

Roehampton Club Ladies': European Squash Club Champions 2023



The European Squash Club Championships were held in Paderborn, Germany from 13th to 16th September. With Roehampton Club Men's and Ladies' teams National Champions, they represented England in the European Club Championship 2023. **Squad: Satomi Watanabe, Jasmine Hutton (Capt), Katie Malliff, Kace Bartley.**



The Ladies' faced three matches in two days as they played out their group with 3-0 wins against Oly Koks and Tales (Belgium), SC Monopol

Frankfurt (Germany) and Squash Fricktal (Switzerland). Topping the group provided a semi-final against the host Paderborn on Friday evening. The home crowd loudly cheered on their team, but Roehampton Club players stayed focused to take the match 3-0.

Saturday saw Roehampton Club face Frankfurt in the final. Frankfurt produced a great win against Mulhouse (France) in their semi-final to set up a repeat of the group stage match earlier in the week.

While Roehampton Club were favourites to repeat their group stage victory, the large crowd and amazing atmosphere for the venues all glass show court meant nothing could be taken for granted.

First on court was Katie, playing at 3. Katie had not been challenging all week in her matches and the young professionals made sure her focus remained more mature than her years by producing another wonderful performance, never letting her opponent settle or into the match. **Katie Malliff beat Maya Weishar 11-3, 11-4, 11-5.**

Next on was Satomi Watanabe, Roehampton Club number 1 and world number 18. Satomi had had a tough/physical match in the group stages against England's Grace Gear, playing at number 1 for Frankfurt. For the final Satomi provided the crowd to some ruthless and clinical squash with her clean striking of the ball and speed around the court just too good once more. Satomi closed out the third game quickly and much to the delight of the team retained the title. **Satomi Watanabe beat Grace Gear 11-3, 11-5, 11-1.** This meant the final string of the match, Jasmine Hutton vs Katerina Tycova was not played.

Men's squad: Adrian Waller (Capt), Charlie Lee, Joe Lee, Jonah Bryant, Ben Coates, Hasnaat Farooqi.

The Men had two group matches on Wednesday against Fitzwilliam (Ireland) and Edinburgh (Scotland) winning both 4-0. They then faced Birkerød Squash Club (Denmark) in the quarterfinal on Thursday, taking another convincing 4-0 win.

This meant Roehampton Club would face Uster (Switzerland) in the semifinal. A solid 3-1 win to Roehampton Club saw the Men's team make the final of the European Club Championships for the first time.

Roehampton Club faced hosts Paderborn (Germany) in the final. A huge crowd gathered to watch the world class squash on show. While Paderborn might have been favourites going into the match, it was too close to call.

First on was Joe Lee vs Simon Rosner. Simon a former high world

rank 3 had the home crowd cheering and clapping his every move. Joe took time to settle and although playing well, just couldn't string a run of points together. With the format of four players the results have been known to come down to games or points won, with this in mind the brutal third game saw Joe win 12-10 and certainly gave himself a chance of victory. Some tactical slow play between points combined with full effort in the rallies by Simon meant he hung on to take the game 11-6. **Simon Rösner beat Joe Lee 11-4, 11-3, 10-12, 11-6.**

Next up was our Captain and Number 1, Adrian Waller against Dimitri Steinmann. A fast start from Adrian who was in total control taking the first game fairly easily to give Roehampton Club real hope of a trophy upset. Dimitri regrouped quickly in the second game and won another one-side game. Both players had now settled, and it was Adrian who managed to claw back a deficit and take the third game. The fourth game was very tough with both players giving everything physically and every time Adrian looked like getting the scores back to level it felt Dimitri won the next point against the run of play. Two games all and into the decider. Again such a close game with these two world class players trying to force an error or hit a winner. Adrian left everything on the court but victory was to be denied as Paderborn went two strings ahead. **Dimitri Steinmann beat Adrian Waller 4-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9.**

Third on court was Charlie Lee against Raphael Kandra. Charlie, simply put, had to win against a player ranked higher in the world. The first game was superb with Charlie mixing deception and patience to move



Rapha around. Some huge points lead to Charlie stretching awkwardly and feeling a twinge in his back.

While not evident as Rapha won the first game it was decisive as Charlie was unable to move freely and compete. Bravely Charlie played out the match but Rapha won 3-0 and with it, retained the title for Paderborn. **Raphael Kandra beat Charlie Lee 12-10, 11-4, 11-1.** This meant the final string of the match, Lucas Wirths v Jonah Bryant was not played.

Words from the Roehampton Club Team Manager Paul Lindsay after the match:

'The Men's Team performed amazingly by making the final and the Ladies' Team produced some very strong performances all week. Delighted with the performances in the finals and winning the European Women's Club title. I can't speak highly enough of all the Roehampton Club players involved and am very proud of their achievements at this European Club Championship.'

Words from the Paderborn Captain Simon Rösner after the match: *'The fact that we were able to stand up here on the podium today and play in front of such a great backdrop in the Ahorn Sports Park is something very special. We had a very strong opponent in Roehampton Club, against whom we played our best squash. If someone had told us beforehand that we would win 3-0, we wouldn't have believed it.'*

An amazing effort from all involved in Germany.