



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

NOVEMBER 2010

The Offchurch Odyssey

It was with some trepidation that I led my troops into battle with Offchurch. In a rain interrupted afternoon. Would they do as I asked - would they follow my plan of campaign or would they just do as they wanted and totally ignore my shouted commands. Luckily, they chose the latter course and the result was an overwhelming win by 8.5 matches to 3.5. A certain amount of histrionics followed a 20 yard angled hoop success by Ray whose demonstrations of success were an embarrassment, not only to us, but also to our opponents who supposed that this was his first such success in a long and successful career. Congratulations must go to Bob and Amanda who won 2 of their 3 games 7-0, Michael and Trevor who also won 2 of their 3 games though not quite so easily, Ray and Alan who also managed 2 whilst Tina and Joyce enjoyed the occasion with the best score of 2.5 games. Finally, a word of thanks to Phyllis Eames who made her husband's presentation of food look quite special.

... and Offchurch away

At lunchtime, the weather didn't look as though it was going to be nice for this friendly match; however we were met by a very welcoming home team, & the sun came out in sympathy! It really was a friendly match; I think we all enjoyed it, & maybe that showed in our results! There was also a lovely tea, with home-made cakes being brought across the green. After tea, several members of both teams had to leave, but the rest of us played another match each; these were truly friendly, as the results were not recorded. A fixture we will look forward to next season!



Geof Eames and Jean Wilson, Robin Moore and Nick Hegan, Stella Gill and Derek Fairburn; these pairs all won two and lost one. Frank Hibberd and Peter Kristunas won three. Result: Offchurch 3, Kenilworth 9

The Castle Cup

The Castle Cup is the Club's most prestigious trophy as it is competed for by the top players in the club and played level under Advanced Association Rules. In the four years of its existence it has been won every time by Henry Fellows.

Four players competed this year in a full day tournament, all play all. Henry was the favourite again, competing with Bill Sidebottom, John Leader and Peter Dennis.

John played some of his best croquet to not only upset the odds but to beat all the others to claim the Castle Cup.

Thank you from the club..

... to Dr. Richard Bowen for his generous gift of some smart new pegs. These pegs are indeed of the highest quality and set off the lawns superbly. Dr. Bowen was a member of the club in the mid-nineties, still owns a house in Kenilworth, but now lives in the north.

... and thank you from Adrian

...to Mike Cheeseman and Mervyn Harvey for agreeing to join the Croquet Club Committee. Welcome from all the other members - we hope you have a happy time with us!

Dates for Your Diary

Nov 13th. - Annual Croquet Section dinner

Jan 20th. - Winter Social

Feb 23rd. - Winter Social

Mar 15th. - Main Club AGM

Mar 17th. - Croquet Section AGM

Mar 22nd. - Winter Social

Apr 16th. - provisional opening of lawns

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

New Editor - Jean Wilson on jean.wilson66@btinternet.com

Another fine GC win...

Kenilworth continued their successful Golf Croquet season with a fine win over Worcestershire team Broadwas last week.



We had fielded a strong team of Adrian Morris, Peter Dennis, Cliff Daniel and John Handy and the match proved to be a one-sided affair in Kenilworth's favour. Adrian, Peter and Cliff were undefeated in the singles. The doubles combinations of Adrian/Peter and Cliff/John were also successful giving a final score of 15 games to 4.

It has to be said that the match may have been one-sided but all matches were played in fine weather and in a spirit of very friendly rivalry. Broadwas were very complimentary about our club and the friendly nature of the competition.

Thanks ...

A tremendous word of thanks to all the members who came and helped do the end of season work on the lawns.

For the first time ever we have done hollow tining on lawn 2. A quick calculation showed we made about 68,000 holes (rather more than Sergeant Pepper's holes on Blackburn Lancashire) and all the cores had to be taken away. This, plus scarifying, over seeding with grass seed, and the spreading of about 8 tonnes of top dressing will make the lawns better.



Great work.
Ray

Weather vane repainted



No excuse for not knowing which way the wind is blowing or adjusting your mallet swing to suit? This was made a number years back and the stance was

based on that used by Doug Taylor, the key Founder member of the Croquet Club.



Improvers League - AC

There was much enthusiasm for the A/C Improvers League in its inaugural season. The League was established for players with higher handicaps to facilitate games with others at a similar level to develop their game skills.

Most members played all of their games in the first league with varied fortunes. Congratulations go to Nigel Haslam for being our first winner.

The second league wasn't as busy mainly due to competition and holiday commitments. Mervyn Harvey seized the opportunity to play all of his games and won outright. A, 'well deserved' accolade for Mervyn and a true reflection of his commitment to the game. On reflection, the establishment of the League gave A/C players with higher handicaps an opportunity to play more games within an identified group. Hopefully next year the League can be refined and extended. On a personal note it gave me the confidence to enter an 'outside', tournament at Edgbaston. I joined Ray and Alan R. (a very close runner up in the event) to enjoy the two-day competition. We decided to enter more of the same next season!

Pauline Dennis

Thursday Club Night for AC

In response to members needs, the Committee sanctioned Thursday evening as a Club Night for playing association croquet games on a 'turn up and play' basis. The three weeks remaining at the end of the season proved very successful for those who were available, at short notice, to participate.

The first two weeks saw five members at each session and the final one six, many more expressed an interest but had prior commitments. A variety of games were played and enjoyed by all, despite the fading light after seven o'clock!

Next year these regular weekly sessions will hopefully enable more association players to develop their game skills and use of strategies/tactics in games.

Pauline Dennis

Finals Day 2010

Kenilworth Croquet Club finals were held over the last weekend in September with seven trophies up for grabs, with Peter Dennis competing in four of them!



The day started with Adrian Morris taking on Peter in the half-lawn Taylor Cup. This proved to be an error-strewn affair with Adrian winning by making slightly fewer errors than Peter.

On the other lawn Ray Clipson and Alan Richardson were competing for the Bill Browne Trophy over 14 hoops on the full lawn. At times, both players took the advantage and looked to have the game sewn up but then gave it away! An excitingly close match but victory to Ray.

The afternoon matches saw Adrian taking on Peter again but this time in Golf Croquet for the Kenilworth Cup. Adrian was on top form for the first game but Peter fought back to win the second 7-6 and to take a 3-0 lead in the third. An amused crowd then watched as a couple of sequences of wrong balls went un-noticed by the players but it was eventually sorted out and Adrian won the close final game 7-5.

On the half lawn, John Clark and Jamie Clark fought out the Douglas Trophy for higher handicapped players with John the victor but with much promise shown by both players.



The weather remained kind on the Sunday with the morning match featuring Peter taking on Cliff Daniel for the Secunderabad Cup.

The match was a very close affair with Peter making it to peg and peg. Cliff hit in and fought back strongly to also get both of his balls to peg but eventually let Peter in to peg out and win the match.

Himley Association Match

Himley play in an idyllic setting, a park with a lake and magnificent trees & buzzards overhead. On the October Sunday we played them, it was like a late summer day with bright blue skies.



However, the disadvantage is that the lawns are looked after by the council. The grass was much longer than we would ever have and there were millions of worm casts - a somewhat challenging combination. In fact we soon found that it was impossible to hit a ball the length of the lawn and with the low sun, impossible to see what colour ball you were aiming at. However it was the same for everyone!

As it turned out the 'second string players', Nigel Haslam & Ray Clipson, coped somewhat better than the 'seniors' Cliff Daniel & John Handy. Nigel & Ray won their doubles match and both won their singles, maybe because they were happier to make short breaks or even a single hoop. Cliff & John both lost their two singles, because it was extremely difficult to set up a four ball break. So we lost the match by 4 games to 3 but an enjoyable day was had by all.

Web Site - reminder

The playing season is over for 2010; however all the match and competition results can be seen on the **WEB site**.

Click **Fixtures & results** for who won/lost & click **detailed scores** for individual scores.

Photographs can be accessed either from the individual **Match Results** or directly from the **Picture gallery**.

The Honours Board has been updated to include the 2010 Champions.

Peter Dennis / Keith Roberts