

Calcutta History at MTC

We are blessed with so many members new to MTC we thought it a good idea to tell you something of the history and background of the Calcutta here at MTC.

First off, the Calcutta has a Commissioner and this year a Co-Commissioner along with a Calcutta Committee who is the arbiter of disputes and the folks who determine who gets most of the awards like Sportsman of the Year and Hall of Fame recipient. The winning team also usually designates a Rookie of the Year and MVP.

The Calcutta has been the prime social and tennis event of the year here at MTC for over 40 years. This year is the 41st Calcutta here at the club and thus the Roman Numeral XLI.

The Calcutta is a gambling system originated by the British in Calcutta, India and initiated here at MTC by our own, ever lovable, Calcutta Commissioner Emeritus, Murry Cann.

The week before play, we hold an auction of the teams and each team is bid upon by club members on Auction Party night. That's a load of fun as each team wants to have their team go for the lowest bid, so that if they win they can make the most money. The winner of the Calcutta gets 45% of the total amount bid for all of the teams. Other teams win a lesser share.

Format is 8 teams, this year consisting of 8 players per team, divided into two divisions, Roland Garros and Forest Hills. Total games won by each team determines the team score. Format is men's, women's and mixed doubles

On Saturday, the play is intra divisional consisting of 8 game pro sets, the first to win 8 games by 2 wins with a 7 point tie breaker at 7 all. No ad play.

On Sunday, Team one in Roland Garros plays team 4 in Forest Hills and team 1 in Forest hills plays team 4 in Roland Garros etc to determine the semifinalists and then the semifinalists play to determine the two teams in the finals. It really gets exciting watching folks of all levels doing their best to win the coveted license plate

brackets and the distinction of being the Calcutta Champions.

There are a few of us still here, participating in this year's Calcutta who played in the very first MTC Calcutta.

Until about 10 years ago, the start of the Calcutta began with the Parade of teams on Court 1. There were skits, songs and costumes that reflected the team names or themes. We had everything from Opera, to a cave man in a loin cloth emerging from the roof of the pool dressing room, to a motorcycle with a couple of Hell's Angels scooting about the court, to folks dressed as tables and chairs. Lot's of very funny and imaginative stuff and some not so much.

We still introduce the teams on Court 1 on Saturday morning and start the festivities with some other hi jinks designed to amuse.

This year's theme is Sci Fi. Entry fee of about \$65.00 buys you Saturday and Sunday continental breakfast and buffet lunch and a great BBQ dinner and party on Saturday night of Calcutta with new balls for each round of play.

**I would be remiss if I did not mention the Parties
The Auction Party – The Calcutta Party on the
Saturday evening of the Calcutta – Team Parties
in the weeks before play at various members
homes. It is all great fun and a great way for
new members to meet your fellow members and
for longer term members to further bond with old
friends.**

Look forward to seeing you all at Calcutta

Hope this has been of help