

Croquet Communique – 17th July 2025



A busy month in the croquet section with several of the world's top GC players competing in the Roehampton Club GC Championship tournament.

We also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the game's most prestigious tournament, the MacRobertson Shield.

GC Inter Club Semi-Final

On 14th June, Roehampton Club played East Dorset at home in the semi final of the Inter Club Tournament. A close match saw Roehampton Club win by four games to three. Our team was Harry Fisher, Tim Russell, Mark Van Loon and Diana Wilson, with everyone contributing to the win. The final will be played on 27th September against either Bowden or Phyllis Court. Details TBA.

Roehampton Club GC Open

Report by Tim Russell

On 21st – 22nd June sixteen players gathered to play in the Roehampton Club GC Open, the first time of playing as a Championship series event. Saturday was an extremely hot day with Roehampton Club's green lawns proving very quick.



Block play largely went with the seedings except in Block A where Tim Russell, Tom Coles and Ignacio Ariza, all beat each other, but all lost to Reg Bamford. Tom went through by virtue of beating Ignacio 7-6, 7-6. In Block B, Dom Aarvold played well to beat the in-form Chris Roberts 7-6, 7-6. He also took a game off Euan Burridge who won the block comfortably. Block C and D saw the top two seeds progress relatively untroubled, although last year's winner Tobi Savage, did win his match against top seed Jenny Clarke 2-1.

Sunday was much more overcast and although the lawns were a little slower, a strong westerly wind made conditions different from the previous day. Three of the quarter finals were won in straight games, with Reg beating Dom, Stephen beating Jenny and Euan beating Tom Coles. The last quarter saw Tobi being beaten in three games by Aston.

The semi-finals saw Reg beat Stephen and Euan prevail in a tight three game contest against Aston winning 7-5 in the third.

The final was a high-quality affair with both players showing the full range of golf croquet skills. Reg's clearing was a pretty high standard throughout the tournament and his positioning and snuggles kept hitting the mark. However, his biggest improvement in the tournament came with his hoop running, exemplified by a beautiful hoop 10 from about 12 yards and a 60-degree angle through a tight gap between the other balls. Even on Roehampton Club's soft lawns, Quadways frequently repel the hard-hit hoop

attempt. Reg ran out a deserved winner of the tournament, not losing a single game. On this form someone will have to play very well to stop him claiming another British Open title at Budleigh this week.

In the plate Ignacio Senior, who played well throughout, won a compelling final (10-9) against Chris Roberts who missed one critical shot at the end.

Many thanks to the Grounds Team at Roehampton Club and to Frances Colman, the referee of the tournament.



Tobi Savage executes a jump shot



Ignacio Ariza Snr and Tim Russell



Tim Russell and Reg Bamford

Centenary of the MacRobertson Shield

On 26thth – 27th June 1925 the Roehampton Club hosted the first ever Croquet International Test Match against Australia. England won this match 6-0 and went on to win the other two tests played at Cheltenham and Southwick and thus were the first winners of the MacRobertson Shield.

The Centenary will actually be formally celebrated at Roehampton Club next year when we host the next series of the MacRobertson Shield which will feature the top four countries England, Australia, New Zealand and USA.



To celebrate the actual anniversary, on 27th June David Openshaw invited players from the teams in which he played (1979-2000) for an informal celebration of the Centenary. These include another of our international players Nigel Aspinall. Others attending were Martin Murray and Andrew Hope, both part of the team that won in 1982. Colin Irwin, who was in the winning teams in 1990 and 1993. And Keith Aiton, who coached the 1993 and 2022 winning teams and was captain of the winning 2010 team.

After an enjoyable morning's croquet, the group celebrated the Centenary by presenting the MacRobertson Shield with a birthday cake before retiring to the Clubhouse for an excellent luncheon with many happy memories and amusing anecdotes shared.

The event has been held in England seven times, 1925, 1937, 1956, 1974, 1986, 1996, 2010. Roehampton Club has hosted matches in five of these years:

26th – 27th June 1925 England 6 Australia 0

20th – 21st August 1937 England 4 Australia 2

20th – 22nd August 1956 England 8 New Zealand 1

24th August 1974 England (GB) 8 Australia 1

12th – 16th August 2010 USA 14 Australia 7



The players, the Shield and the cake



The MacRobertson Shield Centenary players



The Philpot Cup

Report by Peter Siddall

We had a full and competitive entry of 16 players for this B-level advanced Association Croquet tournament. They came from all over the place, including Adelaide Australia, Edinburgh, Colchester, Tunbridge Wells and local clubs.

Diana Wilson and David Mooney represented Roehampton Club. We were delighted also to welcome two young players, Albie Willett and Thomas Cullis who lowered the average age and livened up the action.

The weather was kind apart from a sharp thunderstorm on Sunday which delayed us briefly while the Club imposed a safety curfew. The lawns were immaculate as ever, drawing lots of compliments especially for Lawn Four. We all love it!

The results were close at lunchtime on day two after the fourth round, with Diana on 4/4 wins and five others on 3/4 wins.

Newcomer Thomas Cullis beat Diana in the fifth round to win the Cup. Diana was runner-up with Martin Read from The Hurlingham Club in third place.



Peter Siddall and Diana Wilson



Peter Siddall and Thomas Cullis



Thomas Cullis and the Philpot Cup

Friendlies

We played three friendly matches:

AC versus Hurlingham Away 3rd July – we won 5-2

AC versus Woking at home 10th July – we won 5-2



Roehampton Club Team: Howard Railton, Mary Knapp, Diana Wilson and Andrew Wilson

GC versus Woking at home on 26th June. We won 6-3.



Roehampton Team: Chris Bray, Wendy Gilbert, Emile Fernandes and Libby Dand with the Woking Team

Other

Robert Scallon played in two B Level Competitions, and came 7th on 29th June at Hunstanton, Norfolk, and came 4th on 5th July at Compton, Eastbourne.

Enjoy your croquet!

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain