

## From the Archives – 16th November

### November events at Roehampton Club 100 years ago

According to Wikipedia, November 1923 witnessed the first BBC radio broadcast from Sheffield and the birth of actress Pat Phoenix who played a lead role in the television soap Coronation Street when it was at its peak in the late 1960's with audiences in excess of 25 million viewers.

Roehampton Club saw the appointment of a new Games Manager, and two separate golf tournaments both won by Members of the Club.

#### Appointment of a new Games Manager

The resignations of Major Dudley Larcombe and both Tennis Professionals, Mrs Ethel Thomson Larcombe and Alfred Ernest Beamish had created the vacancy.



*Ethel Thomson Larcombe*

All three individuals were recruited in 1921 which coincided with the establishment of a new tennis school at the Club in the same year. Major Larcombe re-joined the All England Club at Wimbledon to take on the role of Secretary for the next fourteen years.

Roehampton Club had previously acquired him from Wimbledon where he had achieved a notable reputation as Tournament Director for the Wimbledon Championships. Major Larcombe's wife had enjoyed a successful career playing tennis and badminton at the highest level. She had taken part in the Wimbledon Championships eleven times between 1902 and 1921 winning the Ladies Singles competition in 1912 and the Mixed Doubles competition in 1914 with playing partner James Cecil Parke.

She also had a proud record in Badminton winning eleven titles in the All England Badminton Championships including five singles, four doubles and two mixed doubles.

Major CPR Dugmore was subsequently announced as the replacement for Major Larcombe in the Sportsman publication on Saturday the 10th of November. Within twelve months he had made a name for himself winning the Amateur Division of a golf tournament which also took place at Roehampton Club for the first time in November 1923.

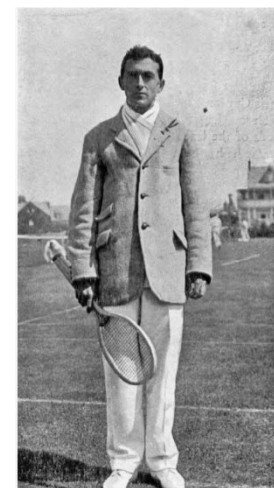
#### Surrey Foursomes Inter Club Competition

The Croydon and District Professional Alliance Amateur and Professional Foursomes competition over 36 holes was played at the Club. In the semi-finals of the competition both Roehampton Club and Shirley Park Golf Club qualified to play in the Final.

Roehampton Club was represented by George Gadd, Golf Professional and Captain K Murray playing off a 2-handicap. In the semi-final they beat Croham Hurst Golf Club represented by RG Wilson, Professional and HK Rowbotham – 4handicap winning 6 up with 5 to play.



*Major Dudley Larcombe*



*Alfred Ernest Beamish*

In the other match, Shirley Park represented by Tom Trapp, Professional and AG Richardson – 3 handicap, beat the holders Foxgrove HC Jolly – Professional and EWH Scott – plus-one handicap.



In the Roehampton Club match, *The Daily Mirror* refers to the appalling conditions and the brilliant display by the Roehampton Club pairing taking control of the match from the very beginning.



George Gadd

They were out in 39 and back in 33 and were 7-up at lunchtime allowing them to coast home for a comfortable win.

In the other match Foxgrove, the previous year's holders of the competition, could do nothing right for fourteen holes and were 6 down at this stage. They did win three of the last four holes to finish 4-down before lunch. In the afternoon, Foxgrove made an amazing recovery from 6-down with 13 to play completing their round in a score of 71 to finish all-square taking the match to extra holes but losing on the 37th hole to a par leaving Shirley Park to contest the final.

In the final, Roehampton Club were 5-up at the end of the morning round. Despite some excellent putting by Tom Trapp, Roehampton Club took complete control of the game in the afternoon winning 7 and 6.

In 1924, the competition was also won by another Roehampton Club pairing between George Gadd and Peter Miller – part of the Miller family responsible for the founding of the Club. The Centenary Book by Elizabeth Hennessey shows a picture of the victorious pairing also included in this article.



### Lawn Tennis Golf Cup



Kathleen 'Kitty' McKane

This event was held at Coombe Hill Golf Club involving professional golfers and elite tennis players. The competition was won by Mrs Margaret Stocks nee McKane – sister of two-time Wimbledon Ladies Singles Champion Kathleen 'Kitty' McKane.

Margaret had also played at Wimbledon with her sister contesting the final of the Ladies Doubles title in 1922 – the only sisters to play in a final at Wimbledon until the Williams sisters achieved the same feat in 2000.

The next edition of the Recorder will carry a report of this event, together with further details of the subsequent years this tournament took place at Roehampton Club.

**Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist**