

Croquet Communique – 21st September

Hussars Cup, (End of Season Tournament) 9th – 10th September

Report by John Pearson

The Tournament for the Hussars Cup (first played for in 1911) started with a crisis – for the Manager at least. He had only learned late on the previous evening from an email sent earlier that Barry Holland (Surbiton), one of the seven previous winners in the field, would not be able to play. Cue worries

about how to organise a 15-player field. But Dame Fortune

shone on him. On passing through the Club gates at 8.30am on Saturday his phone rang; a Roehampton Club Member, Nick Yates (who had won the AC B Level back in May), wondering if, by any chance, anybody had dropped out!



Peter Siddall

The rest is, as they say, history. Nick, making light of his 1.5 handicap, the second lowest, romped to victory. In doing so, he came back from the near dead in the third round to deprive Stephen Wingrove (Purley Bury) of a tremendous win. Stephen had used his 2 bisques and had both his balls for the peg, whilst Nick had barely started. Despite the lateness of the hour at the end of a long and very hot day, Nick impeccably played both his balls round to record a win that had looked most improbable.

At the end of the fourth round, only Nick and Diana Wilson, also from Roehampton Club, (who has spent this year concentrating on her GC, including playing in the recent World Championships and reaching the knockout stages) had 4 wins each, leaving them to play each other in the effective final. And it must also be recorded that that by lunchtime on the first day Diana had already notched up two 26-0 wins, the first against third-placed Alan

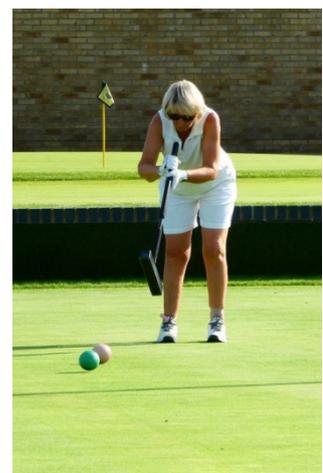
Clark (High Wycombe), his only loss, and the second against the only minus player in the field (and double former winner), Jordan Waters (Merton).

In the Final Nick took his first ball to rover, with Diana then taking hers to peg, helped using more of her bisques than she would have liked. Then, on Diana breaking down, Nick hit in and gave her no further chance, proving an impressive winner.

Mention might also be made of Susan King (Bristol) playing her first tournament. With a handicap of 16, after a tentative first couple of



Andrew Wilson



Diana Wilson



Nick Yates, John Pearson
and the Hussars Cup

rounds getting used to the lawn speeds and double banking, she is to be congratulated on three straight wins, albeit on time.

After the presentation, Roehampton Club's Croquet Captain, Mike Pattison, took the opportunity of taking a photo for posterity of the now seven winners present, but also including David Openshaw, one of the most eminent of the former champions – in 1978!



Fairacres and Rest of the Club Challenge Cup

The annual Fairacres vs Rest of the Club (ROTC) match took place on a glorious sunny afternoon on 12th September. Teams of eight were as evenly matched as possible and after a briefing by Tony Salem, who managed excellently as always, play began.

Games were timed and started and finished on the sound of a shrill whistle. ROTC were off to a flying start winning the first four games, and they managed to stay ahead and regain the Trophy.



Ascot Cup

Played at Ramsgate 15th – 16th September. The GC English National Singles Champion Series for the Ascot Cup, (the top tier of the National Championship tournaments).



Tim Russell (Roehampton Club) competed and found a very strong field. His first block match was against Stephen Mulliner (Surbiton) and was a long and very competitive three-game battle, with both players in contention but Mulliner came out the victor and went on to win the tournament.

Presidents Cup Croquet Association AC First Eight

An invitation event for Top AC players. The event was played in very warm and humid conditions at Bowdon Croquet Club, near Manchester. Harry Fisher (Roehampton Club) came second in this invitation event and was in contention all the way through the three days and looked to be heading for a play off in the final round with Stephen Mulliner. However, Stephen won with 12 wins from 14 games. Harry was second with 11 from 14 and James Death third with 10 from 14 games.



Upcoming events

This Saturday 23rd September we are hosting the Inter Club Golf Croquet National final between Dulwich and Hurlingham, starting at 10.30. It should be worth watching!

Saturday 30th September Roehampton Club are playing in the final of the Inter Club Association Croquet National Cup, which is being held at Blewbury Croquet Club, near Didcot. Supporters are very welcome as we aim to hold the Trophy, we won last year.

Croquet Dinner and Prize-Giving 20th October. Booking is now open through Reception. We hope to see many of you there along with the prize winners.

Enjoy your Croquet!

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain