

## From the Archives – 30th November Lawn Tennis Golf Competition

Members of the Club who play both golf and tennis may be interested to learn of a unique golf tournament which started in 1913 at St Georges Hill before it was hosted here at Roehampton Club in 1922.

The inaugural event was announced in a letter by S Wallis Myers – player and writer in tennis circles from Ashted Surrey notifying those concerned that it would take place at the recently opened golf club at St Georges Hill in Weybridge, Surrey following the clearance of a thousand woodland trees for the layout of the course.

The announcement confirmed the donation of a cup by Lord Bessborough for the best scratch score. The winner of the Stroke Competition by Handicap would determine the host club for the competition in the succeeding year.

The rules of the competition were also confirmed as a one-day event to be played annually in the month of November. It would only be open to members of affiliated tennis clubs who have a golf handicap. Competitors were required to play under their lowest handicap, but participants would only be allowed a maximum handicap of eighteen. Players could choose their own start time, but scorecards had to be handed in no later than 5pm.

Special railway services to Weybridge, Surrey were arranged for those involved and a motor-omnibus was also used to convey the competitors from the station to the golf course. The event proved popular in the tennis community with more than sixty players taking part on the day according to the Bystander Magazine.

Chief among them and regarded as favourites to win were HL Doherty and JCM Lowe but it was Charles Ambrose – well known for his caricatures of golfers and lawn tennis players, who won the prize for the best scratch score of 85.



MR. H. L. DOHERTY

Who is seldom seen on the courts but plays a lot of golf from the plus 3 mark



FAMOUS TENNIS-PLAYERS AT GOLF  
MR. A. E. BEAMISH

Roehampton Club was well represented at the event by two outstanding individuals. Alfred Ernest Beamish had reached the semi-finals of the Australasian Championships in 1912. In 1921 he was appointed as the first of two tennis coaches at Roehampton Club alongside Mrs Ethel Thomson Larcombe – wife of the Games Manager at Roehampton Club, Major Dudley Larcombe.

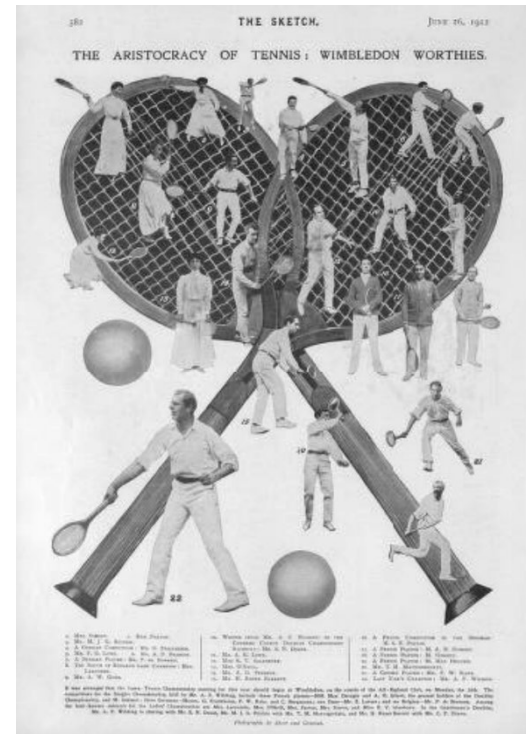
Both players appeared at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships on many occasions with Mrs Larcombe winning the Ladies title in 1912. In a

later newspaper article in 1925 he was included in a pictorial feature in the Sketch under the heading of 'The Aristocracy of Tennis: Wimbledon Worthies'.

The other notable participant with links to Roehampton Club was Captain Hope Crisp. He was the first winner of the mixed doubles at Wimbledon in the same year as the Lawn Tennis Golf competition playing with Agnes Tuckey. Their opponents in the final were James Cecil Parke and Mrs Ethel Thomson Larcombe.

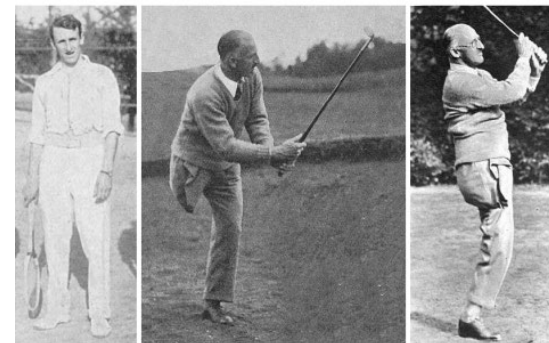


He was badly injured during the First World War at Ypres resulting in the amputation of his right leg but managed to continue his sporting career both at Roehampton Club and Wimbledon where in 1919, he managed to reach the second round of the Championships with his partner Mrs Perrett.



Going back to the scratch golf competition at St Georges Hill, the expected winner of the event was Mr HL Doherty who took second place. It was Mr Charles Ambrose who won the prize.

Golf reporter Henry Leach in the Sketch Newspaper wrote an excellent article on the event with his reflections on the attachment of eminent tennis players to the game of golf. He went on to highlight the contrast between the two sports making the comparison between the contemplation and preparation in making a shot.



== CAPTAIN HOPE CRISP ==

From a tennis perspective, he summarised his view as follows 'Limbs and mind have to work like lightning and the fears are not created as they are in golf'. He could not see any special reason why a man who has succeeded very well in tennis should likewise become a first-class golfer concluding with the observation that tennis is a jumpy sort of game creating the spirit of unrest and golf is the reverse.

**Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist**