

## Croquet Communique – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

On the weekend of 15/16 June, Roehampton Club hosted an **Open Series Golf Croquet Tournament for handicaps 0 and below**.

Managed by Tim Russell, we attracted a strong field including Reg Bamford (-6), and a number of International players, English and Welsh with handicaps of -3. We were pleased to have five Roehampton Club Members competing: Reg Bamford, Tim Russell, Nick Yates, Dan Pearson and Diana Wilson, all of whom played well. Diana deserves a mention for taking a game from Reg.

The standard of play all weekend was a joy to watch and the quality of the semi-finals saw Tobi Savage (Ramsgate) defeat Reg Bamford (Roehampton Club and Surbiton) and Aston Wade (Hurlingham) beat Ian Norris (Phyllis Court). Savage held his form to win the final beating Wade 7-5, 7-2 with an impressive display of golf croquet.

Nick Archer (Watford) won the Plate, and Tim Russell the Bowl. An excellent event with good weather and the bonus of a 34 aircraft flypast (although that may have had something to do with the King's birthday and Trooping the Colour)!



*Diana Wilson plays a difficult shot watched by Tournament Referee.*



*Tobi Savage executes a jump shot*



*Reg Bamford and Tim Russell*



*Dan Pearson*



*Tobi Savage with another jump shot*



*Tobi Savage congratulates runner-up Aston Wade*



*Nigel Aspinall presenting the Trophy to Tobi Savage*



*Part of The Fly-Past*

### England v Spain Golf Croquet Test Match, 21 – 23 June

The long-awaited Test Match for which planning began in November last year, finally started with the Opening Ceremony at 10.00 on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, with play starting straight after. The Test is played over three days. There are 27 matches, (18 singles, 9 doubles). Each match is the best-of-three 13- point games. The teams were selected earlier this year and the players seeded by world ranking grades on 31 May 2024. For the doubles, team captains decided their pairings, which were then seeded based on combined grades for each pairing.

The lawns and the surroundings were immaculate, a testament to the extra efforts from the ground staff in the week prior to the event, which produced a surface playing at 11.5 to 12 on the 'stimp meter', in the mornings which increased as the day went on.

The event was 'live streamed' on YouTube and one end of the Croquet Pavilion resembled a TV Production Studio, and a commentary tent was next to the building. You can still watch the match by going into YouTube – England v. Spain Croquet 2024.

The spectators were treated to some outstanding Golf Croquet from both sides with a range of shots demonstrating all aspects of the game. I did think we should have had a scoreboard similar to the one in Cricket's T20 which records the number of 6's hit, but in our case, for the number of Jump Shots! Some of the most impressive coming from Tobi Savage (England). England were victorious, winning the Test Match by 17 games to 10 to retain the Trophy.

All the players and officials were very complimentary and grateful for all the planning, presentation and hospitality from the Roehampton Club and Croquet Section, who made the event such a success.

Many thanks to Chris Hughes and his Grounds Team, Nikki Clark and her catering team, Louis Laville and Matt Fidler (golf and games), Helen Bolt (marketing) and Michael Bent (IT and security). Also, huge thanks to our Croquet Section members who operated the scoreboards, organised by Charlotte and Jacqui.

Also, to Tim Russel, thank you for managing the tournament on two days. To those who helped with the live streaming and all who helped the Captain and Chair to bring the event together, in what is possibly the biggest event the section has run in recent years. The response and praise from Croquet England, the Spanish Croquet Federation along with a message from the Spanish Captain and players and Jonathan Powe, (Tournament Director, Croquet England), made all the effort worthwhile and showed Roehampton Club Croquet Section in the best possible light.



*Introducing the Teams*



*The Spanish Team*



*Referees and Tournament Director among the spectators*



*Live Stream Nerve Centre*



*Live Stream Equipment*



*Commentators Chris Clarke and Chris Roberts*



*Lawn 2 beautifully presented for the tournament*



*Tobi Savage and Stuart M Smith*



*Aston Wade and J P Moberly*



*Jamie Burch and Euan Burrridge*



*English Captain J P Moberly thanking everyone alongside Tobi Savage and Tim Russell*



*The Teams with the English Captain holding the Trophy presented by David Openshaw on behalf of Croquet England*

### **Croquet and Bridge competition, Friday 14 June - report by Ron Wood**

Twelve pairs enjoyed a fun day competing in the annual Croquet and Bridge competition on Friday 14th June. As usual, it was organised by Ron Wood and his amazing spreadsheet ... he even managed to coincide the worst rain shower with the coffee break! Everyone played five 30-minute games of Golf Croquet in the morning, followed by lunch, then 18 hands of duplicate bridge.



*The 14 players with Ron Wood ready for croquet*

Three pairs tied for first place in the combined competition, settled by a tie-break which placed Libby Dand and Sue Norgate as overall winners, just clear of Jacqs Pearson and Joan Cookson in second, with Sue Gabriel and Vera Beim in third.

The clear winners of the croquet were Tim Russell and Diana Wilson who won all their matches. In the bridge, Sue Gabriel and Vera Beim tied in first position with Margaret Swain and Jenny Gaskin.

*Sue Norgate and Libby Dand with Ron Wood*



### Friendly GC match v Woking

On 2nd July, Roehampton Club fielded a GC team of Howard Railton (captain), Libby Dand, Jacqs Pearson and Robert Scallon in a friendly match against Woking played on the lovely Woking lawns. The weather started overcast, turned to light rain and then glorious sunshine. Roehampton Club won five games to two. Everyone enjoyed a lovely day of competitive croquet well hosted by the welcoming players from Woking (image right).



### Elsewhere

- **British Open GC – Southwick 25-30 June**

Tim Russell competed in both the Doubles and the Singles, along with all the players seen at Roehampton Club in the last few weeks. The singles event was won by Jamie Burch (Reigate and England) who defeated Stuart M Smith in the final, having beaten Reg Bamford in the semi-finals.

- **Hunstanton B Series GC 22 June** saw Robert Scallon in action.
- **Budleigh Salterton National Veterans AC Championship:** Peter Siddall played in this tournament.
- **Men's and Women's' AC Championships 12-16 June** Surbiton: Harry Fisher played with Gabrielle Higgins (Sussex County) in the Mixed Doubles, and Harry competed in the Men's Championships losing in the semi-final to Samir Patel (Surbiton). The event was won by James Death (Nottingham).

### Future Events at Roehampton Club:

- 06/07 July Philpott Cup: Open B level Advanced AC tournament including Roehampton Club Members Peter Siddall and David Mooney (holder)
- 20-21 July Ranelagh Gold Cup: Open Level Advanced C Level including Roehampton Club Members Joel Taylor and Christian Carter.

Enjoy your croquet!

Mike Pattison  
Croquet Captain