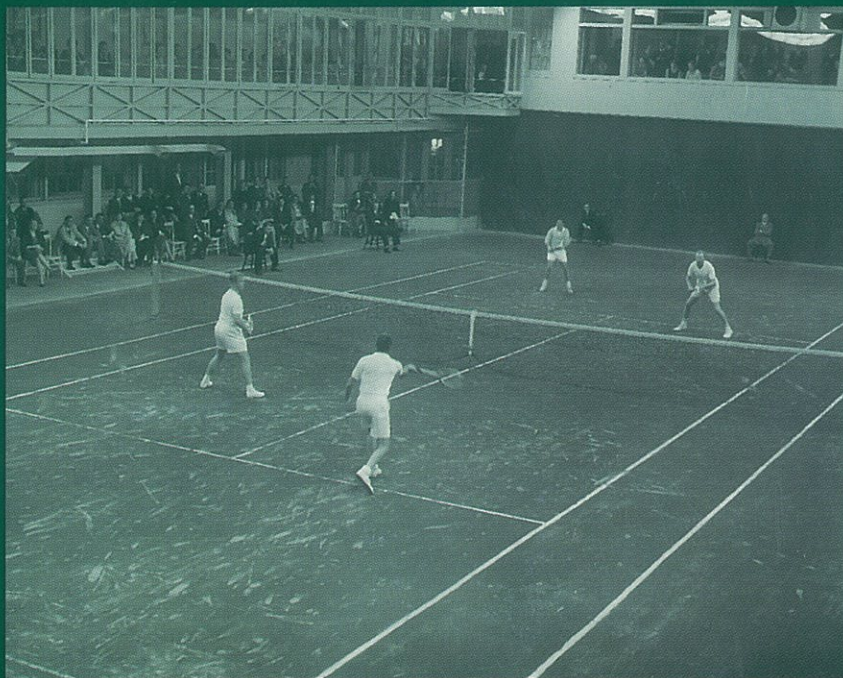


Forty-Love

The Queen's Club 1957-1997

Toronto's First Indoor Tennis Club



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Any errors (except in the veracity of the anecdotes) can be attributed to the author.

Robert M. MacIntosh
Toronto, October 1997

CHAPTER ONE

BEFORE THE QUEEN'S CLUB. . .

A casual passerby strolling along Dupont Street west of Bathurst could be excused for failing to notice the handsome brick frontage, three stories high, at number 568. To the west is the parking lot for a large supermarket, and to the east a row of salubrious dwellings with frontages of 12 1/2 feet or in some cases 25 feet. Further east is a Brewers' Retail outlet, while directly across the street is a building supply store. Altogether, not a very prepossessing neighbourhood. The long sides of the building are utilitarian blank walls, so that taken as a whole, the building does not lend itself to favorable comment.

This is the home of the Queen's Club, or more properly speaking, the Queen City Indoor Tennis Club. Originally the home of the Toronto Skating Club, under whose auspices it was built in 1921-22,¹ it was converted to tennis in 1957. This little history is an account of the tennis era, but to explain how the tennis club came into existence, it seems useful to place it in the context of what came before.

The Toronto Skating Club was a large and thriving organization after the first Great War. It had been founded in 1895, but it lacked a home of its own. Its enormous carnivals, featuring as many as 400 skaters, were mounted at various large arenas in the centre of the city. "Prior to the erection of the present Club House and rink, the Club led a

nomadic sort of life, and met at times at the Victoria Rink, the old Mutual Street Rink, the Arena, and the University Rink."² The club needed its own quarters for rehearsals and pleasure skating, as well as for clubhouse facilities and social functions.

In July 1920, the trustees of the club bought several lots on Dupont Street from one John Brown for \$27,500, of which \$20,000 was a vendor's mortgage.³ Brown had himself just acquired these properties from the Rose Brothers Coal Co., in liquidation. The coal company had occupied the site since 1913, enjoying railway access at the rear of the property for its supplies.

During the following months the trustees incorporated the Toronto Winter Club to hold the property on behalf of the Skating Club. In part, this was to allow them to enhance the club's income by offering its facilities to the general public. A separate entrance on the east side gave public access to changing rooms for men and women.

The Winter Club took over title from the trustees in May 1921, and at the same time acquired a half-lot on the southeast corner for \$4,500. This was the home of Rose Fletcher, and it appears that the house was actually incorporated into the plan for the main building. As part of the Winter Club, it gave access by means of the old narrow staircases to the sec-



The club exterior remains unchanged from this 1922 photo of the Winter Club.

ond and third floors, where the “maids’ fitting room” and a bedroom for the manager were located. Today these are the snack bar and the abandoned attic.

There is, somewhat surprisingly, a wealth of material on the actual construction of the building.⁴ The architect was Charles Langley of Langley and Howland, and the contractor was Charles W. Wood & Sons. Langley was clearly a person of some stature. In 1909 he had been commissioned to design E.B. Osler’s home at Roches’ Point, and in the same year he designed 21 Chestnut Park in Rosedale for himself, though

he never lived in it. Among his many churches and bank branches was the Imperial Bank building on the northwest corner of Bloor and Yonge, designed in 1927. Earlier on, he did a good deal of work for North American Life, including its vault on King Street in 1912.⁵ The contract for the Winter Club was \$140,000. Including the land, the Club invested \$172,000 in its grand new skating rink.

Some light may be thrown on the site selection by the casual reference in Fillmore’s history to the ice-freezing facilities provided to the skating club by a nearby dairy.⁶ This was

the ice-cream division of Willard's Chocolates, located at 588-602 Dupont, where the beer store now stands. While not quite next door, it was within "a few hundred feet," as Fillmore noted, and freezing brine could certainly be pumped that far. In 1926, the Club installed its own ice-making machinery.⁷ Later on, a fire escape was added.

The Toronto Skating Club was a pre-eminent social institution during the two decades between the wars. The Baldwin Room files contain a photograph of Clifford Sifton partnering Katherine Capreol in a pas-de-deux. Above their heads on the west side of the rink the band would have been playing in the boxed area which is segregated from the public balcony.⁸ Along the east side, above the spectators' gallery, a row of windows admitted the light, as did large triangular windows in both the north and south gables.

On gala occasions there were white-tie dances, which were sometimes attended by present members of the Queen's Club. But social change after the second world war brought an end to this style of life on Dupont Street. The clientele of the Club, many of whom had lived in the Annex or at least south of St. Clair Avenue, were moving further north. Now they had automobiles, and were less dependent on the TTC streetcars which ran from Bloor and Bay around the bend of Davenport and west on Dupont. The directors obtained a large map and used coloured pins to designate the residences of their members. They found that an overwhelming majority lived north of St. Clair and a substantial number lived north of Eglinton.

Amateur skating carnivals had trouble competing financially with professional shows. But skating as a sport remained strong, and the Winter Club was much more than a club for the establishment and at certain times for the general public. It was the training ground for many of the great skaters of the day, including Barbara Ann Scott.

By 1956, the Directors of the Skating Club were looking for larger quarters further north in the city. At the same time, the Cricket Club had an excellent spread of land on Wilson Avenue, but a shortage of members. It had already been forced to sell some of its land to keep going. The merger in March 1956 was a natural one, overcoming the financial problems inherent for each of the clubs in a single-season sport. The order in which the words "Cricket" and "Skating" would appear in the name of the new club was settled by the toss of a coin.

Only a year later, the Toronto Curling Club joined the first two. This came about because the University of Toronto decided in 1956 to expropriate the Victoria Rink at 277 Huron Street, the home of the Toronto Curling Club. The directors of the Curling Club held urgent meetings with the directors of the Victoria Club (their landlord), to decide on a course of action. They too found that most of their members lived north of St. Clair. "A chance meeting of Col. Clifford Sifton, who had had a prominent role in that merger (the Cricket and Skating Clubs), with a senior member of the Curling Club, led to a proposal for a three-way merger."⁹

A dispute between the University and the Club over the price of expropriation was settled by arbitration. The third partner in the alliance brought over 400 new members and considerable capital to the Wilson Avenue property, and the new location suited many of the members very well.

Before the directors of the Winter Club could turn their attention to the awkward problem of selling their single-purpose building at 568 Dupont, an unusual buyer appeared.

1. The archives of the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club are stored in the Baldwin Room of the Toronto Reference Library. These include the Skating Club papers. The Board minutes for 1929 include a short appendix on the history of the Skating Club. Subsequent references are denoted "Baldwin."

The official history of the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club is: Stanley Fillmore, The Pleasure of the Game, 1827-1977, Toronto, 1977, published privately, illustrated.

The Queens' Club has a number of file folders which contain a record of the property transactions from 1913.

I am indebted to John Milsom for contacts with the Cricket, Skating and Curling Club.

2. Baldwin, 1929.

3. There were nine trustees, led by J.H. Ashworth and George Broughall.

4. City of Toronto, Building and Inspection Department, Building Records, Microfiches of Winter Club, 568-574 Dupont St., 1921-22; also, Archidont files, Metro Toronto reference Library; also, Construction Magazine, v. 15, April 1922, pp.123-126.

5. A great puzzle is that the architectural drawings lodged at the Toronto City Hall refer to 568-574 Dupont St. as the "North American Life Building." Perhaps Langley had access to a keen skater who was also an executive of the life insurance company and able to provide a little pro bono assistance. A search of the archives of North American Life, now Manulife, by its archivist, Donna Murphy, failed to cast any light on this.

6. Fillmore p.105. Silverwood Dairies bought out Willard's ice cream plant in 1930.

7. City of Toronto, Building and Inspection Records, Microfiches, 568-574 Dupont St.

8. The balcony on the east side, and the enclosure of the west balcony, were added subsequent to the date when the photographs were taken.

9. John D. Arnup, *The Toronto Curling Club, 1836-1957*, privately printed for the Cricket, Skating and Curling Club, 1971. References to the Curling Club are from this source, and from Fillmore. Before the Curling Club was demolished in 1959, the University used it temporarily for the School of Architecture. Source: University of Toronto Archives, Thomas Fisher Library. Mr. Arnup has also assisted with a number of editorial changes in this section.

CHAPTER TWO

TORONTO'S FIRST INDOOR TENNIS CLUB

Sydney Hermant had been searching Toronto for months if not years to find a suitable location for an indoor tennis club. He was weary of driving to Hamilton two nights a week during the winter months to play tennis at the Thistle Club. He was 44 years old, and his great friend and tennis partner Allan Ross was 68. Sometimes when the weather was bad, they took the train. They were always met by their regular host, Bill Piggott, and the foursome was often rounded out by Peter Dimmer, the pro, or by Alan Eaton.

Their winter games were simply an extension of their summer games at "Wakefield," Allan Ross' home in Oakville. Every Wednesday afternoon, Sydney would collect one or two tennis players in downtown Toronto and motor out to Wakefield for a match at 3:30 on grass. Afterwards the guests would be treated to watermelon, which was delivered to courtside in a child's wagon. This Wednesday ritual became known as the Oakville Tennis and Watermelon Club.

Some of the earliest members of the Queen's Club were drawn from the small group of guests whose game was good enough to earn an invitation to Wakefield. Among these were Jim Duff, Don Ivey and Bruce Harrison as well as Peter

Dimmer, who was destined to become the Queen's Club professional.

Bruce was not in a position to refuse an invitation from Allan Ross, President of the Wrigley Company of Canada and a director of the Dominion Bank, who did not hesitate to exercise his authority. If he was short a fourth, he would call Bruce, a middle-ranking officer in the corporate credit department at head office of the bank, and tell him to appear immediately. Bruce would show up, no questions asked by his superiors.

This degree of hands-on intervention by a director was somewhat unusual, even in the thirties, but Allan Ross was an unusual man. He had come to Canada from Chicago in 1910 to open a Canadian business for Wrigley, and tennis was his passion. In fact it was tennis that brought him to Canada in the first place, because he had come to the attention of the Wrigley family while tutoring their son at the game. In 1906 he had won the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship,¹ and though much older than most of his guests at Wakefield, he played a strong game. In his late sixties he was not only playing competitive tennis with younger players, but he was also in the midst of initiat-

ing the merger of the Dominion Bank with the Bank of Toronto.² He continued to play good tennis into his eighties.³

“Tennis was his passion” describes Sydney Hermant even more than it describes Allan Ross. Sydney was brought up with a tennis racquet in his hand.⁴ His parents Percy and Dorothy had a large home near the corner of Heath Street and Spadina Road, with a tennis court of sorts in the back yard.

Percy had come a long way. Born to Jewish parents in the village of Mogilev near St.Petersburg, Russia, he had set out alone in 1897, at the age of 15, to migrate to the United States. But the immigration authorities on Ellis Island, the port of entry off New York City for all European immigrants, found his papers not in order. He was shipped out on the next outbound liner. This boat happened to make a call at Saint John, New Brunswick, and Percy hopped off. The local Bible Society placed him with a foster family which was not Jewish, which possibly accounts for Sidney's somewhat secular approach to his faith.

If his foster-parents did not give Percy a strong religious background, they certainly gave him a trade, because his foster father was a peddler of eye-glasses. In 1900 the young immigrant was enrolled in the Klein School of Optics in Boston. He proceeded from there to Hamilton, then London, and then Toronto. Along the way, he engaged a very talented craftsman named Albert Butler, who provided the technical skill to go with Percy's business acumen. Albert was capable of viewing a new



Sydney Hermant as a U of T tennis player, about 1935

type of lens-grinding machinery at a trade show in the United States and reproducing it himself from memory when he came home.

Eventually Percy became the predominant supplier of eyeglasses and frames in Canada. On Percy's death in 1958, Sydney succeeded his father at the helm of the Imperial Optical Company of Canada, and its various subsidiaries. But in 1956 Percy still held the purse-strings.

At the age of 12, Sydney Hermant entered Upper Canada College, a short walk from his home. He remained there for five years until his matriculation in 1929. Somewhere along the line, his name was accidentally omitted from the list of boys in the school's battalion, which left him free to play tennis constantly. He joined the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club "in order to get out of the house", according to his eldest son Peter and soon became a well established member. The history of the TLTC records that "his habit of rushing in to the club for a match and dashing straight out to the court endeared him to fellow members," who nicknamed him "the Whirling Dervish."⁵

At "the Lawn," Sydney met Allan Ross, Gilbert Nunns and Maurice Margesson, all of whom would become members of the board of the Queen's Club in its first year. (Much later on—in 1950—he would also meet Peter Dimmer there). Allan Ross had been club doubles champion in 1921; Gil Nunns was already a leading player, who lost the national junior final to Walter Martin, another founding member of the Queen's, in 1927 when he was 19 years old. Nunns went on to become a member of Canada's Davis Cup team and one of the country's most distinguished players. Maurice Margesson was head of his family's sporting goods store, and a pioneer in leading ski trips to Europe. Frank Schulman, who joined the Lawn in 1927, became a close friend of Sidney's and another founding member of the Queen's.

Although Sydney was four years younger than Nunns and Martin, and 24 years younger than Allan Ross, his game was good enough to get him on the same court with them. In 1930 he lost the Toronto Lawn junior championship in a five-set match.

In that same year, the Canadian nationals were held at the Toronto Lawn, and a young unknown women's doubles team emerged from the west to take the championship. They were the Leeming sisters, Marjorie and Hope. Having arrived by train from Victoria, B.C. on a Saturday, they set out the following morning for the Toronto Lawn, anxious to get the cricks out after the long train-ride from the coast. But it was a Sunday in Toronto in 1930, and the gate was locked. They had to get a quick practice in just before their first match on Monday.⁶

Marjorie Leeming went on to play in the U.S. Open, reaching the quarter-finals. This was an astonishing achievement for a woman (a girl, in those days!) who had never taken a lesson. Two years later, Marjorie and Hope reached the semi-finals in women's doubles at the U.S. Open, narrowly losing 7-5, 7-5 to an English team. This is one of the high-water marks for a Queen's Club member in international competition. Hope continued to play very competitive tennis in Toronto. At the Lawn she met and married Ken Salmond, himself a strong club player. They became a fixture on the mixed-doubles circuit in Ontario. Hope Salmond would later become one of the first women members of the Queen's Club, where she continued to play a fine game until a shoulder problem sidelined her at age 86.

A sidelight on Sydney's years at the Lawn is that an effort was made in 1929 to build an indoor tennis court.⁷ About a dozen members of the Lawn, of whom Frank Schulman was one, formed a small investment club to be managed by Bruce West, an employee of A.E. Ames (who later in life became

Chairman of that major investment dealer). They put up \$500 each, intending to ride the market to a sufficient sum of money to finance an indoor court. The crash put an end to this scheme soon afterwards.

In the fall of 1930 Sydney enrolled at the University of Toronto and soon became a member of the university team, playing intercollegiate matches. A picture in the 1935 university year book shows the four members of the senior tennis team, including Sydney, Bill Piggott and Alan Y.Eaton.

Twenty years later, Bill Piggott would be Sidney's link to the Thistle Club in Hamilton. As for Alan Eaton, he became Sydney's lifelong friend, a founding member of the Queen's Club, and its third President, after Alan Ross and Gil Nunns.

Sydney got his undergraduate law degree in 1935, but he never practised law. When the final exams approached, he informed the Dean that he had a grave conflict: there was an international tennis match in Bermuda, and could he take the exams later on? The Dean offered him a deal: you can have your degree Sydney, provided you do not continue with your studies leading to admittance to the bar. It was an easy decision, since Sidney was slated to work for Percy anyway.

A famous episode involving Sydney and the Lawn occurred in 1941. The membership was, of course, predominantly made up of those of military age. The attrition of members due to the war was so great that the club's finances fell into disarray. "Maurice Margesson called Sydney Hermant to tell him that the bailiff was once more on the way to the club to seize the property for non-payment of taxes. Sidney. . . rushed to the Club with a certified cheque. . . and then called on members and friends up and down Yonge Street to contribute to the payment of taxes."⁸ This experience would later come in handy in Sydney's concept for financing the Queen's Club. But in the broader context of tennis in Toronto, Sydney Hermant has never been given sufficient credit for saving the Toronto Lawn from extinction.

Now almost all the elements were combined to form the founding group of the Queen's. All except two: Sydney's wife Madge, and Peter Dimmer.

Margaret Shaw married Sydney in 1938. She was a member of the Cricket Club and a tennis player, and over the following years contributed so much to the Cricket Club that she was made an honorary life member. It was she who drove around the city with Sydney looking for a suitable spot for an indoor court.

Sydney had already made a serious attempt in 1954 to acquire a small city park on Pricefield Road, immediately north of the Toronto Lawn's north courts. This park is wedged between the Lawn and the railway tracks of the old Ontario and Quebec rail line which crosses Yonge Street south of Summerhill. Sydney was able to persuade the Toronto City Parks department that the park was redundant, and a price was agreed. But a local group of concerned citizens opposed the sale, and requested a hearing before the Toronto City Council.

On the day appointed for the hearing, Sydney sent his representative to City Hall, expecting a routine hearing on a matter which had already been settled with the Parks Department.

But that same morning Madge Hermant noticed, in literature from the Association of Women Electors, that the deal to sell Pricefield Park was before Council. She hustled down to the meeting and, with her colleagues, scuttled it. Much to his astonishment and chagrin Sydney discovered that Madge, unaware of the identity of the applicant, had led the opposition. The park remains a park to this day.

The search went on, "with his father's support," Madge recalls.⁹ Sydney looked at all the old theatres which were for sale, but none proved to be suitable, "being either too small, too costly to convert, or without parking facilities." During the search, they discovered that the Cricket Club, of which

they were members, was about to merge with the Toronto Skating Club and was starting construction of a new and much larger rink at the Wilson Avenue site. "So we went up to see, firstly, if the rink was adaptable for a tennis court, and secondly, if they wished to sell. The rest is history."

* * * *

If Sydney Hermant was the driving force who created the Queen's Club, Peter Dimmer was the operating manager and tennis professional who helped make it a success. Where Sydney was austere and rigorous in his standards for the club, Peter was jovial as a companion, skilful as a teacher, and efficient as a general manager.

Over a span of thirty years, Peter earned the respect and friendship of the members and provided an atmosphere of good-natured love of the game.

Peter Dimmer learned his tennis at school and on the public courts at Ravenscourt Park in London, England.¹⁰ He played there with two "paper men"—people who manage newspaper kiosks outside the London tube stations. Blessed with natural athletic ability, though self-taught, he quickly worked his way up the ladder to the Junior Wimbledon in 1930 and 1931. In his first appearance, at age 15, he was eliminated in the first round, but the following year he reached the quarter finals. This was a formidable achievement in a sport which was largely the preserve of the privileged class who had access to clubs and instruction.

The Wimbledon pro checked him out, and said that he had the makings of a successful tennis career, except that he could not afford to get on the circuit.

In 1936 Peter joined the RAF, where he became a physical training instructor. He continued with tennis, and became the 1938 inter-services champion of Malay Command while stationed in Singapore. After the war and demobilization in 1945, Peter looked around for something to do, and wound up as Entertainment Director for Billy Butlin's Holiday

Camps. In this capacity he was a jack-of-all-trades, not only teaching tennis but arranging amateur theatricals. In the winter off-season, he travelled to Newcastle and Glasgow and other cities, promoting and advertising Butlin's.

In 1949, Butlin's persuaded Peter to move to Nassau in the Bahamas, where he was appointed assistant manager of their Fort Montague Beach Hotel. When spring came and the tourist trade dried up, Butlin's could only offer room and board until the next tourist season. To make matters worse, the whole Nassau operation was going under, dragged down by an over-expansion on Grand Bahama Island, hurricane damage and a devalued British pound. The promised promotion to the new hotel fell through.

Butlin's invited Peter to return to England, but he decided to detour via the United States and check out the possibilities there. In May 1950 he landed in Miami. But with no contacts in the U.S., he decided to press on to Canada. He recalled that, in Nassau, he had met a Mr. Fred Gundy, who had seen him play an exhibition match

against a former Wimbledon champion, Yvan Petra. Gundy had suggested that if he ever came to Toronto, Peter should look him up. This he did, and Peter was soon enrolled as a "transient member" of the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. It was there that he met some of the better players in the club, including Allan Ross, Gilbert Nunns, and Sydney Hermant.

In 1950 the handful of tennis professionals in Toronto included Bill Cutts at the Toronto Lawn and his cousin Charlie Cutts at the Badminton and Racquet. There was also Derek Bocquet at the Thistle Club in Hamilton, the only indoor tennis club in Ontario. At that time, the Granite Club had no outdoor tennis courts, and no club in Toronto had indoor tennis. The few professionals taught squash and badminton in the winter months, or found other employment.

The small roster of tennis players at the Cricket Club could not afford a full-time pro. But in 1951, Peter became their

first summer professional, teaching four days a week. Among his students was Sydney Hermant, who was a member of the Cricket as well as the Toronto Lawn. Peter initiated the conversion of a lawn bowling green into a grass tennis court. At first there was no outside fencing around the court, just makeshift cricket netting. Peter recalls a lesson with Sydney when the ball was hit into the muddy back yard next door.

Sydney insisted on retrieving the ball, and came back mud-spattered to the knees of his always immaculate trousers. Soon afterwards a fence was erected—at Sydney's personal expense. The grass court met the standards for Davis Cup play, and one year it was the scene of a match with Chile.

Meanwhile Peter was becoming well known in tennis circles. He and Derek Bocquet teamed up to provide the Dunlop Clinics, sponsored by the tennis equipment manufacturer. To supplement his income in the winter, Peter taught squash at the Carleton Club and badminton—a sport which was new to him—at the Strathgowan Club. One year, he agreed to manage the Kawandag Lodge on Lake Rosseau for Maurice Margesson, another top tennis player.

The next three years marked important milestones in Peter's life. He met Shirley Schram at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, and they were married in 1953. The next year, Peter found a teaching job in the winter months when the Thistle Club job came open. The Badminton and Racquet Club had hired Derek Bocquet away from Hamilton and the Thistle Club, and Peter was an obvious successor, especially in the eyes of its leading player, William Prince Piggott. This was the same Bill Piggott who had been Sydney Hermant's teammate on the University of Toronto team in 1935. Peter and Bill played in the regular foursome with Sydney and Allan Ross on the latter's court in Oakville.

The Thistle Club had a single tennis court, which was made of concrete. For Peter Dimmer it was a tiresome commute from Toronto, made less appealing by a car accident on

the Queen Elizabeth in 1955. Peter and Shirley moved to Hamilton to avoid the commute, but this took them further away from the summer teaching jobs. When Sydney was preparing to open the Queen's Club in 1957, he naturally turned to Peter. Thus began a working partnership which lasted until Sydney's death in 1992, although Peter's duties at the Queen's Club tapered off following repeated operations on his arthritic hips.

Although the Queen's Club became Peter's home base in the winter months, his entrepreneurial spirit and congenial personality made him a force in the development of tennis in Toronto. The somewhat haphazard files of the Queen's Club do not contain much archival material, but an article by Alan Gans, written about 1986, is worth quoting at some length:

By this time (1957) Dimmer's reputation had been firmly established as one of the top tennis men in the city. Dimmer's next project (after helping Sydney launch the Queen's Club) was to help bring tennis officiating in Canada up to a more acceptable level.

In the late 50's Pancho Gonzales and Tony Trabert, the world's two best tennis players at the time, came to Toronto and met in the final of a major tournament held at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. Dimmer was chosen to umpire it. A first of its kind in Toronto, Dimmer recalls: "Guys were picked at random, with their beers, to come down and be a line judge, which needless to say put my job as umpire in a precarious position if the linesman floundered." Some drastic improvements were obviously needed.

In 1968, Dimmer had been elected chairman of the Canadian Open. In a short time under Dimmer's guidance, along with Tennis Canada, the officiating improved to a level more acceptable for world class players. Needless to say, the days of the beer drinking fan being called upon to umpire a world class match were over.

In the 1970's with tennis becoming increasingly popular Dimmer saw that the teaching of the game around the province was for the most part not being conducted properly. "There was no guidance for the teaching pros then," says Dimmer. This was to be his next major project.

So Peter Dimmer along with Laurie Strong decided to set up the Ontario Tennis Teachers Association in 1970. It was a huge success. Since then over 1,500 people have successfully gone through the system.

However, Dimmer still had one lingering desire he had yet to fulfill. "I always had in the back of my mind it would be kind of nice to run my own tennis school." So in 1970 that's exactly what he did. Starting with one location, four courts and three instructors, Dimmer soon found his tennis school to be a huge success.

1. *Who's Who in Canada*, 1966

2. See footnote 1.

3. Walling Ruby, Alan Ross' son-in-law, has kindly helped me with this section.

4. I am indebted to the Hermant family, Madge, Peter, Adam, John and Andrew for information on the family.

5. Most of the facts about the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club are from Michel D. Jory, *A Love of Tennis, A History of the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club*, published by the Club in 1981.

6. Interview with Hope Salmond.

7. Jory, p.82

8. Jory, p.97. The reference to "once more" alludes to the fact that Frank Schulman had already deterred the bailiff in 1938.

9. Private correspondence, Dec. 1996, and interview April 1997. See also footnote 1 to Chapter 3, in which Sydney recounts the Pricefield Park episode.

10. The following section is based on conversations with Peter and Shirley Dimmer.

CHAPTER THREE

SKATING TO TENNIS: ACQUISITION OF THE WINTER CLUB

The cliché “timing is everything” best defines the circumstances which brought the Skating Club and the Queen’s Club together in 1956. Sydney Hermant was searching for a property, and the Skating Club had a property for sale which met his requirements.

On November 29, 1956 Allan Ross obtained (for \$500) an option to purchase the Winter Club for \$140,000, which by coincidence was the amount paid for the original construction of the building. The shareholders of the Winter Club held a general meeting very quickly, and on December 17 accepted the offer to purchase, acting through their legal counsel, Fraser Beatty. Allan Ross confirmed the deal with a cheque for \$5,000 with a closing date of July 31, 1957. There was a separate contract to buy the furniture and fixtures from the Cricket and Skating Club for \$10,000.¹

Just before the closing, Allan Ross wrote to Fraser Beatty with instructions to convey the property to the Queen City Indoor Tennis Club. It turned out that he was acting “on direction” for Sydney Hermant. The reason for this procedure may only be surmised; Sydney may well have thought that the stature of Allan Ross in the business community would

help to ensure that the Winter Club trustees would accept the offer.²

The size of the property had grown since the original land acquisition in 1921-22. The Winter Club had bought a house sitting on a 25-foot lot to the east of the Club from Florence and Archibald Legg in 1939, for \$3,200. An intervening alley led to some parking space in the rear, adequate for only a few cars. Later on this home would be demolished to enlarge the parking space, and also provide a leg up on the space needed for a second court.

The physical conversion of the Winter Club to a tennis club does not seem to have been a major problem. The structure was changed very little, except that the triangular windows in the gables at the north and south ends were covered over, as were the side windows. Bill Pigott’s construction company offered to remove the “large quantity of sand” which lay under the ice surface. In July tenders were invited for the court surface, and several companies submitted proposals. There were two offers to instal Har-Tru, which was Peter Dimmer’s preference. The contract was awarded to the Har-Tru Company, which had done the Badminton and

Racquet Club, after the company agreed to reduce the tonnage from 42 to 25 tons.

A few months before the property purchase, Sydney had set about incorporating the Club with the assistance of his legal adviser (and brother-in-law) D'Arcy Kingsmill and his accountant, Peter Best. On June 12, 1957, letters patent were issued under the Ontario Corporations Act, Part 3, for a company without share capital. At the first meeting on June 28, Allan Ross was appointed President, J. William Seagram Vice-President and Sydney Hermant Secretary-Treasurer.

After passing some routine by-laws, almost the first order of business was to appoint Peter Dimmer manager of the club, at a salary of \$100 per week, beginning in October. There was also the matter of the club's name. The Minutes read "The Corporate name of the Club being rather long and unwieldy, alternate abbreviated names were discussed." What had happened is that the Provincial Secretary had rejected the name "The Queen's Club," because this would have required royal approval. The government official pointed out that "Queen City" would not require the royal prerogative, and there was a precedent in the name of the Queen City Yacht Club.³ There was nothing for it but to accept the official title



The Winter Club interior in 1922 - looking north (photo: Metro Toronto Reference Library)

"The Queen City Indoor Tennis Club." But this didn't stop Sydney from exercising his strongly held anglophile beliefs:

"On MOTION duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the name "The Queen's Club of Toronto" be adopted as the official name of the Club, for general use, letterhead, and other documents where the Corporate name by law is not required."



The Winter Club interior in 1922 - looking south (photo: Metro Toronto Reference Library)

The next order of business was to finance the purchase of the Winter Club. Allan Ross (now the Chairman) said he had an option to purchase the property, which he would assign to the Queen's Club.

The Chairman pointed out that “. . .to raise sufficient funds for the purchase, it was advisable to mortgage the real estate thus acquired. He stated that a donor was willing to put up the necessary funds but wished to remain anonymous.

Hence C.D.Kingsmill, as Trustee, had agreed to act as mortgagee.”

It does not take a Sherlock Holmes to detect that the “donor” was Sydney Hermant. There is no mention in the minutes of the remaining \$20,000 portion of the purchase price, nor of the source of the \$10,000 to pay for the furniture. The terms of the open mortgage provided for interest at 6%, and principal repayments of \$1,000 per month, which would have retired the mortgage in ten years. But in fact Sydney never actually collected either principal or interest on this mortgage, nor did he recover the startup costs, which amounted to about \$10,000. He wanted to make sure that the Queen's Club became viable before asking the membership to carry the full cost. As it turned out, the members of the club, and indeed the directors and his own family, did not know until after his death in 1992 that he continued to

absorb some of the operating expenses of the Queen's Club.

Sydney's approach to the financing of the club was a curious mixture of great generosity combined with secrecy and an obsessive concern for effective control. He had already formed his plan, which was to issue debentures in the amount of \$1,000 to each of the members whom he had already contacted. (The debentures had no maturity date, and paid no interest, but held a first charge on the property). These people had

contributed membership subscriptions before the Club was incorporated, and they were now given the right to buy one debenture each. In return, they would be designated "Charter Members," but the Charter Membership carried with it no rights whatever, except "the right to apply for Membership in the Club for himself or herself." It would take more than money to get into the club; it would take Sydney's approval.

The initial goal for membership was 60 seniors, 10 intermediates, and 10 juniors.⁴ During the first decade there was only one tennis court, and there was a continuing debate at the board as to the appropriate limit on membership. This of course depended on the mix of players: whether members played after work, on the week-end, during morning hours, or in the evening.

To say that the conditions of membership were convoluted is putting it mildly. To begin with, there were the Charter Members, each of whom had to be approved individually by the board. But for the first fifteen months, the board consisted only of Allan Ross, Bill Seagram and Sydney Hermant. Several other people attended the first few board meetings, but the by-laws did not provide for more than three Directors until October 1958. The members of this group of directors-in-waiting were Alan Eaton, D'Arcy Doherty, John Bassett, George Heintzman, J.K.McCausland, Gilbert Nunns and Maurice Margesson. Peter Dimmer, as the manager, also



*The west court of the Queens' Club in 1997- looking north.
The gable windows are still there, painted over.*

attended. Bert Gerstein was an active supporter of Sydney's, but did not join the board.

The Charter Members were required to put up their \$1,000 in cash. Most of them were recruited from the Toronto Lawn, the Cricket and Skating Club, the Badminton and Racquet Club and the Granite Club. The official qualification for membership was:

"The applicant shall be well and favourably known to members of the Club and clearly identified with the game of tennis."

The founding group had no trouble finding people who met these criteria, because there was no other place to play indoor tennis during the winter months. Nor did this core

group have many problems finding the money for their debentures.

But Sydney wanted to attract more than people of social standing in the existing clubs. He wanted a group of young tournament-level players who might not have the wherewithal. And he had strong views about exclusivity, which are not stated in the Board Minutes, but which are found as a stricture to his sons in his 1967 Memorandum: "Our terms of reference should not be interpreted in any way to imply social, racial or religious prejudices... and should generally answer the question—'Is this the kind of a person I would like to have in my home, and in the locker room of a small club.'" Sydney's views of suitability were not ethnic but very personal and sometimes idiosyncratic, and there was no court of appeal.

While the small board was considering a batch of applications from well-known folk, Sydney was out in the town recruiting good players like Jim Duff, Frank Mott-Trille, Frank Dimock and Bruce Harrison, all of whom have remained members, though Bruce died recently.

In the case of Frank Mott-Trille, Sydney marched right over to his office in the law firm Osler Hoskin and invited him to join the new indoor club. Frank pointed out that he was a very junior lawyer, and couldn't find the money. So Sydney created an "Annual" class of senior member, who could join for a membership fee of \$100, with five years to complete the subscription of \$1,000, whereupon they would become Charter members. A batch of 15 new members



The west court in 1997 - looking south

joined the Club in July 1957 on this basis. Frank Mott-Trille became a perennial champion at the Club, in both singles and doubles, and later in rising age classes.

Then there were the women members. At the third board meeting, a "Special Senior Ladies Section" was created, "not to exceed twelve in number." They were offered membership at an annual fee of \$100, with no mention of a debenture in the future. But one prominent woman's application to be a Special Senior Lady was declined on the grounds that she could afford the \$1,000 and therefore would have to be a Charter Member! Another woman who was a Charter Member was Mildred Brock, a tournament-level player who had won the ladies club doubles championship at the Toronto Lawn in 1924.

Apart from being sub-classified in the membership, the women were expected not to occupy the court before 9 a.m. or between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. This rule was never set out on paper, but the court was just not available at that hour, ever. Such discrimination was by no means unique to the Queen's Club, and has only given way there in recent years. The rules for the intermediates were the same as for the women: \$100 for an annual membership, and no access to the courts in prime time. Juniors were admitted free as family members, but the males were required to stay out of the senior locker room, and were given a small changing room on the main floor.

There was a class of Out-of-Town members, who paid a \$500 initiation fee, not sufficient to justify a voting debenture. And then there were the juniors. Although Peter Dimmer was the resident tennis professional, Sydney did not want him to spend too much time teaching tennis! He considered Peter's job to be that of club manager. The primary purpose of the Club was to provide an opportunity for members to keep up their game in the winter months, not to take instruction. Nevertheless, he wanted to make some room for promising juniors. He had already shared in a Tennis Trust at the Toronto Lawn, which had helped a number of juniors attend tennis camps and colleges and tournaments in the United States.

Now he had an offer, out of the blue, from none other than E.P.Taylor: the proposal was that he, Eddie Taylor, would pay for five debentures to admit some talented juniors to the Club. The Board accepted the proposal in late 1957, and delegated the selection of juniors to Peter Dimmer with the help of Derek Bocquet.

There was one junior so keen to join the Queen's Club that he took his life savings of \$700 and a little help of \$300 from his dad to pay the initiation fee. Harry Fauquier was only 15 years old, and already a member of the B and R and the

Toronto Lawn on their free admission plans for top juniors. He says that it was the best investment he ever made, and remembers warmly Sydney Hermant's support of the juniors. Only a year after joining the Queen's Club, Harry would become national junior men's singles champion. He went on to play seven years on Canada's Davis Cup team, and remained a member at the Queen's Club.³

The selection of juniors for the "scholarship" program contributed an impressive list of names to Canada's future championships. Jim Boyce and Jane O'Hara became National under-14 Boys' and Girls' champions in 1966, and they repeated as under-16 champions in 1967, and again at the under-18 level in 1968. In 1968 and 1969, Pat Gamey was Boys under-16 Canadian titleholder. Jim Boyce went on to become national senior singles champion in 1976, followed by Greg Halder in 1980. But Halder fell foul of Sydney's disapproval of long hair,⁶ and his junior career at the Queen's Club was truncated.

There were several young women on the junior "scholarship" plan, among them Sharon Caldwell. She was recruited by Peter Dimmer, who had seen her play at Wanless Park. Sharon became national junior women's champion soon after, and remains today a tournament level player and instructor at the Cricket Club.

Another junior who was given access to the club was Faye Urban, who became national women's singles champion in 1968 and 1969. Coming from Windsor, she needed competition to prepare for overseas tournaments and Peter Dimmer arranged practice games for her at the Queen's Club. Sydney Hermant and Pete Reid helped out with pocket money, provided anonymously through Peter Dimmer.

Pete was one of the best-known and best liked tennis players in Toronto. He had joined the Toronto Lawn about 1938 and became its president in 1964, when there was a crisis in the leadership there.⁷ In 1967 he became president of the

C.L.T.A., and he joined the board at the Queen's Club in 1973. When a new class of "super-seniors" was created for tournaments in 1976, Pete Reid donated a trophy and, with his partner John Elder, won it several times.

A promising junior, sponsored for membership by the Dunlop Tire and Rubber Company, was Jim Bentley, who went on to a professional career in tennis. There was some discussion at the board as to whether the debenture could be held in the company name, and this led to a decision which would one day have significant consequences. At a meeting on November 28, 1957, "The Board. . . reiterated as a basic principle that. . . only the holder of a debenture or a member of his family may enjoy club privileges."

1. Sydney wrote a confidential memorandum, dated Sept. 28, 1967, on the history of the acquisition of the Queen's Club, which he left with his son Peter. Written from memory more than a decade after the event, it contains some minor errors, e.g. "On Dec. 17th, 1956, I personally (sic) signed an offer to purchase the Queen's Club from the Toronto Skating Club for \$150,000 . . . C.D.Kingsmill, acting on my behalf, took a First Mortgage on the Club property for the full amount (sic) of \$150,000."

2. In the 1967 memorandum, Sydney makes an interesting aside: "This (the expropriation of the Toronto Curling Club, mentioned in Chapter 1) occurred during the period that I had an option on the Skating Club property. The Curling Club people immediately offered to purchase the option at a substantial profit. I consulted with my associates, and in particular with Mr. Ross, and we agreed that our purpose was to play tennis, not to indulge in real estate speculation, even at a tempting profit, and therefore we encouraged the Curling Club to join the Skating Club and the Cricket Club amalgamation, which they did."

3. Source: *Queen's Club correspondence file, Feb. 4, 1957*. In early 1958, Sydney pressed D'Arcy Kingsmill to get the Queen's Club crest and name registered in Ottawa. D'Arcy replied: "I think an application to the Trade Marks Office would merely stir up a hornet's nest. . . in my opinion. . . leave well enough alone!"

In 1956, Sydney was aware that there had been an incorporation of a Toronto Indoor Tennis Club in 1933. No return had ever been filed, and the charter was about to lapse. Sydney discussed saving it with D'Arcy Kingsmill and Frank Schulman, but apparently dropped it. The names on the original letters patent included Frank Schulman, Garnet Meldrum, George Jennison and John C. Little. The "ubiquitous and entrepreneurial" Garnet Meldrum was President of the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association 1922-33. Source: Martyn Kendrick, *Advantage Canada, A Tennis Centenary, C.L.T.A., Downsview, Ont., 1990*, p. 58.

4. These were defined in the by-laws. Intermediates and juniors were normally the children of members; a junior became an intermediate at age 21, and an intermediate had to become a senior and pay the initiation fee at age 30.

5. Kendrick, p. 88.

6. Information on Canadian champions comes from: *Tennis Canada, 1997 Media Guide and Resource Manual*.

7. Jory, pp. 97, 111.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE YEARS WITH A SINGLE COURT

The grand opening of the Queen's Club was on Saturday night, October 19, 1957. At this stage, Sydney had recruited 88 members, with the help of his board colleagues. There were 50 Senior Men, 12 Senior Ladies, 5 Intermediate Men, 14 Junior Men, and 5 Junior Ladies. A few months later, Peter Dimmer recommended a limit on membership of 130, and the board agreed. There would be no more than 100 Seniors and intermediates, and up to 30 juniors. Sydney clearly intended to make plenty of room for the new generation. As the years went by this goal became more and more difficult to achieve. There was limited court time for juniors, the atmosphere was not congenial for teenage horseplay, and alternative indoor courts began to appear under bubbles.

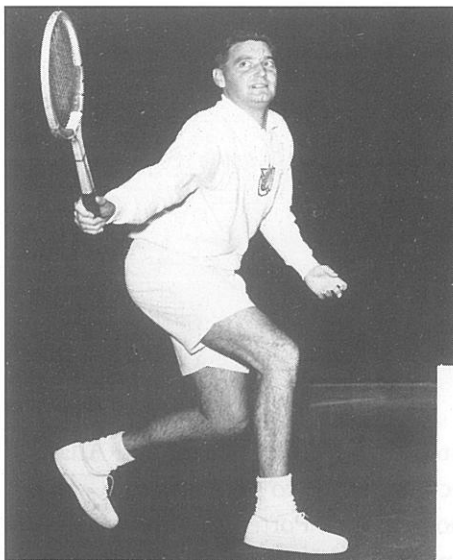
Sydney wanted to make a bit of a splash at the opening. He decided to stage an exhibition match between Davis Cup players from Canada and the United States. He recruited Barry MacKay, who was then on the U.S. Davis Cup team, and Billy Talbert, the non-playing captain of the American team. For the Canadian side he invited Don Fontana, then on the Davis Cup team, and Lorne Main, a former Davis Cup team member.¹ The Club records do not indicate what sort of honorarium was required to attract these exhibition players, but they do show that the "expenses pertaining to the open-

ing" would be underwritten by Sydney Hermant and Allan Ross, with the other directors invited to participate.

For the opening ceremonies Dana Porter, the Provincial Treasurer, made some remarks, and Joe Cornish, a Controller, represented the City of Toronto. The federal representative would have been cabinet minister George Hees, but he was busy opening a bridge in Montreal. Sydney had considered and rejected several other possible dignitaries, for reasons best known to himself. The minutes state, somewhat dryly, that "there will be no substitutions, except in the case of the City." John Bassett offered to provide a news photographer to record the occasion for posterity.²

The whole event must have been well received, because there was a repetition exactly a year later for the opening of the second season. This time, Sydney obtained the services of the legendary Don Budge and once again Bill Talbert

Now that the club had been successfully launched, Sydney started the process of re-balancing the capital structure. Up to this point he had invested \$150,000 of his own money and also absorbed the start-up and operating expenses. By October 1957 there were 68 "Charter" members, each of whom had bought a debenture for \$1,000. In January 1958, the board used \$20,000 to reduce the mortgage from \$120,000 to \$100,000, and Sydney cut the interest rate vol-

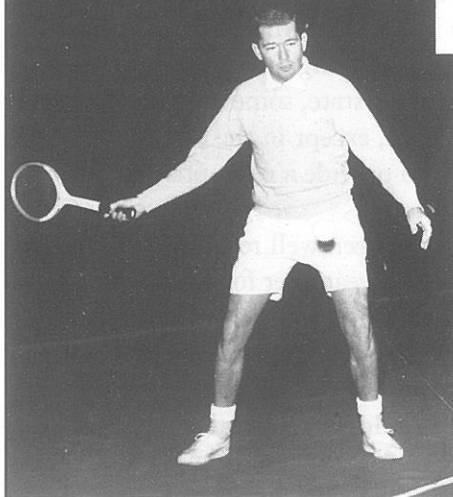


QUEEN'S CLUB OPENING OCT. 19, 1957

William F. Talbert, captain of the United States Davis Cup team, bottom left, and Barry MacKay, member of the United States Davis Cup squad going to Australia, top right, played an exhibition doubles match as part of the opening ceremonies of the Queen's Club, Toronto's first indoor tennis club. They defeated Lorne Main, former Canadian champion, top left, and Don Fontana, member of the Canadian Davis Cup team, bottom right, in a close match 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The Club was opened officially by the Honorable Dana Porter, provincial treasurer of the Province of Ontario. Mr. Porter is shown immediately below with players and officials of the Club at the opening ceremonies, left to right, Barry MacKay, Don Fontana, J. William Seagram, vice-president; Honorable Dana Porter, F. Joseph Cornish, member of the Board of Control; J. Allan Ross, president; William F. Talbert, Lorne Main, Sydney Hermant, secretary-treasurer.

The top picture shows a section of the crowd watching the opening matches. Included in the crowd is Peter Dimmer standing at far right, who is the manager of the Queen's Club.



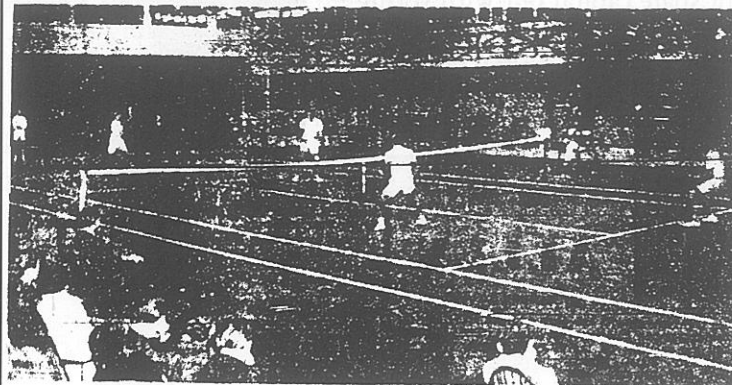
The Queen's Club opening Oct. 19, 1957, new members watching exhibition match: Lorne Main and Don Fontana for Canada vs. Bill Talbert and Barry Mackay for the United States

untarily from 6% to 5%, retroactively.³ The interest rate was somewhat academic, since no interest or principal was actually being paid. By October 1958, the start of the second season, the membership was up to 133, just over the ceiling which had been recommended by Peter Dimmer. There was a waiting list, and Peter was given authority to determine whether some of these should be admitted, depending on court usage.

In the next few years, the membership gradually increased to 150, and Sydney began to think about a second court as early as 1962. At that point, he decided to convert the mortgage into debentures which would be the same as those held by the Charter members. The mortgage of \$100,000 was replaced by a debenture for \$120,000, the difference of \$20,000 making up for most of the unpaid interest which had accrued over five years. Sydney also held about ten debentures on behalf of members whom he had sponsored into the Club at his own expense, because they enhanced the quality of tennis and could not otherwise afford to belong. With 120 debentures in his own name, and another 10 debentures held for others, Sydney held a comfortable majority of the votes even when the voting membership reached about 100.

From that time on the Queen's Club had a very simple capital structure, consisting solely of debentures which could only be voted at the Annual Meeting by active members. After Sydney's death in 1992, this feature in the capital structure enabled the club to carry on as before.

Indoor Tennis Arrives In Toronto



Here's action on Toronto's first indoor tennis court at the Queen's Club which opened Saturday night. For this illustrious occasion four international stars played doubles. In the back court, serving, is Bill Talbert, captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team, and his partner, Barry McKay, a member of the U.S. cup team. Forecourt, at net, is Don Fontana of Toronto, Canadian Davis Cup player, and Lorne Main of Montreal, former Davis Cupper.

It was not unusual for a non-profit club to have voting debentures in its capital structure. When he applied for an Ontario charter, Sydney had intended to create a small amount of voting common stock, and a much larger amount of non-voting preferred stock, thus ensuring control. But D'Arcy Kingsmill did some research on the matter and found that it would be risky to create preferred shares; in the event that the common shares failed to pay a dividend (a real possibility in a start-up club), the preferreds would acquire voting powers under Ontario law, and Sydney could lose control.

This Dream Comes True For Tennis

By GEORGE DULMAGE
Sports Editor

Syd Hermant was a proud man Saturday night. He was standing in the lounge of the Queen's Club and looking down through the window at the first indoor tennis club in Toronto. For Syd Hermant this was the climax of a long search for a place to play tennis in the winter. He could recall those many years when he commuted to Hamilton over icy roads just to play tennis.

The Queen's Club, once the property of the Toronto Skating Club, on Dupont st. was the answer. And Saturday, with international Davis Cup stars playing on the magnificently lighted court, he was a happy, proud man.

Around him were the tennis enthusiasts of Toronto who had helped make it possible. There were people like the club president, J. Allan Ross, who won the U.S. intercollegiate championship in 1906; Dr Art Ham Gilbert Nunn, both former Davis Cuppers. There was Gordon McNeil, of Montreal, Canadian Davis Cup captain.

And there were Con. Joe Cornish representing the city, and Hon. Dana Porter, provincial treasurer, who pushed the button that lighted up the court.

On the court were Bill Talbert, the non-playing captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team; youths Barry McKay, a playing member of that team; Don Fontana, Canada's team, and Lorne Main, a former member of the team. The Americans won this exhibition doubles, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. That didn't matter. What did matter was that Toronto at last had an indoor tennis club.

Indoor tennis arrives in Toronto. (The Telegram Oct. 21, 1957)

Further research satisfied D'Arcy that it would be more sensible to follow the procedure used in many clubs, by incorporating a company without share capital but with voting debentures. Once the mortgage was removed, the debentures represented a first charge over the property of the Queen's Club, but this had little significance unless the club were wound up or moved elsewhere, an unlikely event.

It would appear from what has been said so far that Sydney and the board were wholly occupied with bricks and mortar and the financial affairs of the Club in the first year; but this was not the case. Tennis was always the priority, and the physical amenities of the club were (and remained) quite secondary. The furniture in the public rooms and galleries on the second floor has remained essentially unchanged since 1957, and indeed since 1922. There are still foot lockers in the basement dating from the days of the Skating Club. This gives the Club a certain aura of antiquity which is not inappropriate given the age of many members.

From the beginning, the board concentrated on the quality of the tennis court and on the quality of the games. A distinguishing feature of the club, much prized by the members, was that games were arranged for members by Peter Dimmer, and, later on, by his assistant Catherine Boyd. A member had only to call the club and request a time for a game, and Peter would line up suitable opponents. This required a good deal of phone time, as well as a considerable knowledge of the members' abilities. The club style of arranged games has remained a central feature at the Queen's, although the phone job has long since been passed to others.

The first club tournament was held in April 1958, with singles and doubles for seniors and juniors, both men and women. With the passage of time, the open championships have been supplemented by matches for over-45 seniors, and in recent years by a "Masters" tournament, this being a euphemism for the age group over 65. There is no women's



Active participants at the opening of the club (l to r); players Barry Mackay, William Talbert, Lorne Main, Don Fontana, ball boys David Margesson, Adam Hermant, Ted Casso

Masters, for the obvious reason that no woman member admits to being eligible, even though some are in their seventies or even eighties.

The club championships mark the end of the season at the Queen's. By late April the members are aching to be outside at their summer clubs, even though the sun and unaccustomed breezes offer new obstacles after a winter indoors. In the late spring and early fall, the club limps along without pre-arranged games, and now in summer it closes altogether, mainly to give the staff a holiday.

Competitive tennis was not confined to the intra-club tournament. Almost from the beginning, annual matches were arranged with the Montreal Indoor Tennis Club, and occasionally there were trips to Buffalo to meet the Tennis and Squash Club. In recent times those matches have been

replaced by tournaments under the auspices of the International Lawn Tennis Club. Founded by former Davis Cuppers, membership is by invitation. Good “club players” are not usually good enough to belong to this group, but the Queen’s Club has always been able to field a team for tournaments in Toronto or abroad.

Once membership reached about 150, it was becoming difficult to arrange games with only one court available. As early as 1962, Sydney sounded out the board, wondering aloud about the trade-off between a larger membership and a fair distribution of costs between new members and the existing membership—a perennial problem for all clubs. He reckoned that a second court would cost about \$80,000, although this could not have included the cost of additional land. He ruminated that a second court might deter the Badminton and Racquet or the Toronto Lawn from building an indoor court of their own, and thereby draw off some of the membership from the Queen’s Club. The technology of the bubble was just over the horizon, but so also was an explosion of interest in the game of tennis.

A more immediate and important question was: should a bathtub be installed in the men’s shower-room? One or two of the older members, to say nothing of the club manager, were partial to the old way of doing things—sitting down for ablutions. The issue was vigorously debated at several board meetings, and finally led to a triumphant victory for the traditionalists.

Shortly after the bathtub question was resolved, Allan Ross decided to step down as president and Bill Seagram as vice-president. It is not generally thought that there was any connection. Gil Nunns succeeded Ross as president, but Ross stayed on as

honorary president. Larry Bonnycastle succeeded Seagram, and P.T.Molson joined the board in place of Maurice Margesson.

Gil Nunns was one of the most eminent players in Canada. He had been Canadian junior champion in 1924, at the age of 16. In 1927 he was “the nineteen year old sensation” at the

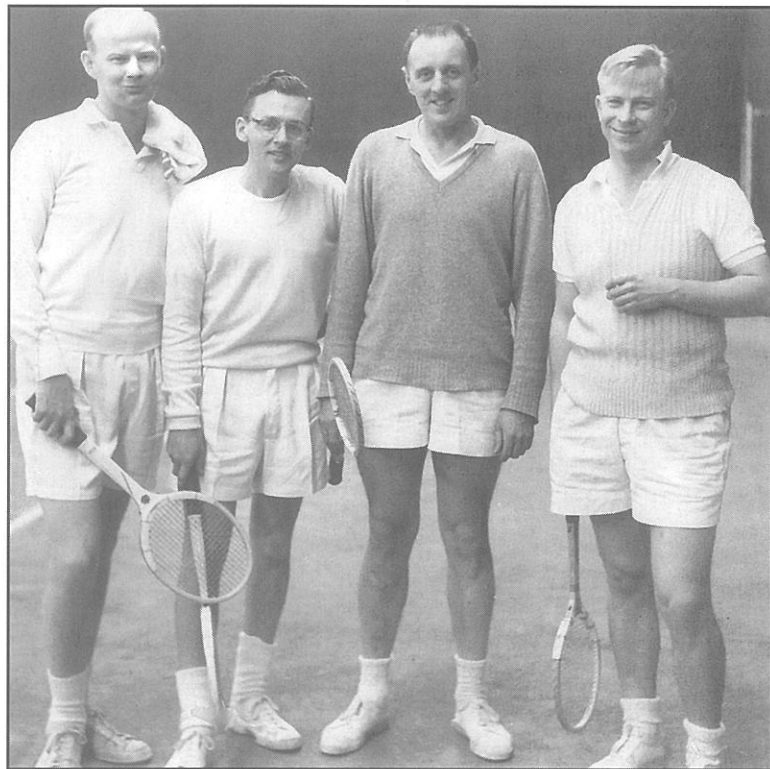


*Women's singles champion and runner-up, April 1958,
Louise Brown and Sharon Caldwell*

central Ontario championships. According to Sydney, he was called "The Trout," because of the way his mouth pulled down at the corner when he served.⁴ In 1932 he played for Canada in the Davis Cup against the United States, and in the following year against Cuba. In 1994, the board of the Queen's Club made him an honorary member.

Whether to take the plunge into building a second court was a recurrent theme in the years 1963-65. Finally, at a board meeting in January 1966, Sydney said that the scrap yard just to the east of the club and the adjoining home, which together were the site of Dupont Auto Wreckers, could be acquired for \$70,000. At the time, this lot was filled to a depth of about six feet with auto parts and old tires. Knocking the house down would provide the club with an extra 50 feet of frontage on Dupont Street, with the full depth of 132 feet to the back fence. Sydney also thought it might be possible to buy the two houses at 554-556 Dupont, immediately east of the auto wrecker's home. This would add a further 25 feet of frontage. In the meantime, the house at 562 Dupont, which the Winter Club had bought in 1939, had been demolished to create more parking space. Prior to the acquisition in 1939, there had been only a narrow alley with room to park six or eight cars along the side of the building, and some space at the back of the building.

Anyone examining the files closely might be somewhat bewildered by the discovery that the deed to the property at 558-560 Dupont Street had already been conveyed to Sydney, through his lawyer, seven months before this decision of the board! The fact was, Sydney had already bought out Manny Weinrauch, owner of Dupont Auto Wreckers, in June 1965 through PAJA Realty, an arm of his holding company. (PAJA was an acronym for Peter-Adam-John-Andrew, and was the top company in the Imperial Optical conglomerate). He had paid \$70,000 for the property, and had leased it back to the



*Men's doubles finalists, April 1958,
Jim Duff, Frank Dimock, Stan Senn, Frank Mott-Trille*

former owner on a short-term arrangement, until the Queen's Club was in a position to make the investment. After obtaining the board's approval for the acquisition, and raising new capital from the members, he transferred it at the same price to the Queen's Club in June 1966. Far from making any money on the deal, he had absorbed legal costs and the time of his professional staff.

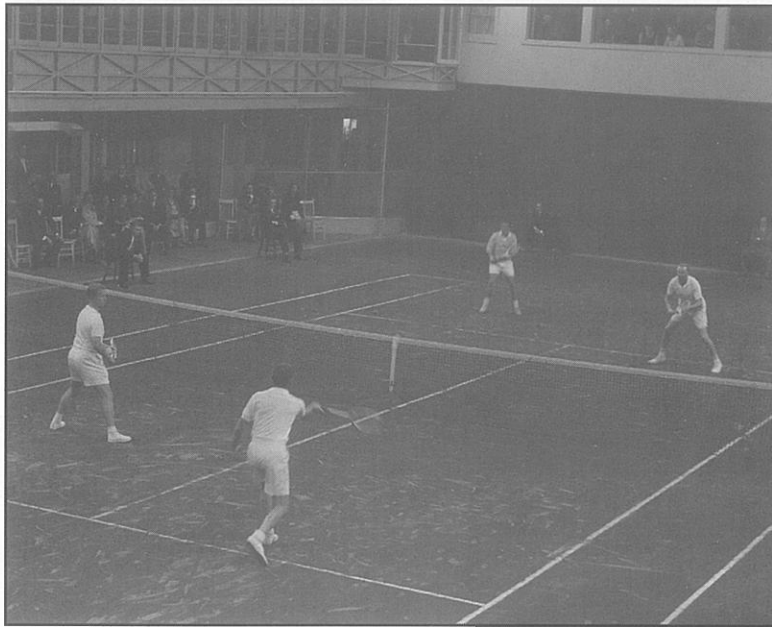
To compound the bewilderment, Sydney also bought in September 1965, for the account of PAJA Realty, the two duplex houses at 554-556 Dupont. He paid Giuseppe Falcione and Pietro Gatti about \$12,000 each for their hous-

es, which together have a frontage of 25 feet. These two lots were only 85 feet deep, because the rear halves were already part of the neighbour's auto wrecking outfit. Sydney then spent some money on needed renovations, and absorbed some rental losses until May 1970, almost five years later, when he felt that the Queen's Club could handle this additional investment. The properties were transferred from PAJA to the Queen's Club at about \$15,000 each, a price which could hardly have covered Sydney's costs, even though he assured the board that PAJA would break even. These two houses remain next door today, and are occupied by two staff members, Danny Morrison and Katima Tessama, who handle maintenance and security for the club.

In a small club with one court, having the maintenance man on site is a great advantage; he can roll and water the court late in the evening, and still open the doors for the 7 a.m. crowd. Sydney installed one of his Imperial Optical employees, John Keenan, in the third floor apartment which was part of the original home on the southeast corner. Keenan was succeeded by Peter Jenner, who also worked part-time at Imperial Optical downtown. After the 1965 acquisition of 554-556 Dupont by PAJA,

Sydney shifted still another of his employees at Imperial Optical, Danny Morrison, to the job of assistant caretaker at the Club, and rented 554 Dupont to him. A year later, Peter Jenner moved into 556 Dupont and the third floor apartment was abandoned.

Peter Jenner suffered a severe beating in the course of conducting his duties, which included being watchman. When construction was getting under way on the second



Second season opening - exhibition match (l to r): Frank Mott-Trille and Harry Fauquier for the Queen's Club vs. William Talbert and Donald Budge of the United States



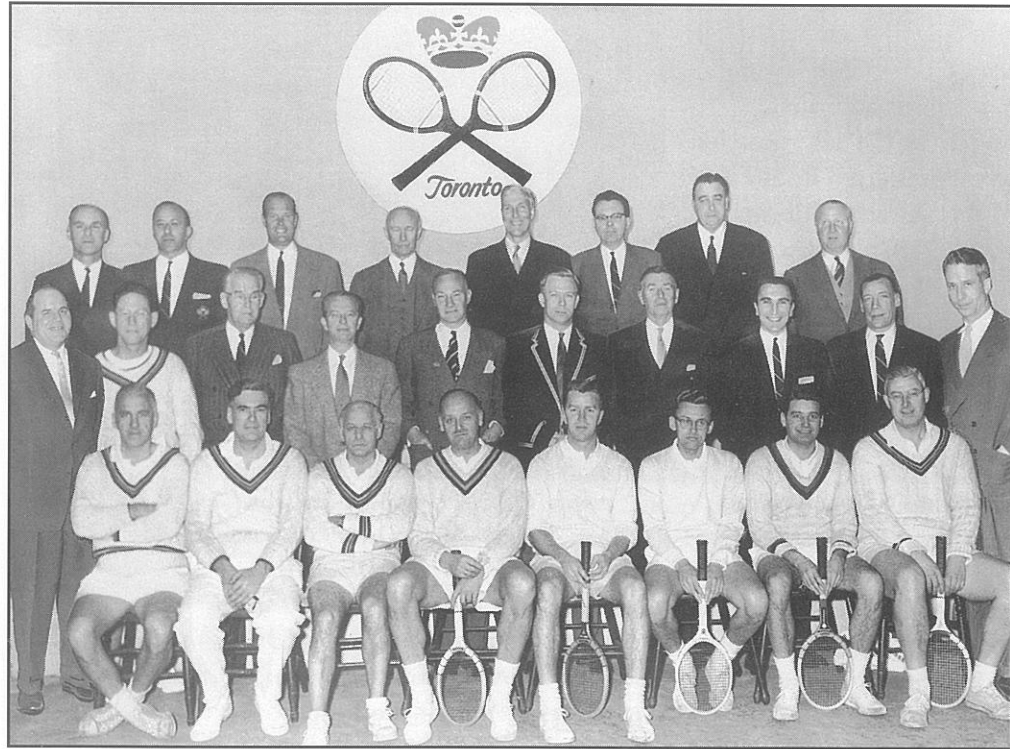
Donald Budge opens the second season with panache, Oct. 18, 1958

court, two thieves attempted to make off in the night with some of the materials. When Jenner challenged them he was mugged for his trouble, and forced to spend a week in the hospital. Danny was brought on board temporarily, and eventually replaced Jenner altogether.

With a green light from the board for spending \$70,000 on the property next door, Sydney unveiled his plan for the second-court project. He estimated that the cost of the new building and the court itself would be around \$100,000. Where would the money come from? At that moment (early 1966) there was \$67,000 in cash on hand, mostly from the proceeds of debentures. To raise the rest, Sydney proposed adding 20 new members to the 154 then on the rolls, and requiring them to put up \$1,500 each for a debenture. This would produce \$30,000. As for the existing members, he also proposed a change in the by-laws which would require them to invest a further \$500 in debentures, on top of their original investment of \$1,000. But not all the 154 members owned a debenture; most of the women and all the intermediates and juniors did not.

The arithmetic was simple enough: about 90 seniors would produce an additional \$45,000, and most of the \$25,000 gap would be filled by charging those Senior Ladies who were not wives of members \$500 each for a debenture. But fiscal precision was never a primary feature of Board meetings, nor of the

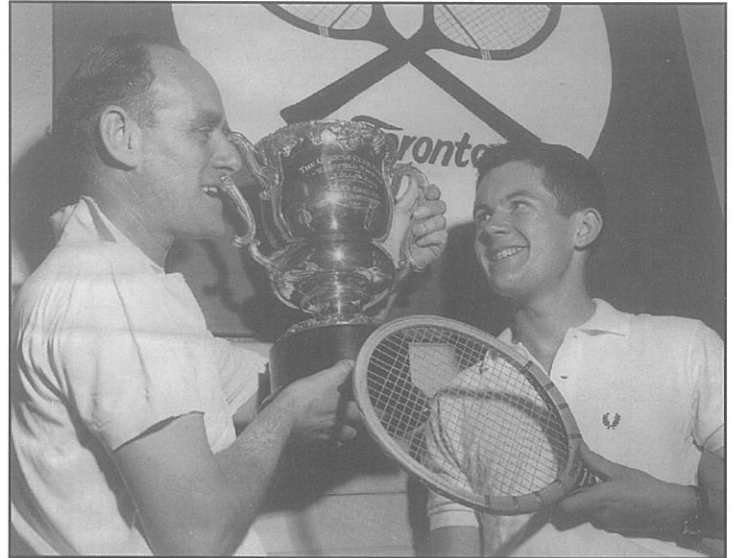
Annual General Meeting either. The reality was that Sydney would cover off the discrepancies personally, as long as the whole thing made reasonable sense to him.



First interclub tournament with Montreal Indoor Club, 1959. Front row: Paul Haynes, Larry Bonnycastle, Leo Choquette, John Bonus, Jack Spencer, Frank Dimock, Lorne Main, Laird Watt Second row: Ivan White, "Flynn" Flanagan, Allan Ross, Pete Reid, Frank Schulman, Frank Mott-Trille, Fred Torrance, Jim Bentley, Henry Norrington, Henry Meisner Third row: Peter Dimmer, Sydney Hermant, Bob Winters, John Gibson, Gilbert Nunns, Bruce Harrison, Walter Martin, Jack Cushing



Odd couple : Bruce Harrison and Allan Ross



Peter Dimmer presenting the Sydney Hermant Trophy to Harry Fauquier, who was junior men's champion in 1958 and 1959

1. The Minutes for Oct.9,1958 read: "The Treasurer (Sydney) reported that he had been able to renegotiate the interest on the mortgage from 6% to 5% retroactive to its inception." The mortgagee was C.D.Kingsmill (in Trust) who was acting for Sydney himself!

2. Jory, page 81.



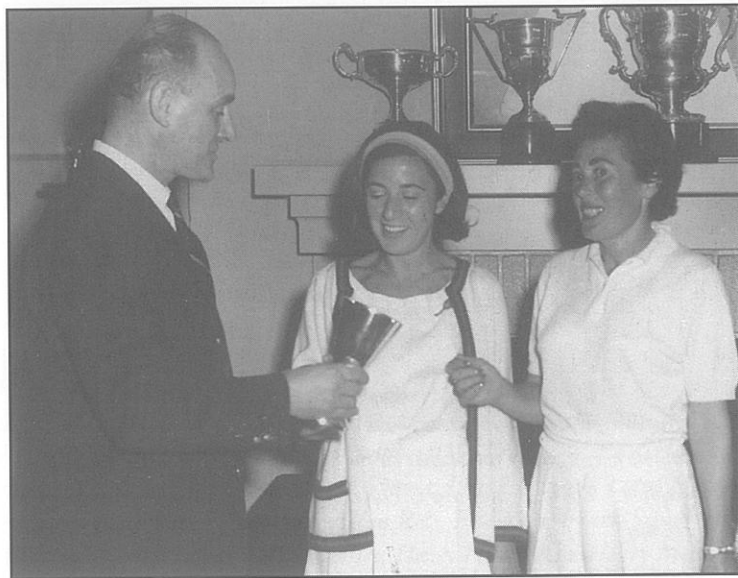
Keeping an eye on the 1961 finals: Madge Hermant (seated) and Sydney Hermant



What the Hermants saw - a leaper



What the Hermants saw - a rear view



Peter Dimmer presenting prize to Ann Dubin and Cecile Fisher, 1964

CHAPTER FIVE

A LONG REIGN

There was now sufficient room to build a second court, and Sydney lost no time in getting started. In the summer of 1966 the east wall of the old Winter Club, which boasted large windows, was demolished and replaced by a solid wall. The basement of the Winter Club was filled in, and some of the rooms in the southeast corner of the old building were incorporated into the new plan. The new east court, built in the winter of 1966-67, was ready for a grand opening in October 1967 by Governor General Roland Michener. According to the minutes, Roly was "a past member of the Club."

At the annual meeting that year, Sydney explained the new arrangement for issuing debentures to both old and new members, and for bringing most of the women into a voting position as debenture holders. Not that votes meant very much, because the decisions had already been taken. For what it was worth, each \$500 debenture now had one vote, so the Senior Men had 3 votes each. Up to this point there had been no secondary market in the debentures, because new members were able to acquire newly issued debentures from the club. After the successful financing of the second court, the total issued capital was 800 debentures with a face value of \$500 each; there were no more debentures available for new

members, because Sydney wanted to retain control with about 53%.

At the same time, resignations were starting to occur, usually for health reasons. Since there was no market for those who wanted to pull out, there was clearly a need for a secondary market. To deal with this problem, Sydney proposed that the Club office should facilitate transactions between new and retiring members by acting as an introducer. The price of debentures was deemed to be 50 cents on the dollar, this being a convention rather than a market. But there was a serious shortage of debentures, either because the older members who left the club could not remember where they had put the certificates, or because their executors assumed with some justification that they were without value. Whatever the reasons, a newcomer was expected to search out two debentures, each with a face value of \$500, but at half-price. In order to round out the cost of admission, which had become \$1,500 when the second court was built, the new members also paid an initiation fee of \$1,000. Now there were original Charter Members with three votes, new Senior Men with two votes, Senior Ladies with one vote, and out-of-town members also with one vote.

The complexity did not end there. As the years went by, the supply of debentures dried up altogether, and the rules



Opening of the second court, Nov.18,1967, exhibition doubles: Mary and George Heintzman vs Roly Michener and Hope Salmond

had to be changed again. In the eighties and nineties, new members were advised that no debentures were available, but would be provided at some future date if any showed up. Meantime, the entrance fee would be \$1,500, and this new generation of non-voting members would be designated as Resident Members. Later on, as inflation and rising costs made themselves felt at the Queen's Club as everywhere else, the initiation fee became \$2,000, then \$3,000. But the motivation and memory of retiring members did not improve, and the supply of debentures was almost nil. After two decades, the turnover of the membership gradually eroded the number of Charter Members, and by the early nineties, Resident Members came to represent about two-thirds of the total membership.

The beginning of the Club's second decade in October 1967 was marked by changes at the board level as well as in the convoluted conditions of membership. Gil Nunns stepped down as president, and Alan Y.Eaton succeeded him as the third president. George Heintzman, who had been a director from the beginning, became vice-president. Twenty-five years later he would be the incumbent president, the fourth, when Sydney Hermant died. Some new faces appeared on the board: Coe Suydam and W.W.Southam.

The opening of the second court increased the burdens on the small staff. Peter Dimmer was trying to cope with his triple duties as tennis pro, manager and game-arranger, a job at which he was so good that the older members still remember him for it. To ease the telephone load, Catherine Boyd

was promoted from the snack bar upstairs to the office downstairs. She would be a personality in the Club for many years. Peter had another assistant, John Banko, who gave tennis lessons and filled in when needed to make up a foursome.

Now that there were two courts, the maintenance job became full-time. Danny Morrison had been brought in from Imperial Optical to look after the courts in the evening, but his principal job was still caretaker at one of Sydney's buildings on Sherbourne Street.

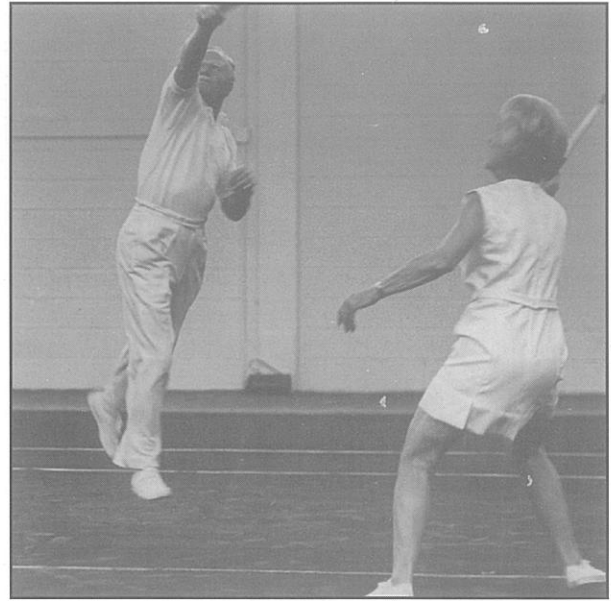
In 1973 he succeeded Peter Jenner as chief caretaker when the latter resigned for personal reasons. In addition to his main responsibility of keeping the two Har-tru courts in the best possible shape, there was also a great deal of minor maintenance on the building, now 44 years old. Danny needed an assistant in order to have any time off, so Alex Kazuk was recruited; he moved into 556 Dupont and his wife became the snack bar attendant.

But the management of the building was always conducted with an eye to Sydney's frugal priorities. At the board meeting in September 1968, the managing director reported that summer maintenance had included painting the west court, installing a new carpet in the men's locker room, and a long list of other details. And then the following:

"It was agreed that as soon as the club is in a financial position to do so, that consideration will be given to improving the showers in the Ladies' locker room, but in view of the heavy expenditures during the past several years, this has not been possible as yet".

This was followed by a motion to put a "proper clock in the men's sauna."

The composition of the board changed infrequently, and board meetings were few. There was usually a meeting in April or May at the Albany Club, and another in September when the new season got under way. The Annual General Meeting normally followed in October, and attendance was



I'll take it!

sometimes sparse. Of the five present at the 1976 meeting, one was the President, Alan Eaton, and two were Hermants, Sydney and John.

In the mid-seventies, John Hermant assumed responsibility for the fabric of the building, as well as the heating and plumbing. There were ongoing problems with the roof and the showers would sometimes produce a dribble of water, or none at all if the courts were being watered. Eventually it was decided to install electric heat, mainly because the pesky boilers were always giving trouble.

Throughout the seventies and early eighties, there was always a waiting list of would-be members. In 1968, the pressure of applicants had led the board to increase the membership ceiling to 200, of whom 120 were men, 55 women, and 25 juniors. In 1973, the ceiling was raised once again to 220, even though the number of indoor courts in Toronto



Roly, that was my shot!

had by then increased to 48. On the question of the membership ceiling Peter Dimmer's recommendation was decisive, and he was able to raise the level as the membership aged. Some members played infrequently if at all, and Sydney encouraged those who had retired from work to play at the noon hour.

Nor did rising fees deter applicants from joining the Queen's Club. For some reason, the subject of fees was never mentioned in the board minutes until 1962, when they were

raised to \$150 for Senior Men, the first increase since 1957. It was not until 1973 that fees for Senior Men reached \$200; Senior Ladies and intermediates paid \$125, and juniors \$50. But there was also a "court lighting fee," raised in 1973 from \$3 to \$4.20. This was an hourly charge for use of the court, normally divided between the players; it has survived to this day, but is now usually described as a court usage fee.

The relatively modest progression of fees turned into a steady advance in the mid-seventies, as inflation took hold in the economy.

Almost every annual meeting was marked by a further increase, usually about \$30. By 1978, the fee for Senior men was \$280, by 1987 it was \$495, and in the early nineties it reached \$750. The court usage fee also increased steadily, arriving at double digits in 1992. But the "no-vacancy" sign was still up until the late eighties, when the economic recession, the competition from many new bubble-court facilities and the declining interest in tennis combined to bring the demand below supply for the first time in the club's history.

During the seventies there was a gradual changing of the guard. Gil Nunns retired from the board in 1973, but continued to play until afflicted with loss of eyesight. Allan Ross attended his last board meeting in May 1974 and died in 1975, aged 87. New faces appeared at the Board—Bob Armstrong and John Elder, and later on Rod Phelan. The connection



Alan Eaton presenting to Lawrie Strong, 1969



*Jim Boyce and Jane O'Hara,
already national junior champions,
at 1969 club tournament*

between tennis, physical fitness and longevity could hardly go unnoticed; all but one of these played tennis into their late seventies and eighties. While admirable, the average age of the membership was truly getting out of hand, creating an ongoing problem for Sydney's successors.

There were other changes. Peter Best, the original accountant who helped Sydney in the founding stages, retired

in 1973. His successor was Rae Harrison, who also worked in the Imperial Optical conglomerate. He was appointed "honorary auditor", the "honorary" appellation being Sydney's subtle way of saying that he was paid from Sydney's own resources for his duties as auditor rather than by the club. The membership was not really aware of the club costs being absorbed by its patron. Given the "benign dictatorship" (as Mac Samples would one day describe Sydney's regime), there was no great interest in following the affairs of the club, or even in attending the annual meeting. The attendance of five members in 1976, already mentioned, was followed by a new low of four members in 1979, of whom two were Sydney and Alan Eaton. In the following year there was a great turnout—seven members: three Hermants (Sydney, Peter and John), the president Alan Eaton, the future fourth president, George Heintzman, the future fifth president, Bob MacIntosh, and to round out the select group, John Turner.

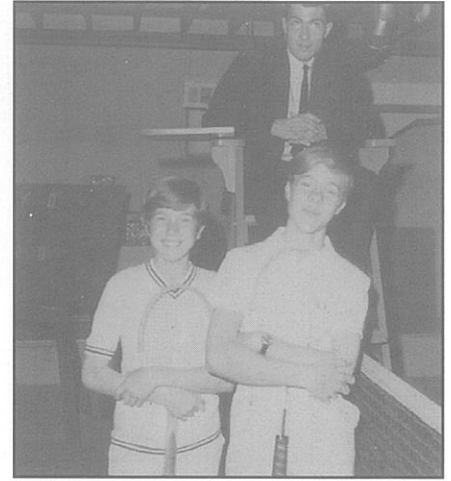
But the following year set an all-time record, when there were three members at the annual meeting—Sydney, John Turner and Bob MacIntosh. The managing director gave his report briskly, and the only other two members present took turns moving and seconding all the resolutions. The honorary auditor was, of course, also present. There was only one copy of the financial statements.

Reflecting later on this meeting, John Turner described it as "an efficient example of guided democracy."

All six members of the Hermant family played tennis, but only John joined Sydney on the board, in 1972. He remained a member until 1994, and helped to provide continuity after his father's death in 1992.

In the mid-seventies, Peter Dimmer began to worry about the need for an understudy, and raised his concerns with the board.

He had long since worked out an arrangement which allowed him to manage his own business as a tennis professional in the four summer months, as noted earlier. His summer school at Upper Canada College was well known, and by the mid-eighties there were Peter Dimmer Tennis Schools at the National Tennis Centre on the York University campus, at Havergal and Bishop Strachan, and also one at Branksome Hall in Rosedale, run by Shirley Dimmer and Shirley



*Pat Gamey and Greg Halder,
winner and runner-up, 1969 boys singles,
with umpire Ian Griffin*



Pete Reid presenting mixed doubles trophy to Frank Dimock and Vivienne Strong vs. mother and son team Shirley and David Dimmer, 1972

Hawthorne. Some of the younger members of the Queen's Club were recruited as assistants in the summer.

His full-time assistant at the Queen's Club, John Banko, was about the same vintage as Peter and had a somewhat uncomfortable relationship with Sydney. In 1974, Peter recruited his first junior assistant pro, Don Hall, but this did not last. The second recruit as junior pro was Keith Porter, but he was not aiming at a tennis career. In 1977, Adrian Coles showed up from the Queen's Club in London, England, where Sydney had visiting privileges. But he too moved on, as did Roland Rutland in 1980.

The basic problem was that the job of a professional at the Queen's Club was a seven-month stint, and the opportunity for teaching juniors was limited. Most of the members considered themselves above or beyond professional help; their styles were grooved beyond redemption. There were, of course, some exceptions. Up to end of his life, Roly Michener had a regular weekly half-hour session in mid-afternoon with one of the pros. His goal was to keep the ball in

the air with short volleys over the net, and he could still achieve about twenty or thirty consecutive shots when he had a 90th birthday game at the Club in 1990. Roly had been Mike Pearson's tennis partner at Oxford in the early twenties, and had been good enough to play in the Canadian Open doubles in those years.¹ No member of the Club has matched his age as an active player, although there are several possible challengers.

In 1984 there was a final falling-out between Sydney and John Banko, and to the regret of many Banko departed. This heightened the urgency of finding an understudy for Peter Dimmer, who was now approaching 70 and who had already undergone his first hip replacement. After a search, Dave McLoughlin was selected, and in a short time he assumed most of the teaching responsibilities in the Club. Peter Dimmer stepped down as the pro but remained manager of the club until the end of the season in 1986. After that he was appointed as consultant by Sydney, and usually attended the board meetings. He continued to play until 1994, despite increasing problems with his hips.

There was a problem of succession in the office as well as on the courts. Catherine Boyd retired at the end of the season in May 1984, leaving a yawning gap in the day-to-day management of the club's affairs, especially the arranging of games. It was not until October 1985 that Alla Szummer migrated to Dupont Street from her downtown job as Sydney's secretary. In her first year, she understudied Peter Dimmer, and in October 1986 she took over the office. In 1993 the Board recognized her formally as manager of the club, a position she occupies to this day.

But the managing director—Sydney—continued in his role as benign dictator. The Board minutes are punctuated with his observations. In 1988, after several years' warning, he announced that the east wall of the club would have to be replaced at a cost of \$130,000. This required only a modest

assessment of \$100 per member, the third in the club's history, because a reserve for such purposes had been accumulated. Then there was the perennial question of the most appropriate surface for the courts, which had always been Har-Tru. Sydney organized a small group of directors to try out the new synthetic surfaces at various clubs in the Toronto area:

"Our consultant, Peter Dimmer, has been keeping a watchful eye on the new synthetic surfaces now being developed and used in other indoor facilities, such as synthetic grass material, various types and colours of carpets, and of course Laycold. The most recent ones were installed by the new Mayfair club on the Lakeshore, comprising a red en-tous-cas colour carpet impregnated with synthetic clay pellets, called Bross Slide, and even more recently the new high profile Timberlane Club in Aurora, which has similar courts although their outdoor courts are the traditional Har-Tru."²

In the end, the conclusion remained the same, that the soft clay compound on the courts was the best for the ageing knees of the membership. But Sydney was meticulous about the conditions of the courts: every second summer, one or both of the courts would be "scarified", which involved replacing the surface to a depth of one or two inches. Constant attention was paid to the fans and heaters which were needed to maintain appropriate humidity on the courts. But the furniture remained the same.

The aging of the membership did not go unnoticed. At the annual meeting in 1988, Sydney presented a few statistics for the first time: 41% of the members were over 60 years of age, 21% were 51-60, 22% were 41-50, and only the remaining 16% were under 41 years of age! Something had to be done, but what and when?

Meantime there were further changes on the board. After 17 years as president, Alan Eaton decided to step down and in October 1984, he was succeeded by George Heintzman. A newcomer to the board was John Swinden, and in 1989 Peter



*Tony Griffiths and Andy Hermant, and
Mr. Hermant's moustache, 1975*

Stewart also became a member. These three would all be key players in the transition after Sydney's death in December 1992. There were other changes in the board's composition. In 1991 John Bassett retired, at that point being the only original director except for Sydney and George Heintzman. In that same year Pete Reid died, greatly mourned by the tennis community in Toronto.

The loss of John Bassett and Pete Reid meant that there were two openings on the board, and in 1991 Sydney appointed Jim Bradshaw and Bob MacIntosh. A possible consequence of these appointments was that, in 1991-1992, membership declined for the first time in the Club's history.

* * * *

On December 23, 1992, Sydney Hermant suddenly passed away, just four days short of his eightieth birthday. This was a great shock not only to his family, but to a wide community



*Ken Sinclair receiving men's singles trophy
from Alan Eaton 1981*

in Toronto, of which the Queen's Club was an important part. Sydney had not been in the best of health for a year or two, and had gradually given up playing tennis. His business worries were weighing him down, although this was not a subject for discussion with his fellow club members. When he reached the point of not playing at all,

he would nevertheless always show up in the men's locker room on Saturday morning, and he would watch a game or two from the gallery with his great friend Mac Samples. In the last days of his life, the troubles of the PAJA group of companies became public knowledge for the first time, and this painful event undoubtedly contributed to his passing.

On January 23, 1993 a memorial service for Sydney was held in the Great Hall of Hart House at the University of Toronto. It was standing-room only. Peter Hermant presided, and there were eulogies by Claude Bissell, a former President of the University, by Jack Sword, a former vice-president and long-time member of the Queen's club, and by George Heintzman, the Club's president.

The University was always a major factor in Sydney's life. He was vice-president of the Students' Administrative Council in his graduating year, 1935, and four years later he became president of the SAC, a position held by a graduate

student. In 1948 he became a member of Senate and in 1972 he joined the Board of Governors. After the restructuring of the University's governance he remained on the new Governing Council from 1972 to 1977, and was vice-chairman from 1975 to 1977. His father, Percy, had funded a fellowship in the Faculty of Medicine and Sydney added an admission scholarship.

Sydney had many friends in the senior ranks of the faculty and he made a point of enticing as many as he could to join the Queen's Club. This was confirmed by Claude Bissell at the memorial service:

"On one occasion he inquired solicitously about my programme for exercise, having in mind, I am sure, a certain tennis club. I replied jauntily that Christine and I had already taken care of that: we were members of a Scottish dancing group. The look on Sydney's face could be described as a mixture of shock and incredulity."

Jack Sword reminded the large congregation of Sydney's lifelong devotion to the University, and especially to University College:

"Sydney was a man of character and achievement. He was a family man, a business man, an athlete and a responsible citizen. He was meticulous in details of dress and deportment, conservative in style and politics, considerate in personal matters, inclusive in friendships, direct in discourse, and punctual in routine."

The Board of Directors of the Queen's Club assembled for the first time without Sydney on January 11, 1993. All were present, beginning with George Heintzman, the president, and John Hermant, the remaining member of the family on the board. The others were: Larry Bonnycastle, Jim Bradshaw, John Elder, Bob MacIntosh, Rod Phelan, Peter Stewart and John Swinden. There was a puzzled hiatus: where to begin? No one knew very much about the affairs of the club; there were annual reports and minutes of board meetings and

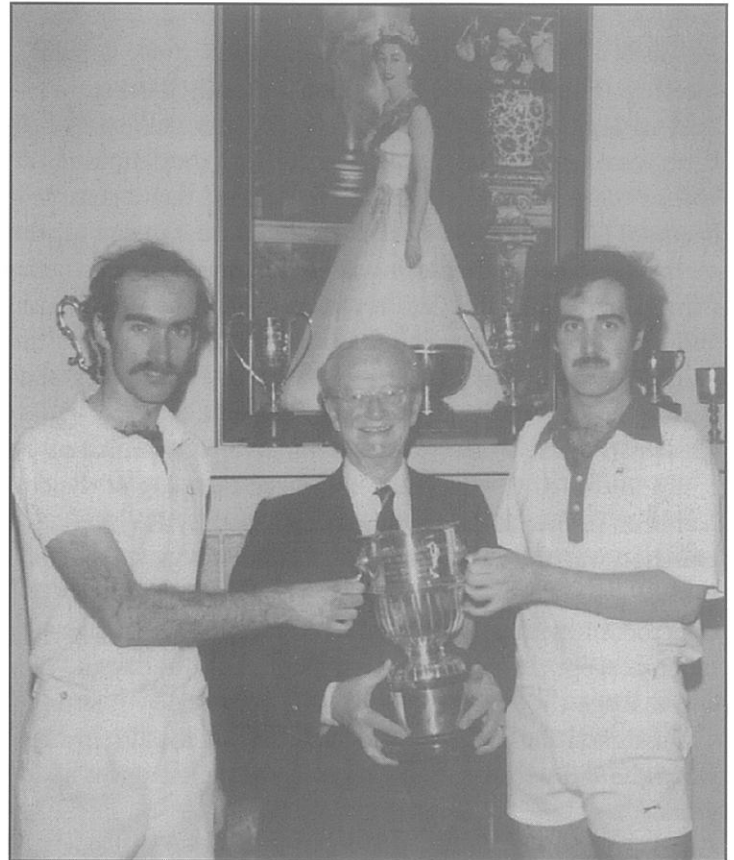
annual meetings, and the manager, Alla Szummer, could fill in some gaps. But the specific hands-on knowledge of affairs had been known only to Sydney.

The first order of business was a tribute to Sydney by George Heintzman. Then, "Others of the directors present expressed their sadness and appreciation for the outstanding contribution Mr. Hermant had made to the game of tennis by founding and managing the club for so many years. A resolution was unanimously passed recording the heartfelt appreciation of the directors on behalf of themselves and all the members of the club."

The only social event of the year is the annual Sunday lunch in April to watch the final tennis matches of the season. A large punch bowl (originally donated by Sydney's mother, Dorothy) is the centre of conviviality, and the members are always treated to excellent matches over the buffet lunch. The Club finals on April 18, 1993 was like no other before it in the thirty-six years of the club; it was a lively wake for Sydney. The highlight was the reading of "In Memorium" by Mac Samples. His title was: To Sydney Hermant; A Man of Tennis". One passage read:

"He not only created it, but set the rules!
And the rules set the atmosphere -
An atmosphere which has been described as
'Guided democracy' "

More by reason of good luck than good planning, there were two outstanding lawyers on the board, George Heintzman and Jim Bradshaw. With their knowledge and experience, the board suddenly became a conventional structure, rather than the Greek chorus it had been. George proposed the establishment of an executive committee and the creation of several officer positions accountable for the club's affairs. Jim Bradshaw was appointed Secretary, a position he continued to hold until he became President in 1996. John Swinden became Treasurer, Pete Stewart became chairman of



The year of the moustache, 1981; Pete Reid between David Dimmer and Keith Porter

the Property Committee and Bob MacIntosh chaired the Membership Committee.

The second order of business was to establish the legal status of the club: the validity of the by-laws, the title to the property, and the relationship of the club to PAJA, the holding company which was in receivership and which held 52.5% of the debentures. As it turned out, there was no real issue with regard to the debentures which Sydney had held,

because the existing by-laws of the club provided that only active members could vote their debentures at the annual meeting. This led to the realization that only 94 members held voting debentures, while the other 193 members of the Club were equal in all respects except that they could not vote at the Annual Meeting. It was decided that a complete overhaul of the by-laws was necessary in order to put all the members on the same footing. The directors retained the law firm Fasken Campbell Godfrey to advise on the legal issues and draft new by-laws. The first new by-law established the executive committee suggested by George Heintzman, consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairmen of the Property and Membership Committees.

Up to this time, the finances and bookkeeping of the club had been in the hands of officers employed by PAJA. Rae Harrison was the outside auditor, paid by Sydney, and Ken Nicholls was the accountant, also employed by Sydney. The directors immediately decided to continue their engagements, except that now the club would have to pay the bills and manage the finances. John Swinden, the new treasurer, was assigned the job of creating the new financial regime, which he did with great devotion in the next months and years.

All of these new arrangements were decided and executed quickly, and had the support of the Hermant family. John said that "he and his three brothers fully support the Board in its determination to carry on the club and make it prosper." A few months later, John decided to step down from the board, as did Larry Bonnycastle and Rod Phelan. The changing of the guard in the post-Sydney era was in its first stage.

In March, the board established an employee benefits program to replace the previous arrangements between the staff and PAJA, which were now no longer operative. Peter Dimmer was asked to brief the board on the condition of the tennis courts, and John Swinden described his plans to devel-

op a formal budget for consideration. A month later, the board had a complete new set of by-laws ready for consideration by the membership.

A special meeting of the members was convened on June 9, 1993, and the new by-laws were passed by the members who then held voting debentures. As a result, all 287 members henceforth had a vote, rather than the 94 members who held debentures and were also active players. Since membership was no longer contingent on holding debentures (which in any event were hardly ever available), there was no longer any point in trying to find debentures, and the transfer of debentures came to an end. Their only value now is that of first claim on the property in the unlikely event of its being sold.

One of the first considerations in the post-Sydney era was to broaden the representation of the membership on the board. The first appointment was actually an old hand, Bob Torrens, who was asked to chair a new tennis committee. In September 1993, Mary Anne Miller, Clare Piller and David Fleck joined the board; for the first time, the 100 women members had some representation, and also for the first time, a member of the younger generation became the forerunner in a conscious effort to address the problem of renewal. In November, at the directors' meeting which followed the annual meeting, George Heintzman confirmed his earlier rumination that, at the age of 84, it was time to for him to step down as president. The directors presented him with a new tennis racquet, now that he had more time for the game. His successor was Bob MacIntosh, and Peter Stewart became vice-president. Shortly afterwards, John Elder also tendered his resignation, and was succeeded by Sheldon Silver.

The passing of Sydney led to the resignation of many older members, some of whom were playing very little if at all. The rate of attrition increased, making it all the more urgent to renew the membership. The new chair of the membership



*Ladies in their luxurious locker room, 1985; Audrey Shaw,
Daryl Peck, Mary Ann Miller and Sue Bradshaw*

committee was Mary Ann Miller, whose committee launched several initiatives to attract new members. One innovation was to offer free court time on Friday and Saturday evenings,

in order to attract prospective members as guests. A variety of new club tournaments was developed, and the fee schedule was modified. By the spring of 1994, Mary Ann was able to report that 40 new members completely offset the attrition from retirements.

But most of all, the board reached out to the younger generation to contribute their energy and ideas to the management of the Club. By the autumn of 1994, there were two additional appointments of newer members of the club to the board: Diana Dimmer and Kevin Adolphe. David Fleck took over the job of treasurer from John Swinden, who had contributed so much to creating a format for the financial reports. David continued and extended the modernization of the financial statements, and for the first time the Directors had monthly projections of revenue, expenses and cash flow.

A modest technological revolution got underway in 1994. After a period of research on computerization at other clubs, the ancient computer was replaced by a contemporary machine with software designed for the use of a club. A phone answering system was introduced, which helped ease the office overload which had been the by-product of taking over functions previously handled by Sydney's downtown office.

The board asked the membership to approve an increase in its size from 10 to 12, in order to make room for a wider representation of the membership. For the first time, rules were established to limit the term of office of directors and officers of the club. Then, in 1996, a long range planning committee was created, chaired by Kevin Adolphe, with a heavy emphasis on the new younger members of the board. Although the essential character of the club remained as it had been under Sydney's direction, everyone recognized that the future of the club was increasingly in the hands of the new generation. Competition from many indoor clubs and from clubs with family facilities, had rather abruptly changed the environ-

ment from the days when the Queen's Club had a waiting list of applicants knocking on the door.

1. Peter Stursberg, Roland Michener, *The Last Viceroy*, Toronto, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1989, p.238.

2. *Minutes of Annual Meeting*, Oct.11,1988.

CHAPTER SIX

ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE

To say that the Queen's Club is an idiosyncratic institution is simply to say that it has been the outcome of one unusual man's vision. There are innumerable stories about Sydney's approach to his duties and prerogatives as the founder and controlling owner of the club, mostly reflecting his exceedingly strong sense of propriety. This has already emerged, for example, in the account of his secrecy over the financial arrangements during the acquisition of the properties on Dupont Street. Another example is the unique set of rules which the members have always accepted more with amusement than irritation.

The wearing of whites has always been enforced. This rule is far from unique and would probably receive strong support today if put to the test in a vote. It conveys a style in the appearance of players on the court, and reflects the aesthetic element of the game. On one occasion a rebellious youth defied the rule before the multitude on Super-Sunday, the day of the club finals. This gesture was not well received by the members, and of course it enraged Sydney. Terminal action followed.

But it was not only that tennis whites were required in attire; Sydney insisted on using white balls until he could hold out no longer against the march of history. On one occasion in the mid-seventies, John Turner brought as a guest to

the club the Chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, whom he had invited to Toronto to address the Canadian Club. This gentleman was Don Kendal, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pepsico, which happened to own Wilson, the sporting goods company. As a gesture of appreciation, Kendal brought with him two cases of orange tennis balls, which he presented to Sydney Hermant before the doubles match got under way. Sydney's consternation was outweighed by his good manners, but the two cases (less one can) disappeared the next day.

The manufacture of white balls had declined in North America, and it was increasingly difficult and expensive to import white balls from England. In May 1974, the board rescinded the "white only" balls rule, and yellow balls became normal. But the Club mercifully drew the line at orange and green balls.

John Turner had joined the Queen's Club not long before this episode, having returned from his years in Ottawa. The fact that he had been the Minister of Finance, (and would later be the Prime Minister) did not excuse him from Sydney's test of tennis competence. As Sydney so often noted at board meetings, the condition of membership was to be "clearly identified with the game of tennis." In John's case, the test was administered at Peter Dimmer's own private

court behind his home in the Kingsway. Being a good club player, John had no difficulty meeting Sydney's standards. There were some who failed and disappeared into oblivion. More commonly, Sydney's scouts would check out the applicant's capabilities before risking a test game.

What is less well known is that Sydney could waive his own rules. In the late sixties, he wrote to Murray Ross, the President of York University, inviting him to apply for membership. Murray protested that he had not played for many years. No matter, he was inducted into the Club and brought up to scratch with private lessons from Peter Dimmer. He still plays tennis in his eighties.

Alcohol is a low priority in the Club, but there have always been a few members with their own priorities. Sydney proudly announced to the board in 1988 that the Queen's Club was the lowest-volume customer of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. The licence is used mainly to keep a small supply of beer in a refrigerator near the men's locker room, for which members sign chits on the honour system. When Sydney negotiated for this licence with the LCBO, he astonished the Board staff by stating that he only wanted a licence for beer, not for wine and hard liquor. After reluctantly granting the limited licence, the disbelieving officials made surprise visits to the club from time to time; but of course Sydney had meant what he said.

Nevertheless, a few members have been known to keep a well-patronized bottle in their lockers. One senior member—once a national champion—was a serious drinker after his game, win or lose. His alcoholism extended over many years, with no intervention by Sydney. But another member had the temerity to play as Sydney's partner while inebriated to the point of repeatedly whiffing the ball. Afterwards in the locker room, the offending member said: "Well, Sydney, I guess I should send you my resignation tomorrow," to which Sydney replied: "There are a number of hours left today!"

Another member who drank more than enough was seized with the strange habit, when inebriated, of hiding other members' clothes in empty lockers. This naturally enraged his fellow members, most of whom arrived just in time for their games. Eventually one of them threatened, in a strong middle-European accent, to punch the offender in the nose. His disregard for the eminent social status of the drinker was commended by all. The offending member's thirst was so urgent that on one occasion he begged Peter Dimmer to lend him the master-key to the lockers, so he could fish out a fine bottle of scotch which he knew one of his colleagues was harbouring. Peter declined.

One of the most-prized characteristics of the club is that members do not have to arrange their own games, although this can be done. The staff, currently Alla Szummer and David McLoughlin, book games on the phone, matching players with similar capabilities.

Since the membership is relatively small and most of the members know each other, this is not difficult. But it was never simple for players to contact fellow-members directly; until 1984, there was no phone list in general circulation! This strange practice was probably the fallout from an episode in the early years; a director had got hold of the membership list and used it to circulate his own commercial advertising for products relevant to tennis.

There was another termination.

Longevity has been a marked feature of the Queen's Club. Most men's locker rooms are filled with the loud boastful sounds of triumphs on and off court; but the Queen's locker room for men resounds to accounts of prostate operations and heart-by-passes, either contemplated or completed. One member, well in his eighties, succumbed to a balancing problem while changing to play, and fell, causing abrasions and contusions on his face. Despite urgings from his mates, he insisted on playing the match.

Donald M. Fleming, another ex-minister of finance, was not so fortunate. He died on court in the middle of a second hour of play, while filling in for a missing fourth. At the time he was 81, and still resentful for having been superannuated at age 75 from his position as managing director of a trust company in the Bahamas. He was famous for having a perfect 20-20 vision of the lines on both sides of the net.

Another eminent member was even better known for his ability to identify all line calls in his own favour. It was not unusual for Peter Dimmer to be called upon to fill in as a fourth when he was playing. A normal feature of this responsibility was to keep the ball in play by providing opponents with well-paced returnable shots. But this particular member wanted to win under any circumstances. On one occasion, Peter Dimmer hit a ball out, by mistake, thereby costing himself and his partner the match. The ensuing scene of outrage was long remembered. To be fair, this same member had occasion to observe Donald Fleming playing tennis at Lyford Key in the Bahamas, and was heard to remark: "Good grief—he gives worse line calls than me!"

As to longevity on court, no one could touch Roly Michener, who had joined the club after stepping down as Governor General of Canada. In his eighties, Roly could often be seen jogging around Rosedale. In an earlier chapter, it was noted that he had celebrated his ninetieth birthday with a game at the Club. One late afternoon there was a clomp-clomp down the stairs from the front door to the men's locker room. It was Roly, repeating loudly:

"That damn Malim Harding! That damn fellow! "

"What's the trouble Roly?" asked a member (actually the author).

"We had a foursome set up for this afternoon and he died!" Malim, a former Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, had scheduled a game for the last day of his life, at age 81.

Not long after that episode Roly, always dapper, was grooming himself especially well in the locker room after a Sunday noon game.

He occasionally filled in with this regular match in a foursome normally composed of Mac Samples, Murray Ross, Ken Scott and Bob Armstrong. When offered a dram of rum, he said: "Well, make it a small one. I must hurry away, I'm giving a talk to a geriatric group at Convocation Hall on how to keep your memory functioning". He left shortly, but returned a few minutes later. "I forgot my speech in the locker," Roly admitted.

Many of the stories about the Queen's Club might be thought apocryphal. One story that could hardly be questioned concerns the arrangements for the opening of the second court in October 1967.

Hope Salmond and Mary Heintzman each remember, independently, their exhibition mixed-doubles match on that occasion. Sydney invited Hope (a former national doubles champion) and Roly Michener to play as one team, and then asked Mary and George Heintzman to be the opposing team. In Hope's words:

"Mary, modest as ever, said 'But heavens above, we're not nearly good enough to play against Roly and Hope, they'd have a walk over!'

"That's the whole idea', said Syd."

Another story which is not apocryphal comes from the very first Club tournament, in April 1958. Deborah Mott-Trille was watching her husband Frank play Jim Duff in the semi-finals of the men's singles; at the end of the first set she abruptly left the gallery and went home. Frank, noticing her absence, finished his match and rushed home himself. From there, he and Deborah went straight to the hospital, where their first child, Sarah, was born almost at once. After the delivery, Frank rushed back to the Queen's Club and played his semi-final doubles match. On the following day, Sunday,

Frank became the first Queen's Club men's singles and doubles champion. Sydney Hermant recognized this event each year for the rest of his life by sending birthday greetings to Sarah Mott-Trille.

George Mara, a member of the Club who was captain of the Canadian Olympic hockey team which won the gold medal at St. Moritz in 1948, recalls meeting Fred Perry at a gala dinner preceding the 1984 Wimbledon tournament. George mentioned that his parents had taken him to see Fred defeat von Cram in the 1936 Wimbledon final. On learning that George was from Toronto, Fred asked him if he knew "The Dangler," to which George replied that he knew Walter Martin very well. In fact they were fellow-members of the Queen's Club. The strange nickname had been applied to Walter Martin long before, at the Toronto Lawn; he had found himself without appropriate long white trousers at a tournament, and had had to borrow a pair which proved to be much longer in the seat than he was.¹

Fred Perry recounted that during his last visit to Toronto, he learned that Judge Martin was presiding at a trial in the Provincial Court. He went to the courthouse and prevailed upon the Sargeant-at-Arms to take the learned judge a message to the effect that a visitor named Fred Perry wished to see "The Dangler". The court was shortly adjourned, temporarily.

One October day in the 'sixties, Peter Dimmer was sitting in his office when June Barrett rushed in.

"Have you seen my pumpkin?"

Peter, usually quick with repartee, discreetly avoided a variety of possible replies. He allowed that he had not seen her pumpkin. It turned out that she had left a pumpkin on the back seat of her new car, and had only discovered its absence after driving away. The strange disappearance was resolved when Nicky Fodor showed up at Peter's office looking for his own car. By coincidence, June and Nick had each

bought exactly the same model of new car, and the keys turned out to be interchangeable. June had driven off in Nicky's car.

Memorable characters seem to have been more evident in the early days. Bruce Harrison, whose tennis connection to Sydney Hermant and Allan Ross pre-dated, as we have seen, the founding of the Queen's Club, died in May 1997. A charming obituary of Bruce was published in "Lives Lived" in the Toronto Globe and Mail shortly afterwards.² One paragraph captures his personality. At the time, he was playing tennis for the RCAF team in London during the war:

"Once he beat an up-and-coming English star with an unorthodox display of lobs and chip shots. The star's father, a brigadier, told him: 'Your style is hardly a thing of beauty. However, you did manage to beat the boy—no small feat—and I'd like to buy you a beer.' 'Sir,' Bruce replied, 'if your son's going to play for England he's going to have to learn to beat bums like me no matter what the style. And I never drink beer but I will have a scotch instead, a double if you please.'

"In 1965, with the help of such tennis notables as Peter Barnard, Sydney Hermant, John Proctor, Gilbert Nunns, Laird Watt and Walter Martin, he co-founded the International Lawn Tennis Club of Canada. Nearly all of these were fellow members of the Queen's Club."

* * * *

In its first forty years, the Queen's Club has seen a long parade of distinguished players, both men and women, pass through its old-fashioned corridors to the courts. It is still home to many tournament-level players, and still the scene of matches organized by the International Lawn Tennis Club. But its unique quality for the great majority of members is the wonderful privacy of the two high-ceilinged courts, separated by a solid wall, with groomed clay surfaces.

Its original position as the only indoor tennis facility in Toronto is long gone. In fact that advantage lasted less than ten years. Many of the new and modern facilities were built in the expanding suburbs. Changing lifestyles have also influenced the perception of some younger players, whose needs often include contemporary furniture, day-care facilities, and workout equipment. With a relatively small membership, the Queen's Club has continued to concentrate its attention on the quality of the courts and the arrangement of friendly and balanced games.

The contribution of the Queen's club to tennis in Canada is epitomized by the fact that nine of the forty-six members of the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame have been members. But the strength of the Club is not so much in the list of its alumni of champions, but in the devoted loyalty of its membership, most of whom are just good average club players. The special quality of the Club will always attract the kind of people who love the game for its own sake, and who look elsewhere for the social amenities found off the court.

1. Sydney himself recalled the name "*The Dangler*:" see Jory *op.cit* p. 81.
2. Arthur Bishop, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, July 2, 1997.

The Queen's Club Champions

Men's Singles

	Winner	Runner-Up
1958	Frank Mott-Trille	Hugh Peacock
1959	Jim Bentley	Frank Mott-Trille
1960	Harry Fauquier	Frank Mott-Trille
1961	John Swann	Jim Duff
1962	John Swann	Frank Mott-Trille
1963	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1964	Jim Duff	Frank Mott-Trille
1965	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1966	Lawrie Strong	Frank Mott-Trille
1967	Lawrie Strong	Frank Mott-Trille
1968	Lawrie Strong	Frank Mott-Trille
1969	Lawrie Strong	Frank Mott-Trille
1970	Lawrie Strong	Frank Mott-Trille
1971	Lawrie Strong	Frank Mott-Trille
1972	Lawrie Strong	Ken Lawson
1973	Frank Mott-Trille	Claude Hollands
1974	David Dimmer	Jim Duff
1975	David Dimmer	Ian Griffin
1976	David Dimmer	Terence Robinson
1977	David Dimmer	Terence Robinson
1978	Keith Porter	David Dimmer
1979	David Dimmer	Keith Porter
1980	Keith Porter	Brian Flood
1981	Ken Sinclair	David Dimmer

1982	Ken Sinclair	Keith Porter
1983	Keith Porter	David Dimmer
1984	Ken Sinclair	David Dimmer
1985	Keith Porter	David Dimmer
1986	David Dimmer	Brian Flood
1987	Terence Robinson	David Dimmer
1988	David Dimmer	Ron Burns
1989	Ron Burns	David Dimmer
1990	Keith Porter	David Dimmer
1991	David Dimmer	Pat Hawthorne
1992	David Fleck	David Dimmer
1993	Keith Porter	David Fleck
1994	Bill Sutton Jr.	Pat Hawthorne
1995	Keith Porter	Pat Hawthorne
1996	Pat Hawthorne	David Fleck
1997	Keith Porter	David Fleck

Ladies' Singles

	Winner	Runner Up
1958	Louise Brown	Sharon Caldwell
1959	Louise Brown	Benita Senn
1960	Benita Senn	Sharon Caldwell
1961	Benita Senn	Brenda Nunns
1962	Brenda Nunns	Sharon Arnold
1963	Brenda Nunns	Judy Traviss
1964	Judy Traviss	Brenda Nunns

1965	Brenda Nunns	Nancy Green
1966	Nancy Green	Judy Traviss
1967	Vivienne Strong	Jane O'Hara
1968	Jane O'Hara	Judy Traviss
1969	Vivienne Strong	Jane O'Hara
1970	Ann Dubin	Barbara Heintzman
1971	Jane O'Hara	Vivienne Strong
1972	Vivienne Strong	Shirley Dimmer
1973	Barbara Heintzman	Judy Gardiner
1974	Judy Gardiner	Diana Dimmer
1975	Diana Dimmer	Judy Gardiner
1976	Diana Dimmer	Judy Gardiner
1977	Diana Dimmer	Judy Gardiner
1978	Dorothy Hanna	Judy Gardiner
1979	Judy Gardiner	Dorothy Hanna
1980	Judy Gardiner	Heather Reid
1981	Dorothy Hanna	Pat Barrington
1982	Judy Broadbent	Heather Reid
1983	Heather Reid	Julie Carmichael
1984	Julie Carmichael	Gaylanne Chenoweth
1985	Margaret Churchill	Juta Reed
1986	Jill Carmichael	Gaylanne Chenoweth
1987	Margaret Churchill	Julie Carmichael
1988	Penny Higgins	Anne Clark
1989	Margaret Churchill	Sally Burns
1990	Clare Piller	Anne Clark
1991	Lisa Martin	Julie Carmichael
1992	Lisa Martin	Juta Reed
1993	Lisa Martin	Clare Piller
1994	Penny Higgins	Julie Norton
1995	Clare Piller	Joan Foley
1996	Diana Dimmer	Erin Boynton
1997	Diana Dimmer	Erin Boynton

Men's Doubles

	Winners	Runners-Up
1958	Frank Mott-Trille Stan Senn	Hugh Peacock Jim Bentley
1959	N. J. Cooke Ralph Tailby	John Bonus Frank Dimock
1960	Harry Fauquier Bob Jacob	Ralphe Tailby Roy Mansell
1961	Bruce Harrison John Swann	Ralph Tailby Roy Mansell
1962	Frank Mott-Trille Jim Duff	John Swann Bruce Harrison
1963	Frank-Mott-Trille Pete Reid	John Bonus Gordon Robinson
1964	Frank Mott-Trille Pete Reid	John Bonus Gordon Robinson
1965	Frank Mott-Trille Pete Reid	John Bonus Emile Bernard
1966	Lawrie Strong Emile Bernard	Frank Mott-Trille Pete Reid
1967	Lawrie Strong Emile Bernard	Frank Mott-Trille Pete Reid
1968	Lawrie Strong Emile Bernard	Frank Mott-Trille Pete Reid
1969	Lawrie Strong Emile Bernard	Frank Mott-Trille Jim Duff
1970	Harry Fauquier Pat Gamey	Lawrie Strong Bren Macken
1971	Peter Barnard Frank Mott-Trille	Lawrie Strong Bren Macken
1972	Harry Fauquier Emile Bernard	Frank Mott-Trille Peter Barnard

1973	Peter Barnard Frank Mott-Trille	Frank Dimock Bren Macken
1974	Peter Barnard Frank Mott-Trille	David Dimmer Ken Lawson
1975	John Sharpe Claude Hollands	David Dimmer Ken Lawson
1976	David Dimmer Lawrie Strong	Peter Barnard Frank Mott-Trille
1977	John Sharpe Claude Hollands	Peter Barnard Frank Mott-Trille
1978	Harry Fauquier Brian Flood	Robert Oss David Dimmer
1979	Peter Barnard Frank Mott-Trille	Robert Oss Keith Porter
1980	David Dimmer Graeme Duff	Robert Oss Keith Porter
1981	David Dimmer Keith Porter	John Sharpe Brian Flood
1982	David Dimmer Keith Porter	Peter Barnard Ken Sinclair
1983	David Dimmer Keith Porter	David Fleck Terence Robinson
1984	Peter Barnard David Dimmer	Keith Porter Howard Rothschild
1985	Peter Barnard David Dimmer	Robert Oss Terence Robinson
1986	Peter Barnard David Dimmer	Keith Porter Bill Wilson
1987	Harry Fauquier Stuart Dunn	Terence Robinson David Fleck
1988	Ron Burns David Fleck	Peter Barnard David Dimmer
1989	Stuart Dunn Harry Fauquier	Ron Burns David Fleck

1990	Stuart Dunn Harry Fauquier	Keith Porter Doug Sanderson
1991	Stuart Dunn John Sharpe	Peter Barnard David Dimmer
1992	Harry Fauquier John Sharpe	Peter Barnard David Dimmer
1993	John Sharpe Keith Porter	Pat Hawthorne David Fleck
1994	Harry Fauquier John Sharpe	David Fleck Pat Hawthorne
1995	Pat Hawthorne David Fleck	Peter Barnard Keith Porter
1996	Terence Robinson John Sharpe	David Dimmer Pat Hawthorne
1997	David Fleck Pat Hawthorne	John Sharpe Terence Robinson

Ladies' Doubles

	Winners	Runners-Up
1959	Louise Brown Brenda Nunns	Benita Senn Sharon Caldwell
1960	Benita Senn Sharon Caldwell	Madge Hermant Brenda Nunns
1961	Sharon Caldwell Brenda Nunns	Barbara Lace Leny Shaw
1962	Brenda Nunns Mrs. W. E. Parker	Judy Traviss Mrs. Coe Suydam
1963	Brenda Nunns Mrs. W. E. Parker	Judy Traviss Mrs. Coe Suydam
1964	Ann Dubin Cecille Fisher	Nancy Green Irene Ireland

1965	Brigitte Bonus Nancy Green	Bea Nunns Brenda Nunns	1982	Judy Broadbent Dorothy Hanna	Shirley Dimmer Frances Ziegler
1966	Ann Dubin Hope Salmond	Brigitte Bonus Judy Traviss	1983	Dorothy Hanna Hope Salmond	Ann Dubin Frances Ziegler
1967	Vivienne Strong Brigitte Bonus	Hope Salmond Ann Dubin	1984	Shirley Dimmer Diana Dimmer	Judy Broadbent Margaret Churchill
1968	Jane O'Hara Nancy Green	Hope Salmond Ann Dubin	1985	Judy Broadbent Shirley Dimmer	Darryle Peck Frances Ziegler
1969	Vivienne Strong Brigitte Bonus	Jane O'Hara Karen Will	1986	Dorothy Hanna Judy Broadbent	Darryle Peck Frances Ziegler
1970	Brigitte Bonus Vivienne Strong	Hope Salmond Frances Ziegler	1987	Diana Dimmer Shirley Dimmer	Judy Broadbent Dorothy Hanna
1971	Jane O'Hara Ann Dubin	Vivienne Strong Brigitte Bonus	1988	Diana Dimmer Shirley Dimmer	Judy Broadbent Dorothy Hanna
1972	Vivienne Strong Ann Dubin	Dorothy Hanna Hope Salmond	1989	Dorothy Hanna Margaret Churchill	Jill Carmichael Julie Carmichael
1973	Judy Gardiner Frances Ziegler	Ann Dubin Barbara Heintzman	1990	Anne Clark Josephine Robertson	Jill Carmichael Julie Carmichael
1974	Hope Salmond Dorothy Hanna	Shirley Dimmer Diana Dimmer	1991	Judy Broadbent Dorothy Hanna	Mary Cihra Margaret Churchill
1975	Dorothy Hanna Judy Gardiner	Diana Dimmer Barbara Heintzman	1992	Diana Dimmer Shirley Dimmer	Judy Broadbent Dorothy Hanna
1976	Diana Dimmer Vivienne Strong	Judy Gardiner Dorothy Hanna	1993	Dorothy Hanna Shirley Dimmer	Clare Piller Heidi Roncarelli
1977	Dorothy Hanna Judy Gardiner	Shirley Dimmer Diana Dimmer	1994	Shirley Dimmer Dorothy Hanna	Clare Piller Heidi Roncarelli
1978	Diana Dimmer Barbara Heintzman	Dorothy Hanna Judy Gardiner	1995	Clare Piller Joan Foley	Heidi Roncarelli Judy Korthals
1979	Diana Dimmer Shirley Dimmer	Judy Gardiner Dorothy Hanna	1996	Shirley Dimmer Diana Dimmer	Dorothy Hanna Erin Boynton
1980	Diana Dimmer Shirley Dimmer	Hope Salmond Darryle Peck	1997	Shirley Dimmer Diana Dimmer	Dorothy Hanna Erin Boynton
1981	Dorothy Hanna Shirley Dimmer	Hope Salmond Darryle Peck			

Mixed Doubles

	Winners	Runners-Up			
1958	Louise Brown Ross Brown	Sharon Caldwell Hugh Peacock	1973	Diana Dimmer Frank Dimock	Shirley Dimmer David Dimmer
1959	Stan Senn Benita Senn	Brenda Nunns Frank Mott-Trille	1974	Shirley Dimmer David Dimmer	Diana Dimmer Peter Barnard
1960	Frank Mott-Trille Veronica Holdup	Benita Senn Stan Senn	1975	Diana Dimmer Robert Oss	Judy Gardiner Emile Bernard
1961	Brenda Nunns John Swann	Sharon Caldwell Frank Dimock	1976	Jane O'Hara Alex Fisher	Vivienne Strong Frank Dimock
1962	John Swann Brenda Nunns	Frank Mott-Trille Barbara Lace	1977	Diana Dimmer Robert Oss	Frances Ziegler Peter Ziegler
1963	Frank Mott-Trille Leny Shaw	Pete Reid Brenda Nunns	1978	Diana Dimmer Robert Off	Ann Dubin Brian Flood
1964	Frank Mott-Trille Leny Shaw	Pete Reid Brenda Nunns	1979	Ann Dubin Brian Flood	Diana Dimmer Greg Dimmer
1965	Frank Mott-Trille Leny Shaw	Pete Reid Brenda Nunns	1980	Ann Dubin Brian Flood	Shirley Dimmer Robert Oss
1966	Lawrie Strong Nancy Green	John Bonus Brigitte Bonus	1981	Deborah Mott-Trille Frank Mott-Trille	Ann Dubin Brian Flood
1967	Lawrie Strong Vivienne Strong	Frank Dimock Jane O'Hara	1982	Julie Carmichael Terence Robinson	Despina Barnard Peter Barnard
1968	Jane O'Hara Jim Boyce	Ann Dubin Emile Bernard	1983	Julie Carmichael Terence Robinson	Deborah Mott-Trille Frank Mott-Trille
1969	Vivienne Strong Lawrie Strong	Jane O'Hara Jim Boyce	1984	Shirley Dimmer David Dimmer	Deborah Mott-Trille Frank Mott-Trille
1970	Vivienne Strong Lawrie Strong	Deborah Mott-Trille Frank Mott-Trille	1985	Julie Carmichael Terence Robinson	Juta Reed Robert Oss
1971	Jane O'Hara Alex Fisher	Vivienne Strong Frank Dimock	1986	Julie Carmichael Terence Robinson	Juta Reed Robert Oss
1972	Vivienne Strong Frank Dimock	Shirley Dimmer David Dimmer	1987	Julie Carmichael Terence Robinson	Juta Reed Robert Oss
			1988	Sally Burns Ron Burns	Juta Reed Robert Oss
			1989	Sally Burns Ron Burns	Julie Carmichael Stuart Dunn

1990	Julie Carmichael Stuart Dunn	Clare Piller Robert Oss	1982	Frank Mott-Trille	Bill Wilson
1991	Julie Carmichael Stuart Dunn	Juta Reed Robert Oss	1983	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1992	Julie Carmichael Bob Shaw	Deborah Mott-Trille Frank Mott-Trille	1984	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1993	Kevin Adolphe Jill Adolphe	Brian Robertson Josephine Robertson	1985	Frank Mott-Trille	Bill Wilson
1994	Kevin Adolphe Jill Adolphe	Rick Clarke Gaylanne Phelan	1986	Bill Wilson	Frank Mott-Trille
1995	Diana Dimmer Bill Wilson	Clare Piller Bob Torrens	1987	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1996	Diana Dimmer Bill Wilson	Erin Boynton Jonathan Fitzgerald	1988	Bob Torrens	Frank Mott-Trille
1997	Diana Dimmer Bill Wilson	Erin Boynton Jonathan Fitzgerald	1989	Frank Mott-Trille	Bob Torrens
			1990	Frank Mott-Trille	Terry Young
			1991	Bob Torrens	John Swinden
			1992	John Swinden	Terry Young
			1993	Bob Torrens	John Swinden
			1994	Richard Drayton	Paul Druckman
			1995	Richard Drayton	Paul Druckman
			1996	Richard Drayton	Paul Druckman
			1997	Rick Clarke	Richard Drayton

Senior Men's Singles

	Winner	Runner-Up
1968	John Bonus	Wally Halder
1969	John Bonus	Bren Macken
1970	Frank Dimock	Emile Bernard
1971	Jim Duff	Bren Macken
1972	Claude Hollands	Emile Bernard
1973	Jim Duff	Bren Macken
1974	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1975	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1976	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1977	Bren Macken	Frank Mott-Trille
1978	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff
1979	Frank Mott-Trille	Ken Lawson
1980	Frank Mott-Trille	Ken Lawson
1981	Frank Mott-Trille	Joe Williams

Senior Men's Doubles

	Winners	Runners-Up
1958	Larry Bonnycastle John Bonus	Gilbert Nunns Sydney Hermant
1959	Robert Winters N. J. Cooke	Walter Martin John Bonus
1960	Robert Winters Walter Martin	Gilbert Nunns Sydney Hermant
1961	John Bonus Larry Bonnycastle	Gilbert Nunns Gordon Robinson
1962	John Bonus Gordon Robinson	Walter Martin Robert Winters
1963	Gordon Robinson Pete Reid	John Bonus Larry Bonnycastle
1964	John Bonus Bruce Harrison	Pete Reid Gordon Robinson

1965	John Bonus Bruce Harrison	Pete Reid Gordon Robinson	1982	Jim Fleck Ken Lawson	Jim Duff Don Ivey
1966	Pete Reid Gordon Robinson	John Bonus Bruce Harrison	1983	Jim Fleck Ken Lawson	Bill Wilson Joe Williams
1967	Larry Bonnycastle Emile Bernard	Doug Sanderson Wally Halder	1984	Frank Dimock Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff Don Ivey
1968	John Bonus Emile Bernard	Bren Macken Larry Bonnycastle	1985	Paul Henderson Jamie Poapst	Thomas Shea John Swinden
1969	Bren Macken Wally Halder	John Bonus Emile Bernard	1986	Don Ivey Frank Mott-Trille	Dermot Coughlan John Swinden
1970	Frank Dimock Jim Duff	Bren Macken Wally Halder	1987	Don Ivey Frank Mott-Trille	Dermot Coughlan John Swinden
1971	Jim Duff Frank Dimock	Bren Macken Wally Halder	1988	Jim Duff Frank Dimock	Don Ivey Frank Mott-Trille
1972	Jim Duff Frank Dimock	Emile Bernard Claude Hollands	1989	Don Ivey Frank Mott-Trille	Bill Wilson Bob Torrens
1973	Jim Duff Frank Dimock	Bren Macken Frank Mott-Trille	1990	Don Ivey Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Fleck Ken Lawson
1974	Bren Macken Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Duff Frank Dimock	1991	John Swinden Terry Young	Don Ivey Frank Mott-Trille
1975	Jim Duff Frank Dimock	Bren Macken Frank Mott-Trille	1992	Bob Moffatt Jim Fleck	Jim Duff Bob Torrens
1976	Claude Hollands Emile Bernard	Gord Knutson Joe Williams	1993	Richard Drayton Ian Webb	Bob Torrens Jim Duff
1977	Frank Dimock Joe Williams	Bren Macken Don Ivey	1994	Richard Drayton Ian Webb	Bob Moffatt Jim Fleck
1978	Frank Dimock Joe Williams	Emile Bernard Claude Hollands	1995	Richard Drayton Ian Webb	Bob Moffatt Jim Fleck
1979	Jim Duff Don Ivey	Frank Dimock Joe Williams	1996	Richard Drayton Ian Webb	Brian Flood Frank Potter
1980	Ken Lawson Jim Fleck	Jim Duff Don Ivey	1997	Richard Drayton Ian Webb	Bob Torrens Bill Wilson
1981	Charles Baird Frank Mott-Trille	Frank Dimock Joe Williams			

Junior Men's Singles

	Winner	Runner-Up
1958	Harry Fauquier	Tom McCarthy
1959	Harry Fauquier	Don Curtis
1960	Bob Jacob	Hugh Parker
1961	Douglas Green	David Brown
1962	Bernard Holdup	David Dinelle
1963	David Brown	Peter Burwash
1964	David Brown	Bernard Holdup
1965	Adam Hermant	Peter Molson
1966	Gary Rennie	Adam Hermant
1967		
1968	Jim Boycè	Pat Gamey
1969	Pat Gamey	Greg Halder
1970	Greg Halder	David Dimmer
1971	Graeme Duff	Greg Halder
1972	Graeme Duff	David Dimmer
1973	Graeme Duff	David Dimmer
1974	Phillip Hanna	Greg Dimmer
1975		
1976	Terence Robinson	David Fleck
1977	Terence Robinson	David Fleck
1978	Hugh Wiley	John Robinson
1979	John Robinson	Jeffrey Robinson
1980	Jeffrey Robinson	Robert Elder
1981	Jeffrey Robinson	Jonathan Mott-Trille
1982	Jeffrey Robinson	Jonathan Mott-Trille
1983	Jeffrey Robinson	Jonathan Mott-Trille
1984	Jonathan Mott-Trille	Jeffrey Robinson
1985	Jonathan Mott-Trille	Ben Bradshaw
1994	Hendrik McDermott	Andrew Mitchell

Super Senior Doubles

	Winners	Runners-Up
1976	John Bassett Gord Robinson	Larry Bonnycastle Pete Reid
1977	Pete Reid Gord Robinson	Larry Bonnycastle Doug Sanderson
1978	Bob Armstrong Larry Bonnycastle	Ross Hanbury Claude Milne
1979	Bob Armstrong Larry Bonnycastle	Mac Samples Doug Sanderson
1980	Claude Milne Hugh MacDonald	Larry Bonnycastle Bob Armstrong
1981	Pete Reid John Elder	Ross Hanbury Hugh MacDonald
1982	John Elder Pete Reid	Emile Bernard Fred Rothschile
1983	Madan Mohan Bruce Harrison	John Elder Pete Reid
1984	John Elder Pete Reid	Emile Bernard Fred Rothschild
1985	John Elder Pete Reid	Herb Brooks Alex Fisher
1986	James Poapst Madan Mohan	Pete Reid John Elder
1987	Alex Fisher Herb Brooks	Ross Skinner Chris Miller
1988	John Elder Peter Ziegler	Herb Brooks Alex Fisher
1989	John Elder Peter Ziegler	Herb Brooks Alex Fisher
1990	Alex Fisher Herb Brooks	John Elder Peter Ziegler
1991	Chris Miller Ross Skinner	Jamie Poapst Peter Ziegler

1992	Jamie Poapst Don Ivey	John Elder Peter Ziegler
1993	Don Ivey Murray Wiley	John Elder Peter Ziegler
1994	Don Ivey Jamie Poapst	Chris Miller Ross Skinner
1995	Frank Mott-Trille Ed Eberle	Jamie Poapst Don Ivey
1996	Don Ivey Murray Wiley	John Elder Peter Ziegler
1997	Ed Eberle Herb Brooks	Frank Mott-Trille John Turner

Super Senior Singles

	Winner	Runner-Up
1990	Don Ivey	Ed Eberle
1991	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Fleck
1992	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Fleck
1993	Frank Mott-Trille	Alan Dilworth
1994	Frank Mott-Trille	Jim Fleck
1995	Jim Duff	Ken Lawson
1996	Bob Torrens	Frank Mott-Trille
1997	Bob Torrens	Frank Mott-Trille

Masters' Doubles

	Winners	Runners-Up
1988	Bruce Harrison Rod Phelan	George Heintzman Hugh MacDonald
1989	Bruce Harrison Rod Phelan	Jack Sword Hugh MacDonald

APPENDIX



THE QUEEN'S CLUB HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME OF CANADIAN TENNIS

“The Hall of Fame of Canadian Tennis was created in 1991 to pay tribute to the outstanding contributors to the game in this country” (Tennis Canada, 1997 Media Guide, CLTA).

Of the 46 people inducted into the Hall of Fame to the end of 1996, nine have been members of the Queen's Club:

Louise Brown
Keith Carpenter
Peter Dimmer
Harry Fauquier
Brendan Macken
Roy Mansell
Gilbert Nunns
Ken Sinclair
Lawrie Strong

DAVIS CUP TEAM MEMBERS FROM THE QUEEN'S CLUB

Gilbert Nunns (1927-1934)
Walter Martin (1931-1934)
Brendan Macken (1946-1954)
Keith Carpenter (1962-71)

Harry Fauquier (1962-1971)
John Sharpe (1969-1971)
Jim Boyce (1976-77)
Greg Halder (1977-79)

The following were named to the team but never played:

John F. Bassett (1959)
John Swann (1961)
Dave Brown (1973)
Frank Mott-Trille (1955 played for the
British West Indies team)

FEDERATION CUP TEAM MEMBERS FROM THE QUEEN'S CLUB

Fed Cup is the international team championship for women, founded in 1963.

Louise Brown (1963-69)
Benita Senn (1964)
Brenda Nunns (1966)
Jane O'Hara (1969-75)

CANADIAN CHAMPIONS FROM THE QUEEN'S CLUB

Hope (Leeming) Salmond (Women's Open doubles, 1930, 1932).

Walter Martin (Men's Open doubles, 1937)

Brendan Macken (Men's Open singles 1950, Men's Open doubles, 1946,1951).

Louise Brown (Women's Open singles, 1957, Women's Open doubles, 1957,1962).

Sharon Caldwell (Girls 18 singles, 1958).

Benita Senn (Women's Open singles, 1964).

Brenda Nunns (Women's Open doubles, 1965).

Harry Fauquier (Boys 18 singles 1960, Men's Open doubles, 1968)

John Sharpe (Men's Open doubles 1968)

Dave Brown (Men's doubles, 1972-73, 1975).

Keith Carpenter (Men's Singles 1973, Men's doubles,1974.)

Jim Boyce (Boys 14 singles 1965; Boys 16 singles 1967; Boys 18 singles, 1968-69; Men's singles 1976, Men's doubles, 1979).

Jane O'Hara (Girls 14 singles 1965); girls 16 singles 1967; Girls 18 singles 1968-69; Women's doubles 1970-72,1974.)

Keith Carpenter (Men's singles, 1974, Men's Open doubles 1966).

Greg Halder (Men's singles 1980, Men's doubles, 1980).

Pat Gamey (Boys 16 singles 1968-69;

(There was no Canadian closed men's or women's singles championship before 1968, nor after 1994)

SENIOR CHAMPIONS FROM THE QUEEN'S CLUB

Nine men and three women members of the Queen's Club have been national champions in senior age categories. Of these, Ken Sinclair deserves special mention. Coming late to the game of tennis, (age 29) he has won eleven national singles and doubles titles, beginning with men's 35+ singles in 1974, to men's 55+ in 1994. He and Lorne Main have won the 45+ world doubles title several times.

Keith Carpenter has won ten national senior titles, from men's 45+ singles in 1986 to men's 55+ doubles in 1985.

Sharon Caldwell Arnold has won two national senior women's doubles titles, and Louise Brown took both the singles and doubles titles for women 60+ in 1989. Benita Senn was national 40+ champion in 1972, and 50+ champion in 1980.

Bren Macken holds four senior singles and doubles titles. Harry Fauquier holds five. Emile Barnard won the men's doubles 55+ in 1975. Roy Mansell won the men's doubles 55+ in 1973.

Frank Mott-Trille won the men's 60+ doubles title in 1991. Frank Dimock won the men's 70+ doubles title in 1994. Jim Duff took the men's 70+ singles championship in 1995.



The Queen's Club

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