

# PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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The  
Committee member  
i/c this web site is:  
**Chris Roberts**  
**079 7378 7710**  
[info@kickphoto.co.uk](mailto:info@kickphoto.co.uk)

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### **31st April - Alex edges out Mary to take 5+ Red Ball**

In an exciting date full of close games none was tighter than the final in with Alex built up a commanding early lead. At 0-4 it looked like 'curtains' for Mary but she fought back well to level the scores at 4-4 and was in the ascendancy, but then Alex came back again just when it looked as though he was running out of steam. He scored the next two hoops leaving Mary needing the rest, a prolonged tussle ensued at 11, which Mary eventually won but Alex wrapped it up at the 12th. Congratulations to Alex, this is his first trophy for a few years, and congratulations to Mary who pushed him so close - The full results are on this button:

### **28th April - Frances Colman drops AC handicap to 10 at Woking**

Sharing a court with multiple World Champion Robert Fulford obviously didn't phase Frances Colman at Woking today because her 'three win weekend' took her down a past the 10 handicap trigger. Well done Frances.



### **27th April - Raymond Wood achieves handicap drop to 3 !**

As the dust settled over yesterday's 'A' team win at East Dorset, it was realised that Raymond Wood deserves our hearty congratulations for dropping his handicap rank to 3. He picked up a fantastic 42 points in that match beating John Crowe (handicap 1) in two straight games and following that up by taking a game from the very experienced Tom 'Top Turn' Weston (also a 1hc) *Really well done Raymond! :O)*

### **26th April - Super win for PCC 'A' starts league campaign at East Dorset**

PCC 'A' pulled off an unexpected win today over East Dorset CC in Poole. The hosts were at least a handicap rank per man/woman better than our team on paper but a 'long day in the saddle' was rewarded by some really quite outstanding results. Everyone played their part but under-dog victories by Mike Fensome (3 handicap) and Raymond Wood (4) over a home 1 handicapper were really special performances. Chris Roberts (1) pleasingly beat a scratch player 'eventually' after quiet a grueling battle and teamed up with Frances Colman (3) to grind out a similarly long doubles victory too. So we took the match by 4 games to 3 - What a great way to kick-off our league season!

### **26th April - GC WC - Day 4, 5 & 6 - It's all over for Helena in Cairo**

Cruel luck for Helena as her on match win in the Championship Blocks was discounted along with all results involving Belgian Eric who withdrew unexpectedly on day 4. Nick Cheyne and top seed in her block, New Zealander Duncan Dixon duly added to their own winning tallies and so Helena went into the plate competition. Placed in a block of six, game victories proved illusive on days 5 & 6.

Meanwhile in the main Championship knock-out only two Englishmen (Jacob Carr & Martin French) qualified for the first round of 32 of whom over half were Egyptians. Neither progressed to the third round and fancied New Zealanders Chris Clark and Duncan Dixon went out in that very stage, at least a round earlier than had been predicted. The semi-finals take place tomorrow (Saturday) and it's - Egypt's Ahmed El Mahdi v Reg Bamford (South Africa) and then Egyptian pairing Ahmed Nasr & Hami Erian

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### 23rd April - GC WC - Day 3 - Helena Chalks Up First Win

Helena Fensome beat Belgian Charles-Eric Vilain 7-4, 7-4 in Ciaro today to register her first match win of the tournament. This will give her a huge philip no doubt. Later in the day she got no change out of her group's second seed Ed Cunningham of Ireland and went down 1-7, 3-7. Helena has two block games left and has to face in form Nick Cheyne from the Surbiton Club and Top ranked New Zealander Duncan Dixon who was one of the pre-tournament favorites.



### 22th April - GC WC - Day 2 - Egyptians close out Helena today

The two Egyptian opponenmts that Helena faced today were too good for out plucky Finn who went down 5-7, 6-7 to Osama El Hawash and 5-7, 5-7 to Shaadin Oukasha this evening. So close games scores wise but a first match win remains illusive for Helena.

### 21th April - GC World Championships (Cairo) - Day 1 - Helena runs Aussie close in opener

Helena Fensome went down 1-2 to Austarlian John van der Touw in her opening game in Cairo today where she is representing Finland. She won the first game 7-5 but her experienced opponent closed her out 4-7, 5-7 to take the match which is the first of seven in her 8-player block over the next few days. New Zealander Duncan Dixon and Ed Cuningham of Ireland are top seeds in Helena's block which also includes two Egyptians.

### 20th April - Hard fought but impressive win for PCC 'A' in National Championship

Bath proved to be very tough opposition indeed today but PCC 'A' battled through a long day to secure the match victory. Peter Miles got the visitors off to a great start with a singles win over Raymond Wood, but Frances Colman pulled the match back square for PCC 'A' with a terrific last hoop victory over Bath captain Paul Francis. Frances victory was all the more impressive as it was her 'come back game' following her shoulder problems and to beat a lower handicapped player signs that she is to be reckoned with once again after a season of frustration. Meanwhile Charlie von Schmeider and Chris Roberts had to pull out all the stops to come back from 1-6 down to level their doubles rubber against teenager Harry Dodge and seasoned 'minus AC' player Roger Hayes. A good a 'partner ball promotion' by Roberts to the 13th allowed von Schmeider a controlled clearance and hoop run. The doubles decider was suspended until later and after lunch the head to head singles saw Miles win again for Bath, Wood level the match again and then Roberts give Phyllis Court a slender lead. Young Dodge really had his eye in by now and took his first game against the experienced von Schmeider who had to go to the 13th to pull the rubber back in their second game. As time marched on, the captains decided to revert back to the deciding doubles game rather than play out the remaining singles and the von Schmeider/Roberts combination took the rubber to secure fixture by 4.5 to 2.5. Hats off to Bath and to Harry Dodge in particular who really is a young man to watch.

#### Scores (PCC names first)

Charlie von Schmeider (1) & Chris Roberts (1)	BEAT	Harry Dodge (2) & Roger Hayes (2)	6-7, 7-6, 7-2
Raymond Wood (4)	lost to	Peter Miles (2)	2-7, 5-7
Frances Colman (3)	BEAT	Paul Francis (2)	7-5, 4-7, 7-6
Charlie von Schmeider	drew with	Harry Dodge	5-7, 7-6
Chris Roberts	BEAT	Roger Hayes	7-6, 7-0
Raymond Wood	BEAT	Paul Francis	7-4, 7-4
Frances Colman	lost to	Peter Miles	3-7, 3-7



### 19th April - Debutant Colin wins Charity One Ball, as we raise £100 for Prostate Cancer Reseach

Fresh from his four wins from six games in his first ever tournament at Hamptworth last weekend, Colin Morgan took our Charity One Ball event title today ahead of a 20 strong field. He was undefeated until the very last round when he succumbed to Michael Seagrif, but had done enough to secure victory just ahead of Robin Morrell who also finished with juts the one loss. Unfortunately for Robin, that loss was at the hands of Colin and so he won the event on the 'who beat whom' te break rule. It looked for a long time as though last year's winner Mike Fensome might secure a second sucessive Charity title but COLin held his nerve in a very tense 'pegging-out' sequence. His ability to master the AC roll shot only shown to the filed just before the start of play, was an unexpected revelation and it was the same to for Robin Morrell who stung together some nice breaks in many of his games. Both these chaps should have a serious look at AC because they certainly have the mallet skills.

*Results: Colin Morgan 5/6 - Robin Morrell 5/6 - Mike Fensome & Michael Seagrif (tied for 3rd) both on 4/6 - Phillip Allison, Harry Midgley, Don Rutherford all 3/4, Ralph Chambers & Dianne Browne both 3/5, Delia Norris 2/3, Rosie Richardson, Raghu Iyer & Paddy Bunch 2/4, Helen Walker 2/6, Margaret Broughton 1/3, Helen Morton 1/4, Christine Searle 1/5, Jean Pinguet 0/2, Diane Pascoe 0/4, Frances Colman (coaching), Chris Roberts (managing).*

### 16th April - Supporters welcome at BIG MATCH on Saturday

PCC 'A' (our top team) take on Bath in the National Inter-Club Championship on Saturday.

A good number of our new beginners, who have just finished their initial training are planning to come along to watch and your support will be very welcome too.

As well as our top two players Charlie Von Schneider and Chris Roberts, PCC's strong line-up features Frances Colman and Raymond Wood, all now very experienced at this National Level.

Bath are lead by Scotland International, Ian Morrison and 17 year old Harry Dodge who is a very spectacular player indeed.

A good quality game is in store for all to see, so do call by between 1000-1300 and 1345 - 1530 approx if you possibly can.

### **13th & 14th April - Colin's first Tournament**

Colin Morgan showed tremendous courage to enter his first ever tournament this weekend and it was away from the security of Phyllis Court to boot.

Along with Rosemary Noel-Clarke, Colin took part in the Hamptworth Club's C- level Tournament - details to follow when known.

If you would like to enter events away from PCC, just ask Frances or Chris who will point you in the right direction.

### **- Scalping Chris turns it on at Surbiton**

Chris Roberts took the scalps of three Scotch players including the World no 14, Rutger Buijdenwellen at the Surbiton Open 'Ascot Cup qualifier' this weekend.

He ended up with a tally of 8 wins from 14 games and a likely ranking hike.

Helena Fensome had a less successful tournament, scoring just 3 victories as she warmed up for next week's World Championships in Cairo, where she again flies a lone flag for Finland.

Follow Helena's progress [here](#) - there will be daily updates from Cairo.

### **- Anne makes cover of Croquet Gazette!**

The new look Croquet Gazette features Anne Atfield in action at PCC as part of a cover montage.

Editor Chris Roberts' first issue has been very well received and he was pleased to include Anne's picture if only because she was his initial trainer when he started out in croquet.



### **8th April - 13 beginners took aim today**

The Class of 2013 beginners took aim for the first time today and seemed to enjoy themselves despite the cold. Some good promise shown by most already :O)

### **6th April - Super Sunny Opening Day**

What a glorious day for the opening of our season yesterday!

All four courts saw a steady stream of action with both AC & GC players dusting off their winter cobwebs.

The introduction of new safety boards between some of the courts and, as was most needed, to protect users of the footbath beside court 1, are a most welcome addition.

Today is another wonderfully sunny one, so make hay while the sun shines! :O)



### **4th April - All Hoops now set despite today's snow!**

All the hoops are now in place in readiness for the start of the season, on Saturday.

Chris Roberts would like to send a huge thanks to 'Mr Dependable' David Bromilow for his help in the snow today (yes really!) and to Harry Midgley and Raghu Iyer for their assistance on Tuesday.

Jason will be giving the courts a final trim tomorrow and Frances Colman has new corner flags ready to make our courts look really smart.

We have acquired two brand new mallets for club use in and these have been funded by the main PCC Club in lieu of our donation of four of our oldest mallets for non-Croquet Club members to use via reception.

The two new mallets have been bought with deliberately shorter handles for use by our 'less tall' players or those using the 'Irish grip'.

**ONLY 2 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF OUR SEASON.**



### **3rd April - New mallets for the new season**

A party of seven visited the HQ of the Croquet Association today and five members equipped themselves with new mallets and other croquet gear at the CA's shop.

The CA's office is in the grounds of the Cheltenham Croquet Club and their members hosted our players for social games on their lawns as well as a nice lunch.

Frances Colman and Chris Roberts headed the PCC delegation and were joined by (left to right) Madeleine Probert, Nina Cox, Helen Morton, Rosemary Noel-Clarke and Roger Ellis.

All were most grateful to our hosts for a splendid day.

**ONLY 3 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF OUR SEASON.**

### **2nd April - First hoops in ready for start of season**

Hoops were set out on courts 1 & 2 this afternoon in readiness for Saturday's start of the season.

Harry Midgley, Raghu Iyer and Chris Roberts had a good two and a half hours work this afternoon and work will resume on Thursday to complete the two smaller courts with long standing hoop setter David Bromilow.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) sees a group of seven travelling down to Cheltenham to visit the CA shop.

At least four of the party are interested in purchasing a mallet and there is no better place to visit for this as you are allowed to 'try before you buy'.

Frances Colman and Chris Roberts will lead the visit and the pair will take time out to punmder te CA's archives for items of interest for The Croquet Gazette.

**ONLY FOUR 4 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF OUR SEASON.**

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