

Roehampton Club

2022 Bath Cup Champions!



It's been worth waiting for – we're Bath Cup Champions! The centenary edition of the Bath Cup, the world's longest-running club Squash competition, has been won by Roehampton Club, and about time too!

Ten years of domination by the Lansdowne Club has been ended in emphatic style as Roehampton Club are poised to go through the season undefeated (two matches left to play). 3/0 and 2/1 victories against Lansdowne were core to the successful season enjoyed by the team, alongside two 2/1 victories against third-place finishers Queens. Cumberland posed some serious questions to the top teams during the season, but we have been lucky enough to catch them at inopportune times.

Team stalwarts of Steve Richardson and Ben Coates have been consistent throughout the season, both undefeated, so far. Providing that core stability each week to enable first season rookie Lewis Walters to claim the glory playing at number one. Lewis has only lost two very tough encounters, one against Lansdowne's number one, Ben Garner, for which he gained revenge in the vital match in the second half and a misfiring performance against Queens, when the season was already done and dusted. He has been a great addition to the Club going out of his way to make himself available for matches.

Ben Coates has played the season at number three, though is more than capable of stepping up into the higher positions. He has been the rock of the team, only dropping two individual games during the season. He has shown great maturity and Club commitment to be there every week when there were times his opponent was not able to compete with the standard he is playing.

Steve Richardson, Club Captain, has played in the middle order throughout the season. His highlights have come about with double victories over his aging nemesis, Lansdowne's Tim Garner, and the pride he takes in the other members of the team consistently performing to such high standard. It is also an accolade to the other team members that they have politely listened to him reminisce during after match dinners. As they can all attest, the older Stevie gets the better he was!

Much needs to be said for the members of the Squad. Without a rotating squad it would be impossible to win such a competitive league. Dropping even a couple of points can tip the apple cart against a league victory. Hasnatt Farouqui has been a valuable member of the team throughout the last five years. Always there to be a fine participant when not on active duty elsewhere. Tiago Giourly has been called upon when his body allows him. One day we will invent a Band Aid big enough to encompass his whole structure. And rookie Jack Turney was performing very well for the team before a serious foot injury curtailed his season, post October.

The team is also grateful to players that come up from the seconds or thirds to fill in during times of need. Tom Bailey, Jojo Shean, Rob Findlay, Michael Stewart have all been called upon this season or previous to help out the team and all have done so with great commitment.

A big thanks must also be giving to 'The Gaffer' and racquets manager Paul Lindsay. He has spent ten years building this team. Unrelenting effort and soul searching. He's a scout, he's a coach, he's a selector and more than anything else, he's an all-round good guy that has the Club in his heart. He takes as much pride from this victory as any of us do and let's be honest, without him it would never have happened. So 'three cheers to Paul' for making this dream become a reality, and great timing for doing it on the league's 100th year.

Roll on the Bath Cup dinner and award ceremony.

Steve Richardson

Bath Cup 1 and Squash Captain