

# PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

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### Coronavirus

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**31 December** - January play reminder

As we end the year, please remember that the courts will be open throughout January.

**31 December** - Review of the Year

Here are all the 2021 ' Top Achievers of the Year':

The  
Committee member  
i/c this web site is:  
**Chris Roberts**  
079 7378 7710  
[info@kickphoto.co.uk](mailto:info@kickphoto.co.uk)

We are Club Teams handicap  
**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!**

Winning the GC Federations Shield  
*(see news item)*

**Roger Goldring**  
is the All England Handicap  
**NATIONAL CHAMPION**

*(see news item for link)*

**PCC 'A' retain  
SCF Open League Title**

**PCC 'C' win their division but lose  
SCF Advantage League Final  
play-off**

**Season-long competition  
2021 winners**

**Internal Day Tournament  
2021 winners**

**GC Club Champion - Roger Goldring**

3+ Singles winner - Rick Lilley

7+ Singles winner - Allan Henderson

10+ Singles winner - Gillian Symons

Handicap Singles - Patricia Mulcahy

*3+ Singles 'plate' - Allan Henderson*

*7+ Singles 'plate' - Gillian Symons*

*10+ Singles 'plate' - Sally Batty*

*10+ Evening Series - John Rumford*

AC Handicap Singles - Robin Coates

Open (Blue Ball) - Roger Goldring  
3+ (Red Ball) - Russell Robinson  
8+ (Black Ball) - Jeff Smith  
80+ (Yellow Ball) - Mike Fensome  
H'cap (White Ball) (1) - Rick Lilley  
H'cap (White Ball) (2) - Roger Goldring

Open Doubles - Coates & Browne  
Restricted Doubles - Browne & Symons

**Phyllis Court players who qualified  
for 2021 National Finals**

Championship Series - Chris Roberts (did not attend)

Open Series - Chris Roberts (3rd)  
- Roger Goldring (12th)

All England H'cap - Roger Goldring (WON)  
- Rick Lilley (4th)

A-Level (0+) - Rick Lilley (did not attend)

B-Level (3+) -

C-Level (7+) - Patricia Mulcahy

Grass Roots (8+) - Jeff Smith (4th)  
- Carol Wadsworth  
- Steve Morton  
- Allan Henderson  
- Kevin Ward  
- Patricia Mulcahy

As mid-December approaches, a good number of our hardy members are continuing to book courts for their croquet at times of their own choosing. And although numbers attending the GC Mix-in have, not surprisingly, dropped-off, it remains a weekly fixture every Thursday 1300-1600, whilst our AC section have a similar session on Tuesday mornings. Please continue to make your private or Mix-in bookings with an e-mail to Chris as usual.

### **28 November** - Middle 'Court 5' now in operation

The 'winter configuration' of our courts is now in place with the centre area of court 1 & 2 now marked out as a single 'Court 5' in order that we stay off the traditionally very wet ends of that large playing area. Court bookings are unaffected, so please continue to book for your private games as previously, on either the 'new' full sized Court 5 or the smaller Court 3. GC Mix-in remains at 1300- 1600 on Thursdays but now with a reduced capacity limited to the first 16 bookings.

### **18 November** - 2021-2022 committee roles assigned

The 2021-2022 committee met (via Zoom) for the first time today and, amongst other business, the following committee roles were confirmed and decided:

Chairman - Chris Roberts  
Secretary - Madeleine Probert  
Treasurer - Russell Robinson  
Membership - Hilary Cowley  
Courts - Rick Lilley  
GC - Chris Roberts  
AC - Raghu Iyer  
w/o portfolio - Paddy Bunch  
w/o portfolio - Patricia Mulcahy

Contact details for all the committee members are available on the 'About Us' page, always accessible from our front page, but also for your convenience, here:

### **11 November** - Good night had by all, as Goldring scoops silverware hoard at our Annual Prizegiving Dinner

Hilary Cowley organised a lovely evening for our Annual Prizegiving Dinner in the Club ballroom this evening.

It was especially nice to see so many of our members who have joined in that last two years present - remembering of course that we weren't able to hold an event last season, so this was a debut dinner for many.

The 'taking of wine with' interjections kept the evening on a 'together' and 'on theme' basis whilst providing some soft fun along the way, as each time our National Handicap Champions Roger Goldring was brought to his feet to take the toasts.

There were an unusually high number of absentees (mainly for Covid concerns) amongst those due to receive prizes this year, which was a shame but understandable, by this was countered by a good number of first time winners, including John Rumford (winner of the new Evening Series) who only joined us this year.

Roger Goldring took home the most silverware however (he needed two boxes!), including his National Trophy which was presented as the penultimate prize by Frances Colman on behalf of the CA and she was on hand also to re-present the GC Federations Shield to our National Champions team!

### **5 November** - Good membership engagement at our first Hybrid AGM

Our first Hybrid AGM was a great success, thanks to the technical skills of Steve Morton who brought 16 on-line (Zoom) members in to the room to joining the 29 physically present in the Riverside pavilion, so we easily surpassed quoracy requirement.

Additionally, 24 members had sent apologies and all of them had voted on the resolutions in advance, so all told, 69 members engaged with our AGM one way or the other.

The minutes will be circulated in the next couple of weeks, but the headlines were the re-election of all but one of the 2021 committee and the first election for Patricia Mulcahy, who we are very pleased to have in our committee number.

The committee members standing down this time was Roger Goldring, who came to the end of his 5-year stint, all spent as our excellent Secretary. Roger was given a book on AC and the now customary personalised Phyllis Court Croquet mug as a small token of our gratitude to him.

A couple of days after the AGM, the new committee elected Chris Roberts to continue to serve as Chairman, and at the same time, it was decided that Madeleine Probert would take over as Secretary and Russell Robinson remained as Treasurer; other positions will be confirmed at the first meeting of the new 2021-22 committee in a couple of weeks' time.

**18 October onwards**

## **WINTER RULES**

**IMPOTANT** - We are all going to have to be very careful with how and when we play in order to protect the courts, otherwise the facility may be withdrawn.

- **No play if ground is frosty\*** - you will have to wait for it to thaw

*\* treading on frosted grass seriously damages the grass plant (so don't do it).*

- **No play if it's waterlogged** - you will have to re-book for another day

- **No jump shots**

**17 October** - Allan Henderson beats Phil Johnson in 3+ Singles 'Plate' Final late nighter!

Allan Henderson defeated Phil Johnson on Sunday evening in the last of Phyllis Court's golf croquet internal competition finals, and in so doing brought down the curtain on the club's competitive season.

This final of the 3+ Singles plate competition had been delayed by three weeks due to a holiday and then an injury to Henderson's opponent Phil Johnson.

The match itself was a long one, seeming almost as if its protagonists were eking out every last minute of their court time, but in truth this was good close competitive play with prolonged contests at most hoops.

Johnson has developed a very accurate eye and his clearance strokes were on song all game, with the effect that despite Henderson's generally more accurate ball placement and hoop shooting skills, Johnson was 'disrupter in chief'.

Areas of worn ground in the hoops bedevilled Henderson's touch play on several occasions when his softly struck hoop shots that would ordinarily have scored, instead stuck in the hoop jaws and Johnson always seemed to be well positioned to execute strong clearances from behind.

Favourite, Henderson won the first game easily enough 7-4 but was then pegged back by Johnson who grew in confidence as the match went on and he took a 4-6 lead, which Henderson heroically got back to 6-6 to take the game to the deciding 13th hoop.

Johnson squandered his first approach advantage with two over-hit strokes but Henderson's resurgence also faltered and he also played to two poor positions, short of the target, a clear sign of last hoop nerves, from both players.

Then, in a strange turn of fortunes, Johnson hit a superb tight angled hoop shot to nestle in the hoop jaws and Henderson's previously poor position instantly became ideal and he took a leaf out of Johnson's book with a back of the hoop clearance of his own.

Henderson didn't catch it quite right though and the clearance only sent Johnson about eight feet, rather than to the safety of seven yards to the boundary; Johnson coolly made the score to win the second game 6-7, taking this final to a deciding third game.

By now the match had been in progress for two and a half hours and there was less than an hour's daylight left, so after a brief adjournment, the action re-commenced and Henderson streaked into a 3-1 lead before taking both middle hoops in quick-time to establish a commanding 5-1 score line.

Johnson was by no means done and a series of splendid long clearances delivered him both a hoop and hope, but 5-1 became 6-3 and Henderson was just one more score away from victory.

He blocked himself accidentally with the game and match at his mercy but when Johnson missed a crucial clearance and ended up far away, Henderson had match points to spare.

Without much more ado, Henderson converted with aplomb to win the game and 3+ plate title in the nick of time, as darkness descended and celebrations moved swiftly to the club bar.

*Congratulations Allan*

**9 October - Gillian Symons wins a close 7+ Plate Final**

Gillain Symons reports that she had "a really tight match, either of us could have won" in the 7+ Plate Final this morning. This Final had been delayed due to an injury to opponent Phil Johnson and Gillain already has an engagement on our Finals Day in the 10+ Final. A rather wet and misty early morning broke into a poor day and although Phil took the first game 4-7, cool Gillain came back to win the match 7-4, 7-5.

*Congratulations Gillian*

**6 October - Richard Peperell best of Phyllis Court trio in Corfu**

Richard Peperell reached the semi-finals of the annual Greek Open AC Handicap tournament held on Corfu this week and was the best performer of the Phyllis Court trio present. He was beaten in the first round of the main event but won through a series of repurchase rounds before losing out to the eventual winner Charles Ostler from Lincolnshire. Frances Colman and Chris Roberts both won their first round ties but were defeated in the second round on the main Singles event after competing well and leading the doubles event for a time, and Roberts eventually won the consolation 14-point event.

**1 October - Patricia Mulcahy wins the Handicap Singles competition title**

Patricia Mulcahy capped a fine season of improvement when she wrapped-up the Handicap Singles season-long competition title today with a fine win in the delayed final over Ian Norris. Using all her experience gained from appearances in two successive All England Handicap national finals, Mulcahy swept to victory 7-3, 7-4 with intelligent use of her extra turns and a new reliable jump shot skill that she has recently developed. Norris uncharacteristically missed a few jumps that are so crucial in handicap play when the higher handicapper places ball in hoop jaws, and this victory for Mulcahy must go down as her best performance yet, coming as it does at the expense of one of the most experienced handicap players in our club.

*Congratulations Patricia*