

Croquet Communique 29th September 2022

A fantastic week for Roehampton Club Croquet – two major national tournaments finals – two victories!

First, on Sunday, 18th September, **CA National Murphy GC Shield** against Watford, we won by 5-2, and the following Saturday, 24th September, the prestigious **National Inter Club GC Tournament** also against Watford, we won 5-1. Full reports by the Team Captains below.

Many congratulations to all who played throughout the rounds and to the Team Captains for all the effort in organising the teams and events.

The Murphy Shield GC Tournament Final

report by John Pearson non-playing captain:

18th September 2022 Roehampton Club beat Watford 4-3: played at Ealing Croquet Club

In the few years in which the Club has been entering a team, Roehampton Club's record in the Murphy Shield could best be described as indifferent. This year, with two, 2-handicap players vying for the one 2-handicap place allowed in a team (one of whom we could never field, and the other soon lost to injury), a doughty 3-handicap stalwart, and a trio of fast improvers, we approached the campaign with greater optimism.

We started with a home 5-2 win over Ealing, followed by a good 6-1 win away to Ryde, fielding a new 2-h handicap player, Nick Yates, who promptly became ineligible by going down to 1. The semi-final brought a 4-3 home win over Guildford & Godalming, with Diana Wilson becoming the Club's fourth 2-handicap player of the summer.

Watford (the holders) had already reached the Final with the benefit of a walkover. A neutral Final venue at Ealing on 28th September was swiftly agreed – and blessed by the Croquet Association (CA) – the day itself being kindly and expertly hosted by Ealing's Tony Elliott. The morning play was dominated by Watford, they won both the reverse singles and the doubles, and so going into lunch with what looked like an unassailable 3-0 lead.

But the age of miracles is not dead. Roehampton Club came back from lunch as if rejuvenated. First, number four, Elaine Phillimore, played very well to notch up a two-game win against Steve Dennis. This was soon followed by a strong win by Andrew Wilson over George Skinner. Meanwhile an extremely tight three-game encounter was going on between Nicholas Halton and Alan Clark. Both had their chances, but, after a nerve-wracking final 15 minutes, Nicholas managed to triumph over the unlucky Alan at the golden hoop. This left the score tied at 3-3, with the top singles between Diana Wilson and Kevin Connolly still going on. In a tense, high-quality display, Diana managed to pull off a memorable (and unexpected) turnaround for Roehampton Club in two games.

Huge commiserations to Watford, but euphoria for Roehampton Club!

Teams

Roehampton Club – Diana Wilson (2), Andrew Wilson (3), Nicholas Halton (3), Elaine Phillimore (4).
Watford – Kevin Connolly (2), George Skinner (3), Alan Clark (3), Steve Dennis (4).



Doubles

Diana and Andrew Wilson lost to Keven Connolly and George Skinner 7-5, 5-7,5-7

Singles

Elaine Phillimore lost to Alan Clark 7-4, 5-7, 5-7

Nicholas Halton lost to Steve Dennis 5-7, 4-7

Diana Wilson beat Kevin Connolly 7-5, 7-5

Andrew Wilson beat George Skinner 7-4, 7-4

Nicholas Halton beat Alan Clark 3-7, 7-2, 7-6

Elaine Phillimore beat Steve Dennis 7-5, 7-4.

David Openshaw kindly presented the Shield to the winners.



Roehampton Club: John Pearson, with the team: Andrew Wilson, Diana Wilson, Elaine Phillimore and Nicholas Halton

David Openshaw presents the Shield to Roehampton Club



National CA GC Inter Club Tournament Final

report by *Tim Russell*:

GC Inter Club final Roehampton Club v Watford.

Held on 24th September 2022 at Roehampton Club. Roehampton Club won 5-1

Results (Roehampton Club team names first)

Mark van Loon and Joel Taylor beat Nick Archer and Jason Carley 5-7, 7-4, 7-6

Tim Russell beat Simon Hathrell 3-7, 7-5, 7-6

Dan Pearson lost to John Taylor 6-7, 7-6, 1-7

Mark van Loon beat Nick Archer 7-3, 7-4

Joel Taylor beat Jason Carley 7-4, 6-7, 7-4

Dan Pearson beat Simon Hathrell 7-2, 7-5

Tim Russell beat John Taylor 7-3, 4-7

The morning session saw Roehampton Club take a 2-1 lead with both their wins coming at the golden hoop in the deciding game, after Watford had taken the lead in all three opening matches. The afternoon session was slightly more comprehensive with Mark van Loon playing particularly well, running several hoops from distance, and finishing his GC Inter Club season with just one defeat in 15 games.

John Taylor enjoyed Roehampton Club's true fast lawns and showed he is a fast-improving player beating Dan Pearson comprehensively in the third game and taking a game off Tim Russell. The overall match was won when Joel Taylor saw off Jason Carley in the third game of his match with consistently good clearing.

Whichever side won was going to see a new name on the GC Inter Club trophy which in the event was presented by Nigel Aspinall to Roehampton's winning team. Many thanks to the Roehampton Club ground staff who presented their usual vibrant green lawns which were surprisingly quick and thanks to Watford for agreeing to play the match at Roehampton Club.



Roehampton Club: Dan Pearson, Joel Taylor, Tim Russell (captain) and Mark Van Loon



Nigel Aspinall presenting the trophy



Tim Russell



Mark Van Loon



Joel Taylor



Dan Pearson



Fairacres versus Rest of the Club for the Fairacres Cup

Report by Tony Salem:

This was a closely fought match with five pairs on each side playing five matches of 25 minutes duration attempting to play seven hoops per game. ROTC were the current holders, but on this occasion Fairacres just came through by winning 13-11 with two games drawn.

If there had been a tie the result would have been determined by number of hoops run. On this basis Fairacres still won 79-67. The highest number of hoops run by Fairacres was achieved by Susan Sinclair and Tony Salem with 18 and Jean and Mike for ROTC were winners with 16 hoops. Fairacres have now won the Fairacres Cup four times compared to ROTC three times.

Special thanks to Tony Salem for organising such a fun event with an enjoyable abridged format of the GC game.



Weekend of 1st and 2nd October

This weekend sees the Club in yet more competitive action, all being played at Surbiton Croquet Club, Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 9AA

CA National Croquet AC Longman Cup Semi Final

On Saturday 1st October, we play High Wycombe in the semi-final of the CA National Association Croquet AC Longman Cup. We wish the Roehampton Club team of Elaine Phillimore, (team Captain), Diana and Andrew Wilson and Nick Yates the best of luck. The winner will play in the final also at Surbiton on Sunday, 2nd October, against either Bury or East Dorset.

CA National Inter Club Association Croquet Tournament Final

On 2nd October, sees Roehampton Club take on Bowdon, (Greater Manchester), in what will be a closely contested match. the Roehampton Club team is Tim Russell, (team Captain), Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon, and Joel Taylor. We wish the team every success.

Other news

Adrienne Sackin recently took part in a croquet tournament at Gunton Hall in Suffolk which she assures me had a very strong field. She saw off the opposition and is pictured drinking from her trophy.

AGM and Summer Tournament Prizegiving

Sunday 16th October at 13.00 in the Croquet Pavilion.
Please register your attendance on the booking system

Enjoy our croquet!

Mike Pattison
Croquet Captain



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