

# PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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### 26 February - Roger 'scalps' two minus players in New Zealand

Roger Goldring played the first of two formal tournament days today on his visit to the 'Land of the Long White Cloud'. **He reports:**

*"I had a middling day at the Counties-Manukau Croquet Association Annual GC Tournament (Level Singles) at Manurewa club, which is about 20 miles south of Auckland, with 3 wins and 4 losses. My wins included a couple of "scalpings" against a -1 and -2 both from the Howick club that I'll be visiting again during my three weeks.*

*My final game was against the New Zealand veteran, the world class Bob Jackson, a -3.*

*I strongly contested hoop 3, the battle going on for a quarter of an hour, with some quite decent clearances from myself in "hopeless" situations, but the wily Bob finally prevailed, and with his skilful play he slowly moved ahead and took the game.*

*The tournament ran very smoothly and it was a great day, in perfect summer weather, with hosts were friendly and welcoming."*



### 23 February - PCC trio in action abroad - South Africa and New Zealand

There was a 'Croquet comings and going' at Heathrow today when Frances Colman and Chris Roberts flew back from playing in South Africa and Roger Goldring took off for croquet courts in New Zealand!

#### Frances Colman & Chris Roberts in South Africa - with passport 'excitement'

The Southern Cape AC Championships at Somerset West (about 45 minutes from Cape Town) had, once again, been the draw for Frances and Chris, whose annual migration was rewarded with scorching sun almost throughout as usual. Chris reports: 'We both had early exits from the handicap knock-out and plate on the first day which was disappointing, but Frances recovered well to later win 50% of her block games against closely matched opponents. I also won 50% in my block and was the only one to beat the top player at the event – Mark Avery (AC -2 handicap) who only just missed out on a place in the upcoming England Mac team. This was my biggest AC win ever by some way because Avery is no.25 in the World.

\* The realisation that both our passports had been lost (presumed stolen) earlier in the trip, caused some last day 'excitement'. Thank goodness our friend and fellow PCC Croquet member Carole Jackson, who lives in Somerset West, was able and willing to assist us with a drive to the British Consulate in Cape Town where Emergency Passports were obtained in the nick of time to still make our evening flight home! - *Thank you so much Carole!* :O) :o)



#### Roger Goldring is New Zealand bound

Roger Goldring flew off to Auckland, New Zealand, today armed with his brand new top of the range 'Trimmer' mallet.

It only arrived in the last week and Roger has been practicing feverishly with it.

He has entered into two tournaments and has promised to keep us updated with how he gets on. **He details his plans as follows:**

*"25-26 Feb, I'm entered into The Counties-Manukau Croquet Association Annual GC Tournament: at Manurewa CC, which is about 20m south of Auckland. I'm in the Level Singles event (on Sunday 26th).*

*1-5 March, I'm entered into The Pukekohe Croquet Club Annual Tournament: at Pukekohe CC, which is about 35m south of Auckland. And again I'm in the Level Singles event (on Sunday 5th).*

*I'm visiting four croquet clubs in and around Auckland: they are Orewa, Point Chevalier, Mt Albert, Howick. A fifth visit, to North Shore (Devonport) is also planned.*

*Auckland is well served by a lot of croquet clubs. And my impression so far is that - like New Zealanders in general - they are a very friendly bunch, and welcoming."*



## 5 February - Goldring and Roberts get CA International Development Squad call-up

Roger Goldring and Chris Roberts learnt this week, that they had been selected Croquet Association's ten-player International Performance Development Squad (IPDS). Their selection was attributed to their steadily increasing UK ranking grades which are a good indicator of improvement and promise, coupled with the large number of games that they both packed into last season.

Goldring's tally of 172 ranking games last season was one of the highest in the world!

This selection is a feather in their caps and in that of Phyllis Court because there is only one other club, Nottingham, with a similar dual recognition.



## 31 January - Top UK coach Cliff Jones to run one of three courses at our club

As announced at our pre-season meeting:

**15-16 March** - The Croquet Club have invited the UK's top coach Cliff Jones to run a **GC Rules and Referees Qualification Course**.

The more serious of our own players will join several visitors for this course and it is hoped that some will take the examination to become greatly needed qualified referees.

An option to some to attend just the first 'rules day' will appeal to some, and entries are already coming in.

**28 February** - For our higher handicapped players, two of our own qualified referees, Frances Colman and Chris Roberts will be running a '**So you think you know the rules?**' seminar. This will be a mixed classroom and on-court demonstration based event which we hope many members will take advantage of. **POSTPONED**

**6 March** - And there will be a third educational event as well -

Colman and Roberts will be running a **Tournament Management Course**.

This will be another classroom course and a chance for our own and visiting competitive players to learn how tournament tick.

**10 March** - In place of the postponed event above - Colman and Roberts will be running a PCC Improvers Coaching Day

This will be a mostly on-court day (if the weather is kind) - split into a morning or afternoon class.

This is aimed at last year 's and other recent new players especially, as well as 'mix-in' regulars who want to improve their game - e-mail Chris if this interests you.



## 26 January - Day tournaments programme sent out - includes two new events aimed at high handicappers!

All of the familiar tournaments are retained for 2017, but we also have a couple of new ones - directed particularly at those at the high handicap end of our club (which is the majority of you).

With the exception of the May 17 tournament listed below, entry to all our internal tournaments is by the 'sign-up' sheet for each which will appear on the pavilion notice board.

This will appear 4 weeks before the relevant tournament - first come first served.

### So what's new?

#### **NEW-1 Wednesday 17 May - C-Level 7+ Singles - open to visiting players - A NATIONAL FIRST for Phyllis Court**

Leading the way for other clubs around the country we will be hosting the first Nationally advertised level play tournament for player with handicaps of 7 or more.

This paves the way for a National Series of such tournaments that will be launched in 2018.

We do hope that in addition to visiting players, we will get a good showing from our own members.

Entry to this one is via a Croquet Association entry form and needs to be done ASAP - contact me (Chris) straight away, if this interests you.

#### **NEW-2 Thursday 20 July - Phyllis Court 8+ Singles**

For Phyllis Court players only - another chance to show what you can do.

This one is particularly targeted at last (and recent) season's beginners and all you 'all comer/ mix-in' players that have been reluctant to enter a tournament before.

This one has been deliberately staged on a Thursday when you all will be due to play croquet anyway - please do support this new venture - it's meant for you!

## 26 January - Season-long competition entry forms sent out - NOW IS THE TIME TO ENTER!

There is something here for all levels of ability and so we do hope that everyone will get involved - new and previously reluctant players are especially encouraged.

Let's make this a record season for participation!

## 24 January - Good day at Pre-Season meeting and Winter Lunch

Those that came along to our Pre-Season meeting and/or Winter Lunch all had a good day at the Club today - some even played some croquet afterwards!. About 40 attended the meeting to hear what is in store this season - details of which will be sent out in a number of e-mails in the coming days. The Lunch was very tasty indeed, and a marked improvement on last year, which is a good sign for us and The Club in general. A good day :O)

## 22 January - Winter play continues - 'come on down'

Okay it was jolly cold today but full marks to Dianne Browne (below) and Dylis Earnshaw who played for an hour or two and were rewarded by a beautiful bright day despite the temperature.



## 13 January - We get some 'Good Press' in the Henley Standard

## 7 January - 'GC Mix-in' starts tomorrow

The hoops are in on Court 2 as weell, so it's all systems go now!  
'All comers' has a new name - it's now 'Mix-in' and it starts tomorrow.  
1300 - 1600 - every Sunday  
1300 - 1600 - every Tuesday  
1300 - 1600 - every Thursday  
'Come on down eveyone' :O)

## 4 January - Winter play starts on schedule

Winter play got off to a good start with five players an action this morning and two more the afternoon (see photo, right)  
'Come on down eveyone' :O)

419419 www.henleystandard.co.uk Henley Standard, Friday, January 13, 2017 29

### Sport

#### CROQUET

## Early season play under way as club looks to build on success

PHYLIS Court Croquet Club is looking to build on a successful 2016 with an early start to their season last week.

Several players took advantage of the unseasonably mild weather, all be it in hats and gloves rather than traditional whites.

Speaking this week, the club's croquet chairman Chris Roberts said: "It's all about preparation for the season ahead.

"We have a number of members who play competitive croquet each week on national circuits away from Phyllis Court and some who even travel abroad for their croquet fix."

Roberts, who is one of a number of players who keeps his croquet going all year round, added: "It's no good hanging up your mallet at the end of September and expecting to pick up where you left off in the spring without any practice."

Phyllis Court enjoyed their most successful run to date in the National Inter-Club Championship last year when a crowd of more than 100 watched their narrow defeat at the semi-final stage.

That was a record number of spectators of any British inter-club match, including

finals, in the 33-year history of such events.

Phyllis Court will be hoping to match that cup run this year, or perhaps even go one better and reach the

final. They are no strangers to such showpiece occasions, having seen their second string team end runners-up in the restricted second tier National competition in

2015. The club do not forget their social and pastime players and can boast one of the largest memberships of the country's approximately 200 croquet clubs. Social mix-in sessions take place three times a week and the club also organise a raft of season-long competitions and day tournaments that are suitable for all skills levels.

Beginners' training takes place in the first week of April each year and the club take pride in offering 'something for everyone'.

Roberts added: "The idea is to provide a positive croquet experience for all, and that might be anyone from the un-competitive social only player type right through to those with ambition to reach the very top of the sport."

"Our top player Charlie von Schmieder, from Checkendon, played in the world team championship for Ireland last year, and at the other end of the scale we have two social players still enjoying their croquet into their nineties!"

**Playing on:** Frances Colman plays blue at Phyllis Court Croquet Club last week watched on the lawn by fellow players Don Rutherford, John Maguire and Roger Goldring

#### HOCKEY

## Drummond's fine saves not

### 3 January - WINTER PLAY STARTS TOMORROW (Wednesday 4th)

But always check our website for daily updates on court conditions (and closures)

I am very pleased to say that Head Gardener Paul and his team prepared and white-lined on Court 1 this afternoon. This meant that I had just enough time to set out the hoops on that court before it got too dark!

For those that notice these things, the hoops are deliberately 'off-set' three feet nearer the main club building so as to preserve the ground at their correct summer positions.

They are set quite generously (wide) until you all get your eyes in! <w!Emoticon-smile[1].png>



#### IMPORTANT - Usual 'winter rules' apply:

- (1) If the website says that the courts are open – this still means that there is to be NO PLAY until any frost thaws (and it might be late in the morning before it does)
- (2) No jump shots
- (3) Whites are not required but flat shoes most definitely are
- (4) Always repair your divots straight away (before another ball is played) - this is especially important in the winter when the ground is soft – there is a repair tool in the pavilion drawer.
- (5) Play quickly – it is too cold to stand about!
- (6) If practicing, please don't just run hoops over and over again because with soft ground rabbit-runs will develop very quickly indeed. Think about practicing other things. . .

Later this week – Court 2 has been mown and will be white-lined in the next few days, allowing the siting of hoops there too.

Once that court is also available for play, I will write again and designate certain days for 'Mix-in' sessions and open up the on-line court booking system for other times.

Until then, there is no 'booking of the courts' and I ask that you all please be sure to involve anyone that turns up, and if there are more than 8 of you, take a turn sitting out.

### 2 January - New Year's Honours List

This from CA Handicappers ~ Chris Roberts and Frances Colman

#### Automatic handicap reduction

Philip Allison 9 to 8 (congratulations Philip, who earned this reduction winning the handicap final last season)

#### Annual handicap review – manual changes

The following players have received handicap adjustments at the discretion of CA Handicappers Chris Roberts and Frances Colman, in line with CA directives.

Decisions take account of competitive singles activity (or lack thereof) where insufficient games have been played for the Automatic Handicapping System to truly reflect a player's current ability, especially when judged against players of similar ability away from Phyllis Court.

Joanna Iyer	10 to 9	(congratulations Joanna)
John Maguire	10 to 9	(congratulations John)
Edmund Shirley	10 to 9	(congratulations Edmund)
Christine Searle	11 to 9	(congratulations Christine)
Robin Coates	14* to 9	(congratulations Robin)
Angus McKibbin	14* to 10	(congratulations Angus)
Deardre McKibbin	14* to 10	(congratulations Deardre)

*\* this had been a starting grade set at the start of last season*

Several members who are now either inactive players (or are only very seldom so), former players or social only members, are now shown on our website handicap list in the 'inactive' area.

Last held handicaps are recorded so that if these members resume playing sometime in the future, their past standard can be taken into account when setting a resuming handicap.

The list assumes for the time being at least, that unless already notified to the contrary, everyone will be re-renewing their membership (we do hope so).

See the full GC handicaps list via this button:

[GC Handicaps](#)