renaming the game and launcher executables will not work. You can use the server browser, but you'll have to live with the warning message that appears when it opens the game, and you will have to check for updates manually.

I don't know about the invisible mobius.

Server list sorting is indeed weird, but you can sort by "icon" instead and get very similar behavior to what you want. If you want, you can mark your favorite server with the flags/"sort by clans" icon in the top left, after you did that, it will always appear on top. (We unfortunately never got around to making proper buttons for that.)

Depending on the nature of the bug, fixes may require 4.0 to be running on the server, client, or both. The PT problem requires the server to run it.

TT does not scan your hard drive, it only checks the files that are loaded by Renegade. So those files in another directory cannot be causing any problems. The problem you may be having is that the server is running modified versions of the maps. If you have control over the server, check whether it has the versions as hosted here: http://ren.game-maps.net/tt/ Your client should have automatically updated the files with the correct versions from that location.