

Croquet Communique – 14th November 2024



We are now well into the winter Season!

One Ball

I am pleased to report that croquet continues and the take up of 'One Ball' roll ups, following recent instruction from Howard Railton, has been most encouraging.

Golf and Association Rainbow

The Golf and Association Rainbow Boards are up in the Pavilion, and all are encouraged to sign up to play competitive games throughout the winter and improve your handicap. (In the case of Golf Croquet Rainbow games qualify for entry into summer competitions).



European Club League Grand Final 11th – 13th October

Roehampton Club, having qualified by winning one of seven heats, faced tough opposition in the final against other clubs from around Europe.

- Inskile (Latvia)
- Royal Aero Club de Santiago (Spain)
- Dulwich (England)
- Real Club de la Puerta de Hierro (Spain)
- Carrickmines (Ireland)
- Dynamo Tele (Czechio)
- Club de Campo Villa de Madrid (Spain)

Roehampton Club sent a strong team of Tim Russell, Mark Van Loon, Diana Wilson and Nick Yates.



The tournament was played in two groups with the winner of each group facing each other in the final. Roehampton Club won all of their group matches to face Real Club de la Puerta de Hierro (Madrid), who

included Internationals in their squad, as did Roehampton Club. The match score did not reflect a very competitive final with golden hoops and close encounters, which saw Roehampton Club finish as runners up for the second year.

An interesting point to note is that the winning club also started life as a polo club in 1895, and still has a polo ground. They also have two eighteen hole and one nine hole golf course, as well as tennis, padel and equestrian facilities.



World Golf Croquet Championships

The 'worlds' took place in Virginia USA at Chesapeake Bay Croquet Club, (they have 24 lawns), from 18th – 26th October and featured 80 players from 26 countries.

Roehampton Club was represented by Tim Russell, who won through his block, with notable wins over Stephen Mulliner, and Jose Riva to enter the Championship Draw. Here he met Robert Fletcher, (the world number one association and golf croquet player), and despite a good start, met his match. In the Bowl he lost to Jenny Clarke (New Zealand) 6-7, 5-. Overall, it was a good experience. Congratulations to Tim!

Inter Club Association Croquet Tournament 2nd November

Report from Tim Russell: the 2024 season came to a close as Roehampton beat Nottingham 4-3 in a tight match to retain the AC InterClub trophy for the third year.

Roehampton Club scores first:

Harry Fisher and Christian Carter lost to James Death and Omied Hallam -25 TP (D)

Mark van Loon beat Lorna Dewar +11

Joel Taylor beat Rick Harding +25TP

Harry Fisher lost to James Death -26TP

Christian Carter lost to Omied Hallam -24

Mark van Loon beat Rick Harding +26

Joel Taylor beat Lorna Dewar +6TP



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

The match was played at Blewbury – slightly delayed by Joel Taylor forgetting his watch / alarm was on US time rather than UK time (he had flown back from the States the day before). Most games were one sided with Nottingham's 1 and 2 James and Omied in good form. The doubles match saw Roehampton Club make a poor approach to hoop 2 followed by a missed angled hoop. James made no mistake with a trademark quick triple, although he added to the excitement by putting balls unintentionally in hoops. Just a modest irritation for a man of his talents. In his singles match he hit fourth turn, Harry missed the lift and James finished, though again with one or two balls erring into tricky positions. On Blewbury's evenly paced lawns, missed lift shots often cost games and James got his revenge on Harry, having lost by the same score last year to Harry.



What time is it Joel?



Blewbury Clubhouse

Omied won his match without trying a triple. Christian missed fourth shot and the lift but hit after Omied failed to finish. An ambitious attempt to get behind a ball on the North boundary to make hoop 3 failed and Omied finished.

The only close games in the match involved Lorna Dewar. In her first match against Mark van Loon, both players made hoop 1 with one ball before Mark took a ball to 4 back. Lorna missed the lift and Mark looked to have his triple under control until he overhit his ball beyond rover whilst approaching penultimate. His attempt at rushing to a peeling position at rover left too angled a hoop which he sensibly declined, but his leave was not particularly tidy and Lorna hit the lift. Mark had peeled her hoop 2 ball through one hoop during his turn and Lorna set off on her turn with bystanders rather puzzled by her line of play. It soon became clear to all, except Lorna, that she thought she was on a finishing triple peel turn. And she played it perfectly! Mark intervened as her yellow ball hit the peg and she started to remove the (non) pegged out red from the lawn justifiably pleased with her excellent turn. Then the dawning realisation of a 'senior moment'! Bad luck Lorna.

In her second match she took advantage of a short approach to hoop 2 by Joel who retreated to corner 4. An excellent hit in by Lorna saw her get round to 4 back. Joel missed the lift and Lorna set off on the second ball, but never got her partner ball into peeling position. As she neared the end of her break, her positioning became less tidy. She ran an excellent 45 degree angled penultimate but left herself a 5 yard roquet after penultimate which she missed into baulk. Joel made no mistake getting his ball round, Lorna missed the lift and Joel finished with a triple which contained some shots a couple of Mac players thought far too ambitious, but his non-playing captain had no such doubts! A close match that could have gone either way.

Many thanks to Joe King for setting the hoops and to Blewbury for hosting the final for the second year running.

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain



Tim Russell accepting the Trophy from James Death



Both Teams in The Inter Club Association Croquet Final