



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

JULY 2011



WILL BE HOSTED BY THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION @ HURLINGHAM (plus some at SURBITON)

SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY to 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011 STARTING EACH DAY @ 10.00hrs

This event is NOT held every year & then it takes place in different Countries on a rotation basis

Please see attached PDF file for further details.

## Colours on bisque boxes

As one gets older memory often fails and sometimes it is difficult to remember which lot of bisques are yours. So I have started putting the colours on the 1/2 bisque signs (which can be turned round when the 1/2 is not required). Fairly soon there should be enough for 1st & 2nd colours on both lawns. I hope you find them useful.

Ray Clipson



## First of the year - The Spring Trophy

The Spring Trophy took place on May 1st - Bank Holiday Sunday - and it may have been this timing which led to a disappointing turnout.

In bright sunshine, but with a chilly wind, it took the form of a series of tests challenging players in the skills of both codes of the game. In the second part players of a similar level played each other at golf croquet and then a funny hybrid game with elements of association & golf.

The best four then played in semi-finals of Golf croquet. Alan Clark beat Joyce Critchley 4-0 and Philip Wood beat Mike Cheeseman 4-2. The final started evenly and went to 3-2 before gradually Philip built up a lead. Alan was unlucky, missing narrowly several times and sticking in the jaws. Philip finally won the first Trophy of the year 7-3 on an enjoyable Sunday afternoon.

Ray Clipson



## Dates for Your Diary

Jul 13th. - AC WMF v Stourbridge away

Jul 15th. - AC WMF v. Himley

Jul 16th. - GC WMF v. Himley

Jul 20th.- 21st. - AC B Class Advanced  
Tournament

Jul 30th. - Offchurch Friendly - home

Aug 6th. - Offchurch Friendly - away

Aug 7th. - GC All England Area Final - **come and watch the experts play!**

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

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## Northampton ... away

Adrian did not have his usual fluency, and succumbed to the wiles of Derek Humphrey and the force of Mike Hills. Ray scored well against chairman Owen Bryce, until the hoop-blobbing blight descended on him for the day. John lost a tight game against Les Carrick. Frank recorded our only AC win of the day, by the clever expedient of making slightly fewer errors than his opponent. Philip had a good but losing game against Owen. 7-1 to Northampton.



The GC was a mixture of singles and doubles. Our GC team did rather better than the AC team, with three wins, two by Philip and one by Bob. There were some close games involving Alan, Bob and Joyce. Stella had no luck, so Northampton ran out winners 15-3. Hospitality as always was excellent. The picture shows the GC team taking a relaxed though windblown lunch break, while Mike Hills acts as mother.

AC: Adrian, Ray, John H, Frank

GC: Philip, Bob Maskell, Alan Clarke/Joyce, Stella.

John H and Philip swapped at lunchtime

## ... and at home

It could have been different!

Alan Richardson lost his morning game by 9 hoops playing rather nervously, and on two occasions helped his opponent by playing the wrong ball. However in the afternoon he found a good rhythm, narrowly losing on time to his talented opponent Peter Stansfield by a single hoop. Tim Leggatt, playing his first competitive game for Kenilworth, was always in contention in the morning game eventually losing by the narrow margin of 4 hoops to Jill Carrick, the only female player in the fixture.

John Handy played, in the morning, the ever-colourful character Owen Bryce and although he was always challenging for the lead he narrowly lost by 4 hoops.

In his second game, Cliff was well placed with only 30 minutes left, for his clips were on 'peg and peg' whilst his opponent Nick Evans had his clips on hoops 4 and 5. However Nick knew he had to take risks, and managed to complete an unlikely victory with 40 seconds remaining, justifying his handicap of 3.

Finally Frank Hibberd, who substituted for John in the afternoon, had a very close encounter with Jill before losing by one hoop on time. To quote Frank himself looking back on his match: 'I took my last bisque with the lawn at my mercy', but then squandered the opportunity!

Yes the final score-line of 0-8 could so easily have been quite different.

However the match was played in an excellent spirit; with lovely weather throughout plus an abundance of lovely sandwiches and cakes available at tea-time, the day had been a very good one!



Cliff Daniel

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## **Robbie Dobbs Trophy - NEW!**

Ray Clipson from the Kenilworth Croquet Club won the inaugural Robbie Dodds Trophy croquet tournament at Stourbridge. This new event was organised by the West Midlands Croquet Federation to encourage the middle ranking players.

Nine players from all over the region competed in bright sunshine with many close matches. The other player from Kenilworth, Nigel Haslam, only lost his final match on the last hoop after time was called. Had he won three players would have almost tied and complicated maths would have been needed to see who scored most hoops during the day.



## Festival Trophy

As part of the Kenilworth Festival, some of the top Golf Croquet players in the Midlands arrived this week at the Kenilworth Croquet Club in Crackley Lane to compete for the Festival Trophy.

Also visiting the club was the Chairman of the Croquet Association, Barry Keen, who complimented the club on its facilities, the friendly ambience and the state of the lawns.

Six clubs from all over the Midlands competed with each playing a doubles match against the other five.

Kenilworth, represented by Adrian Morris and Derek Fairburn finished fourth with victories over Woodhall Spa from Lincolnshire and a team from Himley Hall near Dudley. The Derbyshire team of Bakewell were third.

Stuart Smith and John Guy, the Broadwas team from Worcestershire, took the trophy with five wins. The Edgbaston team of Nick Hyne and Paddy Heath were second.



## Golf Tournament Trophy

On a relatively pleasant day which remained fine with strong winds, 6 players turned up to contest this annual tournament. The winner is eligible to enter the Croquet Association Centre Stage competition, the finals of which are contested in September at Northampton. The format decided was that everyone played everyone regardless of handicap. Three games were completed before lunch and the rest afterwards. All the matches were played in a friendly but competitive atmosphere and the



result was not known until the final game was completed which added to the excitement. The tournament was won by John H who beat

Mervyn in the "who beats who".

## The Guides Tournament

On a sunny June day, two Kenilworth Guide companies, the 6th. and 8th., met at the Croquet Club to contest the annual Guides' tournament. Each company provided a team of 6, consisting of 3 pairs, and each pair played all three pairs from the other company.

After many hard-fought matches, played in a friendly but competitive and tactical spirit, 8th. Kenilworth were declared the winners by a narrow margin.

The winning pair were presented with an engraved medal whilst the company retained the cup for a further year.



## Broadwas Friendly

The lawns at Broadwas have what they describe as a 'certain mystique'. As with the greens at Augusta, there are times when you have to hit at right-angles to the straight line to the target. This means that visitors need a large amount of luck to win a game. In the AC, John C and Frank had some, John H and Alan didn't. 6-2 to Broadwas. The GC, as last year, was played as a melee of individual games – 27 altogether. David had to be forcibly extracted from his last game to take tea, which meant that he had to be satisfied with second place. Derek took third place. Tim had some good wins, but not quite enough to join the

leaders.

The overall match result was a win for Kenilworth by 12-8. We enjoyed the day in the beautiful setting, and were made to feel very welcome. The tea was superb.

