

Croquet Communique – 9th May 2024



The season is now well underway and the sight of 'whites' on lawns indicates that the internal competitions and competitive Croquet England tournaments are underway.



April Showers



April hail

Inter Club GC Croquet Tournament



East Dorset Croquet Club at Poole

Our first major fixture was the first round of the GC Inter Club played away against East Dorset on 26th April.

A trip to the coast, with the hope of some sun was soon dashed with grey skies, a stiff breeze, and a temperature that dropped as the day progressed. Fortunately, the Roehampton team of Tim Russell, Mark Van Loon, Joel Taylor and Nick Yates were not affected and won by 5 games to 1, (with the doubles unfinished at one game all).

Our next round is away to Dulwich on 11th May.



Nick Yates



Mark Van Loon and Tim Russell



Nick Yates, Mark Van Loon, Tim Russell and Joel Taylor

'C' Level Open Golf Croquet Tournament

On 24th April Roehampton Club hosted a golf croquet competition to encourage our Members to enter open event competitions at other clubs. A beautiful sunny day, saw fifteen people compete from several clubs including seven Roehampton Club Members.

The event was won by Charlotte Oades, who played Allen Lever in the final. In third place was Sue Tumath. A great performance from all Roehampton Club entrants with the top three places taken by Club Members.

Many thanks to Tony Salem for excellent management of the event, and thanks to Peter Siddall and Mike Tumath for acting as referees.



Allen Lever, Sue Tumath and Howard Railton



Charlotte Oades and Tony Salem



European Club League, 27th – 28th April

We have again entered this tournament and the opening round was played in Cadiz, Spain.

The other clubs in this round were Nova Santi Petri (Cadiz, Spain, the hosts), Bromley (Kent, U.K.), and Algarve, (Tavira, Portugal).

Roehampton Club had comfortable wins against both Algarve and Bromley but met some resistance from the Spanish, who held us to a 5 all draw. We now progress to a final in Madrid in October. The Roehampton team were Tim and Sam Russell, Diana Wilson, and Nick Yates – they were pleased to have some unexpected support from Trevor Campbell and Carol McEvoy, who happened to be in the area on holiday.



Sam Russell, Diana Wilson, Tim Russell, and Nick Yates



Sam Russell

National Mary Rose AC Tournament

3rd May Roehampton Club were due to play the first round of this competition at home to Tunbridge Wells. Sadly, due to very heavy rain, this match against was postponed.



Longman Cup AC Tournament

Our first round match in this national tournament was played at home on Saturday 4th May against Compton with Roehampton Club winning 5-2.

The Roehampton Club Team was Diana Wilson, (Captain), Tony Salem, Andrew Wilson and Howard Railton. Compton's team included Richard Platt, (Captain), Hilary Smith, Gerald O'Brien and Liz Drury.



The morning session started well for Roehampton Club with Diana beating Hilary +23 and Tony and Howard winning the doubles +15.



Tony Salem and Howard Railton

So with a score of 2-1 to Roehampton Club the afternoon of singles matches began. Diana got in an early win against Gerald +21. However, a really close match was developing between Tony and Hilary, who pegged her pink ball out with white on peg when Tony was on penult with both his balls. Somehow Tony managed to claw back to win by just one point on his last turn after time had been called. The weather was kind and a very enjoyable day was had by all.



Howard Railton, Diana Wilson, Tony Salem and Andrew Wilson

Murphy Golf Croquet Cup

Another National competition and our first round was away to Compton, (Eastbourne) on Friday 3rd May.



Mark Green, Andrew Wilson, Mary Knapp, Mike Tumath

Roehampton Club Team: Andrew Wilson, (Captain), Mary Knapp, Mark Green and Mike Tumath.

Roehampton Club lost 6 - 1 to a strong Compton team despite some very competitive play.

National Charity One Ball Final

On Sunday 5th May at Surbiton Joel Taylor and Diana Wilson competed, having qualified through the Roehampton Club round, Diana 2/6, and Joel 4/6, faced with lots of bisques failed to challenge the leader board, but had an enjoyable day.

Other News – Roehampton Club players have been competing around the country

Ealing Advanced AC Weekend, 6th – 7th April: both Mark Van Loon and Joel Taylor entered this event, now in its tenth year. Players had to contend with some very blustery weather, which made play difficult. Mark won four of his matches, but Joel fared better and made the final, where he was beaten by Debbie Lyons (Peterborough).



Diana Wilson and Joel Taylor

Sidmouth GC Championship, 20th – 21st April: Tim Russell progressed to the main draw where he lost in the quarter finals.

England Women vs Suffolk AC Match, 20th – 21st April: Diana Wilson represented England in this match and helped England to a victory winning her singles and a doubles playing with Annabel McDiarmid.



The England squad of Diana Wilson, Beatrice Mc Glen, Alison Maugham, Annabel McDiarmid, Gabriel Higgins, Sophie McGlen.

Sussex County 'B' level Tournament, 28th April: the heavy overnight rain badly affected the tournament, with morning play limited to seven point games, on wet lawns, and no 'jump' shots.

Robert Scallon and Mark Green both competed, with Robert faring best, losing in the final of the Plate competition, on the 'golden hoop'.

Forthcoming Matches

Inter Club National GC Tournament: this Saturday 11th May we contest our second round match in the Interclub GC National Tournament, away to Dulwich.

The Roehampton Club Team will be Tim Russell, Harry Fisher, Diana Wilson and Dan Pearson. The match starts at 10.00 at Dulwich and supporters are, as always, welcome.

Inter Club AC Tournament: we have been drawn against Bristol, (who defeated Surbiton) in the Inter Club AC Tournament to be played at Blewbury Croquet Club on Sunday 2nd June, starting at 10.00. The Roehampton Club Team: Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon, Joel Taylor, Christian Carter.

Mary Rose AC Tournament: round one at home against Tunbridge Wells has been rearranged for 17th May.

Enjoy your Croquet!

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain