



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

June 2009

KENILWORTH FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The week-long Kenilworth Festival was held in May and we were keen to be involved. So on the Saturday when the main club showed off their facilities for tennis & squash we showed visitors croquet in the rain with 2 hoops near the clubhouse.

On the Sunday we set up a croquet lawn on the bowling green in Abbey Fields for the 'Party in the Park' - but it rained again! However a number of hardy souls came and enjoyed it.

On the Wednesday we had played the first Kenilworth Trophy match. The day started damp, cold and windy but teams of intrepid players from Ashby, Edgbaston & Sapcote arrived to play the two from Kenilworth. A number of spectators braved the elements – and we were particularly pleased to welcome Patricia Duke-Cox, the CA Chairman of Council.



Morning play consisted of two blocks of 13 point singles & it started with the first three balls of the first game all ending within 1 foot of the first hoop! David Lambert from Sapcote twice made a very good hit from long distance only to leave Adrian Morris in the jaws (twice!). Rachel Rowe was playing



with her usual force and accuracy. Derek Buxton, for Ashby, won two of his matches but lost to Rachel, whilst his wife Eileen, as well as Paddy Heath & Ian Whitlock for Edgbaston were finding the conditions difficult.

By lunch Kenilworth had a good lead with Ashby second and after a hot lunch in the clubhouse, the afternoon play was 19 point doubles. Kenilworth had two comfortable wins, but their game with Sapcote was a tense affair with Rachel scoring the winning hoop to make it 10-9. The last match, in the gathering gloom, was also tense as Ashby beat Edgbaston 10-9.

All the players enjoyed the day and the Festival Trophy went to Kenilworth, but the other teams will come back next year with determination to change the result !

The 2008 Bill Browne Final

Unfortunately this match could not be played on last year's Finals Day and had to be held over until this month. Peter Dennis & Frank Hibberd duly turned up and before several spectators relaxing in the shade on a very warm day, they both endeavoured to run 14 hoops. It was not the best of days for either of them and only after some 2½ hours did Peter finally peg out the winner.



They both agreed, it was just one of those days when nothing went right.

Dates for Your Diary

Thurs June 11th - Association Friendly .vs. Northampton (lawns 1 & 2 all day)

Tues June 9th & 16th Golf Croquet COACHING

Tues June 23rd Golf Croquet Doubles plus meal (Lasagne & desert) £5. Email Adrian to book

Thurs July 2nd - ASSOCIATION COACHING.

For members moving to this sort of croquet or those who feel in need of improvement. Details to follow.

Wed/Thurs June 17th/18th Open Tournament

Sat June 20th & Thurs 25th Hospitality Events

Details of Golf Croquet Grass Roots and Centre Stage Heats to follow

Wed July 8th B Class Golf Tournament

Tues July 14th – W I afternoon - lawn 2 only

Wed July 15th Association friendly Ashby away

Sat July 18th Association vs Stourbridge away

Wed/Thurs July 22nd/23rd Open Tournament

WEB UPDATE - Fully up and running with up to date DIARY of events plus all RESULTS of fixtures with PHOTOS. All club COMPETITION DRAWS & up to date RESULTS - see who you have to play next

Playing at Northampton

Why travel 42 miles for a croquet match? Croquet clubs are still quite thin on the ground and few are within easy reach, but it would have been worth travelling a good deal further to play at such a beautiful venue, in the extensive grounds of the world famous private mental hospital. Friday May 1st was a mild, sunny day and we were made very welcome.

We were immediately impressed by the setting and the vast lawn with four courts and room for two more.

Once play began, the slope across the courts, together with a faster surface than at Kenilworth, proved quite a challenge.

Playing two pairs of association doubles and two pairs of golf doubles at lunch we were 0-4 down in the association and 1-3 down in the golf. In



the afternoon we lost 1-3 in association, but, with the benefit of bisques against lower handicap players who had switched from playing association, we managed a 5-5 draw in the golf, with 2 drawn games.

Some of us must have learned a lot about how to cope with a slope, how to size up an opponent's skills (e.g. can s/he play jump shots well), how to plan ahead, etc

We found ourselves in very pleasant company and look forward to the return match.

The Team was Ray Clipson, Cliff Daniel, Frank Hibberd,

Kenilworth v Ashby

Rain forecast for 4 o'clock. In the meantime sun and clouds. The match forecast looked ominous, however, as Ashby won four of the first five games, with the Kenilworth team chilled by Ashby's Eileen as she told of her personal recent close encounter with a ghost. But Kenilworth staged a partial recovery, and the doubles finished with Ashby leading by 5½ to 2½

In the afternoon singles Kenilworth took charge, helped by 3 out of 3 wins by Rachel and 2 out of 3 by Cliff, Philip, Pauline and Ray. Final score: Kenilworth 15½, Ashby 11½. The rain arrived early at 3.15 – a brief flurry, treated with disdain by the dedicated croquet players.

As always with Ashby matches, the day was enjoyed by all. Lunch and tea were efficiently organised by Pauline.

Manager: Frank Hibberd. Referee, factotum, Executive Officer and scorer: John Leader

Team: Rachel Rowe, Cliff Daniel, Peter Dennis, Philip Wood, Pauline Dennis, Ray Clipson

Edgbaston win—after a panic

It was a fine late spring day with the sun shining when the Kenilworth team took on Edgbaston in their West Midlands league match. But it started with a slight panic as Frank Hibberd phoned in sick. Luckily Ray Clipson was mowing the grass and after a rush home to get his 'whites' he completed the team.

The doubles match had Peter Dennis & Ray Clipson playing their top & lowest handicap pair of Jim Markham & Ted Jackson. Peter started slowly but soon put together a fine break to 3 Back. Jim countered by going to 4 Back. In a close match the junior partners played their part and it ended with a Kenilworth win by +1 on time. John Handy won his match by 13 and Cliff Daniel his by 3.

In the afternoon it was all singles. Peter lost to their top player, Jim Markham and John lost to Paul Trafford. Adrian Morris took over from Cliff and beat Noel Davies while Ray played above his handicap to beat Ted Jackson. So Kenilworth won by 5 games to 2.

A Fun Day started the season

The social activity of the season got off to a crackley (!) start when the bright weather drew a score of members to Fun Day. Players joined in pairs to play a series of golf croquet matches on the full lawns & a series of companionable but competitive games progressed through the afternoon, produced 4 clear leaders – Ray Clipson, John Fitch, Tim Leggatt and Philip Wood.

By a toss of coins, in the final John partnered Philip and Tim paired with Ray. By 50/c even with an ample sufficiency of tea, coffee & ginger biscuits, it was getting quite cool & possibly for this reason, the organiser settled for a single game final. This progressed in ideal fashion 1-0, 1-1, 1-2, 2-2 to 2-3. Two fine strikes placing an opponents' ball in the jaws of the hoop obliged Philip to attempt challenging long-distance, but on the day just off-the-line, jump shots. At the sixth, Ray's ball homed in magically or magnetically, but certainly majestically, deep into the hoop. So the joint winners of the new diamond shaped trophy – to be known as the Spring Trophy - was awarded to Tim and Ray. A good afternoon enjoyed by all. John

A reminder that if you want white trousers or other gear, Warwick Sports in Swan Street, Warwick have a good stock AND offer 10% discount to Kenilworth Club members. Books on both sorts of croquet including coaching are available from the CA. If you're not a member we will order for you.