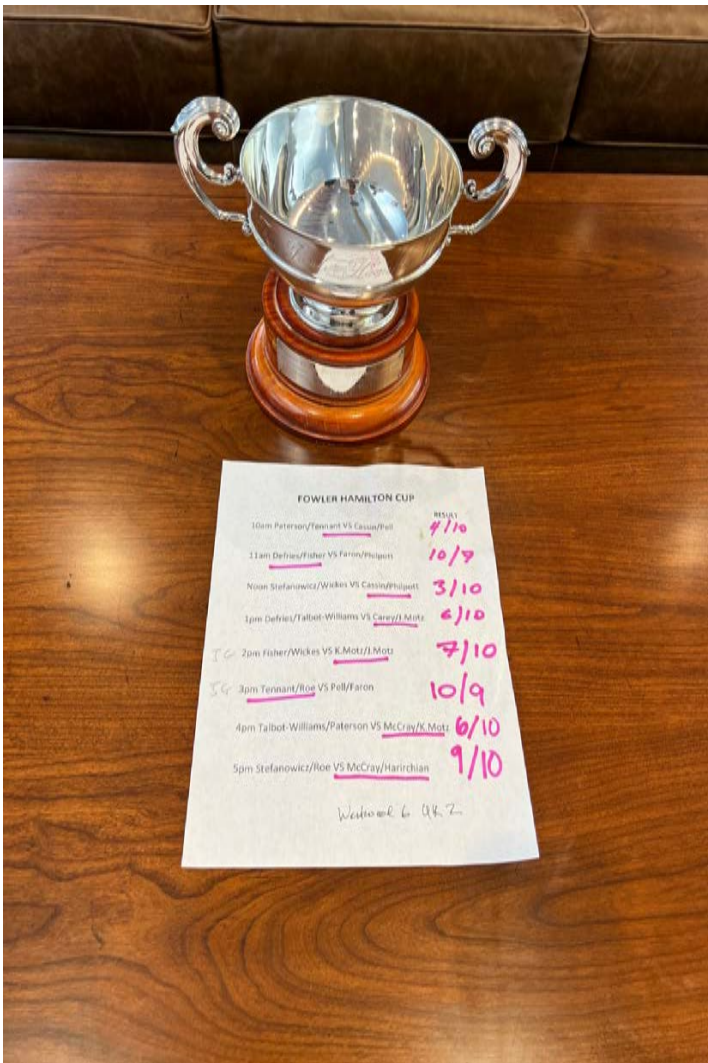


## Westwood Court Tennis Opening

The celebration of the opening of Westwood Court Tennis, successor to Prince's Court, took place from Friday October 28 through Sunday November 6. Opening Director Vern Cassin and Tournament Co-chair Steve Hufford wanted something for everyone rather than everything for someone. It worked because nearly 300 people from around the world, including HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Forfar, joined in the festivities.

Thirty-six local players began the action with their half of the tournament taking place from Friday October 28 through Sunday October 30. Aply overseen by Head Pro Ivan Ronaldson and Assistant Pro James Greenley, each contestant played handicap doubles both with and against three others in a group of four. The winners of the most games advanced to semifinal foursomes and ultimately Dan Sternberg, Vern Cassin, Charlie Katz, Tom Price, John Knox, and Art Horowitz advanced to the Grand Final on Sunday November 6, where they would be paired with winners from the visitors' tournament.



A UK group captained by Graham DeFries, contested the Fowler Hamilton Cup on Monday October 30. The trophy, named for Prince's Court founding committee members, Ian Fowler, and Francis Hamilton, who returned to England before the first court opened, pits any touring side from England against the home club. Here Westwood Court Tennis in its maiden voyage under that banner, bested an entire country by six matches to two.

Next up was the 1812 Cup, an occasional home-and-home event that has been contested seven times (four in the US and three in England). It is named for the War of 1812, the last war fought between England and the US, and was created by Greg Van Schaack and Bill Colegrave, neither of whom (?) was able to play this year, so the teams were led by Graham DeFries and Haven Pell. There were many references to the burning of Washington that had been led by Major General Robert Ross, an ancestor of Prince's Court founding committee member, Francis Hamilton.

On day one, England sped out to a 6-3 lead that looked insurmountable so the US was too glum to sing the traditional Johnny Horton classic, [The Battle of New Orleans](#). Instead, it was played in Westwood's golf simulator lounge on a giant screen that allows you to play golf at Pebble Beach. The British side responded with Oh Jerusalem.

Inspired by Horton's singing, the US staged a furious comeback winning the first five matches on day two, but the 8-6 lead proved to be the high-water mark as England won the final four to seal a 10-8 win and a 4-3 lead in the series.

Vern and Emily Peterson-Cassin kindly hosted a dinner at their nearby home that ought to be renamed Jurassic Park because of the presence of two giant dinosaurs (allegedly for their children) that dominate their back yard. An especially fitting setting for an event in which the participants are more or less fifty and over.

Next up, forty-four visitors from around the country and globe followed the same format from Thursday November 3 through Saturday November 5 as had the local players the week before. Nick Browne, Kris Motz (honorary visitor), Dieter Voegele, Parker Brickley, Baird Standish, and Tony Lago (recent visitor) excelled in play, and went through to the Grand Final to be played on Sunday.

On Thursday night the United States Court Tennis Preservation Foundation hosted a reception at which National Portrait Competition winning artist, Robert Liberace, described the paintings of Temple Grassi, Alastair Martin and Robin Martin that grace the Grassi and Martin Rooms at Westwood.

On Friday the Westwood Conference on a Ten-Year Plan for the Game was led by Alistair Curley, Mary Livingston, Jim Zug, and Haven Pell. This will be repeated in other venues throughout the world in an effort to gather the best thinking for the future. About 50 people attended the sessions.

Late in the afternoon, attendees gathered on court for a black-tie photograph then adjourned for cocktails, dinner, speeches (Vern Peterson-Cassin, Prince Edward, USCTA President, Mary Livingston, and Haven Pell) and dancing. Westwood Chief Operating Officer and General Manager, Bryan Stone, was presented the Ros and Al Clark Award traditionally given at Prince's Court to the volunteer contributor of the year.



Prince Edward joined us on Saturday afternoon beginning with lunch in the Martin Room and moving on to a back-and-forth book chat with Haven Pell celebrating the publication of *Around the World in Fifty Courts* that had appeared in serial form here in Chase the First for the past several years.





Here is how you can get a copy of Haven's book.

# Around the World in Fifty Courts

by Haven N B Pell

Get a copy of our  
leather-bound signed  
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Haven Pell first stepped on a real tennis court as a small child in Tuxedo Park, New York, where he was taken for Gold Racquets weekend to watch his father play. He learned to play (never notably well) at Greentree in the 1950s and 1960s and, with a quarter century gap, has continued for nearly seven decades.

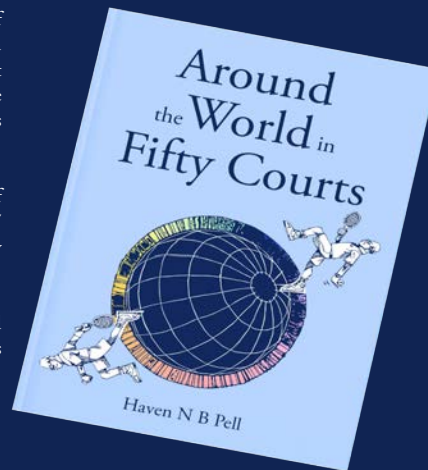
By the time of publication, he will have played in all the real tennis courts in the world, some of which no longer exist, and on one built temporarily as a movie set.

Along the way, he has served on the board of the United States Court Tennis Association and as Chairman of the United States Court Tennis Preservation Foundation, where he learned a good deal about how the game is run throughout the world.

He has had a guiding hand in the building of two real tennis courts, Prince's Court in 1997 and its replacement, at Westwood Country Club, due to be completed in August 2022.

*Around the World in Fifty Courts* is both a travel story and a series of thoughtful observations about the future.

Get a hardback edition for £35 +pp. Email orders/enquiries to:  
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Prince Edward then participated in a junior clinic and watched World Doubles winners and finalists – Camden Riviere, Tim Chisholm, Steve Virgona, and John Lumley battle to a thrilling conclusion.

Additional Westwood Opening events were interspersed throughout our visitors' long weekend, ranging from the cultural (garden and museum tours) to the sporting (golf, lawn

tennis and pickleball). Thanks to Ivan's masterly scheduling or, perhaps, to early round losses, many tournament entrants and their guests were able to participate in these extracurriculars.

A Saturday evening buffet and Sunday brunch provided additional conviviality and hospitality, with the **Westwood Opening Community-wide Handicap Doubles Grand Finals** providing the final entertainment. The newly-formed teams quickly rose to their respective challenges and produced spirited play in all divisions:

**Earth Division:** Nick Browne/Dan Sternberg def. Kris Motz/Vern Cassin 6-1, 6-2

**Wind Division:** Tom Price/Parker Brickley def. Charlie Katz/Dieter Voegele 6-2, 6-4

**Fire Division:** Art Horowitz/Tony Lago def. John Knox/Baird Standish 6-3, 6-5

Following the concluding brunch, the court-building team of Vern Peterson-Cassin, Charlie Katz, John Motz, Mary Livingston, and Haven Pell was given *a very well-earned* rest of the day off.