

From the Archives – 16th January 2025



From the Archives 100 years ago

The Bystander, May 6, 1925

ROEHAMPTON CLUB.

PROGRAMME OF CHIEF EVENTS FOR SEASON 1925.

POLO.

- MAY. MON. 18. Whitney Cup commences.
 FRI. 29. Gymkhana (open to Ladies and Men).
 SAT. 30. Whitney Cup Final.
 SAT. 30. British Army v. Roehampton.
 JUNE. MON. 1 (Whit-Monday). Roehampton Open Challenge Cup commences.
 WED. 5. British Army Roehampton.
 SAT. 6. Roehampton Open Challenge Cup Final.
 SAT. 6. British Army v. Roehampton.
 MON. 8. Roehampton Junior Championship commences.
 WED. 10. U.S.A. v. Roehampton.
 SAT. 12. Roehampton Junior Championship Final.
 SAT. 13. U.S.A. v. Roehampton.
 MON. 15. Roehampton Regimental Challenge Cup commences.
 MON. 15 or WED. 17. U.S.A. v. Roehampton.
 SAT. 20. Roehampton Regimental Challenge Cup Final.
 MON. 22. Roehampton Cup commences.
 FRI. 26. Gymkhana (open to Ladies and Men).
 SAT. 27. Roehampton Cup Final.
 JULY. MON. 13. Ladies' Nomination Tournament commences.
 SAT. 18. Ladies' Nomination Tournament Final.

Notice.—On Saturdays during the months of May, June and July the payment for Visitors entering the Club on Pink Vouchers will be 10s.

LAWN TENNIS.

- JUNE. MON. 15 to SAT. 20 (inclusive). * Annual Invitation Grass Court Tournament.
 JULY. SAT. 11 to SAT. 18 (inclusive). Members' Grass Court Tournament.
 MON. 20 to SAT. 25 (inclusive). Inter-Country Week.
 WED. 22 to SAT. 25 (inclusive). Royal Army Ordnance Corps Tournament.
 AUG. MON. 10 to SAT. 15 (inclusive). Royal Naval and Royal Marine Championship.
 SEPT. MON. 21 to SAT. 26 (inclusive). 5th Annual Autumn Open Hard Court Tournament.
 * During these Tournaments Members can only obtain FREE Admission to the Reserved Enclosures on production of the Membership Badge.

LAWN TENNIS SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

Professionals—F. J. PEARCE and F. ASHFORD.
 Full information regarding Lessons, Fees and Bookings, etc., can be obtained from the Games Manager.

GOLF.

- OCT. WED. 7. Ladies' Autumn Meeting.
 NOV. WED. 4 & THURS. 5. Ladies' Championship Challenge Cup Competitions.

CROQUET.

- MAY 11. Peel Memorials.
 MAY—JULY. The Club Championships.
 JUNE 27. Australian Match.
 JUNE 29 to JULY 10. The Croquet Championships.
 AUG. 12 to AUG. 22. Challenge Cups and Gilbey Cup.
 SEPT. 14. Champion Cup and Ladies' Champion Cup.
 Squash Rackets.—Three Courts of standard size are available for use daily from 9.30 a.m. to 7.0 p.m.
 Riding Lessons.—The arrangements and Course of Instruction are under the personal supervision of Major C. C. Lister (late 17th/21st Lancers), from whom full information can be obtained.
 Dances.—Commencing Saturday, May 9th, Dinner Dances will be held each Saturday. Dinner, 8 p.m. Dancing, 9 p.m. to 12 (midnight).
 On all other days Dinners can be served from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. if notice is given before 4 p.m. on the day.
 Orchestra.—The Roehampton Club Orchestra will play, commencing Saturday, May 9th, as follows: Saturday, 3.30—6 p.m. Sunday, 3.30—6 p.m.

The fixture list for Roehampton Club in 1925 published in the *Bystander* magazine in May, features key events for the club involving polo, lawn tennis, golf and croquet. It also marked the first appearance of squash at the Club with three courts available for use between 9.30am and 7pm. Other activities included riding lessons, dances and performances by the Roehampton Club Orchestra.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Darley Miller – Founder Member of Roehampton Club

The first of seventeen instalments between January and April 1925 appeared in *The Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic News* charting the 50-year sporting career of the above individual – one of the key figures in the founding of the Club. The articles relate to the history of polo and the other sports in which he was involved.

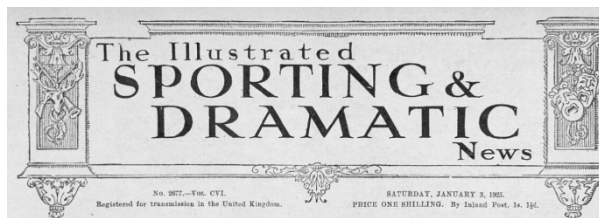
A Captivating Book by a Great Sportsman.

FIFTY YEARS OF SPORT

BY
 LT.-COL. E. D. MILLER,
 C.B.E., D.S.O.
 Author of "Modern Polo," etc.
 (Handsome Illustrated Volume, 21/- net.)

An enthralling and vividly written record of sport in many lands during the last thirty years. The author has had adventures all over the world, and there are chapters on Polo in America, France, Belgium and Madrid; pig-sticking in Bebar; life on an indigo plantation, and big game shooting in Nepal. In addition there is a fund of good stories of famous sportsmen, such as Lords Beatty, Rawlinson, Shrewsbury and Harrington.

HURST & BLACKETT, Ltd.,
 PATERNOSTER HOUSE, E.C.



THE AUTHOR OF THE MEMOIRS OF WHICH THE ACCOMPANYING IS THE FIRST INSTALLMENT: LT.-COL. E. D. MILLER.
 Lt.-Col. E. D. Miller's reminiscences, which will appear serially in these pages, cover practically the entire history of English polo, besides dealing with many other forms of sport in which the author has figured prominently during the course of his distinguished career.

Squash rackets

The increasing popularity of squash was reported in the newspapers in January 1925 quoting the pastime as the favourite game of the Prince of Wales and the attraction of the sport taken up by 'Society Ladies'. The Prince of Wales at this time was Edward VIII, later known as the Duke of Windsor and for his abdication as King in 1936.

While the newspapers were reporting the results of matches, there was no explanation of the game other than a crude definition of hitting a ball against a wall. The courts were described as being built of a special cement although in the USA there were a number of wooden courts. The Prince of Wales had set himself a high standard of physical fitness to fulfil his royal duties and used the sport to improve his speed of foot, quick thinking and a keen eye.

One particular newspaper refers to the 'Mayfair' bud where squash has become a favourite game among the Ladies of London society 'who now have the craze for reducing their figures to the slenderest point imaginable, and a number of private courts have recently been built in country houses'.

The Hampshire Telegraph also published a story in January 1925 emphasising the Prince of Wales passion for the sport in preparation for his voyage from Portsmouth to South Africa on board HMS Repulse. In order that he may enjoy his favourite game during the journey, the squash court built for him in HMS Renown would be moved to HMS Repulse.

Announcements.
Roehampton Hard Court
TENNIS CLUB
(Roehampton Lane, opposite Convent).
5 Hard Courts, Comfortable Pavilion,
Catering,
Just Opened, Few Vacancies.
Apply to Secretary—C. C. WARING,
"The Rookery," Roehampton Lane,
S.W. 15.

Tennis

In January 1925, the *Daily Express* featured an advert for tennis players to apply for membership to join Roehampton Club to use the five courts being laid in anticipation of their opening in April. The advert was repeated in the *Richmond Herald* on the occasion of the opening of the courts on 1st April.

[From the Archives 75 years ago](#)

Alfred Hitchcock film featuring Roehampton Club

In January 1950, the *Picturegoer* publication featured a profile on the famous Film Director, Alfred Hitchcock and the release of his latest film 'Stage Fright' based on the novel by Selwyn Jepson 'Man Running'. A nasty rich man is murdered. Suspicion falls successively on his actress widow and widow's infatuated boyfriend.

On this outline, the report describes Hitchcock embroidering the consequent episodes after his own heart. He has detectives hunting the murderer in a London theatre while a show is on at the time. He has them raiding a costume-play rehearsal at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in Gower Street. Then, most interesting of all, he sends them to the Theatrical Garden Party at Roehampton Club.

Steve Riedlinger, Roehampton Club Archivist

