

# PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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### [29 May 2018 - Oxfordshire AC win promotion for the first time](#)

Chris Roberts helped Oxfordshire to promotion to the top tier of the Association Croquet Inter-Counties Championship for the first time this week.

Together with his doubles partner and captain Dayal Gunasekera, Roberts won seven of nine games over the event's four days that were split between Eastbourne and Southwick, near Brighton.

Oxfordshire were significantly stronger this year thanks to the arrival of Ireland captain Danny Johnston for a research post at Oxford University and the continuing development of both Mark van Loon and Roberts who continue to climb the UK rankings.

The Counties second division title was in the balance right until the last round of games on Tuesday afternoon where Oxfordshire needed a 3-0 match win and a slip up from Dorset in their last encounter.

It looked on with half an hour to go, when news came through to Eastbourne that Dorset were behind at Southwick, but a couple of loos shots during the run-in reversed fortunes and Oxfordshire had to settle for the runner-up position with promotion for next season as consolation.



### [28 May 2018 - Peperell wins AC C-Class at Roehampton](#)

Richard Peperell won the Roehampton Summer tournament Association Croquet C-Level event last weekend and is now becoming well known at the London Club for his successes, having won the handicap silverware there last year.

This time he did it the hard way coming back from a hopeless situation in the final with 15 mins to go, when he had to put a 3-ball break together from hoop 4 to rover to pip his Irish opponent by one – "it was nerve raking!" he said.

### [27 May 2018 - Roberts' four wins puts Oxfordshire top](#)

Chris Roberts and doubles partner Dayal Gunasakera (Hurlingham) have won four out of their five games over the past two days for Oxfordshire at the AC Inter-Countes Championship at Southwick (near Brighton). The Oxon team hold a joint lead of Division 2 with two more days remaining for play.

### [27 May 2018 - Fensome recovers at GC Euros](#)

Helena Jansson (Fensome) ended with only two match wins in the the block stage of the GC European Championship, so failed to qualify for the main event knock-out.

She recovered well however on the third and fourth day of the tournament at Budleigh Salterton and reached the semi-final of the plate event, having the satisfaction of avenging defeats by earlier opponents.

### **25 May 2018 - Come and watch THE BIG MATCH on Saturday 9 June**

Saturday 9 June is a big diary date for Phyllis Court Croquet as we are expecting a large spectator gallery for our National Inter-Club Championship quarter-final when we entertain Surbiton. In 2016 over a hundred Phyllis Court members set national record for spectators at club match and there is every prospect of that figure being beaten this time.

We are able to field our strongest possible line-up, with Irish international Charlie von Schmieder as their number one, together with Chris Roberts, Ian Norris and Roger Goldring who are all ranked in the UK top 60.

Surbiton are fielding strong team too, with a trio of very experienced players behind their number one, Nick Cheyne who is currently playing in the European Championships.

Please do come along to watch as a great match is in prospect - we will have some limited extra seating available, but to be on the safe side, it would be good to bring your own deck chair!

### **25 May 2018 - 146 PCC members now are members of the Croquet Association**

Today the applications for membership of the Croquet Association (CA) were finally processed for 118 Phyllis Court members who wanted to join the 28 who are existing CA members. It's been a long and very technical process, bedevilled with difficulties, but at last it's done!

Thanks again to Membership secretary Madeleine Prober (her husband Geoff) and her predecessor Pauline Wood for their work leading up to today's up-load.

With 146 of our members in membership of the CA, we are one of the largest groups in the country - **We should be very proud that we are supporting croquet in this way!**

### **25 May 2018 - PCC 'C' and PCC 'B' draw 6 - 6**

The re-scheduled handicap league club derby was played today and ended all square at six games all.

Robin Coates and Hugh Crook were the players of the day, each winning both their singles games.



### **24 May 2018 - Helena Jansson (Fensome) starts her Euros campaign - Day 1**

Helena Jansson (Fensome) played the first day of four under her Finnish flag at the Golf Croquet European Championship at Budleigh Salterton today.

She has played in the last few GC Euros as the only Finn, but this time she is joined by countryman Lars Boman and the pair have been warming up at Phyllis Court this week, together with Spaniard Susana Romero.

You can follow Helena's results 'live' as they come in via this link: <https://croquetcores.com/2018/gc/european-championship/block-b>

Note however, that away from Phyllis Court, Helena plays under her maiden name JANNSSON.

**Day 1** - Helena beat a Latvian 2-0, but lost to the top two seeds in her block also in straight games.

Seeded 6th in her block, she needs to finish in the top half her block (4th out of 8) in order to qualify for the main knock-out.

### **22 May 2018 - Goldring is selected for World Over-50s Championship**

Phyllis Court's Roger Goldring is celebrating this week following his selection for the Golf Croquet World Over-50s Championship in Cairo in September.

Having missed out narrowly on a ranking place, Goldring was the first choice 'pick' of the Croquet Association Selectors for an England 'member place'.

He will join eight other English players who are in the field of 32 that is traditionally dominated by the hard-hitting Egyptians on their home turf.

This Selection is just reward for Goldring's tireless practice that has seen his star grow in UK croquet over the last twelve months and will be the pinnacle of his croquet career so far.

*Congratulations Roger!*

### **21 May 2018 - Peperell Brothers win 'Cave & Wolfe' Restricted Doubles**

Richard and Tony Peperell were very popular winners of our restricted doubles tournament today when, despite some scares, they finished undefeated.

They duly became the 33rd winners of the Cave and Wolfe Salvers, and the first siblings to win any of the Phyllis Court trophies.

Seven pairs contested an 'all play all' format where the very necessary 50 minutes time limit came into play a number of times.

Chris Roberts and Diana Zatoureff squeezed past Roger Goldring and Jeff Smith to end with just the one loss to claim second place (and the Hilda Dobson Cups).

Thank you to all the players who supported this most enjoyable tournament.



Finishing order: (1) Richards Peperell & Tony Peperell, (2) Chris Roberts & Diana Zatoureff, (3) Roger Goldring & Jeff Smith, (4) Mike Fensome & Dee McKibbin, (5) Mary Gaynor & Don Rutherford, (6) Hugh Crook & Angus McKibbin, (7) Robin Coates & Colin Morgan  
full results here:

### '10+' Doubles T

#### **18 May 2018 - PCC 'B' 5 - 7 Blewbury**

PCC 'B' endured a surprise 5-7 defeat at the hands of Blewbury today in their first SCF Handicap League. The first two rounds of doubles ended one apiece, as first round of singles was evenly shared too. With optimism height, the fourth and final round featured singles again, but this time the rounded ended 1-3 to Blewbury and the match score went 5-7 in Blewbury's favour.  
PCC 'B': Mike Fensome (-1), Raymond Wood (2 - captain), Robin Coates (5), Hugh Crook (5).



#### **16 May 2018 - Christmas third at our C-Level Series**

Mike Christmas (*left*) finished third and was the best of Phyllis Courts nine entrants to our C-Level Series tournament which was won by last year's runner-up Michelle Leonard of Kingston Maurward CC, Dorest. The tournament is part of the National C-Level Series (for players with handicaps of 7+) and, as last year, half the field were visiting players from other clubs. Christmas was unlucky not to top his morning block when his only loss was by a single hoop, but his two wins was sufficient to qualify him for the quarter-finals of the main event knock-out, along with club mate Jeff Smith, who turned the same trick. The other Phyllis Court players failed to qualify but all competed with much spirit in the consolation event, where the picks were Deon Melck who ended with a 50 per cent winning ratio over the whole tournament and Tony Peperell who actually won the lower tier. Back at the main event, Smith was knocked-out at the quarter-final stage but finished 8th overall, and Christmas only lost his semi-final by a narrow margin and then won play-off for third place which won him Series point to count for qualification to the national final. A special mention goes to Bill Pitkeathley (one this season beginners!) who won a game in this, his first every tournament, barely 5 week after picking up a mallet for the first time! Thank you to all nine Phyllis Court players who supported the tournament: your final positions were:  
3rd Mike Christmas, 8th Jeff Smith, 9th Tony Peperell, 10th Deon Melck, 11th Michael Seagrief, 13th Bill Pitkeathley, 14th Di Pascoe, 15th Diana Zatoureff, (Ret. injured, John Maguire) - full results here:

### C-Level (CA)

#### **14 May 2018 - PCC 'C' 6 - 6 Basingstoke**

It was a tight match all the way for PCC 'C' today against visitors Basingstoke and with nothing between the teams, the resulting 6-6 draw seemed to be a fair result in this first completed SCF Handicap League fixture of the season. Mary Gaynor was the toast of our side after winning both her singles games but it was a combination of a poor start the doubles, where we trailed 1-3, and some good shooting from Basingstoke's top player that left PCC 'C' ruing chances that might have been. Our other three players all halved their singles encounters, indication a good balance in the teams' handicaps.  
PCC 'C': Raghu Iyer (5), Delia Norris (5), Mary Gaynor (5), Dianne Browne (6).

#### **13 May 2018 - PCC trio play in Charity One Ball Final ~ £5,000+ raised for Down Syndrome Association**

When Phyllis Court's Chris Roberts messed up the final passage of play in his first game of the National Charity One Ball competition final on Sunday and paid a heavy price. This early game loss was the one that effectively meant that he would miss the lunchtime 'out' for the main event and, although ending with seven wins from nine games was enough to win the consolation event, he left Surbiton CC disappointed. Helena and Mike Fensome completed the Phyllis Court trio of qualifiers and both enjoyed their day finding their feet at the unfamiliar One Ball game. Phyllis Court's own qualifying tournament three weeks ago raised £150 which, along with 36 similar events around the country, contributed to the national total of just over £5000 for this year's charity the Down's Syndrome Association.

#### **9 May 2018 - Raghu Iyer wins the Spring AC Tournament**



Showing a much improved game, Raghu Iyer won three out of three games today and duly won the Spring AC tournament and the Barnses Cup.  
A bejou field of just five competed in 18-point handicap games with the intention that an 'all play all' format would be striven for. In the event, Iyer beat Richard Peperell, Frances Colman and Chris Roberts and so couldn't be caught even if he had played the raining player Robin Coates.  
With time against being able to complete the full schedule, an end was halted once the tournament winner had been found.  
*Congratulations Raghu!*

#### **08 May 2018 - High Wycombe 2 - 5 PCC 'A' - SCF Level League**

PCC 'A' maintained their good start to the season with a second Level League win away at High Wycombe today. Chris Roberts and Roger Goldring gelled well in the morning doubles rubber and won in straight games despite a spirited performance from their hosts in both.  
Helena Fensome came unstuck in her singles rubber and so all eyes fell on the remaining singles to see which team would go into lunch ahead in the overall match  
There was drama aplenty in this encounter as Phyllis Court's Raouf Allim lost his first game, came back well to win the second with ease and then had to perform heroics to stay alive in the decider.  
He hit his opponent out of the final hoop from fully 20 yards away and then out manoeuvred him to win that hoop, game and rubber, to give Phyllis Court a 2-1 half-time lead.  
High Wycombe's morning display meant that they were always going to get something from the four afternoon games and so it happened when Fensome, not enjoying the best of days, fell to the improving Keith Pound, who levelled the match score. Roberts restored the Phyllis Court lead with a straight game wins in his rubber but had to come from behind to do so in his second game, and shortly afterwards Goldring turned the same trick in his second game which put the match beyond High Wycombe.  
Allim's remaining rubber went to a deciding game again but this time he wrapped it up in quick-time 7-1.  
*PCC 'A': Chris Roberts (-1), Roger Goldring (-1), Helena Fensome (1); Raouf Allim (2).*



#### **8 May 2018 - Season-Long GC Competitions playing schedules published**

59 players have entered our seven GC Season-Long Competitions, which is wonderful support.  
The playing schedules are now all visible on their own dedicated webpages, which can be accessed via the buttons on the left hand side of the home page.  
The playing schedules have also been mailed to all members this evening (in easy to print out form), and will be on display in the pavilion in the next couple of days.  
*Good luck everyone!*

#### **7 May 2018 - Allim is first PC player to play in the Coles Championship for years (if ever)**

Raouf Allim (left) broke new ground for Phyllis Court with an appearance in the top flight AC Coles Championship at Cheltenham this long weekend. This is a first for a PC player so far as we know and Raouf was unlucky to come up against the eventual winner David Maugham, who has been a mainstay of the England World Championship team for the last twenty years, in the first round.  
Two close losses eliminated our man from the main event but he 'scalped' three higher ranked players (including England International Robert Wilkinson) in the consolation plate.

#### **4 May 2018 - PCC 'Local Friendly' team lose to High Wycombe**

Visitors High Wycombe were too strong for our team today in this first 'local friendly' match of the season.  
They won three out of four games in the first round of this 'all doubles' encounter, and then scored a clean sweep in the second round.  
So even though our side, lead by Pat Eades, shored up the damage and managed to share even scores in the last two rounds, Wycombe had done enough early on to win 5-11.  
\* Hugh thanks to Dianne Browne who dropped everything to come in as a very late reserve, for an injured Deon Melck, with only 45 minutes notice!  
*PCC 'Local Friendly' team: Alex Earnshaw (5), Dianne Browne (6), Dilys Earnshaw (6), Pat Eades (7) ©, Steve Morton (9), Christine Searle (10), Diana Zatouroff (11), Helen Morton (11).*

#### **6 May 2018 - PCC 'B' v 'C' new date**

The rained-off PCC 'B' v 'C' handicap league match has been re-arranged for Friday 25 May.

**5 May 2018 - Roberts reduces his AC handicap to 'scratch' on Devon trip**

Chris Roberts put aside his GC woe at Sidmouth last weekend (when his GC handicap slipped back to -1 after a poor second day). This week he enjoyed better fortunes at AC on a swift return to Devon, where he reduced his AC handicap to 'scratch' for the first time at the Budleigh Salterton May Week.

**5 May 2018 - Coates debuts in National B-Level Series at Sussex**

Robin Coates played in his first National B-Level Series tournament (for handicaps 3+) at Sussex Count CC, Southwick, near Brighton. Against opposition well seasoned at this level and who mostly had lower handicaps than Robin's 5 grade, he did well to record his two wins, and should be pleased with his start at this level.

**1 May 2018 - Three more pass their Beginner's Training Course**

Congratulations to Hillary Shaw, Helen Jennison and Gary Jennison, who all passed their Beginners Training Course this evening.

When James Crossland attends his last class next week hopefully, that will bring the total players successfully trained this year to **23**.