



# Running Hoops

## The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet

### **Editorial.**

**Irene Rogers, January 2019**

“Bring me sunshine” famous words from Morecambe and Wise. A rather clunky way to outline the fact that this winter edition of Running Hoops contains reports from matches played towards the end of the last “Summer” season. I hope the reports, the smiling faces and the gleam of trophies won will evoke fond memories and inspire you all to participate in the club league, club competitions, friendlies and the assorted other tournaments and league events, be they golf or association games.

I propose to include in this and the next newsletter, pen profiles of the various very active members of our club, not necessarily very active in the playing side – although most are – but on the behind-the-scenes side. Every club, particularly if it has a relatively small membership, relies heavily on its members to keep it going and the more who can get involved – even by concentrating on one small task, the better. However, what usually happens is year after year, the same small cadre of individuals end up doing most of the work.

It took some arm twisting but I’ve managed to persuade our chairman, Adrian Morris, and our membership secretary, Ian Robertson, to produce their profiles. I hope that, in time, personalities like Mervyn Harvey, Pauline Harvey (see Pauline’s report on the GC friendly matches), Mike Cheeseman and Robin Moore, amongst others, will succumb to the arm twisting and produce theirs. Watch this space!

A couple of croquet snippets – I was watching an episode of the quiz show “The Chase” the other week. I don’t know how many of you have ever watched this programme – the question setters appear to search high and low for some of the most obscure questions possible – for example “How long can a wart hog go without water? Three days, three weeks or three months. I mean! Who apart from zoo keepers, vets, attentive safari trippers or wart hogs would know the answer to that! Anyway, the question that drew my attention was; “In what game are black and blue balls struck by a mallet?” The host, the very competent actor, Bradley Walsh, is famous for collapsing into giggles at innuendo, and you can imagine the innuendo this question created. At least, the competitor knew the answer which has to be a good thing – any mention of croquet on the TV has to be another good thing.

By the way, the answer to the wart hog question is somewhere within this newsletter but there are no prizes for finding it.

The second snippet has been contributed by Mike Cox:

#### **When croquet kills!** *From a letter to The Times by Dr. Bruce Cherry.*

I have been researching deaths of soldiers whose number was not on the bullet throughout 1914–1918, but who died in bizarre or unfortunate circumstances after their Great War service.

I discovered one Anglo-French officer who survived the horrors of Verdun only to be killed by his wife lifting a mallet with too much vigour during a peaceful post-war game, accidentally breaking his skull.

At least that’s what she told the magistrate.

## **First Profile:**

### **ADRIAN MORRIS – Chairman, Croquet Section**

I am chairman of the Croquet section of the club and represent the section on the General Committee of the main club. The main club is member owned and the GC runs the club on behalf of the members. The main club supports the Croquet section in many ways, not least, ensuring we comply with the vast range of legal requirements including Health & Safety, Welfare, and Diversity & Inclusion etc. etc. Thanks to this support, we can get on with running our section.

I joined Kenilworth Croquet in 2005 after taking early retirement from Land Rover. I had worked in Sales and Marketing for the same company from its British Leyland days.

In 2008, I took over the Chairman's role from Bill Sidebottom and have been Chairman since that date apart from a break for a couple of years while I was Club President.

I started playing Golf Croquet as I already had a little knowledge of that version but I was soon introduced to Association Croquet and I was hooked! The only GC I play now is the Kenilworth Cup each year, the Wells Cup for the Club Championship and the occasional appearance in the Federation League team. Most of my croquet is AC and played away from the club in tournaments all over the country and of course at the Inter-Counties tournament where I captain Warwickshire. I am a qualified referee for GC and AC. My handicap is 1 in GC and 1.5 in AC.

The role of chairman is primarily to chair the committee which manages all aspects of Croquet at the club to ensure we provide facilities and organisation to allow our members to enjoy their croquet whatever level they play. It is also our responsibility to ensure a positive financial contribution to the main club.

As Chairman, I am the one who keeps an overall eye on all matters within the section. The role may also include resolving the occasional dispute and very occasionally a possible disciplinary matter.

Some of the jobs that I currently handle include running the Croquet pages of the club website, keeping the calendar up to date, writing PR stories for the local press. Any volunteers to take on these roles would be welcome.

With my long membership and knowledge of both codes, I also tend to be the link with the national body for Croquet, the Croquet Association.

One matter which will need some of my time over the winter is to prepare for a significant change in the rules of Golf Croquet to be introduced next season. A small group will ensure we are familiar with these changes and then ensure all our members are aware before next season.

The other matter of import over the winter is planning our recruitment marketing for next spring. Our membership has declined over the last couple of years and we need to reverse this trend!

I am grateful for the support of the committee and others for their help to achieve our goals, but we are always keen to get more members involved. Please contact me if you feel you could volunteer, I'm sure we have a job which will fit you!

## **Second Profile:**

### **Ian Robertson – Membership Secretary.**

The membership secretary is often the point of contact for new members but, of course, new members can find other routes into club membership.

I am also, currently, the “hub” for many, but not all, of the communications to members using the stylized branding format of mallet, ball and hoop everyone is familiar with. Other communications/contact routes are also available, for example where cup competitions, tournaments, leagues and events are concerned.

I joined the club 5 years ago as a complete croquet novice and have enjoyed the competitive element of the sport. I much prefer the golf-croquet format.

I’m also a golf member of the Warwickshire Golf Club at Leek Wootton and, as a contrast, for those interested in choir singing but on a much less formal basis, I’m in a community choir based at Kenilworth School where we avoid classical and lean towards popular material. So if you fancy joining the choir, do let me know.

*(Ian has very much understated what he does in the club. In addition to the above, he’s a committee member; has represented the club at local “activities” days and has organised the last three annual presentation dinners and shared in the organisation of various social events. Ed.)*

### **WMF GC Team Event.      Saturday 29/9/18.      Philip Wood**

Our team consisted of Philip Wood, Mervyn Harvey (with Nick Hegan taking his place at 2 pm.) and Cliff Daniel. The other teams were from Eardisley, Himley and Broadwas.

Each team of 3 players played each other team over 3 singles games and 3 doubles games. 3 rounds were need to do this, then we went on to play another club.

Broadwas have won the league several seasons in a row and they were our great rivals this time. In the very last round, we needed to beat Broadwas by 2 points, which meant that we needed to win the doubles game (for 2 points); winning the singles game (for 1 point) would not have been enough. In the end, we won both.

Congratulations to Cliff Daniel and Nick Hegan who beat a pair whose combined handicap was about 6 lower than theirs. The cup was duly presented and Cliff had the usual picture taken.

Our GC team v Broadwas – L to R; Nick Hegan, Philip Wood and Cliff Daniel.  
(Mervyn Harvey having had to leave before the end of game.)



### **Golf Croquet Friendly Matches**

**Pauline Harvey**

In a long, hot summer, going into a balmy autumn, we have managed a total of 8 matches, which have involved 22 different members. The aim of friendly matches is to give the higher handicap players competitive experience, but all those available have played; some in up to 6 matches. We had fixtures, both home and away, against Offchurch, Sapcote, Northampton and Stony Stratford, all played in a very friendly spirit, and sometimes sharing players; on one occasion even helping the opposition to victory! I tried to arrange a match against Upper Sapey both at the start of the season, and near the end, but in the end it proved elusive. We'll have another go next (*this, Ed*) year!

Our results were mixed, but the main consideration in friendly matches is to celebrate the game of golf croquet, enjoy the company of fellow players, and gain experience of playing competitively against a variety of different styles. Lavish teas are, of course, a welcome bonus! This year, with the unusually hot, dry weather, some of the games were a bit of a lottery, but caused as much amusement as frustration. The sloping ground at Offchurch proved particularly tricky, with any downhill shot accelerating off the lawn towards the village hall.

I would like to thank those who helped run the matches, juggling timers, operating the generator, and making the tea. The players really appreciate being able to concentrate on their game; thank you very much!

If you haven't played in a match this year, please consider doing so next (*this*) year. They really are great fun, and if you are fairly new to the game, you will be paired with a more experienced player to guide you on your way. And every match finishes with a splendid tea, which this year has included warm quiches, home-made scones and cream, and some delicious home-made cakes!

The Castle Cup is played level, to Advanced Association Croquet rules. It features the top four AC players at the club which, this year, were Adrian Morris, Cliff Daniel, Philip Wood and Alan Richardson.

Round 1 gave a victory to Adrian over Alan by 26-7 just as time was called. The game between Cliff and Philip was an entertaining nail-biter! Philip was well ahead but a good break by Cliff who pegged out his ball gave him a two hoop advantage. Philip then managed to score one hoop and in his final turn drew level. The match then depended on the “Golden Hoop”. Philip had left his two balls together and used this advantage to gain a victory 17-16.

The second round saw another victory by Adrian, beating Cliff 26-13. The game between Alan and Philip was another tight affair with Alan ahead but Philip narrowing the gap as the game reached time. At the end, Alan maintained his lead to win 16-12. With another victory for Adrian v Philip, 26-11, Adrian retained the trophy. Cliff’s victory over Alan 13-7 gave Cliff the runner-up spot on nett hoops.



**L to R; Alan Richardson, Adrian Morris and Philip Wood**

Well, that’s all folks. The next Running Hoops, due within the next 3 months, will have a resume of the current Rules Changes and, hopefully, loads of interesting articles from you all.

**Irene Rogers.**

**January 2019.**