

Croquet Communique – 16th October 2025



The end of the season has proved to be very successful with Roehampton Club Croquet winning three major titles:

The Interclub National Golf Croquet Cup (Tier 1)

The European Club League Golf Croquet Grand Final

The Interclub National Golf Croquet Bowl (Tier 3)

National Interclub Golf Croquet Cup Final

The National Interclub Golf Croquet Cup Final was played at Cheltenham on 27th September. A cool and overcast day saw the Roehampton Club team of Tim Russell, Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon and Nick Yates up against a very strong and experienced team from Bowden. The summer had taken its toll on the lawns which, while quick, provided a challenge for both teams.

Roehampton Club won the doubles with Harry and Mark defeating Angharrad Watters and Jack Good 7-6, 7-5. In the opening singles, Nick lost to Nigel Matthews 6-7, 6-7, while Tim beat David Cornes 4-7, 7-2, 7-6. In the afternoon, the matches were all tightly contested with Jack Good just winning against Harry 4-7, 7-6, 5-7. Tim lost to Nigel in a close encounter 4-7, 6-7 and Mark beat Angharrad 7-5, 5-7, 7-4, leaving Nick as the last game on the lawn against David Cornes - it was even after two 7-6, 6-7, but Nick rose to the challenge to win the third game 7-2 and seal an overall 4-3 victory.

Thanks to Cheltenham for hosting and Deborah providing an excellent lunch and James Death for refereeing. Thanks also to Reg Bamford and Diana Wilson who played in an earlier round.



Roehampton Club and Bowdon Teams



Nick Yates, Tim Russell, Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon with the cup



Cheltenham: Clubhouse on right, Croquet England Office on left



*Tim Russell receiving the Interclub Cup from Jonathan Powe
Tournament Director*

Interclub Golf Croquet Bowl

The same day 27th September, Interclub Golf Croquet Bowl - tier 3 was played at Wrest Park. Report by Howard Railton: After a summer campaign, the final of the National Interclub Bowl was played out at Wrest Park in unexpectedly nice, if slightly cold, weather. Nottingham and Roehampton Club met on the neutral lawns at Wrest Park where we were greeted with welcome hot drinks and biscuits.

The Nottingham team was made up of Cathy Turski (captain), Andy Dixon, Tom Dewar and Roger Steeper. Roehampton Club fielded Howard Railton (captain), Mike Tumath, Kevin O'Connor and Carmel Brancen.

The doubles match was played between Andy / Tom and Howard / Mike and was won by Roehampton Club 7-3 and 7-4. The result was a lot closer than it looked with some good jump shots and clearances. Roger beat Carmel 7-6 and 7-2 and Kevin and Cathy paused for lunch at one game all, waiting to see if their game needed a result.

In the afternoon, Roehampton Club won two games and Nottingham won two games, meaning the luckless Cathy and Kevin were back to complete the final game of their match to determine the overall winner of the Bowl. They had to play under the attentive if discreet gaze of everyone at Wrest Park. Kevin kept his nerve and won giving overall victory to Roehampton Club.

All the games were played in a very happy spirit with much complimenting of good shots from opponents. Everyone enjoyed the day and appreciated the opportunity to play some good croquet at a new location.

Thanks to Wrest Park for hosting and looking after everyone so well. Thanks also to Mark Green who organised the team and to Charlotte Oades, both of whom played in earlier rounds.



Nottingham and Roehampton Club teams



Howard Railton, Carmel Brancen, Kevin O'Connor and Mike Tumath

The European Club League GC Grand Final

The Grand Final of the 3rd European Club League took place at Sussex County Croquet Club (Southwick England) 10-12th October. The hosts were joined by 11 teams that had won their way through to the final from heats spread across Europe from Vigo in the West of Spain to Ikšķile in Latvia.

The clubs were split into two blocks of six for the initial phase of the competition, with a match between the teams consisting of two doubles and four singles games.

Roehampton Club facing Phyllis Court (Henley), Broadwas (Worcester), Balgreen, (Scotland), CC Vigo (Spain) RC Nova Sancti Petri (Spain). The other block included Cheltenham, Sussex County, Carrickmines (Dublin) Ikšķile (Latvia) and two Spanish teams including last year's winner.

Roehampton Club fielded a squad of six players and on Friday the team of Tim Russell, Diana Wilson, Dan Pearson and Nick Yates had an impressive start to the block games winning against Phyllis Court 5-1, and Broadwas 5-1, and drawing against Vigo 3-3. On Saturday the team changed to Tim Russell, Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon and Nick Yates. They continued the winning ways beating Balgreen (Glasgow) 4-2, and Nova Sancti Petri 4-2.

We now faced defending champions Real Club de la Puerta de Hierro (Spain), in the quarterfinals, Roehampton Club without dropping a game won 7-0. In the semi-finals we came up against Phyllis Court who, captained by Chris Roberts, were determined to do better than in the block. However, we maintained our supremacy winning 6-1 leaving us to face Balgreen (Edinburgh) in the final.

Fittingly the sun came out and we set about the task in hand, wary of the competitive display they had put up in the block. The final was played as the best of nine games – two doubles, one doubles and two singles and four singles.

Roehampton Club started well winning the first two doubles, 7-3, and 6-5 (on time). Continuing to apply pressure despite some competitive play, Roehampton Club kept ahead eventually running out winners by 7-1 with one game unplayed.

Congratulations to all. A great squad performance and just reward having finished runner up in the last two years. The best individual record over the course of the event, was Nick Yates (Roehampton Club) losing only his opening doubles game and ending with a record of 8/8 singles and 8/9 doubles. The competition is still growing and the number of teams entering, and quality of players competing is turning the league into a major event on the Club Croquet Calendar.



Tim Russell presented with the European Trophies by Roberts Stafeckis (WCF)



Roehampton Club's Friday squad: Dan Pearson, Nick Yates, Diana Wilson and Tim Russell



Roehampton's Saturday / Sunday squad: Nick Yates, Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon and Tim Russell

GC Friendly Matches

On 17th September, we hosted Ryde in a return fixture following our visit last year. The team of Nicholas Halton, Margaret Swain, Robert Scallon and Sue Norgate recorded an 8-1 victory.

On 18 September, we hosted Hurlingham in our annual friendly with the team of Charlotte Oades, Carmel Brancen Jacqui Pattison and Jenny Gaskin sadly we were outplayed losing 3-6.



Jenny Gaskin, Jacqui Pattison, Carmel Brancen, Charlotte Oades



Jenny Gaskin, Jacqui Pattison, Carmel Brancen, Charlotte Oades

Staff vs Members Match

The annual staff match was played on the evening of 18th September. We were pleased to welcome the staff which included a number of new faces to the pavilion for what is always an enjoyable occasion.

This year's winner was Oli Vargo (Golf and Games Assistant). Thanks to John Pearson for organising the Roehampton Club team, and to Matt Fidler (Golf and Games Manager) for organising the staff side, and the excellent food and refreshments afterwards.



Fairacres Match

Following the sad loss of Tony Salem, this match had a special meaning to many, and we remembered him at the start. Sue Gabriel captained and organised the Fairacres team. The teams had been chosen to maximise handicap allowances, so matches were very even, and competitive.

Games were played as seven hoops in 30 minutes with four rounds. It was all quite even for a time, but Fairacres won through to take the cup.



The winning Fairacres team



Sue Gabriel accepting the cup from Mike Pattison

Heathcote Cup

On 21st September the final of the Club's premier Association Croquet Cup was played between Christian Carter and Mark Van Loon. The first game was slow with neither player able to stay on the lawn. In the second, however, once he had seized the initiative, Mark Van Loon took control and won by two games to nil, +4, +26 tp.



Ascot Cup

The English National Singles Championship for the winners of the Championship series was held at Hurlingham on Weekend of 20th – 21st September. The event was won by Jack Good (Bowdon) with Roehampton Club's Tim Russell winning the Saucer.

Roehampton Bowl

The annual Association Croquet Challenge against Hurlingham was played away on 5th October. On a beautiful autumn day, the Roehampton Club team of Mary Knapp, Diana Wilson, Nicholas Halton, Peter Siddall, Andrew Wilson captained by Tim Russell faced a slightly stronger (on handicaps) Hurlingham team. The result was a 6-6 draw which meant that Hurlingham retained the trophy being the holders.



Egyptian Open

Report by David Openshaw: Two of our Members recently competed in Cairo in the 20th Egyptian Open GC Championship. Reg Bamford and David Openshaw have been regular competitors in this event, but neither have ever won it. Despite regular overseas competitors, Egyptian players have won on every occasion it has been played.

This year there were a record 88 players from 10 nations including several from each of Australia, USA and Spain. The block play was played in six different venues throughout Cairo. These clubs are multi sports clubs with one to three croquet lawns each.

David did not qualify for the 32 players knockout despite a good start. Reg won all his ten block games. In the first round of the knockout, he was drawn against the Egyptian international team member Khaled Kamal who he beat 7-3 5-7 7-4. In the next round he played the rapidly improving youngster Fawzy Helmy who beat him 7-4 7-5. The final was contested as usual by two Egyptians and Mohammed Taha was a convincing winner.



David with his opponent Hanan Rashad, one of Egypt's best women players and their referee at the start of their match at the Zohour Club.

Egyptian croquet is strongly based on interclub play with 17 clubs playing each other home and away during the season. Each match consists of a Men's singles, two Women's singles, a mixed doubles and a Men's doubles. Players only play in one of the matches, so each team consists of four men and four women. Of the 17 clubs 15 are in Cairo and two in Alexandria. Any Member interested in playing in Cairo as part of a holiday in Egypt can contact David for help to arrange this.

The Hurlingham One Ball Bingham Bowl

On 11th October Howard Railton and Mark Green took part in this One Ball competition played between 24 entrants at Hurlingham. After an entertaining and enjoyable day Howard finished joint 3rd with 6 wins from 8 and Mark joint 6th with 5 wins from 8.

Upcoming

14th October 8 and Under moved to 15.00
16 October AC Roll up weekly 1000-1300, and 1300-1600
18 October AC Roll up weekly 1300-1700
24 October One Ball Roll Up moves to Fridays at 1300
31 October Annual Dinner and Prize Giving
20 November AGM

Enjoy your croquet.

Mike Pattison, Croquet Captain