

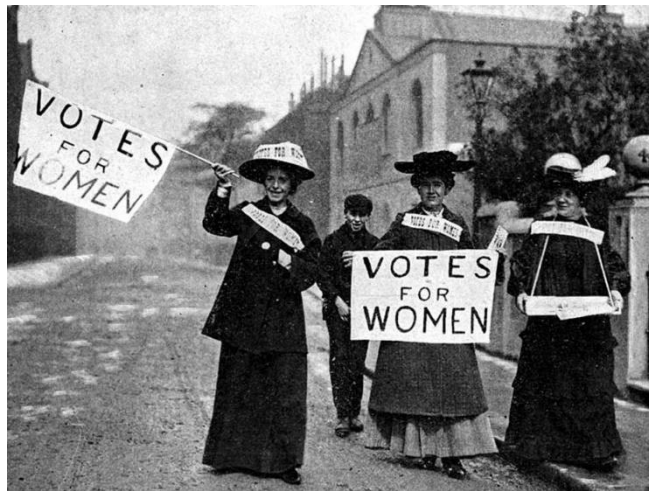
From the Archives

Reminiscing with stories from the archives at Roehampton Club

The people, places and events associated with the history of Roehampton Club continue to provide a rich vein of subject matter to share with the membership. In this article, we look back at some of the highlights from more than 100 articles in the Club newsletter and look forward to a number of forthcoming projects likely to result in being published quite soon.

Many of the previous features refer to the individuals responsible for the founding of the Club, their contributions to society in general and in some cases the belated achievements for which they were responsible. The attraction of the Club so near to central London, its proximity to a Royal Park and the institutions which surround the Club provide an appealing backdrop to those wishing to reside in such unique surroundings.

The early articles reflect the origins of the Club and the burning desire of three brothers to establish rival facilities better than other clubs similar in location to the metropolis. Following the establishment of the Club, the commentary in subsequent newsletters reported the activities of the Suffragettes and their campaign for the vote. The resulting publication drew interested parties with specialist knowledge which was then shared with Club Members in the form of a presentation evening at the Club.



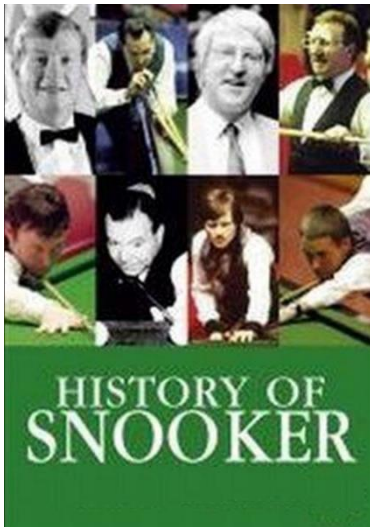
Other topics which were covered in the newsletter range from the use of the Club by the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corp to individual life stories taking place at the time such as the military man who bankrolled the career of Coco Chanel; the Member responsible for the establishment of the world-renowned limb

fitting centre at Queen Marys Hospital; the Roehampton Club Clergyman who founded a professional football club; how the rules of snooker arrived in England from India via the Club; the Member who joined the Dutch resistance during the second world war before surviving the horrors of a German



concentration camp; a visit to the Club by the British Springboard Champion who also made a name for himself as a pop singer.

These are just some of the many archive stories covered in the newsletter from 2018. Looking forward there are a number of potential initiatives generated by the Members. Firstly, we have been invited to explore the career of an individual who refused to represent their country in the Berlin Olympics but made a name for themselves in the British newspapers by winning a long-distance swimming race along the River Thames from Kew to Putney in 1939. The lady in question is the mother of an existing Member of the Club.



Another opportunity relates to an interview with one of our former Club golf professionals who succeeded his famous father with stories of his background and some of his odd experiences while teaching Members. Finally, the continuing story of Nigel de Grey has resurfaced following a recent visit to the National Archives in Kew by Military Intelligence Historian Mark Lubianski. Mark has recently visited the Club and has offered to deliver a presentation to the membership concerning Nigel de Grey who was based here at Roehampton Club during the First World War with the Royal Naval Air Service. Mark is a distinguished speaker using

his background knowledge of Bletchley Park – the renowned location for breaking the Enigma Code. Lots more to report as the journey through the archives at Roehampton Club continues to bring surprises.

Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist

