

Croquet Communique 13th June 2024



The season is well underway, and it has been a very busy month, involving Inter Club matches, our 'Summer Week' tournaments, along with internal competition matches.

Creyke Cup (report by Elaine Phillimore)

The annual Association Croquet Handicap Doubles for the Creyke Cup was held on the weekend 18th – 19th May. The weather was gorgeous all weekend and the lawns were in magnificent condition. Players came from croquet clubs; Phyllis Court, Surbiton, Cheam, Hurlingham, York and Ealing with personal handicaps ranging from -2 to 16 and combined handicaps from 6 to 30. A challenging time for some matches was ahead but everyone was in good spirit and up for the challenge.

Each pair played five matches over the weekend with Patricia Mulcahy, (handicap 14), and Paul Franklin, (handicap 16) from Phyllis Court winning outright with five out of five matches, narrowly beat the Roehampton Club partnership of Tim Russell, (handicap -1) and Howard Railton, (handicap 14) by one hoop after time had been called. Tim and Howard were runners up winning four matches out of five. Congratulations go to Patricia and Paul. Many thanks to Elaine Phillimore, the Manager, who said it was an absolute pleasure to manage this event.



Winners Creyke Cup Patricia Mulcahy and Paul Franklin, with Elaine Phillimore



Creyke Cup Runners Up Tim Russell and Howard Railton with Elaine Phillimore

Jimmy James GC Croquet

Bowl (9+ handicap) 20th May (report by Tony Salem)

A beautiful sunny day with a maximum of 24 competitors split into two blocks of six. After four rounds the finalists were determined as no one else had achieved more than two wins! It was between Kevin O'Connor and Emile Fernandes and Janine Railton and Sue Gabriel. The final was exciting as the men went 5-1 up and the girls got back to 5-5. It finished 7-5 to Kevin and Emile and on the strength of their performance I had no hesitation in reducing Kevin from a 9 to 8! Lunch for everyone was in the garden and a good time was had by all.



Sue Gabriel, Emile Fernandes, Kevin O'Connor and Janine Railton

Trevelyan Bowl 22nd – 23rd May C Class Handicap Singles (report by Peter Siddall)

Managed by Peter Siddall, with assistance from Lynn Percy, who is learning to manage tournaments. A good field, including a few Roehampton Club players, enjoyed an excellent two-day event. In the end there were three people on 4/5 wins; Diana Wilson, Howard Railton (both Roehampton Club) and Ludolph van Hasselt, (Hurlingham Club). Diana who beat both and was the clear winner. Ludolph and Howard had not

played each other, so the runner up was decided by quality of wins. Howard came out on top. Colin Groves (Woking) and Rick Lillley (Phyllis Court) had three wins each.



Howard Railton and Peter Siddall



The participants in the Trevelyan Bowl with Diana Wilson, winner, holding the trophy



Diana Wilson

Brooke Cup 25th – 26th May AC B Class Advanced Singles

The last competition of Summer Week was contested by fourteen people, (with Nick Yates, Roehampton Club stepping in on the morning of the match to balance the numbers).

The event was managed by John Pearson, in great weather, and we were pleased to see many old faces including David Houston from Edinburgh.

Play took place over two days, and it was hard to predict a winner with

several players on equal terms. In the end, the outright winner was Gidiminas Smolskas (Bury), who was undefeated with Diana Wilson, David Houston and Simon Tuke on four wins in joint second place.



Nick Yates



Simon Tuke John Houston, Diana Wilson and John Pearson

Croquet England Golf Croquet C Level Competition 5th – 6th June (report by Sue Tumath)

We were pleased to welcome players handicap 7+ from Ealing, Guildford, Cheam, Phyllis Court, Watford, Dulwich, with Howard Railton and Kevin O'Connor representing

Roehampton Club. All games were played in a very friendly spirit and there was much admiration for the Roehampton Club lawns from all the visitors and, indeed, for the choice of food available in the café!

We were fortunate with the weather on the day and there were no breaks in play. The overall winner was John Hutchinson from Ealing with Howard very nearly pipping him to the final post. In the absence of Tony Salem, who had been called into the Mary Rose team, the event was managed by Mike and Sue Tumath and John Pearson. Many thanks for them stepping in at short notice.



Gidiminas Smolskas with John Pearson



National Inter Club GC Croquet Tournament 11th May

The quarter final played away against a strong Dulwich team. Roehampton Club lost 3-4 in an entertaining and very competitive game.

Roehampton Club Team: Harry Fisher, Diana Wilson, Lynn Percy and Tim Russell (Captain).



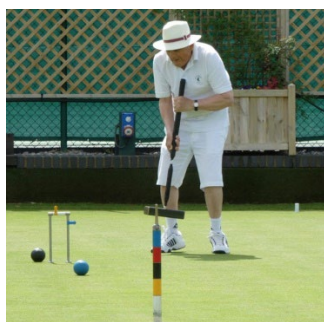
National Mary Rose Tournament 17th May

The first match against Tunbridge Wells was finally played at home on 17th May, (the first match was postponed due to floods). An enjoyable day's play saw Roehampton Club through by 5 games to 2.

Roehampton Club Team: Peter Siddall, (Captain), Tony Salem, Diana Wilson and Nick Yates.



Peter Siddall



Tony Salem



Roehampton Club Team

Our second-round match on 6th June was played away against Woking with the same team. A strong display in the morning saw us lead at lunchtime 2-1, however Woking rallied and won the match by 4-3 despite our best efforts.



Diana Wilson and Tony Salem



A Woking player with a tricky shot



Peter Siddall



Tony Salem



Woking Croquet Club



Nick Yates



Harry Fisher and Christian Carter

National Inter Club AC Tournament 2nd June

Roehampton Club's first outing in their attempt to retain the cup, was against Bristol. This match was played at a neutral ground, (Blewbury, near Didcot).

Two strong teams played a competitive match on a very sunny day in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.



Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon, Joel Taylor and Christian Carter



Mark Van Loon

The Roehampton Club Team, captained by Harry Fisher, included Joel Taylor, Mark Van Loon and Christian Carter.

Harry Fisher and Christian Carter won the doubles, Joel Taylor and Mark Van Loon won their morning singles, and then Joel won his second singles so in the early afternoon, with the score at 4-1, in Roehampton Club's favour, it was decided not to play the remaining two singles.



Joel Taylor

Our next match will be the semi-final against local rivals, Hurlingham. Date to be announced.

GC Friendly Match at Ryde 22nd May

The club played a Golf Croquet Friendly match against Ryde. Despite a very gloomy forecast, the day passed with only a couple of rain showers. The Roehampton Club Team of Sue Tumath, (captain), Mike Tumath, Nicholas Halton and Jacqui Pattison enjoyed the day's play and won by 5-4.



Mike Tumath, Sue Tumath, Mike Pattison, Jacqui Pattison & Nicholas Halton



Ryde Croquet Club



Sue Tumath and Jacqui Pattison

Roehampton Club Members Playing in Other Tournaments

- Tim Russell played in Wrest Park GC Championship 1st – 2nd June winning all seven of his group matches to proceed to the knockout round where he lost in the semi final to the eventual winner, Mark Avery. He also played in the Woking GC Open Seniors, 10/11 June, where he won 5 out of 6 block games, to proceed to the main knock out, where he lost to Mike Town, the eventual winner in a very closely contested semi-final 3-7, 7-1, 5-7. He went on to win the 3/4 place decider, 10-5.
- 27th – 28th May, in the AC Inter County Championship, Tim helped Surrey to third place Division One of this annual tournament contested by 23 counties.
- Diana Wilson played at the Sidmouth GC A level tournament. Diana (0) had mixed fortunes, but made the knockout round, losing in the quarter finals, however, went on to win the Bowl.
- She also played in the Women's GC Open Championship held in Nottingham 8th – 9th June. Diana had an excellent weekend winning 6 of 7 block games, to go through to the championship knockout. She won her quarter and semi final reaching the final, where she sadly lost to Jenny Clarke (-5), (Nottingham). A very strong performance, well done Diana!

Forthcoming Events

This weekend 15th – 16th June Roehampton Club is hosting a Golf Croquet Open Series Tournament, which will include players from several clubs, including four from Roehampton Club, and Reg Bamford.

Play will be all day, Saturday and Sunday, and will be an excellent opportunity to spectate.

England v Spain Golf Croquet Test 21st – 23rd June

Roehampton are hosting the 2024 England Spain Golf Croquet Test. The inaugural Test was held in Spain at the Real Club de Pineda in Seville 15th – 17th March 2019. It was won by England 13-8. The second Test was due to be held in 2020, at The Hurlingham Club but that was postponed and in 2021 due to Covid.

It was eventually held in June 2022 at The Hurlingham Club, and Spain took their revenge, winning the Test 14-12. The third test was held in Spain at the Real Club de Puerta de Herro in Madrid 24th – 26th March 2023. This time, England were the victors, winning 18-8.

The opening ceremony is on Friday 21st June at 10am and play continues Friday Saturday, and Sunday. Spectators are most welcome, come and support the England team, and watch some amazing play.

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain

