



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

May 2010

## A Mixed Start to the Season

The good weather did arrive and we had a long period of sunny dry weather BUT it was so dry with overnight frost that the grass didn't grow. Also we had put on fertiliser and mosskiller but it stayed on the surface as granules until we were forced to use the sprinklers. So we were forced to delay the start of the croquet season until April 14th. Even then, the grass refused to grow!

Now the season is underway but our luck has not changed. We lost again at Northampton, the Ashby match had to be postponed and the Sunday we chose for the Fun Day was bitterly cold (see reports below). Just keep thinking IT WILL GET BETTER.

### Northampton friendly

We always seem to lose when we play a friendly at Northampton early in the season. It may be that their lawns are open in the winter, so they are in practice. It may be that the lawns are akin to the south face of Everest (well slightly). It may even be that they are better than us! Whatever, it is always a very friendly and most enjoyable occasion.

This year we took eight players and played both Association and Golf Croquet. They had a last minute drop-out so were one golf player short, but ably organised by Owen Bryce, each of our golf croquet players sat out one game to even things up.



The Golf Croquet match was very close and we were actually winning at the lunch interval, but somehow we weren't as good in the afternoon doubles and it was finally 6-7 to them. Ray Clipson won all his singles but he and David Green had no luck and lost their doubles.

Derek Fairburn played well and

won two of his matches. John Handy had some close matches.

The Association Match was lost 2-6 with only Adrian Morris doing himself justice and winning both his matches. Cliff Daniel, Alan Richardson & Frank Hibberd found the lawns difficult to master and the Northampton players seemed to use their bisques well.

We will try again next year, perhaps later in the season when we've had some practice. It's a lovely venue and extremely hospitable (sorry about the pun!) people.



### The Editor

I have been producing this newsletter for more than 4 years. It is not a hard job but I feel it could do with fresh input & a new view. Therefore I would be very happy if anyone would like to take over. Please contact me if you are interested.

Ray Clipson

### Dates for Your Diary

May 12<sup>th</sup> - Kenilworth Festival Trophy match

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Kenilworth Festival Croquet display by the club in Abbey Fields

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Open Day 1pm - 5pm

May 25<sup>th</sup> - Golf Croquet Coaching starts (3 Tuesday evenings)

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friendly vs Northampton

June 8<sup>th</sup> - Doubles Golf Croquet evening (with meal)

June 16/17<sup>th</sup> Association Croquet Open Tournament

AND keep up to date with any changes by looking at the diary on the club website

## Charlecote Cup

Over the winter, with our lawns closed, several of us have played on the croquet lawn at the National Trust property near Stratford. It all started when Alan Clark approached them & they welcomed the idea of visitors seeing croquet actually being played. Alan and Joyce Critchley have played regularly on Sunday afternoons when the weather was favourable. The wire hoops are 'generous' but the lawn is almost full size. The groundsman took our advice and treated the lawn for worm casts. Apart from one ex-molehill the surface is good and pretty flat and the setting is extremely attractive.



So the Charlecote Cup was presented and played for on 21<sup>st</sup> of March .

It turned out to be a bright sunny early spring day. Ironically, Alan & Joyce were unable to come but our new member from last year, Peter Langley brought his wife Anne, and they joined Nick & Liz Hegan, John Handy and Ray Clipson. In between games everyone enjoyed hot mulled wine and biscuits. Everyone played everyone else and Nick won four of his six games. So he deservedly took home the trophy which we hope will be competed for each winter.

## The Magnificent Six

We should have realised when we planned it. Bank Holiday weekends are notorious for bad weather. Sure enough, following the excellent warm sunny weather of late April, we held the first competition of the season, the Spring Trophy, on a bitterly cold May Bank Holiday afternoon. It threatened rain all afternoon but luckily held off.



The poor weather resulted in a limited number of competitors, six to be precise, but all enjoyed competitive and closely

fought games. We welcomed new member Les Flavell who commented that he hoped the Kenilworth weather was not always like this. Several of the games went to the final hoop & Bob Maskell emerged as the clear winner of the Spring Trophy in only his 2nd season playing croquet.

## Beware the double tap.

In golf croquet if two balls are close together (4 mm or less than 1/4") you are likely to "double tap" if you hit along the centre line of both balls. The answer is to play away from the centre line of the two balls.

## Kenilworth Guides' Centenary Tournament

We weren't sure what we'd let ourselves in for when we found ourselves teaching five Kenilworth Guide Units to play croquet ready for this tournament. We taught them on various lengths of grass and some quite steep slopes so when the teams saw the actual croquet lawns, they were pleasantly surprised!

We and the Guiders relaxed when the weather was fine and a team from each Unit materialized! After a short introduction we were underway and soon stopped worrying that they wouldn't actually manage to run any hoops! Every match was completed more or less within the 20 minutes allocated, and the Guides got more tactical as the afternoon wore on – 'hit that ball' was often to be heard! After many hard-fought matches, the trophy was won by the 8<sup>th</sup> Kenilworth Guides who received the cup and medals.



Our thanks must go to Adrian Morris who organized the competition, and to John Handy, Diane Fitch and Bob Maskell who supervised many a game.

Jean Wilson and Stella Gill

Thanks to John Copping for the building of a shelter on the south boundary of Lawn 2 (with a little help from David Green & Bill Sidebottom to hold the sides !!)



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