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West Heath Club Tournament 2013

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Club Tournament Drinks Sponsorship



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Through their representative, Christine Thompson, SABMiller have generously agreed to sponsor the Club Tournament for the ninth 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 complimentary beer on days you visit the club 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 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		
Grass 1	Grass 2	Grass 3
Saturday 27 July - Finals Day		
<p>14:00 Ladies Singles Final</p> <p>Umpire : Sally Tornow</p> <p>Elena Valarche (1)</p> <p>VS</p> <p>Marjan Denis</p>	<p>14:00 Mens Singles Final</p> <p>Umpire : Kevin Ryan (by popular demand)</p> <p>Graeme Pearson (2)</p> <p>VS</p> <p>Cedric de la Chaise (1)</p>	
<p>To be followed by</p> <p>Ladies Doubles Final</p> <p>Umpire : TBD</p> <p>Jane Boyle & Ros Norkett (2)</p> <p>VS</p> <p>Elena Valarche & Marjan Denis (1)</p>	<p>To be followed by</p> <p>Mens Doubles Final</p> <p>Umpire : TBD</p> <p>Cedric de la Chaise & Peter Fitzgerald (2)</p> <p>VS</p> <p>Graham Pearson & Sultan Gangji (1)</p>	
<p>16:30 - 17:00</p> <p>Presentation of Trophies</p> <p>and</p> <p>World Famous</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

Finals Day - Saturday 27 July



On a day where the Met Office forecast threatened rain at either 4 or 5:30pm depending on whether you had the iPad or Android version of the app, we were lucky to get all four remaining finals played on the day with only limited disruption. In fact the rain break came at a time convenient for everyone to eat the lovely tea prepared by numerous volunteers.



Mens Singles Final

As usual this match was umpired by Kevin Ryan. As the draw predicted, the contestants were the first seed **Cedric de la Chaise**, and the second seed and new member Graeme Pearson. This match was a real treat for the spectators with a high level of tennis throughout, very few unforced errors, and no quarter asked for or given. Both players have strong baseline games, but Graeme is waiting to start a new job and has been taking the opportunity to visit the gym daily and improve his fitness levels. The match consisted of strong serves and mainly baseline rallies, with both players patiently probing and waiting for their opportunity to hit a winner or to force a short ball. Graeme's baseline shots had a lot of topspin and pace and tended to land just beyond the service line, whereas Cedric's had slightly less topspin and were a couple of feet deeper. If there was a passing shot to make, Graeme usually made it. Cedric made some wonderful wide retrievals, a few of which he hit for outright winners.



Cedric got into the match quicker to break and lead 2-0, but Graeme soon responded, and after trading another pair of breaks the players reached 5 all, at which point Graeme broke again to take the first set 7-5.

Cedric normally gets better as the match goes on, and when he stepped up the pace to break Graeme early on, it looked as though my prediction of the first set to Graeme and the second set to Cedric was good. But Graeme also upped his game to get back even, and slowly increased the pressure on Cedric, which paid off towards the end of the set as Graeme's superior fitness level gave him a slight advantage and he went into the lead at 5-3. However, Cedric pulled back the break to get to 4-5 before conceding the last game for a 7-5 6-4 victory to Graeme.

And so we have a new singles champion....



Ladies Singles Final

This match was umpired by Sally Tornow. It was a very close match and perhaps ought to go into the record books as the longest ladies singles final of all time, though the durations are not necessarily recorded. It had a good standard of tennis between the first seed **Elena Valarche** and the perhaps surprisingly unseeded **Marjan Denis**. This offered completely contrasting styles with Elena coming in to volley at every opportunity whether her approach shot gave Marjan a decent chance of passing or not, and Marjan preferring to hover around the baseline. Marjan's baseline shots are much stronger than Elena's, while the reverse is true of the volley and smash. Marjan was also sometimes struggling to move forward to forced or unforced short balls from Elena. The mental battle was paramount here, with the match hinging on whether Marjan could make the lob or pass every time Elena came in. Initially Marjan preferred to lob, but a number of these went long, while Elena's positioning allowed her to put away anything short. However as the match went on Marjan moved more to the pass which ultimately gave her a better win percentage.



In the middle of the first set Elena broke for a 4-2 lead, but Marjan pegged her back with three games in a row and the score reached 6 all. Marjan won a tight tie-break 7-5 to her obvious relief.

At 4-2 up Marjan should have had the second set tied up, but again, it went to a tie break. Marjan should again have won the tie break and match at 6-2 up, but maybe was trying too hard to finish it off and Elena calmly took the next five points! When talking about it afterwards Elena admitted she was confused, thinking she was in the middle of a ten-point champions tie-break rather than a seven-point end of set breaker, and thus thought she had plenty of time and was not yet under pressure!!! Anyway, whatever it was it did the trick, and it might as well have been a ten-pointer as Elena finally took it 12-10.



At this point the rain started, but both players bravely carried on while the spectators sheltered under the roof of the walkway and the umpire, Sally, had to resign herself to getting wet without the opportunity to run around to keep warm!

Despite Elena's renowned determination, having come so close in the second set Marjan was adamant she would not let another set slip through her fingers, and kept the pressure up on Elena. This ultimately paid off in a 7-6⁷⁻⁴ 6-7¹⁰⁻¹² 6-4 victory to Marjan.

This is Marjan's second single title, alongside her 2004 win.

Mens Doubles Final

This mens doubles final was umpired by Phil Harding Ryan and was yet another very close final of good quality tennis. The first seeds **Sultan Gangji and Graeme Pearson** played the second seeds **Cedric de la Chaise and Peter Fitzgerald**. The match started prior to the downpour, but, unlike the ladies singles match, the players abandoned play after three games rather than get soaked!

The first set was very even, and after the resumption the score reached 6 all. Cedric and Peter won the resulting tie break 7-5.

In the second set Graeme and Sultan raised their level forcing more errors from Peter and Cedric, and enabling Graeme and Sultan to take the set 6-4 to even up the match.

In the deciding champions tie break Cedric and Peter put on the pressure, causing more errors from Sultan and Graeme, and this enabled the number two seeds to win the tie break 10-5 and match 7-6⁷⁻⁵ 4-6 [10-5].

So having lost to Graeme in the singles, Cedric beat him in the doubles. But interestingly, Peter is the man with two titles (mens doubles and mixed doubles), while Graeme and Cedric get one each (singles and mens doubles respectively).



Ladies Doubles Final



According to his parents, Dhanajay Talwar has difficulty in keeping score during tennis games. So it was perhaps all the more surprising that, after he asked whether it was permissible for men to umpire ladies' matches, he swiftly found himself the somewhat reluctant but very audible and effective umpire for the ladies doubles final. And according to the players he kept count of the score perfectly.

The first seeds, **Elena Valarche and Marjan Denis**, having been intense rivals in the singles, now found themselves on the same side of the net facing the second seeds, **Ros Norkett and Jane Boyle**. Marjan and Ros have similar styles, with strong serves and topspin groundstrokes, while Elena is a net specialist and Jane is a leftie with slice and flat groundstrokes and a devastating drop shot.

The first set was very close, requiring a tie-break to settle it. Elena and Marjan just got the upper hand to take it 7-4.

In the second set Elena and Marjan, spurred on by their first set win made fewer mistakes and began to get the upper hand, winning the set 6-2, to give them the title 7-4⁷⁻⁴ 6-2.

Thursday 25 July

Tonight's Gourmet Dinner was a delicious fish pie cooked by Rachael Gangji and Pavlova and cheesecake puddings provided by Lara.



In the mens semi-final between **Marcio Sugai** and the first seed **Cedric de la Chaise** Marcio played a very consistent baseline game. Cedric also tended to play the same way, and the main difference was Cedric's slightly better length and power, which in the first set gave him a small edge over Marcio on grass court one which produced the occasional erratic bounce. There was not a lot in it, but just sufficient to give Cedric the set 6-3.



In the second set Marcio probably got increasingly frustrated with Cedric's ability, not only to get to the ball, but also consistently to put it close to, and sometime on the line as Cedric warmed to the task of ensuring his place in the final. Cedric is also better used to the grass and the shot selection required to put pressure on opponents, and the sum of all this was that Cedric allowed Marcio only one further game as he took the match 6-3 6-1.

After the handshake both Marcio and Cedric were clearly both keen to work out Cedric's opponent in the final from the match on the adjacent court.

In the other mens semi-final which took place on grass court 2 the third seed **Richard Keen** played the second seed **Graeme Pearson** in an encounter well suited to entertain the numerous and occasionally noisy crowd which had come to watch. Richard has a powerful serve and groundstrokes, which Graeme was not always able to return, but has less consistency than Graeme who can put the ball on a sixpence and anticipates well too, allowing him to reach balls that others would not.

The first set was very close and got to 5 all at which point a break by Graeme earned him the set 7-5.

In the second set matters were even closer. Richard looked like he might be on top at one point - until Graeme showed his true colours by passing Richard on both sides in the same game. But at 6 all we could all see a third set delaying the appearance of the mixed doubles final (which had already started on court 3). In the second set tie-break matters were again pretty even, until at 5 all Graeme forced a couple of errors from Richard to take it and the match 7-5 7-6⁷⁻⁵.



The first set of the mixed doubles final took place on court 3, on which the second seeds **Sultan Gangji and Marjan Denis** offered only token resistance to **Peter Fitzgerald and Jane Boyle** who took it 6-0. At that point, at the insistence of the spectators, the match transferred to court 2 and Marjan and Sultan started to be competitive. So much so, in fact that Jane was broken at 3 all, but Marjan's serve came under attack and the breakback was immediate. Peter held his serve, but in the final game Sultan perhaps felt under too much pressure and missed a few shots to enable Peter and Jane to become mixed doubles champions 6-0 6-4.

Babies are much in vogue right now, so congratulations to Michelle and Darren Lee who are expecting one in January.

Wednesday 24 July

Tonight's Gourmet Dinner was a selection of curries, followed by ice cream and pudding spheres, provided by Marjan Denis, and was appreciated by everyone.



In the first of the men's doubles semi-finals **Walter and Philip Reid** played the first seeds **Sultan Gangji and Graeme Pearson**. Although the Reids hit some good shots, the strength, consistency and experience of the seeds were their undoing, and Sultan and Graeme won 6-0 6-1, the single game being on Philip's serve.

In the second of the men's doubles semi-finals **Geoff Isaacs and Jeff Fine** played **Cedric de la Chaise and Peter Fitzgerald**. The two Geoffs/Jeffs played very competitively in the first set, but Cedric and Peter broke them to win the set 6-3. But in the second set the challengers' level dropped, and Cedric and Peter took full advantage to close out the set for no loss of games and a 6-3 6-0 victory.



Although **Marjan Denis** has not always played with great consistency in the Tournament over the years, in previous matches this year she has been focussing much better. This was also the case in the ladies' singles semi-final against the top seed **Ros Norkett**. Ros could have prevented some of Marjan's winners by ensuring her court position was such as to leave equal space both sides for Marjan to hit into, which might have induced a few more errors from Marjan who would have had to aim for a narrower target with less leeway. Marjan took the first set 6-1 and must have kept the concentration in the second set too as she allowed Ros only two games for a 6-1 6-2 victory.



Marjan's improved consistency in this year's Tournament will result in her future appearing in all three finals! If she insists on a different new outfit for all three, as Elena would undoubtedly have done, then it may well be an expensive tournament!!!

In the second of the ladies singles semi-finals **Julia Abbot** played the rallies well against the top seed **Elena Valarche**, and found herself in a number of positions to hit a winner, or at least a forcing shot which might have produced an error. However, Julia then often missed on the winning shot while Elena tended to make no mistake when in a similar position. Elena is much more competitive than Julia, and this also showed. Elena was more dominant in the first set which she won 6-0, but Julia played better in the second set to hold Elena's winning margin to 6-2 for a 6-0 6-2 victory.

After the match Elena was most insistent that there should be a photo of her shoes which she claimed perfectly matched the dots on her post-match dress. Pointing out that the West Heath Tournament was supposed to be a celebration of tennis, and not a one-woman (or otherwise) fashion parade was to no avail, especially as Rachael Gangji was egging on Elena, and it seemed best to concede defeat

gracefully.





Most spectators like to sit on comfortable benches at a nice safe ground level. However, others seem to be determined to perch precariously on the lid of the reservoir control valve box to get the best possible view of the match on number two grass court and the side lines. Antoine should take care not to lean backwards too far on his chair though, or he might fall off, especially if he ever got to hear the true scale of his wife's shoe budget, paid for exclusively by the NHS, fortunately!

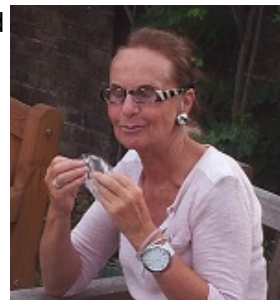
Tuesday 23 July

The thunderstorms meant that the grass was out of action today, and also made the far hard court baselines slippery underneath the trees.

There were three men's singles quarter finals matches and a mixed doubles semi-final played today. And Julia Abbot cooked a delicious moussaka for the Gourmet Dinner which was very well received.



In the first of the men's singles quarter finals the number five seed, **Geoff Isaacs** came up against the number three seed **Richard Keep**. Geoff played well and made few unforced errors, trying to put pressure on Richard, who did make the occasional mistake. However, Richard was able to dominate when he had an opportunity to put pressure on, and this told more as the match went on. The first set was more even at 6-3 to Richard, but in the second set Richard gave fewer opportunities and points to Geoff and earned himself a 6-3 6-1 passage to the semi-finals on Thursday.



In the second quarter final **Peter Davies** was attempting to get as many games as possible from the first seed **Cedric de la Chaise**. Peter tried to serve mainly first serves as Cedric was well capable of punishing shorter second serves, and this resulted in a few double faults. Cedric made a few errors in the first set, but fewer in the second, in which he was more certain of punishing anything short. Peter earned a game in the first set on Cedric's serve and one in the second on his own for a 6-1 6-1 victory to Cedric.



The third quarter-final was probably the match of the tournament so far. The sixth seed, **Marcio Sugai** took on the fourth seed **Peter Fitzgerald**. Since Peter's game is a heavy serve and volley and Marcio's is more baseline, the forced move to a hard court gave Marcio a slight psychological advantage.

The rallies were lengthy and there were few unforced errors on either side, but Marcio was more comfortable on the baseline and the slow court gave him the opportunity to pass or lob on anything hittable if Peter came to the net. Peter is perhaps less patient but had only a modicum of success with his approach play. Peter was broken early in the first set, which he lost 6-4. Marcio went two breaks ahead in the second set, but with the approaching gloom appeared to falter and was broken, but with Peter serving at 3-5 Marcio finally managed to put the pressure back on to be rewarded with a 6-4 6-3 victory. It might have been a different result on grass, but we maybe will have to wait a year to find out.

In the mixed doubles semi-final the fourth seeds **Julia Abbott and Geoff Isaacs** challenged the second seeds **Marjan Denis and Sultan Gangji**. Julia reported that she slipped early on the wet tree sap on the far baselines and was reluctant to move freely, which probably helped Marjan and Sultan win more easily a match in which they were odds-on favourites anyway. The result was a 6-1 6-2 win for Marjan and Sultan.

Monday 22 July

At the Gourmet Dinner we all enjoyed a tasty lamb tagine, cooked by Moira Duncan, with a little help from Mary de Jong who happened to be staying for the weekend. This was supplemented by gourmet ice cream and gooseberries created by Lesley South.



Moira Duncan and Julia Abbott played the number two seeds **Jane Boyle and Ros Norkett** in the ladies doubles semi-final this evening. Moira and Julia started off playing out of their skins and Jane and Ros were slow to respond, so the first set went 6-4 to Moira and Julia. However, they did not keep up the pressure in the second set, enabling Jane and Ros to get their eye in and take the second set 6-1. The match was settled by a Champions Tie Break which Jane and Ros took [10-4]. [picture courtesy of Rachael Gangji]

After Sam Howard's match yesterday in which Peter Fitzgerald beat him 6-0 6-0, it emerged that Sam had been at the cricket for most of the weekend. Apparently this involves not only watching, but also quite a lot of drinking - purely to keep up the hydration levels, you understand. So this clearly had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that Sam was conceding service games by serving four double faults per game and only getting the occasional serve in!! ;-)

Sunday 21 July

Today's tea was the extensive leftovers from Carol and Michael Clark's tea yesterday, and was an excellent tea in its own right. No wonder various members of the Club have claimed to have personally persuaded Carol to delay any travel and put her name down for the tournament middle weekend tea. Not to mention those who structure their last-minute summer holiday plans to ensure they do not miss the date for which the Clarkes have signed up!! But to see what the original spread looked like, here is a reminder from yesterday courtesy of Susan Grossman!



It was an ideal day for tournament tennis - not excessively hot with a slight breeze. Four matches were played - one from each event except the men's doubles!

In the ladies' singles **Marjan Denis** was very grateful to her opponent **Lesley South** for agreeing a day's extension as yesterday Marjan was hardly able to walk except with the aid of pain killers. As a result Marjan knew that moving around court chasing Lesley's carefully-placed balls was not an ideal strategy. And we don't know exactly what was in the pain killers, but Marjan was atypically able to concentrate sufficiently to play on Lesley's lower mobility and keep the ball out of Lesley's reach, particularly avoiding giving her any short angles from which Lesley can make absolutely devastating shots. The spell of concentration lasted the whole of the first set, which Marjan took 6-1.



In the second set the drugs must have been wearing off a bit as Lesley leaped into a rapid 3-1 lead before Marjan got her mental state and execution of strategy back into gear, and proceeded to take the next five games to close out the match 6-1 6-3.

In the men's singles **Sam Howard** has not played much recently, particularly on grass, but took on **Peter Fitzgerald**, the number four seed. You have to get at least one in four services in to stand any chance of winning a game, and service inconsistency cost Sam more than one game. Peter also played an aggressive game with reasonably consistency, and while Sam's strokes were good enough on the reasonable balls, he could not keep the ball in play under pressure. Peter won 6-0 6-0.

In the first of the ladies' doubles semi-finals the experienced pair and number three seeds **Lesley South and Liz Goodfellow** played the number one seeds **Marjan Denis and Elena Valarche**. Note Elena's outfit for future reference! Although Liz and Lesley are very capable tactically, perhaps they are not as fast around the court as perhaps they once were. Marjan and Elena both have some strong stroke - particularly volleys in Elena's case and serve and groundstrokes for Marjan (and you might throw her volleys into the mix). Lesley has great tactical nous and a phenomenal wide angle return which she can hit as parallel as possible to the net and still get it in. However, despite some good angled shots from the veterans, in the end Marjan and Elena were simply too strong and too mobile for them, and the number one seeds won the encounter 6-2 6-1.





The mixed semi-final between the number three seeds **Marcio Sugai and Elena Valarche** and the first seeds **Jane Boyle and Peter Fitzgerald** was a fascinating match. The first thing to note was Elena's change of outfit after the mild exertion of her preceding ladies' doubles. Moving back to the tennis, Peter has a strong serve, good net play and decent ground strokes, while Marcio (who is a lefty) has some beautifully accurate topspin ground strokes and very good mobility. Jane is yet another lefty with a strong serve and a backhand with very tricky spin, while Elena's net play is excellent although her serve is not quite as strong as that of the others.

In the first set opposite breaks were exchanged early on, after which the score reached 5 all. At that point Elena held in a long game with many deuces, but Jane struggled and was broken to give the first set to the number three seeds. In the second set the score reached 3 all, but then Elena was broken and both Jane and Peter held to give them the set 6-3 and force a Champions Tie Break. Despite a few mini-breaks the Champions Tie Break scores were even at 3 all and 6 all. Elena and Marcio pulled away to lead 8-6, but at that point Peter held his second service point, Elena lost both her serves and Jane won her ad-court serve to give the number one seed that match 5-7 6-3 [10-8].

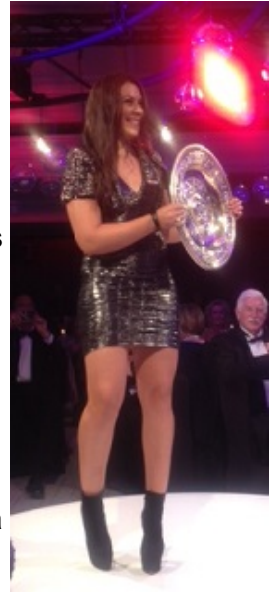


After the match Elena commented that she had let down her partner, but there was only two points in the whole match, Marcio did not agree with this as doubles is always a team effort and he also made errors in the Champions Tie Break.

And so at the tender age of seventy (attested to by numerous attendees at her birthday party), Jane Boyle is in her umpteenth West Heath final, and could well add one more to her numerous titles!

Sultan is well known for his pushy attitude to persuading outside ringers to play for the West Heath mens' first team. Here he is at the Wimbledon ball trying it on yet again hoping to hit a purple patch with his persuasion.

And on a different note, how can such a stunner not be a looker?



Saturday 20 July

In the mixed doubles the scratch partnership and number three seeds **Elena Valarche and Marcio Sugai** played **Lesley South and Mark Webb**. Marcio is proving to be a force on grass as he is a leftie with a great serve and great strokes and mobility. Of course Elena is deadly at the net, which complements him well. While Mark served and played well, somehow he managed to create little scope for bringing Lesley into the game more with her accurate placement and tactical nous, and the seeds were generally just too strong. Elena and Marcio won 6-0 6-1.



In another mixed match, **Moira Duncan and Vince Sudbery** took on the number four seeds **Julia Abbott and Geoff Isaacs**. In the first set the seeds got ahead but the challengers pegged them back and honour were equal at 5 all. However, Geoff's more imposing presence at the net enabled the seeds to break Moira and for Julia to hold serve to win the set 7-5. Generally Moira and Vince had the shots and were playing very consistently. Moira was returning very well on the forehand side, but was not always making the right tactical selection of shot - for instance she never once attempted a pass down the line. In the first set Vince could have been better tactically, but in the second set he realised where the openings were and tried more to exploit them, though neither player kept the ball away from Geoff at the net sufficiently. Julia was generally playing consistently allowing Geoff to dominate the net and win the points. In the second set the seeds again broke and although Moira and Vince came close, they could not break back, losing the second set 4-6 for a 7-5 6-4 victory to Julia and Geoff.

Ever wondered what an empty victorian reservoir looks like when the covers are removed and the sunlight is allowed to enter? Well if you look over the wall at the back of the Club then you get an extraordinary view of the way a Victorian reservoir was constructed of bricks. Current the water board have drained the reservoirs in order to get rid of a particular problem with snails, so the magnificent edifice is on full display. Here is a picture to whet your appetite.



Friday 19 July

The mixed doubles match between **Sally Tornow and Richard Nightingale** and **Vandana and Dhananjay Talwar** was a match of momentum swings. First the Talwars rushed to a 4-1 lead, then Sally and Richard won a long sequence of games. The set was finally decided by a tie break. Initially Sally and Richard secured a minibreak, but the Talwars not only recovered this but went on to win the first set. The second set initially was similar with the Talwars winning the first three games, and Sally and Richard the next three. At this point the spectators were wondering, whether this match would go to a champions tie break but the Talwars won the next couple of games and Dhananjay served strongly to win the set 6-3 for a 7-6 6-3 victory. Dhananjay held almost all his service games, nearly matched by Sally whose service got stronger as the match progressed.

Tuesday 16 July

There were a few matches played tonight - not to mention some social tennis going on. All in all there were quite a few down at the Club.



There is some hope now for Peter Davies in his quarter final singles match against Cedric de la Chaise, given that Cedric was distinctly hobbling down the path, having sustained what he says is a minor injury playing in the Cumberland tournament. Apparently Cedric has been told that some physiotherapy and a few days away from tennis should do the trick! Keep your fingers crossed.

The **Battle for Father and Son Bragging Rights** between **Walter and Philip Reid** and **Sanjiv and Dhananjay Talwar** was decided ultimately on services, according to all four players. Unfortunately for the Talwars, the Reids are both well over six foot and therefore have a much better perspective of the service box with which to play the angles. As against this, Dhananjay has a very heavy serve - if it goes in - but can throw in quite a few double faults. In this match, he served very well, but Sanjiv lost his serve early on in the first set. In the second set, Sanjiv held serve in the 4th game after 10 deuces, but was broken in the 8th game. The resulting balance of service

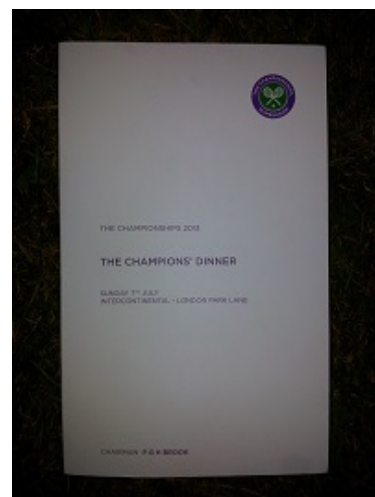
power ended up being in favour of the Reid's.

Both sons also had very strong return of serves, Philip reacting very quickly to both first and second serves to make deep returns and Dhananjay punished many second serves with strong winners. The Reids won the encounter 6-2 6-3.



Moira Duncan and Julia Abbot took on the number four seeds **Sue Latimer and Sally Tornow**. The match was always going to be a tight affair - all second team players and the current captain facing the previous captain. And so it proved. A very close match came down to one or two crucial points which Moira and Julia won enough of to give them a 6-4 7-5 victory. It was the first crack in Sultan Gangji's official seeding!!

Guess who went!! More on this another day.



Sunday 14 July

Another gorgeous day, though not quite as hot as yesterday. There were a few tournament matches played today.



In the Ladies Doubles, **Anna Ganev and Susan Grossman** took on the number three seeds **Lesley South and Liz Goodfellow**. The challengers hit some good shots, but Lesley and Liz are very experienced operators and were always going to place the ball in areas to make it very difficult to return. Lesley and Liz won 6-0 6-1.

So far **Paul O'Flynn** seems to have had a very easy ride. Paul's first round opponent, **Vince Sudbery** was not feeling very well at the start of the weekend and generously decided to withdraw rather than slow down the progress of the draw by waiting to see if he recovered, though we are pleased to report that in the event he was able to play social tennis on the Sunday. In Paul's scheduled second round match **Dudley Leigh** was losing 4-5 in the first set, but decided he had already given his all and threw in the towel. Of course it wasn't quite as simple as this as Dudley had just played and beaten **Peter Newman** 6-4 6-4, which means he played considerably more games of singles in one day in the hot sunshine than anyone else would

have considered taking on!

However, Paul is due to play the number two seed Graeme Pearson next, so we will see whether he finally does end up having to play at least two sets! **Richard Nightingale** and **Peter Davies** entertained the tea-time crowd with a match of long rallies and consistent retrieving. Peter moved Richard around as much as possible, in the hope of inducing errors, but these were few and far between from Richard, who chased down everything, so the whole process took quite a while. Richard served well and hit some good groundstrokes and just would not give up, but Peter's heavier serve and more accurate placement gradually wore him down. Peter won the first set 6-0.



In the second set Richard continued to chase down every ball, in whichever corner it landed (and some of them were very accurately placed), and started to win one or two games as Peter tired. But Richard also started to make one or two unforced errors which over time enabled Peter to take the second set 6-2 for a 6-0 6-2 victory. However, Peter has to play the number one seed Cedric de la Chaise next, and would need to step up his game considerably to stand a chance of even registering on the scoreboard for that match.



Walter Reid took on **Richard Keep**. Richard is the number three seed and a new member who plays for the first team. Oh, and he is also quite a bit younger than Walter and pretty athletic. The net of it was that Walter was getting to the shots you would expect and hitting decent medium paced returns from them, but Richard could get to most of these, making the occasional error on serve and groundstrokes. Richard was capable of hitting the ball anywhere on the court at will, and Walter could not reach anything angled that was placed short. Walter also got to a number of Richard's shots to the corner, but typically was unable to return the ball in court. Walter got 1 game in each set for a 6-1 6-1 win to Richard.

Saturday 13 July

The weather was an absolute scorcher today and as far as can be ascertained, only one match was played. However there was some high-powered social tennis and Carine Valarche provided an excellent tea.

Jason Maratos and **Peter Davies (me)** took part in a first-round high-noon shootout at 13:00. Jason has been having some lessons and has a good serve which he can place, good ground strokes, especially the forehand, and rarely makes errors on unforced shots, except perhaps going for winners. By contrast Peter can be very consistent, can win service points with a variety of placement, pace and spin, and being old and experienced has a good understanding of tactics. After four games honours were even but Peter was able to move Jason around in the hot sun and broke Jason in the fifth game. For the rest of the set Peter was in control and was able to hit winners by placement and generally avoiding giving Jason the ball in the middle of the court which normally resulted in Jason winning the point. Peter took four games in a row to win the first set 6-2.



At the start of the second set Jason played more aggressively, figuring that being moved around court in the hot sun during long points was not going to result in a comeback, so he started coming in more. This ensured he won his serve for the first two games, while Peter retained his too, as his service improved. But in the fifth game Jason's aggressive play resulted in a few unforced errors hitting the ball long, and Peter was able to take advantage to break. Peter was then able to hold his own serve, mainly due to the stronger serve which improved through the match, though he no longer was able to hit winners to the same degree. At 2-4 down Jason held, followed by another hold from Peter. At 3-5 down there was a mighty battle for the match culminating in a number of deuces, some fine shots from both players and a few mistakes, but in the end Jason had probably done rather more running and Peter eventually broke for a 6-2, 6-3 win.

We have no information as to why, but Paul O'Flynn was given a walkover against Vince Sudbery.

Tuesday 9 July

The tournament draw for the 2013 Web Heath Tournament is now on this web page.

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) **Doubles:** [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
[Order of Play](#), [Match Reports](#), [Biographies](#), [Gossip](#), [Rules](#)

		Men's Open Singles Holder : Cedric de la Chaise Sponsored by SABMiller plc			
Round1 Sun 14 July	Round 2 Sat 20 July	Round 3 Tues 23 July	Semi-finals Thurs 25 July	Final Sat 27 July	Winner
		Cedric de la Chaise (1)			
	Richard Nightingale		Cedric de la Chaise 6-1 6-1		
Peter Davies	Peter Davies 6-2 6-3	Peter Davies 6-0 6-2			
Jason Maratos					
	Peter Fitzgerald (4)			Cedric de la Chaise 6-3 6-1	
		Peter Fitzgerald 6-0 6-0			
Dhananjay Talwar	Sam Howard 7-6 6-2		Marcio Sugui 6-4 6-3		
Sam Howard					
	Philip Reid				
		Marcio Sugui 6-4 6-2			
	Marcio Sugui (6)				
	Geoff Isaacs (5)				
		Geoff Isaacs w/o			
Steve Gordon	Steve Gordon w/o		Richard Keep 6-3 6-1		
Sanjiv Talwar					
	Walter Reid				
		Richard Keep 6-1 6-1			
	Richard Keep (3)			Graeme Pearson 7-5 7-6 ^{7-5?}	
Paul O'Flynn	Paul O'Flynn w/o				
Vince Sudbery		Paul O'Flynn 5-4 (retired)			
Peter Newman	Dudley Leigh 6-1 6-1		Graeme Pearson 6-0 6-2		
Dudley Leigh					
		Graeme Pearson (2)			

 Graeme
Pearson
7-5 6-4

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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	<p>Ladies' Open Singles Holder : Margaux Valarche</p> <p><u>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</u></p>			
	Round 1 Sun 21 July	Semi-final Wed 24 July	Final Sat 27 July	Winner
		Elena Valarche (1)	Elena Valarche 6-0 6-2	Marjan Denis 7-6 ⁷⁻⁵ 6-7 ¹⁰⁻¹² 6-4
	Jane Boyle (4)	Julia Abbott w/o		
	Julia Abbott			
	Marjan Denis	Marjan Denis 6-1 6-3	Marjan Denis 6-1 6-2	
	Lesley South (3)	Ros Norkett (2)		

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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Men's Open Doubles
 Holders : [Sultan Gangji](#) & [Mark Stapleton](#)

***Note there is a champions tie break
 instead of a 3rd set
 Sponsored by SABMiller plc***





	Round 1 Sat 20 July	Semi-final Wed 24 July	Final Sat 27 July	Winner
		Sultan Gangji Graeme Pearson (1)	Sultan Gangji Graeme Pearson 6-0 6-1	Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald 7-6 ⁷⁻⁵ 4-6 [10-5]
	Sanjiv Talwar Dhananjay Talwar	Walter Reid Philip Reid 6-2 6-3		
	Walter Reid Philip Reid			
	Mark Webb Vince Sudbery	Geoff Isaacs Jeff Fine 6-3 6-1		
	Geoff Isaacs Jeff Fine		Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald 6-3 6-0	
		Cedric de la Chaise Peter Fitzgerald (2)		

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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		<p>Ladies' Open Doubles Holders : Jane Boyle & Ludmilla Stapleton</p> <p><i>Note there is a champions tie break instead of a 3rd set</i></p> <p><i>Sponsored by SABMiller plc</i></p>		
	Round 1 Sat 20 July	Semi-final Tue 23 July	Final Sat 27 July	Winner
		Elena Valarche Marjan Denis (1)	Elena Valarche Marjan Denis 6-2 6-1	Elena Valarche Marjan Denis 7-6 ⁷⁻⁴ 6-2
	Liz Goodfellow Lesley South (3)	Liz Goodfellow Lesley South 6-0 6-1		
	Susan Grossman Anna Ganev			
	Moira Duncan Julia Abbott	Moira Duncan Julia Abbott 6-4 7-5	Jane Boyle Ros Norkett 4-6 6-1 [10-4]	
	Sue Latimer Sally Tornow (4)			
	Vandana Talwar Carol Clark	Jane Boyle Ros Norkett 6-1 6-4		
	Jane Boyle Ros Norkett (2)			

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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	<p>Open Mixed Doubles Holders : Peter Fitzgerald & Klara Fitzgerald</p> <p><i>Note the champions tie break instead of a 3rd set Sponsored by SABMiller plc</i></p>			
Round 1 Sun 14 July	Round 2 Sat 20 July	Semi-final Tue 23 July	Final Thu 25 July	Winner
	Peter Fitzgerald Jane Boyle (1)	Peter Fitzgerald Jane Boyle w/o	Peter Fitzgerald Jane Boyle 5-7 6-3 [10-8]	Peter Fitzgerald Jane Boyle 6-0 6-4
Sally Tornow Richard Nightingale	Vandana & Dhananjay Talwar 7-6 6-3			
Vandana & Dhananjay Talwar				
	Elena Valarche Marcio Sugui (3)	Elena Valarche Marcio Sugui 6-0 6-1		
	Lesley South Mark Webb			
	Moirra Duncan Vince Sudbery	Julia Abbot Geoff Isaacs 7-6 6-4	Sultan Gangji Marjan Denis 6-1 6-2	
	Julia Abbot Geoff Isaacs (4)			
	Jenny & Mervyn Warren	Sultan Gangji Marjan Denis 6-0 6-2		
	Sultan Gangji Marjan Denis (2)			

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

Cedric de la Chaise

Strong right-hander who was singles champion for six years in a row. However, in 2010, after yet another singles battles between him and Mark Stapleton, Mark managed to break the trend and emerged as champion. But in 2011 Cedric regained his supremacy. Come to Finals Day for this year's exciting installment of de la Chaise vs Stapleton.

Sultan Gangji

Sultan's eye is as good as ever, and with his new hip he is much more mobile. However, the competition in the singles is too stiff and once again, an appearance in the semis is the most that Sultan can hope for this year. Perhaps better luck in the doubles.

Mark Stapleton

Strong right-hander. Mark is married to Ludmilla whom he partners in the mixed doubles. Mark had his work cut out to defeat Cedric de la Chaise in the 2010 men's singles final, but proved equal to the task to emerge as champion, despite my prediction at the start of the tournament! However, normal order was restored in 2011, though Mark once again won in 2012. Mark is not entering this year.

Jane Boyle

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

Lesley South

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

Margaux Valarche

Margaux is now 14 and has been steadily improving year on year and regularly beats her mother, who was the 2011 Champion. In the 2011 tournament she lost to Ros Norkett in the semi-finals. She has a superb eye for the ball, but in 2011 was not yet totally consistent, but still had a winning forhand on the right ball. Her serve and groundstrokes have improved in power as she naturally grows taller and stronger. She was predicted to beat all the current mature contenders in one tournament at some point, and got there early by becoming champion in 2012, but is not entering this year due to a plethora of other tennis commitments at Farm Walk and other clubs.

Ros Norkett

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

Marjan Denis

Marjan was the 2004 title holder, beating Christine Thompson in the final. In 2006 she lost in 6-4 in the third against Malika Sood, and in 2007 lost in straight sets to Christine Thompson, so the record says that a semi-final appearance is the best that Marjan can hope for again this year. She currently plays her league tennis for

Brampton (who put on some good quizzes in which Marjan has appeared in the winning team at least three times that I know of).

Klara Fitzgerald

Held to be a better player than her husband Peter, Klara was an unknown in the 2012 tournament. In 2012 she won the mixed with her husband, but did not enter the singles, and is not competing at all in 2013 due to a leg injury which will keep her out of competitive tennis for 3 months.

2011 Finals Day

Singles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#) Doubles: [Men's](#), [Ladies](#), [Mixed](#)
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(Chef : Carine Valarche)



Click on the photo for a more detailed version

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

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Tournament Rules

1. The tournament officially begins on Thursday 11 July and the Finals will be played on Saturday 27 July except for the Mixed which will be played on Thursday 25 July. If rain prevents play the finals will be played on Sunday 28 July. The draw will be in the club house and on the web site on Wednesday 11 July to allow competitors to arrange matches during the week. First round matches must be played before or on Sunday 14 July (except for the Mixed - see [Mixed Draw](#)).
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 26 July.
12. The Joint Referees are Sultan Gangji and Marjan Denis, whose decisions will remain final.

Sultan Gangji and Marjan Denis