

The Dedanist δ



From The Editors

Welcome to the first edition of 'The Dedanist' – a quarterly e-newsletter of Society activities and information on other tennis events of interest, of all description, from the wider world, and we anticipate that each edition will be introduced by a Report on current and immediate issues relating to the Society from the pen of the Chairman.

As we come out of lockdown and return to play, there has been little Dedanist activity to report – therefore there is a slight Francophile flavour to this first edition, merely reflecting enthusiasms of the editors; but it is hoped that the tennis scene all around the UK (now that we expect to have one again) will be reported on more fully in future editions, especially if our Ambassadors, and any other members indeed, provide us with occasional items for inclusion: we will accept anything tennis that is fit to print – and has been passed by the Committee's legal desk!

The article in the History of Tennis section of this first edition on Charles, Duke of Orléans, survivor of the battle of Azincourt (as we must now call it), poet, and avid tennis player (when he had the opportunity) suggests that he considered the game of tennis to be 'a metaphor for the hopes, pleasures and frustrations of life' – indeed, indeed, it was ever thus; or, as the Editor of the Radley College Real Tennis Club wrote recently:

'Tennis is damned difficult, frustrating, exasperating, fascinating, enthralling and splendid – and that is why we come back for more'.

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A Date for your Diary

Dedanists' fixtures

SEPTEMBER

Sat 4 Leamington
Sun 5 Moreton Morrell
Sat 11 Radley
Sat 18 (Jesmond v MCC)
Sun 19 Jesmond
Sat 25 (Manchester v MCC)
Sun 26 Manchester
Junior Academy v MCC

**More dates & fixtures next
page...**

From The Dedans

Chairman's report

Welcome to this first edition of The Dedanist, a new periodical that reflects the interests and opinions of Dedanists' Society members – and reminds us in these uncertain times of the reassuring capacity of real tennis to challenge and entertain.

'Real tennis is a metaphor for life'. Charles, Duke of Orleans, said so 600 years ago. We applaud the sentiment. We note the exaggeration.

The Dedanists' Society is a private members' club of 200 or so real tennis enthusiasts. We play a full fixture list of 28 matches as a wandering club. We fund youth programmes as our way of investing in the future of the game. Membership is by invitation only. We run real tennis and social events for the entertainment of our members (tennis matches, tournaments, dinners, the Sparks Dedanist Pro Am). We raise funds for junior tennis. We sponsor junior tournaments. In partnership with the T&RA, we founded and run the British Real Tennis Academy, the national coaching programme for the best young players in the country. The Academy is a full range programme of stroke and matchplay, physical training, nutrition and sports psychology. It has a typical annual budget of £20K pa. In the last few years, the Academy has helped to produce: (i) The current Junior (under 18) World champion; (ii) The first British Open singles champion since 1999; (iii) The youngest women's singles World champion with the lowest ever women's handicap; (iv) Men's and women's US Open singles champions; (v) The youngest ever British amateur singles champion. The Society promotes innovation in real tennis. The Academy and the ball machine, now in use at Radley, are two current examples.

Last season 2020/1, the pandemic stopped real tennis for most of us - but not for juniors. All our matches and tournaments were cancelled - but the coaching of juniors continued until mid December 2020 and restarted on a one pupil / one pro basis in March 2021. We reconfigured our Academy programme in favour of one-on-one coaching and delivered 50% of what was originally planned. We switched unused Academy budget into the funding of other youth programmes. We donated £4K to help the T&RA launch its new apprenticeship programme to recruit and train the next generation of real tennis professionals. We led the T&RA and the Dedanists' Foundation in funding a £10K programme to provide income support to existing young professionals under pressure to leave the game for lack of earnings during lockdown. Finally, we devoted time and energy to planning the future of the Society itself. The workload involved in running the Academy had grown beyond the capacity of unpaid volunteers to manage. We contracted with an operations team of Paul Weaver and Tory Wall to take over the administration of the Academy and put the programme on a sustainable footing for the foreseeable future. We made the case to members and persuaded them to agree to a 50% increase in fees to pay for this and other enhancements.

For this season 2021/2, we return to a full programme of matches and tournaments for members and coaching sessions for Academy players. During the year, we are adding to the Academy with more one-on-one personal coaching, with an annual scholarship to fund an internship abroad and with the launch of a dedicated Academy website to keep players, parents, coaches and managers in closer touch and better informed. We now publish The Dedanist to add bandwidth and directness to our communication with our members and ambassadors and with clubs and the real tennis community at large. Watch this space!

We work closely with the Dedanists' Foundation as an ally. The Foundation is separate, independent and a registered charity. We share with the Foundation a strong commitment to increase the amount and quality of youth participation in real tennis. Many of our members are members of the Foundation too. The Foundation funds clubs with cash grants to run open access programmes at grassroots level in order to recruit schools and young players of all backgrounds and abilities to try the game and continue playing. The Society funds and runs the Academy as an elite coaching programme to identify the best young players in the country and help them to realise their potential. Real tennis needs a constant flow of new players and new champions. Separately and together, the Foundation and the Society address each of these needs.



A Date for your Diary

Dedanists' fixtures

OCTOBER

Trois Tripots CANCELLED

Thur 21 Hamsters

Sat 23 Holyport

NOVEMBER

Sun 7 Radley School

Sat 20 MURTC

DECEMBER

Sat 4 Wellington

More dates & fixtures next page...

For more information, see these websites:

The Society

www.dedanists.org

The Foundation

www.dedanistsfoundation.org

Tournoi des Trois Tripots' Tournament (TTT)

Present travel restrictions mean that the 'Tournoi des Trois Tripots' Tournament, due to be played in October has had to be postponed again, for another year.

What is it? The tournament is the brainchild of Simon Berry of Petworth and takes place (or should) biennially, and is highly recommended: it is a very pleasant week of tennis, takes place at a very pleasant time of year and is played on three trinquet courts in and around the very pleasant city of Bayonne, in SW France, close to the small fishing village of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, the birthplace of Pierre Etchebaster. (No, I don't work for the Aquitaine Tourist Office.)

'Tripot' is an Old French word for 'court', but with the passage of time it came to include (the often adjacent) drinking and gambling dens – and worse, if my interpretation of 'dames de petite vertu' is correct: all the above were presumably other pastimes of the tennis, or 'courte paume', crowd. ('Courte paume' is played indoors;



Striking the net and removing the temporary chase lines marked out with Frog Tape (ahem!) on the floor of the court at Pau, after a Sunday of tennis. Again note the minuscule grille and tambour moved to the corner of the court...

longue paume outdoors. More about this in a future edition...).

When last held, in 2018, it attracted more than a hundred players, from all of the four tennis-playing countries, and also included a team from the Netherlands, where there is no court. They won.

The courts for the Basque game of trinquet are small, but are easily adapted for tennis, and many are very ancient – Labastide-Clairence's rafters have been dendrochronologically dated to 1512, thereby predating the 1539 court at Falkland Palace, (previously thought to be the oldest extant).



The trinquet court at Bayonne-St. André with a doubles game of 'main nu' – played with the bare (or gloved) hand, like fives – in progress. Note the tiny grille and tambour moved to the corner of the court.

The 'TTT' involves the court in Pau, which was built in 1887 for Jeu de Paume ('courte paume') for the English and American ex-pats resident at the time. With the ex-pat contingent dispersed after WW II, it was converted by the locals for trinquet, and in so doing, the interior of the court was, regrettably, very much FUBAR.

One day, it is hoped, it will revert back to tennis full-time, but negotiations are painfully slow, and at present, tennis can only be played on one evening during the week and on Sunday mornings.



The 2016 TTT team from Moreton Morrell, taken at the end-of-tournament party in a tripot (!) near Biarritz: note an unforeseen consequence of doubles play on such small courts...

From The Marker's Box

On court activities

National fixtures (selected)

SEPTEMBER

3-5 Category D [30-39] Hatfield
Category G [60+] Oratory
11-12 Category E [40-49] Wellington
12 Over60 Amateur Doubles Radley
17-19 Category B [10-19] Hyde
Category C [20-29] M Morrell
24-26 Cattermull Cup (Alumni) MURTC
25-26 Category F [50-59] Prested

OCTOBER

2 Peripatetic Club Tournee Hardwick
2-3 Over50 Amateur Doubles Prested
3-4 IRTPA Taylor Cup Wellington
4-11 IRTPA Singles Wellington
8-10 'Great North Doubles' Jesmond
23-24 MCC Allcomers Lord's
30-31 National Interclub M Morrell

NOVEMBER

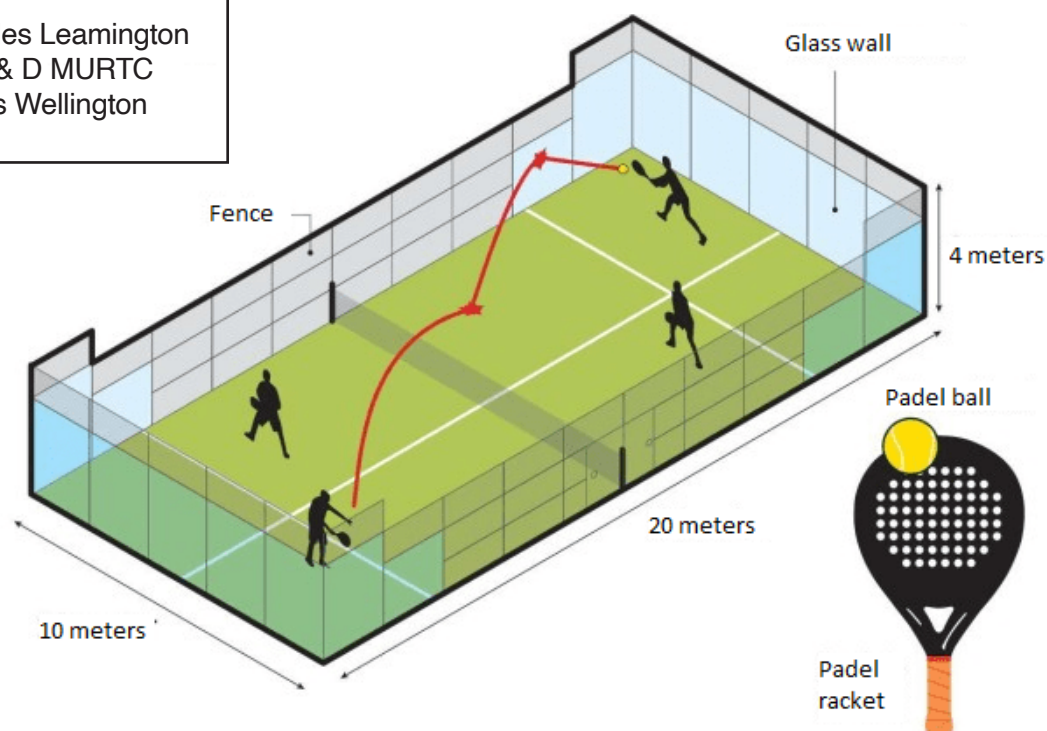
3-4 Over70 H'cap Singles Leamington
5-7 British Ladies H'cap
(Singles & Doubles) Prested
13-14 U15/U19 Doubles Wellington
14-23 British Open Queen's
19-21 Over50 Amateur Singles Lord's
20-21 LRTA Under21 Singles Radley
26-28 Open H'cap Doubles Leamington

DECEMBER

1-2 Over70 H'cap Doubles Leamington
15-19 U21/U24 Singles & D MURTC
18-19 U18 H'cap Singles Wellington



Activities on court have been very limited this past year, of course: lockdowns have had a deleterious effect on (almost) everyone's game, with most, (but not all), of us being limited for many weeks to merely practicing the forehand floor shot in the living room with an imaginary racquet (as Chris Ronaldson advises in 'A Cut Above the Rest') – to the over-excitement of the family dog and the near-perilous existence of any domestic ornaments. Necessity proved the mother of invention for a small number of members fortunate to live near a padel court, which, being open air meant there were fewer restrictions, and Regent's Park's padel court saw a small number of members readily adapting to this new, but rather fun game; Lord knows what effect it has had on their tennis...



Wood's Words:

Our Honorary professional Nick Wood's advice on how to make the court work for you

Now that we are all able to be on court, and must of necessity revisit our rusty technique, Nick Wood of the Royal Tennis Court, our Honorary Professional, has contributed the first of his 'Wood's Words' – brief articles on courtcraft - which will be a regular column.

USEFUL AREAS OF THE COURT

SERVICE END

Low net at the centre
Corners
Floor chases
Service galleries
Dedans

As you can see above, the majority of useful features benefit the player at the service end, hence the advantage of being there. However, the most important shot in the game is the return of serve. The service must run along the penthouse, providing the first opportunity to the player receiving.

Firstly, the low part of the net. This doesn't mean you can play your shot lower, but it does mean you have more net clearance. If the service keeps you tight to the side wall then play to the main wall side of the court, and if the service pushes you wide to the middle of the court, then play to the gallery side. In both cases, make sure the second bounce stays in the corner.

If the opportunity arises, a shot to the service galleries is your next best option. Creating a chase may not win you a point outright, but it will increase your chances of winning the point once you have changed ends. This can be true, even of hazard chases. By creating a chase/ hazard chase, on changing ends, whether it be the service or the receiver's end, all the floor area and the galleries

RECEIVER'S END

Hazard End floor
Low net at centre
Corners
Tambour
Grille
Winning gallery
Hazard galleries

on the other side now become winning targets - the galleries are a huge area to aim for, and one that is incredibly difficult for your opponent to defend. A shot for the dedans should be avoided unless you are attacking a short chase or have practised for many hours.

Once at the service end, more useful features are available to you. The floor area beyond the hazard chases is where most points are won. Use the low part of the net to maximise net clearance and to find the corners. If hitting cross-court to the tambour corner is an option, aim to land the second bounce in the corner - if the ball hits the tambour, excellent, and if the ball misses the tambour, excellent! There is no need to force the pace on this shot as it will only increase the chances of your opponent retrieving it.

Avoid going for targets (unless the practise hours have been put in), as this is where most opportunities are given.

Remember, chases are one of the features that separate this game from all others, they are part of the game, so use them.

'Warwickshire Weekend'

We shall be able to discover soon how players performed in the 'Warwickshire Weekend' of 4/5th September, the first of our 2021/2 fixtures; reports from Match Managers on all the fixtures in the calendar will become available to read on the website as they take place.

From the Academy

Youth development

The final selection of young players for the 2021 Academy groups has been made, apart from The Cadet Squad. The selection for the Cadets will take place after the National age group competitions at Queen's at the end of August. There are five groups – High Performance; Senior; Development; Junior and Cadet – each with their own programme director.

Cadet Squad

Squad Director: Nick Warner

TBA

Junior Squad

Squad Director: Julian Wilkinson

Bertie Vallat

Tom Hetherington

George Parsons

Cesca Sweet

Willem Sweet

Judging from the photo right, one of the recruits to the Development group, 18-year old Florent Brethon from France, who plays to a rapidly improving low 20s handicap after merely a few months on court, already appears to have mastered the cross court forehand floor shot in classical style – ‘always holding the wrist beneath the head of the racquet’ – I quote from the first page of Édouard Kressmann's collected lessons of Pierre Etchebaster, (obtainable from Ronaldson Publications).

Did Florent merely practice at home, like the rest of us, during lockdown? It is more likely it is because he was helping to run the new court at Bordeaux last summer with Chris Ronaldson, and has been playing (and receiving coaching) at Radley since then.

Lastly, here is a timely reminder that members of the various Academy groups will play their first fixture as a team v. MCC, on the tennis court at Lord's, on Sunday 26th September – visitors are welcome to attend; support would be appreciated.

Development Squad

Squad Director: Mike Henman

Henry Henman

Magnus Garson

James Rossiter

Florent Brethon

Senior Squad

Squad Director: Steph King

Ben Yorston

Ivo Macdonald

Max Trueman

James Medlow

Oliver Taylor

Performance Squad

Squad Director: Graham Tomkinson

Robert Shenkman

Levi Gale

Ned Batstone

William Flynn

Lea van der Zwalmen



Florent Brethon in action at Radley

From Behind the Grille

Articles mainly about the history of tennis

Charles d'Orléans

When Charles d'Orléans was discovered under a pile of dead French soldiers, still alive, after the battle of Azincourt in 1415, he became a hostage of the English for the next twenty-five years, eventually returning to France 'speaking better English than French'.

He wrote many poems in captivity in both French and English, and is considered one of the finest medieval poets – in France, anyway.

Here is a critique of one of his 'ballades' – which contains the first mention of 'tennis' in European literature – from Martin Village.

His life in captivity, and his connection with 'jeu de paume' will be the subject of future articles.

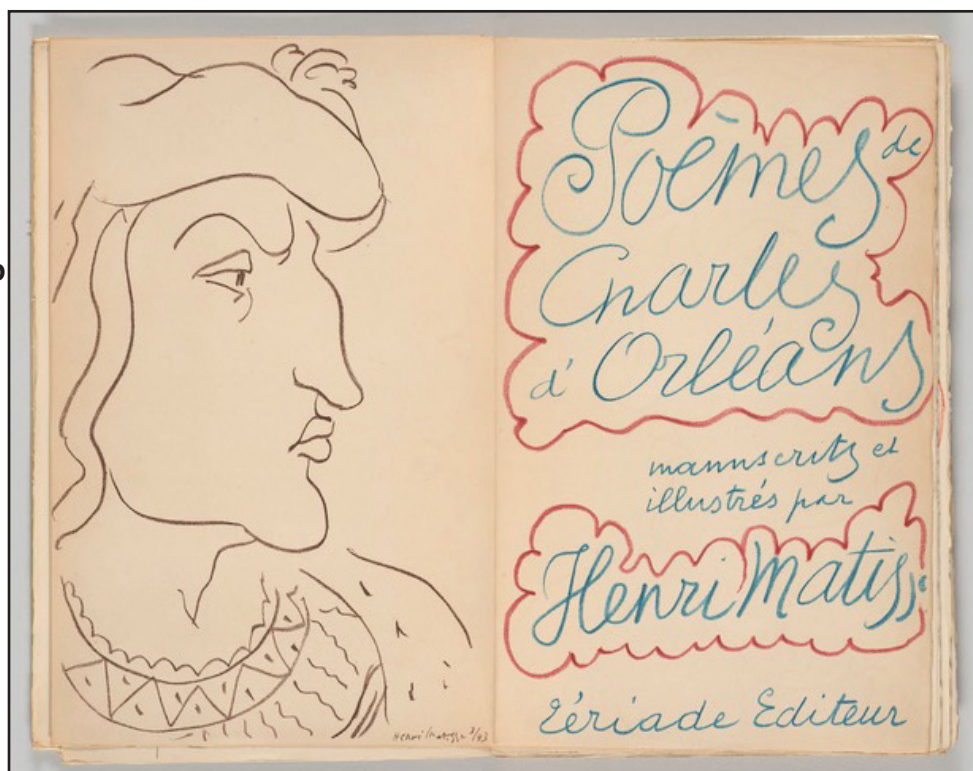
Charles D'Orléans and Ballade 90 – Commentary and a new translation.

Conclusion: Charles' use of the word 'rachassant' (from the Picardy dialect verb *rachasser* – 'to return') is a strong indication that *longue paume* may be the game he had in mind in his 'Paume' ballade of 1439.

During his time in captivity Charles wrote two volumes of verse, in the form of rondels and ballads, one in French, the other in English which were circulated only to a small circle of friends and fellow poets in his own lifetime. Rediscovered by the archivist Abbé Sallier in 1734 they are now regarded as containing some of the finest examples of late mediaeval romantic poetry ever written.

Ballade no. 90 is probably not his best, but it contains the earliest mention in European literature of 'paume'. Below is my translation of the ballade followed by Charles' text in the original French.

Charles wrote the ballade on or around his 45th birthday which in the mediaeval period was significant because it was felt to mark the beginning of old age. For Charles this also came at a time when he knew Henry VI had sanctioned his release but was very



anxious (rightly) that he wouldn't be able to put the ransom together. The stakes could not be higher. In the ballade he personifies Age as his opponent in a game he's been playing for years.

According to the scoring system in *jeu de paume*, 45 was of course the third point – the next being game point. No pressure, then. Charles is defiant, even upbeat about the prospects of taking on all-comers, but the last word of all three verses - *Souci* - (which I have translated as 'Nerves') undercuts this. Can anyone beat age, we wonder? Almost certainly not. There's a sense of immediacy in the first verse where he says:

'I feel strong and powerful enough to keep my game going to this point'.

In the second verse there's a clear indication that he knows what it is not to be able to play his best shots. Fear gets in the way, and returns them too easily.



The use of the word 'rachassant' here is significant. The verb rachasser or rechasser translates as 'to return', and so 'rachassant' is 'returnable' or 'returning'. This verb is an old Picardy dialect word used exclusively in *longue paume*. Picardy is the region of northern France where the ancient *longue-paume* has traditionally been played and still survives. For example, the two sides of a *Longue-Paume* pitch are described as the *Côté Tir* (Servers side) and the *Côté Rachas* (Return side). Charles' use of this dialect word supports the possibility that the game he had in mind when he wrote this poem was *longue-paume*.

Did Charles just use *paume* as a convenient metaphor - because the score of 45 matched his own age - without any basis in reality in his own life? Or to put it another way, was this poem written by a middle aged man who played his last game of *paume* twenty five years earlier at the age of twenty? We can't be sure. Nowhere else in his many poems are there any other allusions to the game.

But what we can be absolutely certain of is that at the age of 45 Charles played a game of *paume* against an opponent called Age on a court in his own head. And that the game was hard, had been going on a long time, and had not been concluded.

Real tennis players of a certain age can relate to that. They will know only too well the frustrations Charles

d'Orléans talks about, and to those of us who are fortunate enough to have experienced real tennis as a metaphor for the hopes, pleasures and frustrations of life, he speaks to us across the centuries. On his return to France in 1440, this modest, unostentatious, reflective man with a wry sense of

humour married again (for the third time), fathered three more children (one of them the future king Louis XII), wrote more poetry, was involved in more politics, and died at the age of seventy. His poetry lives on, not only on the page but in the music of Elgar and Debussy.

Below is my English translation of Charles' Ballade 90. And below it is the text in Charles d'Orléans' original French. And below that is a note on the etymology of 'rachasser'.

Ballade 90 • by Charles d'Orléans (translation)

*I've played tennis against Age for so long
I've now got to forty-five; and we're playing
For high stakes, not for nothing.
I feel strong and powerful enough
To keep my game going to this point.
And I fear nothing but Nerves.*

*But Fear discourages me so much
From playing and stops the shots
I make to get the advantage;
Returning them all too easily,
Luck is so helpful to him.
But Hope is my great friend,
And I fear nothing but Nerves.*

*Old age is enraged with distress
That the game is taking so long
And says mischievously
That from now on chases
Will be marked against me.
But I'm not upset, I am defiant,
And I fear nothing but Nerves.*

The Message

*If Happiness finds me agreeable
I won't be afraid of any opponent
In any way however they come;
And I fear nothing but Nerves.*

La Ballade

*l'ay tant joué avecques Aage
A la paulme que maintenant
J'ay quarante cinq: sur bon gage
Nous jouons, non pas por neant.
Assez me sens fort et puissant
De garder mon jeu jusqu' à cy,
Ne je ne crains rien que Soussy.*

*Car Soussy tant me descourage
De jouer et va estouppant
Les cops que fiers a l'avantage.
Trop seurement est rachassant;
Fortune si lui est aidant.
Mais Espoir est mon bon amy,
Ne je ne crains riens que Soussy.*

*Vieillesse de douleur enrage
De ce que le jeu dure tant,
Que les chasses dorenavant
Merchera pour m'estre nuisant.
Mais ne m'en chault, je la deffy,
Ne je ne crains rien que Soussy.*

L'Envoy

*Se Bon Eur me tient convenant,
Je ne doute ne tant ne quant
Tout mon adversaire party;
Ne je ne crains rien que Soussy.*



Note:

Rachas / Rachasser / Rechasser – Ce mot bizarre a pour origine l'ancienne expression picarde rachasser ou aussi rechasser la balle qui signifiait, à la longue paume, repousser ou renvoyer la balle. Gil Kressmann • 2012

Rechasser – Repousser.. un joueur de longuepaume qui rechasse une balle de grande force. Nouveau Dictionnaire de La Langue Française • Laveaux • 1820

Sources and acknowledgments:

Charles d'Orléans • Enid McLeod • 1969

Charles d'Orléans in England (1415-1440) • Mary-Jo Arn • 2000

Personifications of Old Age in Mediaeval Poetry • Ad Putter • 2011

The Glossary of Terms in the T&RA's Laws of Tennis states: 'A return that is struck against the Service Wall and Drops directly in the Dedans is known as the **coup d'Orléans** in recognition of a player who invented or practiced this stroke'. If we assume the reference is to Charles, then he was plainly an accomplished tennis player.

Here are some other 'coups' from the Glossary:

-the coup de bosse - a main wall boast into the dedans [a Rob Fahey favourite].

-the coup de Cabasse - a return which drops in the dedans after first striking the wall between the last gallery and the dedans wall, named after a French professional [in the reign of Louis XV] of that name. [Do not try this at home: it is fiendishly difficult.]

-the coup de chandelle [aka 'the Leamington lob'] - a lofted return which drops or (more usually) falls into the dedans. [Not so difficult, and widely practised at Leamington].

[N.B. A ball 'drops' when it enters an opening directly or hits the floor for the first time and 'falls' when it enters an opening after the first bounce or hits the floor for the second time.]

If any members of the Committee have read this far, then 'The Dedanist' suggests these 'coups' be incorporated as bonus points into the 'Annual Tournament & Dinner' and the 'Sparks Pro-Am' tournament, to more easily identify - and recognise the skilful play of - the winner...

From Other Courts

Home

A report from our Dedanist Ambassador at Wellington College –

Wellington, the country's newest Real Tennis Club, was swift to embrace, and be embraced by the Dedanist community.

We are fortunate to have Danny Jones as our head professional. He is acknowledged to be the leading coach of juniors in the country. He is ably supported by our senior professional, Adam Player. This played no small part in helping Freddie Bristowe, then a pupil, now an OW, to Under 18 and World Junior championships.

We have fifteen members of the Dedanists' Society for whom Wellington is not their principal club. We have invited four players to join the Society for whom Wellington is now their first club. There will be more invitations once matters settle after the pandemic. Simon Roundell, the master in charge of tennis, has risen rapidly through the ranks and is now a director of the Dedanist Foundation; Charles Oliphant-Callum is the school's Rackets master, and Giles Stogdon and David Enticknap are regular and keen players. All have represented the Society in our fixtures before lockdown.

There is a strong outreach programme to the local schools which means that the Academy, with funding from the Society, will be helping the development of junior tennis from within the school and elsewhere.

The affinity between Wellington Real Tennis Club and the Dedanists' Society means that we are always welcome to hold our matches there and consider it a "home court".

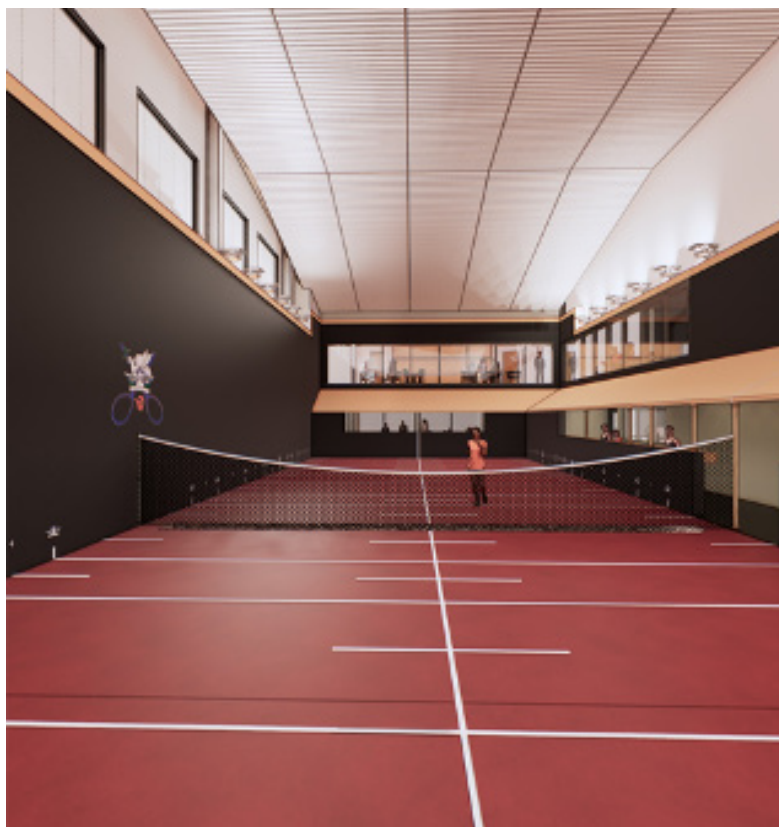
James McDermott September 2021

Away

Firstly, to Washington DC: the existing 'Prince's court' – the one with the glass main wall - which was 'conceived over a third of a century ago and built a quarter of a century ago', is to close and is being replaced by a new court, now under construction at Westwood Country Club, which is close to DC.

Here is a computer image of the proposed court; with exact reproduction of the colours chosen for floor and walls.

A 90 minute discussion with the architect on the development of the court can be found on youtube - here is the link - <https://youtu.be/Clr4bKG7PFE>.



A third (and final) wave of appeals for funds is underway (according to the Dedanists' website), for which there is no AZ vaccine, I fear. It is hoped the court will be open by April 2022; it is close to Dulles airport, for the curious...

Secondly, to France again: as well as organising the TTT, Simon Berry is involved in the restoration of a 16thC. court at Chinon, which is situated on the Loire and associated with Joan of Arc (on the one hand) and Rabelais (on the other). Since tennis ceased to be played in it in the late 18th Century, it has been a stables, (ditto the Royal Tennis Court during the Civil War: thank you, Cromwell!), a garage (ditto the Newmarket court) and latterly a 'poultry warehouse' (ditto The Hyde court – well, a milking parlour, actually).



Simon Berry at Chinon – ever the optimist!

Simon bought the court in 2016 and plans are being drawn up in consultation with the French Comité du Jeu de Paume for its restoration – as funds permit: once again, no AZ vaccine for what's undoubtedly coming next! The plans include provision for its occasional use as a theatre for 'period performances' (à la the mock-Jacobean candle-lit Sam Wanamaker theatre at the Globe). Sounds exciting!!

Whispers in the Galleries

Gossip and tittle-tattle from the world of tennis

‘The Case of the Disappearing Refectory Table’

Those of you who have had the pleasure of eating or playing at the Middlesex University court might remember a long refectory table in the dedans. Modernist in design and hewn from two French oak trees, it was given to the University by Peter Luck-Hille and his wife Jill to celebrate the court's opening in May 2000, and words recording this are carved into the side of the table top.

In the intervening years, and following the University's requisition of a large chunk of the dedans for an interpretative dance studio, a yard of the table was sawn off at either end. More recently a committee at MURTC came up with plans to refurbish the dedans so that a 'café atmosphere' could be created, but the fate of the table was not publicly discussed. And in late July this year, the table just disappeared.

While Peter fully accepts that, once donated, the table was not his to dispose of, he is miffed that no one had the courtesy to let him know what was happening to a piece of furniture that was directly related to his building of the court.

The MURTC people now say that the table has been sold, but are being coy about who the buyer was and how much they got for it. They do, though, assert that the money raised will go towards paying for students to play tennis on the court. So ‘The Dedanist’ fervently hopes that sum was considerable, otherwise it is hard to justify replacing an iconic, hand-made, wooden table with such disposable Formica furniture.

“You’re barred...!”

The President of Moreton Morrell Tennis Court Club has recently been banned from the ‘dining and banqueting facilities’ of the House of Lords, together with two other Peers, until they have completed the compulsory ‘Valuing Everyone’ training course. ‘Valuing Everyone’ is a 2-hour online course, the successful completion of which is designed to ‘ensure that everyone working in parliament is able to recognise bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct’. It is, allegedly, a somewhat tedious document, which has cost £143,600 (of taxpayers’ money) to develop and administer to the Members of the Upper House to date. It has been suggested that the advice of Baroness Betty Boothroyd, (ex-Speaker of the House of Commons and Tiller Girl) during its development might have improved it immeasurably.

