



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

January 2007

## Good Start to Winter Programme

Tuesday 12 December saw the first of the Winter Social Evenings. It turned out to be very successful, attended by about 20 members.

It started with an interesting talk and presentation of the re-vamped web site (projected onto a large clear screen) by Keith Roberts the club's web-master.

For those who were unable to be present have a look at [www.kenilworthcroquet.co.uk](http://www.kenilworthcroquet.co.uk) This goes straight to the croquet section but with links to the



Adrian & his team in deep thought

other sections of the main club and links to other croquet sites.

This was followed by teams of 4 working on a quiz, coupled with an intriguing & testing game of target croquet devised by John Leader, which most people found much more difficult than they imagined!

The winning teams received no more than a round of applause but the evening was a lot of fun.



playing yellow to the target 5 yards away

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## A New Year Message from Bill Sidebottom

With the 2006 season the most successful one we have had, we can look forward with real optimism to 2007. The lawns and the general facilities are better than ever and our financial position is sound. Above all, 2006 saw the membership reinforced by many new members who, encouraged by the existing membership, generated an enthusiasm and commitment to the club which bodes well for 2007. We are more than half-way to the start of the season - it is getting time to polish the mallet and try a few practice swings.

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## A win for Britain 'down under'

We can celebrate winning a sporting contest in Australia against them, New Zealand & the USA! Although it should be mentioned that it was a GB team and not an English one.

The team of Robert Fulford, Chris Clarke, David Maugham, Mark Avery, Keith Aiton, & Jonathan Kirby defended the MacRobertson Trophy, croquet's top team contest. The four strongest nations in the Croquet World compete over a 16 day period. Each 6 man team plays the others with each 'test' comprising 9 doubles matches and 12 singles.

GB made a slow start against N Z with Aiton & Maugham losing the first match. Fulford & Clarke won theirs but we lost the third. However, the next day was much better winning all three matches. By 11am on the 4<sup>th</sup> day we had won the next two doubles matches (with the two NZ players managing only one croquet stroke in 4 games) and it ended GB beating NZ 15 - 6 while Australia had beaten USA by 14 - 7

Against the USA the GB team lost only one doubles and one singles match and so was victorious by 19 - 2. Australia narrowly beat NZ 11 - 10

So the two leaders went head to head. After more very strong play by the Brits, we went on to win by 19 - 2 and take the trophy. Surprisingly, USA beat NZ to take the third place.

Both USA and Australia have improved since the last time when NZ were our biggest rivals. We look forward to the MacRobertson in three years' time in England.

Ray Clipson (thanks to John Leader. Full account in The Croquet Gazette.)

## Sorry - we woz wrong

In May we said that Croquet started in this club in 1989. But it turns out that croquet in Kenilworth has a much longer history. The original Minute Book, held by Richard Levitt, of the **KENILWORTH TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB** shows it started in Queens Road in 1901

### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1901 at Mr Ledbrook's**

The first meeting was held at Mr Ledbrook's on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1901. The committee was elected of the Rev. Hanning and Harrington Lees, Drs Bourne and Growse, Messrs Bates, Bourne, Hammond, H. Jepson, Vincent Jepson, Inwood Jones, Ladbrook, W. Mitchell and C. Willmot with Mr Inwood Jones as Hon. Secretary. A sub-committee was formed for the purpose of drawing up rules. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee Meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1901 it was agreed that £5 be paid for the pavilion and the shed behind it, 10/- for 3 seats, 25/- for tent subject to examination, 7/6 for hose, spade and turf cutter. The rules of the club were decided on.

In September a circular was sent 'to all persons whose names had previously been approved by the committee' and Lord Leigh was elected President. Committees were formed for the Grounds, Lawn Tennis, Badminton, Hockey and Croquet & Bowls. Mr Lancaster was employed to get the ground in order at a guinea a week. **The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Monday October 21<sup>st</sup> 1901 at the Kenilworth Institute**

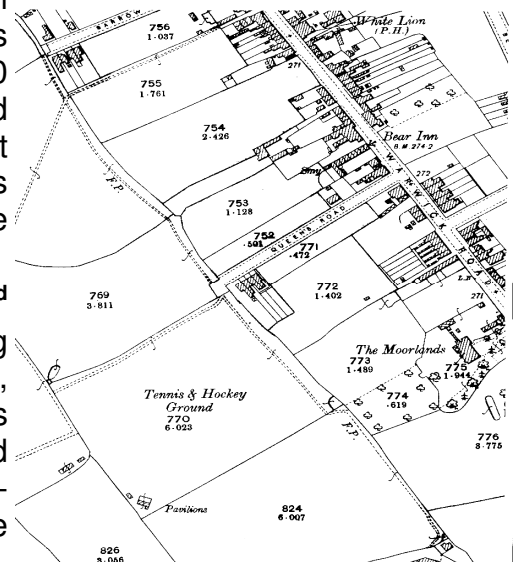
In Feb 1902 notice boards were put along the foot-path warning people not to trespass, and an estimate was obtained for a Ladies Pavilion. A roller 48 inches by 10 was ordered from Green & Co. By July 1902 things had progressed to the stage where a 3 day Tournament could be held at the end of July, but presumably this was tennis as it was minuted that the Balls have to be supplied by the Players.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1902** at which sub-committees were appointed including a Croquet & Bowls committee - with Messrs Fayerman, E.K.Bourne, R.Clive. Hinks or J.Woodward. Perhaps there had been some problems as it was also agreed was that all instructions which any member of the sub-committees wish to give to the ground man shall be made through the Hon. Sec.

A Mr. Munden was employed for two days a week during the winter and it was decided that 'the donkey be provided for' (at 1s.6d a week). It was proposed that 'the croquet ground be relayed, but an amendment was carried, that the 1<sup>st</sup> croquet ground only be relayed in places & dressed with Basic Slag and that a 2<sup>nd</sup> croquet ground be provided'. It was agreed that a new croquet set be provided and in July 1904 four croquet mallets were bought.

In Aug 1905 a Croquet Tournament was held & in 1906 the committee got '2 sets of balls (excellite -croquet), 2 sets of improved hoops, 2 sets of celluloid clips' ready for another Aug tournament. At the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** money was voted for making a new Croquet ground. But an amendment was then carried that it would only be done 'in the event of the croquet members guarntting (sic) seven new croquet members or seven pounds seven shillings'

To be continued. Ray Clipson



## **The Winter Programme**

### **Thurs 18 Jan Croquet Winter Evening**

C A Coaching video for beginners. Golf Croquet Tactics. Discussion of Questionnaire responses & what YOU want for next season

### **Thurs 22 Feb Croquet Winter Evening**

Demonstration of Association Croquet tactics. Buying a mallet? How to choose the right one for you. The advantages of joining the C A

### **Thurs 22 Mar Croquet AGM & Social Evening**

Hopes for 2007.. Your Views & Comments.