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The Neptune Book of TENNIS & RACKETS

JAMES BRUCE



This is a complete revision and update of Lord Aberdare's earlier books, which have long been internationally regarded as the most authoritative works on the games of Real Tennis and Rackets. It provides the reader with a comprehensive account of everything that has happened in the games from their inception hundreds of years ago to 2014.

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The author has also scoured the records of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France and the United States to bring the statistics of all major tournaments up to date.

In the 21st century to date there has been an astonishing renaissance of Real Tennis in Southwest France with three courts being revived between 2005 and 2011 and more to come. In the USA, the Lakewood Georgian court was reopened in 2009, the Chicago court in 2012, and there are plans to build a new court in Charleston.

In the UK, Radley College built a brand new court in 2008, and Wellington College plans to do the same in 2015. In Sydney there are plans to find a site for a new court to replace the one that was closed in 2005. In Ireland there are plans to revive both the Dublin court and Lutyens' masterpiece on Lambay Island.

Finally, Holland is planning to revive its ancient court and even Jersey is planning to build two new Real Tennis courts and one Rackets court. Rackets too has been a beneficiary from Tonbridge School opening a second court in 2012, and there are plans to revive the courts at Buckhurst Park and Dartmouth.

Due to the extraordinary longevity of courts despite the punishment inflicted on them, the author has added a whole new chapter on building courts from the early beginnings when urine and ox blood were used to the present more sophisticated techniques, highlighting on the way the vast debt the games owe to Victorian master-builder Joseph Bickley.

Ladies' Rackets has taken off in the 21st century partly thanks to more Rackets-playing schools becoming co-educational. There now exists a Ladies' Open singles and Amateur doubles. The author has devoted a whole new chapter to this exciting development.

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