

Back  
to  
Home  
page

Home

For older  
NEWS  
click here:

Older news

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# PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

## News

### Coronavirus

Please heed the  
latest advice  
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### 31 July - GC World Championship - Day 2 - Roberts loses to another Egyptian but beats a Swede

**Chris Roberts (Wales)** had a chance against Naguib Hossam (Egypt) this morning and came back well from 2-5 down before a poor decision not to jump at hoop 13 in the first game proved to be costly shot choice. He lost that one 6-7 and the second game 3-7.

This afternoon, he beat Lewis Palmer (Sweden) 7-4, 5-7, 7-4

**Helena Fensome (Finland)** is on a rest day today.

Tomorrow, both Phyllis Court players will be in action again: -

Chris Roberts will play Don Nunns (England) and Mathew Essick (USA).

Helena Fensome will play Tim Jolliffe (England) and Euan Burrige (England),

### 30 July - GC World Championship - Day 1 - Roberts takes World no.2 to last hoop thriller - Fensome gets an encouraging game win

**Chris Roberts (Wales)** beat Norwegian Morten Waever easily 7-1, 7-4 in his first match and then, after a long wait faced World no.2 and runner-up in the last World Championships Mohamed Kareem (Egypt) As Kareem struggled with his hoop running, Roberts took all of his opportunities and traded points with his illustrious opponent in three closely contested games.

Roberts won the middle game 7-4 and took Kareem to 6-7, 6-7 in the other two and was left ruing a potential match winning long shot at hoop 12 from 10 yards in the decider that just nicked the hoop leg. Falling short with his first ball approach to 13 from the South boundary was ultimately costly for Roberts and the chance for the first major upset of the Championships was lost.

**Helena Fensome (Finland)**, playing as Jansson, lost her first match to experienced Australian international Alison Sharp 3-7, 4-7.

She then faced Spanish international Jose Alvarez-Sala and sprung a surprise in taking the first game 7-6, which was a real feather in her cap.

She then lost the match 3-7, 3-7 but was nevertheless pleased with that good single game win in such company.

**Frances Colman (Championship Referee)** was on duty all day, was frequently in demand to watch strokes and, as the evening became decidedly chilly, was only relieved at gone 1930 hours.

### 30 July - GC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - LIVE-VIDEO streaming (every day) starts

<https://www.youtube.com/croquetengland>

Look out for Phyllis Court members Chris Roberts (Wales), Helena 'Jansson' Fensome (Finland) and Frances Colman (Championship Referee).

### 29 July - Jim Walter doubles up with a second 10+ tournament win

*Manager Russell Robinson reports:*

A small field of eight of our "ten-plussers" contested our Green Ball (10+ Singles) trophy today, and enjoyed a lovely day in the sun, with only a 'medium roast' setting. First congratulations go to Trevor Day and Michael Marcel for each winning their three block games in the morning, never having to go as far as the dreaded thirteenth. Having therefore established themselves as favourites for the title, they perhaps chilled too much over the lunchtime sandwich as both promptly lost their respective semi-finals. That left Jim Walter and Carl Billson to contest the final in a repeat of the deciding game of the last time this trophy was contested (the delayed 2021 event, which was played in April this year). Sadly for Carl, the result was the same, as he saw Jim fight back from 2-4 to lead 5-4 and 6-5, and although Carl levelled it at 6-6, he left both his balls hampered which was as much an invitation as Jim needed to polish the match off and retain the trophy. So, congratulations, Jim.

Had we have had a "Plate", it would have been won by Carol Huntington, who prevailed in well-fought contests in the afternoon over Liz Smith and David Channon. Special mention should go to Jane Houlihan who played her first competitive games, having only been trained last month and acquitted herself well, gaining valuable experience against more established players.

## 27 July - Mexico National Team cancel our fixture today - Very disappointing

We were due to be hosting the Mexico national Team for a match today but they pulled out with less than 18 hours notice.

## 26 July - PCC 'D' 8 - 8 High Wycombe 'Kestrels'

Team matches don't get any tighter than this, with the scoresheet littered with 7-6 and 7-5 results and all four rounds ending two games apiece. Trevor Day was Phyllis Court's 'most valuable player' with three wins, that included a match saving hoop 13 in the last game to finish. PCC 'D': Patricia Mulcahy (7), David Young (8), Trevor Day (10), Carol Wadsworth (11).

## 24 July - Adams of Guildford wins 'Smokey's Cup' and our own Andy Jones and Patricia Mulcahy shine in the Plate

Former Caversham payer, now with Guildford, Peter Adams won the 'Smokey's Cup' trophy at our B-Level (3+) Series tournament co-hosted by Blewbury CC.

Whilst the 'Cup' event was taking place at Blewbury this year on rotation, Phyllis Court hosted the 'Plate' event and catching the eye straight away was our own Andy Jones who came in as cover for Dianne Browne who retired yesterday evening.

Jones won his first two games and dropped only one more to on the way to a ending with a tie on 5 game wins with two other players.

He had needed to win that last game of today's seven, to win this Plate event, but he fell just short of the mark and was beaten at the 13th hoop of the last game of the day to finish - but he got an excellent 'podium' (third) place.

Mulcahy too was surprising lower handicapped players and she finished in a clear fourth place with was an excellent achievement from her starting position as the lowest ranked player - she finished with a flourish too, by beating clubmate Raghu Iyer who had a disappointing tournament behind the other two Phyllis Court players.

*Well done Andy and Patricia.*

## 23 July - Dianne Browne wins Day 1 in our B-Level Series 'Smokey's Cup' group

Dianne Browne came in as a late replacement for the ill Russell Robinson today and promptly won our half of the joint B-Level Series tournament that we co-host with Blewbury CC.

She had agreed to stand in (*thank you Dianne*) for the first day only and so withdrew in style whilst at the top, allowing a visiting player to be promoted into the qualifying places for tomorrow's 'Cup' block at Blewbury.

Also playing today were Raghu Iyer in the block at Blewbury and, making a big step up from the C-level Series, Patricia Mulcahy, who got off to a cracking start back at Phyllis Court.

She won her first two games but lost her way thereafter, so will join Iyer in the 'Plate' block, back here at Phyllis Court tomorrow.

Andy Jones will also take the C-level to B-level step-up as he joins the Plate block as a replacement for the withdrawn Browne.

## 23 July - Respectful silence observed for Smokey Eades before start of 'Smokey's Cup'

The eight players participating in the Phyllis Court section of 'Smokey's Cup' today, were joined before play, by the early Saturday morning regulars, for a 'respect silence' in memory of our late President R.S.'Smokey Eades' who died earlier this year at the age of 102.

Until the last few years 'Smokey Eades' would attend the final afternoon of the tournament that bears his name and he always had a few words of congratulations for the winner at prize time.

## 19-21 July - Helena Fensome gets 7th at National Veterans

Recapturing some of her form from years past, Helena Fensome made the 'cut' to the main knock-out at the National Veterans Championship at Southwick (near Brighton) this week.

She lost in the deciding game of her quarter-final match to eventual runner-up Liz Farrow, but bounced back well to secure a very creditable 7th place in the 20-player field, one of her best tournament performances.

## 19 July - Plate Prizes for Goldring & Lilley, as Phyllis Court players compete all around the country

Phyllis Court players continue to fly the flag for our club in good numbers around the country and have achieved some newsworthy results.

In addition to Rick Lilley's exploits on the national stage (see the 10 July news item below), he won the 'Plate' event at the far waaay Hunstanton A-level Series tournament in Norfolk this past weekend.

But his best achievement in the lastfortnight was taking UK top 20 player Nick Archer to 6-7, 6-7 in tyhe quarter finals of the Ryde Open.

Roger Goldring finally found some form too when he won the 'Plate' event at the same Ryde Open Series tournament 10 days ago

Chris Roberts was third at that one (prolonging his ten year quest for an illusive first win on the south island - he has been 2nd or 3rd every year for decade!).

Mike Fensome got a 'podium' finish this past weekend, with a 4th place at Hamptworth's Wiltshire Open.

And we had a very strong presence with 5 players in the field at this past weekend's Cheltenham C-Level (7+) Series tournament; Andy Jones was =5th, Patricia Mulcahy =7th, Ruth Raunkiaer =11th, Carol Wadsworth 14th and Kevin Ward =15th

In AC, Roberts finsied in joint 2nd place at the National Seniors Championship at Budleigh Salterton last week.

At the same tournament, Raghu Iyer competed in a tough fifth classed event and Roberts partnered Frances Colman to a couple of staisfying doubles victories earlier in the week.

## 18 July - Roberts plays for Wales in the GC Home Internationals

Phyllis Court's Chris Roberts donned the red shirt of Wales for the second time this weekend when he again represented the Pricipality at the tri-nation GC Home Internationals Championship.

An early morning 220 mile (3.5 hours) drive from Budleigh Salterton in Devon to Nottingham, didn't seem to phase Robetts who had a super first day wining two doubles and one singles matches (all best of three).

He lost at the last hoop of the deciding game against England's Euan Burridge but then added another doubles on Sunday afternoon, again partnering Euan's father Ian Burridge.

Roberts last match was against England debutant, 15-year old Jack Good, and this match was halted at one game all when an England victory on the adjoining court settled the Chapionship in their favour.

The whole event was streamed live on You Tube and a number of our members tuned in, some wrote commets in the 'side chat' facility, and got metions live on air!

England beat Wales 5-2 and Scotland 7-1 to win the Championship and Wales were second having beaten Scotland 7-1.

## 10 July - Raunkier shines as PCC lose at Dowlish Wake (Devon) and exit the Federations Shield

### Phyllis Court 'Federations Shield' 2.5 - 4.5 Dowlish Wake

Ruth Raunkiaer was the top Phyllis Court performer today, winning both her matches as Phyllis Court were beaten by the sloping and unpredictable courts at Dowlish Wake in Devon.

- Phyllis Court were knocked-out of this season's GC Federations Shield competition, which is handicap play using the od 'extra turns' method.

Raunkiaer and Andy Jones won their morning Doubles match but Chris Roberts (narrowly) and Raghu Iyer lost ther morning Singles.

After a very hospitable lunch, the heat of the day was contended with again, and Dowlish extended their lead when Iyer was beaten again.

Raunkiaer kept Phyllis Court in with a chance when she pulled the score back to 2 - 3 with an afternoon Singles win.

Roberts won the first game of his match comfortably but the came a cropper to the lawn's bumpy surface and huge 'west-east' sloap and lost his second game.

Meanwhile Jones was plugging away and his Dowlish opponent (who had defeated Roberts in the morning and was clearly their best player despite holding a higher handicap) needed a deciding game to get past our man.

This result sealed the win for Dowlish and so Roberts' deciding game was left unplayed and a 'half' taken in that match.

Dowlish deserved their win, and lovely day was had, but the sloaping courts will live long in the memory.

PCC 'Fed Shield' - Chris Roberts (-2), Raghu Iyer (3), Andy Jones (6), Ruthe Raunkiaer (11)

## 10 July - The A-Class arival of Rick Lilley - beating an international player and reducing his handicap to 1 for the first time!

Congratulations are due for Phyllis Court's Rick Liley who made the top class of croquet nationally recognise his arrival in their number, whith two fine tournament performances in the last fortnight  
Chris Roberts asked Rick to detail those last two events here - *well done Rick!*

*Rick Lilly reports:*

Highlights from National Forest GC Championship at Ashby, 2-3 July.

After a difficult start versus on-form -2 handicap, 21 year-old Callum Johnson (1-7), Rick won 5 of the remaining 8 games in his block, overcoming two players with a 0 handicaps (Paul Durkin, Mike O'Brian) and two with a -1 hnadicap (Tim King, Les Heard).

However his bast winn was his final game of the day on Saturday, when with sustained accurate clearing saw him triumph 7-5 over 16 year-old England U21 player Jack Good, a -3 player ranked #21 in the UK and some 460 ranking points above Rick.

Good will be making his full Engand team debut in this coming weekend's home Internationals!

Despite these valiant efforts, Rick just missed the cut for the knockout, but in the Plate competition repeated his successes over O'Brian and Heard, finishing the weekend with an increase of 84 handicap points and a drop in handicap to 1, plus an increase of 80 Ranking points.  
Callum Johnson ran out the eventual winner, overcoming Jack Good in the final, 2-7, 7-4, 7-4.

#### Ryde Open, Isle of Wight, 6-7 July.

Following on from his progress the previous weekend at the National Forest Open, Rick managed to make the cut for the knockout phase for the first time. In doing so he just pipped clubmate Roger Goldring on net hoops, to earn a quarter final challenge against UK #18 Nick Archer, -3 and last year's winner. Rick put up a spirited challenge, matching the England player hoop for hoop until unfortunately falling at the 13th in two games, losing 6-7, 6-7. Archer went on to defeat Phyllis Court's Chris Roberts in a tight 3-game semi-final match and an out of sorts Raouf Allim in the final, to retain his Ryde title.

### 9 July - PCC 'C' 6 - 10 Blewbury 'D'

This was a rare Saturday morning start for Phyllis Court 'C', hitherto undefeated in the SCF Handicap League, however the novelty extended to the fixture result as well, and Blewbury 'D' won 6-10. This was a roller-coaster style match as the end of each round match score indicates; 2-2, 3-5, 6-6, before Blewbury won all four games to run away with the result. Only Phyllis Court's Colin Morgan would have been pleased with his day as he won three games out of four.  
*PCC 'C': Michael Christmans (5), Colin Morgan (6), Kevin Ward (9), Carol Huntington (11)*

### 8 July - PCC 'AC' 4 - 10 Hurlingham

Team success this week came from our Association Croquet team who defeated the Hurlingham Club 4-2 in an all-day match today. Frances Colman and Chris Roberts won their doubles game in the morning and Roberts was joined by Raghu Iyer and Kevin Ward, the latter playing his first ever full AC game, in afternoon victories.  
*PCC 'AC': Chris Roberts (-0.5), Frances Colman (8), Raghu Iyer (10), Kevin Ward (24)*



### 5 July - Rainbow Social get-together on 12 July

*Hilary Cowley reports:*

On Tuesday July 21st at 6pm there is a Rainbow Social get-together in The Orangery.

Rainbow members and anyone interested in joining the Rainbow are welcome - get your drink and nibbles from the Members Bar and then come through to the Orangery.

There's no need to book, but it would be appreciated if you could RSVP to Madeleine Probert or Hilary Cowley (contact details on Membership List).

Home

### 2 & 3 July - Colman & Roberts play for the CA (England) v the CA of Ireland, at Carrickminde, near Dublin

Frances Colman and Chris Roberts were the honoured to play for the (English) CA team v the CA of Ireland team this weekend at Carrickmines, near Dublin.

The Phyllis Court pair begun well, winning a double game as partners, and Roberts went on to win two more doubles games (with different partners) and one of his two singles games, whilst Colman was the only team member to record two Singles wins.

If one attributes 'half a win' to each member of a victorious doubles partnership, and a 'full' win for a Singles victory, Colman and Roberts contributes 2.5 points to the (English) CA's team total. Sadly, the other four members of the team could only muster 2 points between them and Ireland won the match 14 - 7.

**1 June - Jones beats Mulcahy in a 'Phyllis Court One-Two" at Wrest Park  
- then Mulcahy beats Jones to win our 8+ tournament  
- and both qualify for National Finals!**

For the second time in a week Andy Jones and Patricia Mulcahy battled out a 7-6 last hoop tournament final.

Firstly Jones won the National C-Level (7+) Series tournament at Wrest Park (near Bedford), which was his first CA Fixtures Calendar event, but it was Mulcahy's presence in that tight final that was a feather in Phyllis Court's cap as Phyllis court recorded a noteworthy 1-2.

Jones established a strong lead and was 6-2 up before Mulcahy showed great character to come right back at him and force the last hoop drama.

Jones' victory qualifies him for the end of season C-Level Series national Final at Camerton & Peasedown (near Bath).

*Congratulations Andy!*

Today though, the tables were turned, and Mulcahy completed another come-back and successfully this time, when Jones squandered a 'first approach' advantage when short at hoop 13.

Mulcahy turned the screw with two well-executed centre-ball clearances before Jones failed with a block attempt and Mulcahy scored the crucial hoop from four feet for her first tournament win.

Madeleine Probert and Wendy Klingon both played their best for some time to finish third and fourth respectively.

The top four qualify for the CA's end of season 'Grass Roots' competition final at Watford.

*Congratulations Patricia!*