



# RUSH



## 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. Short Chester vs Pendle

This match was cancelled due no team availability. Walkover given to Chester.

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## 14<sup>th</sup> September, Mary Rose Pendle vs Wrest Park

### Pendle and Craven beat Wrest Park 5-2

Played at Wrest Park , Bedfordshire

Peter Wilson (.5) and Robert Essler (1) beat Bryan Harral (0) and George Collin (1) +4

Andrew Webb (2.5) beat John Bevington (1.5) +11

Liz Wilson (1.5) beat Tim Brewer (2.5) +9

Peter Wilson beat Bryan Harral +7

Robert Essler lost to George Collin -10

Liz Wilson beat John Bevington +13

Andrew Webb lost to Tim Brewer -7

Congratulations to the team . They now meet Watford in the final.

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## 16<sup>th</sup> September Hcp Pendle vs Crake

### Pendle 4 Crake 3

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## 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September All England AC Handicap Final

**Winner Philip Nuttal Bury**

**Second Libby Dixon Pendle and Craven**

The winner of the 2017 All England Handicap Final was Phil Nuttall (16) from Bury, who won all five of his games. In second place was Libby Dixon (18) from Pendle and Craven, with three wins. Neal Bacon (5) from Nottingham and Jeremy Pardoe (8) from Broadwas were third and fourth, also with three wins.

This year's competition began with 168 players playing preliminary heats at 30 clubs; 32 made it to the four area finals. The winners and runners-up from these were Neal Bacon and Adam Huby(7, Watford) at Edgbaston, Douglas Dykes (16, Surbiton) and Julie Sheahan (11, Merton) at Surbiton, Phil Nuttall and Libby Dixon at Fylde and Jeremy Pardoe and Robert Upton (3½, Dyffryn) at Camerton and Peasedown.

This year's final was held at Wrest Park for the first time since 1998 when there were 16 players and all six lawns were flooded for many hours. However now the club's new lawns drain more quickly; a Saturday afternoon downpour caused localised flooding, but the lawns were playable within half an hour even though the rain persisted. Games were limited to three hours and played as full bisque, base 10.

The first round saw +26 wins for Julie against Adam and Phil against Robert. Libby made a promising start against Neal but the bisques ran out, and Jeremy had a narrow win against Douglas. Saturday closed with Phil on three wins and Julie, Libby and Jeremy on two.

On Sunday morning Phil stretched his lead by beating Libby, and Jeremy beat Julie +2 on time. Douglas accounted for Adam and Robert suffered his fourth defeat, this time at the hands of Neal. The last round saw Phil complete a clean sweep by beating Douglas +5 on time, and Robert (the lowest handicap at 3½) finally broke his duck by beating Julie +3 in a tight finish.

What of the play? Well, we saw its infinite variety, as you might expect with such a wide range of handicaps and experience. Lots of good stuff - solid break play and use of bisques to set them up, lawn length take-offs

judged to a nicety, and considered leaves. On the other side, there were times when tactical errors and a lack of knowledge of the laws proved costly, as in not recognising a wiring lift when it was due, but these are the views from the boundary. Things are different when you have the mallet in your hand, time is approaching, the bisques have run out, the rain is falling and you are faced with a five yard roquet needing to make a hoop or two to have a chance of winning. Who has not allowed the heart to rule the head and have the hubris of an over-ambitious hoop attempt followed by the nemesis of an easy roquet for the opponent? And even world champions have been known to sometimes play the wrong ball.

Thanks are due to George Collin for managing the event and acting as the ROT. A five round Swiss with eight players can be a nightmare (see Gaunt & Wheeler on this), but Phil simplified his job considerably. Thanks also to Geoff Strutt and John Bevington for organising lunches and teas, Tim Brewer for pre-final admin duties and John Dawson as overall director of the competition.

The All England Handicap is the most democratic event in the calendar and deserves more support. Without more data one cannot judge its state of health, but the numbers have halved since 1998 when there were 357 entries. Would two more area finals draw in more clubs, with an American block final for the six winners? One for the Tournament Committee.

Phil and Libby took away the excellent trophies for their fine performances (along with 2 stoke reductions to their handicaps)

Elizabeth Larrison

The results are as follows:

Name	Wins	Net points	Position
Phil Nuttall (16) Bury	5	+71	1
Libby Dixon (18) Pendle & Craven	3	+18	2
Neal Bacon (5) Nottingham	3	+10	3
Jeremy Pardoe (8) Broadwas	3	-16	4
Julie Sheahan (11) Merton	2	+25	5
Douglas Dykes (16) Reigate Priory	2	+19	6
Robert Upton (3½) Dyffryn	1	-63	7
Adam Huby (7) Watford	1	-64	8



Photo: Standing L-R: Quiller Barrett (CA President), Robert Upton, Douglas Dykes, Neal Bacon, George Collin (Manager)

Seated L-R: Jeremy Pardoe, Julie Sheahan, Phil Nuttall, Libby Dixon, Adam Huby

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## 19<sup>th</sup> September Hcp Pendle vs Bowdon St Marys

**Pendle 2 Bowdon St Marys 5**

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## 24<sup>th</sup> September Short Pendle vs Southport

**Pendle 9 Southport 0 (w/o)**

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## 30<sup>th</sup> September Mary Rose Final

**Watford 4 Pendle and Craven 3**

There was an exciting ending to this match; at 3-3 all in the final match of the tie, Brian had pegged Roger out leaving Roger on 4-back and himself on peg and 4-back. Roger hit from the lift and made 4-back and penult then he took off to rover and made rover to the south boundary. Then he chose to shoot at Brian's two balls which were joined up near corner 4. He missed. Brian used Roger's ball to set up a rush to 4-back. He then two-balled it round the remaining 3 hoops and pegged out. Winning the match +1 which made the tie 4-3. A result which could so easily have gone the other way.... All credit to Brian who held his nerve for the final break.

Brian Havill & Gary Bennett lost to Roger Schofield & Andrew Webb -22  
 Nick Archer beat Howard Bowron +11  
 Arthur Reed lost to David Gillett -18  
 Arthur Reed lost to Howard Bowron -4

Nick Archer beat David Gillett +12  
Gary Bennett beat Andrew Webb +14  
Brian Havill beat Roger Schofield +1  
Brian Fisk



Watford being presented with the Mary Rose

The Pendle and Craven Team



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## 30<sup>th</sup> September Longman Cup Semi Final

33 Clubs entered the Longman Cup Tournament in 2017. Pendle and Craven qualified to play in the Finals Weekend at Surbiton on 30<sup>th</sup> September, having beaten Crake Valley at home and Kenilworth away in the early rounds. Peter Dewhurst played in the first match against Crake and Leven Valleys and in partnership with Libby, won a crucial doubles game, which turned out to be a narrow match victory 4/3 in Pendle's favour.

Our team in subsequent matches comprised Paul Dowdall, Catherine Parnell, Libby Dixon and Robin Delves. We achieved a 7/0 victory at Kenilworth. It transpired that the potential opposition in the next two rounds, namely Tyneside (home) and Bowdon(away) , capitulated , and we were gifted walkovers, with scores recorded in both as 7/0 in our favour.

Libby, Paul and Robin, together with Andrew Webb travelled together on Friday taking approx 6 hours, whilst Catherine travelled solo down the M6 and took only 4 hours. All stayed at the Tolworth Travelodge approx 1 mile from the croquet club.

In the semi final we were drawn to play against Hunstanton. At lunch we were joined at our table by Quiller Barrett , president of the CA, with an important lead of 2/1. In the afternoon singles wins by Paul and Catherine provided a very satisfying semi final win.

## Pendle 4 Hunstanton 3

Robin Delves & Catherine Parnell lost to John Reddish(3 ½) & David Haslam(18) -15  
Paul Dowdall beat Bryan Saddington(4 ½) +24  
Libby Dixon beat Pete Brown(9) +5  
Paul Dowdall beat John Reddish +26  
Catherine Parnell beat Bryan Saddington +16  
Robin Delves lost to Pete Brown -12  
Libby Dixon lost to David Haslam -1

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## 1<sup>st</sup> October Longman Cup Final

The final on Sunday vs Woking turned out to be a very close run thing. Again we were in receipt of bisques. In the morning Catherine and Robin sneaked a win over Steve and Michael, +3, in the last 5 mins. Paul looked to be on course to continue his winning ways as both his clips appeared to be on hoops near the finish very early on in the game. However , as they keep saying, "it is never over until the fat lady sings".

Colin beat Paul +2. Libby returned to winning ways and beat Elizabeth +18. So again we went into an excellent lunch leading 2/1 , and again we were honoured to be joined by Quiller.

In the deciding singles games in the afternoon, Paul returned to winning ways and beat Elizabeth +26. Only 1 more win was needed from the remaining 3 games, but what a struggle was in store.

All 3 games went to time and with only 10mins to go all 3 games could have gone either way. Robin got level with both clips on 4 back, whilst Colin had clips on Rover and 2 back. Time was almost there. Colin hit in and went through Rover and won by +1. Heroically, Catherine battjed back into the lead and hid the balls as best as she could. Steve missed and after time P&C had made it. Libby played a blinder and also won +3 against Michael.

## Pendle 5 Woking 2

Robin Delves & Catherine Parnell beat Steve Twilley(7) & Michael Holland(10) +3T

Libby Dixon beat Elizabeth McKenzie-Gray(7) +18

Paul Dowdall lost to Colin Groves(9) -1

Paul Dowdall beat Elizabeth McKenzie-Gray +26

Catherine Parnell beat Steve Twilley +2T

Robin Delves lost to Colin Groves -1T

Libby Dixon beat Michael Holland +2T



Robin Delves , Captain Longman Cup Team, receiving the trophy from Quiller Barrett.

The Pendle Team were very pleased to have the support of Andrew Webb our new Chairman , who stayed on to watch the Longman Cup, after the exciting and heroic efforts of himself, Roger Schofield, Howard Bowron and David Gillett in the Mary Rose Tournament. A truly memorable effort.

Robin Delves

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> October Murphy Shield Final

### Watford 5 Pendle 2

The team travelled down to Nottingham in good weather. The team comprised the same members that won against Hunstanton.

At lunch Pendle was in a good position with a 2/1 lead, with wins in the doubles and Paul in the singles. Will lost out after 3 very close games.

Unfortunately all the afternoons singles play were hard fought with many games going to 7/6 but not Pendle's way.

Congratulations to Watford.

A big thank you from myself, Team Captain, to all the team members for their support and dedication to Pendle and Craven Murphy Shield Team. We succeeded in getting to the final, which is something we can all be proud of achieving.



Team Statistics

	Singles	Doubles	Total
Roger Schofield	2-0	2-0	4-0
Libby Dixon	6-6	8-3	14-9
Keith Terry	8-5	6-2	14-7
Paul Dowdall	14-5	-	14-5
Will Drake	13-12	-	13-12

**National Club Finals**

**Mary Rose**    **Winner**    **Watford 4**    **Pendle 3**

**Longman Cup**    **Winner**    **Pendle 5**    **Woking 2**

**Murphy Shield**    **Winner**    **Watford 5**    **Pendle 2**