



# RUNNING HOOPS

The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet Club

SEPTEMBER 2011

## AC WMF v Shrewsbury

Kenilworth played away against Shrewsbury in this handicap league match on Saturday 13th August. Kenilworth, with handicaps of 12, 12, 14 and 16, found themselves up against an experienced team with handicaps of 2½, 3½, 7 and 9, playing on lawns that were exceptionally hard, dry, unforgiving and with gentle slopes towards some of the boundaries which made balls seem to run forever. (Thanks to the hard work of Ray Clipson and his helpers we do not have such lawns at Kenilworth.)

Our team of John Handy, Philip Wood, Alan Richardson and Frank Hibberd all enjoyed a good day's play in reasonable weather with 7 games played in all, one doubles and six singles.

Unfortunately we lost the match by 1 - 6, the total "whitewash" being avoided by John's



+2(t) victory over Edward Kapton (2½). Our doubles Team of John and Alan lost a hard fought match against Brian

Christmas (3½) and Robert Parsons (9). The closest match of the day was Philip against Edward Kapton, lost by Philip -1 in an exciting finish at the peg. Alan lost -5(t) to Graham Colclough (7) and Frank -17 to Robert Parsons.

## The Egyptians make hoop running and jumping easy!

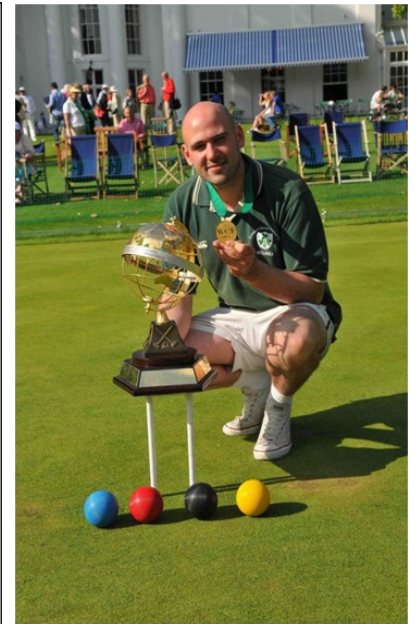
Watch the video given in the link below to see just how easy golf croquet can be!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIbSSHvMVrQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIbSSHvMVrQ)

## WORLD GOLF CROQUET

### CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

*Mark McInerney (Ireland) has become the first non-Egyptian Golf Croquet World Champion after playing brilliantly all week. In the course of winning the title he had to beat the 2004, 2006 and 2008 champions.*



## SEE THE MOST TALKED ABOUT SHOT

THIS LONG DISTANCE JUMP SHOT BY REG BAMFORD WENT THROUGH THE HOOP BUT WAS DISALLOWED DUE TO "ALLEGED" DAMAGE TO THE LAWN

PLEASE SEE THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION WEB-SITE FOR MORE DETAILS

## Dates for Your Diary

Sept 7th. - GC v Sapcote at home

Sept 8th. - Castle Cup

Sept 10th. - Tennis v. Squash sections

Sept 15th. - GC WMF v Edgbaston away

Sept 18th. - Ladies' GC Tournament

Sept 24th.-25th. - Finals Weekend

Sept 26th. - Lawn 2 closes

Oct 3rd - Lawns1 and 3 close

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

Spectators always welcome at these events

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## Offchurch at Kenilworth...

On a very sunny afternoon Kenilworth entertained Offchurch in a friendly match. The match was played in doubles and the team consisted of Dave Green (Captain), Bob Maskell, Geof Eames, Frank Hibberd, Peter Kristunas and Robert McCaig.



The first set of doubles put Kenilworth 3-0 ahead with wins by Dave/Bob, Geof/Frank and Peter/Rob.

Offchurch came back strongly and levelled the score to 4-4 with Dave/Bob the only winners.

The third match resulted in a closely fought game between Dave/Bob and Steven/Sandy which resulted in a win for Kenilworth by 7-4 for a 5-4 victory.

A very enjoyable and friendly day of croquet followed by an excellent tea afterwards.

Kenilworth travel to Offchurch on Saturday 6th August with the home team seeking revenge.

David Green

## Kenilworth at Offchurch...

The match took place in the grounds of the village hall, where Offchurch had cunningly arranged a children's party followed by a wedding. There were also some craftily placed slopes, so that balls approaching a hoop would suddenly swerve to one side. Against these hazards and distractions we fought and fought again. Joyce and Alan had a narrow loss against Steve and Sandy, as did Trevor and Frank, in spite of some clever hitting by Trevor. Nick and Robin were unlucky to lose on time against John and Mike, the Offchurch captain. Each team could take pleasure in having one win, but that was the sum of our achievements.

There was some consolation in that the village setting was charming, the weather was good, and the tea was excellent. It



was, after all, an enjoyable croquet afternoon.

Offchurch 6, Kenilworth 3

Players:

Robin Moore and Nick Hegan  
Joyce Critchley and Alan Clark  
Trevor Webb and Frank Hibberd

Frank Hibberd

## Northampton Croquet Club celebrates 25 years

John Handy and Cliff Daniel were fortunate to be able to join the members of Northampton C C together with a few dignitaries and VIP's on Saturday 16 July as they celebrated being in existence for 25 years.



Owen Bryce delivered one of the speeches in his inimitable style describing the early years. Originally the club played in Becket's Park where the two lawns not only were undersize but overlapped each other too! Apparently the groundsman was quite elusive (often at lunch!) and the toilets were so awful that members used the 'cross-legged' tactic to avoid visiting them! After about 6 years the option to move to the lovely grounds of St Andrews Hospital was proposed but the members needed a lot of persuasion since this necessitated an increase in subs from £5 to £45 !!

During the day wine and champagne flowed freely accompanying a substantial cold buffet, and a wooden bench was presented by the Club to the Hospital to recognise the support they have received over the years.

Also the weather improved significantly to enable everyone to play a little croquet. Those people who were completely new to the game played a

tournament of golf croquet that produced a winner who received a trophy. The more experienced players tried a couple of light-hearted variations of golf croquet.

Without any doubt whatsoever a good time was had by all!!

## AC WMF v Stourbridge

Kenilworth began the season's fixture in the West Midlands League with an emphatic win 5-1 against Stourbridge on Wednesday 15 July. The result was particularly pleasing since the opponents lawns are particularly difficult to master for, apart from the fact they are under-sized, there are several hoops that contained awkward dips and each lawn had two hazardous boundaries with severe slopes! Add the interest shown by a number of park-loving spectators and one stray dog who seemed to find the brown croquet ball more interesting than its badly worn tennis ball (!) it was clear that deep concentration was needed by the players.

Pleasingly the handicaps in the 6 games were quite similar so few bisques were conceded. The only game lost was by the narrow margin of 1 hoop – by John Handy, who decisively won his second game by 13 hoops. Cliff Daniel found both his games to be quite tight but won them both +5 and +7. However Phil Wood was the star of the day winning both his games decisively +12 and +13.

## AC WMF v Himley

With our opponents unable to field a fourth player the match comprised 4 singles and 1 doubles games.

In the morning Cliff Daniel was quite unlucky to lose his game by the margin of 2 hoops, with his opponent running 2 hoops only minutes before time was called. However John Handy and Ray Clipson who were conceding 5 bisques were always struggling in their doubles game and eventually lost by 7 hoops.

So the pressure was on for Kenilworth to win all the afternoon games – a daunting task since again our opponents were receiving a number of bisques. Also the weather conditions became a little challenging since the strength of the wind escalated. At one point Cliff, in his match, having just run 1-back and contemplating his continuation stroke was

dismayed to see his ball blown back sufficiently for his turn to be terminated! Also one of the tables – complete with parasol - was dramatically overturned breaking one cup and one glass but fortunately not injuring anybody! However John won his game narrowly, leading by 1 hoop when time was called. And Cliff, who managed a break of 11 hoops in one of his turns thereby quite demoralising his opponent, won his game by 10 hoops.

Unfortunately Ray lost his game quite decisively so Himley ran out the winners 3-2.

## Frank takes on challenge from a visiting Aussi...

We had visitors from Australia on 7th August' 11 - Bryan and Pam Shaw from the Tweed Heads CC being one of several Clubs in CROQUET QUEENSLAND.

They have 3 top class Courts and host National tournaments including competitors from New Zealand. Their memberships are relatively small being under 30 but are very active playing Association croquet, plus a variation called Ricochet and the Asian game of Gateball.

Unfortunately there was no play when they came down to have a look at our Club but a phone call to Frank (who is never shy of a challenge) and a match was quickly arranged.

The battle took place on a sunny morning and following the traditional shake of hands (and smiles) and both armed with a few bisques, the game started.

I left before the end but as far as I know the game was played in good spirits and no doubt there was a



diplomatic result.

Thanks, Frank, for turning out at short notice. I know that Bryan will be pleased to take back memories of Kenilworth CC.

Peter Dennis

## Kenilworth unlucky to lose to Edgbaston

In the WMF AC league, Kenilworth were very unlucky to lose by 4 games to 3 to a very strong Edgbaston team. The team handicap for Kenilworth totalled 32 compared with Edgbaston's 10! Bisques had to be well used.

Both Ray and Adrian made mistakes in the doubles game but were only defeated by two hoops. In his singles game, Charles Wade was victorious in his debut for Kenilworth, easily beating his opponent 26 – 3.

Cliff Daniel was five hoops from victory with only ten minutes to go but a lucky fluke shot by his opponent led to a five hoop break to take the match under the "Golden Hoop" decider rule.

The afternoon saw a quick 26 – 5 victory for Adrian following two excellent breaks and victory for Ray, including one hoop scored by a spectacular jump shot facing away from the hoop with a sideways stance. Unfortunately, defeat in the other two games meant a close defeat for Kenilworth.