



# Running Hoops

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet

March 2023



I was suspicious when Phil Blake urged me to come into the Croquet pavilion for a cup of coffee during one working morning at the club, only to be confronted by a handful of committee members who informed me, amid much laughter, that I was now the editor of the Running Hoops newsletter. I don't recall being given any option to decline this honour, and as my experience of editing anything is about equal to my experience of playing croquet one year ago when I joined the club, I assume it must have been conferred on me because of my leaf-clearing skills that morning.

The news spread fast because the next morning I received several emails from Ian Robertson, our Membership Secretary, with lots of ideas for the newsletter, an invitation to meet up in the Tiltyard, an obsession with logos, and assurances that he had no intention of intruding in my editorship. At this stage, I welcome any intrusion in my editorship, particularly if it is accompanied by some excellent suggestions for developing the newsletter or offers of help by contributing material for future editions.

Ian's further advice to ignore previous editions of Running Hoops and to make it what I wanted it to be, also fell on deaf ears, and I spent a fascinating day searching out previous editions. To the editors of those years (2015 – 2019) I extend my gratitude and if I borrow some of your ideas, please accept it as a compliment! I did have some bright ideas of my own. First up was a Croquet Fashion Feature. The brainwave lasted about 2 minutes when I realised there are only 3 rules when dressing for croquet:

1. Keep warm in winter
2. Stay cool in summer
3. Wear flat shoes (This has always intrigued me. The image of stiletto heels sinking into a rain-soaked lawn...Really?!)

In time I may get round to including a Contents column at the start of each edition, depending on whether there is enough content to justify this lofty title, but for the time being I leave you to find articles yourselves. The main report of this edition is our Annual Presentation Dinner, held this year on 10<sup>th</sup> February. A first for me, and no doubt also for others, it turned out to be a lovely evening and a lot of fun, despite my earlier mental image of a more formal event. And further on (you'll have to do your own searching) a very interesting Letter from America from friends, Pauline and Mervyn Harvey, and find out what excites Adrian Morris about crocuses!

I extend my sincere thanks to all those who have so willingly contributed to this first newsletter of the year or have promised their support for future editions, and to Ian for his advice and help with the practicalities of distributing the newsletter. And finally, for those who have never heard of Elizabeth Thomson, far less met her, I have included at the end of the newsletter, an article that has already been published on the club website, Stepping Straight In, describing my own introduction to croquet and to the club. This will save me the effort of repeating it here by way of introduction.

Elizabeth

## Social Events

### Annual Presentation Dinner



The annual presentation dinner took place this year on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> February in the Kenilworth Golf Club and was attended by around 50 people, the highest number for many years. We enjoyed a lovely evening, relaxed and happy, with time to unwind and catch up with friends old and new.

The excellent dinner we enjoyed created some humorous discussion on how to extract the crayfish from among the large leaves, and whether the latter were supposed to be eaten at all or merely served as

decoration. Similarly, those who opted for the chocolate tart were astonished to be presented with a very large and extremely chocolatey dessert which proved to be even more of a problem than the crayfish. One table cut theirs into 4 pieces to be shared among fellow diners; others requested a doggie bag to take the remainder home with them to enjoy later, and most decided the easiest way to eat it was to discard the cutlery and eat with fingers. I think there was enough chocolate there to last most people a week at least, a chocolate-lovers' dream.



Coffee was served and the formal part of the evening began with Lynne Breedon summarising the past year in the Club and thanking everyone for their support in her first year as Chair, Ian Robertson for organising the dinner and the Kenilworth Golf Club for providing the food. She mentioned the huge number of jobs and projects carried out this year at the club, the success of the twice weekly social sessions, fun days organised and very well attended, and the vibrant atmosphere in the club. She reported that the Thursday morning AC sessions are also going well with new recruits, and read out a letter from Adrian Morris, encouraging all golf croquet members to come along on any Thursday morning and give AC a try.

Lynne then moved on to presenting the cups to the year's winners. This part of the evening was somewhat shorter than usual due to some of the main cup winners being unable to attend: Mervyn and Pauline Harvey are currently on extended holiday in America; Adrian Morris was attending an important performance by his grandchildren, and as we all know, those events are NOT TO BE MISSED; and Peter Kristunas, also unable to attend.



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Lynne presents the Kenilworth Cup to Club secretary Phil Blake, the Pindi Cup to Nick Hegan (shared with Peter Kristunas) and the Taylor Cup (AC) to Philip Wood.



Philip Mander collects the Secunderabad Cup (AC) and the team of Philip Wood, Phil Blake, Philip Mander (Mervyn Harvey absent) collects the West Midlands Federation GC Cup (Nick Hegan also played as reserve).

### Absent Cup Winners



Pauline Harvey receives the Ladies' Day trophy from Lynne Breedon (Runner-Up: Val Moss); Adrian Morris, the St George's Cup, from Runner-Up Philip Mander, and the Castle Cup from Runner-Up Cliff Harris. Pauline also won the Charlecote Cup (Runner-Up Nick Hegan), and Mervyn Harvey, the Bill Browne trophy.



With the presentations completed, diners settled down again to chat, finish drinks and take their own informal photographs: Alan, above left, made the most of Happy Hour, while at the next table, Ivan, closely watched by Val, was not quite so fortunate.



Some were too shy to pose for photographs, while others were keen to capture the moment for the family album.



**Quiz:**

1. Who is the mysterious diner who was reluctant to be photographed?
2. Which table shared one dessert between four diners?
3. How many glasses DID Alan enjoy with his dinner?

## **Forthcoming events**

### **Back by popular demand!**

Following the success of the quiz night held in November, organised by Alison and Tony Watmore and attended by a good number of members, a second quiz night is being planned for Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, in the main pavilion. The evening will include a 2-course meal and the cost will remain at £10 pp. Preparations are still ongoing for this event and Tony and Alison will announce details nearer the time, so put the date in your calendar now, and wait for further emails from Tony.

## **Meet the Committee**

It occurred to me that after a year in the club, I still had no idea who the Committee members were, apart from the regulars I meet at the GC social sessions. In this section it is hoped to introduce two members in each newsletter, starting this month with our Chair, Lynne Breedon and Phil Blake, Secretary and Handicap Officer.

### **Lynne Breedon (Chair)**



I started playing croquet in the late summer of 2016 and confess I didn't know that Kenilworth had a croquet club. I only found out when I was at another event and heard that the Club's annual open day was that coming weekend.

Somewhat nervously I went along and was greeted by the late Ray Clipson who showed me how to hold a mallet and to hit the ball and made me very welcome. I thought I had finally found a sport I could play and enjoy as I had 2 new hips and for the first time in many years had my mobility back. My husband and 3 children have always played many sports and they were very encouraging and told me to give it a go and to this day they are very supportive.

When I first started playing, social sessions were on a Tuesday evening. Any new members were given some initial coaching by Mervyn at the start of the evening which was very useful. At the start of the 2017 season a couple of members suggested that I should enter the leagues and try playing in a competition as this was a good way to improve your game. The thought of playing singles rather than doubles where I could rely on my partner was terrifying (sound familiar!) but I decided to have a go and indeed it forced me to get to grips with the tactics of the game and over time my confidence has increased. I've found there is always someone with more experience willing to give you tips and advice which has been very helpful.

I joined the committee around the summer of 2018 and after a couple of years started to organise the GC competitions. I was fortunate to have help from Mervyn who had run the competitions previously. In January 2022 I became Chair of the club succeeding Adrian who had been in the role for some 12 years. He is now Chair of the West Midlands Federation. Since I joined the club there have been changes mainly due to Covid. Membership has increased, we have a successful booking system, both social sessions are very popular and AC is attracting more players. The atmosphere is very vibrant and members are keen to help and to suggest new activities. All very heartening for the future.

Outside of croquet I love spending time with my family. I have a son and 2 daughters and a 4 year old granddaughter who live in Hereford, Coventry and London respectively so getting us all together is not always easy. However, this Christmas we all met up in Somerset for 4 days which was a wonderful end to the year. My youngest daughter gets married in June so another special family occasion. My son Mark and his wife, Jo, stayed with us recently which conveniently coincided with the leaf clearing and building of the compost bin, so I roped them in to help!

I also enjoy travelling and researching holidays here in the UK and abroad, love doing crosswords, sudoku and quizzes and enjoy watching many different sports. I do like baking

but with a wedding only a few months away, cakes for me are on the back burner for the moment.

Finally I would like to wish all members another enjoyable season of croquet. Have fun!  
Lynne

### **Phil Blake (General Secretary and Handicap Officer)**



I have been asked by our new editor (Elizabeth) to write a few words on my role within the club, my croquet history and other interests.

I was introduced to croquet by two friends who ran a croquet section within Evesham U3A. We used to play in the gardens of an Evesham hotel and in the local park which was next to the river Avon. It was very sociable and always ended up with a cup of tea or coffee at the hotel or a local café. After playing there for about eighteen months and getting so much enjoyment from the sport, I decided to look for a club near to home. To my surprise Kenilworth was only 15 minutes away by car. So I contacted Ian Robertson and joined the club with my wife (Sandy) in Oct 2018.

Everybody at the club made me feel very welcome and within a couple of years Adrian Morris (Chairman at the time) asked Nick Hegan and me to start a project to bring electricity and wifi to our pavilion from the main clubhouse. Not quite sure how it happened, but since then Nick and I have been on the committee and enjoyed our roles. When Lynne took over the Chair, I became the General Secretary and also the Handicap Officer for GC.

In 2019, I was started on a GC handicap of six at the club and by the end of the year had reduced this to a four. By 2021, I was a one and at the end of 2022, a minus one. Being a competitive person, it seemed that to improve, I would need to enter some national tournaments. 2021 was my first attempt and a good learning curve for the future. 2022 took me by surprise as I somehow managed to win two national tournaments (Blewberry & High Wycombe) and the plate at the Sidmouth Open.

### **Other Interests**

Clay pigeon shooting. This is great fun and I have been doing it for forty plus years and yes, I still miss quite a lot of targets. Cars. I am known as a petrolhead. I have been involved in collecting and maintaining classic and performance cars for many years. My garage at home is equipped like a workshop with a hydraulic lift and all the tools you might want. Sandy and I are also members of several car clubs and we enjoy holidays touring Europe in the cars.

Kenilworth is a great croquet club and gives lots of pleasure to all that play there. I try to help whenever I can, to arrange socials, competitions, leaf clearing and some maintenance items, so the club can grow and build for the future. The whole committee pull together and put in lots of work, so the club runs on track.

Phil

## **International Competition News**

### **AC Women's World Championship**

Those of you who receive the Croquet Association Gazette or read it online, will have read the report of the AC Women's World Championship, held in Christchurch, New Zealand from 10-17 January. Three England players, Gabrielle Higgins, Debbie Lines and Beatrice McGlen gained their places in the knockout stage, and the final was an all-England event between Debbie and Gabrielle. Debbie Lines emerged the winner after a close-fought 3 games, 26-3, 19-22, 22-11. For those of you who didn't, like Adrian, sit up most of the night watching the final live, it can still be viewed on Youtube, with the search:

**Croquet Women's AC Championships 2023/Final - YouTube**

## Work Parties

### **Leaf Clearing Day 29th January**

There was a very large turn-out of volunteers for the second leaf-clearing morning of the winter, including 4 members of our Chair, Lynne Breedon's family. The rake-wielding army, led by Phil Blake, combed the banks to clear the deep blanket of leaves which covered them, then piled the leaves into builders' bags to be dragged to an area designated for emptying them. Phil commented on the usefulness of the new Billy Goat leaf vacuum in clearing up the edges after the bulk of leaves had been removed.

Flower borders along the edge of the tennis courts were also cleared, tidying up the whole playing area for the new season and removing mountains of leaves which may eventually have dried out and blown over the lawns. At the same time, a party led by Nick Hegan was busy constructing a very large wooden compost storage area beside the Equipment Hut which will benefit the club, tidy up the area behind the pavilion and save a lot of extra work in the future.

Special thanks to Tony Breedon for helping Nick with the composter, to Mark and Joanne for the long hours they spent clearing leaves, and to all those members who turned out to help on one or both of the leaf-clearing days. The banks and lawn surrounds are looking very much smarter now than before.



## Features

### **LETTER FROM AMERICA**

**From our club coach, Mervyn Harvey, 5 February 2023**



Many of you know that Pauline and I have a son and family in Atlanta (pronounced by locals as At-lie-anta), and have got (or "gotten", as they say here) into the routine of spending Christmas with them and then driving the mere 540 miles to Venice, Florida. It is almost exactly due south, and we go there to play croquet (pronounced cro-kay – except by a checkout assistant who saw the club name on my name badge, and confused the game with a small roll of chopped vegetables, meat, or fish, fried in breadcrumbs!). In terms of direction and distance, it's similar to

going from Glencoe to Brighton, although that drive would take quite a bit longer. Last year we stayed for a month, and this year it will be around 10 weeks.

Sarasota County Croquet Club is the largest club in the US in terms of membership – with approaching 300. The grounds are rented from the council, whose workers mow and roll the lawns. Leaves are not a problem, and watering happens automatically via a sprinkler system – as is the case with most lawns in the US. The club is very much a partnership between the members and the council. The quid pro quo is that the club has to allow anyone to become a member for very reasonable annual subs, in contrast to most other croquet clubs, which are either prohibitively expensive, or part of a Country Club where you have to be nominated and seconded, AND find a 5-figure joining fee.

The club has just achieved its target to raise \$360,000, which when added to the council's \$350,000 will enable them to expand the playing area from 4 full-size and 2 approximately 28 yards by 22 yards, to 7 full-sized lawns, and add state of the art lighting to four of them. The latter will extend the hours the game can be played, which will help in two ways. First it will reduce over-crowding during the winter, when the number of members is at its greatest but the days are shortest. Second, it will enable those who don't relish playing in 30+ degree temperatures to play well into the evening, when it is cooler.

The majority of members only play GC, and probably more than half just play it socially. AC is played by a few, but the most popular game among those who play competitively is Six-wicket, aka American Rules. "Wicket" = "Hoop". The shots are the same as in AC, but the rules are more complicated, and require 100% attention all the time, including (or especially) when your opponent is playing. However, it requires less physical exertion – for two reasons. First, experienced players use the "roll shot" (one ball placed behind the other, with a view to sending both of them up to 30 yards away) much less than in AC, and second, when they do, longer distances are achieved relatively effortlessly – as the lawns are lightning fast. More significantly, the complex rules penalise the negative play that can be frustrating in AC.

The club is run by many teams of members – tournament, coaching, finance and development, grounds maintenance (mainly hoop setting) and social. Between them, the coaching and social teams organise nine roll-up sessions each week, five for GC, three for Six-wicket and one for AC. In past years, we have joined in with nearly everything, but this year we have concentrated on six-wicket (the game of choice for both of us) and competitive GC.

Pauline and I are the only British couple, which makes us a bit of a novelty act. However, in another sense we are no different from the majority – whose main home is in the north of the country, plus a few from Canada. We are now equally at home with Six-wicket and GC, and always play Six-wicket when there is a free lawn. It has much to commend it, but it has as much chance of catching on in the UK as American Football has of becoming more popular than soccer!

A variation of GC that is catching on here goes by the name of "Snake in the grass". The first time you hit your partner ball on each turn, you get one extra shot. The rationale for this variation is that it was felt that too much time was spent just knocking opponents away from positions in front of the hoop. Creativity is rewarded. It is now played at clubs in Canada, Australia and the USA. If this seems at all familiar, it is similar to "2 shot croquet", devised by Howard Sosin, which was first played for in 2019 by top international players including our own Pete Trimmer – who won the event! The main difference is that you earn an extra shot by hitting ANY other ball.

Mervyn

[Post script from Pauline (who didn't remember winning the Charlecote Cup, but does now!)]

We are both about to embark on a number of club tournaments: a GC tournament this weekend over three days, divided into several flights, from Championship (very low handicaps), to those with no handicaps at all; a one-day American rules tournament, for those who struggle to cope with a 3-day tournament; and our last club tournament will be a 3-day American rules tournament, again split into several flights. This differs from the Jones' Invitational that Mervyn entered in January, which was open to anyone in the USA.

Some of our better players fly regularly to California, or drive to the other side of Florida, to take part in tournaments, which is the only way players can improve. They don't have leagues, and have nothing like the Pindi and Kenilworth Cups, with matches taking place throughout the season, probably because a lot of members are here only in the winter, staying for one to four months, before going back north (even to Canada) for the summer season in their own clubs. Interestingly, there are 2000 croquet players in North Carolina in a very small area (Cashiers, Highlands - over the border from Georgia). With five figure joining fees, some croquet clubs are places to be seen, and for networking, and all wear whites exclusively!

Pauline

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## CROCUSES AND CROQUET

**Adrian Morris: Chairman, West Midlands Federation**

I don't tend to play Croquet through the winter but as the crocuses start to show their colour so my croquet juices start to flow again.

The Croquet Tournament calendar is published in early February and I can start to plan my year.



The stunning lawns of Southwick Croquet Club present an idyllic summer scene



One fixed event is the AC Counties championships held at the end of May at Southwick, near Brighton. Warwickshire have always fielded a team, full of enthusiasm if not the ability to match the skills of the other counties. Our aspiration is to avoid the Wooden Spoon in the second division. An aspiration, not too often achieved in recent years!

Recently we have press-ganged some better players to join us. One is even travelling from Switzerland to play! So, we travel with great hopes again this year.

I like to fit in a tournament once a month and have already booked Colchester in April and Altrincham in June – others to follow.

Tournament play provides competitive croquet but with like-minded, friendly players and in 2-day tournaments, usually an enjoyable meal together after the first day's play.

It is also a joy to see different clubs around the country, often with scenic settings and smooth, even, fast lawns.

Tournament play is my joy but I was too nervous to play until my handicap was 4. I wish I had started earlier. Playing with better players is the best way to improve your croquet.

### **WHAT ABOUT GOLF CROQUET?**

The same can be said of Golf Croquet tournaments – often just one day, so no overnight stays. Two or three of you together would make an enjoyable day out.

There are many tournaments with handicap restrictions which keep players of a similar standard together.

The list below shows a select few of the tournaments within easy travelling from Kenilworth.

All are played level. Some are constrained to players of 3 handicap or above but there are others for 7 or above and even one in Cheltenham for 10+ !

Check out the Tournament Calendar in the CA website or ask for help. Mervyn, Phil B or I would be pleased to help.

I encourage you all to "Have a go!"

Date	Venue	Handicap Range
22-23 Apr	Wrest Park, nr Milton Keynes	0+
20-21 May	Phyllis Court High Wycombe	0+
17-18 Jun	Woking	0+
17-May	Wrest Park, nr Milton Keynes	3+
14-Jun	Woking	3+
15-Jun	Ealing	3+
28-Jun	Cheltenham	3+
06-Jul	Bath	3+
12-Jul	Nottingham	3+
22-23 Jul	Phyllis Court Blewbury	3+
02-Aug	Broadwas	3+
12-Aug	Ashby	3+
15-Aug	Nailsea	3+
26-Apr	Phyllis Court, Henley-on-Thames	7+
24-May	Wrest Park, nr Milton Keynes	7+
01-Jul	Blewbury nr Oxford	7+
12-Jul	Cheltenham	7+
13-Jul	Nottingham	7+
27-Jul	Bath	7+
03-Aug	Broadwas	7+
11-Aug	Ashby	7+
14-15 Aug	Cheltenham	10+

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## Club Competition Reports

### Charlecote Cup

The competitive season starts with the 'winter' Charlecote Cup in March. This year the competition has been restricted to handicaps of 4 or over. This caused a bit of a stir among higher handicapped players such as me, and I was not the only one to dive into the recently updated handicap list emailed to us all by Phil Blake, the Club Handicap Officer. I gleefully counted out 7 of our top players, the embarrassing ones to play against in a match. Embarrassing for both of us I decided. I'm sure these lovely people would rush to assure me that this is not the case, and it probably is not, but this is the way novice minds work and I know it is only with experiencing these bigger events that I will overcome this fear of entering. And so, along with other cup novices, I have entered my name for my first challenge of the year, and I hope that others have done the same and that by taking this first step, we will be able to move on to other challenges without cringing, and learn to enjoy the experience of watching how these 'big' players have grown from novices themselves to the superb players they are now.

Elizabeth

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**Editor's Note:** It was only after writing this last piece that I received Adrian's article above. I read with interest how our top players spend their croquet year travelling around the country, enjoying competing in national and local tournaments and renewing old friendships, until one sentence leapt out at me:

"Tournament play is my joy but I was too nervous to play until my handicap was 4. I wish I had started earlier. Playing with better players is the best way to improve your croquet."

I found it strangely comforting to know that top players must have gone through the same agonies that I, and others around me, are facing at this stage on our croquet journeys.

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## STEPPING STRAIGHT IN

### A Novice's First Year of Croquet (October 2022)

After reluctantly giving up my favourite sports of badminton and years before that, squash, I found that walking, swimming and exercising in the gym simply weren't challenging enough. But it was with some surprise after being invited to a neighbour's garden (Val and Ivan) for a game of croquet, that I suddenly knew I had found an answer. Croquet was more than putting with hoops.



In late July we joined the Kenilworth U3A Croquet group which plays fortnightly at the Croquet Club in Crackley Lane. With an introduction to the game from Mervyn and lots of help from other players we soon picked it up and were able to join in games almost from the start with little skill but lots of enthusiasm. The group was friendly and relaxed but when it stopped for winter at the end of November, I was hooked, and plucked up courage to join the main Croquet Club, part of KTSCC.

It took some courage to walk across the lawns on my own on the first visit, to where three men and one woman were clustered together in deep conversation and looked up in astonishment as I approached. Lynne [Club Chair] hastily introduced herself and told me I was most welcome. The three men stood in a line and introduced themselves simply as Jim, Bob and Nick. Fortunately after this inauspicious start, things improved: others arrived, mallets were chosen, balls rolled out, cards selected and I had my first daunting experience of playing on a full lawn, after the half lawns used by the U3A group.

With two afternoon social sessions each week, I quickly settled in to the wider group. They were fun, friendly, incredibly welcoming, and I don't think I have ever felt so accepted so quickly into such a new group. I began to feel more confident on the larger lawns and was hugely excited when others started asking me to join them in friendly games outside the social sessions.



The winter passed quickly and the new summer season opened and with it a few anxieties arose. Being asked to take a test for a first handicap score turned out to be not as terrifying as expected, with lots of advice and reassurance from Lynne, Phil and Nick, and I mastered the complexities of filling in a handicap card. Entering major competitions proved too big a step for me, but the introduction to Leagues gave me the competitive challenge I'd always loved, but with players at my own level, and no handicaps used. In regular group coaching sessions I learned useful tactics and new skills, including the elusive jump shot, and the thrill of leaping over an opponent's ball to score a hoop.

I loved the idea of a hands-on club and threw myself into everything, from painting the cabins, to aerating, scarifying and watering lawns, topping up biscuit supplies and helping at hospitality events, and I enjoyed every minute of it. I made mistakes and experienced a few brushes with authority: for over-booking lawns on the excellent new online booking system; talking a player through a magnificent jump shot at the U3A group (not allowed in U3A sessions, to avoid possible damage to the lawns); and, more seriously, scarifying a lawn during the summer drought and potentially damaging the turf. A learning curve, but nothing dampened my enthusiasm for the game and past errors faded into history, although I still get ribbed endlessly about jump shots at U3A sessions.



As the summer progressed I became aware of other players playing a different form of the game. I learned this was called Association Croquet and for a long time I watched from a distance, fascinated by the strategies involved. In the final few weeks of the season I plucked up courage again to go along to the roll-up weekly session of AC, and am only starting to feel my way around this more complex version of the game with the patience and good humour of Adrian, Mervyn and the other players.

The summer season finally drew to a close in mid-October, with a wonderful Doubles Fun Day of non-stop croquet from 10.00am till after 6:00pm, with light-hearted games between couples of mixed abilities. Prizes were presented, photographs taken by floodlight in the dusk, and we parted for home, tired but elated. And now I am looking forward to a winter of friendly games without handicap cards or deadlines, as well as the regular roll-up sessions. And when the new season opens again in Spring, to another lovely summer of companionship, laughter and new challenges.



To anyone looking for a new venture or some added excitement in their lives, I would say whole-heartedly, "Give croquet a chance!" You'll find a fascinating activity combined with a new social circle of like-minded individuals who are friendly, fun and welcoming. Don't watch from a distance, just step straight in, either through the U3A group if you're eligible and prefer to start on smaller lawns, or by joining the croquet section of the KTSCC. You won't regret taking that step.

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**Editor:** Of course the winter didn't turn out to be quite as I envisaged last October, but, with the worst of the weather hopefully behind us now, we are up and running again as I write this in February. I would welcome any contribution to the newsletter from any member of the club on any topic at all, related to our favourite game: experience of playing at any other club; reports of any matches played locally, nationally or internationally, particularly if any of our own members were involved; reports on any of our social events; your own motivation to take up croquet as a sport and your early impressions of the club; humorous moments in the pavilion/lawns/painting/work days; jokes, photographs, observations; suggestions for social events; for improving our facilities... Perhaps a 'Letters to the Editor/Committee' page? And if anyone feels they have missed their vocation and would like to apply for the job of Fashion Editor, please submit full CV with covering letter to the Editor.

It's your newsletter. We'd all love to hear what you have to say, so start writing!

