

PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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WE WON THE BIG MATCH

semi-final v Dulwich and so have qualified for the

NATIONAL FINAL

(see news)

Come and watch our **BIGGEST MATCH EVER!**

Phyllis Court v Nottingham ~ Saturday 22 September *(venue to be decided)*

GC Inter-Club Championship NATIONAL FINAL

(see news)

29 August - We win our big match semi to reach the NATIONAL FINAL FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!

I am delighted to report that we won our big match National Semi-Final on Wednesday, which is undoubtedly our clubs' best ever competitive achievement.

This win puts us in the NATIONAL FINAL for the very first time.

The match will be played on Saturday 22 September against Nottingham CC at a venue to be decided in the next few days.

Wherever that is, I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along and be part of, what will be the Croquet Club's Biggest Day Ever.

I will mail you all again when the details are finalised – but for now, PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Those that came along to spectate at today's match in good numbers, enjoyed watching some closely contested games

We were pleased to be joined by Phyllis Court Chairman Barry Jackson, fellow council members Tony Horsfall and Geoff Luckett, and Club Secretary Graham Owen.

It was good to have such support from the Council of the Main Club and I understand that news of our win was the first item discussed at the Council meeting the following day – so good news travels fast!

We took an early lead when Roger Goldring won his morning singles in fairly quick time, but Dulwich struck back with a win of their own in Helena Fensome's match.

There was an unexpected win in the doubles where Raouf Allim and Chris Roberts froze out their opposition very effectively.

So it was 2-1 to Phyllis Court at lunch . . . so far so good!

The afternoon was simply splendid for us, with two wins needed from the four remaining matches, we were never going to have such a good opportunity to spring a surprise result.

First home was Goldring again, with a match winning long run hoop 13 preceding a fist pump to the sky indication sublime satisfaction as his form returned with impeccable timing.



Photo: Raouf Allim executes a difficult hampered stroke, refereed by Frances Colman as Chris Roberts looks on anxiously (photo by Michael Zatouroff).

Allim went to a third game decider with his international opponent Beaudry, which had some brilliant play from both players said one sage onlooker.

And as Roberts closed in on what he thought would be the fourth match victory that would close out the fixture, and great cheer went up as Fensome stole the moment with the crucial victory in her match.

Roberts win moments later iced Phyllis Court celebrations and Allim's deciding game was abandoned with the fixture result in the bag.

Final score: Phyllis Court 5.5, Dulwich 1.5

The match results are as follows (Phyllis Court names first):

Raouf Allim (-2) & Chris Roberts (-1) beat Pierre Beaudry (-3) & Mark Daley (-3) 7-4, 7-5

Roger Goldring (-1) beat Andrew Dymond (-1) 7-2, 7-5

Helena Fensome (1) lost to Simon Carter (-3) 3-7, 6-7

Raouf Allim drew with Pierre Beaudry 4-7, 7-3 (third game was not finished)

Chris Roberts beat Mark Daley 7-4, 7-3

Roger Goldring beat Simon Carter 7-3, 7-6

Helena Fensome beat to Andrew Dymond 3-7, 7-4, 7-4

PCC 'A': Raouf Allim (-2), Roger Goldring (-1), Chris Roberts (-1), Helena Fensome (1)

28 August - Winchester 4, PCC'A' 3 - we lose our Level League title

Phyllis Court 'A' lost our Level league title today at Winchester.

Chris Roberts had an easy singles win in the morning but the doubles pair Raouf Allim and Roger Goldring wend down in three games to their hosts and did Helena Fensome in her singles.

So at 1-2 down, Phyllis Court had it all to do in the afternoon.

Goldring's form deserted him for once and with the loss of his singles match, we were soon it we were looking down the barrels of defeat.

If came soon enough when Fensome lost her match whilst Roberts and Allim went to, what turned out to be academic third games in their matches.

Roberts stopped a run of four accidental 'gift hoop' peels on his opponent to win smartly and there was entertainment aplenty as Allim scored and impressive 2-1 victory over the his highly ranked opponent.

PCC 'A': Raouf Allim (-2), Roger Goldring (-1), Chris Roberts (-1), Helena Fensome (1)

27 August - PCC trio enjoy Selectors' Second Eight tournament

Raouf Allim, Roger Goldring and Chris Roberts were chosen to play in the second tier of the prestigious UK Selector's Second Eight which took place over the past three days at Canterbury CC.. Roberts was PCC's best performer when he qualified for the semi-finals at the expense of club mate Raouf Allim by dint of one more game win when the latter lost his final game of the round-robin of three-game matches.

It was gruelling schedule of three matches per day meaning potential nine games daily and Roberts played almost that when all but one of his matches went to a decider.

He lost the first game of his semi by one hoop but was then beaten comfortably in the second game, so he finished joint third in the tournament, two places higher than his seeding.

Consigned the Plate, Allim won that event and consolidated a fifth-place finish in the tournament, in this his first outing in the Eights.

Phyllis Court's other player Roger Goldring was deserted by the good form that has seen him climb steadily up the UK ranking this season, but recovered to take second place in the Plate, and 6th overall, behind Allim.

PCC participants: Chris Roberts (=3rd), Raouf Allim (5th), Roger Goldring (6th).

26 August - Second win in two days reduces Iyer's handicap to 11

Raghu Iyer ned juts one point to take his handicap to a new carear best of 11. He achieved this today in an internal AC match.

Congratulations Raghu!

PCC (AC): Richard Peperell (5), Frances Colman (9), Raghu Iyer (12), Robin Coats (16)

25 August - PCC 'AC' lose to Eynsham

PCC 'AC' lost their last league game of the season to visitors Eynsham this morning. Captain Raghu Iyer recorded Phyllis Court's sole win in the 1-3 defeat that made Eynsham league winners.

PCC (AC): Richard Peperell (5), Frances Colman (9), Raghu Iyer (12), Robin Coats (16)

24 August - Open Doubles tournament final sits 'on ice'

The final of our Open Doubles 'Lain Lindsay' tournament is will be between top seeds Raouf Allim & Roger Goldring and Dianne Brown & Colin Morgan who sprang a surprise by beating second seeds Frances Colman and Chris Roberts in their semi.

At the end of a long day with the light fading fast and more than a chill in the air, the final was sensibly postponed by mutual agreement.

Full results will appear here shortly.

22 August - Allim joins Goldring and Roberts at National GC Selectors' 2nd Eight

Raouf Allim has been called up to the National GC Selectors' 2nd Eight tournament to be played at Canterbury CC this coming weekend and Bank Holiday Monday. He joins Roger Goldring and Chris Roberts who were already in the starting line-up. Roberts has been asked to be the Manager of the event, which (along with the 1st Eight) sits at no.3 in the hierarchy of the CA's golf croquet tournaments.

22 August - All England Area Final at Phyllis Court

Four Phyllis Court players took part in our first hosting of an Area Final of the GC All England Handicap competition today. There were two qualification places for the National final at stake.

Ian Norris won the tournament from Mike Fensome on 'net hoops' after both tied on 6 wins from their 7 games.

Unfortunately, Norris is unable to take up his place in the National Final due to a prior engagement.

Fensome is yet to conform his intended participation.

Taking Norris' place is third placed finisher Keith Toovey (High Wycombe).

PCC participants: Ian Norris (1st, 6 wins from 7 games), Mike Fensome (2nd, 6 wins) Delia Norris (4th, 4 wins), Roger Goldring (6th, 3 wins).

19 August - PCC players make up entire Oxfordshire team and Peperell plays for Berkshire

Four Phyllis Court players made up the entire Oxfordshire team at the GC Inter-Counties Championship today.

Captain Roger Goldring reports:

At the end of day 1 (of 2), after an excellent start with 10 wins and 1 loss by the mid-afternoon, we 'tailed-off' badly to be on 11 wins and 7 losses by the close of play.

Another Phyllis Court player, Richard Peperell, is playing for rivals Berkshire.

No clear leading team had emerged yet from the six that will have played each other twice by the end of the tournament.

All were attempting to finish first or second and win promotion from Division 2 in this its inaugural season.

Roger later reported:

On day 2, Oxfordshire's push for promotion continued but fell away in the last couple of rounds as Glamorganshire topped the division and Surrey just piped Oxon. for second place.

Peperell's Berkshire finished fifth.

Oxfordshire: Roger Goldring (-1, captain), Raouf Allim (-1), Helena Fensome (1), Mike Fensome (1).

Berkshire: Richard Peperell (2) and three non-PCC players.

17 August - PCC 'B' 7, Harwell 5

Saving the best until last, the 'B' scoured their long awaited first win of the season today.

Debutant Tony Peperell did well, winning both his doubles in partnership with Hugh Crook and one of his two singles games.

Captain Crook did even better and was undefeated all day.

PCC 'B': Hugh Crook (5 - captain), Colin Morgan (5), Ralph Chambers (7), Tony Peperell (9).

14 August - High Wycombe 9, PCC 'Friendly' 7

Captain Madeleine Probert reports:

The atmosphere was relaxed and we played some good close games at High Wycombe today.

At lunchtime the score was 4-4. Unfortunately the final result was 9-7 to our hosts, but overall we were pretty evenly matched.

I think we all had a good day - our hosts were very friendly and looked after us very well, with teas and coffees during the day and lovely cakes and tea at the end!

PCC 'Friendly': Ralph Chambers (7), Mike Christmas (8), John Maguire (9), Madeleine Probert (9 - captain), Steve Morton (10), Diana Zatouroff (11), Jim Walter (11), Rosemary Noel-Clarke (12).

13 August - PCC 'C' 9, Wingrave 3

An excellent rounding off of the season by the 'C' under the captaincy this time of Delia Norris.

PCC 'C': Dianne Browne (5), Delia Norris (5 - captain), Mary Gaynor (5), Don Rutherford (6).

11 August - Rain disrupts our National B-Level Series 'Smokies's Cup' Tournament

Players came from near and far to contest the Phyllis Court round of the National B-Level Series competition last weekend.



Rain ruined the day one plans, as the original plan for an 'all play all' format had to be re-thought when only three of the scheduled eight rounds of games had been played before the courts became waterlogged, preventing further play. The poor weather and cold temperatures when particularly felt by the tournament's overseas participants, Iain Mason from South Africa, and Rich and Karen Quilter from the Croquet Club of Corfu. Despite this Mason and Rich Quilter surprised the field by holding a three-way lead with Mike Bilton (Yorkshire) when the enforced break came. That pattern continued well into the second day with the field of 16 failed to make an impression on the leaders, until Mason fell by the wayside with a couple of rounds to go to leave the other two tried on eight out of ten game wins at the close. Bilton took the trophy (Smokey's Cup) by dint of his victory over Quilter in their 'head to head' game, and he now qualifies for the National final next month.

PCC players: Robin Coates, Colin Morgan and Don Rutherford all recorded 4 wins (from their 10 games).

8 August - PCC'A' 6, Ryde 1 - We go back to the TOP OF THE LEAGUE

Phyllis Court 'A' scored a convincing victory over Ryde from the Isle of White today, to reclaim top spot of the Southern Croquet Federation Level League. Chris Roberts and Roger Goldring were taken to a deciding third game by visitors Roy Tillcock and Stuart Peters in their doubles rubber to finally see of a match that lasted nearly four hours. In the number three berth for Phyllis Court, Raouf Allim had long since finished his singles match with Pam Sim in two straight games and at number four, Helena Fensome also won her singles Dave Willett, but need the third deciding game. Leading 3-0 at the halfway point, there was understandable confidence from the Phyllis Court team during the lunch break, knowing that one more win from any of the four afternoon singles matches would secure the result of the fixture. They didn't have long to wait, as Allim saw off Willett fairly quickly to make it 4-0 to Phyllis Court just before Fensome fell to Sim as the Islanders gained some consolation. Goldring was pushed all the way by the improving Peters but won eventually in straight games and in the number one game Roberts won the last hoop of the deciding game for the narrowest of victories over Tillcock. The overall 6-1 winning score-line put Phyllis Court back on top of the League table by the margin of just one game win over Winchester, and the two undefeated sides meet to decide the little on 29 August in Hampshire
PCC 'A': Chris Roberts (-1), Roger Goldring (-1), Raouf Allim (-1), Helena Fensome (1).

Come and watch the **Biggest Match at PCC** for two years

Phyllis Court v Dulwich ~ Wednesday 29 August

National GC Inter-Club Championship semi-final

Featuring international players Pierre Beaudry (Dulwich) and six other players in the UK top 60.

The best croquet quality you will see this year right on our own courts - come along to support Your Club team in our second only appearance in the national semi-finals. Play will start at 1000, break for lunch at 1300 to 1345, and conclude at about 1700.

A big crowd is expected, so to be sure of a seat, bring your own deck chair!

Re-arranged date

1 August - PCC (AC) beat Roehampton

Our Association team scored a good 5-2 win over visitors Roehampton today in our annual friendly encounter. It was all the more friendly as the Roehampton were lead by former PC member Peter Honey and it was good to see him back on our courts. The morning doubles were shared one game each when Chris Roberts and Raghu Iyer own their but the visitors overhauled Richard Peperell and Frances Colman with the last turn of their game. After lunch Roberts beat his opposite number in fairly quick time and then scored a repeat victory in an extra game between the pair. Peperell got a very good win against the lower handicapped Honey, Colman lost her singles in another close finish, and captain Iyer won with a bit to spare
PCC (AC): Chris Roberts (0), Richard Peperell (5), Frances Colman (9), Raghu Iyer (12)