



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

June 2008

## WEATHER GIVES MIXED START TO THE SEASON

The cold wet weather made for a difficult start to the 2008 season BUT we have survived and competitions are now going ahead. The Golf Croquet Tournament was disrupted by the weather and had to be continued a few days later (see report). A duck was even seen swimming on Lawn 1 !!

We held the usual Fun Day to start the season & a very successful Open Day in May. We welcome several new members from that and our waiting list from the end of last season. Coaching and the Club Night has started on Tuesday evenings and we will soon be starting a Thursday evening night for Association Croquet — details below.

The main plea is for members to **PLAY THEIR MATCHES** in all the club competitions rather than leaving them to August when the lawns get crowded. This year you will get **extra points for block games played in June & July.**

### Two Part Success

A highly successful Golf Croquet Tournament was held at the Club but it didn't look likely part way through.

On the Sunday the eight players woke



up to heavy rain & wind which continued all morning without stopping. By lunchtime all were very wet and cold although everyone had played 3 games

with only Ray Clipson having won all his matches. By general vote it was decided that enough was enough and the event was stopped.

A warmer dry day allowed the completion on the following Friday. Other players including Cliff Daniel & John Handy came into form including the youngest player, Tom Holmes who only just missed a play-off final, with the very last shot of his last match bouncing off the wrong side of the hoop. This left John Leader as the worthy winner with five wins out of seven games. A well organised & enjoyable tournament.



### Great Hospitality at Northampton

The forecast was heavy showers and thunder, & black clouds came, but only one hundred and thirty seven drops of rain fell. A full day's play was therefore possible, enabling Northampton to overpower Kenilworth by six games to two. Frank played at Northampton during the winter, on the extremely well-preserved St. Andrew's Hospital lawns (presumably the rainwater simply runs down the slopes). A lot of good it did him!

John Leader lost to Mike Hills & beat Les Carrick John Handy & Frank Hibberd lost both theirs. John Copping lost to Mel Christie but beat Terry Leary. John is rarely seen in inter-club matches which on this evidence, seems rather a pity.

The hospitality and friendliness, as ever, were excellent.

Frank Hibberd

### Dates for Your Diary

- Thurs June 12<sup>th</sup> - Association Edgbaston away
- Thurs June 12<sup>th</sup> - ASSOCIATION COACHING starts. From 5.30pm (but come when you can). For members moving to Association. Continues on subsequent Thursdays.**
- Golf Croquet CLUB NIGHT continues every Tuesday evening.**
- Fri June 20<sup>th</sup> - Association vs Northampton
- Sun June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Golf Inter Club at Nottingham
- Wed/Thurs June 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Open Tournament
- Sat June 29<sup>th</sup> - Golf Grass Roots Heats
- Sun July 6<sup>th</sup> - Golf Centre Stage Heats
- Mon July 7<sup>th</sup> Hospitality Event 5o/c lawns 2 & 3
- Tues July 8<sup>th</sup> - W I afternoon - lawn 2 only
- Wed July 9<sup>th</sup> Golf friendly Ashby away
- Sun July 27<sup>th</sup> Association vs Stourbridge
- Wed/Thurs July 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> Open Tournament
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> August Golf Friendly at Sapcote

## Bad Day at the Lawn

The day was damp and occasionally wet. In the morning Cliff lost to Derek and Frank lost to Mike. John and Peter lost their doubles game to high-handicappers Marilyn and Geoff. John's threat to throw himself under a bus was not taken seriously, in view of the complete absence of buses in the area, and he was persuaded to stay on for the afternoon.

During lunch break a bright ray of sunshine appeared through a break in the cloud, and a voice was heard. "Kenilworth! You cocked up the Northampton match, and you're doing the same today. Was it for this that names such as Taylor, Dennis, Sidebottom, Fellows, Ward, Browne, established and continued the proud traditions of this club? Get out there and fight, fight and fight again!"

This inspired the Kenilworth team. But that didn't make a blind bit of difference, and they lost every game in the afternoon.

Kenilworth 0, Ashby 7.

**Kenilworth:** Peter Dennis, John Leader, Cliff Daniel, Frank Hibberd a.m., David Taylor p.m.

**Ashby:** Derek Buxton, Mike Haytack, Marilyn Murray, Geoff Elliott

Frank Hibberd

## Mallets

When starting croquet you should try different lengths and weights until you find one that suits you. The club has a variety and so that you can get the same one each time all the club mallets have now been numbered.

For those moving on and getting experienced you may want to buy your own mallet. This will undoubtedly improve your play. There is a wide range available and some helpful notes, written by Bill Sidebottom, are in the tea hut.

## For New Members

If we haven't said: Family/Friends are welcome to play with you, but there is a 'day fee' of £2. Please put it in an envelope in the tea hut. You can help yourself to coffee/tea/soft drinks - there is a small charge (in the jar). Ask if you haven't been shown how to put the gas on.

## Halse Win for Adrian at Edgbaston

Adrian Morris travelled to Edgbaston to compete for the Halse Trophy, a Tournament open to members of the West Midlands Federation Clubs.

In the final, Adrian beat Jim Markham from Edgbaston, the winner of the three previous years, to bring the Trophy back to Kenilworth.

## Win against Letchworth

On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, we were at home against Letchworth Croquet Club with Adrian Morris, Cliff Daniel, Nigel Haslam & John Leader playing for Kenilworth. The morning comprised two singles (our third ranked played their fourth and our fourth their third ranked player) & doubles between the top two from each side. 75 minutes later John and Adrian were recovering from a 2/7, 3/7 drubbing and shortly after Nigel lost 4/7 & 2/7. Gloom was raised slightly when Cliff won 7/5, 7/3 so at lunch the score was Kenilworth 1 Letchworth 2

Time to introduce Kenilworth's secret weapon. Mrs Leader's apple pie and ice-cream. It worked a treat slowing down Letchworth and rejuvenating us. In no time at all Adrian, Nigel and John had all won to put us in an unassailable position 4 games to 2 and Cliff only just missed out, so the final result - Kenilworth 4 Letchworth 3 with all four contributing to our victory.

John Leader

## Fun Day ?

The Fun Day was grey and cold but at least it was dry and 18 hardy souls turned up to enjoy the afternoon which resulted in a close finish with John Leader



just beating Nigel Haslam for the Shanghai Trophy. At the least it gave everyone a chance to swing their mallets after the winter break & meet old friends.

## Rachel against Ireland

New member Rachel Rowe, studying at Warwick University, is already well known in Croquet circles. She plays for the England Under 21s and was asked for a few words about the match. She writes:

Last year six English U21's went over to Ireland to play their respective team, so this time it was our turn to host the Irish - at Nottingham CC. Luckily we had a weekend of bright sunshine (and naturally getting burnt), good food, laughs, and of course, lots of Croquet!!

We spent the Saturday playing Golf, and the Sunday playing Association - both days were doubles in the morning, singles matches in the afternoon and various other Croquet variations in the evenings!! Both days were good fun, and hopefully we will be going back to Ireland again next year.