



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

August 2008

## MIXED SUCCESS FOR THE TEAMS

A lot has been going on. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June we had a friendly Association match against Northampton when Rachel Rowe, making her debut for the club, showed some of the qualities which led to her being chosen to play for England under 19s vs Ireland. On a rare sunny and warm day we won by 6 games to 2.

In Golf Croquet against Offchurch on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July our team of Geoff Eames, Derek Fairburn, Tina Haslam, Nigel Haslam, Frank Hibberd and Tom Holmes won a commendable victory.

Kenilworth didn't do so well in a Golf Croquet match against a very strong Edgbaston side on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The team of Cliff Daniel, John Leader, & Tom Holmes lost 6 games to 3

July 27<sup>th</sup> saw us beating Stourbridge in a West Midlands Association League match at Crackley Lane. Cliff Daniel and John Handy beat Richard and Margaret Broome 26-20 in the morning doubles while Bill Sidebottom 26-18 and Henry Fellows 26-23 were successful in their singles matches. The afternoon matches were shared two apiece, giving a 5 - 2 victory to Kenilworth.

On the following Tuesday, Kenilworth travelled to Himley for a Golf Croquet League match. Ray Clipson and John Handy won one game each and Martin Green (playing his first match for the club) had two victories but this was not quite enough, with Himley winning 5-4 after a very close decider with John Handy at the final hoop.

Action returned to Crackley Lane for the July Open Tournament. After two days of competitive and enjoyable croquet, the final was between John Handy and Adrian Morris, both undefeated in earlier matches. Adrian was the victor 26-8, which gave him the double of the June and July tournaments.



## A View from Down Under

During a break in my world travels, I was lucky to spend a summer in England, and my uncle, Martin Green, offered me a bed, an occasional meal and the chance to learn the game of golf croquet. As many of you know, New Zealanders always enjoy a challenge but little did I anticipate the intensity of the ensuing battle for the family's golf croquet crown.

Everyone at Kenilworth Croquet Club made me extremely welcome, and I gradually grew accustomed to the gentle banter – usually from John Leader - concerning the world rankings of New Zealand in croquet and the performances of the New Zealand cricket team, although this diminished significantly as the cricket results turned New Zealand's way.

My involvement was limited to golf croquet but this seemed to be an excellent introduction to croquet. I shall have many fond memories of my time in England in 2008 during weather conditions masquerading as 'summer', but none more so than the welcome I received at the Club, and the outcome of the final match in the World Series with my uncle.

Marcus Wilson

## The Why and When of Referees

When to call on them (or on experienced players) is sometimes neglected. Croquet is based upon the two players refereeing their own game. For this to work, the two players should try to be familiar with the most important laws. Copies of the laws are in the hut.

By far the most common issue is the potential to make a fault in tight, close angled attempts to run the hoop. It is not uncommon to watch games on the lawn where the possibility of a fault is not recognised and faults occurring without being identified or declared.

## Dates for Your Diary

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> August Golf Friendly at Sapcote

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> August Golf Friendly at Offchurch

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2pm Golf Friendly vs Sapcote at Kenilworth

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sept One Day Advanced Tournament

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2 - 6pm Ladies Tournament

**Sat/Sun 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Sept Finals Weekend**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct LAWNS CLOSED (Provisional - depending on the weather)

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Nov End of Season Dinner, Kenilworth Golf Club. Details Later.

## Trouble-free Double-banking

Nearly all CA and club tournaments are double-banked. It is becoming more common with club games. To make double-bank play trouble-free, a few basic points apply.

Remember that there are two games and four players on the lawn, all equally important. Some interference is inevitable, but common sense judgement as to which player proceeds applies. If a player is already on a break, let that player continue. If a player can easily get away from the interference area, or does not require any balls to be marked, let that player proceed. When walking across the lawn, or standing off the lawn, don't cross the line of strike of another player. In other words, be aware of the second game being played. This latter, of course, applies equally to a single game.

You need plastic markers for a second-game ball to be temporarily moved. Under no circumstances use a coin – a forgotten coin can ruin the mower. The procedure is to ask the player on the lawn permission to mark the ball before doing so. Immediately after your stroke has been made, replace the ball and tell the player that the ball has been replaced. People not in play can help by being ready to mark balls and minimise delay.

If two balls from different games collide, they should be placed as near as possible to the place they would have been if the interference had not taken place. Section 33 of the Laws covers double-banked games, and deals with a few circumstances not mentioned above. If you have any doubts ask one of the club's experienced players.

Bill Sidebottom

### Quite a Canterbury Tale

By virtue of winning the W Midlands League in 2007, Kenilworth found themselves drawn to play Canterbury (away!) And so it was that Adrian Morris, Henry Fellowes and Cliff Daniel arrived rather late on a Tuesday evening in June (motorway hold-ups adding 2 hours to the journey!) at a delightful country pub nr Canterbury to find John Handy in very relaxed mode getting to know our opponents! After a superb meal we left with our opponents who had kindly offered to put us up (sadly no wealthy young widows were amongst their players!).



An inspection of the lawns on the Wednesday morning would normally have prevented play due to the deluge of rain the previous day but naturally it was decided to go ahead.

Henry and John were to play the doubles match and had to deal with a partially water-logged 'yellow' corner as well as wily opponents. Cliff

and Adrian were slow to adjust to the difficult conditions and at lunch we found ourselves trailing 0-3 and needing to win all four of the afternoon singles to secure victory.

After lunch Adrian played exceptionally well to win his game in very quick time offering the other three some inspiration. However Henry's opponent took full advantage of the handicap difference to clinch his game just before time was called. But the victories by John and Cliff, each by one hoop 'on time' gave us a very respectable final score.

The whole experience was most enjoyable with our opponents generously hosting us for two days and they were particularly pleased – albeit a little anxious – to see a player of the calibre of Henry Fellowes gracing their lawns in a handicap competition.

Cliff Daniel

### I'm playin' in the Rain

The forecast was rain throughout the day and it was right! However their captain Eileen defied the omens and said 'game on' so all 12 players took to the field at Ashby. Rachel Rowe, a member of Ashby, decided to play for her second club Kenilworth, and accepted the banter from her old team-mates good-humouredly.

Under Eileen's direction, 18 singles games and 9 doubles games were successfully completed in light rain for most of the day & in a heavier downpour in the afternoon. Despite a late rally by Kenilworth, winning the last four games, Ashby won by sixteen games to eleven.



A genuinely friendly day, enhanced by the excellent lunch provided by the hosts.

Rachel Rowe, Frank Hibberd, Cliff Daniel, Amanda Haslam, Pauline Dennis and Ray Clipson, played for Kenilworth.

Frank Hibberd

**KEEP 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER FREE for the GREAT END OF SEASON DINNER**