Croquet Communique – 19th October 2023

Centenary Bowl

The Annual Association Croquet Match between Roehampton Club and Hurlingham took place at Hurlingham on Sunday 8th October. Teams of ten played five doubles and ten singles matches, with Hurlingham the victors 10-5. An enjoyable day in unseasonably good weather was enjoyed by all.

Roehampton Club Team: Nick Yates, Nicholas Halton, Mary Knapp, Diana Wilson, Tony Salem, Mark Van Loon, Peter Siddall, Peter Honey, Elaine Phillimore, and Tim Russell.

Mark Van Loon   Elaine Phillimore   Nick Yates and Peter Siddall   Peter Honey

European Golf Croquet Club League Grand Final

Roehampton Club played host to the inaugural European Club League final. Six teams had won through qualifying heats across Europe to be represented CERN (Switzerland), Dulwich (England), Ealing (England), Ikskile (Latvia), Roehampton Club (England) and Sherry (Spain).

The all-play-all tournament was exceedingly closely fought. Each four-player match was played to a best-of-ten format (2 doubles, 8 singles) and the largest score line achieved in any match was 8-2. The final round pitted all the teams against their closest rivals. CERN beat Ealing to secure fifth place and Ikskile beat Sherry to come third.

The deciding match was a close affair with Dulwich only needing to draw the match to win the title, after Roehampton Club had only managed to draw with Sherry the previous evening. Dulwich took a quick 3-1 lead, but Roehampton were able to peg this back to 3-3 before the final round of singles. Andrew Hobbs scored first for Dulwich, beating Mark van Loon, at hoop 13 to leave Dulwich needing just one of the remaining three games for the title. However, Joel Taylor and Nick Yates beat Guy Scurfield and Johnny Claxton respectively to make in 5-4 to Roehampton. With Pierre Beaudry leading 6-3 against Tim Russell, it was still looking good for Dulwich, but Tim managed to take the game to the golden hoop. Tim had the first two attempts from 4 yards 45 degrees and the boundary, but the second failure left Pierre a 2-yard hoop to secure the title for Dulwich.

The lawns at Roehampton Club were in excellent condition for the time of year and they extended excellent hospitality towards all the visitors, including hosting a tournament meal on the Saturday evening.

And next year - 2024

The event is aimed at club sides from all over Europe. Next year there will be qualifying heats in, Carrickmines (Dublin, Ireland), Ealing (London, England), Hamburg (Germany), Ikskile (Riga, Latvia), Novo Sancti Petri (Cadiz, Spain) and Telc (Czechia), leading into the Grand Final. Full details will be sent to national associations and made available on the WCF website in the coming months.

Final Standings
Dulwich 4 wins, 1 draw
Roehampton 3 wins, 2 draws
Ikskile 3 wins
Sherry 2 wins, 1 draw
CERN 1win
Ealing 0 wins.
Full results can be found here https://croquetscores.com/2023/gc/european-club-cup-finals

Briefing

Competing Teams

Tim Russell with Ian Burridge WCF Chair

The winners Dulwich Guy Scurfield, Pierre Baudry, Jonathon Claxton, and Andrew Hobbs with Ian Burridge WCF Chair

Howard Railton played in the Bingham Bowl (Association Croquet Handicap One Ball Tournament), at Hurlingham on 14ᵗʰ October. He finished third after an enjoyable if frustrating tournament. (The eventual winner, who was level with Howard, at 3 back, put together a four-hoop to the peg break).

Important Note
When the Lawns reopen after the maintenance this week they will be in reduced 'winter' mode.
Please note **jump shots are not permitted** in the winter season.

Winter Roll up sessions

Beginning on Monday 23rd October the winter rollup sessions will be:

Monday One Ball 1.00 to 4.00 (handicap required)
Wednesday Golf Croquet handicap 8 and under. 2.00 to 5.00
Thursday Association Croquet handicap 10 and under 10.00 to 1.00, 14 and 26 pt. games. Association Croquet – handicap required 2.00 to 5.00
Saturday Association Croquet – handicap required 1.00 to 4.00

Enjoy your croquet!
Mike Pattison Croquet Captain