



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

November 2006

## A Fine Occasion

Thirty three members and their partners attended the Annual Dinner held on the 10th November at Time for



Part of the large crowd enjoying dinner

Tea in Kenilworth. It proved to be a very friendly occasion with good food, good wine and good company. During the evening Bill Sidebottom made presentations to two founder members, David Taylor and Doug Taylor (no relations), as a token of our thanks for the work they have done over the years. He also expressed sadness that Pat Wright has left the area and thanked him for all his efforts, particularly in coaching and promoting Golf Croquet. We have a new trophy, acquired by Bill but the history of which is not known.

Now to be called the Castle Cup, it will be played for by Advanced Croquet & was won this year by Henry Fellows. As we didn't have it on the day it was presented at the dinner.

Altogether a fine occasion.



The winner Henry Fellows



Bill Sidebottom & Cup

## Results of the Questionnaire

Thanks to everyone who returned it, we have a good picture of how the club has done and what we need to do.

We seem to be a friendly club. Open Days & coaching were appreciated. With younger members, many working, we need to think more about times of coaching & events. The competitions were well received and many members would like more matches with other clubs. An area which could be improved is information about when lawns will be occupied and the committee is considering this. A good % would like a winter programme - so details are on the right. If you would like a copy of the report e-mail Ray Clipson.

### New look WEB SITE

It is up and running with a new user friendly format. Keith Roberts recently joined the squash club and accepted the role of web master with a view to developing and maintaining the web site and promoting the CLUB.

**It's direct** at [ww.kenilworthcroquet.co.uk](http://www.kenilworthcroquet.co.uk) or by searching "croquet kenilworth" Come & meet Keith on Dec 12th

## The Winter Programme

### Sat 25 Nov Skittles with Quiz & fish & chips

Quiz sheets on the tables to do whilst waiting For your turn at skittles. £10 per head.

Teams of 6. Details see Richard behind the bar

### Tues 12 Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Croquet Winter Evening

Keith Roberts will show the new website and answer questions. Play target croquet. Followed by a light-hearted quiz.

### Sat 16 Dec Club Christmas Party

### Tues 16 Jan Croquet Winter Evening

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

### Tues 20 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

What we hope to do. Your Views & Comments.

### Golf Croquet Tactics - Michael Hague

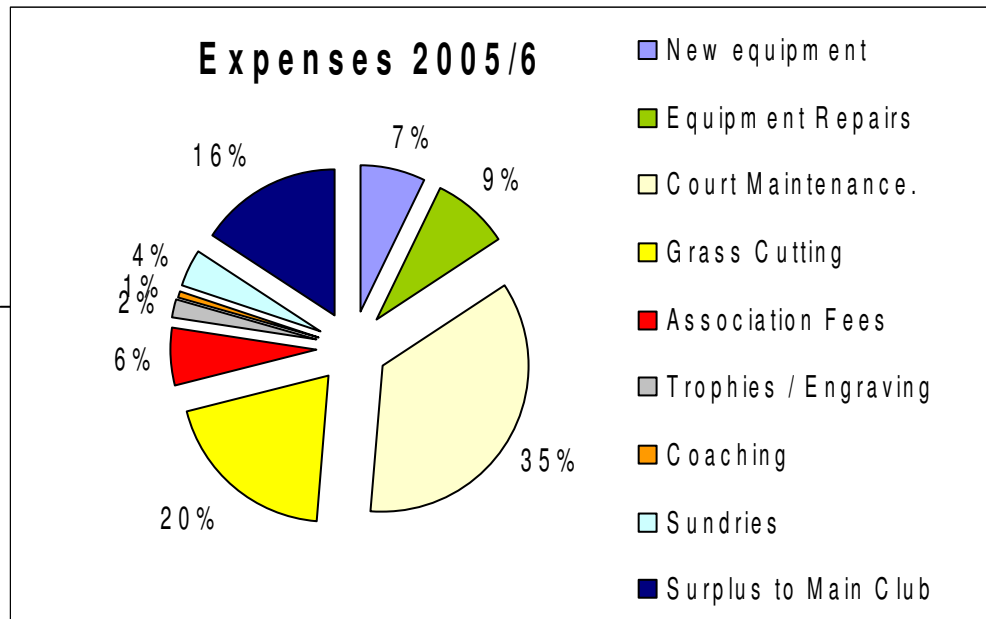
I left my copy of this useful book in the tea hut for members to borrow. Could I please have it back as it is needed for Jan 16th

**Happy Christmas to all our members.**

## What do we spend our money on ?

You may have wondered how the finances are distributed. The chart shows what a large % of our income goes on maintaining and improving the club; 64% (£2500) went on the lawns and equipment ; another 7% went on new mallets and balls. We also pay our dues to the Croquet Association & the West Midlands Federation..

Any surplus we make after all these expenses goes to the main club to help maintain & improve the facilities which we can all use — the toilets & showers, the bar, the car park and everything else. Don't forget, that we are full members, and can attend all their functions such as the fireworks.



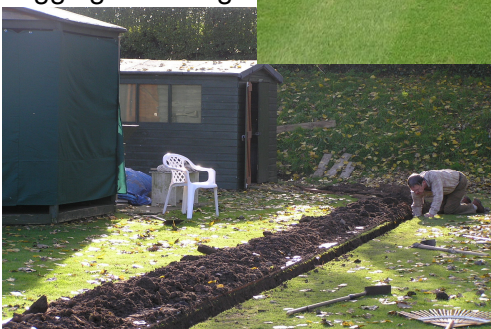
## The lawns are put to bed but work goes on

The season finished but a hardy group of volunteers did a great job of spreading top dressing on all the lawns. This and other work such as worm treatment and seeding has meant that all the lawns are looking the best ever (see below) But we are also improving facilities by laying wa-



ter to the tea hut, which involved laying a trench all the way from the standpipe and digging a large

soakaway behind the hut for the waste water. All the work is progressing well.



Articles were by several members but any errors are down to me, Ray Clipson. Anything for the next issue to me by 1st February

## Survey of year's matches

**Golf Croquet** - Having had great success in recruiting new players early in the season it was my plan to introduce several of them to competitive Golf Croquet. It was successful because they all seemed to enjoy the experience but the results were disappointing. We lost to Stourbridge for the first time for many years. The score was 5 games to 4. Edgbaston came to Kenilworth with two internationals in their side and we lost 6 games to 3. Pat Wright

**Association** - A somewhat mixed season. We won against Stourbridge (6 - 0) & Edgbaston (6 - 2) but we lost to Shrewsbury (2 - 6). We had two friendly matches with Northampton and lost one & drew the other. We will try for more friendly matches in 2007.

## Last matches of the season

We had a great afternoon against Offchurch but their experience was just too much for our beginners. However, everyone felt it must become an annual fixture.

The final Golf Croquet match against Himley was, as always, keenly fought. We went down 5 games to 4 but it was not decided until the last game was played. Amanda Haslam in her first league match performed well beating Austin 7 points to 4.