

FROM THE GALLERY



Tim Garner provides a personal view of recent happenings on and off the court

SWISS WATCH

Continuing the last edition's theme of random meetings around the world, my fellow Eventis Director Angus Kirkland was in Montreux (Switzerland) last month fulfilling his duties as Chief Executive of Irish Hockey. After checking in at the Helvetie Hotel he unpacked his bags and headed downstairs on his way out for dinner with his colleagues.

However, as he passed through reception he spotted someone familiar.

A second look confirmed that it was indeed Belgian Peter de Peuter of Commercial Renting, co-owner with Eventis of the portable Harris Brushes Pro Court. But Peter was in Montreux organising a cycling event. Neither knew the other was there and neither of them was there on squash business. As they say in Switzerland, 'It's a small country.'

A 'Puckish' Angus Kirkland



SOLICITING SIDELINE

One of the best things about the squash world is the people you meet and the connections you make, and it is even better when those connections add up to something. So it was a couple of months ago.

Connection number one was a meeting with Simon Goldberg and Razi Mireskandari – two of the partners at law firm Simons Muirhead & Burton, and both squash fanatics – to chat about getting them more involved in what Eventis is doing. One throwaway comment by Goldberg was that what they would love to do is assist a young squash player with legal aspirations ...

Connection number two was a chat with Rachel Willmott, a former English junior number 1, who was studying law at the University of Guildford and discovering that the next step for her was to try to find a job at a law firm, ideally in London ...

Fast forward to early October and after the two parties had met up and liked each other, Willmott started work for Simons Muirhead & Burton.

I understand that recruitment is big business these days, so I am looking forward to my commission cheque, which is apparently in the post ...

BAG MAN

Peter Marshall is well known – and is the first to admit it – for sometimes being in his own world. So it came as little surprise to discover that he had picked up Jonathon Power's bag at the Nine Telecom Legends event at the St George's Hill club. Power was sure he had left his bag by the door and someone remembered Marshall picking one up in that area.

A quick call to Simon Parke, who was with Marshall (after all, Peter couldn't be expected to have remembered to switch his mobile on) led to the following background 'conversation' taking place: "Marsh, have you got Power's bag?" ... sound of zip opening ... "Well, is that your stuff?" ... "You must know if those are your clothes!"

It turned out Pete did have the wrong bag, which he returned the following day, explaining that one of the reasons he had been pleased to sign with Harrow was that there were fewer of their bags around (than Dunlop's, who he had previously been with) so there was less chance of him picking up someone else's bag by accident ...

SHARPES PRACTICES

Young English pro Charles Sharpes enjoyed the good and the bad sides of success at the recent Petersburg Cup in St Petersburg, Russia.

On the upside, he cruised through the qualification and then sliced his way through the main draw to the final. Having progressed much further than seeded, he had to change his flight to the following day, as his existing booking was at the same time as the final. Arriving at the airport after narrowly losing to top seed Marzen Gamal, he checked in for his new flight ...

... at which point he encountered the downside of success. He had written his original travel dates on his Russian visa application. Unperturbed,

he eased through security before hitting a brick wall at Passport Control. A shake of the head was all he needed to understand, as he was escorted back through security by a policeman and left to mull over his fate.

Six hours later, armed with a new visa, he boarded the next available plane, and nine hours after that he arrived home. (English football fans booking flights for the World Cup in 2018 should take note – even though the likelihood of England reaching the final of that event is on a par with the chance of Russia joining the EU.)

CHARITY GROWS AT HOME

In case you are unaware, November is the month for 'Movember', a global charity event that sees men growing moustaches to raise funds for the fight against prostate cancer. This year, it boasted its millionth 'Mo Bro' (moustache brother) since its inception in 2003, and the squash world got fully involved with support from many ex-players including John Russell, Mark Chaloner, Joe Kniepp, Preston Quick, Matt Jensen and yours truly.

However, unquestionably the most distinguished look was achieved by World Squash Media Director Howard Harding (see picture). He claims he was coerced into it by sons Christian and Olly, who between them raised over £1,250 for their old man's Mo.



World Squash Media Director Howard Harding becomes a Mo Bro



'TACHE COMPETITION

Talking of 'taches, can you identify these five moustachioed stars of yesteryear? Send your answers to the Editor at editor@squashplayer.co.uk and win a year's subscription to The Squash Player magazine.

