

## **Croquet Communique – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **History made by Roehampton Club croquet!**

Outstanding results for Roehampton Club croquet teams!

Four of the top five Croquet Association National Tournaments have been won by Roehampton Club. The first time any club has held all four trophies in one season and our most successful year ever!

Many congratulations to all involved: captains, organisers and the players who made it happen.

Having already recorded victories in the Inter Club GC and Murphy GC Tournaments, we contested two further tournaments at Surbiton on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and saw history being made. We played in the finals of the Longman AC and Inter Club AC Tournaments and won both.

Roehampton Club now holds the:

Inter Club Golf Croquet Cup  
Inter Club Association Croquet Cup  
Longman Association Croquet Cup  
Murphy Golf Croquet Shield

Reports on the AC Inter Club and Longman Cup:

#### ***The Inter Club Association Cup report by Tim Russell***

Roehampton Club beat Bowdon 5-2 to win the AC Inter Club Trophy for the first time since 1984 when Nigel Aspinall was in his pomp, and he had a useful partner in Stephen Mulliner! This broke Surbiton's impressive 6-year hold on the event.

Results (Roehampton Club names first):

Harry Fisher and Joel Taylor beat Alain Giraud and Angharrad Walters +13TP  
Mark van Loon beat Nigel Matthews +26TP  
Tim Russell lost to Brian Storey -26  
Harry Fisher beat Alain Giraud +26TP  
Joel Taylor beat Angharrad Walters +26TP  
Mark van Loon beat Brian Storey +25  
Tim Russell lost to Nigel Matthews -6

After a strong season Joel managed to pip Mark to the number 2 slot in the Roehampton Club team and having a President's Cup player at number 3 gave Roehampton a significant edge.

The doubles could have gone either way after Angharrad followed Joel round to 4 back and Harry missed the lift. Unfortunately for Bowdon, Alain, having played a wonderful sideways jump shot to get through hoop 1 then missed a mid-range roquet on his deep reception ball. Harry didn't need another chance. He continued to play in exemplary fashion in the afternoon, with the only sniff of an opportunity for Alain coming when his straight rover peel attempt stuck in the jaws with his ball very close and at an angle. Harry wisely decided against trying the jump/peel shot - it was difficult enough jumping, but he managed it well enough to get behind the reception ball, rush it back north of rover, bombard peel his ball through rover going on to the other reception ball and pegging out. He looks in good form for the Mac next month.

Mark and Joel played almost faultlessly to win their three singles matches with the only mistake being Mark blobbing one back when on a triple against Brian Storey. With the balls well placed Brian made hoop 1 but then missed a shortish roquet to allow Mark to finish next turn. Brian had played very well in the morning to beat an off-form Tim +26.

Tim's shooting improved in the afternoon but was matched by Nigel Matthews who hit for fun across the lawn including the winning peg out from corner 3 to win a tight match. Having written in a complimentary fashion about his progress in GC, this was my reward!

The victory completed a stellar year for Roehampton Club winning four of the major club competitions (I think unprecedented). Participation rates have shot up since Covid and we have a very encouraging take up of both codes. Commiseration to Bowdon who had an excellent season themselves getting to three finals and were unlucky to be missing John-Paul Moberly for the AC final.

Many thanks to Surbiton for hosting the finals and to George Noble and his team for providing us all with a typically accomplished Surbiton lunch. Although their lawns were a little easier than they were for the Championship of Surrey where the Ps were missing after the Ts, the approaches to hoop 1 on both lawn one and two were tricky enough to keep everyone interested.

Finally a word of thanks to our outgoing President Quiller Barrett who in one of his final duties presented the Beddows Trophy to Roehampton Club giving all those in attendance an accomplished history of the trophy.





*Joel Taylor, Tim Russell, Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon*



*The Roehampton Club and Bowdon Teams with Quiller Barratt, President of the Croquet Association*

**The Longman Association Croquet Cup: *report by Elaine Phillimore***

Roehampton Croquet Club have won the Association Croquet Longman Cup 2022. The Longman Cup, a national knockout handicap competition, played between clubs across the country was presented to the Croquet Association by William Longman in 1928 (94 years ago). Roehampton Club won it first in 1949 but the last time we won; it was in 2012. We are delighted to hold it again.

The semi-final held on Saturday 1st October and the final on 2nd October were both played at Surbiton Croquet Club. Roehampton Club (RC) successfully won through the Semi-final against High Wycombe on the Saturday, and it was with much anticipation that the team arrived on Sunday to play the final against East Dorset (ED) who had a very strong team as reported by Bury Croquet Club who had lost to them in their semi-final.

In the morning Andrew Wilson, playing singles against ED's strongest and rapidly improving player, convincingly won his match followed soon by Diana Wilson winning her singles. Nail-biting doubles match with Nick Yates and Elaine Phillimore was still in play. Almost time and ED were two hoops ahead of RC. With a shot from the whole length of the lawn Nick Yates hit in to make his hoop at penultimate (hoop 11) and rover (hoop 12) to level the game at time. It is now the golden hoop. ED with both balls for hoop 9 and RC for hoop 5 the score is 16 hoops each. ED to play choose to lay up with a short rush to their hoop rather than go for their hoop. Seeing ED have left a double Nick, with another brave long shot from across the lawn hits in at ED's double, splits the ED rush and sets up a short rush for Elaine at RC's Hoop 5. ED miss their hit in attempt allowing Elaine to make hoop 5. Well played Nick.

We were leading 3-0 at the lunch break needing one more win from the four afternoon singles games to claim Victory and the Cup. With Nick, Elaine, and Andrew each losing their singles the match score was tied at 3 games all leaving the team and Roehampton supporters on tenterhooks watching Diana valiantly fighting to win her match. With much relief, time was called with Diana ahead by 3 hoops to win the game and the Victory for Roehampton Club 4-3. What a final!

Well played to the team captained by Elaine Phillimore and thanks also to Tian Pee and Tony Salem who were in the squad and played in earlier rounds.





*Andrew Wilson, Tony Salem, Elaine Phillimore, Diana Wilson, Nick Yates*



### **SECF GC Handicap League**

We played our fourth and final match in this year's league away to Reigate on 28<sup>th</sup> September. A very cold but bright day, our performance was disappointing. We lost a competitive match against a higher handicapped team who made full use of their extra turns, and by winning, won the league, being the only club to record four wins.

Thanks to the Roehampton Club team of Diana Wilson, Mark Green, Gill Bray, and Chris Bray who kindly stood in at the last minute.



*Diana Wilson, Mike Pattison, Mark Green, Chris Bray, Gill Bray*



## The Annual General Meeting and Summer Tournament Prize-Giving

This event took place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Anne Wilkinson and Mike Pattison gave the Chair's and Captain's reports and then presented the prizes.

A list of winners and runners-up is below.



*Anne Wilkinson Croquet Chair*



*Mike Pattison Croquet Captain*

Roehampton Club Croquet Section 2022 summer competition results:

	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-Up</b>	<b>2021 winner</b>
<b>Association Croquet</b>			
Adams Cup	Nick Yates	Tony Salem	<i>Tony Salem</i>
Bell Cup	Lynn Percy	Nick Yates	<i>Not played</i>
Brooke Cup	Andrew Wilson	Lynn Percy	<i>Not played</i>
Centenary Doubles	Tim Russell and Peter Siddall	Mike Hahn and Tony Salem	<i>Tim Russell and Peter Siddall</i>
Heathcote Cup	Joel Taylor	Mark Van Loon/Tim Russell (no play off)	<i>Not completed</i>
Mike Hahn Cup	Tim Russell	Peter Siddall	<i>Tim Russell</i>
Rosnov Cup	Ron Wood	Jean Oades	<i>Ron Wood</i>
Turketine Trays	Diana Wilson	David Mooney/Andrew Wilson (no play off)	<i>Lynn Percy</i>
Vatcher and Caffin Cup	Tim Russell and Diana Wilson	Andrew Wilson and Nick Yates	<i>Tim Russell and Ron Wood</i>
Whitaker Cup	Nick Yates	Lynn Percy	<i>David Openshaw</i>
<b>1-Ball</b>			
Handicap	Joel Taylor	Tim Russell	<i>David Openshaw</i>
Aspinall Plate	Joel Taylor	Mark Van Loon	<i>Tim Russell</i>

<b>Golf Croquet</b>			
Level singles 4 and under	Nick Yates	Sam Russell	<i>Tim Russell</i>
Level singles 5-8	Diana Wilson	Chris Bray	<i>Elaine Phillimore</i>
Level singles 9 and over	Charlotte Oades	Jean Oades	<i>Brian Woodbridge</i>
Level Doubles	Sam Russell and Nick Yates	Andrew and Diana Wilson	<i>Tim Russell and Tony Salem</i>
Handicap singles 8 and under	Trevor Campbell	Diana Wilson	<i>Trevor Campbell</i>
Handicap singles 9 and over	Charlotte Oades	Bev Morley-Brown	<i>Charlotte Oades</i>
Handicap Doubles	Allen Lever and Robert Scallon	Howard and Janine Railton	<i>Trevor Campbell and Jinni Featherston-Witty</i>
Level singles 5-8 Plate	Gill Bray	Adrienne Sackin	<i>Gill Bray</i>
Level singles 9 and over Plate	Felicity Irlam	Rikki Marks	<i>Not played</i>
Handicap singles 8 and under Plate	Andrew Wilson	Brian Giffen	<i>Caroline Dewar</i>
Handicap singles 9 and over Plate	Felicity Irlam	Brian Woodbridge	<i>Felicity Irlam</i>
Handicap Doubles Plate	Adrian and Jeanette Burn	Ena and Peter Siddall	<i>Caroline Dewar and Susie Weir</i>

*Winners' photos will appear in the next edition*

## **Air Hall 2**

The works to create the new indoor tennis facility are nearly complete, and the boundary safety fencing removed.

There is a plan to trial the use of covers to protect the playing surface from frost, already obvious is the size of the 'shadow' on the lawn which will have a significant effect.

Enjoy your croquet!

**Mike Pattison**  
**Croquet Captain**

