

PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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31st May - 'AC' Team draw again

At Roehampton today, our AC team of Brian Bucknall, June Robinson, JT Johansen and Peter Honey were held to a draw at 3-3.

29th May - Eton College come to PCC

Phyllis Court hosted The Eton College House Croquet Championships today and how nice it was to have the boys and staff with us on a lovely sunny evening. Ollie Myers won the croquet title for Penn House by a slim three hoop advantage over pre-match favorite Edgar von Ottenritter of Farrer House.

The match was a tight affair, and Myers played a cagey game late on, sat on his +3 lead in the last minutes and so took home the silverware.

Earlier in the evening, Myers had won the Doubles title too with partner Duncan Cornish in another very close match, winning by just two hoops over Ollie Sale and Jack Parham of College.

But it was because of the singles runner-up von Ottenritter that the competition had secured such a prestigious setting for its final in the first place.

The young American had visited Phyllis Court last year as a hotel guest, precisely because of the croquet that was on offer at the Club.

His enthusiasm was infectious and two Club members took him under their wing during his stay, and The Club were then delighted to offer their courts for the Eton finals.

"Phyllis Court have been making quite a few waves in UK Croquet in the three or four years" reported Croquet Chairman Chris Roberts in a press release.

"And to have Eton College visit us is another feather in our cap as far as we are concerned.

"It's all well and good getting teams to National semi finals (at Golf Croquet) and other tournament honours that have come our way, but we are very keen to promote croquet when ever we can"

The feeling is apparently mutual, as master overseeing croquet at Eton, the Reverend Canon Keith Wilkinson explained

"Once the word got round that our finals would be held at Phyllis Court, there was jockeying for selection like never before.

"We are so pleased to be able to enjoy such wonderful lawns, lovely setting and hospitality".

Chris Roberts and Frances Colman had their offers to coach croquet at Eton snapped up very quickly and the two parties agreed that, with the event being such a success, the Eton finals will be returning to Phyllis Court next year.



28th May - PCC 'B' Go TOP OF THE LEAGUE

Raymond's Wood's PCC 'B' came from behind, reversing a 1-3 half time score to a 7-5 victory to go Top of the Southern Fed. H'cap League.

PCC 'B' lost only 2 to their 8 singles rubbers with top pics, Raymond Wood and Mike Fensome both conceding a hat-full of extra-turns.

John Chalfont was the star of the day, winning one of his doubles ties and adding victories in both his singles.

Mary Gaynor was not far behind in winning both her singles too.

25th May - PCC 'C' Lose in League

Our 'C' team got close but not close enough against High Wycombe today and let a half time 3 - 1 lead slip to a 5 - 7 reverse today.

After the doubles pairings of Rosie Richardson & Ian Norris, and Hugh Crook & Anne Attfield had done well early on, PCC were found out in the singles and only Ian and Anne managed victories from the eight solo games.

Next up is our 'B' team, who entertain Blewbury on Monday, starting at 1330 - spectators are very welcome as always.

- Handicap reductions for Hugh & Sylvia

Knock-out wins for Hugh Crook and Sylvia Thomson saw them both reduce their handicap down to the '6' mark in the last 24 hours.

Yesterday evening Hugh beat Rosemary Noel-Clarke and this afternoon, Sylvia saw off the very game Jill Hale.

Others to have reduced their handicaps in recent weeks are, Raymond Wood & Mike Fensome (both now 4) and Mary Gaynor &

Michael Wiles (both now 5).

[See the latest rankings here:](#)

- Competition Match Deadline approaching

As the 27th May draws ever nearer, most of the matches have now either been played or are imminent - well done everyone!

[See the progress of the competitions here:](#)

Golf - Handicaps

Golf Croquet

21st May - Phyllis Court to host ETON COLLEGE AC finals

We are excited to announce that ETON COLLEGE will be playing their Association Finals at Phyllis Court on the evening of Tuesday 29th May.

It is yet another 'feather in our cap' that such an ancient School should have asked to play their flagship croquet event at our Club.

They will be playing their Singles and Doubles finals 'double banked' from 17.00 hours and hopefully staying on for a post match supper with us afterwards.

Hopfully this will be the start of the establishment of closer links between our Club and the 'Most Famous School in the World'.



20th May - Tournament successes for 'Newbies' and 'Old Guard' alike

There was a familiar story at both this week's tournaments when established players steered newcomers to first time victories.

Christine Searl's smile just grew wider with each win as she and Don Rutherford (pictured far left) wrapped up the first of our Golf Croquet Drawn Partners Tournaments on Thursday.

And then Margaret Broughton emerged as the 'high handicap winner' of the weekend Association 'Barnes Cups' event as Chris Roberts took the 'low handicap' cup. (pictured, near left).

Click on these buttons to see the full results:

[Drawn Partners 1](#)

[Spring Doubles T](#)



15th May - Golf Team score National 'Murphy Shield' victory at Hurlingham

Phyllis Court scored an impressive 5-2 victory at The Hurlingham Club in the National 'Murphy' Shield Cup Competition Yesterday

Two years ago we sprang a huge surprise to record a similar win over our reciprocal Club friends in our debut match in a sister National event and that one still wrankles with some at the London Club.

Raymond Wood and competition newcomer Mike Fensome lead the way from the number 3 & 4 berths for Phyllis Court with victories in all four of their singles rubbers but all was far from plain sailing.

Helena Fensome added the fifth win in her singles and partnered by Frances Colman, the ladies were just edged out of the doubles and remaining singles by one hoop every time.

In fact no less than 11 of the 17 games went to the final hoop!

With such repeated cliffhanger endings, reminiscent of Man City's Premier League title snatch the day before, the crowd of one man (with no dog) was kept in suspense right until the end.

We now await the winner of the Kenilworth v Watford tie to see who we will face in the National Quarter-Final.

- Association Team beat Oxford University in Southern League

It was double delight for Phyllis Court Croquet with our AC team opening their League season with a sound win over the Students at Oxford University on Saturday. Captain Brian Bucknall, Peter Honey and Harry Midgley all won their matches and newcomer at this level, Michael Wiles ran his opponent as close as two hoops in the overall 3 - 1 win.

The day before the former three players plus Elizabeth O'Dair had shared the spoils in a home friendly with the Roehampton Club.

- Raghu hits the big time in Pink at Winchester

Raghu Iyer represented Phyllis Court at the Naational 'Pink' Charity One Ball Finals on Sunday and had a great time. Although brand new to AC and a GC 'yearling', Raghu (pictured right) mixed it with lots of bisques against some very experienced qualifiers from all over the country.

He managed a very respectable 4 wins in this wonderful tournament which saw a total of 358 players overall raise over £ 3000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.



10th May - Mike Fensome wins Open Singles Tournament

In a day of surprises, steady Mike Fensome made it 3 out of 3 and took home our latest trophy 'The Blue Ball'. Every one lost at least once during an unpredictable day that eventually saw Pam Mead lose out to on form Mike in the final. Pam had 'scalped' top seed Chris Roberts in her semi-final and other notable victories saw Mary Gaynor defeat second seed Helena Fensome and Hugh Crook defeat finalist Pam. There were debut singles entries from Dorothy Elliott (jetting in from the US), Margaret Broughton and John Hale - all of whom won at least once. Thanks to Ralph Chambers for supporting the Tournament by pitching up as reserve.

5+ Doubles T

- Chris Roberts Qualifies for Ascot Cup

On a bitterly cold weekend Chris Roberts sprang a surprise over a top flight field that included uk no. 4 Howard Cheyne and Women's World Champion Rachael Rowe to win the Roehampton GC Tournament. The win qualifies Chris for a place in the 16 man prestigious end of season Ascot Cup Tournament that effectively decides the UK Champion.

Although collecting defeats on the first day (to Rachael and others) and thereby getting a lowly seeding for the knock-out, Chris played 9 exhausting games on Sunday on the way to overall victory.

- Raghu flies PCC flag at National 'Pink' One Ball Finals - 'Good Luck Raghu'

There has been some hasty 'One Ball' training for Raghu Iyer this week before his exciting trip to his first 'outside' Tournament at Winchester on Saturday. Although a new comer to the AC game, Raghu finished 3rd in our qualification 'One Ball' Tournament 10 days ago, but goes forward to represent Phyllis Court in the National finals due to the unavailability of 1st & 2nd placed Mike Fensome & Heather Masheter.

- Competition matches get under way with gusto!

Eight players were quick out of their blocks to play their early competition matches on this, the first week of the season long competitions.

The first three games to be played (and thus earning drinks from Chairman Chris) were Jill Hale's defeat of Joanna Iyer, Rosie Richardson's victory over Peggy Beeson, and John Hales' success against Ann Norman. Well done all of you for your promptness.



1st May - Competition Schedules announced

The playing schedules for the 2012 Season Long Competitions are on display in The Pavilion. They were distributed to all members with e-mail today, and will be detailed on this web site shortly.

27th April - PCC 'B' beat PCC 'C' in season opener

Raymond Wood's PCC 'B' had to work hard to record a win in the first Handicap League game of the season against the spirited challenge of PCC 'C', lead by Michael Wiles, between showers today.

Although the final match scoreline read 9 - 3, the detail of eight of the twelve ties ending either 7-6 or 7-5 showed just how tight those games were. The match was tied at two games apiece after the two doubles rounds but PCC 'B' played a decisive hand in the singles winning seven of the 8 ties.

Teams:

PCC 'B': Raymond Wood, Mary Gaynor, John Chalfont, Mike Fensome

PCC 'C': Rosie Richardson, Don Rutherford, Michael Wiles, Ian Norris

[Click on this link to go to the Teams page for results and league tables:](#)

Results + Selections

24th April - Mike Fensome wins Charity 'PINK' One Ball, as Raghu Iyer springs surprise!

It has been quite a pair of days for Mike Fensome who today added this fun event to his victory crowns.

Losing just one game all morning, Mike emerged as a clear winner ahead of Heather Masheter and surprise outsider Raghu Iyer. Going into the last round, Raghu who only started playing last season, was in with a shout of victory but he had to hope for slips from both Heather and Mike.

But neither faltered and that pushed Raghu narrowly into third place.

More importantly than all that, the event raised £100 for Breast Cancer with the additional aid of a couple of generous donations from other croquet members passing by. [Full results here:](#)

Pink One Ball



23rd April - Mike Fensome & John Stanner 'The Cats' win the (2001) Cave Wolfe

Congratulations to Mike Fensome & John Stanner who won the much postponed 2011 Cave Wolfe (5+ Doubles) Tournament today. 'The Cats', as was their monica for the tournament, emerged as the only undefeated pair after four rounds of rain soaking play.

Playing in this 'flexable swiss' format, chosen because of the uncertain weather prospects, they defeated John Chalfont & Don Rutherford, *'The Monkeys'* in a defacto final.

John C & Don's victories tally saw them tied on three wins with Rosie Richardson & Pat Eades *'The Kangaroos'*, but the chaps were confirmed in second place, having won the 'head to head' match earlier on. Runners-up John C & Don were presented with the Hilda Dobson Cups, and winners Mike & John S took home the Cave Wolfe Salvors (pictured right)



A special thanks to all 14 pairs for sticking at it in the cold and rain - you all made it happen - really well done everyone!

[Full results here:](#)

22nd April 2012 - Helena & Chris' first 'top flight' tournament of the season

Helena Fensome & Chris Roberts joined the strongest field of players assembled for an 'Ascot Cup Qualifying' Tournament outside the UK Open, at Surbiton this weekend. - Of the 17 players, 14 were had handicaps of '0' or '1'.

Both PCC players at least matched their handicaps with Chris (hc 1) winning 4 games from 8 in the block round, and Helena (hc 2) ending 2/8.

Both then won again in a somewhat curtailed Plate competition and Chris was honoured to be asked to referee the final.

Seasoned AC international James Death beat home favourite Howard Cheyne in the final.



18th April 2012 - Waterlogged Courts - First day lost

It's happend already - overnight and morning rain and there is standing water of three of our four lawns.

The drainage work undertaken to the Club House and carparks this winter, has clearly not had any effect on us - very disapointing.



15th April 2012 - Michael gets down to 6

It's congratulations today to **Michael Wiles** (pictured left) who reduced his handicap at the Hamptworth Club's 'C' Level Tournament today.

On the first day, Michael had only missed out winning the whole event by one hoop in the deciding match.

Winning 8 and drawing 2 of his 12 games, Michael collected an impresive 52 index points in the two days to pass the tirigger point that makes him a new 6 handicap.

Micheal will still be eligible for our 7+ Competitions however, having got his entry in weeks ago.

Heather Masheter (hc 7) and Pauline Wood (hc 9) also competed at Hamptworth this weekend.

Golf - Handicaps

- PCC 'A' draw Boardwas (Bristol) or Tyneside in National Cup

Our PCC 'A' team will be breaking new ground with a match against new opponents following the draw for the National Inter Club Championship.

We have been given a first round bye and then the toss for venue will be all importiant when we will be paired with the winners of Bristol based Boardwas, or the Geordies from Tyneside.

12th April 2012 - 22 of our 33 new players start training

'Phase One' of beginners' training got underway today with 22 new recruits being shown the roaps by our training quintet Helena Fensome, Pam Mead, Frances Colman, John Chalfont and Chris Roberts.

Another 11 are waiting in the wings for 'Phase 2' in a couple of weeks time or, in a few cases, join us as players with previous experience.

11th April 2012 - Super Turn-Out for First AC Day

An attendace of 16 was beyond all expectations at today's first gathering of our AC players and those present were rewarded with a lovely sunny morning.

Michael Wiles moved up for last season's 'new AC players group' and new for that band came in **Margaret Broughton** (pictured right) and **Philip Allison**, who enjoyed their first lesson under **Brain Bucknall's** tutorship.

Brian is gathering the entries to our AC Competitions and could do with just a tad nmore support numbers wise to make things work easily.



8th April 2012 - Southern Federation 'Solstice Challenge' (17th June)

Details of this One Day Doubles Tournament, hosted this year by Ryde Croquet Club on the Isle of White, went on display in the pavilion today.

If you would like to represent Phyllis Court, please see Frances Colman or Chris Roberts a.s.a.p. and **no later than 23rd April.**

6th April 2012 - First day of our Season sees bumper attendance

There was action on all four courts in both morning and afternoon sessions with 'doubling up' the norm to accomaodte demand.

It was especially nice to see Vivian Thomson 'back where he belongs' after a difficult winter health wise.

Tournament entry posters now in Pavilion

The 'sign-up' poster for our Open Singles One day Tournament went on display today alongside the those for the Cave Wolfe 2011 and Charity 'Pink' One-Ball events (*posters moved from Reception board*)



PCC invited into South-East Federation Tournament 'Top Tier' & League

We have recieved a hugh complement from one of the strongest Croquet Federations in the UK with an invitation to join them. Despite being outside their geographical area, back in Febraury, the South-East Croquet Federation (SECF) asked us to participate in their new 'Southern Challengege' Tournament and 'Supremo' Bill Arliss announced this week that we have been seeded into Division One with all their strongest Clubs.

And to top this, we have now been included in the SECF's Level Play League, which will provide extra fixtures for our 'A' team, which until now, had only three matches scheduled in the small Southern area league.

As 'outsiders' we are expected to play all these games away as a default, so trips to Surbiton, Woking, Cantabury & Ramsgate are likely. (*The other Clubs in this league are: Compton, Dulwich, Ryde, Sussex County & Tunbridge Wells*)



'Murphy Shield' draw pairs us with Hurlingham

The draw for the Croquet Association's second tier knock-out competition was made this week and sees us drawn to play Hurlingham, most likely away.

We were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals last season and so lets hope we can go at least one better this time!

- The draw for the first tier 'Inter Club Championship' (in which we were also semi-finalists last season) is yet to be made.

Handicap adjusted for Hugh & Others

PCC handicapper Vivian Thomson and the Golf Croquet Sub-Committee met today to review palyers handicaps. The vast majority remain unaltered but some players recived reductions to better reflect their skill level.

'Top Man' in this regard was Hugh Crook (pictured right) who was moved from 8 to 7.

See all the GC handicaps via this buton:

[Golf - Handicaps](#)

Rosie wins in America!

Rosie Richardson arrived back from her winter sojourn with news that she had won the Clarence Trophy ahead of a field of 32 others at her American Club. Here she is (far right picture) being presented with the unusual croquet figurine trophy which unfortunately she had to leave behind in the US. *Well done Rosie!*



4th April 2012 - The Hoops are 'IN'

All the hoops are now in place and after a final cut of the court tomorrow, evrything is ready for the first day of our season Friday (Bank Holiday).

Thank you to Head Gardener Jason and assistant Tom for the lawn preparation and David Bromilow who once again lead Chris Roberts with his superior imperial maths with the hoop setting.