



Pro-Biz



Web site - <http://www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk>

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KING OF GAMES - GAME OF KINGS

Not only was **real tennis** the popular pastime of many a merry monarch, but the game can also boast the earliest World Champion (Clerge, in 1470) and the longest-reigning (Pierre Etchebaster, 25 years). Who better to shed light on the game's many intricacies than real tennis superstar, **Lesley Ronaldson**, introduced by acting Chairman Chris Pollard at the Club's August Meeting. After spells in Australia and Scotland, Lesley returned to the **Royal Tennis Court in Hampton Court Palace** where she has worked for the past 38 years. She has World, British and US titles to her name as well as becoming founding Chairman of the Ladies Real Tennis Association and a Guide and Lecturer for Historic Royal Palaces. Lesley defines her professional duties as giving lessons, sewing balls, stringing racquets and organising games and tournaments as well as registering



entries on an international handicapping and ranking system, doing the accounts and generally dealing with the day-to-day running of the Club. And - very important - spreading the good word as widely as possible. Real tennis has evolved over the centuries into a fast, highly skilled game involving mind and body. It has been played for some 700 years . . . not to be confused with modern-day lawn tennis, a mere stripling of less than 150 years. Lesley outlined the features of the court and the game's basic rules, referring members for further details to www.outc.org.uk/RealTennisRules.

Henry VIII is probably the most noted royal exponent of real tennis, but most of the monarchs of England from the 13th century onwards would have played. The court used at Hampton Court today was basically built by Charles I, though with some features of the Wolsey court built on the same site. There are now 49 courts in use around the world, and Lesley stressed that the game is accessible to and inclusive of everyone - no longer the prerogative of the prosperous and privileged.

Questions taken, Chris Pollard did the honours of the vote of thanks, thanking the speaker for an illuminating exposition of an arcane subject.

Peter Turner is negotiating a Club visit to Hampton Court, hopefully to see some real tennis played and to view an Exhibition. Details tba.

(Jim Woodford)

Probus 5 - Day canal holiday to Holland and Belgium

The usual report on the Club's holiday this month will feature in next month's issue of Pro-Biz

WALK AT THE VYNE, SHERBORNE ST. JOHN, 5TH SEPTEMBER

Oh calamity! Finn the dog and his sidekick Pepper were AWOL for this walk, but we did have 11 intrepid adventurers up for it. Bruce and Helen Leggett were new additions for the walkers, and were treated to a dry, flatish, and very pleasant walking area in The Vyne estate. After passing the house, which at the moment is totally engulfed with scaffolding, it was into the wetlands, which luckily for us was not very wet at all. The path then took us up on to the hillside overlooking the whole estate then into the deep woodland and on to what looked like an old military road, maybe The Vyne was used by the army in WW2. With only one stile to contend with (which would have pleased Denzil) the walk was completed in the allotted time for a change, and we were then off to The Swan public house for lunch, being joined by Bill and Jean Rawcliffe. The Vyne estate is worth a visit, but perhaps hold off until the works on the roof are completed next year. You will also be glad to know that the speed restrictions on the new smart M3 have now been lifted, so the trip from Hampton can now be completed within the hour.

(Keith McArthur)



FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 5 Oct: Pub Lunch & Walk - The Miller & Carter, Chertsey. Organiser – Keith McArthur

Tuesday 17 Oct: Club Luncheon – Speaker:- Mrs Susan Purcell, The History of Crosswords

Thursday 19 Oct: Coach trip to Brighton. Organiser – Hywel Thomas