

Croquet Communique, 10 April 2026

After a few wet weeks, we have enjoyed some spring days and some sunshine. We have generally been lucky with the weather for the competitions that have been played. The Winter Rainbows for both GC and One Ball have now finished with Libby Dand winning the GC rainbow and four players reaching the top of the One Ball Rainbow.



The resulting playoff saw Sue Norgate carry off the mug beating Emile Fernandez, Jenny Gaskin and Tim Russell. Well done Sue and Libby.



One Ball Final Play Off

Early spring sees the National Charity One Ball competition heat played at Roehampton Club. This year the charity chosen is Save the Children and twelve players competed for the opportunity to take part in the National Final at Surbiton in May. We enjoyed having some of our top-class players competing against some of our new one ball players.



There were some excellent games with outstanding breaks. There were also some generous and unintentional offers of charity to opponents consistent with the charity status of the competitions.





In the semi-final, Peter Siddall played Emile Fernandez and Sue Norgate played Tim Russell. This saw Tim play off against Emile in the final with Emile beating Tim. Congratulations to Emile and we wish him well in the National Final at Surbiton.

We have concluded the 25/26 coaching sessions in March and April with training run by the club coaches for beginners and improvers. The advanced improvers will be held in the middle of April. All the sessions have been well attended and people were enthusiastic and learned a lot. The club referees also ran quizzes on the rules of GC which, as usual, produced some surprising answers and corrected a number of popular misunderstandings of the rules.



The section has also run a very successful session for eight juniors as part of the Club's Easter holiday camp programme. Hopefully this will encourage some more juniors to play and will raise the awareness of the section among their parents and the rest of the Club sports staff.

Lawn 4 set up for the Junior exercises

The first of the croquet 125 Celebration events are coming up over the weekend 18th/19th April with AC and GC Rose Bowl competitions. Tim Russell and Jacqui Pattison who have organised these competitions and the associated dinner, have attracted a truly outstanding group of the best players in the UK to compete. You are invited to come along and watch. The standard of play will be exceptional and you are unlikely to see such a group of players all together at the club again. Thanks to Tim and Jacqui for all their hard work on this and to Jacqui for all the other 125 events that she has been involved in organising for the croquet section.



Finally, as people get used to the changes to the booking system, can I highlight two things. First, when making a booking, you must select what type of event you are doing from the drop down menu. If you want to book a competition more than two weeks in advance, unless you select either AC Comp or GC Comp, the system will not let you. Secondly, we are just re-printing the contact information sheets that go up in the pavilion to help people arrange matches. However, this information all comes from the booking system and if you go onto the system, in the green banner at the top, there is a button call Users. If you click this, you can search for any croquet player and find their contact details, handicaps etc without leaving the comfort of your armchair.

Howard Railton , Croquet Captain