



RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

October 2009

AFTER A WET SUMMER IT'S A GREAT FINALS DAY

Our luck held and the fine dry weather we had for the previous 2-3 weeks continued for Finals Day. Promptly at 10o/c John Leader and Ray Clipson took to lawn 1 for the Bill Browne 14 point trophy whilst Adrian Morris began his marathon day (three matches to play) with his St.George match against Henry Fellows on the other lawn.



Ray was not at his best and wasted several bisques. This let John win by +6 after a couple of hours. This seemed totally appropriate as John has made a splendid trophy including a photo of Bill.

The St. George started with a tense opening phase. Adrian was reluctant to use his bisques & Henry got to hoop 4 with one ball but broke down. Adrian make a good break and got to penult. Henry was given an opening but only got to hoop 4 which let Adrian progress using his last 1½ bisques and it looked all over. However in trying to split Henry's balls Adrian just went off the lawn and he had a struggle to finish the match and win by +12.

After a very short lunch break Adrian was back on the lawn to face Peter Dennis in the Secundrabad Cup. This was a much more bravura match with an aggressive start from Peter to run hoop 1 but couldn't progress &



Adrian countered by hitting-in from corner 2 across to corner 4. He again had a problem of hitting just too hard and going off, which allowed Peter in to make a good break to hoop 6. Peter had a

very unlucky miss when he hit from distance and somehow his ball found a way through between Adrian's ball and the peg. Adrian won his second trophy of the day by +15.

The poor man was given no rest and reappeared on the half lawn for the final of the Taylor Cup against John Leader. A very good break led to his third win of the day & it included peeling yellow through rover but with the red sticking in the jaws. However he went on to win.

Finally, in the Sunday morning sunshine Tim Leggatt beat Pauline Dennis in a very friendly match which could have gone either way for the Douglas Trophy .



Date for Your Diary

The End of Season Dinner

Saturday 21st November at Kenilworth Golf Club. Details and a booking form will be sent out shortly

NOT TO BE MISSED

Stella wins the Ladies 2009

A bright sunny morning dawned ready for the Ladies Competition. Unfortunately there were only four entries this time but it was decided to go ahead regardless. John Leader kindly organised us and acted as our referee. Initially Tina Haslam played Stella Gill whilst Amanda Haslam played Jean Wilson. Stella eventually beat Tina on the 13th hoop and Amanda beat Jean rather more easily. Tina then played Jean and lost whilst Amanda played Stella and lost.

The last round seemed somewhat partisan



but we promised to do our best to win! Stella beat Jean and Tina beat Amanda. Stella was the new champion with three wins to everyone

else's one. John presented her with the trophy much to her delight – a pride of place has already been reserved in our living room! A very enjoyable morning but we do hope that there are more entries next year to make it even more of an occasion.

Jean Wilson

Nigel Haslam in Centre Stage

Nigel won the Kenilworth heat & went to the Finals of the Competition with players from all over the country including Bury, Broadwas, Bath, and Watford. On a chilly day he won 2 of his four matches and only lost each of the other two by 7-6.

He enjoyed the experience and recommends it, & the Grass Roots Competition to other members for next year.

Mentoring — think about next year

It has been suggested that a mentoring scheme would be useful. Adrian has agreed to provide more formal coaching sessions next year, but a mentoring system would help players to improve without it. It is proposed that we pair members, who can then arrange to play each other at a convenient time, with informal advice offered on improving certain aspects of play.

Whilst this would be particularly useful for new members, and could include such important items as which hoops for which lawns, locking up, etc – which I certainly found out as much by accident as anything else! – we feel that it would also be useful for those who, like us, have been members for a couple of seasons, and now know enough to improve. Possibly it would also be of interest to members wishing to 'progress' from golf to association croquet.

Please think about it over the winter. You don't have to be top-level players; in fact it would be better if you remembered what it is like to be learning! If you are interested in mentoring, or being mentored, please contact either Stella (stella.gill@btinternet.com) or Jean (jean.wilson66@btinternet.com), as we have agreed to coordinate this. It would be helpful if you could say how long you have been playing, and whether you would like to mentor a new member, or somebody of your own level. Many thanks. (We will send out a reminder at the start of next season!)

Always enjoyable at Offchurch

Kenilworth went to Offchurch on a gloriously sunny September Saturday. Our six croquet players set off to engage in 'friendly' combat with their fellow players at nearby Offchurch. The players tried to judge which way the balls would roll, hoop approaches challenging the best! After three hard fought games for each pair, Kenilworth won, 6/3. But the best was to come, the famous Offchurch 'aftergame tea'! What a spread! A steaming teapot, egg and cress sandwiches (crustless of course), shortbread, cakes, and a very big helping of essence of olde england! Many thanks to Offchurch for their hospitality.



Good Experience at Sapcote

Kenilworth fielded a relatively inexperienced team for the away match against Sapcote, with Mike Cheeseman, Bob Case and Stella Gill all making their debuts for the Club. A series of 12 doubles matches were played, with pairings changing for each of the matches. Sapcote were comfortable victors by 9 matches to 3, although five of the 13-point matches were decided 7-6 at the final hoop. It was a valuable experience for all, and although the defeat and the wintry conditions were to some extent compensated by the excellence of the post-match tea, there was much talk on the return journey of the need for revenge in 2010.

SWEATSHIRTS, POLO SHIRTS & CAPS

We have some sizes in stock & others can be ordered. If you haven't got yours yet contact Peter Dennis NOW.