



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

February 2008

The End of an Era — Reflections from the Lawn Manager

Driving an excavator, carrying out major earth moving in heavy clay, importing and levelling top soil to create the new Lawn 1 was a very satisfying experience, and to see the seed emerging for the first time was thought to be a miracle.

From humble beginnings when 10 bags of top dressing and regular mowing was all we could afford to the current planned maintenance routine, the club now has the benefit of 2 lawns with very acceptable playing surfaces.



Lawns 1 and 2 have very different characteristics from drainage and drying out to give a firm playing surface to the way the grass grows.

This coupled with the infinite variety of seasonal weather conditions has been the challenge which has given me most pleasure and reward.



Thanks to all who have given their time to provide assistance over the years and best wishes to Ray who has undertaken to carry on with the good work.

Peter

From the Chairman

After years as manager of the lawns Peter has decided the time has come to hand over the reins. He is handing over lawns that are better than they have ever been; lawns that easily meet CA tournament standards and are arguably the best in the Midlands. He can look back on a contribution that has been at the core of the successful development of our club.

Peter joined the croquet section in 1991, a year after it was formed. We had one rough lawn but a few years later the tennis section released rough excavated ground for what is now Lawn 1. The construction was a major task for the dozen or so members who embarked on it and without Peter's surveying skills, his understanding of earth moving and contacts in the building industry Lawn 1 could not have been constructed. From then on efforts made by so many members over the years have been led by Peter to reach the standard we have today, The better the lawns, the more it becomes important to maintain the quality. Ray has agreed to take over from Peter, and we need to give him all the support that he will need to maintain the quality that Peter has handed to us



The team who built Lawn 1: Working with Peter Dennis were Bill Sidebottom, Doug Taylor, Jack Robinson, Roger Tribe, John Leader, David Taylor, Bill Browne & James Ward



Bill Sidebottom

2008 Season - Some Dates for YOUR DIARY

March 11th - Social & AGM—details below

April 6th **Start of Season - Lawns 2 & 3 Open (SUBJECT TO WEATHER). Lawn 1 one week later**

April 12th One Day Golf Coaching at Wrest Park

April 20th Fun Day - as usual - Golf Croquet Shanghai Trophy to start the season

April 19/20th Course on Association Laws at Nottingham. John Handy has details

May 1st Friendly match at Northampton

May 15th Association Croquet - Friendly match vs Ashby at Kenilworth

May 17/18th Course for those wishing to become Coaches. John Handy has details

May 18th - Open Day for potential new members

May 20th Golf Croquet Coaching starts (3 Tuesday evenings)

June 20th Friendly match against Northampton at Kenilworth

June 25/26th Two Day Open Tournament

June 29th Kenilworth round of Golf Croquet Grass Roots tournament

July 6th Kenilworth round of Golf Croquet Centre Stage tournament

July 9th Friendly match at Ashby

July 30/31st Two Day Open Tournament

Sept 27/28th - **Finals Weekend**

Leaf-clearing

The inevitability of the autumnal leaf-fall provides club members with the opportunity to maintain flexibility by demonstrating skills with the lawn rake in the annual lawn-clearing exercise. Under the ever-watchful eye of Ray Clipson, a trusty band of volunteers carried out the task this year, with David Green as co-ordinator. Regulars were Jim Britton, John Copping, David Taylor, Frank Hibberd, Geof Eames and the brothers Green.

Leaf clearing in the autumn is an important element in maintaining healthy lawns, and the Club is very grateful to all who have helped this year. The only



potential problem occurred when one volunteer threatened to down tools when it was suggested that he was “demonstrating more skill with the lawn rake than he had shown all summer with the croquet mallet!”

Martin Green

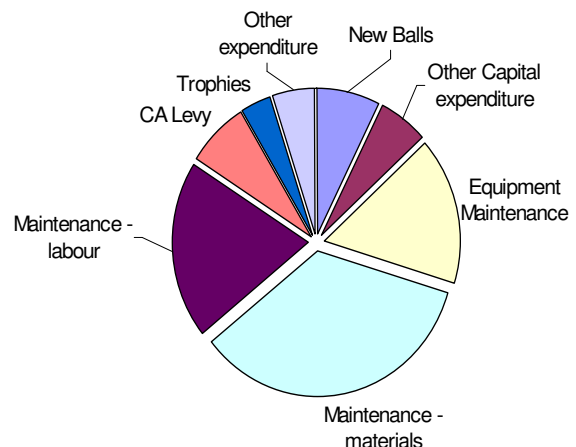
There is still a pair of **MENS BLACK SHOES** in the hut. They are size 9 & made by Oakridge. If anyone claims these please phone me (01926 853480) in the next week or so or they will be given to a charity.

We just received a booklet giving the details of our travel insurance.

Under ‘definitions’ is a list of the Permitted **Hazardous Activities** we are covered for. I am glad to say that croquet is on the list. So I now know that aerobics & camel riding can be hazardous not to mention rowing !

2006/7 Finances

Last season was a successful one, financially as well as on the lawns. Details will be given at the AGM but, in general, as the chart below shows, we continue to spend a large % of our income on the lawns. Equipment maintenance was higher than we hoped which is one reason we have applied, and got permission from the main club, to buy a new mower



Social & 2008 AGM

At the club on 11th March at 7.30

There will be a short formal meeting to outline how things are and our plans for the future.

Then it's an informal gathering at the bar and a chance to meet up with old friends.

A finger buffet will be provided but if you can bring something, homemade or shop bought, we will have a good spread to enjoy as well as good company to enjoy it with!