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PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

News

29 April - Trevor Day wins our Handicap Singles day-tournament

It was two out of two tournament victories for Trevor Day today and he looked very assured throughout this six game tournament, played to the new 'Advantage Gc' rules. Day actually lost one game in the block stage to Kevin Ward but thereafter he scored a string of impressive victories over Hugh Crook (4-4), Hilary Cowley (5-7) and then won the final in good style 7-5 against Gillian Symons.

The top four finishers all qualify for the Area Final Stage of the All England Handicap competition at Phyllis Court on 10 August.

Top 4: Trevor Day, Gillian Symons, Michael Christmas, Hilary Cowley

27 April - C-level (7+) Series tournament

A

22 April - PCC 'D' beat PCC 'C', 10 - 6

It was a good day for our higher handicappers as Patricia Mulcahy's PCC 'D' scored a big-margin victory over PCC 'C' in today's non-league warm-up match.

Our two teams will be competing in the Northern and Central Divisions (respectively) of the SCF's Advantage GC League, so this popular fixture was played as a 'stand-alone' affair in preparation for the league season ahead.

PCC 'C' : Michael Christmas (5), Colin Morgan (5), Gillian Symons (9) and Kevin Ward (9)

PCC 'D' : Andy Jones (9), Patricia Mulcahy (9), Steve Morton (11), Ruth Raunkiaer (11)

19 & 20 April - Roberts and Mulcahy win the Senior and Junior AC 'Barnses Cups'

Our AC Spring tournament was played as two separate singles events and was keenly contested throughout.

Chris Roberts won the Senior event with four wins from his five games (losing only to Raghu Iyer) which gave him an unassailable lead with two block games remaining unplayed.

Patricia Mulcahy won the Junior event with a close 2 games to one victory over Keivn Ward.

The tournament was the strongest by way of singles participation for many a year, and of our active AC players, only Charlie von Schmieder (work) and Frances Colman (injury) were missing.

It was a shame that some of our other AC learners were not present to challenge for the Junior event too.

Well done Patricia and Chris

14 April - Court 4 returns!

After an absence of 4 years, I am delighted to report that we now have Court 4 back and in full playing condition - the hoops were positioned this morning! Having been ravaged first by crows digging for chafer grubs and then burrowing rabbits, Court 4 was neglected for too long by the previous grounds staff and then the Main Club's priorities understandably switched to coping with the Covid lockdowns. The change of grounds staff last autumn, breathed much needed new life into the husbandry of our croquet facilities and the Club grounds generally, and everyone will have noticed the marked improvements in the appearance of our (now) lovely estate. **Mark & Emma** and their staff are doing a wonderful job for us and our courts are now in the best condition I've ever known - please pass on your thanks to Mark and Emma when you see them around (*they are around a lot!*).

13 April - Mulcahy and Coates do well at the SCF 'Champion of Champions'

Our Handicap Champions from last season, **Patricia Mulcahy (GC)** and **Robin Coates (AC)** flew the Phyllis Court Flag at the SCF Champion of Champions tournaments at Hamptworth (near Salisbury) on yesterday and today respectively. Patricia won 3 and lost 3, including a narrow 6-7 reverse to the eventual winner, and was pleased with her performance. Likewise, Robin was pleased with his 3 wins and 2 defeats record to finish with a clutch of other players in joint second place behind 21 year-old British Open Champion Aston Wade, who was undefeated.

11 April - Day wins the Charity One Ball - *importantly, we raised £215 for MIND*

I am pleased to tell you that, a commination of donations from players and non-players alike, our Charity One Ball handicap tournament on Monday raised £ 215 for MIND (the mental health charity). The money, plus Gift Aid form, will be sent to the national organiser Kevin Carter shortly.

The tournament was the occasion of a first win for **Trevor Day** who ended with a winning record of 83%, ahead of Robin Coates on 75%, Mike Fensome and Chris Roberts 66%, in a field of 14. I am pleased to say that Trevor is available and willing to represent Phyllis Court in the National Final at Surbiton CC on Sunday 8 May - *Good Luck Trevor!*

7 April - The funeral of our President R.S.'Smokey' Eades (1920 - 2022)

We bade farewell to Smokey today at a small, but nonetheless, respectful and warm service at Slough Crematorium. The Croquet Club were well represented and were joined by a similar number of neighbours. The celebrant delivered a eulogy that included detail of Smokey's school days in the 1930's (that our own Brain Bucknall had researched), his wartime survive, working life and celebrated contribution to Club and National Croquet. All of which was, of course, dwarfed by his love for Joan, his wife of 79 years, who pre-deceased him.

A video recording of the service for a remarkable 102 year-old life can be viewed here: <https://watch.obitus.com> (copy this link and, once on the site, insert the user name: iju1892, and password 368885).

*Chris Roberts
Chairman, Phyllis Court Croquet Club*

6 April - Jim Walter wins the delayed 10+ Singles Tournament

Our 10+ Singles day-tournament was won by Jim Walter, who survived two morning defeats to come through the afternoon knock-out phase with flying colours. He beat Carl Billson 7-5 in the final to become the first recipient of the Green Ball Trophy. Ruth Raunkiaer finished an accomplished third in her first tournament, one place ahead of Carol Wadsworth.

- this early seson tournament was staged partly in lieu of the two weather scuppered attempts to hold it last year.

5 April - Reminder - The Charity One Ball - enter now!

Our Charity One Ball Handicap Tournament is on Monday 11 April - enter by reply e-mail to Chirs please.

This year our fund raising effort will be aid of MIND, the mental health charity

This is our annual contribution to The Croquet Association's big national charity effort which has raised over £38,000 for various good causes in the last decade.

The entry fee fro this one is a £10 on the day donation to Mind, and contributions from non-players will, of course, be gratefully accepted too.

4 April - Phyllis Court knocked-out of the Inter-Club Championship

Local rivals High Wycombe got the better of us in the big cup match on Monday.

Thank you to the hardy souls that came along to support on a cold and damp day.

We were all square at the lunchtime interval and three of the afternoon 'head to head' matches when to a deciding third game, but our visitors won all three.

High Wycombe were kind enough to comment that the 1.5 to 5.5 score-line belied the closeness of the fixture which was played in an excellent spirit between good friends.

1 April - Reminder - an Excellent Spectator Oportunity on Monday 4 April (2 days time!)

The National Inter-Club Championship, first round match - Phyllis Court 'A' v High Wycombe

Please come along to watch these two first choice line-ups in action from 1000 - 1600 approx.

1 April - A reminder about our trial Sunday mix-ins from this Sunday 3 April

A reminder that we are trialling a Sunday mix-in (1600 - 1800) to gauge interest and take up.

Please book-in the usual way by sending Chris an e-mail.