I was given are accurate, then the exact same score cropped up again when **Sultan Gangji** teamed up with a new partner, **Sue Latimer** standing in for the injured Christine Thompson. They beat **Moir Duncan and Darren Lee** 6-2 4-6 and a disappointing (according to Moira) [10-3].

Saturday 18 July - Although it kept threatening to rain, conditions were good for most of the day and the occasional very light shower did not take the grass courts out of action.

The big news of the day is the announcement of the **withdrawal of Christine Thompson** from the tournament without having hit a ball. She has some problem with the sole of her foot, but that leaves matters wide open in her half of the draw in all three events. Christine was the Ladies Singles champion in 2006, the Ladies Doubles champion in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and the Mixed Doubles champion in 2007 and 2008, so this leaves a big gap in three draws. In addition, for the past few years, Christine has been instrumental in obtaining sponsorship for the tournament from SAB Miller, for which the club would like to propose a hearty vote of thanks.

Cedric de la Chaise beat Paul Miller 6-1 6-0.

Paul O'Flynn reported that he had had a very enjoyable match against **Jimmy Lee**, although the grass court was a little wet and slippery. Jimmy proved to be the stronger player and won 6-2 6-1.

Huw Crompton and Michael Goldman are playing together in the doubles, but in this match they were drawn against each other in the singles. In this match it was the serve and 'do or die' attitude of Huw versus a more steady but less pacy game from Michael. In the first set it looked like Michael's consistency triumphed, although he appeared to be hitting the ball back to Huw at times, and Michael took this set 6-3. This seemed to serve as a wake-up call to Huw whose first serve started to work a bit better, and he put more pressure on Michael, which resulted in Huw winning the second set 6-1 to square the match. It is not clear exactly what changed in the third, but Michael made fewer mistakes and tried to place the ball better, and Huw could not maintain the increased pace and accuracy of the second set, resulting in the third set and match to Michael 6-1.



As well as being drawn against his doubles partner in the singles, Huw Crompton was also drawn against him in the mixed, the line up being **Huw Crompton and Sue Ehr vs Michaels Goldman and Michelle Ganz**. My money was on a tight match, but Huw and Sue roared into a commanding lead in the first set and proceeded to take it 6-0. The second set was a much tighter affair, reaching 4 all, but Michael was then broken leaving Huw to serve it out. However, Huw was not able to do this, so the score reached 5 all, but on subsequently breaking Michelle, Sue was able to hold her own server to take the set and victory 7-5. I have seen Michelle play better than this, and the second set could easily have gone the other way, but it looked like Huw and Sue were setting the pace and winning the points as long as they did not make errors.

Julia Abbott and Vince Sudbery took on the well established pairing of **Paul O'Flynn and Marjan Denis**. Vince was playing much better than in the past, and Julia hit some good shots, but it looked like both sets got to 3-3 before getting broken and Paul and Marjan won the match 6-3 6-3.

Ros Norkett and Jimmy Lee beat **Bill Thom and Liz Goodfellow** 6-3 6-2.

The winners of the two preceding mixed matches then went on to play the round 3 fixture. **Ros Norkett and Jimmy Lee** versus **Paul O'Flynn and Marjan Denis**. The first two sets were split, Marjan and Paul taking the first 6-3 and Ros and Jimmy taking the second 6-2, leaving the result in the hands of the champions tie-break. Although this was fairly even at first, Paul and Marjan applied some pressure in



the middle and secured a mini-break, but this was recovered to make the score 6-6, but then Paul and Marjan went on to win 10-7.

The most fascinating, if predictable match was **Moira Duncan and Darren Lee** versus **Margaux Valarche** (10 years old) and **Charles Rubinstein**. The match was delayed by 90 minutes as Margaux first had to play two junior finals at Finchley tennis club. In the first of these she beat her sister Carine (who at 12 is two years older) in a 2-hour marathon match to become junior girls champion. In the second she became the junior mixed champion. Thus, with a well warmed up partner, Charles had to sort out the strategy for both him and Margaux. As it turned out, Margaux played much more consistently than Charles, generally make very few unforced errors and hitting a number of winners by placement, including some off balls which the opponents were not expecting to come back as they were at a very awkward angle. She is not yet able to hit the ball very hard, relying instead on placement. There was the odd very low ball and "West Heath" bounce that eluded her. and she was not always being able to cope with the pace of Darren's serve, and lacked the power of shot to keep it away from him at the net. Charles for his part attempted to keep the ball in play, but was not sufficiently aggressive on easy balls and made a number of unforced errors. The opponents gratefully received these free points, and were not completely error-free themselves. The first set went 6-1 to Moira and Darren, although the set was more even than the score would indicate. In the second set

Margaux lobbed Darren rather more, but he is rather tall and she could not entirely avoid setting the ball up for the smash. She also started to serve to Moira's backhand, but as she is still very short, her lack of pace on the serve meant Moira had enough time to run around these and take them on the forehand, which is usually pretty lethal. The net result was another 6-1 to Moira and Darren, who generally seemed relieved to have come through what they regarded as a tricky encounter.

Three competitive tournament matches in one day did not stop Margaux from wanting to play "Fleeced", the Wallace and Gromit sheep rustling game at midnight after Elena's dinner to celebrate passing the exam for her professional qualification at the fourth attempt, to which we were invited as a result of my helping her pass the Critical Reading paper with some coaching in statistics and exam technique.



Thursday 16 July - Despite the thunder later on in the evening there were a few matches played tonight.

Jeff Fine and Simon Nelson beat **Maciek Janowski and Jonathan Bell**. Anyone know the score?



Walter and Philip Reid took on **Jimmy Lee and Jani Petrou**. The Reids did their best to find a weakness, which included reverting to a challenging set of lobs at times, but Jimmy and Jani were too strong for them and won 6-1 6-3.

Simon Button and Paul Rubie were drawn in the preliminary round of the men's doubles against **Nikhil Sood and Javid Jahanshahi**. It looks as if the first set was pretty tight and Simon and Paul took it 6-4, but either they stepped up the pace or their opponents could not maintain their level and Simon and Paul also went on the win the second set 6-0.



Apparently the rumour that **Sanjiv Talwar** had swine 'flu is true after all. Charles Rubinstein reported on Wednesday night that it had been confirmed by a lab test. We wish Sanjiv a speedy recovery, if he isn't already better by now. Charles commented that he was doing everything possible to avoid catching swine 'flu. However, there is a lot to be said for a strategy of catching 'flu during the warm summer months, when it kills very few and most of those already in poor health, whereas if you wait until winter to get it then 'flu tends to be rather more lethal.

The fixture between **Michelle Ganz and Michael Goldman** and **Sally Tornow and Dan Braverman** looked like a close fixture on paper. Dan is a strong player, but Michelle's tennis has improved dramatically recently. On paper Sally and Dan should have nicked it. In the event the first set went to 5-5 before Michael and Michelle broke and took it 7-5. The second set was also very close, Michael and Michelle taking it 6-4. The next round match against Sue Ehr and Huw Crompton is going to be very interesting indeed, as it is likely that both sides think they can win it.

Wednesday 15 July - There were 3 matches attempted tonight.

Paul O'Flynn defeated **Javid Jahan** 6-1 6-2.

Charles Rubinstein vs Dan I'Anson must have started on grass, but were forced to the shale by a swift downpour. After turning up late, Charles won the competitive first set 6-3. The switch to shale produced a second set in which Charles was playing with extreme consistency, a modicum of pace, and his usual wily placement in order to put Dan under pressure, except in the 6 game where he was playing like a lemon squeezed by pressure from Dan. This resulted in a 6-1 result for Charles.

Elena Valarche vs Ros Norkett started on grass, but the downpour forced them to abandon the match to be completed another day (possibly Sunday 17:00). In the first set Ros was serving well enough, but Elena gets everything back somehow, and, though the returns were not tricky, somehow Ros kept missing her volley to hand the initiative to Elena. For her part Elena served low and hard, making it difficult for Ros to employ pace on the return. The result had a lot to do with Ros's unforced error count and was that Elena won the first set 6-3. Ros was 1-0 up in the second set when the rain arrived and after that the grass court was too slippery.

Tuesday 14 July - With home and away ladies matches, only one tournament game was played today.

Perhaps against the odds on past form (Gabriel having won two doubles events in 1998 with Sultan Gangji and Janet O'Connor), **Paul Miller beat Gabriel Solomon** 6-3 7-6. The match had to switch surfaces as the ladies' first team turned up to throw them off the grass.

Charles Rubinstein and Margaux Valarche were given a walkover in the mixed as Sanjiv Talwar is still not feeling well.

Monday 13 July - For a weekday there were an amazing number of matches - seven in total.



In the men's singles, **Cedric de la Chaise** had a comfortable victory over Richard Nightingale 6-0 6-1.

Nikhil Sood found it too difficult to cope with the spin of **Kevin Ryan**, which probably he never has to face in the junior coaching squads. Kevin beat Nikhil 6-1 6-3.

Jimmy Lee is one of a number of new members who have joined this season from Templars to play on grass and participate in the vibrant West Heath social scene. He beat **Masato Okonogi** 6-1 6-1.

In the ladies doubles, two second team players, **Sue Latimer and Sally Tornow** took on two first team players, **Ros Norkett and Jen Ehr**. At the beginning of the match Ros and Jen were making a lot of mistakes, and Sally and Sue took full advantage to gain a 4-0 lead (though this was reported as 4-1 by an opponent). However, after that the first team players got their act together big time, which resulted in no more games being won by the second team players, for an eventual 6-4 6-0 victory to Ros and Jen.

Liz Goodfellow and Bill Thom took on **Malika Sood** and her younger brother **Nikhil Sood** in an afternoon first round mixed doubles match. Bill and Liz started slower than the youngsters and found themselves 1-3 down, but used their native cunning and years of experience to win the next 5 games and take the first set 6-1. They then went



on to win the first two games of the second set, at which point the brother and sister team broke back and levelled at 2 all, then 3 all. The next break of serve went with the more experience pair and Bill served at 5-3 for the match. The Soods seemed to be in with a chance of levelling again as Bill served from 0-40 down but he hit some good serves to the corners, finishing the match with an ace out wide. One bystander commented that the juniors did not really know what to make of the style and manner of play of the aging veterans. For once age and experience managed to find a wily way to win against these fine young players who have time and on their side and still plenty of scope for improvement in their teens. Mallika is already club champion of course.....

Elena Valarche and Richard Adinolfi have been playing together at Templars and decided to team up for the West Heath tournament. They were drawn against the number 3 seeds **Cedric de la Chaise and Jane Boyle**, who, by now can be regarded as an experienced partnership. Cedric and Jane justified their ranking with a 6-2 6-3 victory.

The most interesting match of the day was **Jen Ehr** drawn against the number 3 seed **Marjan Denis**. Marjan probably has a game to suit Jen as both hit the ball hard and like pace. Marjan appears to have gained the upper hand easily in the first set, taking it 6-1, and this momentum carried her to a 5-2 lead in the second set. But Jen has huge experience of playing in high-level chess competitions to draw on, and was not prepared to surrender the match without a fight. A bystander reported that Jen fought hard to raise her game, stave off imminent defeat and take the second set to a tie break. Jen then had the momentum and proceeded to take the tie break 7-4 to level the match. In the final set Jen played very competitive tennis and Marjan could not rise to the level of play required to deny her, resulting in Jen taking the final set 6-0, for a 1-6, 7-6, 6-0 victory.

Sunday 12 July - Although there were a few very short showers today, the forecast was for sunny periods and there was no significant threat to grass-court play. The action in the mixed doubles today was limited to recording the conceding of a couple of walkovers, including one from yesterday, so the eager spectators were limited to watching matches from other events. Fortunately these supplied some exciting tennis.

Simon Nelson beat David Cohen 6-2 7-5, but the action took place some time before Richard Nightingale's rather tasty tea, so I was too late to witness it.

Mark Stapleton defeated Kalyan Dasgupta 6-1 6-2.

The match between **Paul Rubie and James Angus** could quite well have gone either way and was totally dependent on how Paul played. It generally consisted of Paul playing brilliant points or making unforced errors, while James just did his best to get the ball back anywhere in court that he could manage. Fortunately for James, Paul's ratio of good to bad points was somewhat less than one. A good example would be for Paul to serve wide on the backhand to James, come in behind the serve, and put away a fantastic volley 6 inches from the opposite tramline, closely followed by a double fault or a good serve and hitting the approach shot into the ground. Certainly if he could keep the winners and lose the losers (so to speak) he would be pretty difficult to beat. Better footwork would certainly help here. In the end James took it 6-2 6-3.

There is no truth in the rumour that **Sanjiv Talwar** has swine 'flu, though he was certainly feeling sufficiently indisposed to offer **Flavio Taffoni** a walkover.





Liz Goodfellow and Julia Abbott were probably hoping for a quiet match on court 3, though Brian was intent on poisoning as many as possible of the weeds taking over the court fence and border with Westfield College (with their permission, of course). As might be expected (particularly from the new slimmer-line Julia), Liz is not as mobile as Julia, but also as expected, almost every ball Liz did get to got returned back in court, often in places where Julia had no hope of reaching it. The result was a 6-2 6-2 win to Liz.

Anne Marie Williams was persuaded to enter the singles, and was then drawn against **Elena Valarche**. Anne Marie, who plays almost no singles, is highly mobile and retrieved quite a number of balls placed cross court by the inevitably advancing Elena, but in the first set found it difficult to hit it anywhere but back to her opponent. This typically allowed Elena to hit a number of volley winners, though she missed the occasional one. In the second set Anne Marie served much better (though more wrist snap would have come in handy add to the pace to stop Elena's advance) and made a determined attempt to change her tactics by attempting the pass, but could not quite get the consistency and accuracy to make

it count. Had there been a third set it could well have been more even, but in the event Elena won 6-0 6-1.

The most interesting matches today were undoubtedly in the men's doubles. In the first, **Paul Miller and James Angus** would have been favourites to beat father and son duo **Walter and Philip Reid**. Indeed Paul and James took the first set 6-3. However, Philip is turning into a good player, and his father Walter is deceptive - although he does not appear to have wonderful strokes, he is pretty consistent and knows how to place the ball in all the tricky places. The Reid's obviously got their act together in the second set because they reversed the previous set score to take it 6-3. All then depended on the champion's tie break, and the Reids acquitted themselves well here and ended up winning it 10-6.

In the other men's doubles **Kenichiro Yoshida and Masato Okonogi** looked like they had the better strokes and more tactical nous than **Vince Sudbery and Charles Rubinstein**, and in the first set Kenichiro and Masato proved the stronger as they were able to counter most of the shots that Charles and Vince came up with to win it 6-3. However, Vince has been having some coaching and it did pay dividends in a greater consistency, which he and Charles put to good use to raise their level in the second set, reversing the score to take it 6-3. As in the other men's doubles match, all thus rested on the champions tie break. Charles and Vince raced away to an 8-4 lead and the spectators assumed they had it in the bag. However, Kenichiro and Masato were not having this and levelled at 9 all, at which point it looked like anyone's. But at this point Vince and Charles kept their cool and played a couple of points to win the match 11-9, perhaps against the odds.



Apparently **Carine and Margaux Valarche** (sisters aged a total of 22 between them), were not playing at their best against mother and daughter duo of **Vandana and Anahita Talwar** who easily took the first set 6-1. In the second the Valarche sisters raised their game somewhat, but to no avail, with the Talwar taking it 6-4.

Saturday 11 July - The weather looked distinctly dodgy, but a few matches were played before some persistent rain summarily ended the tennis.

Jeff Fine, the 6th seed, appears to have justified his ranking with a 6-1 6-1 victory over **Eduoard Biron**.

Jane Boyle and Ludmilla Stapleton, the third seeds, took on the challengers **Julia Abbott and Moira Duncan**. The match presumably started in dry weather, but by the time it finished there was persistent rain, but the hardy competitors carried on to the end. The third seeds broke Moira's serve in the first game, but Milly was soon broken to restore equality. However Milly and Jane broke later on to give them the first set 6-4. In the second set Jane and Milly got the break early on, but Julia and Moira did well to get it back to reach 4 all. Moira was then broken to give the seeds the victory 6-4 6-4.

Sanjiv and Dhananjay Talwar took on **Michael Goldman and Huw Crompton** in the grey drizzle. Dhananjay served well and has the makings of a good player and as the younger was probably also the stronger in the father and son partnership. The first set was fairly easy for Michael and Huw, but the Talwars put up stronger resistance in the second set to acquit themselves respectably, but losing it 6-3.

It might be anticipated that a match between **Dan Braverman and Ed Nightingale** would be close, and it looked like this was the case, with Dan winning the first set 6-4. The second set was even closer and reached 6 all. However, at this point Dan won the tie break 7-4. It would be interesting to know if Ed has been able to play much tennis since snapping his Achilles tendon last year when playing with Alexa Tilley in the mixed against Christine Thompson and Sultan Gangji.

We are all glad Ed has made a full recovery. Apparently he may not be competing in the tournament next year as he and his wife are off to Beijing.

Simon Button beat Dhananjay Talwar 6-3 6-1 in the singles, but had better watch out in subsequent years as Dhananjay is going to improve as he gets older.

Ros Norkett beat Sally Tornow 6-3 6-1. During the knock-up Sally was spinning every ball, and Ros was wondering how she would cope with this. Ros must have found a way because she had built up a 4-0 lead, but got distracted by the next-door match (Jane Boyle and Ludmilla Stapleton vs Julia Abbott and Moira Duncan), at which point Sally seized her chance and became a lot more competitive, winning the next few games. But Ros finally managed to hold her concentration to win another couple of games to take the set. A very similar lapse of concentration, for the same reasons, occurred when Ros was 4-0 up in the second set, but having lost her serve this time she realized the danger and settled down to take it 6-1. Ros is probably the stronger play, but Sally is competitive though she rarely plays singles.

Huw Crompton and Sue Ehr beat **Vandana and Dhananjay Talwar** 6-1 6-0. Sue and Huw have played together for a while now, so the result was to be expected, but a good time was had by all.

Friday 10 July - Margaux Valarche is 10, and has been desperate to play up as an adult at West Heath for a couple of years. She is as determined as her mother, has a very good tennis eye, is strong for her age and is pretty consistent in hitting the ball. But being only 10 has a number of disadvantages, not the least of which is that you are still very short, so you are much easier to lob, and it is more difficult to hit the serve hard as gravity has more work to do to bring the serve into court from such a low starting position - so it needs more time. Her sister **Carine** is 12. The two are of a similar standard, although Margaux claims she has the edge.

Rumour has it that there were extensive discussion between committee members as to whether a 10-year-old was too young to enter the adult section of the tournament draw. In the last two American-style tournaments, Margaux scored 1 game below average, and just above average respectively, so there is little case for exclusion from the adult section of the tournament due to lack of tennis ability. It was also suggested the ladies' second team captain should consider Margaux and Carine for league matches when she is desperate because the usual suspects are out gallivanting elsewhere, and that she may well end up begging them to play for her next season as they improve.

Fortunately the committee decision was that they should be allowed to play, so today featured the following matches:- **Carine Valarche** played against **Jane Boyle**, from the first team. Jane easily took the first set 6-1, but the second set was 6-4, which was a respectable score for Carine against the 9 times club champion.

Margaux Valarche was drawn against **Jen Ehr**, who is also nominally a junior, but is another first team player. Jen won the first set 6-3, but seems to have worked out a better strategy for the second set, which she won 6-0.

Thursday 9 July - The first match got the West Heath Club Tournament truly underway when Vince Sudbery, fresh from his winter coaching, took on Sultan Gangji. The coaching paid huge dividends as he constantly charged the net playing like a 30 year old!!! He served 3 aces in the match and played some wonderful ground strokes, but this was not enough to keep the eagle-eyed Sultan at bay, despite his dodgy hip, and Sultan won 6-3 6-1.



Tuesday 7 July - The 2009 West Heath Club Tournament draw is now on this web page. The tournament will start on Thursday 9 July and first round matches must be completed by Saturday 11 or Sunday 12 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 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 Moira Duncan or Marjan Denis. As always, semi finals will be played during our Gourmet Dinners week, from Monday 20 to Thursday 23 July. Sign up for the Gourmet Dinners on the sheets in the clubhouse. Finals day is Saturday 25 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 : Cedric de la Chaise Sponsored by SABMiller plc					
Round (0) 1 (Sat 11) Sun 12 July	Round 2 Sat 18 July	Round 3 Tues 21 July	Semi-finals Thurs 23	Final Sat 25	Winner	
Cedric de la Chaise (1)	Cedric de la Chaise 6-0 6-1	Cedric de la Chaise 6-1 6-0	Cedric de la Chaise 6-2 6-1	Cedric de la Chaise 6-2 6-0	Cedric de la Chaise 6-2 4-6 7-5	
Richard Nightingale						
Paul Miller	Paul Miller 6-3 7-6 ⁷⁻¹					
Gabriel Solomon						
Paul O'Flynn	Paul O'Flynn 6-1 6-2	Jimmy Lee 6-2 6-1				
Javid Jahan beat Daniel Coffey 6-4 6-4						
Masato Okonogi						Jimmy Lee 6-1 6-1
Jimmy Lee (8)						
Sultan Gangji (4)	Sultan Gangji 6-3 6-1	Sultan Gangji 6-0 6-1	Sultan Gangji 6-4 6-4			
Vince Sudbery						
Charles Rubinstein						Charles Rubinstein 6-3 6-1
Dan l'Anson						
Huw Crompton	Michael Goldman 6-3 1-6 6-1	Jeff Fine 6-2 7-5				
Michael Goldman						
Edward Biron						Jeff Fine 6-1 6-1
Jeff Fine (6)						
Ed Nightingale (5)	Dan Braverman 6-4 7-6 ⁷⁻⁴	Dan Braverman w/o	Joris Fletcher 6-3 6-1			
Dan Braverman						
Sanjiv Talwar bt Peter Davies w/o	Flavio Taffoni w/o					
Flavio Taffoni						
Simon Button	Simon Button 6-3 6-1	Joris Fletcher 6-1 6-1				
Dhananjay Talwar						
Jonathan Bell	Joris Fletcher 6-1 6-0					
Joris Fletcher (3)						
Simon Nelson (7)	Simon Nelson 6-2 7-5	Simon Nelson 5-7 7-5 6-3	Mark Stapleton 6-3 6-0			
David Cohen						
James Angus	James Angus 6-2 6-3					
Paul Rubie						
Kevin Ryan	Kevin Ryan 6-1 6-3	Mark Stapleton 6-3 6-1				
Nikhil Sood						
Kalyan Dasgupta	Mark Stapleton					

Mark Stapleton (2)	6-1 6-2				
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		<div>Ladies' Open Singles Holder : Malika Sood</div> <div>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</div>						
Round 1 Sat 11 July / Sun 12 July	Round 2 Sun19 July	Semi-final Wed 22 July	Final Sat 25 July	Winner				
	Mallika Sood (1)	Mallika Sood 6-0 6-1	Mallika Sood 6-1 6-1	Mallika Sood 6-0 6-0				
Julia Abbott	Liz Goodfellow 6-2 6-2	Elena Valarche 6-3 6-1						
Liz Goodfellow								
Elena Valarche (4)	Elena Valarche 6-0 6-1							
Anne Marie Williams								
Sally Tornow	Ros Norkett 6-3 6-1	Jen Ehr 1-6 7-6 ⁷⁻⁴ 6-0						
Ros Norkett								
Jen Ehr	Jen Ehr 6-3 6-0				Jane Boyle 6-4 6-3			
Margaux Valarche								
	Marjan Denis (3)							
Jane Boyle	Jane Boyle 6-1 6-4	Jane Boyle w/o						
Carine Valarche								
	Christine Thompson (2)							

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		Men's Open Doubles Holders : Cedric de la Chaise & Joris Fletcher <i>Note the change to a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i> <i>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</i>		
Round 1 Sun 12 July / Weds 15 July	Round 2 Sun 19 July	Semi-final Wed 22 July	Final Sat 25 July	Winner
	Cedric de la Chaise Joris Fletcher (1)	Cedric de la Chaise Joris Fletcher 6-0 6-0	Cedric de la Chaise Joris Fletcher w/o	Cedric de la Chaise Joris Fletcher 4-6 6-1 [10-4]
Paul O'Flynn Martin Schotness	Daniel Coffey Brian Coffey ?-? ?-?			
Daniel Coffey Brian Coffey				
Jimmy Lee Jani Petrou (3)	Jimmy Lee Jani Petrou 6-1 6-3	Bill Thom David Glover 7-6 6-3		
Walter & Philip Reid beat James Angus & Paul Miller 3-6 6-3 [10-6]				
Simon Button & Paul Rubie beat Nikhil Sood & Javid Jahanshahi 6-4 6-0	Bill Thom David Glover 6-0 6-2			
Bill Thom David Glover				
Ed Nightingale Richard Nightingale	Ed Nightingale Richard Nightingale 6-2 4-6 [10-3]	Jeff Fine Simon Nelson 7-5 6-2	Sultan Gangji Mark Stapleton 6-4 6-4	
Charles Rubinstein Vince Sudbery beat Kenichiro Yoshida Masato Okonogi 3-6 6-3 [11-9]				
Jonathan Bell Maciek Janowski	Jeff Fine Simon Nelson 6-3 6-1			
Jeff Fine Simon Nelson (4)				
Michael Goldman Huw Crompton beat Dhananjay Talwar Sanjiv Talwar 6-1 6-3	Dan l'Anson Kalyan Dasgupta w/o	Sultan Gangji Mark Stapleton 6-0 6-0		
Dan l'Anson Kalyan Dasgupta				
	Sultan Gangji Mark Stapleton			

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	Ladies' Open Doubles Holders : Jane Boyle & Ludmilla Stapleton <i>Note the change to a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i> <i>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</i>			
Sunday 12 July	Round 1 Sun 19 July	Semi-final Tue 21 July	Final Sat 25 July	Winner
	Mallika Sood Sue Ehr (1)			
Vandana Talwar Anahita Talwar	Vandana & Anahita Talwar 6-1 6-4	Vandana & Anahita Talwar w/o	Ros Norkett Jen Ehr 6-0 6-1	
Margaux Valarche Carine Valarche				
	Ros Norkett Jen Ehr (4)	Ros Norkett Jen Ehr 6-4 6-0		Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton 6-3 6-3
	Sally Tornow Sue Latimer			
	Julia Abbott Moir Duncan	Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton 6-4 6-4	Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton 7-5 7-6 ⁷⁻⁴	
	Jane Boyle Ludmilla Stapleton (3)			
	Anne Marie Williams Michelle Gantz	Elena Valarche Marjan Denis 6-3 6-1		
	Elena Valarche Marjan Denis (2)			

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Open Mixed Doubles Holders : Jane Boyle & Cedric de la Chaise <i>Note the change to a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i> Sponsored by SABMiller plc					
					
Round 1 Sun 12 July	Round 2 Tues 14 July	Round 3 Sun 19 July	Semi-final Tue 21 July	Final Thu 23 July	Winner
		Sue Latimer Sultan Gangji (1)			
			Sue Latimer Sultan Gangji 6-2 4-6 [10-3]		
Charles Rubinstein Margaux Valarche	Charles Rubinstein Margaux Valarche w/o	Darren Lee Moira Duncan 6-1 6-1			
Sanjiv Talwar Anahita Talwar					
	Darren Lee Moira Duncan			Marjan Denis Paul O'Flynn 6-3 6-4	
	Marjan Denis Paul O'Flynn (4)				
Julia Abbott Vince Sudbery	Julia Abbott Vince Sudbery w/o	Marjan Denis Paul O'Flynn 6-3 6-3			
Susan Grossman Filippo Finelli			Marjan Denis Paul O'Flynn 6-3 2-6 [10-8]		
Mallika Sood Nikhil Sood	Bill Thom Liz Goodfellow 6-3 6-3				
Bill Thom Liz Goodfellow		Ros Norkett Jimmy Lee 6-3 6-2			
	Ros Norkett Jimmy Lee				
	David Glover Jen Ehr				
Flavio Taffoni Anne Marie Williams	Eduardo Biron Carine Valarche w/o	Daivd Glover Jen Ehr w/o			
Eduardo Biron Carine Valarche			Cedric de la Chaise Jane Boyle 6-2 6-1		
	Elena Valarche Richard Adinolfi				
	Cedric de la Chaise Jane Boyle (3)	Cedric de la Chaise Jane Boyle 6-2 6-3			
Sally Tornow Dan Braverman	Michelle Ganz Michael Goldman			Cedric de la Chaise Jane Boyle 6-3 6-2	

Michelle Ganz Michael Goldman	7-5 6-4	Sue Ehr Huw Crompton 6-0 7-5	Ludmilla Stapleton Mark Stapleton 6-1 6-2		
Vandana Talwar Dhaninjay Talwar	Sue Ehr Huw Crompton 6-1 6-0				
Sue Ehr Huw Crompton					
		Ludmilla Stapleton Mark Stapleton (2)			

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Player Biographies

Cedric de la Chaise

Strong right-hander who has now been singles champion for four years in a row, but lost his men's and mixed doubles crowns last year. We look forward to another singles battles between him and Mark Stapleton this year and over the years to come. However, it must be said that Cedric's winning margin over Mark last year was a convincing 6-1 6-2, which compares very favourably (for Cedric that is) with 2004 and 2006 when Mark took him to 3 sets before conceding.

Sultan Gangji

While Sultan's eye is as good as ever, his mobility on court seems to be much reduced and a hip operation looks on the cards at some stage. I am afraid that 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 will have his work cut out to defeat Cedric de la Chaise in the men's singles final this year unless he has markedly improved his level of speed and fitness. We shall see but my money is on Cedric once again!

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. However, in 2005 Jane only reached the semi-finals and had to withdraw in 2006. She is partnering Cedric de la Chaise in the mixed again this year which may yield better results than last year's semi-final appearance.

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 last year 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 twice that I know of).

Malika Sood

Malika is in her early teens and improving dramatically year by year. She made her first appearance in 2005 when she got knocked out in the first round. In 2006 she beat Marjan Denis in the quarters in a titanic struggle, winning 6-4 in the third. She was then knocked out in the semis by Kate Povey. Last year she took the ladies singles title from Christine Thompson in a tense match of two straight sets, both of which were decided by tie breaks 9-7 and 8-6, despite my prediction which said that Christine would just have the edge! This year the writing is on the wall and I think only injury or a newcomer can stop Malika.

Christine Thompson

Christine has been playing for the West Heath first ladies league team during this season. She is a good player with a thumping serve and is also the leading light in arranging BBQ's and loud music, not to mention free lager!!!, to bring the club to life. If she contests the ladies singles final with Malika Sood then I can see only one outcome given Malika's age, rate of improvement and defeat of Christine last year.

The LTA Official View

The LTA have an [inter-club rating](#) scheme for players who register. You get an initial rating, then ratings are updated regularly based on your tournament results. The ratings of our club finalists are on the LTA web site (click on the underlined link above) and can be years out of date (mine is). The actual absolute ratings have now changed though the relative ratings are still valid. Here are the rated players from the latter stages of the club tournament. The lower the rating the better the player:-

6.1 Mark Stapleton (For some reason he is Essex, not Middlesex!)

6.2 Jane Boyle, Kate Povey, Sultan Gangji

7.2 Marjan Denis, Rachael Gangji, Carol Jardine, Ros Norkett, Cedric de la Chaise (!!), (and yours truly)

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2007 Finals Day



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Tournament Rules

1. The tournament officially begins on Thursday 9 July and the Finals will be played on Saturday 25 July. If rain prevents play the finals will be played on Sunday 26 July. The draw will be in the club house and on the web site on Tuesday 7 July to allow competitors to arrange matches during the week. First round matches must be played before or on Saturday 11 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 and Marjan Denis, whose decisions will remain final.

Sultan Gangji and Marjan Denis