



# Running Hoops

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet

Oct 2023

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When I set off for a month in Australia on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, I was aware that I was missing 4 weeks of croquet, hard enough to bear as it was. But when I returned to the club in October, I was astonished to discover just how much had gone on in the time I was away. I had missed far more than I had imagined and now I faced the unenviable task of catching up with all the exciting events for Running Hoops.

I counted out the days I had left to play before the lawns closed for maintenance. Six. Panic time. Forget Running Hoops. First of all, I had to make the most of these days for myself. And I did. I was thrilled to be able to fit in U3A croquet on Wed morning, (read p5 and find out why Mervyn went back to playing with building blocks), followed immediately by watching the Final of the St George Cup (AC) in the afternoon, in the company of a larger than usual crowd, including John Leader, with his irrepressible sense of humour!



A highly entertaining afternoon. (Report Page 10) With no time to go home for lunch, I was generously fed by Pauline Harvey and Adrian Morris, so didn't starve.

The next morning, Thursday, I was back at the club for the AC roll-up session, both to play a game with Robert and keep an eye on another Final, the Douglas Cup, on the next lawn, an exciting occasion for the club, as Adrian explains on Page 10. A chance also to meet new club member, Nigel, who will feature later in this newsletter.



And the day's enjoyment continued into the afternoon, with the joy of meeting up again with friends at the GC social session for one final afternoon of croquet, coffee and chat. And I still managed another afternoon of play on Saturday afternoon with friends Judith, Anne, Lynne and Jim. Like everyone else, we understand that the lawns do need to close for maintenance, to keep them in top shape, but it's also quite emotional that it can mean a break from seeing croquet friends for quite some time.

So on Monday, the maintenance work started and it will be interesting to see the improvement it should bring to our lawns. Lynne and Nick were on hand to oversee the event, and solve problems of access to the lawns since the construction of the padel courts. (Page 2).



The Competitions section of this newsletter is particularly worth reading this month as it covers the finals of no less than 7 cups and the Kenilworth Festival. We are lucky to have such an active club, with so many opportunities to play competitively and improve our game.

Elizabeth

# CLUB NEWS

## Lawn Maintenance

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Lynne informed us all by email of the work that was to be done on the lawns in mid-October, including triple scarification, tine forking, applying 19 tons of sports sand, fertiliser and finally overseeding.

So on the weekend of 14-15 October, we played our last games on the lawns for some time, and on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, the lawn company moved in, to survey and commence the programme of work they had devised. I had been banned from going up to watch and take photographs, (I have some sympathy now for paparazzi photographers!) so photographs were mostly taken after the men had gone. It was a busy time, complicated by the lack of direct access to the lawns since the construction of the padel courts. To solve this problem, part of the fence by the main clubhouse had to be removed and vehicles crossed over the grass in front of the clubhouse.



On Tuesday 19 tons of sports sand was delivered and left on the grass near the entrance to the car park. From there it had to be shovelled into a trailer to be carried down to the lawns.



By Thursday morning the lawns had been covered with sand and little grass was to be seen!

And back at the car park, this is the area that 19 tons of sand covered! I'm sure, by Spring, the area will have recovered, and we will be able to look forward to some amazing lawns on which to play our croquet.



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## Helping Idris Elizabeth Thomson

Watching the lawn maintenance going on at the moment brought back memories of the happy times I spent last year, scarifying and aerating the lawns with Idris.

While grateful for his help in setting up the machines for me, I wanted to be independent and asked him to show me how to do this for myself. He started with the aerating (spiking) machine, which was fairly straight forward once I'd finally mastered the starting cable; so the next time I needed it, I took it out of the shed and waited for Idris to appear. I told him firmly that he could watch, but was not to say *anything* unless I was about to do something wrong.

Idris said, "Can I say something?"

"What?", I snapped.

"That's the grass cutting machine you've taken out," he said blandly.

With as much dignity as I could muster, I re-entered the shed and pulled out the correct machine. Confidently, I checked first the petrol gauge, low, and removed the petrol cap. I retrieved the green plastic petrol container from its shelf in the shed, unscrewed the top and stared in some confusion.

"That's the paint for the white lines," intoned the voice expressionlessly.

All sense of pride and any dignity I had left, evaporated in that moment, and from then on I allowed Idris to start up the machines for me.

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## Maintenance team

### Leaf Clearing Day Phil Blake

The final leaf clearing day of the year took place on the morning of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

About 12 people turned up to help including Tony Breedon, who came along with Lynne and worked very hard all morning.

The lawns looked amazing after we had finished. Thanks to everyone who helped on Saturday morning or provided tools for the day.



### Lawn Dressing Bags Nick Hegan

Elizabeth asked about the lawn dressing bags stored down by the shelter on Lawn 1, and whether there were any plans to get rid of them, as they were spoiling the background to her Running Hoops photographs(!) In fact, the topic came up a few weeks ago, while Elizabeth was in Australia, when another member asked about the possibility of purchasing some from the club.

So this is the situation:-

The product is top dressing, not topsoil. It's a mixture of sand and good quality loam. It was originally bought for when we used to look after the lawns ourselves. Lakeside preferred to use plain sand, and lots of it.

The bags, split or intact, can be purchased for £3 a bag; cash contributions to Vicky or straight into the pink tin.

None of it is easy to transport because the bags are heavy. The older stuff will need to be put into another stronger bag beforehand, and for most people, a wheelbarrow or trolley will be needed to carry the bags to the car park. As of yesterday there were still a few bags left by the Lawn 1 bus shelter and a few very old ones by the compost heap.

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## Press Reports Update

Following the report in August's running Hoops, on the success we'd had this year with press reports and publicity, a further two articles were added to the 2023 Courier collection, in the Autumn.



Castle Cup  
15<sup>th</sup> September



Finals Day  
6<sup>th</sup> October

Following these, this time in the October issue of the **Croquet Gazette**, two members of our club featured, sadly neither mentioning the Kenilworth name.

First was a letter from Cliff Daniel, who had travelled for 5 hours to a tournament, only to discover that it had been cancelled. A warning to other members to double-check before leaving home that the event is still running.

And on p30, the result of the Inter-Counties tournament in August, with Phil Blake in the Division 2 winning team.

**LESSONS SURELY NEED TO BE LEARNT!**

On Friday 21 July I drove from Leamington Spa to Southport... a journey that took me over 5 hours and booked into a modest guest house for 2 nights... eagerly looking forward to a weekend of croquet at a B level tournament. On Saturday 22nd July... at around 9.15 am, with torrential rain falling... I duly arrived at the club... to find no-one about! I immediately checked on line... and discovered that the tournament had indeed been cancelled! Fortunately I rescued the situation by having an unplanned weekend there as a tourist before returning home on the Sunday... and the rain kindly abated! Naturally I made some phone calls on Monday... to discover: The tournament had been cancelled on 19 July due to lack of support (only 3 entrants!) A refund of tournament fee had been activated soon afterwards (not yet seen by me) An email had been sent to me notifying me of cancellation... AN EMAIL THAT NEVER ARRIVED!

So... it seems to me that: A. Any croquet player entering a tournament should check the status of the tournament before travelling. B. Any email sent to alert players of cancellation of a tournament should include a request for the recipient to acknowledge receipt of the email. C. A courtesy phone call/text to reinforce the message would be sensible. My trip cost me in excess of £200 and I would have been very pleased to have received a small token of compensation from Southport Croquet Club. Such a gesture would undoubtedly have encouraged me to enter a future tournament at the club.

**Cliff Daniel**

**Editor's response:** It is so unfortunate that this has happened and I know the club is in question, and the tournament committees have been informed and are constantly working on ways to improve their systems, so feedback is always welcome. The club were also very saddened by your experience and I know have corresponded with you directly. It is unfortunate that you did not receive the cancellation email, which leads me to believe that you may not have received an event email either. The usual experience of a player about to attend a tournament is to receive information about the event in the weeks or days leading up to the event, so if no correspondence was received it would be a good idea to just call and check with the tournament manager before setting off. These confirmation emails usually include additional information such as tournament format and club information, which is also important for any player of a tournament to understand. Finally, the return of funds into your bank account may have helped as an indicator that the tournament was cancelled, which is part of the automatic cancellation system of the Tournament Entry System. Thank you for sharing your experience with us and I hope you enjoy your future tournaments. **Alison Maugham**

**INTER-COUNTY GC DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONSHIP 2023**

**H**ope to see you all next year at a more relaxed event' was how I signed off last year. Well, it certainly was all I hoped for including promotion, which means I believe it's 'time off' for me. So, in the words of Woody Allen from the film Bananas, 'so long suckers'. Actually, the six teams, I believe, had a wonderful time on Southwick's lawns, bathed in sunshine all weekend, and even managed to see the second half of the 'lioness's' world cup final live, thanks to a catering alteration by the Southwick team.

This year's winners were the 3 counties (a combined team of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire). The picture shows the proud captain, David Bell, holding the shield (for the regulation 5 secs) with Philip Blake and Noel Gill (missing were Paul Williams and Mark Buckley). In fact, there were 3 counties that finished equal 1st on number of wins and had to be separated on net games. Buckinghamshire led by Ian Shore (Rot) gained 2nd, while Gloucestershire gained 3rd led by Richard Brand. This, of course, now means that these two counties have gained promotion to Division One next year. Congratulations to both counties on serving their time in Division Two!!!

Unfortunately, with only 6 teams this year there was less time on court, but it did allow for us to use a 'stop clock' time limit of one hour. This meant that the clock could be stopped if the double-bank game was contesting the same hoop, without affecting your game. I believe this worked well with only one game going to time and interestingly creating a lot of tight games going to the 13th hoop, which is always good entertainment for the crowd!!! Overall, it was so tight that, by

the last round, strangely only the pre-tournament favourites, Oxfordshire, were out of the running. Indeed, looking at the match results over half were won in the deciding game of which nearly half were by a single hoop! This supports the theory that every hoop really does matter, especially if it's the 13th. So, well done to the heroes that made the difference and thank you to their opponents for making it a 'tight' game.

Finally, as it seems appropriate, I will sign off with the words of a legendary South West weatherman when I was growing up who used to end his weather report with 'good night and tight lines'

**I Ivor Brand (Happy Manager)**

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## U3A Croquet Mervyn Harvey

As most of you will know, the U3A croquet group meets on a Wednesday morning on every second and fourth week of the month and has been run by Pauline and me since we set it up in 2018.

The members of the group are a fun-loving crowd, who enjoy playing short games on half lawns with a variety of opponents. The group has grown in popularity over the years, attracting 10 new members in this year alone, and now consists of 41 active members.



Playing time on the lawns



Celebrating Pauline and Mervyn's **Golden Wedding Anniversary** at the interval

This season, we had 15 sessions (not one rained off!), and averaged over 24 players per session with a record of 34 on one occasion. After that, a decision was taken, with the consent of the group, to limit the numbers to 32 per session, with 8 players banked on each of the 4 half lawns. This means that the group now regularly needs to hire the use of both lawns from the Croquet Club, providing valuable extra income for the Club.

We regularly answer queries from members about the possibility of joining the main Croquet Club, and several members have proceeded to join the Club from the U3A group over the past few years and are now enthusiastic members there.

Mervyn was clearly in romantic mood for the day...  
or very bored!



**Editor:** Congratulations to Pauline and Mervyn on reaching their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** and sharing the day with their friends in the U3A group. Sadly I was in Australia and missed the day, but I'm impressed with the artistic masterpiece of bisque blocks, framed with pink and blue clips reflecting their joint love of croquet, and I hope Pauline was too!

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## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Put this date in your diary now...

Croquet Club Presentation Dinner

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

Kenilworth Golf Club

Ian will send round further details shortly.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Letters published are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or the Club)

In a previous issue of Running Hoops Marj introduced the debate on alternative handicap systems – Extra Turns or the new Advantage Croquet. I invited readers to join the discussion and now that the first season of Advantage Croquet has finished, Ian Robertson has offered his opinion.

### Scepticism about GC Advantage Rules

I understand the point is to let higher and lower handicap players compete on equal terms.

We already have a practical solution in extra turns so why do we need the new Advantage Rules?

The extra turns could easily have been adapted further by applying a factor to increase or decrease the extra turns.

The huge advantage of extra turns is the need to use one's playing skill in using them, rather than waste them.

The Advantage Rules simply gifts hoops to the higher handicap without any need even to swing a mallet, so there's no skill involved by the higher handicap.

Also, there's no incentive for the higher handicap player to improve their game. Surely the point of competitive sports is to incentivise playing a better game.

By comparison, anyone used to match-play on the golf course will appreciate that the handicap system allows lower and higher skilled players to compete, BUT not on the basis of gifting one or more holes in match-play before even one club is swung.

What is the algorithm that gifts hoops?

Is it up for review?

I have similar doubts about the merit of "deeming" a shot. Each player has a mallet in hand, a ball at their feet: just hit it, which requires skill. Deeming a shot is such a cop-out and requires no skill and can easily prolong a stalemate.

Ian Robertson

(This letter has been copied to the Croquet Gazette, for possible inclusion in the December issue. Ian has asked me to emphasise that the letter to the Gazette is his personal view and has been sent in his name alone, and not as a representative of the Kenilworth Croquet Club.)

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## COMPETITION TIME

### GC Pindi Cup

13 people entered the Pindi Cup, which uses the traditional 'Extra turns' handicap system, though one player was forced to retire through ill-health. The remaining 12 were divided into 3 blocks of 4, and the following 8 players won through to the second round. (Handicaps in brackets)

#### Second Round

Lynne Breedon (9) 2-0  
Jeff Lindsay (7) 2-0

Phil Blake (-1) 2-0  
Ian Robertson (3) 2-0

Peter Kristunas (3)  
Elizabeth Thomson (7)

Philip Wood (2)  
Nick Hegan (3)

#### Semi Finals

Lynne Breedon (9) 2-1 Jeff Lindsay (7)  
Ian Robertson (3) 2-1 Phil Blake (-1)

### Finals Day on the Lawns Ian Robertson

**Semi-Finals** First up was the very tricky business of the semi-final against Phil Blake at 10am on Saturday morning. Phil plays off -1 these days, so a daunting task for me but made easier as Phil gave me 4 extra turns. I decided to hold on to these turns as long as possible, especially if needed around the Golden Hoop (assuming I got that far).

The first game went my way at 7-6. The second went Phil's way 7-3 and in the third game Phil opened up a 3-0 lead, a scary situation for me, so I had a stern word with myself to relax and "keep the heid". I must have listened as I came back into the game to win 7-5 and into the final, much to my surprise.

**Final** Lynne Breedon had already previously won her semi-final so we now met in the final. So, straight from over two hours of semi against Phil, Lynne and I began the final.

The "boot was on the other foot" for extra turns and I now felt how Phil did in giving me four extra turns as I had to give Lynne six extra turns, another daunting prospect. Lynne knows how to use these turns by nestling in the jaws and as usual Lynne did well and won the first game at a canter 7-3. I then decided that I had to be as bold as possible and run hoops to minimise the extra turns, but when I became stuck in the jaws, Lynne used the turns to clear me away. However I did level the game with a 7-4 win. Into the third game and I persisted trying to be bold with running hoops. By the time we got to 6-3 in my favour, Lynne had used her extra turns so we played the remaining hoops playing level. I finally won the third game 7-5 and with it, the Pindi Cup for the first time.



That was a tiring day from 10am, playing six games with a small break. My thanks to Phil and Lynne for two exciting matches.

Pindi Cup winner, Ian Robertson, with runners-up Lynne Breedon (Chair) and Phil Blake, enjoyed a game of croquet with Kenilworth Town Mayor, Alix Dearing.



## GC Kenilworth Cup

16 players entered the Kenilworth Cup, a knock-out competition, which uses the new Advantage Croquet handicap system. (Handicaps in brackets)

### First Round

Philip Wood (2)	2-1	Tony Watmore (8)
Val Moss (11)	2-0	Adrian Morris (3)
Nick Hegan (3)	0-0	Gordon Henderson (withdrew)
Phil Blake (-1)	2-1	Jeff Lindsey (7)
Elizabeth Thomson (8)	2-0	Ian Robertson (3)
Ivan Moss (10)	2-0	Phil Mander (2)
Lynne Breedon (8)	2-0	Pauline Harvey (5)
Mervyn Harvey (2)	2-0	Peter Kristunas (3)

### Second Round

Val Moss (11)	2-0	Philip Wood (2)
Nick Hegan (3)	2-1	Phil Blake (-1)
Ivan Moss (9)	2-0	Elizabeth Thomson (7)
Mervyn Harvey (2)	2-0	Lynne Breedon (9)

### Semi-finals

Nick Hegan (3)	2-1	Val Moss (11)
Ivan Moss (9)	2-0	Mervyn Harvey (2)

### Final

Nick Hegan (3)	2-1	Ivan (8)
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## Final match of the Kenilworth Cup Nick Hegan



(Me H.Cap 3 Ivan 8)

I had to work hard to win the hoops that I got and Ivan played very well despite his dodgy knee which was braced up from game 2 onwards.

I was pleased that I have now won the hat trick of GC cups Charlecote/Pindi/Kenilworth!

**Editor:** Congratulations to Nick on his success of winning these three different cups.

Nick explains that he has never really been able to recall, like some other players, every nuance of each game, but nevertheless, has generously given us this insight into his final match with Ivan.

Suffice to say the scores were 7-6 4-7 7-6.

The lawn was covered in leaves before play so they had to be removed before play started.

I gave Ivan 4 hoops under Advantage Croquet rules.





**GC Kenilworth Festival Philip Wood**

This was a GC doubles tournament for 8 pairs, all play all. With a total handicap of at least 8 per pair the idea was that a stronger player could advise and help a weaker player to understand the finer points of the game. Mostly the pairs were like this, e.g. 2 and 10.

We were very lucky with the weather - very warm, and sunny most of the time.

There were two pairs from each of Ashby, Northampton and Kenilworth, and one pair from each of Moreton in the Marsh and Edgbaston. Play went on from about 10:10am until about 5:10pm with a break for lunch.

There were 3 pairs with the minimum total handicap, and as expected they ended up in top positions. Remarkably, four pairs ended with 5 wins from 7 games, and the tie had to be split on number of hoops won. The Edgbaston pair of Ged and Peter came first with 38 hoops, then on 37 came Phil Blake and Lynne Breedon of Kenilworth, and Peter Kristunas and Silke of Moreton-in-the-Marsh (Peter is also a member of Kenilworth).

A number of players had played in this before. Clubs in the West Midlands Federation were invited, but some were put off by the long distance to travel at a time of year when the weather could be poor. (But over 6 or 7 years it has been adequate or good.)

The lawns were in good condition and a good time was had by all.



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**AC Bill Browne Trophy**



The Bill Browne Trophy is played on a full lawn to 14 points with handicap to Base 3 and with no time limit.



**Congratulations to Mervyn on winning both these cups in the same year.**

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**AC Secunderabad Cup**



The Secunderabad Cup is played on a full lawn to 26 points, with handicap to Base 6 and with a time limit of 3.5 hours.

## AC St George Cup Adrian Morris

When John Leader pulled out, five competitors were left for this competition: Cliff Daniel, Philip Wood, Mervyn Harvey, Adrian Morris and Phil Mander. As it is a handicap AC Competition, it is hoped for more interest next year.

Cliff Daniel beat Philip Wood in the qualifier to give four for the semis.

Mervyn played well and used his bisques well to beat Cliff in the first semi.

Adrian beat an under-par Phil Mander who missed a number of roquets and hoops that he would normally take in his stride, to qualify for the final v Mervyn.



Mervyn and Adrian fooling around together after their match!

In the final, Adrian took the first break but blobbed Hoop 4. From then on, Mervyn was in the ascendancy with a clip on Rover and 4back.

However, errors set in by both players, much to the amusement of the crowd, which had burst into the plural! Former referee and top-level player, John Leader, led the laughter and kept us entertained with his irreverent commentary on the match [Ed]. Eventually, Adrian managed to level the game and a long hit in allowed him to take control and win 26 – 20, which in AC terms is a close game.

## AC Douglas Trophy Adrian Morris

The Douglas Trophy is played as an AC handicap competition played on half lawns and 14 points. It is traditionally competed for by four of the highest handicapped players in the club.

Through Covid and a lack of suitable players, this trophy has not been used since 2015. The Thursday morning sessions, however, have proved to be a success, introducing members to AC and improving standards, so, this year we played for the trophy again.



Much to Editor, Elizabeth's chagrin, she was in Australia when the competition was held and had to miss out.

Tony Lester and new member, Nigel Pigdon played a very tight Semi-final with Nigel the victor by 14 – 10.

The other Semi saw Irene Rogers beating Robert Zara by 14 – 7 but again, much closer than the score might suggest.

The final between Nigel and Irene saw both with chances but Nigel winning 14 – 4.

I am sure we will see Nigel's name featuring on our Honours Board many more times in the future!

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## Taylor Cup

4 players competed for his cup: Mervyn Harvey, John Leader, Philip Wood and John Copping.

John Leader	beat	Mervyn Harvey
John Leader	beat	John Copping
Mervyn Harvey	beat	Philip Wood
Mervyn Harvey	beat	John Copping
John Copping	beat	Philip Wood
Philip Wood	beat	John Leader

## The Final of the Taylor Cup Mervyn Harvey

The final of the Taylor Cup was played on Saturday 16 September. For the benefits of our GC readers, this is the shortest of the AC competitions, as it is played on half-lawns and for half the normal number of hoops. There is a 1 hour 15 minute time limit, at the end of which the player then on the lawn completes his turn, with his opponent then having one more turn. The players were John Copping, Mervyn Harvey, John Leader and Philip Wood. John C received 5 bisques (extra turns) each game, and the other three each received 1 bisque.



In round 1, the two Johns played what proved to be the tightest game of the day. The scores were level at 8 hoops each when time was up, with John L on the lawn. He was in a good position to run at least 1 more hoop, and duly settled on just the 1, preferring to leave the balls awkwardly placed for John C's last turn. He still had 1 bisque left, but sadly the rules don't allow him to use it after time is up. This proved crucial, and John L won 9-8.

On the other lawn, Mervyn got off to a flyer against Philip, and after each bout of scoring left Philip a difficult start. With the "score-board" pressure steadily mounting each time, Mervyn went on to win comfortably.

In round 2, John C made good use of his bisques against Philip and won a low-scoring game. On the other lawn, Mervyn couldn't continue the form he showed against Philip, and John L rolled back the years to give a glimpse of the skills that made him the best player in the club more years ago than he cares to remember! He was 3 hoops from winning before Mervyn scored his first hoop. Although the latter found some form, John L was still 2 ahead when time was up.

So, at this stage, John L had beaten the only ones able to match his two wins, and therefore had already won the Cup under the "who beat whom" tie-breaker – irrespective of the results of the remaining games. So there was a sense of anti-climax.

For the record, Mervyn regained some form to win against John C, which just leaves the game between John L and Philip. It has to be said that John isn't as fit and healthy as he once was. This, combined with the fact that Philip suddenly hit top gear, led to a rather one sided-game, which Philip won convincingly.

Congratulations to John Leader, for coming out of retirement to win the Taylor Cup for the fourth time. It was an enjoyable day, and fitting that everyone should win at least one game.

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## Summary of the 2023 competition results Lynne Breedon

### AC

St George's Cup	-	Adrian Morris
Taylor Cup	-	John Leader
Secunderabad	-	Mervyn Harvey
Douglas Trophy	-	Nigel Pigdon
Bill Browne Trophy	-	Mervyn Harvey
Castle Cup	-	Adrian Morris
Fellows Salver	-	not played in 2023

### GC

Kenilworth Cup	-	Nick Hegan
Pindi cup	-	Ian Robertson
Ladies Trophy	-	Elizabeth Thomson
Wells Cup	-	Mervyn Harvey
Charlecote Cup	-	Bob Phelps
July Level Cup	-	Elizabeth Thomson

### Doubles Competitions

The first was won by Bob and Jan Phelps who won all 7 games (42 points) a fantastic result  
The second by Ian Robertson and Kath Spare (39 points) also a very impressive score.

### The Kenilworth Festival

This was won by Edgbaston (on countback) as there were 4 teams who had won 5 games and lost two.

### EDITOR

This is the final edition of Running Hoops for this year. Editing the newsletter has been an entirely new venture for me, a steep learning curve, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I have met so many new people and learned so much more about people I thought I did know! I could not have done it without the support I've had from so many people to whom I am indebted: for your suggestions, reports, articles of interest, photographs, editing, advice, sympathy, feedback and help with distribution. I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year, and look forward to another year of working together for Running Hoops, 2024.

Elizabeth

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