

# Croquet Communique – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025



The croquet season is drawing to a close, but there is plenty going on involving Roehampton Club players and teams.

## GC Women's Open 30th-31st August at Surbiton

Two Roehampton Club players, Lynn Pearcy and Diana Wilson were entered into this prestigious event, held over a weekend in pleasant late summer weather.

They both progressed through their respective 'blocks' and into the Championship knockout. On the Sunday, Diana continued her strong performance to get through to the final where she faced Alison Maugham (Old Brentwoods, Surbiton and Bowdon). A very competitive and close fought match saw Alison playing some very hard hitting and direct croquet winning the day, 7-5, 7-6 with both players having chances.

Lynn won through to the semi-final, where she faced the inform Alison Maugham, losing 0-2. She went on to play Clair Whyms (Newbridge House Croquet, Ireland) the other losing semi-finalist finishing fourth, by the narrowest margins, failing with a 'jump' at the last in a very competitive match, 7-6,4-7,6-7.

Well done to both Diana and Lynn.



*Diana Wilson quick time check*



*Alison Maugham and Diana Wilson*



*Lynn Pearcy*



*Lynn Pearcy running a hoop*

## National GC Inter-Club Bowl (tier 3) vs Ealing 31st August

Having beaten Purley Bury and Compton in earlier rounds Roehampton Club faced Ealing in the semi-final. The team of Mark Green, Howard Railton, Carmel Brancen and Kevin O'Connor faced a formidable challenge with some seasoned players in the opposition.

However, some determined play and steely reserve kept the competition alive. Notable performances from Howard Railton defeating Tony Elliott 7-5, 7-5. Kevin O'Connor winning 7-2, 7-3 backed up by Carmel Brancen who held her nerve brilliantly to win both of her very close matches 7-6, 7-6 and 7-5, 6-7, 7-6. The final score was 4-2 to Roehampton Club with one game level (unfinished as result not required).

We now meet Nottingham in the final, which is being held at Wrest Park (Bedfordshire) on 27th September, spectators welcome.



*Roehampton Club Team Kevin O'Connor, Carmel Brancen, Howard Railton and Mark Green*

## Hussars Cup 6th-7th September

*Report by Tim Russell*

Roehampton Club's tournament calendar has always traditionally ended with an AC handicap weekend contesting the Hussars Cup. For the first time in recent memory, it failed to attract a full field, but 12 players enjoyed a fine weekend of weather, beautiful lawns and tight hoops which were clanged with regularity.

John Hutchinson from Ealing was the manager's pre-tournament pick and he finished on 5 wins out of 5 to win the trophy deservedly and see his handicap drop from 14 to 12. In his last game against the manager, it looked as if he would have 8.5 bisques for his second ball but a careless mistake in the middle of the lawn missing oppo and leaving his ball by hoop 1, saw him have to take two bisques to remedy the situation. 6.5 bisques wasn't enough to finish the job with the second ball, breaking down at 2 back with 1.5 bisques left. Tim went round to rover with yellow, John made 2 back with the help of his last bisque and with one last turn with time called (and with John forgetting to use his half bisque) Tim had a finishing turn all laid out but failed in an attempt to run hoop 4 to the boundary.

Stephen Wingrave was the runner up on four wins. He played solidly throughout and saw his handicap cut to 4.

The trophy presentation happened with one last game to finish. After the presentation, the participants all went to watch Ed Dymock's retirement turn. Ed has been a doughty competitor over his 40+ years of playing croquet but age and troublesome eyes are catching up with him. Neither age nor eyes have stopped him riding his bicycle to tournaments though! We wish him well.



*Tim Russell*



*Howard Railton*



*Nigel Wachman*



*Last competitive shot from Ed Dymock*



*John Hutchinson and Tim Russell*



## Other Events

Joel Taylor competed in **The North of England Challenge Cup**. He reached the semi-final where he lost to Ian Lines 26-13, 26-19.

Lynn Pearcy and Mark Green competed in Dom's Day Doubles at Surbiton.

## Forthcoming Events

This weekend sees the final of Roehampton Club premier tournament, the AC **Heathcote Cup**. This year it features Christian Carter vs Mark Van Loon and is a must watch for any AC players and indeed any croquet fans, so please make an effort to support Christian and Mark – this Sunday 21st September Lawn 2 at 1300.

Also this weekend Tim Russell will be competing against many of the country's top GC players for the **Ascot Cup**, played at Hurlingham Club on Saturday and Sunday.

27th September sees two Roehampton Club teams competing for silverware in National Golf Croquet Tournaments:

**The National Inter-Club GC Cup (Tier 1)** The Final will be played at Cheltenham Croquet Club between Roehampton v Bowdon (Manchester). The Roehampton Club Team – Tim Russell, Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon and Nick Yates, face a tough challenge against an opposition which could include a number of International players. Spectators are welcome and the team will appreciate your support.

**The National Inter Club GC Bowl (Tier 3)** The Final will be played at Wrest Park (Bedfordshire) and sees Roehampton Club up against Nottingham. Our team is Howard Railton, Carmel Brancen, Kevin O'Connor and Mike Tumath. Spectators welcome.  
Good luck to both teams.

On Sunday 28th September we are hosting the **Inter Club GC Murphy Shield final (Tier 2)** This is between Watford and Guildford. Again spectators are welcome.

## Coaching

We have launched the autumn / spring coaching programme and look forward to running the courses and supporting events. Croquet members have been circulated with details.

**One Ball** We are keen to reignite interest in One Ball which is a game for both GC and AC players and has been a way for GC players to appreciate AC. To kick start the winter season, we will run a refresher training session followed by a short knockout competition. This is for people with an AC or OB handicap of 10 or higher (GC handicap of 4 or higher) and if you have never played One Ball you are welcome to come and learn. This will be held on Friday 24th October from 13.00 to 16.00 i.e. the first of the new roll up sessions.

**The Croquet Dinner and Prize Giving** Calling all members of the section and all prize winners! We are holding our annual Dinner and Prize-Giving on 31st October in the Roehampton Room. There is a three-course dinner planned with a welcome drink on arrival. Booking will open at reception next week with tables of 8-10 available. Price £45 per member, non-member £50 per head.

**Next year Bridge and Croquet Internal Competition** Ron Wood announces that the Internal GC croquet and Bridge competition 2026 has now been fixed for Friday 8th May 2026. As it will be part of the Club's 125 celebrations, we'll be making it extra special, and would love to fill the three front lawns. So please reserve the date in your 2026 planner.

Enjoy your croquet.

**Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain**