



# SKILLS NIGHT

Wednesday 2 November, 2022



*Players await awards ceremony*



*Simon Martin collects the Hinds Trophy from Ian Harris*



*Winners Allan Adair, Stephen Bough and Barry Nathan with Ian Harris*

12 keen competitors chose to try their arms at this autumn's real tennis Skills Night. It's like reality television without the television...some would say also without the reality. With four teams of three this time, we were able to test eight skills.

At the half-way stage, *Three Bags Full* (Tony Friend, Richard Boys-Stones and Peter Brunner) were in front, after stunning rounds hitting the dedans gallery target off the main wall and landing chases "better than two".

But *The Three Stooges* (Stephen Bough, Allan Adair and Barry Nathan) were staying close and had held back their joker to the last round. With everything still to play for in that last round, *The Three Stooges* came to the fore, hitting the dedans target directly more often than any other team, thus winning bubbly, chocolate and glory.

*The Three Amigos* (Steven Bishop, Andrew Hinds and Howard Machin) played with great heart but little luck, narrowly missing targets with alarming regularity.

While *The Three Musketeers* (Simon Martin, Catherine Walker and Bill Higson) showed flashes of brilliance, achieving the "Coup de la Patagoirie" (service on target in the paddling pool) more often than any other team. But despite their fine patagoirie, *The Musketeers* landed the coveted Hinds (Wooden Spoon) Trophy.

A joyous curry meal with liquid refreshments was enjoyed by all after the labours of the tournament.

Thanks as always to the professionals, Chris Bray and Chris Swallow, plus the MCC admin team, who ensured that the event was a great success. In 2023, we plan to hold one Skills Night in the spring and another in the autumn.

**IAN HARRIS**

**(WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY FRIEND)**