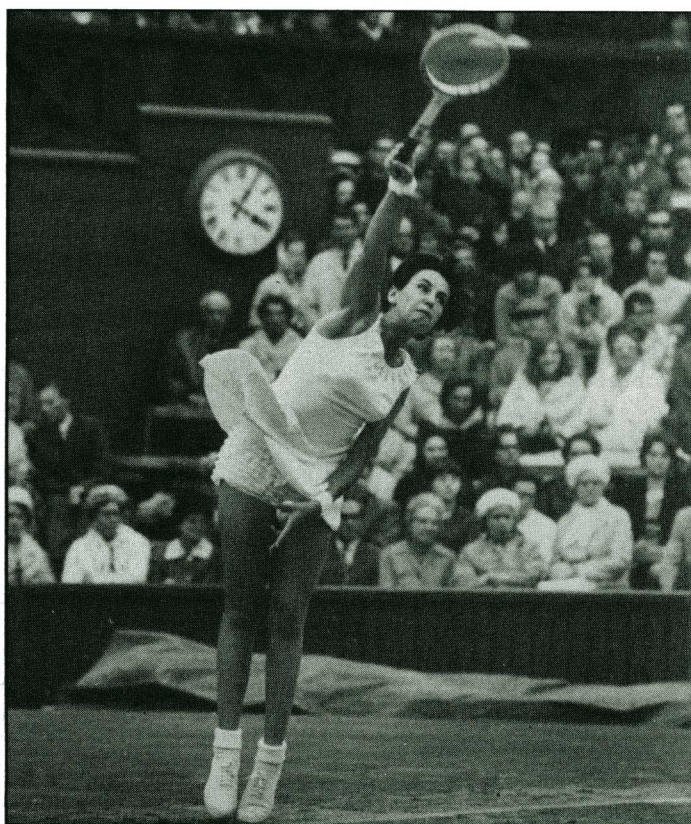


MARIA BUENO



Maria Bueno, Wimbledon Champion: Le-Roy Productions Ltd.

Earlier this year I was very interested to see and hear Maria Bueno interviewed on the Terry Wogan TV chat show, recalls **Angela Buxton**.



Angela Buxton.

Although winner of a total 588 tournaments in her day, she recalled how she collected a mere £15.00 voucher after her first Wimbledon win in 1959. Maria also assured Terry that she had no regrets; on the contrary she felt that tennis had opened many doors for her, offering her a lifetime of opportunities. Today she still bears the stamp of a rare tennis enthusiast and can be found regularly promoting the game through exhibitions and clinics with a view to bringing more and better tennis to the masses here in the UK. Nothing stimulates

the game more than a figurehead, and in centres that do not have their own, such as the Coventry Racket Sports Centre and Watlington LTC she has recently provided it. It is a pity Terry did not allow her the time and opportunity to tell the audience more about her life during the last twenty years (she last won Wimbledon beating Margaret Court in 1964) but I was particularly gratified to witness that she has retained such a good command of the English language; because when I first met her in Panama, Central America during the winter of 1956/7, she asked me to be her pen-pal so as to improve her English. Even though I was a high ranking player with many calls on my time during that period I agreed to take time out to do this; because even at fifteen she was obviously a player worth helping. When I saw how

fluently she came across the screen and heard about the good work she is doing up and down the country, I was very pleased to have contributed in some small way. Other tennis clubs and centres wishing to know about the services offered by Maria Bueno, in helping to promote the game in the UK, should contact: Racket Services International on 04427-6155.

When one teaches any sport, one automatically takes on board a built in responsibility as a representative, to help promote that particular sport in the best possible light. Additionally when one is a figurehead and has one's own centre as well, the responsibilities that one embraces are far reaching indeed. This was brought home to me twice recently within the space of twenty four hours. One evening I received a telephone call from an ex pupil in Tel Aviv, Israel, telling me about the Shlomo Glickstein/Amos Mansdorf, Ball abuse penalty point at matchpoint situation in their semi-finals of the Jerusalem Challenger Tennis Tournament, in the Katamon Stadium, Jerusalem. What was my opinion? Apparently Mansdorf hit a ball in a fit of fury that landed out of the court. It just happened to give his South African opponents Gary Muller and Brian Levine, Matchpoint! He was simply unlucky that the ball accidentally bounced out of court and what he had done was something quite trivial in comparison to what has happened before. However, this action was carried out right under the eye of the Umpire, Stanley Sperber who claims he could not ignore it and awarded the game, set and match to the South Africans.

There was near civil war in the stadium as the excited spectators could not reconcile themselves with the Umpire's decision. (Apparently this mini-offence came as a culmination to a series of offences by Mansdorf during the Tournament, for which he was finally fined \$740, and that Sperber had chosen to overlook up to that point).

The next day, I found myself umpiring an LTA Volkswagen Rating Ladies' Final in which one player was consistently foot faulting. Because of her obvious inexperience I suggested to her, after the first game, by way of a warning that

she stand 6-8 inches further back behind the baseline, but she took no notice and I foot faulted her twice from the chair... I could have done so twenty-two times! After the match, I suggested she go back to the drawing board and correct that as soon as possible. Her opponent British Ranking Julie Salmon agreed with me, and added that as most of her serves were long anyway, standing fractionally further back would help correct the length aspect.

Nobody likes to upset players, however, as I see it, we have very good and carefully thought out rules and codes of conduct, the reason the game has acquired itself a rather dubious name in the past decade or two is that administrators for some reason failed to apply them.

I, for one rejoice that at least this phase is nearing an end. Finally a word about our young players. With three of the main seeds falling out of our National Girls Singles at Wimbledon before even one ball was struck, Jane Wood (1), Sue McCarthy (4) and Teresa Catlin (6), my mind turned immediately to the need for more protection for our adolescent players e.g.

1. Whilst the National Trainer is still advocating knee, torso and neck rolling as part of a general warm-up in the recent Pro Registration Course, enlightened people in the field of sports medicine know perfectly well that this only encourages soft tissue injuries in these areas. I mentioned in my April column the need for more and skilled physio care. I now reinforce that plea, and suggest our National Trainer and Coaches take a long hard look at where physiotherapy and associated skills can best fit in to help prevent rather than cure tennis injuries.

2. Ever since the laying of the expensive indoor courts on which all our best juniors seem to play at Queen's Club at some time, there has been a noticeable steady increase of knee and foot injured players despite most of them wearing the shoes recommended by the club. Were the courts laid directly on a cement or tarmac base? If so, is it not time that funds and time were set aside for research into this important area of the game before we place our young (and older) players on these new court surfaces without further thought?