

From the Archives – 17th September 2026

Photos from the past emerging from a ladies' golf match



Grateful thanks to Emma Angood from the Ladies golf section here at Roehampton Club and Alix Waldman from Castle Royal Golf Club for this month's article in the Roehampton Club Recorder.

Following the recent friendly golf fixture between our respective clubs, and the subsequent conversations between these two individuals, Alix was kind enough to send through a collection of photographs of the Club around the time that her father, Jim Staples was General Manager of the Club and living on site at the Thatched Cottage on Roehampton Lane.



The first of these photographs shows the single-storey Clubhouse building with its veranda overlooking the fish pond. Alix also confirms the identity of the two individuals in the photo as her father (in the grey jacket) alongside General Birks (in the navy blue jacket) who was a Director of the Club at the time and went on to become President of the Club from 1976 to 1985.

Other pictures in the collection include the old tennis pavilion, the garden of the Thatched Cottage where Alix lived, the Club gardens, the car park and the building previously used as the Ladies Changing Rooms. This picture was taken in 1971 and also includes a college friend of Alix's from Jamaica who had never seen snow before.





The history of the Thatched Cottage makes for interesting reading. The Cottage stands at the top of Roehampton Lane where it meets Upper Richmond Road, about 150 yards from the Club, and is the only thatched building in the whole borough of Wandsworth. Wandsworth Council's own heritage walk opens with it and states that a building has stood on the site since 1869, and that a 1930s map describes it as a 'thatched cottage'.

It sits almost on the Richmond boundary, appearing in a set of press photographs dated 31st July 1928 showing thatchers at work on 'the picturesque Old Cottage at the corner of Roehampton Lane, Barnes'.

The Club connection with the property is documented in both ways in 1957 when the *Nottingham Evening News* referred to 'Mr Jim Maples club secretary of Thatched Cottage Roehampton Club', and in April 2022 the Chair's message referred to 'our Thatched Cottage' when a hoarding on the Upper Richmond Road had been removed without permission going on to describe the absorption of the cottage into the Club estate and used to house senior staff.

The photographs from Alix Waldman provide a timely reminder of our heritage, the evolution of the Club and the development of the Clubhouse environment.

Alix's surname also prompted further research into the Roehampton Club Archives revealing the names of Leonard and Philip Leon Waldman – father and son living in Putney at this time both joining the Club in 1967 to play golf.

Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist