

From the Archives – 13th November 2025

Roehampton Club Scrapbook 1925



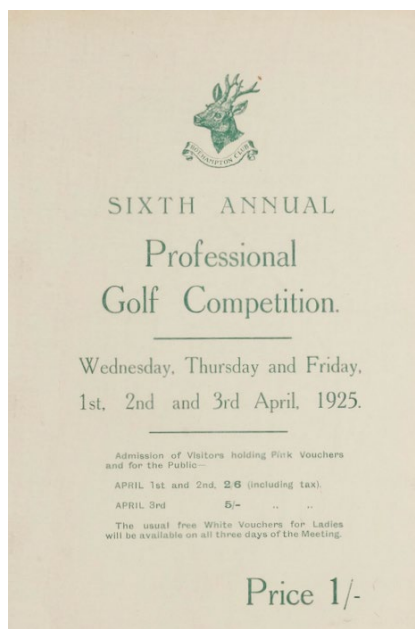
There are 22 scrapbooks contained within the Club archives covering the period from 1901 to 1977. These books represent one of the most significant and visually rich elements of the Club's archives. They provide an intimate chronicle of the Club's evolution from its founding as an officers' polo club through more than a century of sporting excellence, social distinction, and institutional development.

Assembled over successive decades by dedicated Members and staff, the scrapbooks capture the vibrant life of a premier London sporting establishment through newspaper clippings, photographs, programmes, correspondence, mementoes, and assorted memorabilia.

The scrapbooks contain a remarkable diversity of materials, including:

- Contemporary newspaper reports and magazine articles from publications such as *Tatler*, *The Bystander*, *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, and numerous regional and national newspapers.
- Photographs documenting sporting events, social gatherings, royal visits, and the Club's architectural development.
- Tournament programmes, score cards, and competition results across multiple sporting events including polo, golf, tennis, croquet, and squash.
- Correspondence and memorabilia relating to significant Club events and personalities.
- Announcements, invitations, and social events reflecting the Club's ceremonial occasions.
- Press cuttings documenting Members' achievements both within and beyond the Club.

This collection of material spans from the Edwardian era through the interwar period, the challenges of two World Wars, and into the modern age, providing our Members with an unparalleled window into our sporting, social, and cultural history. In preparation for the Club's 125th anniversary celebrations next year, the scrapbook collection has been comprehensively digitised as part of our plans to secure our heritage for future generations.



This digital transformation ensures the preservation of these fragile materials while making them accessible to Members, researchers, and the wider public interested in sporting heritage, local history, and the social fabric of twentieth-century Britain.

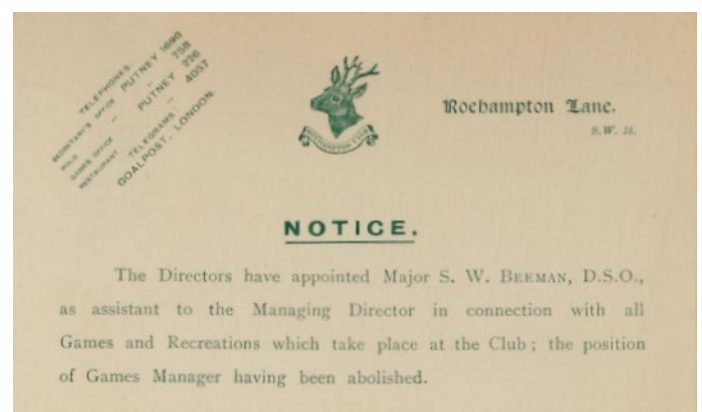
The digitisation work has been undertaken with meticulous attention by a specialist company with a track record in this field allowing the extended use of this material and the ability to search the contents. By way of illustration, the following scrapbook entries for 1925 are summarised as follows with accompanying images.

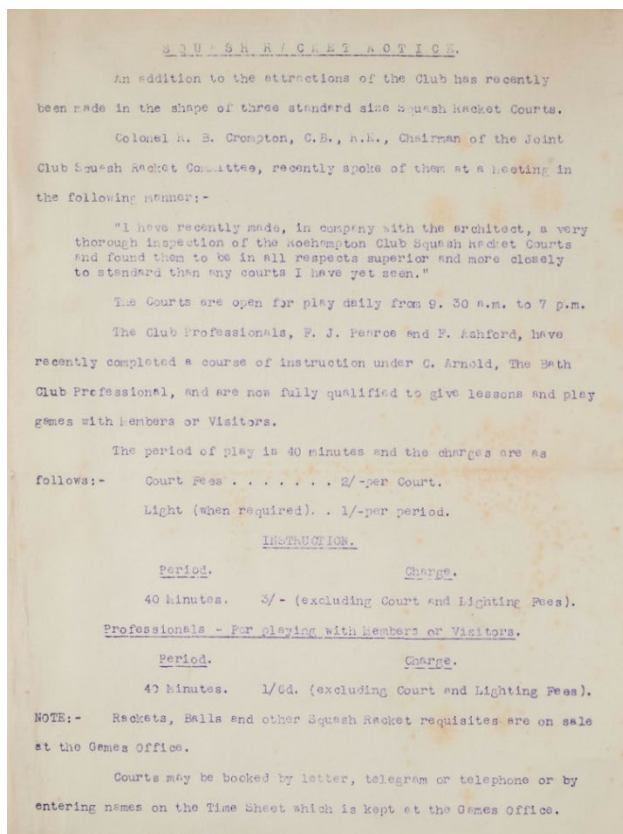
Professional golf competition

Programme for the 6th Professional Golf Competition at Roehampton Club to be played over three days from the first to the third of April.

Appointment of Major SW Beeman

Announcement by the Directors of the Club confirming the appointment of Major Beeman as Assistant to the Managing Director in connection with all games and recreations which take place at the Club. The announcement goes on to say that the position of Games Manager no longer existed.





Squash rackets notice

Notice to Members for the opening of three squash courts at the Club available for play every day between 9.30am and 7pm. Lessons were available from the club professionals FJ Pearce and F Ashford who had recently completed a course of instruction by C Arnold, The Bath Club Professional.

The court fees for a period of 40 minutes are shown as 2 shillings (c£7.77)* with another 1 shilling (c£3.88)* to pay for the lights if required. Lessons were charged at 1 shilling and sixpence (c£5.88)* for 40 minutes excluding court and light fees. Courts could be booked by letter, telegram or telephone or by entering names on the time sheet which is kept in the Games Office.

**The amounts shown in brackets are the approximate charges in today's money.*



Pony Gymkhana at Roehampton Club

Programme for the Pony Gymkhana at Roehampton Club on 5th June with a list of the following events taking place.

1 and 2. Ball and basket races with ladies and men in pairs. The man rides to a place where the lady throws him a ball which he catches and deposits in a basket. This is done three times. The winner is the man who first deposits three balls in the basket.

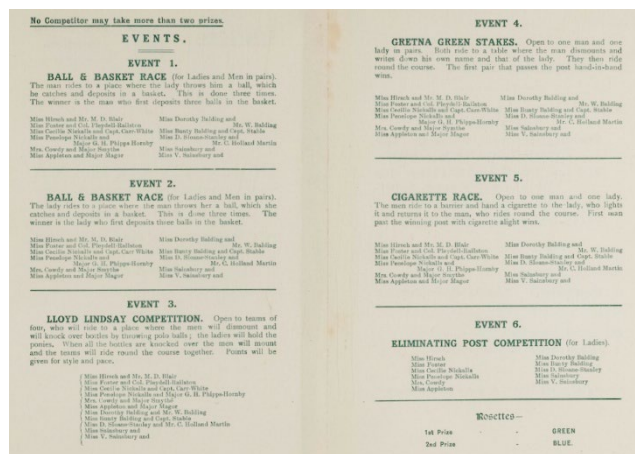
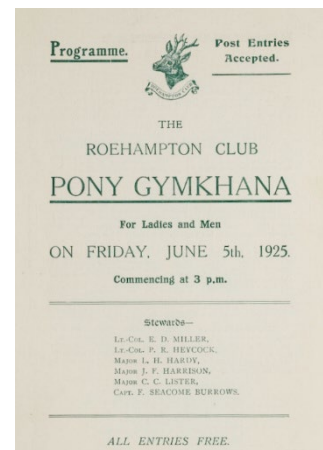
The second ball and basket race follows the same rules except the lady rides to a place where the man throws her a ball which she catches and deposits in a basket. The winner as before is the first lady who first deposits three balls in a basket.

3. Lloyd Lindsay Competition. Open to teams of four where the men will dismount and will knock over bottles by throwing polo balls; the ladies will hold the ponies. When all the bottles are knocked over, the men will mount and the teams will ride round the course together. Points will be given for style and grace.

4. Gretna Green Stakes. Open to one man and lady in pairs. Both ride to a table where the man dismounts and writes down his own name and that of the lady. They then ride round the course. The first pair passes the post hand-in-hand wins.

5. Cigarette Race. Open to one man and one lady. The men ride to a barrier and hand a cigarette to the lady, who lights it and returns it to the man, who rides round the course. First man past the winning post with cigarette alight, wins.

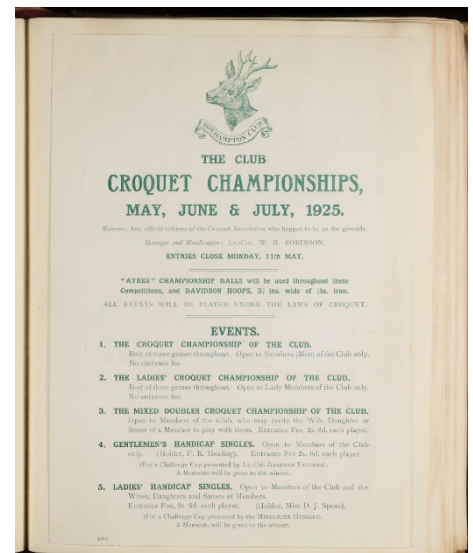
6. Eliminating Post Competition (for ladies).



Club Croquet Championships

Croquet Championships took place in May, June and July involving the following events:

- The Croquet Championship of the Club
- The Ladies Croquet Championship of the Club
- The Mixed Doubles Croquet Championship of the Club
- Gentlemens Handicap Singles
- Ladies Handicap Singles



Eton and Harrow Ball

Notice for the Eton and Harrow Ball held at Roehampton Club on Saturday 11th July with dinner at 8pm and dancing from 9pm to 1am.

Tickets were priced at 1 Guinea each – equivalent to more than £85.50 in today's money. The notice also confirms that the gardens at Roehampton Club will be illuminated.

Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist

