



# RUNNING HOOPS

## The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet

May 2015

### Leagues And Competitions

The first of this year's and competitions that you have entered sent to you; all you need to do is arrange the games. Book early to avoid the last minute panic syndrome or even miss the opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

### Thank You

The committee would like to thank the small groups of members who carried out the pre-season cleaning of the pavilion, cupboards and the lawn maintenance.

If you were unable to help don't feel left out; there will be other opportunities to volunteer to keep the pavilion and lawns in good order. As the saying goes 'many hands make light work' and the subs low.

### Philip Qualifies for Final in Hurlingham

The CA supports a Handicap One-Ball Tournament which takes place in clubs around the country with a final at Hurlingham.

Last year, £4000 was raised in aid of Prostate Cancer. This year the Charity was Bowel Cancer UK and the Northampton event raised £160 towards the national target.

Five of us travelled to Northampton to play in late March and enjoyed unseasonably, excellent weather. Philip Wood qualified for the final coming second to Northampton's Peter Dowd. The other four of us, Adrian, Bill, Ray and John Leader all trailed behind! Frank Hibberd, who is a member at Northampton as well as Kenilworth, was another "also ran".

The main purpose of the day was exceeded in every way, a very enjoyable day, beautiful surroundings, excellent company and some creaky croquet swings exercised for the new season!

One-Ball is played to Association rules but with two players playing a match using only one ball each. This makes it very akin to Golf Croquet and it may be pertinent that the first three were primarily GC players. Perhaps we'll organise our own One-Ball tournament this season – watch this space!

Adrian Morris (We did! - Ed)

### Caption Competition

Three excellent replies from last month's competition:

Alan

Jean, just swing the mallet, hit downwards, and JUMP the \*#++>~! Thing like I showed you !!

Derek

Yes Jean, but imagine you're sweeping the carpet on one leg.

Mervyn

Wait until I've done some energetic sweeping first; I've seen them do it in Curling, and it seems to help hit the target.



## Fun Day April 26th

It was decided to play this as a one-ball competition, to serve as an introduction to some of the rules and delightful complexities of Association Croquet.

Golf Croquet players who have not had any experience of AC, would perhaps like to get an idea of what it involves by playing in such a competition. Basically, in One-Ball each player has one ball only and scores as many hoops as possible, gaining extra shots by hitting the other ball. Each player has to run each hoop in turn, in GC order.

We had good weather, despite dire forecasts earlier in the week, with lots of sunshine. Ten players competed in two blocks, each game played to 7 points to peg.

The two blocks produced 4 finalists: Mike Cheeseman and Mervyn Harvey from one block, and Pauline Harvey and Diane Fitch from the other block. Pauline and Mervyn won their semi-final games, but cautious play made these games slower and the final had to be delayed for 2 days, Pauline being the eventual winner. She got an early lead and kept it to the end of the game. It took some time to introduce everyone to the rules, but once we got under way it all went smoothly.

Philip Wood

## Northampton v Kenilworth, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

For the first friendly of the season Northampton was invaded by six GC and six AC players.

The GC team was Alan Clark, Amanda Haslam, Bob Maskell, Mike Cheesman, Nick Hegan and myself.

From Northampton, Mike Hills had an operation scheduled for that day (we hope it went well, Mike) so many thanks to Marilyn, who took over the organisation from Mike.

We played 5 rounds, with everyone playing with each of their team members. The overall result was that we lost 4-11, winning only one game in each of the first four rounds – but I think it's fair to say that the individual results were somewhat better than that seems! Three games went to the golden hoop, and we won two of those (Mike winning both, with Bob and Nick respectively, while Nick and Amanda lost out), and only three matches were worse than 4-7.

Amanda won one of her matches (only lost another at 6-7), Bob and Nick both won 2 but Mike was the star of the team, winning 3. However, there was a twist to this as the format was that the *individual* who won the most hoops on their side won a bottle of bubbly – I hope you enjoyed it, Nick! (29 hoops).



Nick playing, with Amanda and Les watching – we lost the golden hoop on this one.

Jeff attacking Nick's green and Mike playing a delicate shot, Marilyn and Nick looking on respectively – this one we won.

## Northampton v Kenilworth, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

AC Team: Peter and Pauline Dennis (sharing), Bill Sidebottom, Nigel Haslam, Alan Richardson.

Not all was as it seemed, as in the AC Peter and Pauline Dennis were sharing the day, and Frank was stepping in for Mike Hills, a Northampton member, who had had to drop out at the last minute.

Frank was immediately faced with the formidable figure of Bill Sidebottom. However Bill was not on form, and Frank scraped a win. The day was cool and windy, conditions which usually Jill Carrick tries to avoid, but she resisted the elements sufficiently to beat Alan by one hoop. Meanwhile Richard Cain, the Northampton powerhouse, beat Nigel by two hoops, and Mel Christie, with the advantage of his twenty bisques, won his game against Pauline. 4 – 0 to Northampton.

In the afternoon Peter, in a welcome return to combat, overcame old adversary Les Carrick by one hoop, Nigel scorned Mel's bisques, and Alan beat Frank. But Northampton were not to be denied, and Richard beat Bill, becoming the only player of the day to win both his games.

Northampton 5, Kenilworth 3



## **BATTLING WITH THE WIND....IN NORFOLK AND ESSEX.....4/5 MAY 2015**

In the first round of the National Knock-Out AC Competition, the LONGMANS CUP, Kenilworth were drawn to play Colchester. With Cliff losing the coin toss over the phone the match was to be played in Colchester.

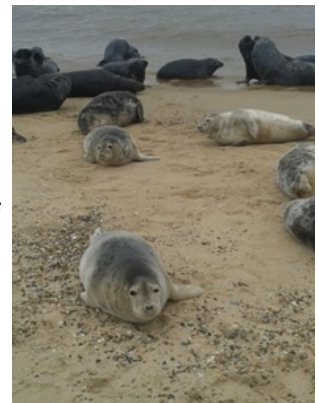
Colchester is some distance from Kenilworth and rather than drive the 250 miles or so in one day Alan suggested we combined the match with a slight detour to North Norfolk!!, over 2 days of course, and including a bit of sailing on Alan's boat, moored on Hickling Broad.



What a wonderful idea and no-one enjoyed the sailing more than Alan himself!  
The wind on Hickling Broad was quite strong allowing us to, at times, gather reasonable speed.

Afterwards we drove to the nearby beach at Horsey where a colony of seals were happy to pose for photographs.

The wind at Colchester the following day was substantially stronger, rendering difficult conditions for the croquet.



In the morning we had one doubles match and 2 singles matches. Ray, playing singles v Al, received 4 bisques. So, winning the toss, cheerfully asked his opponent to play the first ball and was dumfounded as his opponent proceeded to make 2 amazing shots, calmly running the first hoop and then from at least 7 yards(!) then running hoop 2 as well!! Ray recovered a little but squandered his precious bisques and eventually lost -14.





Philip was also facing an uphill task since his opponent Ann managed a 10 hoop break early in the game without using her one bisque!, he lost by 18 hoops.

In the doubles Alan and Cliff waited quite patiently for their opponents to use their 2 full bisques and the game score was quite close throughout.

Then, thanks to a couple of 3 hoop breaks by Cliff, the visitors drew level as time was running out. Finally Alan, who had missed a number of short roquets earlier, put together a decisive break securing the one hoop needed for victory!

So we began the afternoon session needing to win 3 of the 4 singles matches, a tall order indeed especially with the strong windy conditions prevailing and re-arranging the light furniture by the pavilion!!



Ray managed a few decent breaks, including running one hoop in spectacular fashion with a jump shot, but was always struggling to match his opponent and lost -14.

Alan was now producing reliable roquets and running some hoops but was no match for Ann, playing with growing confidence, who won +13.

Cliff was only slightly trailing his opponent, when she had used her 3.5 bisques, but was unable to put together an all important long break despite having several opportunities and lost -13.

Philip's opponent made an excellent start in his game and soon had a commanding lead. However Philip, playing with great determination, eventually found some good form and managed to secure a narrow win +1 on time.

So sadly Kenilworth lost 2-5 but it had been an excellent couple of days.

Noting the quality of the fine home-made refreshments provided by Colchester and remembering the excitement of the bonding adventure in Norfolk, Cliff was rather pleased that the 'telephone' coin toss outcome had resulted in the fixture being played in Essex!



### Did you Know.....

Pictures of then Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott playing at his official residence, Dorneywood, in 2006 while supposedly running the country prompted a 300 per cent surge in sales of croquet sets at Asda.

## Lawn Damage

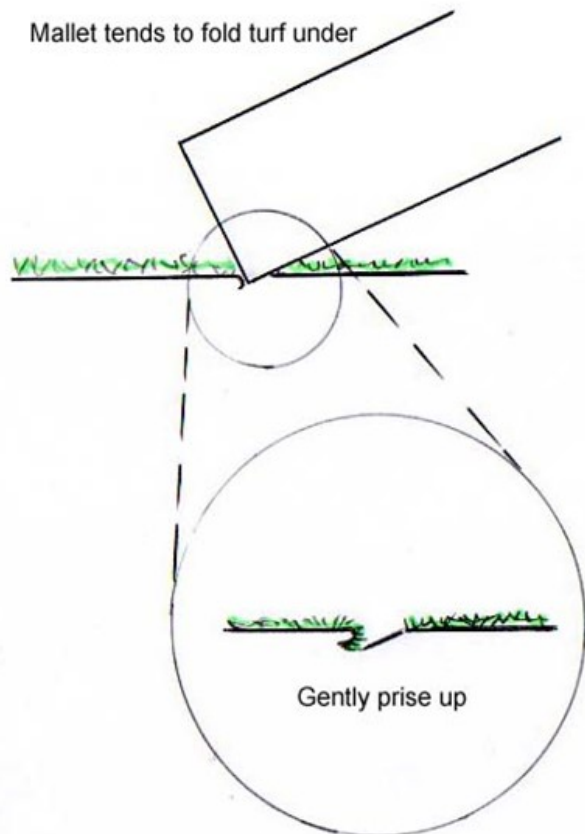
We all strive to take great care of the croquet lawn but occasional damage does occur. If you do damage the lawn then two things should happen.

Firstly it should be recognised that damage has occurred and perhaps some practice off the lawn may be required before attempting that type of shot. This is particularly true of jump shots or the occasional stop shot.

Secondly and perhaps even more importantly, the damage should be repaired. A quick repair can often be unnoticed in a day or so but damage left can last a season!

More often than not, the mallet tends to fold the top layer underneath itself. (see diagram). If this is carefully unfolded using a sharp implement or even a careful finger, then the damage can be minimised. A Golf pitch mark repairer is ideal and is available in the pavilion.

Thank you for your continued care and, where necessary, a quick repair.



## Photographers

I receive many reports that demonstrate the skills of our members on the lawns; I would also like you to demonstrate your proficiency with a camera.

Anything you may think may be of interest; groups, action shots on or off the lawns, sailors and seals etc. that will help make your news letter more colourful and interesting will be appreciated.

To the Editor please.

**Please continue to send me lots of exciting articles, photographs, opinions and comments on anything remotely related to croquet and our club. I can be contacted on 01926 855376 or [gordonhenderson28@gmail.com](mailto:gordonhenderson28@gmail.com) Gordon Henderson. Editor.**