



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

SEPTEMBER 2010

Longman's Trophy...

On July 9th., Kenilworth played in the 1st round of the Croquet Association National competition for the Longman Cup against 2 players from St.Albans and 2 from Meldreth (to form 1 team). Both these clubs are from the Southern Counties.



Kenilworth fielded a team consisting of Peter Dennis, Cliff Daniels, John Handy and Frank Hibberd. Interestingly Frank (No 4 player) was the stalwart, winning both his games. The loss of the morning doubles match of John and Peter was the deciding

factor. Peter clawed back 5 hoops after time was called to level the score but a clean hit in by their star player gave the opposition the "golden" hoop.

Result - Kenilworth 3 St Albans 4

West Midlands AC League

In blustery conditions Kenilworth extended their unbeaten run in the West Midlands (Association) Croquet league by beating Stourbridge at home with a 7 - 1 win. Peter Dennis, Cliff Daniels and Ray Clipson were unbeaten and John Handy just failed to make his 2nd. win.



CA Tournament Area Final

In August we had the honour of hosting the Area Final of the CA Golf Croquet All England Handicap Tournament. It had competitors from as far as Broadwas in Worcestershire, Watford, Bath & Bristol, & the winners go forward to the national final in September.

On a superb summer day with the lawns looking in good condition despite the dry weather, the competitors gathered for a full day of seven matches each, several of which had very close results.

Stuart Smith of Broadwas came out on top with four wins and fellow Broadwas member John Edwards came second. Jim Gregory from Nailsea played John Walker in the last match having won the same number of games. Jim got two hoops after time was called & took the match and the third place.

The club goes on the air!

Sat peacefully at home one evening I received a phone call, out of the blue, inviting the Croquet Club to appear on the Vic Minett programme to tell her and her listeners about our club and Croquet. Never shy about advertising the club I readily agreed before very quickly realising what I had agreed to! Cliff Daniel and Stella Gill agreed to join me in the studio.

Rosie the producer put us all at our ease and when we joined her in the studio, so did Vic Minett but it was still a pressurised environment. Our enthusiasm still showed through and the resultant 20 minute slot appears to have gone well. Adrian Morris

Dates for Your Diary

Sept 7th. - Club Night - Doubles Comp/meal

Sept 11th. - Main Club Social Event

Sept 19th. - Ladies Golf Tournament

Sept 25th.-26th. - Finals Weekend

Oct 4th. - Lawns close

Nov 13th. - Annual Dinner and awards

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

New Editor - Jean Wilson on jean.wilson66@btinternet.com

Sapcote GC friendly - at home

Players were greeted with a shower of rain as play started (there were mutters from Sapcote - 'Why does it always rain when we play here?'). But the rain stopped, and did not recur until the final singles games. After nine doubles games the score was 4½ all. Every Kenilworth pair had at least one win against sharp opposition. Sapcote's Christine is recovering from a stroke, and was helped around the lawn by her partner Edwina; but once in position, showed no sign of weakness.



So it came down to the singles, and wins by Amanda, David and Peter brought the final score to Kenilworth 7½, Sapcote 5½.

The players: David Green (match and tea manager), Amanda Haslam, Tim Leggatt, Peter Langley, Trevor Webb, Frank Hibberd

Ashby GC friendly - away

Ashby are a very hospitable team, & the hot drink on arrival was most welcoming, as this match was played on one of our 'summer' days! We all played a mixture of singles & doubles, & were privileged that this was the first match to use their beautiful new third lawn, created this year. The weather steadily deteriorated, & after lunch we all donned the wet weather gear.



As it was a friendly match, Kenilworth had fielded a team of mixed experience – Ray Clipson (captain), Alan Clark, Pauline

Dennis, Derek Fairburn, Stella Gill, Bob Maskell, Trevor Webb & Jean Wilson, but Ashby obviously feared their opponents, as they played a very strong team, every one of them being very accurate from long distances, whether hitting us away or running the hoops. Congratulations to Ray who won two of his matches, & Alan & Bob who won one each, against such stiff competition. Unfortunately, these (all singles, incidentally) were the only wins out of 30 games – and only another 6 reached the respectable scores of 4-7 or better. We will do better next time!

Golf Croquet Inter Club Shield (Murphy Cup)

This was the second round, played at Broadwas on 15th. July.

The recent friendly match played at Broadwas had pre-warned the team about the notorious multi-sloping lawns but, following much rain, the grass couldn't be cut, so local knowledge certainly played its part in this match.

Kenilworth fielded a strong team of Adrian Morris, John Leader, Peter Dennis and Cliff Daniel but only Cliff rose to the challenge with two wins. This left Broadwas victors at five games to two. Broadwas hospitality was excellent as usual and we wish Broadwas well in the later stages.

Sapcote get their revenge!

Having been beaten when they came and played at Kenilworth, Sapcote were determined to win when we sent a team to them on Thursday 12th August.

The day started somewhat overcast with occasional showers by the time we arrived at their attractive village. But Pat Wright quickly organised who was playing in the doubles matches. We started with John Fitch & Mervyn Harvey winning their match 5-3 on time, but this was a short lived success. It was not until late in the afternoon that we managed more wins with Diane Fitch & Alan Clark (7-3) and John Fitch & Bryn Jones (6-4 on



time). By this time dark clouds had gathered and by general consensus we decided not play the singles

games. It ended 6 games to 3 for Sapcote. It was a wise decision as whilst we were packing up the heavens opened. Despite a rapid exit (by cars) for the 200 yards to Joyce Critchley's house we all got rather wet. This did not diminish the pleasure of the usual superb tea which they provided.

Ray Clipson