

From the Archives 100 years ago – 12th June 2025



In the month of June in 1925 and 1950, a number of the following significant events took place at Roehampton Club involving tennis, croquet, Royal Patronage and the inaugural Theatre and Film Carnival.

Tennis

The *London Evening Newspaper* announced the decision by the International Lawn Tennis Club of Great Britain, courtesy of Colonel Charles Miller to hold a reception at Roehampton Club on the eve of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships later in the month. In addition to their own members, the Committee will invite all overseas competitors at the Championship meeting and will also involve a series of exhibition matches at the Club during the afternoon in which a number of notable players would take part including Suzanne Lenglen, Jean Borotra and Rene Lacoste.



Suzanne Lenglen



Jean Borotra



Rene Lacoste

Croquet

Roehampton Club was the venue for the first occasion of the MacRobertson International Croquet Shield initially contested by England and Australia and now involves teams from New Zealand and the United States. The match at Roehampton Club in June was won 6-0 by England.

Other matches in the series were played at Cheltenham Croquet Club in July and the Sussex County Croquet Club in September. Both matches were won convincingly by England.



From the Archives in 1950

The front page of *The Stage* publication in June 1950 featured an article on the first occasion of the Theatre and Film Carnival at Roehampton Club.

The report refers to the event being based on the 46 year-old Theatrical Garden Party and was a two-day affair, more elaborate and entertaining than ever before, and with leading lights of the film world joining the theatre folk, particularly on the second day.



The event was held in aid of the Actors Orphanage but film charities would also receive a share of the profits. The event was attended by the Duchess of Kent escorted by actor Noel Coward – President of the Orphanage.

One of the most successful parts of the Carnival was the auditions tent where aspiring men, women, boys and girls would go through their selected performances under the watchful eye of such experts as Vivien Leigh, John Mills, Joyce Grenfell, and many others.

In another tent set up as a dance hall, an orchestra conducted by Cyril Stapleton encouraged visitors to dance with their favourite artists. And at 'Celebrity Court' there was a long line of famous people receiving admirers and working hard with autograph books.

The newspaper describes a lively carnival atmosphere in the blazing sunshine and on the Saturday, the weather was even better, and the celebrities who worked for the pleasure and enjoyment of everyone concluded their efforts with a firework display.

The world of actors from West End Theatres and movie films were well represented on both days, and it was clear that special efforts were being made to establish this garden party carnival with a flourish from the start.

The Duchess of Kent also played her part in proceedings by releasing a balloon bearing her name encouraging others to do the same as a contribution to the Actors Orphanage.

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