

# Croquet Communique – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026



September has been surprisingly mild and sunny (apart from the heavy rain), so people have been able to enjoy finishing off the various internal competitions and playing some lovely autumn croquet.

## External competitions

Looking at the external interclub competitions organised by Croquet England, Roehampton Club did extremely well to reach the final of three out of the six competitions we entered. Diana Wilson managed and led the Tier 2 AC team of Peter Siddall, David Mooney and Nick Yates to play Nottingham in the final of the Mary Rose. Having struggled to find suitable dates, they ended up journeying to play Nottingham on their home ground on Friday 18th September and sadly lost 5-2.



On Friday 25th September, the Tier 3 Inter Club Bowl team took on Bury from Lancashire in the final at Cheltenham. Captained by Kevin O'Connor and managed by Mark Green, Janine Railton, Carmel Brancen and Emile Fernandes had the opportunity of practicing on the Cheltenham lawns next to the Croquet England offices on the day before. This was very worthwhile since the lawns were very different to our lawns at Roehampton Club and everyone needed to adapt to the more challenging conditions.

That said, the match was extremely close but was eventually lost on the last game of the last match. Bury won by 4 to 3. I am, however, delighted to announce that the Tier 1 AC team of Harry Fisher, Mark Van Loon, Christian Carter and Joel Taylor, managed by Tim Russell, beat Bowdon in the final of their competition 4-1. This was played at Northampton and regains the trophy that Roehampton Club had held from 2022 to 2024. It is a great trophy and can be seen in the main ground floor display cabinet at the Club.



## Roehampton Bowl

The other main external event was the Roehampton Bowl. This is normally an annual AC competition between Hurlingham and Roehampton Club but this year included both AC and GC singles and doubles. While keenly contested, the atmosphere was relaxed and everyone enjoyed an excellent day. Sadly, it was more excellent for Hurlingham who won the event 9-5 and, therefore, retained the Bowl. Dan Haxby and Simon Miller did well to win their three matches in their first appearance in the competition.



## Fairacres vs Section match

The much anticipated match between Fairacres and the Section was held on 5th September. As always this was a great afternoon with a series of well balanced and competitive matches. Eventually, Fairacres, captained by Sue Gabriel, won 7-6 on games although interestingly the hoops scored were level at 46 each. Fairacres, therefore, retain the cup for another year.



After the match, Shirley Lee very generously hosted a birthday tea for David to celebrate his ninetieth birthday. It was a lovely affair, I congratulate David on this momentous birthday and that he is still playing excellent croquet. Thanks to Shirley for a lovely afternoon.



### Summer rainbow

The summer rainbow will end on Sunday 18th October so time for a final burst of games. The lawns will be three quarter sized from Monday 19th October. If there is still no clear winner there will be an arranged play off on the smaller lawns to decide the winner.

### Croquet Prizegiving Dinner

The internal competitions are now all but completed so we are looking forward to the Croquet Prizegiving Dinner on 30th October. If you have not yet booked a place, please do. It will be a very relaxed and convivial evening and we would especially like to welcome our new players.

### One ball

I will be launching a new one ball campaign during the winter to encourage people to learn to play this excellent form of the game. I will run some introduction training sessions with the idea of launching the one ball roll ups afresh. We will also run the very popular one ball rainbow. Please look out for the email with the details.

### Autumn and spring GC programme

Still on training and coaching, the autumn and spring GC programme has been launched. Just to remind people these are the main events:

- Beginners – for anyone who wants to work on their general game and has a handicap. Friday 23rd October.
- Improvers – while the email suggests a handicap range, in reality it is for anyone who has played enough to want to improve their tactical game and learn some more advanced shots. If you think it is for you, please book if there is space. Friday 30th October.
- Advanced Improvers – again there is a handicap range but if you are reasonably experienced and want to play more competitions especially external ones, this is for you. If unsure, talk to Diana Wilson who is running the course. This runs on two afternoons. Fridays 6th and 13th November.

These can only be booked at Reception and are charged at £15 which goes to the running of the section.

### Upcoming events

The following can be booked on the croquet booking system and are free.

- Rules training quizzes after the roll ups at 12pm on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th October.
- Coached GC games. The first is Saturday 7th November at 10am which is now open on the booking system.

On the admin side, please note that the 8 and under and one ball roll ups will be changing their times to be earlier. Please also note that the AC winter roll ups have been added to the booking system.

**Howard Railton, Croquet Captain**