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PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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24 June - PCC 'A' v Ryde (away) - postponed

The PCC 'A' league match at Ryde that was scheduled for today has been postponed due to a number of the Ryde players being down with Covid.

26 June - [Phyllis Court members at the British Open Championships - Day 4 \(last\)](#)

Roberts and Goldring en 2nd & 3rd in plate event

Chris Roberts' recovered is game quite well to make it through to the final of the 'Plate' event knock-out today.

The final itself was disappointing for our man, who's usually mid and long-range clearances of days 1-3, faded to mediocrity, as his opponent, Tim Jolliff played an excellent all-round game for a 3-10 win.

Roger Goldring had an excellent run in the Plate too.

He managed to set aside his recent poor form to win all but one of his Plate block games and his knock-out quarter-final before falling in the semi to the eventual winner Jolliff..

Frances Colman was again well employed as the main on-call Referee, and dealt with one tricky situation with her customary calmness

[In the Championship main event](#), Bamford got past Muliner fairly quickly in straight games, while the other semi went the full distance before Fulford scored hoop 13 of the deciding game to defeat Moberly.

The final brought together (again) the best two players of our generation - Bamford and Fulford - both multi-time World Champions.

Bamford won the first game, Fulford stole the second at the 13th hoop and the latter then went on to win the Championship for the first time, becoming only the fifth player to have his name on the trophy in its 22 year history.

25 June - [Phyllis Court members at the British Open Championships - Day 3](#)

Roberts exits Championship after play-off. Goldring resurgent in the Plate

Chris Roberts' crashed out of the Open Championships this morning when a dip in form was exposed by England International Richard 'The Bisonator' Bilton.

Roberts lost his last block match 0-7, 7-5, 4-7 to Bilton, allowing the latter to draw level with Roberts on match wins, meaning a single 13-point play-off game resulted.

While well contested by Roberts, he was always chasing the scoreline on the play-off, and when Bilton's super jump at hoop 9 left Roberts hampered, the game as a contest was over.

Bilton won 7-3 and headed to the Main event, as Roberts had set aside his disappointment to start again in the Plate.

Roger Goldring got a few hoops off multi-time World Champion Reg Bamford in his last block game and looked forward to the following Plate event.

Frances Colman joined the Phyllis Court representation today, was immediately empowered as the main on-call Referee, and responded to frequent calls for judgements from all quarters - including from World Champions Bamford and Mulliner.

In the Plate: Goldring was very pleased to win 3 out of 4 and, with one game to play tomorrow morning, could top his block for a favourable Plate quarter-final draw. Still rueing the morning's disappointments, Roberts only manage 2 wins from 4, to complete his block programme, which will be enough to qualify.

TOMORROW:

Roberts and Goldring will contest the Plate knock-out.

The Main Event has reached the semi-finals stage where the current England Captain J-P Moberly, is joined by 3 former World Champions.

The line-up is Bamford v Mulliner and Moberly v Fulford.

24 June - Phyllis Court members at the British Open Championships - Day 2

Roberts 4th match win assures a play-off place at least

Chris Roberts (Wales) secured a crucial fourth match win today to earn at least a play-off for the Championship knock-out which starts tomorrow afternoon.

The 7-3, 7-4 win over Tony Butcher (-2) was comfortable enough and in contrast to Roberts other two matches which were against top International players in peak form.

Roberts began the day against England's number 1 payer Tobi Savage and did well to live with his opponent's super accuracy as he got hit over and over again.

Roger Goldring commented later, that Savage's hit rate from 15 yards (just under half the length of the court) is very close to 90%, and most of those strikes land centre ball - basically, there is nowhere to hide!

Roberts kept in touch with Savage throughout and actually held the lead in the second game until a fantastic double clearance stroke from the England man at hoop 11 turned the tide in his favour.

Savage then nailed a winning hoop shot from the north boundary to win 4-7, 6-7.

Roberts closed his day with a straight games defeat at the hands of former AC World Champion and multiple GC Open Championship winner Stephen Mulliner, and was left rueing a squandered opportunity at hoop 13 in the second game when his routine hoop stroke caught the grass. He lost 4-7, 6-7.

Roger Goldring (England) was again on the receiving end of the results today but his opponents were all formidable players.

Goldring didn't get much change from fast improving youngster Callum Johnson or seasoned Internationals Ian Burridge and Will Gee (both of whom have wooed Phyllis Court audiences in our past big cup games)

TOMORROW:

Roberts plays another England International, Richard 'The Biltonator' Bilton, in the pair's last block match. If he wins, he will qualify for the Championship 'last 16' knock-out.

If Bilton wins, the pair will be tied on the number match victories, and they will have to face each other in a deciding 'play-of' single game.

Goldring will be looking forward to the experience of playing the famous Reg Bamford, who is not only the top seed at these Championships (which he has won 12 times), but is a TWO time GC World Champion and has won the AC World Championship FIVE times!

24 June - Carol Huntington scores the match winner on a dream debut - PCC 'C' 9 - 7 Caversham

Andy Jones reports

Phyllis Court 'C' welcomed Caversham 'A' to the club on a blustery afternoon on today.

The visitors made a strong start taking 3 of the 4 games in the first round with only Michael Christmas registering a win for PCC 'C'.

In the second round, Colin Morgan and team debutante Carol Huntington scored to keep us in the match, although we trailed by 3 games to 5 at the half way stage.

In Round 3, the 'C' started to apply the pressure as Andy Jones added a win, contributing to a 3-1 round in our favour, bringing the match to all square at the start of the fourth and final round.

Christmas and Jones registered quick wins, meaning that whether the match ended as a draw or a win for the 'C' came down to the final game - and that game came down to the final hoop.

At the end of a very long afternoon of croquet, Huntington tussled with Caversham's Liz Walker through a series of clearances and tight positions until, at nearly 7pm, Huntington stepped up and slotted the winning shot to complete a nail-biting match victory 9 - 7.

Congratulations to all the 'C' team squad who now have 3 wins from 3 matches and top the SCF Advantage Central Division.

Our thanks go to Caversham's Carol and Brian Jamieson for their help in match management and refereeing respectively.

Special congratulations go to Carol Huntington for 3 wins from 4 on her team debut as well as a big *"thank you"* for hanging in there to score the winning hoop at the exact time she was due to be arriving at the Tennis section's Riverside Pavilion ball!

PCC 'C' :Michael Christmas (5), Colin Morgan (6), Andy Jones (6), Carol Huntington (11)

23 June - Phyllis Court members at the British Open Championships - Day 1 (of 4)

Roberts gets and early 'scalp' and wins all 3 of his matches for his 'best ever' start

Chris Roberts {Wales} made light of his traffic delayed and consequently rushed arrival to defeat current England International Euan Burrige (-4) in the shock first round result of the British Open, at Southwick, near Brighton, today.

He caught young Burrige early with a steady and patient display that frustrated his opponent's spectacular hard-hitting style that was out of sorts in the first game of three.

In the second game, Burrige responded with some breath-taking clearances, hoop running from distance and one fabulous 10-yard jump shot at hoop 8 that cleared both Robert's balls without a single bounce!

Roberts had a single hoop lead for most of the deciding third game and two length of the court clearances of his own kept his nose in front right up to the 13th hoop where he took an excellent position, again from the other end of the court, and this was enough for the game and match 7-5, 4-7, 7-6.

Roberts won his other two matches today as well, though requiring a deciding game for both - he beat Richard Brooks (-1), 1-7, 7-2, 7-5 and Louise Smith 7-3, 3-7, 7-3.

His best every start to an Open Championship

Roger Goldring {England} is not enjoying the best of form this season but did show some signs that the 'Old Goldring isn't far away.

He picked-up just the one game win today that forced Taunton's Tim Jolliff to a deciding game before going down 5-7, 7-6, 2-7, and lost in straight games to England International Steve Leonard 4-7, 2-7 but did manage to make (former PCC member) Raouf Allim work for his 6 -7, 6 - 7 victory.

All players will play another three rounds of block games tomorrow.

22 June - Paul Frankin shines on debut as team, win away - PCC 'D' 10 - 6 Eynsham

Phyllis Court 'D' fielded two debutants in Paul Franklin and Ian Forster away at Eynsham today.

Both played with much credit winning three and one games respectively as the 'D' recorded a comfortable victory.

The first two rounds were shared two games apiece but a dominant third round where the 'D' won all four games altered the whole match.

The advantage was pressed home in the fourth round which was won 3-1, for an overall impressive 10-6 final scoreline.

PCC 'D': Jeff Smith (7), Patricia Mulcahy (7), Ian Forster (11), Paul Frankin (12)

15 June - Young triumphs amongst the young at heart (80+ Singles tournament)

Russell Robinson reports:

Nine octogenarian gentlemen of Phyllis Court with handicaps (croquet, that is) between 1 and 14 gathered today to contest the annual 80+ Singles tournament (for the Yellow Ball trophy).

Where were all the ladies, I wonder - next year, maybe?

It was a beautifully sunny day, prompting one of our lady onlookers to ask me to make sure that everyone was drinking enough water as we didn't want an incident!

The tournament was played as a Swiss, which flowed well with the odd number of players.

The trophy bears testament to the fact that the tournament had been won by Mike Fensome (1) for each of the last three years, and with his nearest rivals being handicap 6, he was a very hot favourite to retain the title.

Indeed, he and David Young (8), the latter making his debut in the 80+ event, having only just met the age criterion, were the only players to win their first two games. Cunningly, they were kept apart until the final round in anticipation of a grand finale.

Colin Morgan (6) was the only other player to remain in contention deep into the tournament, but he fell away after failing to overcome Fensome in the fourth round.

Ultimately, third place was actually sealed by Robin Morrell (6) who recovered from a disappointing start, losing his first two games, by winning his final three.

So, it was that Fensome and Young, undefeted after four rounds, who fought out the "winner takes all" decider in the fifth and final round.

Fensome was left rueing his lack of accuracy on the longer clearances, which allowed Young to have his nose in front for most of the game, although it was tense throughout with Fensome pulling the score back to 6-6.

Young had "first-up" advantage to the hoop 13 however and he took his first opportunity to slot pink through the uprights with a difficult angled shot from about three yards.

So, a new name will go on the trophy, and hearty congratulations to David for an outstanding day beating four supposedly "better" players, garnering 66 handicap index points on in the process. A good return for a day in the sun!

Results: David Young (8) (5 wins in 5 games); Mike Fensome (1) (4/5); Robin Morrell (6) (3/5); Colin Morgan (6) (2/5); Ralph Chambers (6) (2/5); John Maguire (8) (2/5); Jim Walter (9) (2/5); Martin Cranstoun (12) (1/4); Fred Macksey (14) (0/3).



6 June - Rainbow players enjoy a social gathering

Madeleine Probert reports

The first Rainbow social evening was held today. 23 Rainbow players, including 10 new members, gathered in the Orangery to meet each other, ask questions about the Rainbow and also the court booking process. Several members had their diaries out and were busy arranging Rainbow games with each other! Madeleine and Hilary organised the evening and were delighted to see everyone enjoying the get-together. Another one is being planned!

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1 June - Jones beats Mulcahy in a 'Phyllis Court One-Two" at Wrest Park - then Mulcahy beats Jones to win our 8+ tournament - and both qualify for National Finals!

For the second time in a week Andy Jones and Patricia Mulcahy battled out a 7-6 last hoop tournament final.

Firstly Jones won the National C-Level (7+) Series tournament at Wrest Park (near Bedford), which was his first CA Fixtures Calendar event, but it was Mulcahy's presence in that tight final that was a feather in Phyllis Court's cap as Phyllis court recorded a noteworthy 1-2.

Jones established a strong lead and was 6-2 up before Mulcahy showed great character to come right back at him and force the last hoop drama.

Jones' victory qualifies him for the end of season C-Level Series national Final at Camerton & Peasedown (near Bath).

Congratulations Andy!

Today though, the tables were turned, and Mulcahy completed another come-back and successfully this time, when Jones squandered a 'first approach' advantage when short at hoop 13.

Mulcahy turned the screw with two well-executed centre-ball clearances before Jones failed with a block attempt and Mulcahy scored the crucial hoop from four feet for her first tournament win.

Madeleine Probert and Wendy Klingon both played their best for some time to finish third and fourth respectively.

The top four qualify for the CA's end of season 'Grass Roots' competition final at Watford.

Congratulations Patricia!