

From the Archives – 17th July 2025

From 100 years ago ...



Golf



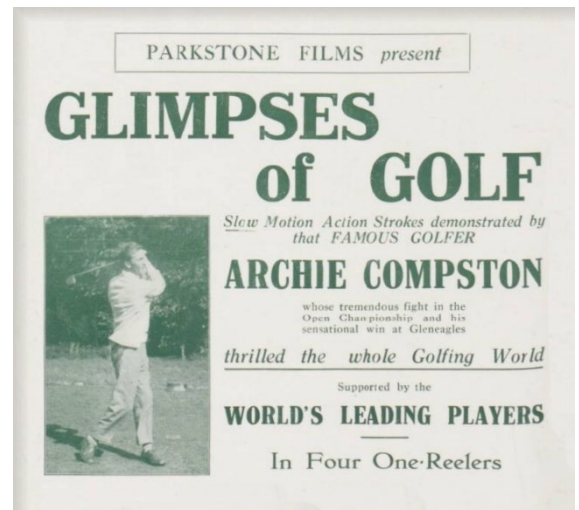
Roehampton Club Golf Professional George Gadd played in the Glasgow Herald One Thousand Guineas Golf Tournament at Gleneagles in July. It was started in 1920 and was the largest prize-money event in golf at the time amounting to £650, equivalent to approximately £50,500 in today's money. The tournament involved two qualifying rounds with the best scores from 32 players then competing in a match play format to determine the winner.

George Gadd completed his first qualifying round in joint fourth place with a score of 74 and improved his score with a 71 in the second round to finish in third place – well within the number of players required to qualify for the match play phase of the competition.

In the first round of the match play, there were some surprising results with several of the favourites losing out in the competition, including British Open Champion Arnaud Massey, nine-time professional golf competition winner Ernest Whitcombe and Australian PGA Tour Winner Joe Kirkwood.

George Gadd narrowly progressed to the second round beating Hadley Wood Golf Professional W Smith on the 20th hole. In the second round he played Percy Alliss – father of the late lamented golf commentator Peter Alliss who represented Wanstead Golf Club. The match finished on the 19th hole with Percy Alliss the winner. Alliss was beaten in the next round by Abe Mitchell who then went on to win his semi-final to meet Archie Compston in the final.

The competition was won by Archie Compston which proved to be one of the first of his many achievements in golf, including his winning of the Roehampton Open Golf Tournament in 1929. He was also featured in a slow-motion film of his golf swing publicised in *The Bioscope* publication in recognition of his play in the Open Championship and the competition at Gleneagles.



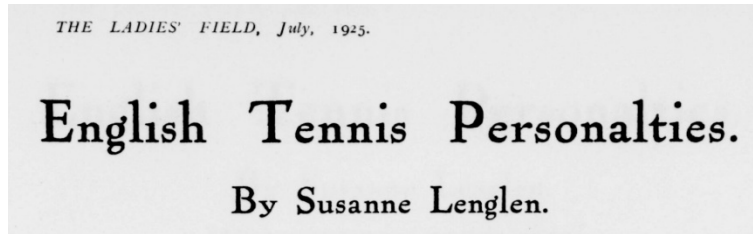
Tennis



Fourteen year old Roehampton Club Member, Betty Nuthall was photographed as part of a feature article in the July edition of *The Ladies Field* publication. The article was written by French tennis star Suzanne Lenglen in which she reminds the readers that 'It is but a little while ago when it was right to say that what English women lawn tennis players lacked was personality. I do not think that this can any longer be truly said. So many have improved so quickly and come to the front so definitely by the aid of that very quality in addition to the excellence of their play'.

It is in this context that Ms Lenglen cites Betty Nuthall and her potential 'of whom anything can be expected'.

They were pictured together in the Roehampton Club Centenary Book by Elizabeth Hennessey in the pre-Wimbledon reception at Roehampton Club in 1926.



Open Air Dancing at Roehampton Club

On Saturday 25th July 1925, *The Illustrated London News* publication displayed a painting drawn by their special artist CE Turner under the title 'A delightful feature of the London season open-air dances at a famous country club – where sporting youth and beauty foregather after the strenuous days of polo and lawn tennis: An evening at the Roehampton Club dancing in the open-air pavilion and sauntering through the lamplit grounds.'



It goes on to say that this this is one of the pleasantest amusements of the London season. On a fine July evening, after the strenuous activities of lawn-tennis or polo, it affords ideal facilities for bring a perfect day to a perfect end.

The final words on this special social occasion is to reflect on these idyllic romantic surroundings where other partnerships than those of the tennis courts 'are brought into being, under the influence of the little Eros seen in the fountain in the foreground of the picture!'

Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist