



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

August 2009

IT'S BEEN WET, WET, WET.....



With the July rainfall in the Midlands officially at 195% of the average for the month, it has been a challenging month on the lawns. Several times the lawns have been flooded. The ground was so soft jump shots had to be banned. The hoops had fairly bad 'rabbit runs' (even without the help of the rabbits, which have also been a problem) & the few fine days have been very busy with people trying to catch up with their games. Thanks to everyone for their patience & help. Water has been only an inch or so from the surface as several members have found out when putting in hoops, muddy water tends to come out!! On a brighter note we now have a clock bought with a kind donation from Eileen & Derek Buxton of Ashby. Some roses have bloomed, most club competitions are on schedule, we have played matches against other clubs (some of which we have won) and we now have two international players in the club. Rachel Rowe has been to Egypt (see report over) & Adrian Morris has been selected for Wales vs Switzerland. Congratulations to both of them. And Geof Eames is looking forward to being asked to play for Azerbaijan!!

Nearly against Northampton

We chose a good day, with the sun shining - at least until a heavy shower at lunchtime. That only affected those who played slowly, as the quicker players were back in the pavilion! The morning went well against what is our 'bogey team'. Over several years we have always lost heavily against Northampton. We were determined to do better. Bill Sidebottom played cagily until his opponent had used his bisques and then went for the jugular to end by winning by +17. Henry Fellows continued the progress by a win by +5 but Peter Dennis, who was not at his best and got all the bad luck going, just lost to Owen Bryce (now 88 years old). Ray Clipson, who played in the morning instead of Frank Hibberd, recovered from being well down to eventually conquer Mel Christie. So 3-1 to us.



The afternoon was a different story. Owen was indomitable, as the only player to win both his matches - the second one against Frank Hibberd. Henry could not overcome the bisque difference against Mike Hills, Bill lost to Nick Evans, and Peter lost by a point to Mel.

New shirts much admired

The new design of sweatshirts and poloshirts have met with great approval. There is a small stock and we will order more. Contact Peter Dennis with your requirements

The Centre Stage Competition

The Club Round of the Centre Stage CA Golf Croquet Competition was held on Sunday the 14th June on a glorious sunny and warm afternoon. There were a number of close and exciting games with Nigel Haslam being the eventual winner, having won all three of his games. The other competitors each won one game with Ray Clipson and Philip Wood ending on 18 points each and Amanda Haslam on 13 points. Because Ray beat Philip he is second in the "Ranking" order being sent forward to the C.A. John Handy.

Try Hunstanton says Cliff

In glorious sunshine for the whole of the three day tournament I thoroughly enjoyed playing at Hunstanton in the 'Over 50's Handicap Tournament'. I soon felt comfortable on the fine even-paced lawns and with a little luck (and a good supply of bisques!) managed to win all 7 of my games. and in the process found my handicap reduced from 10 to 9 !! Cliff Daniel

Dates for Your Diary

Sat Aug 22nd Association.v.Shrewsbury (away)
 Sun Aug 23rd Golf Croquet .v. Shrewsbury
Tues Aug 25th Club Evening with Golf Doubles and a meal £5 - Email Adrian to book
 Wed Aug 26th Golf Friendly.v.Sapcote (TBC)
 Wed Sept 2nd Castle Advanced Tournament
 Thurs Sept 3rd Golf Friendly.v.Sapcote (away)
 Wed/Thurs Sept 9/10th Hospitality Events
 Sat Sept 12th Golf Friendly.v.Offchurch (TBC)
 Sun Sept 20th Ladies Final Day
 Sat/Sun Sept 26th/27th Finals Weekend

Victory against Stourbridge

On Saturday, August 8th, a Kenilworth team set off on a lovely sunny day to compete in a picturesque park against Stourbridge. The opposition set out two fine lawns, one of which sloped toward one side, sometimes making croquet shots more hazardous than we are used to.

The morning session, was evenly fought, giving each team two wins and two losses: Alan Richardson beat John Green (handicap 6) and Philip Wood beat Richard Broome (9), while Frank Hibberd lost to Mike Wills (7) and Tim Leggatt to Phil Bate (18).

After lunch eaten in the shade of a giant tree, the afternoon was even finer and warmer than the morning. By just after 5 o'clock Kenilworth claimed victory by three games to one. Alan beating Mike Wills by 23 hoops (!), Philip beating Phil Bate and Frank beating Richard Broome, while Tim lost to Margaret Broome (12), by 5 hoops. Overall, a satisfying win by 5 games to 3. It was a beautiful day and a very enjoyable 6½ hour match against a most friendly team.

On getting home, Tim's family were appalled to see a 8½ inch tear in the seat of his trousers – conspicuously visible when leaning forward to play a stroke at croquet. Whether from tact or embarrassment, the team had not mentioned it; evidently Margaret Broome had not been put off her game!

Tim Leggatt



Rachel in Egypt

At the end of July I was one of three English players off to Cairo for the first World Croquet Federation (WCF) U21 Golf Croquet Championship. It had entries from four other countries: Egypt, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. The club's lawns were rather different: each lawn was sunken from the spectator level as well as every lawn having two ball boys, a referee (there were only a few translation problems) and a scoreboard. In addition the hoops were much firmer, and got progressively narrower towards the top of the hoop, making jump shots less of an appealing option!

Generally play was in the evening or occasionally in the early morning to avoid the heat of the day. So some time for sightseeing!

After a rather rough time in the preliminary 19 point block stage games, I won my first two matches in the knockout stages to get into the top 16, before being beaten by Robert Fletcher (Australia) and in the play-offs I finished 13th.

Although half the entrants were Egyptian, the final was an Egyptian against a New Zealander, Duncan Dixon. Dixon won the first three games giving him the title.

Watching and playing against the Egyptians was an interesting experience: some of their tactics are rather different and the pace at which they can hit the ball is phenomenal (there were a handful of incidents in which the balls jumped over the spectators' heads). It is proposed to take place every other year, and the current idea is for England to host the next one.

Rachel Rowe

Offchurch v. Kenilworth: a view by a first-timer

I woke up on Sunday morning feeling somewhat nervous – what had I let myself in for? Only a friendly match they'd said... Needless to say I was quite relieved when 1.30 arrived and I could set off, dressed in white of course. The opposition looked so relaxed, so proficient – my stomach sank! Anyway, they were also friendly as promised so I felt a little better. I found with relief we were playing doubles and I was to be partnered by Ray all afternoon so I relaxed a bit more. We won our first match so I almost began to enjoy myself and had a very welcome cup of tea! Our other two pairs had lost so we were 2-1 down – all to play for we decided. We lost our next hard-fought match 2-4 as we ran out of time but our other two pairs won so we were 3 all – certainly all to play for! We won our final match 6-4 coming from 0-3 behind – the adrenalin must have got going – whilst our other two pairs won and drew respectively. So we were finally victorious - 5½ - 3½.

With a lovely tea and very friendly chat as we sat around. I began to wonder why on earth I'd been so nervous. I'd really enjoyed the afternoon. So if you get the opportunity, grab it with open arms – it's definitely worth it!

Jean Wilson

Golf Croquet at Edgbaston

A somewhat inexperienced team went to Edgbaston and played lower handicap players in level games, so it was not unexpected that we lost. But all played well and we had some notable victories including David Green beating Paddy Heath. Score Edgbaston 12 - Kenilworth 6

