



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

APRIL 2011

End of season dinner

The end of season dinner was another successful event held at the Kenilworth Golf Club. We met in the bar for a welcome drink and chat before adjourning upstairs to our private venue.

The food was excellent as was the service and the room was buzzing with conversation. Following the meal the trophies for the season's competitions were presented by Adrian with Bill taking over to present two to Adrian! (John Handy was asked to reveal why our two main block competitions - AC /GC - are named after major cities in India and Pakistan so if you want to know, you'll have to ask him!)

Our resident magician Danny Razoo rounded off the evening with a mystifying and entertaining performance including the finale which included a "willing" volunteer and a guillotine. Pauline ended up shaken but still in one piece and probably less likely to volunteer next time!

Thanks to all who attended to make it such an enjoyable event and thanks particularly to Cliff Daniel for another excellent performance.

Croquet in The Gambia!



Taking a break in The Gambia in late March, I managed to select a very nice hotel which by coincidence had a Croquet lawn. I was not expecting too much but thought a little pre-season practice would not go amiss.

Unfortunately, Croquet is not a sport taken too

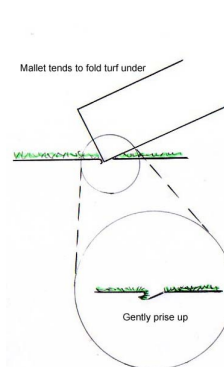
seriously in The Gambia. The photo is a poor attempt to show the reality of the long tufted African "grass", very old balls and very well used mallets! And, yes, they did play a version of the sport which included a shot with a foot on the ball!

Lawn damage

We all strive to take great care of the croquet lawn but occasional damage does occur. If you do damage the lawn then two things should happen.

Firstly it should be recognised that damage has occurred and perhaps some practice off the lawn may be required before attempting that type of shot. This is particularly true of jump shots or the occasional stop shot.

Secondly and perhaps even more importantly, the damage should be repaired. A quick repair can often be unnoticed in a day or so but damage left can last a season!



More often than not, the mallet tends to fold the top layer underneath itself. (see diagram). If this is carefully unfolded using a sharp implement or even a careful finger, then the damage can be minimised. A Golf pitch mark repairer is ideal and is available in the pavilion.

Thank you for your continued care and, where necessary, a quick repair.

Dates for Your Diary

- Apr 18th. - Provisional opening of lawns
- Apr 28th. - Northampton Friendly - away
- May 1st. - Spring Trophy Day
- May 4th. - Ashby Friendly - home
- May 11th. - Kenilworth Festival Competition - Midlands Clubs
- May 15th. - Kenilworth Festival Competition - croquet display at Abbey Fields
- May 22nd. - Open Day for prospective members

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

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

Trophy winners 2010

Unfortunately the Ladies Trophy was not contested in 2010 through lack of interest - hopefully it will be in 2011.

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

Castle Cup – **John Leader** undefeated in Block, 3 wins. Henry Fellows second with two wins.

St George Cup – **Cliff Daniel** beat Peter Dennis in the final

Secunderabad Cup – **Peter Dennis** beat Cliff Daniel

Bill Browne Trophy – **Ray Clipson** beat Alan Richardson

Taylor Cup – **Adrian Morris** beat Peter Dennis

Douglas Trophy – **John Clark** beat Jamie Clark

GOLF CROQUET

Kenilworth Cup – **Adrian Morris** beat Peter Dennis

Pindi Cup – **Nigel Haslam** beat Amanda Haslam

Out of season socials...

Croquet events did not really end when the lawns closed last October. Besides the End-of-Season Dinner, we also held socials in January, February and March in the clubhouse. These generally take the form of a quiz, some gentle (near-)croquet experiences, a meal and some relaxed sipping. We are pleased to mingle those of both Association and Golf persuasion and encourage non-committee members to lead the “entertainment”. About a third of our membership participated in each of these events, and we are pleased to welcome all comers and their friends/family.

The main club is also grateful for our use of the clubhouse and the takings over the bar both of which help to generate the feeling of family and togetherness rather than a cold, anonymous, impersonal and transient place.



We hope that we will see you all again when there is “no croquet” next year.....

‘Ray explained that the object was to aim for the middle of the hole...’ !!!

Edgbaston Croquet Club External Tournaments 2011

ASSOCIATION

- 1 Halse Cup Thurs/Fri 12/13 May ;H/C singles ; no catering; £15/EM £10. Holder Ian Slater.
- 2 Symonds cup Sat/Sun 16/17 July; H/C singles; no catering; £20/EM £15. Holder Barbara Edwards.
- 3 Tomkinson Shield Sat/Sun 13/14 August ; Advanced -1 to +3;catering £10 per day; entry £25 / EM £20. As per fixtures book. Holder Gabrielle Higgins.
- 4 Sally Nicholls Sun/Bank Holiday Mon 28/29 Aug ;Advanced 2 to 7; no catering; £20 / EM £15. As per fixtures book. Holder Peter Wilson.
- 5 Tilly Bowl Thurs/Fri 8/9 September; H/C singles ; no catering; £15 EM £10. Holder Ian Slater.

Entries to 1,2,3,&5 to Paul Trafford phone 0121 308 2535 e-m paul.trafford1@btinternet.com

Entry to 4 to Ian Slater phone 01785 662 243 [e-m ian@ianslater.freemove.co.uk](mailto:ian@ianslater.freemove.co.uk)

Places in order of receipt of application

GOLF

Tuesday 13th September . Level restricted to H/c 5-8. Inclusive of catering £20; EM £19. Entries to Richard Thompson phone 01527 821 821 e-m richard.paul.thompson@dsl.pipex.com As per fixtures book. Holder- Margaret Lewis

A Tale of Two Mallets

I bought my original mallet, a 'Wood' mallet, from the Croquet Association shop, about five years ago. My roll shots have improved since I added weights to the head to bring it up to 3 lb 2 oz; but the mallet kept missing comparatively easy shots, such as the peg from two feet. The only answer, I thought, was to buy a more reliable mallet.

After looking round for a good quality mallet at a reasonable price (you can pay over £400 if you try), and consulting wise heads, I decided to investigate Pidcock mallets. I knew the shaft length I wanted (32 ins. suiting my Irish grip), and the head length (11 ins. for greater accuracy). But could Alan Pidcock (president of the Southport and Birkdale CC) supply one with extra weight?

The answer was that he could, but strongly advised against it. He pointed out that the reason his 2000 series mallets appear to be very light is because of the lightweight handle; he regards his standard mallet as the best for all-round performance. And anyway long roll shots should be avoided if possible – a good leave is better than an end-of-break. Alan suggested I borrow a Pidcock 2000 from a fellow club member to try it out.



Adrian has one, but his is suitable only for players seven feet tall. I'm very grateful to Pauline for lending me hers; perhaps I might be able to approach her accuracy!

I found that I could in fact achieve longer rolls with the Pidcock; and the ratios of the object ball/striker's ball distances with stop shots were substantially the same.

So I bought a standard Pidcock mallet. It weighs 2 lb 11 oz, compared with the 3 lb 2 oz of my old mallet. Better accuracy with the longer head? I can but hope. Watch the results of the competitions!

My advice, to those who need it, would be:

Find out about different grips, e.g. the Irish, the Solomon and the Standard, and decide on the one that suits you best. Some advice might be helpful.

Try out different mallets – find the length and weight that suit you. If you want to try a longer head, borrow from me or another member; the club mallets are all 9 inch heads.

When you have settled on a length and weight that suit you, get advice, as I did, and buy your own mallet. You can then get used to it. Your favourite club mallet may not always be available. Most people start with a 9 inch head, which does make stop shots easier - often used in golf croquet.

And good luck!

Frank Hibberd

Your Committee Needs You....

The Croquet Section of the Kenilworth LT&SC is a thriving bunch of members who generally "punch above their weight" as far as our financial and social contribution to the main club is concerned.

Your Committee is pleased to organise and manage all those things that are at the core of Croquet. While we can cope with all the essential aspects, we are always pleased to receive offers of help on and around the lawns during the season and designing and managing the social events that do so much to make a genuine difference to the spirit of the club in and out of season. Do let us know what you are prepared to do to help.

The Committee