



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

April 2009

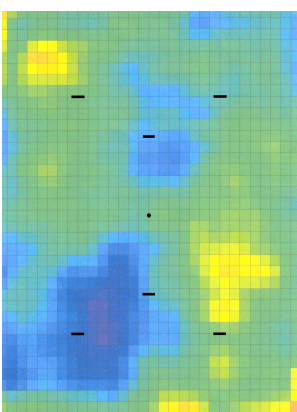
The Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where my mallet is (anon)



It hardly seems any time at all since we were hearing about the winners and those slightly less successful on Finals Day. Since then of course, there has been considerable work on the lawns

and surrounding areas. Thanks to many members we spread a lot of top dressing over all lawns in the Autumn. We then borrowed the Laser surveying equipment from the Croquet Association and surveyed all three lawns.

We weren't very happy with their computer program but found we had an eminent mathematician in our midst - Frank Hibberd who has produced most excellent maps (shown below for lawn 1). They show the bumps and hollows against a reference 'average slope'. So, in the Spring we have been able to put top dressing just in the hollows. Only about 1/4" is possible each time to allow the grass to grow through so it will take a number of years to get a perfectly flat lawn. But it is a start. Around the banks we planted many daffodil and other bulbs & even the ones Michael Langham put in upside down have bloomed. (Oh ye of little faith who didn't believe him!).



Height relative to mean slope (ms)



They look a picture and we hope later in the season that the roses we have just planted will also give a colourful show to cheer up those of us whose croquet

is depressingly bad.

Following our best ever End of Season Dinner. We held a couple of excellent socials over the winter. John Leader made an indoor hoop so we were able to have target croquet across the club lounge whilst also pitting our brains against fiendish quizzes set by Adrian Morris and John Clark.

There was a well supported AGM with a buffet supper and the committee will consider any ideas from that meeting (and any other comments made since).

So now we have reached April and the lawns are just opening. It is rumoured that some of our more senior

members are getting quite competitive and practising either in their bedroom at home or travelling to clubs who have lawns which, due to better drainage, are open in the winter! Adrian is trying to get the golf croquet leagues started early this season. So now is the time to get down to the club and start playing. Have a good season.



Ray Clipson

Dates for Your Diary

- Tues 21st April - FIRST CLUB NIGHT 6pm
- Thurs 23rd April - Association Coaching: the theory, by Bill Sidebottom with snooker balls at John Leader's, 30A Randall Rd. 7pm.
- Sat 25th April - Association Coaching: the practice, by Bill Sidebottom at the club 10.30 to 12.30
- Sun 26th April - FUN DAY Golf Croquet for everyone
- Sat 25th April - 2nd session of Association Coaching at the club by Bill Sidebottom, 10.30 to 12.30
- Fri 1st May - Friendly Association match at Northampton. Contact Frank Hibberd if you would like to play

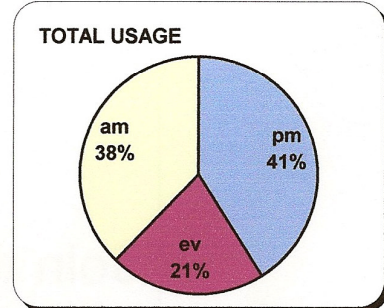
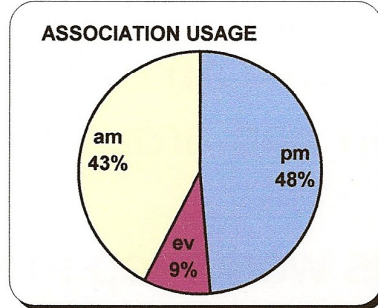
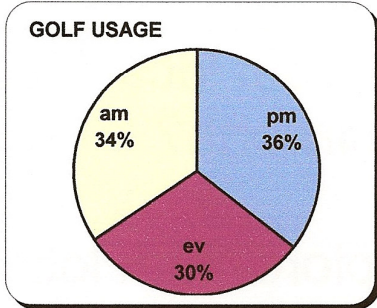
LAWN USAGE ANALYSIS

Thank you all for completing the first lawn usage survey which we did last year. We thought you might like to see the results.

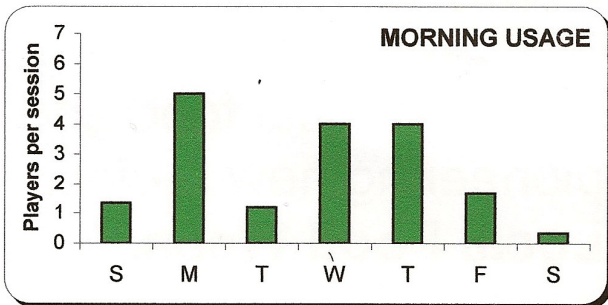
This was our first exercise of this type and there were some learning points. One of which was to make better note of the weather affected days. We tried our best to back date this information. We intend to repeat the analysis early in the season to try to find latest trends of lawn usage.

In the following conclusions from this short period we have tried to take out the effect of outside influences such as tournaments and matches and weather and have come up with the following - some may have been obvious and some less so!

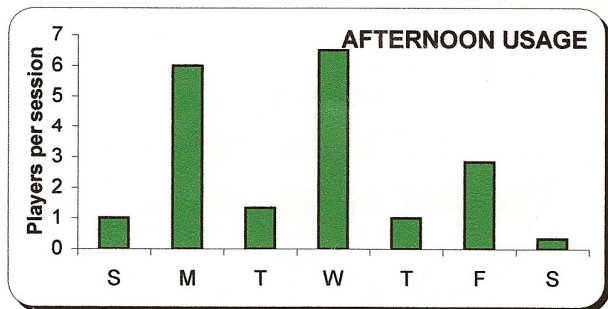
Either way, we hope this sort of analysis may help to improve lawn usage and help you pick a time to play when the lawn is more likely to be free. We want to avoid moving towards booking lawn space.



The first analysis looked at variance between Golf and Association usage. It showed the obvious difference that Association is played less in the evening but Golf is played evenly through the day



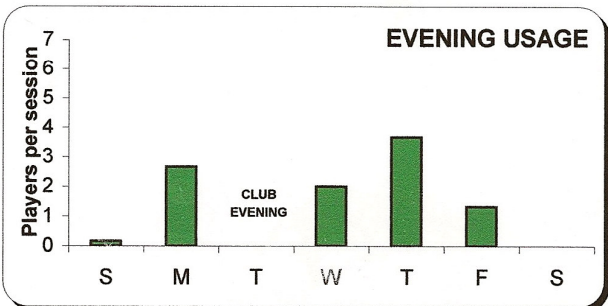
The analysis of daily usage shows very low usage at weekends with little use apart from the advanced play on Sunday mornings.



Tuesday is also a very quiet day apart from the club evenings.

Mondays and Wednesdays are the busiest days.

Mornings are busiest on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Afternoons are busy on Monday and Wednesday but quieter at other times.

Apart from Club evenings, no evenings are over busy with Friday to Sunday particularly quiet.

Any comments to Adrian Morris

Don't forget:

- It's cheaper to renew before 30th April
- Bill's coaching is designed for those with high or medium handicap who want to improve (and he is an excellent coach)

Accidents

We hope you don't have an accident, but if you do there is now an official first aid box in the tea hut, & there is a book to record the details. Please fill it in. This is to conform to the main club rules