

**THE MAINWALL SPECTATOR**

Vernon Cassin, Editor

**PRO TIP:**

Are you getting hammered while stuck on the hazard side? Stop aiming at the dedans! You might win that point but it won't get you the serve back. A soft shot aimed at the base of the second gallery post will either hit the gallery or create a tough shot on your opponent's backhand side.



*Ichabod Crane def. HH, 6/4 5/6 6/5.*

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**PRESIDENT:**

**Bob Forbes**

**PROFESSIONALS:**

**Ivan Ronaldson**

**Phil Shannon**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Temple Grassi**

**Ryan Carey**

**Christine Donovan**

**Pat Homer**

**Steve Hufford**

**Kim Jaske**

**Jason Hirama**

**Vernon Cassin**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 11-13:**

Junior Weekend—Aiken

June 18-20:

Handicap Doubles—Newport

**July 16-18:**

Velvet Rope—Newport

(Doubles ages 21-40)

**August 12-16:**

Pell Cup—Newport

(handicap doubles)

**Summer 2010 (TBD):**

Prince's Court Ladies' Handicap

Prince's Court Ladies' Singles

**ABIR/ELDER WIN GOULD CUP**



*Pam Elder and Ray Abir at Lakewood*

Pam Elder and Abir Ray upheld the honor of Prince's Court this May in the 2010 Jay Gould Cup at Lakewood. The Cup was played on the restored Lakewood court where Jay Gould, America's greatest amateur player, first took up the game.

Abir Ray and Pam Elder defeated

Arthur Whitcomb and Maria Morinigo to secure a place in the finals, then easily defeated Barnes/Ashmore to win the finals 6/2, 6/3.

Jake McCray also attended the tournament, and with partner Elise Corey won the consolation

title.

In attendance was Bardyl Tirana, who passed on the well wishes of Kingdon Gould, nephew to the great tennis player. Several undergraduates expressed curiosity about the game.

**RAY, MONAHAN, AND J. MOTZ WIN PRINCES COURT TOURNAMENTS**

May 21—Abir Ray continued his victorious streak in the Ray Cup, the Prince's Court tournament for players with handicaps over 50. Abir, whose generous donation made the tournament possible, profited substantially from his largess, taking home the new glass trophy.

Abir, a relatively new player, has improved substantially over past months, overwhelming opponents with his speed and unusual strength. With frequent doubles partner Pam Elder, he won the Jay Gould tournament in May and made it to the quarter finals of his division of the Cherry Blossom this April.



*Abir Ray holding an object of similar size to the Abir Cup.*

In the Winstead Cup, finalists Anne Monahan and Jericho Seguin made it to game ball at 5/5 in the 3rd set—an identical position to last year's Winstead Cup between Vu Hoang and Jason Hiram. Anne, playing her fourth match of the day, took the last point to win the Winstead Cup.

Finally, John Motz played Bradley Allen in the Roe Cup, the club level championship. In a hard-fought match that had spectators pounding repeatedly on the main wall, John Motz defeated Bradley Allen 6/3, 6/3.

Prince's Court Club  
Tournament Winners:

**Roe Cup** (Men's Singles):

*John Motz*

**Van Alen Cup:** (Men's Doubles):

*J. Motz & K. Motz*

**Price Cup** (level singles handicaps 20-40):

*Steve Hufford*

**Winstead Cup** (level singles handicaps 40 & up)

*Anne Monahan*

**Ray Cup** (level singles handicaps 50&up):

*Abir Ray*

The remaining club tournaments are yet to be played. They will be covered in the next issue of the Mainwall Spectator.

## COURT TENNIS HISTORY: THE FAMILY OF JAY GOULD

by Vernon Cassin

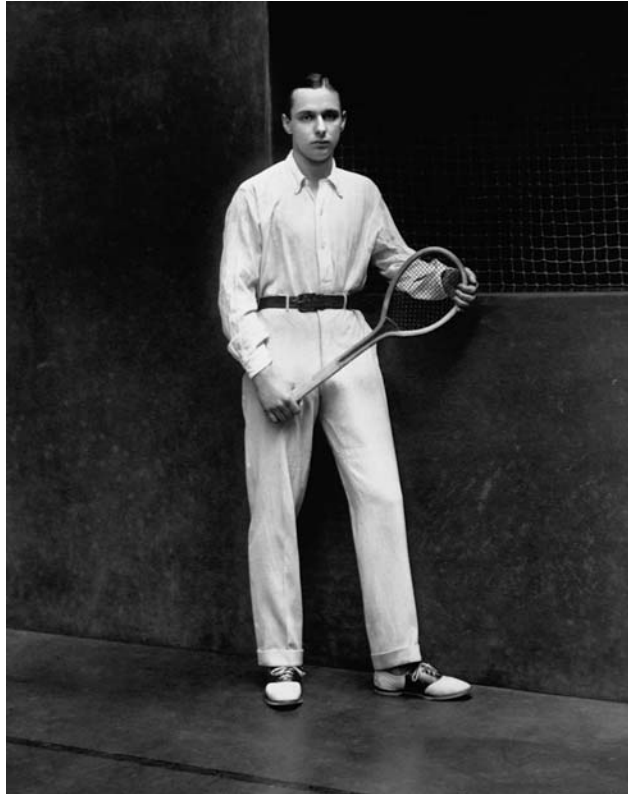
Part of a series of articles on America's greatest amateur player

DEAR FATHER: Congratulations. It's a fine boy. Mother and baby doing finely. GEORGE."

—Sept. 1, 1888.

So ran the telegraph that George Gould sent to his father. The infant was Jay Gould II, who would one day become World Champion of tennis. The recipient was Jay Gould I, his namesake and grandfather, already sickening from the consumption that would kill him only 15 months later.

Jay Gould I was, arguably, the first great stock trader on the New York Stock Exchange. Although he became involved in many companies, he was not a company man by nature. He was a trader, buying low and selling high. He was phenomenally good at it. No one before him had ever gained so great a fortune by trading alone. He was not a gambler—no one could have been so successful for so long through chance. He was a man of enormous financial acumen, and he used it to amass a treasury comparable to the Vanderbilts and Astors. In the course of his career, he owned telegraphs (including a substantial portion of Western Union), railroads, and newspapers.



Jay Gould II as a young man (with thanks to Richard Travers)

His success did not win him many friends. His name was combined with "scheme" in more than a few New York Times headlines, and he was more than once in danger of criminal prosecution. According to one of his obituaries, "all his life he had been knocking at the doors of State prisons without finding a single janitor who would let him in." Although this was something of an exaggeration, he did face criminal charges at least twice in connection with reorganizations of the Erie and Kansas Pacific railroads. He escaped from both matters relatively un-

scathed, except in the press—where he was excoriated even after death. Yet friends spoke well of him, describing him as a kind and astonishingly generous man—though unforgiving to his enemies.

In another age, he might have been the darling of the press. He was, after all, a self-made man. His father was penniless, and young Jay Gould I began his career as a peddler of tin cups in Delaware. One of his customers, a tanner with a reputation as a hustler, took him on as a clerk. Within a year

he was a partner.

He entered Wall Street at 23 years old as a broker, and steadily built up a healthy supply of capital. During the Civil War he made a respectable fortune speculating in railway securities and gold.

In 1869, he attempted to corner the entire US gold market—an operation that had him dragged before a congressional committee more than once. With several other brokers, he arranged quietly to buy an enormous proportion of the Nation's privately-held gold. The scheme worked well, until President Ulysses S. Grant's suspicions were raised. Grant, through his wife, conveyed to one of Gould's contacts that he would not countenance a conspiracy to force the price of gold up. Gould got wind of the message the night before Black Friday, and arranged to sell his own gold—without telling his fellow conspirators. On Black Friday, Gould sold his enormous gold holdings, while his fellow gold-buyers bought all they could get their hands on, driving the price of gold to enormous levels. At noon, an order came from Washington directing the Assistant USTreasurer to sell \$4 million of gold. Simultaneously, a major Scottish Banker, James Brown, offered to sell several millions of his own gold. Within fifteen minutes the price fell from 160 per ounce to 130. The attempt to corner the market was broken, and only Gould escaped with his shirt.

Gould's earnings left him with plenty of capital. He applied

that capital in railroad investments, which he had realized were undercapitalized. He bought substantial stock in the Union Pacific, Denver Pacific, Missouri Pacific, and Kansas Pacific railroads. When the Union Pacific Railroad lost much of its value after its President took ill, Gould bought the majority share and took over the Railroad. Similar events led to his taking over several other railroad systems. When questioned by a Senate Committee about his development of the Missouri Pacific system, Gould remarked "I did not care about making money with it. I had got beyond the point where I cared about making money for myself. I was chiefly interested in convincing myself and others that I could make an effective and financially successful railroad combination."

In 1883 Gould took control of the Western Union telegraph company. He said that his large railroad interests drove his investments, as the railroads and telegraphs went hand in hand in developing the country. The company earned 7% per year after he took over.

Gould was, reportedly, a great and gentle family man. He was well liked by his friends, and was well-known as an excellent storyteller. He enjoyed telling humorous anecdotes to break up serious discussions. He had a great fondness for flowers, and for sailing in his well-appointed yacht, the Atalanta. Unlike other very wealthy men of his time, he was not particularly interested in philanthropy. He did give generously to political campaigns, and was a staunch republican.

Although there have been rumors that Gould and his family were Jewish, leading to their ostracism from some parts of New York

Society, Gould attended West Presbyterian Church, and occasionally donated to that house of worship. To the extent that he himself was unwelcome in certain New York circles, the more likely causes were his financial dealings, which left many people with bitter losses. His poor ancestry, too, may have counted against him with some.

Gould's health failed over the course of three years, and he spent more and more time recovering, either out west or on his country estates. He died in December of 1889, surrounded by his family members, to each of whom he whispered some benediction. Of course, he left them with more than his blessings. He left behind \$81,000,000 in stocks and \$2,000,000 in property—the equivalent of several billion dollars in 2010 currency. Nearly all of it went to his family.

His son, George Gould, succeeded to the financial management of the Gould estate, and took a leadership role in several of the Gould companies. George Gould was known as a more conservative man, a man of cost-cutting a few risks. If he was never as brilliant a speculator as his father, he nevertheless grew his family's fortune safely and well.

He was also nowhere near as infamous. He eschewed flashy investments and schemes for careful management. He grabbed few headlines, either positive or negative. He and his siblings settled into a quieter life. Perhaps intentionally, perhaps not, they set about to improve the family's reputation. The Goulds began giving more generously and openly to charities, beginning with the donation of the Jay Gould Memorial Church in Roxbury, New York.

It was an uphill battle. Though the Gould's had money, Jay Gould I had been rather infamous than famous, and George Gould occasionally ran into trouble in his social circles. In 1895, George Gould attempted to form a syndicate to buy a yacht for the America's Cup, offering to put up \$75,000, or roughly half the price. But attempts to form a syndicate foundered. A prominent yachtsman told the New York Times that "there are some who think that Mr. Gould is not in the social swim, and they think it would hurt them to be associated with him in such a prominent undertaking." Jay Gould I had actually been blackballed from the New York Yacht Club. The Yacht Club only grudgingly allowed Mr. Gould to race for the Royal Victoria Gold Cup, and permission was withheld for so long that Gould eventually withdrew.

But the Goulds were persistent, and American social circles, as sometimes happens, became more forgiving to wealth after a generation. It was not long before the stinging press coverage of the Gould family began to fade away, replaced by an endless series of entries in the society pages. The Goulds became tolerated, and then sought after, at society events. By the time George Gould's sons and daughters entered society, they were nearly worshipped in the society pages. They were, after all, young royalty. If their grandfather had been new money—well, they were new money no longer, and they had grace and charm aplenty.

It did not hurt that the Goulds were natural athletes. No pampered milksops were the Gould boys.

By 1901, at the ages of twelve and eleven, Kingdon and Jay Gould were known as among the most talented junior players of polo. In 1902, they became the youngest players to play in a tournament of the American Polo Association, playing for Lakewood against the Somerset Polo Club on the grounds at Georgian Court. Lakewood won 7 points to 3. Jay Gould made three goals, and Kingdon made one. By 1902, at 12 and 13, Jay and Kingdon Gould were as good at polo as their father, ranked at a 3 and 4 respectively. In 1903, Young Jay Gould broke his Tibia playing polo, and said nothing for weeks for fear he would not be allowed to play with the team. He eventually received an operation after his parents became alarmed at his persistent limp. While recovering, young Gould was nearly killed after an alcohol lamp exploded. His nurse was badly burned, and young Jay ran on his broken leg to summon help for her.

In addition to polo, the Gould boys took up hunting in 1902. George Gould's practice was to take them hunting as a reward for their studies. They typically hunted on their ten thousand acre preserve near Aiken.

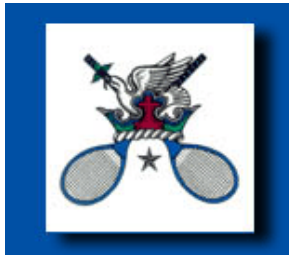
At about the age of 12, the boys were introduced to racquet sports. They began with racquets, this being considered the easiest of the sports. A year afterwards they were introduced to tennis. By 1904, at the age of 14, Jay Gould was winning tournaments in Racquets, Tennis, and Squash. From the age of 15, he rarely lost again.

**FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE OUR WEBSITE:**

**WWW.PRINCESCOURT.COM**

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*Σφαίρη ταὶ δ' ἄρ παίζον, ἀπὸ κρήδεμνα βαλουσαί  
Βη δ' ἴμεν ὡς τε λέων ορεσίτροφος ἀλκὶ πεποιθῶς*

## RECENT ARTICLE ON COURT TENNIS

An article on court tennis recently appeared in the Smithsonian Magazine. The article focuses on the Paris court at 74 rue Laurison, the court where Pierre Etchebaster first took up the game. The article describes the history and play of the game. Available on the Smithsonian Magazine's website, it includes a short instructional video.

The article, written by Jonathan Brand, quotes Prince's Court professional Ivan Ronaldson. Mr. Ronaldson was formerly the professional at the court in Fontainbleu.

The article is available here:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/Jeu-de-Paume-Holding-Court-in-Paris.html>

Prince's Court was built in 1997, the first court to be built from scratch in the United States since before World War I. It is one of only ten courts in the United States, and about 40 throughout the world. It is one of the only courts to have a glass main wall, allowing many more spectators to view a match than is possible on older courts.

Prince's Court is located at the Regency Sport & Health club of McLean, Virginia. It is managed by its professionals and by a committee of its own members.

For more on the sport of court tennis, as well as a more comprehensive guide to upcoming events, see the website of the United States Court Tennis Association, available at [www.uscta.com](http://www.uscta.com).

To Contribute to the Mainwall Spectator, contact Vernon Cassin at [vcassin@gmail.com](mailto:vcassin@gmail.com). Letters, articles and photographs are solicited.