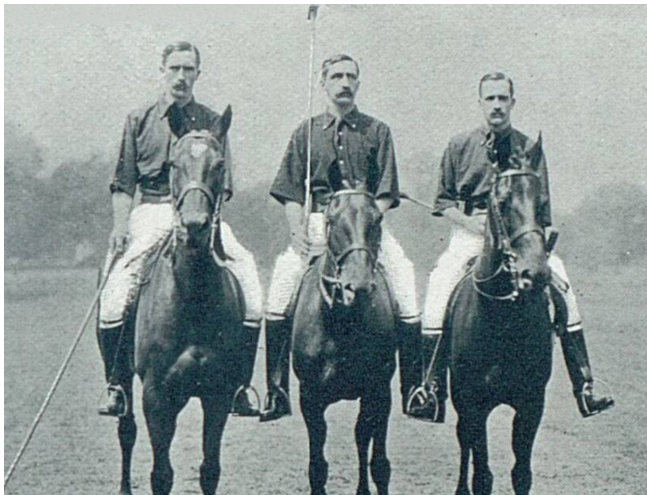


Croquet at Roehampton Club



Roehampton Club was founded by the Miller brothers – Edward, Charles, and George – who identified a shortage of polo facilities accessible from central London. Charles Miller secured the initial land lease in 1901, with the Club formally opening in 1902 as an officers' polo club. The founding charter included croquet among its sporting provisions, establishing the activity from inception.

Croquet's integration reflected broader Victorian leisure patterns, but the Miller brothers' decision to allocate substantial grounds – ultimately expanding to twelve dedicated lawns – demonstrated strategic commitment to the sport's competitive development. Charles Miller served as Managing Director for 23 years, while brother George acted as Polo Manager, ensuring croquet received priority alongside equestrian pursuits.



The Club's physical infrastructure evolved substantially during its first half-century. Initially featuring twelve croquet lawns, gradual conversion to tennis reduced dedicated croquet capacity, though the four surviving international standard lawns remain 'among the best in the country' with distinctive floodlighting capabilities.



Croquet Association Headquarters

Roehampton Club's most significant institutional contribution began in 1902 when the Croquet Association (now Croquet England) relocated its headquarters from Wimbledon, a position the Club maintained until 1959. During this 57 year tenure, the Club hosted the preponderance of major championships: the All-England Open, Men's and Women's Championships, and the President's Cup.



The first Croquet Committee convened in February 1905 under Lord Doneraile's chairmanship, with his leadership continuing for 18 years through the First World War's disruption and into the sport's interwar resurgence. By May 1923, when Lord Doneraile chaired the committee at Roehampton Club, contemporary press reports extolled the 'ten perfect lawns' that established the Club's reputation for superior playing surfaces.

As the Croquet Association headquarters (1902-1959), the Club became the default venue for premier competitions. The 1923 season exemplified this concentration, featuring:

- All England Croquet Championships (men's winner: JP Hubbard)
- Gold Cup and Gilbey Cup (the latter donated by the Gilbey family, then the world's largest wine and spirits company)
- Peel Memorial competition, attracting around 160 participants
- Challenge Cups, later merged with the Gilbey Cup

Roehampton is to croquet what Wimbledon is to tennis, and whenever extra money is needed there, it is from the croquet players rather than the polo players or golfers that it comes.

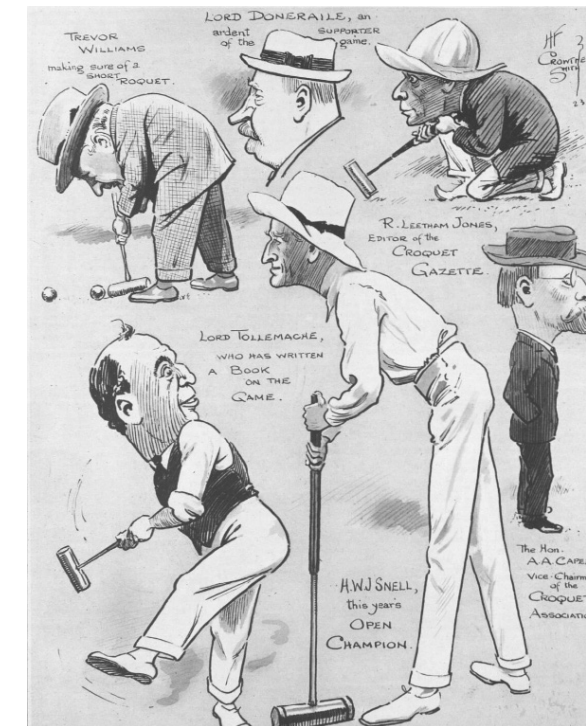
'Roehampton is to croquet what Wimbledon is to tennis ...'

The Daily Mirror, 21st March 1933

Horace Francis Crowther-Smith

Horace Francis Crowther-Smith (1873-1959) was both a finalist in the 1919 Croquet Open Championship and the game's most celebrated caricaturist and chronicler, occupying a distinctive position within the sporting elite of interwar Britain.

His association with Roehampton Club spanned decades, during which he documented the Club's sporting life through caricatures that appeared in national publications and became treasured artifacts of sporting heritage.





1902

Miss Carberry Mason at
Roehampton Club Ladies
Field, August 1902



1905



Club Croquet
Championships 1925



THE CLUB
CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS,
MAY, JUNE & JULY, 1925.

Referees: Any official referees of the Croquet Association who happen to be on the grounds.
Manager and Handicapper: LT.-COL. W. H. ROBINSON.

ENTRIES CLOSE MONDAY, 11th MAY.

"AYRES" CHAMPIONSHIP BALLS will be used throughout these Competitions, and DAVIDSON HOOPS, 3½ ins. wide of 1½ in. iron.

ALL EVENTS WILL BE PLAYED UNDER THE LAWS OF CROQUET.

EVENTS.

- 1. THE CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE CLUB.**
Best of three games throughout. Open to Members (Men) of the Club only.
No entrance fee.
- 2. THE LADIES' CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE CLUB.**
Best of three games throughout. Open to Lady Members of the Club only.
No entrance fee.
- 3. THE MIXED DOUBLES CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE CLUB.**
Open to Members of the Club, who may invite the Wife, Daughter or Sister of a Member to play with them. Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d. each player.
- 4. GENTLEMEN'S HANDICAP SINGLES.** Open to Members of the Club only. (Holder, F. K. Healing). Entrance Fee 2s. 6d. each player.
(For a Challenge Cup presented by LT.-COL. GARDNER VATCHER).
A Memento will be given to the winner.
- 5. LADIES' HANDICAP SINGLES.** Open to Members of the Club and the Wives, Daughters and Sisters of Members.
Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d. each player. (Holder, Miss D. J. Spens).
(For a Challenge Cup presented by the MIDDLESEX HUSSARS).
A Memento will be given to the winner.

S.S.C.

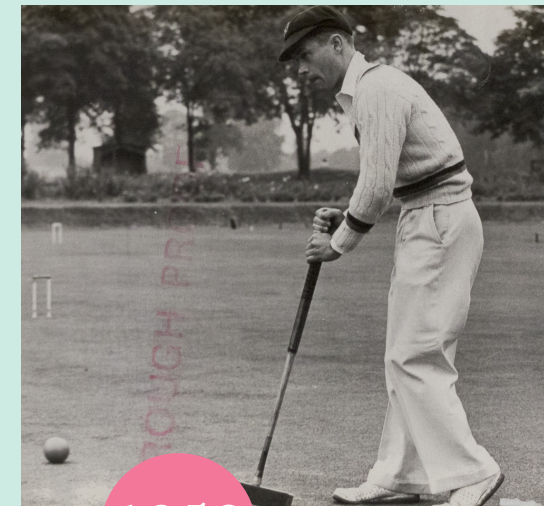
1925



Lord Doneraile,
Croquet Association
Committee Member and
Roehampton Club
Croquet Committee
Chairman

1949

D. A. Lintern at the
Mixed Doubles Final,
August 1949



1952

M. B. Rackitt
at the
Presidents
Cup, 1952



J. W. Solomon
at the Presidents
Cup, 1952

From the Archives ...

2022: an unprecedented quadruple championship season

Under the captaincy of Mike Pattison, the 2022 season saw Roehampton Club's most remarkable competitive achievement, winning four of the five Croquet Association season-long knockout trophies.

This feat surpassed all historical precedents – no club had previously secured more than two major titles in a single season.

Roehampton Club is only the second club to have won all five major trophies at some point in its history, having previously triumphed in the Mary Rose in 1985.

2022 Trophies

AC Inter Club
Roehampton Club

GC Inter Club
Roehampton Club

AC Longman Cup
Roehampton Club

GC Murphy Shield
Roehampton Club

AC Mary Rose
Hurlingham Club



2022 player performances

The championship runs featured consistent contributions from a core playing group:

AC Inter Club Final (vs Bowdon)
Harry Fisher and Joel Taylor defeated Alain Giraud and Angharrad Walters (+13TP)
Mark van Loon defeated Nigel Matthews (+26TP)
Tim Russell lost to Brian Storey (-26)

GC Inter Club Final (vs Watford)
Mark van Loon and Joel Taylor defeated Nick Archer and Jason Carley in three games (5-7, 7-4, 7-6)
Dan Pearson defeated Simon Hathrell (7-2, 7-5)
Tim Russell defeated John Taylor (7-3, 4-7)

GC Murphy Shield Final (vs Watford)
Diana Wilson defeated Kevin Connolly (7-5, 7-5)
Andrew Wilson defeated George Skinner (7-4, 7-4)
Nicholas Halton defeated Alan Clark in three games (3-7, 7-2, 7-6)
Elaine Phillimore defeated Steve Dennis (7-5, 7-4)

AC Longman Cup Final (vs East Dorset)
Nick Yates and Elaine Phillimore beat Chris Weeden and John Freeman +1 (t)
Diana Wilson beat Christine Rice +6
Andrew Wilson beat Dave Fuller +25
Nick Yates lost to Dave Fuller -16
Elaine Phillimore lost to Chris Weeden -23
Andrew Wilson lost to Christine Rice -15
Diana Wilson beat John Freeman +3 (t)



European Golf Croquet League 2025

Roehampton Club won the European Club League Grand Final in October 2025, defeating twelve teams from across Europe.

The tournament featured two six-team blocks, with Roehampton Club dominating Block A before sweeping through the knockout rounds and defeating Balgreen (Scotland) 7-1 in the final.

Nick Yates emerged as the tournament's standout performer, losing only his opening doubles match before winning sixteen consecutive games.



England vs Spain Test Match 2024

Roehampton Club hosted the annual England Spain Golf Croquet Test in June 2024, marking the fourth instalment of this bilateral series designed to foster international competitive development. England reclaimed the title 18-8, reversing Spain's 2022 victory.



MacRobertson Shield Test Matches

The MacRobertson Shield is the premier croquet team event in the world, competed for by Australia, England, New Zealand and the United States and played in rotation between the competing countries every three or four years.

Roehampton Club hosted the inaugural MacRobertson Shield Test in 1925, where England defeated Australia 6-0, conceding only one game across six matches. The Club hosted subsequent Shield Tests in 1937, 1956, 1974, and 2010. The MacRobertson Shield returns after 100 years to be contested at Roehampton Club in it's 125th year.



Roehampton Club Croquet: notable players



Joel Taylor

Joel has emerged as a multi-format threat, reaching British Open knockout stages and contributing to both our AC and GC championship teams.



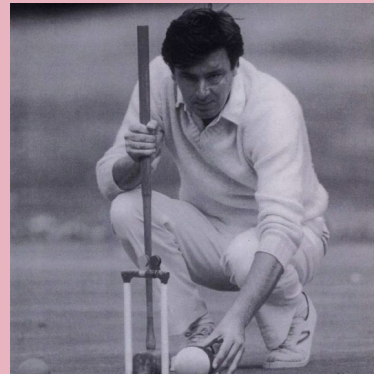
Diana Wilson

Diana represented England in the 2023 Women's GC World Championships, lost in the final of the 2024 British Women's Open to the world number one player and has also played for England Women in their annual AC match.



Tim Russell

Tim captained our Inter Club teams to success in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, has won three GC Championship events in the last 18 months, is the current holder of the GC English National Doubles title and has been picked to play for England in this summer's Home Internationals.



Nigel Aspinall

Nigel dominated British croquet during the early 1980s winning two Men's Championships, eight Open Championships and eleven President's Cups (a record later equalled but not surpassed). He and Stephen Mulliner represented Roehampton Club's last AC Inter Club victory before the 2022 resurgence.



Reg Bamford

Reg has been a top-ranked player in the world for over 30 years, and is a 11-time AC Open Champion, 12-time GC Open Champion, 6-time AC World Champion (2001, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2020 and 2025) and twice GC World Champion (2013 and 2017).



David Openshaw

David won the Open Championship in 1979, 1981 and 1985, and the Men's Championship in 1981, 1991 and 1995. He played in the President's Cup thirteen times and MacRobertson Shield five times. He served on the CA Council from 1982-1986 and also 1999 -2010 and as World Croquet Federation President 2003-2009.



Mark van Loon

Mark was a central figure in our AC and GC 2022 and 2025 successes and is now an England international player.



Lynn Pearcy

Lynn, previously Croquet Committee Chair, won the inaugural East Dorset Women's GC Open in 2022 and represented England in the 2023 Women's GC World Championships.



Harry Fisher

Harry reached the 2022 British Open semifinals and was selected, as a regular England international player, to play for England in the 2022 MacRobertson Shield.



Roehampton Club Croquet Section