

Croquet Communique – 10th October 2024



Last month of the season, saw plenty of activity on the lawns, with all but one of the summer competitions being decided. Winter maintenance commenced on 7th October, but weather is slowing down renovations. It is hoped the lawns will open on 14th October and will stay full size until 15th or 17th October, when the lawns revert to three-quarter size for the winter.

Bookings

Members are reminded that they can only book two weeks in advance, now that the competition season has finished. Any bookings beyond two weeks are likely to be deleted from the system. Your attention is also drawn to the winter roll-ups, which are on the booking system.

The Hussars Cup – report by Lynn Percy

On a sunny Saturday in September, and following a late withdrawal on the Friday evening, 15 people gathered for the annual Hussars Cup, Roehampton Club's end-of-season AC handicap event. The players included two Roehampton Club Members, Diana Wilson and Peter Siddall, in a field with handicaps ranging from 2 to 12.

It was Lynn Percy's first time as tournament manager, so she had mugged up on the Tournament Regulations' requirements on dealing with an odd number of players in a Swiss event! The Cup was presented to the Club by the officers of C Squadron Middlesex Hussars, who were guests of the Club during 1914-15, and have been played for in almost every year since.



Jonathan Lambton (Watford) Runner-up



Simon Turner (Ealing) Winner

Three games were played on the Saturday, with two players recording a clean slate of three wins. Sunday morning found us reduced to 14, with one unlucky player suffering a car breakdown en route to the Club.

After four rounds, Jonathan Lambton (Watford) had maintained his 100% record and three other players were on three wins: a nail-biting fifth and final round was in store! The weather gods smiled on us, as the threatened rain held off, and play finished with three players on four wins.

Decided by 'who beat whom', Simon Turner (Ealing) just pipped Jonathan Lambton to come out as overall winner, with Tony Elliott (also Ealing) a close third. A delighted Simon reduced his handicap from 7 to 6 as a result of his victories over the weekend.



All competitors



Simon Turner and Lynn Pearcy

Fairacres vs Rest of Section Match

On Tuesday afternoon, 10th September we played the annual Section versus Fairacres Match, with thanks to Tony Salem for his excellent management. Four pairs from each team played timed matches. The croquet section ran out the victors, by a very close margin, winning the cup.



Section Team of Charlotte Oades, Libby Dand Adrian Burn, Jacqui Pattison, Emile Fernandes, John Pearson, Jeanette Burn and Nicholas Halton



Fairacres Team of Shirley and David Lee, Sue and David Gabriel, Nina Sugarman, Peter Siddal, Vera Beim and Tony Salem

Inter Club AC Tournament

On Sunday 15th September, on a sunny afternoon at Hurlingham, the Roehampton Club team of Tim Russell, Mark Van Loon, Harry Fisher and Christian Carter competed in the semi-final and defeated the home team by 5 games to 2. We now play Nottingham in the final, which has been delayed because of other commitments. It will now be played at Blewbury, Oxfordshire on 2nd November at 10am. Spectators will be welcome.

The Golf Croquet C Level (7+) Series National Final

The national final was played at Watford 28th – 29th September. Howard Railton completed the all-play-all all 16 blocks and was initially declared second, but in the final analysis came third. Well done Howard.



The Roehampton Bowl

On Sunday 6th October we hosted the Roehampton Bowl AC tournament, with Roehampton Club players Tim Russell, Mary Knapp, Tony Salem, Christian Carter, Peter Siddall, Andrew Wilson and Diana Wilson competing against Hurlingham. A close-fought match saw Hurlingham win by 6 games to 5.



The Roehampton Bowl competitors

Forthcoming Events

The 2024 European Club League reaches its finale at Club de Campo Villa de Madrid on 11-13th October. Five countries will be represented having won through a series of heats held across Europe earlier in the year, with matches consisting of both doubles and singles games. Overall the teams are expected to be stronger than last year and defending Champions Dulwich will face a stiff task to retain their title. The eight participating teams are:

Carrickmines (Ireland)

Club de Campo Villa de Madrid (Spain)

Dulwich (England)

Dynamo Telc (Czechia)

Ikskile (Latvia)

Real Aero Club de Santiago (Spain)

Real Club de la Puerto de Hierro (Spain)

Roehampton Club (England)

We wish the Roehampton Club team of Tim Russell, Mark Van Loon, Nick Yates and Diana Wilson all the very best of luck.

World Golf Croquet Championships

The championships are being played in Virginia USA at the Chesapeake Bay Croquet Club 18th – 26th October. This event has 80 players from 23 countries. Tim Russell (Roehampton Club) is competing in this prestigious event, and we wish Tim the very best of luck.

The Croquet Section AGM is on 14th November 11am in the Garden Room. All welcome.

Enjoy your croquet.

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain