

Croquet Communique – 21st May 2026



The croquet summer season has now started in earnest and there is a lot of exciting things going on.

First, I am delighted to congratulate Tim Russell on being selected to play for England in the GC home international series this summer. Well done, Tim and we wish you and the team well in the coming competitions.

Our 125 celebrations have got off to an excellent start with some wonderful events. On 18th / 19th April, the Club hosted two Rose Bowl competitions for an outstanding group of competitors assembled by Tim Russell. The first was an AC event in which Reg Bamford, the world champion went on to win and to take Tim's additional prize for the most peels done in the day.



AC Competitors



Christian Carter



Reg Bamford



Tim Russell and spectators

The competitors attended an excellent dinner on Saturday evening organised by Jacqui Pattison. The GC competition on Sunday was won by Chris Roberts, the current chair of the Croquet England handicapping committee.



GC Competitors



Tim Russell



Chris Roberts

The next competition at the Club was the Roehampton Club 4+ GC tournament managed by Lynn Pearcy. Roehampton Club fielded a good number of competitors but the event was eventually won by Richard Barkey from Ealing with Tony Elliott also from Ealing winning the plate.

The 125 celebrations continued with an excellent joint evening with the snooker section. Paired with a croquet player, a very talented group of snooker players competed in a time limited series of GC games. The skills of snooker carried forward well into croquet and a sound knowledge of Newtonian Collision Mechanics saw Henry Neame eventually win the competition. The evening ended with very enjoyable social drinks and canapes.



Richard Barkey, Lynn Pearcy and Tony Elliott

On Sunday 3rd May, Roehampton Club took on Compton in the Murphy Shield tier 2 interclub GC competition. At lunchtime, Compton was winning and looking confident but a strong comeback in the afternoon saw Roehampton Club, captained by Lynn Pearcy, win 5-2. Well done to Lynn, Alex Rose, Simon Miller and Dan Haxby in this important competition.

The annual bridge / croquet competition for section members was organised by Ron Wood for 8th May. Very nobly, Ron put aside playing himself in favour of attending the last rehearsal of the new Roehampton Club Gentlemen's Choir before their first concert on Thursday 14th May (sadly sold out). Thanks to Ron for organising another excellent day. Peter Combe and Tim Russell won both the croquet and bridge parts of the competition, runners up were Libby Dand and Sue Norgate in the croquet and Sandra Fox and Wendy Gilbert in the bridge.



Finally, we hosted a friendly GC match against High Wycombe on 11th May. Sadly this did not go Roehampton Club's way and the team of Chris Bray (Captain), Robert Scallon, Jinni Featherstone-Witty and Margaret Swain lost 6-3 in a very competitive match.

Other exciting news is the delivery of the first production model of Reg Bamford's swing trainer. The Club very generously agreed to purchase this and Reg himself delivered it on Monday 20th April.



There are a series of opportunities to see the trainer and to have a go. We are developing a programme to ensure we get the best use of this excellent training aid.

We ran a trial session for the Club's Easter holiday camp programme. Eight boys and girls between eight and eleven enjoyed an hour of croquet including playing proper games. They loved it and came up with some great quotes 'No, Henry, hit it away ... no hit it harder'. We are planning to run more.

Finally, a few notices ...

Can I remind you not to book social games as secondaries on a lawn where a competition is being played. With the old booking system, people wrote 'Comp' in the title of the booking. The new system has different colours for social and competition bookings. For competition bookings, to avoid doubt, choose GC Comp or AC Comp from the drop down menu and book both primary and secondary lawns.

Please would you keep your handicaps and details up to date on the Croquet Booking System. Sadly the only person who absolutely knows your handicap is you yourself. Please go into the booking system and under the Users tab at the top, find yourselves, double click your line to open your entry and then edit your data so it is correct i.e. email, mobile and handicaps. Remember to save what you have done. If you need any help, please ask me or Matt Fidler.

The first Mike Pattison Cup, an A level GC competition, was proudly hosted by Roehampton Club on 20th and 21st May.

Howard Railton, Croquet Captain