

Croquet Communique – 19th June 2026



The season has been very extremely busy in the early summer with lots going on. We have hosted a wide range of competitions, players from the Club have represented England and competed in external competitions. We have played a huge number of internal competition games in AC, GC and One Ball, begun the roll out of the new swing trainer and run some more junior holiday camp sessions.

We have managed all that in weather that has ranged from tropical heatwave, through Siberian winter to Noah's flood. It is a great tribute to Chris Hughes and his team that we played on these lawns the next day. Thank you, Chris.



First came the hail, then came the rain – on the same day!

Player updates

Tim Russell played in the Tier I European Croquet Championship at Vigo Country Club, Spain. The sun shone rather more reliably than here at Roehampton Club.



Tim also played two of the four days of the AC Counties for Surrey paired with Stephen Mulliner. Surrey were eventual winners pipping Middlesex who had persuaded Roehampton Club Member Reg Bamford to play for them. Surrey beat Middlesex 2-1 in the decisive match. Wrong choice Reg!

Diana Wilson was selected for the CqE Women's AC team which traditionally play the winners of the second division of the counties each year. This year's match was against Oxford County. Diana was paired with Gabrielle Higgins, one of our top female AC players, and they won their doubles. Diana won all her singles matches but sadly the team lost by just one hoop in the final deciding game! It was a beautiful sunny weekend in Cheltenham and lots of fun was had by all.

Competition updates

In inter-club competitions, Elaine Phillimore, Jenny Gaskin, Mark Green and I hosted Ealing, captained by Tony Elliott, for the Longman AC tier 3 Inter Club competition which we sadly lost 4-3. It was very close.

The Tier 2 AC competition is the Mary Rose captained by Diana Wilson which got off to an excellent start by beating High Wycombe 4-3. For those unfamiliar with the Mary Rose, it's one of the national Interclub AC competitions which we are very keen to win. The Roehampton Club made a good start in the morning, winning all three games. But in the afternoon with only one more to win, it came down to Diana to win as the other three all lost their singles! Happily she got it over the line!

In the GC inter-club competitions, Lynn Pearcy captained Roehampton Club in the Murphy Tier 2 GC competition. In their first match, they successfully beat Compton. At lunch it looked slightly in favour of Compton but Alex Rose, Dan Haxby, Simon Miller and Lynn came out and won all the afternoon singles. In their second round match, Roehampton Club, captained by Peter Siddall, survived the weather but failed to prevail against strong opposition. Alex Rose and Simon Miller accounted for our two wins and some of the matches were tight but we lost 2-7.

Charlotte Oades, Emile Fernandes, Carmel Brancen and I successfully progressed to the next round of the GC tier 2 Inter-Club Bowl that Roehampton Club won last year. We beat Maldon, Essex 4-2 in a very competitive but good spirited match.





Roehampton Club ran several open tournaments. The Creyke Cup is an AC handicap doubles competition managed by Elaine Phillimore and was played on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May. Sixteen players playing in eight pairs from around the country arrived at Roehampton Club to compete for the two Creyke Cups. On Saturday, three games were played.

The sun came out for start of play on Sunday and, with two games to play, any one of the four pairs could win. In the final round Nick and Stephen Parish, who are father and son, won their match and in an

exciting game, Charlotte partnered by Sue Longford from York, having used all their bisques early on, managed to hold their small lead to win +2. As Nick and Stephen had beaten Charlotte and Sue in an earlier round, Nick and Stephen were crowned the winners.

The Trevelyan Bowl

The Trevelyan Bowl, a handicap singles AC competition, was managed by me as my first external tournament. This went surprisingly well eventually being won by Margaret Page from Ealing who managed to beat her mentor and coach at Ealing, Simon Turner, in the final 26-0 (which for those who do not play AC is very good)! Simon was delighted. Desmond Jarrett came second and Roehampton Club's Nigel Wachman came third.



The Mike Pattison Cup

In GC events, the Mike Pattison Cup, an A level GC competition was hosted for the first time by Roehampton Club on 20th and 21st May. The Club was represented by Dan Pearson and Alex Rose. Alex won through to the semi-finals where he was beaten by the eventual winner, Simon



Turner from Ealing. Dan lost to Colin Carver in the semi finals of the plate.



The new Mike Pattison Cup and Tim Russell who managed the event presenting the cup to Simon Turner of Ealing

Roehampton Club also hosted a C level GC competition managed by Mark Green which included a strong field from Roehampton Club. I am delighted to say that it was won by Sue Norgate in her first external open competition.

Earlier in the period, Roehampton Club played a friendly GC match against High Wycombe which we sadly lost.



Jimmy James Bowl

The main internal competition was the Jimmy James for handicaps of 9 and over.

This is always a popular event.

This year it was won by Kyoko Walker and Bev Morley Brown who beat Keith Wingrad and Alva Powell.

Well done to them.





New swing trainer

Other activities included the first taster sessions for the new Reg Bamford swing trainer. These proved popular and provided valuable feedback about how best to use the trainer in the future.



We continued to successfully run Holiday Camp sessions for 8 to 11 year olds over the recent school holiday and will do more in the summer.

External Croquet England (CqE) competitions

People have asked how they can enter external Croquet England (CqE) competitions. As Roehampton Club Members, you are automatically basic members of CqE. If you go to the CqE website you can join by entering your club as Roehampton Club. If you have any issues with this ask Matt Fidler or Lynn Pearcy. Once you are a member, you can enter tournaments through the CqE TES (Tournament Entry System) process by going to the Subscriber's Area and the TES Entry box. Here you will find the Fixtures Calendar. Clicking on this will bring up all of the competitions which can be sorted in various ways. I think it is a bit confusing but persevere they are there somewhere.

MacRobertson Shield

The summer continues at a rapid pace into July when Roehampton Club will be hosting part of the MacRobertson Shield. This is essentially the World Cup of Croquet played in the last two weeks of July by New Zealand, Australia, England representing the UK and the USA. It will be both a major spectacle to watch but also a serious block on Members' ability to play croquet. Running these sorts of event is important to Club and, therefore, the croquet section. Please be patient with maintenance, practice use and competition play on the lawns and thank you for your understanding. On the other hand, you get to watch the best croquet players in the world here at Roehampton Club. There is also a dinner that you can apply for tickets through the CqE website. The 2026 players and officials, along with special guests to include past MacRobertson Shield team representatives and other World Croquet Federation officials, will take precedence for ticket allocation but all remaining tickets will then be allocated to Croquet England subscribers on a first come first serve basis. The closing date for applying is 21st June 2026.

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MacRobertson Shield 2026
CENTENARY
Edition

Association Croquet
World Team
Championships

Friday 24th to Tuesday 28th July at Roehampton Club

The 2026 Association Croquet World Team Championships Tier 1, competing for the MacRobertson Shield, will be held at our Club in celebration of its centenary and our 125th year. Join us on the croquet lawns as England (2022 Champions), Australia, New Zealand and USA compete for the Centenary MacRobertson Shield.

Enjoy the summer.

Howard Railton, Croquet Captain