



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

October 2008

## SUN SHINES FOR THE END OF THE SEASON

The Club Finals took place on 27/28 Sept. with all the competitors enjoying both the Association Croquet on the pleasant Saturday & Golf Croquet on the Sunday.

The main event, for the coveted St George's Cup, involved John Leader against Peter Dennis. A tight and competitive game with Peter victorious by 26-12. The Secunderabad Cup saw Cliff Daniel take on last year's winner, John Leader. Cliff used his bisques to good effect and raced to a 23-6 lead. John fought back but just lost 26-18. On the half lawn Alan Richardson and Nigel Haslam played for the Douglas Trophy - Alan started well but Nigel responded strongly but a tactical error allowed Alan back in to win by 14-6. The last scheduled match did not need to be played as Charles Wade had already won the Doug Taylor cup.

The Sunday also dawned sunny and two competitions took place. Adrian Morris, on top form, beating Martin Green for the Pindi Cup in the morning and Peter Dennis for the Kenilworth Cup in the afternoon.

Alongside the finals on Sunday, members played a Golf Croquet tournament won by Nigel Haslam who was undefeated throughout the day.

The previous weekend saw Amanda Haslam retain the Ladies Trophy for the second year by beating Pauline Dennis.



### The Sapcote Matches

A team, comprising John Fitch, Geof Eames, Derek Fairburn, Tina Haslam, Chris Sanders and John Handy played a friendly match at Sapcote on August 20th. Sapcote had lost one of their team (very careless of them), so one of their number had to play against our pairs. Additional interest to the match was in the form of Sapcote's chamfered lawns. The match was not a walk-over for either team, with the score at 4-3 to Sapcote when the final match started (so there was no pressure there !) Sapcote took the honours and treated us to a medal-winning after-match tea at Honey-suckle Cottage, hosted by Joyce

For the return match on the 12th Sept a team of 6 Kenilworth players gathered, weather permitting. The weather was not permitting. We started in gentle rain which soon became heavy, and soon we were huddled in the pavilion watching a thunderstorm, with both lawns flooded. We agreed to replay on Wednesday 17th September.

After several dry days the lawns were in good condition; we even had a number of spectators, and on an overcast, mild afternoon we made a good start. However, Ray Clipson was recruited by Sapcote because they arrived one short, and his doubles game was the only one they won in the first round. The second round they won 3-1, & this left the match poised at 4-4, and the final result was only decided on the completion of the last game. Kenilworth eventually lost 5-7, thanks to Ray Clipson (embarrassed by playing the best he had for weeks) who won his three doubles games for Sapcote. The Kenilworth team comprised Peter Dennis, John Handy, Philip Wood, Cliff Daniel, David Green and George Willan.

Chris Saunders & Philip Wood

**Congratulations to Philip Wood**, a new Kenilworth member, who played in September in a class B event at Edgbaston in his first Tournament. He won 4 games to top his section and then went on to beat one of the top players in the final .

**A Final Reminder - BOOK NOW for the End of Season Dinner**

You should have received a booking form, if not contact Ray Clipson immediately

## Castle Cup Tournament — Henry Fellows successful again

The Castle Cup was presented to the club to be competed for by the best association players in the club. This year, the winner of the Advanced Level Association Tournament played on the 20<sup>th</sup> September would receive the trophy.

The four players with the lowest handicaps in the club entered – Paul Swaffield (-1.5), Henry Fellows (-1.5), Brian Kerr (1.5) and Bill Sidebottom (2). Each player would play the other three.

The tournament was thrown into doubt by the torrential rain that flooded both lawns the previous Friday, with a large pool still evident on lawn 1 on Saturday morning. Luckily Saturday was a glorious day and both lawns were judged playable early Sunday morning, but with some reservation about lawn 1. Lawn 2 was in good playing condition and five of the six games were played on it.

Brian got off to a good start winning against Paul +7. Henry beat Bill in a very close finish by 1 point. Henry beat Brian by +7 in the second game and Paul found form peeling the last three hoops to win +13 against Bill.

Paul and Henry started the third game as potential winners. Paul pegged out one of Henry's balls, but with a fine long hit-in Henry won the game and retained the Trophy.

Bill Sidebottom

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## An enjoyable Offchurch friendly

Mick Hegan, Diane Fitch, Philip Wood, Andrew Tarpey, Robin Moore, & John Fitch played out a draw, winning 4 and drawing 1 on a pleasant Saturday afternoon. As most had not played on this demanding surface before, this was a creditable result. As ever, we received excellent hospitality both on and off the lawn and the icing on the cake was the unexpected appearance of Frank Hibberd who stayed for a good hour to watch. Thanks to all concerned for an enjoyable afternoon.

Andrew Tarpey

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## Hi from Wanaka

We've received this note from Brian Gilbert, who many of you will remember came from NZ and played quite a lot with us last year :-

"You may have noticed that I haven't appeared this year at Kenilworth croquet club.

Unfortunately my mother died earlier in the year. I travelled to the UK for the funeral & decided I could not afford to have a second trip, even though I had arranged a doubles partner for Cheltenham. There is still family in Leamington to visit, so I may visit you again. You will, of course, be welcome at Wanaka croquet club any time.

Regards, Brian "

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## Tuesday Competition & Social

It was summer. In fact it was a Tuesday in August and despite the forecast of showers, it had been fine all day. Around 20 members had gathered for a doubles golf croquet competition organised by Adrian.

In his usual efficient way he handed out slips of who was partnering whom and who were our opponents. The



first players hit their first balls across the lawns and it started raining !!

However, we survived showers, the sun came out and we had a superb double rainbow over the lawns. Anne Fairburn and Jean Wilson found the gold at its end (well actually a bottle of wine each) All enjoyed the evening and it ended with a drink, a good meal & lots of chat in the clubhouse.

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## Websites and various bits

**Our own website** goes from strength to strength and Peter Dennis will write in the next issue about what you can find on it. But try it now.

Also John Leader has kindly supplied details of several sites worth browsing;

Slow motion Jump Shots at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QXD-3PTTgM>

Golf croquet with Egyptians & top British players at <http://golfcroquet.blip.tv/#1106765>

Good **news about various members**. Henry Ormerod is recovering from a broken ankle and hopes to continue playing next season. John Handy is having a pacemaker fitted (in & out of hospital in one day). Tony Tunstall and Frank Hibberd are both recovering.

The ladies who enjoyed the **Ladies Tournament** would like to **thank** Peter Dennis for organizing it, John Leader for assisting, and John Handy for refereeing for us. Also, those spectators who supported us – we hope they enjoyed the afternoon! Many thanks to you all.