

NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE 2011 SPRING MEETING

The Meeting was held on Saturday 5 March 2011 at 10.00 am at Culcheth Sports & Social Club, Charnock Road, Culcheth, WA3 5SH.

The Meeting was attended by 23 people representing:

Bowdon:	Ken Cooper; Ian Lines; John Saxby;
Bury:	David Barrett; Jean Hargreaves; Paul Rigge;
Chester:	Janet Davies;
Culcheth:	Eric Charters; Anne Connop; Bob Connop; Alan Wright;
Fylde:	Betty Bates; Lee Hartley;
Liverpool	James Hawkins;
Llanfairfechan:	Georgina Llewellyn; Anwen Williams; Marion Williams;
Pendle & Craven:	Ron Welch; Geoff Whitaker; Maureen Whitaker;
Penrith	Howard Bowron;
Southport:	Tony Thomas;
Westmorland:	Ivan Wheatley.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Christine Irwin, Colin Irwin, Barry Keen (Bowdon); Barbara Young, Geoff Young (Bury); David Guyton (Chester); Liz Wilson, Peter Wilson (Fylde); Richard Bellwood (Isle of Man); Kathryn Schofield, Roger Schofield (Pendle & Craven); Melanie Foster, Terry Foster (Southport).

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM – 6 November 2010

The minutes of the AGM were approved nem con (proposed by John Saxby, seconded by Ken Cooper).

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

- 1) Format of NW Federation Advanced League – see Item 4e below.
- 2) David Barrett drew attention to the clash of the two Advanced Weekends at Pendle & Craven and Crake Valley, due to Crake Valley changing the date of their event. This was apparently spotted by Tony Thomas in November 2010, and although attempts were made to draw this to the attention of the clubs, it appears that the situation was not resolved.

The meeting agreed all clubs should submit a list of their proposed tournament dates at the NW Federation AGM (i.e. it should be included in their Club report to the AGM, and will be considered along with dates for Millennium Events so that we can formulate a NW Federation calendar). This should reduce the likelihood of clashes occurring in future.

- 3) It was decided at the September AGM that the issue of County Captains for the subsequent year would be best discussed at the Spring Meeting. In this context, it was agreed that the Cheshire and Lancashire Captains for 2012 would be Colin Irwin and David Openshaw respectively (proposed by James Hawkins, seconded by Lee Hartley and approved nem con). These can still be confirmed at the AGM should it prove necessary.

4. Reports from the Officers

A. Chairman - David Barrett

I am delighted to report that whilst some of the individual Officers of the Federation have been exceptionally busy carrying out their normal duties over the winter, nothing untoward has arisen that required the Committee to meet.

So its good news all round!

We must be doing something right in the North West because not one, but two CA Club Awards have this year been won by our member clubs.

You will no doubt hear more detail about these Awards from our Development Officer Janet Davies, so for now I'd just like to start the meeting off on a high note by congratulating Chester for winning the Apps Heley Award and Bury for winning The Townsend Award.

The other marvellous thing about these awards is that the Townsend Trophy is in fact being retained in the North West – Llanfairfechan won it last time and I'm wondering which of our clubs will be applying next time.

B. Secretary - Ian Lines

The 'Croquet in the North' leaflet has been drafted (and is distributed with these minutes). Clubs are encouraged to post a copy on club noticeboards.

C. Treasurer - Peter Wilson

Peter reported that he has almost collected all the expected club subscriptions, and apologised for not attending as he is in Cuba and the date change of the meeting has stopped him attending. It is understood that there are no significant changes to the Federation finances since the AGM.

D. Development Officer - Janet Davies

This is a year in which the CA's awards for Clubs that have made most progress in two consecutive years out of the last three are given. They are the Townsend Award for clubs with 1 or 2 lawns, the Apps Heley for clubs with 3 or 4 lawns, and the Millennium Award for clubs with 5 or more lawns. The awards consist of a trophy which is kept for 2 years, a plaque which the club can keep, and a cheque for £250. The Development Committee adjudicate.

The procedure is that we all read the submissions in advance and then we vote without discussion. If there is only one entry for an award we still have to decide on whether it meets a high enough standard. Members of the committee, who are members of a club which is being judged, withdraw during the vote for that award. This year there were 4 entries for the Townsend Award (Swindon, Letchworth, Bury and Bear of Rodborough), 1 entry for the Apps Heley (Chester) and none for the Millennium. So it was decided that if two of the entries for the Townsend were of equal merit, then there would be sufficient cash available to make the award to two clubs. In the event the Townsend was given jointly to Bury and Swindon, while Chester received the Apps Heley. So the North West has won two out of three of the awards – a very pleasing result.

Since our meeting last November Fylde have made improvements to their pavilion accommodation, with the help of a grant from the CA, and Chester now have a new pavilion, also with assistance from a CA grant.

I would like to emphasise that if any clubs have plans for development work next winter, and are likely to need a grant from the CA, could you please discuss them with me well in advance – completed applications will have to be with me by late October at the latest, but it helps if I know what to expect – surprises are sometimes difficult to deal with!

The Meeting congratulated Janet on all her development work and success in helping the North West to gain the CA Awards.

E. League Manager - Tony Thomas

Thank you to everyone who has helped to get the League Fixture list for 2011 into an agreed format. It seems to have been more difficult to fit everything in this year due to tournaments, open days and individual club constraints. However, the list is now complete and is distributed at this meeting. All team captains have already been informed and naturally the information is on the Federation website.

I would ask team captains to keep me informed of any changes, ensure all matches are completed by mid September and of course notify me as soon as possible of match results, I will keep the website up to date as efficiently as I can and also notify Chris Williams of Advanced results for the CA national player rankings table.

May I remind the meeting we have already agreed changes to the League Rules regarding Golf Croquet matches – reducing 22 games (16 singles and 6 doubles, 7 games per player) to 18 games (16 singles and 2 doubles, 5 games per player).

We also deferred a decision at our last meeting on the Bonus System used in Advanced matches - Bonus points were only awarded in about a third of the matches last season. Once again, as happened the previous year, if you remove the bonus points from the system, the effect is negligible on league positions and the league winner does not change. The system is still not fully understood and I do have to correct errors from time to time. Consequently I question the use of bonus points in the advanced league and feel it is an added complication which provides little value. I would ask the AGM to return to the simpler system of two points for a win, one point for a draw.

Finally, may I wish everyone an enjoyable season.

The issue of bonus points identified by Tony was discussed at the meeting, and it was noted by Lee Hartley that even if the bonus points have relatively little overall effect on the league results, they can help to ensure there is something to play for in the third round of a match if one side has already established a winning lead. The meeting decided to continue with the use of bonus points.

David Barrett emphasised the importance of trying to ensure that all league fixtures are completed.

Finally, Tony was congratulated by the Meeting for the fantastic job he has done in organising all the fixtures and for maintaining the NW Federation website at <http://www.croquetnw.co.uk>

F. Coaching Officer - Ken Cooper

Flying Circus Coaching Courses

Of the 12 clubs that I contacted in January to offer coaching for their players, I have received 5 requests for the Flying Circus to visit them. However, these clubs have asked for a total of 9 courses, far more than we have had in previous years (in 2009 there were 5 requests and in 2010 there were 6).

The courses requested are:

- 1 Gold (Southport)
- 4 Silver (Westmorland, Chester, Fylde, Southport)
- 2 Bronze (Bowdon, Westmorland)
- 1 Improvers (Chester)
- 1 Golf (Chester)

In order to try to accommodate these requests I have suggested that one Silver course be held at a central location, e.g. Southport, and those wishing to attend should travel there. I am still awaiting replies from some of the clubs involved about this. Similarly, the Bronze course will be held at Bowdon and the Westmorland players who also wish to attend can travel there, if they are able. Of course, any players from other clubs may request a place on such a course; the details will be put up on the NW Federation website when dates have been arranged [now done – Silver Course will be held on Saturday 14 May at Southport, and a Gold Coaching Course on Saturday 2 April at Southport].

A number of coaches have again intimated that they are kindly willing to volunteer their services to help me run the courses; I will contact them nearer the time.

Courses for Coaches

James Hawkins has offered to run a course for prospective golf croquet club coaches at the start of 2012. Those interested should contact Ken Cooper.

AC Referees Course

There is an AC referees course planned for 9-10 April at Culcheth. At the moment, it is heavily undersubscribed and may be cancelled. Please can any players planning to attend let Barry Keen know as soon as possible.

GC Referees Course

There is a GC referees course planned for 22 May at Bowdon. At the moment, it is heavily undersubscribed and may be cancelled. Please can any players planning to attend let Barry Keen know as soon as possible.

G. CA Representative - Geoff Young

Geoff Young apologised for not attending the meeting as he is out of the country.

Report on CA Council

The last meeting of this body agreed that, in future, the minutes, reports and public documents will be put on the CA website within four weeks without waiting for formal approval so that those interested in such matters are able to keep relatively up to date.

There was much discussion of the definition of 'country' for international play. The British Isles include seven areas with assorted constitutional status, six of which could play as GB. It was agreed that only England could be in the MacRob in future, though the Solomon and Ian Maugham events could stay with the old definitions of GB as they will not be a concern of the WCF.

At the next meeting the major topics will be reports on promotion of the sport, and on overall strategy (expanding somewhat the first section of the CA Constitution).

H. NW Festival of Croquet Manager - Barry Keen

To be held 25-26 June 2011 at Southport

Manager: Barry Keen

Secretary: Liz Wilson

Barry apologised for his absence, but had the following queries relating to the Festival:

Format for 18 point games?

There are 4 versions of 18 point game, but the Meeting agreed that the Festival should use the version where partner's clip is advanced to 3-back as soon as hoop 1 is run, i.e. Law 44(b)(4) in the 6th Edition of the Laws.

Do the advanced one ball players want to play for the full two days and will there be two man teams. It is likely from previous years to be a small turnout so we could probably run a successful event using just one day.

The Meeting wanted two full days with teams of two, although clubs could obviously have more players in a squad and rotate them.

Do the GC players want to play only singles as in previous years. It is possible to include some doubles if they want.

The Meeting wanted only singles.

What time do the GC players want to finish on Saturday. Obviously, the earlier the finish, the fewer games played.

The Meeting wanted the golf to end about 7pm on Saturday.

Some concern was expressed that the timing of the golf event needed to be given careful consideration.

Do the GC players need to have lunch breaks so that the whole team can eat together. If so then again this is likely to reduce the number of games played as there will be time wasted while the team waits for the last players playing.

The Meeting decided that whole teams do not need to eat together.

Are all players happy to have their tea breaks when convenient as opposed to stopping the whole tournament for tea.

The meeting decided that players would have tea breaks when convenient.

I am a little bemused at the switch from 26 point handicap AC to the 18 point game. The gain in time is likely to lead to only a small increase in the number of games. What time limit do players want for this – 2hrs? The 14 point game is a very easy format to deal with as it will give double the number of games with a 1.5hr time limit which is normally beaten. I will of course do what the players want. I have also confirmed that the intention of the CA Handicap Committee intended for all versions of the handicap game other than the 14pt game would be worth 10 handicap points, and that the 14pt game would be 5 handicap points. Presumably the handicap base to be used will be scaled in a similar fashion to the published handicap tables.

The meeting wanted 18 point games for the handicap and suggested a 2¼ hour time limit, and a base of 6.

Please emphasise that the balance of play between the North and South lawns will be based on the position of players in the teams and will be balanced over two days. This will mean that if teams switch their players around as they are permitted then the balance may not be met. Similarly, players who come from one day only may not benefit from the planned balance. There is nothing I can do about this as I will not know who is playing where in a team in advance.

The Meeting understood and appreciated these constraints.

Paul Rigge expressed some concern that the Festival should be open to all who want to play, and that we shouldn't limit the numbers of teams any more than is absolutely necessary.

I. Pennine Cup - Paul Rigge

The Pennine Cup will be held on Sunday 24 July at Pendle & Craven. Charles Waterfield is organising the East of Pennines team, and he will notify Paul of their team asap so that we can match teams. The format requires 3 Advanced and 3 Handicap players, for Advanced doubles in the morning and handicap play in the afternoon. Anyone interested in playing should contact Paul asap – there is no requirement to be a strong player and all those with handicaps below 18 will be considered. Paul Rigge will select a squad to match the handicaps of the players in the team from the North East. It is noted that the cup itself is currently at Pendle.

J. Child Protection Officer - Barry Keen

Jean Hargreaves (the CA National Child Protection Officer) reported that she is currently reviewing the information on the CA website.

5. Millennium Competitions

The Millennium Competitions have been arranged as follows:

Advanced	Heaton Park	9-10 April	16 entries so far – 2 spaces still – contact Paul Rigge.
Golf	Heaton Park	7 May	16 entries so far – some spaces still – contact David Barrett.
Handicap	Pendle & Craven	7-8 May	18 entries so far – some spaces still – contact Ron Welch.
Short	Fylde	8 May	15 entries so far – some spaces still – contact Betty Bates.

It was agreed that all reserves should now be regarded as being in, and that further entries from anybody could be accepted at the discretion of the organising club/manager. In future events, the reserve positions will be confirmed at the Spring Meeting.

6. NW Federation Equipment Assets - Janet Davies

Janet emphasised that, unlike the CA scheme, any NW Federation assets held by clubs are only on loan, and may be required to be returned to the Federation for other development purposes.

It was noted that the CA now regard the carpet at Llanfairfechan as no longer belonging to the CA, although Georgina Llewellyn noted that it was becoming somewhat decrepit, so a decision will need to be taken on its future.

Janet will provide an itemised list of Federation equipment for the AGM in November.

Tony Thomas requested help with the loan of children's mallets for a Chernobyl Children's Charity Event at Southport on Wednesday 13th July – please could clubs contact Tony if they can help. Three clubs have already offered help, namely Llanfairfechan, Chester and Bury. Tony Thomas thought this was an excellent response for a worthwhile event – Thank You.

7. Club Reports and Announcements

i) Bowdon - John Saxby

The Bowdon clubhouse is currently undergoing some major (~£50,000) renovation work.

All CA members can now enter and pay for all Bowdon's CA tournaments online via the CA website at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/members/> - select Tournament Entry and Payment. Please note that this has to be done before the tournament's allocation date.

Bowdon will also be using string for court boundaries this year, rather than white-lining, in order to try to minimise lawn damage.

Bowdon is holding a Vintage Croquet Day on Saturday 11 June to celebrate our Centenary on our current site. Invitations were handed to all clubs present, and one is attached to these minutes for those clubs who were unable to attend the Federation Spring meeting. Please note that there will be a charge for afternoon tea and evening canapés (but we've not worked out yet what it will be). Please let Christine Irwin (christine@irwin-ce.freeserve.co.uk) know how many are coming from each club by 1st June 2011.

ii) Bury - Paul Rigge

We are delighted to report that the club has been awarded The Townsend Award for its efforts in levelling the lawns at Coronation Park.

This coming season we will be hosting our usual array of Tournaments and events – the most prestigious being The Home Internationals, which will be held at Heaton Park on 18-19 June 2011

There are still 4 spaces left in the Advanced weekend (2-3 July at Heaton Park), and there is still lots of space left in the Handicap weekend (17-18 September at Heaton Park).

The popular Bury Club OPEN DAY will be held on 16th April, with all the proceeds going to the Bury Hospice. Everyone is welcome.

iii) Chester - Janet Davies

This has been an exciting winter.

Firstly our new pavilion (shared with the bowling clubs) is about to be handed over to us. We have already transferred our equipment to it, the old portacabin has been removed, and the Bowling Club's sponsor is putting the final touches to the kitchen. We expect to be holding a celebration Grand Opening later in the season.

Secondly, we entered the club for the Croquet Association's Apps Heley Award (for the club which has made most progress in 2 consecutive years out of the last three), and were fortunate to be given the award.

Chester has also entered an Advanced team in the Mary Rose for the first time.

iv) Crake Valley

No report received.

v) Culcheth - Alan Wright

Once again we are looking forward to another enjoyable year. The financial difficulties being experienced by the Culcheth Sports and Social Club have meant that we have had to fund a lot more of the Lawn maintenance costs. This we have been able to do from our reserves.

It is clear that we are going to have to expand our membership and raise extra funding from Social events such as the Quizzes which have been very successful. We are fortunate that we have members who are prepared to work hard, selling tickets and organising such events. We hope to attract new members from these events.

Members from Bury and Fylde were welcome guests at our annual dinner and some of our members have attended the Bury and Fylde annual dinner.

During the winter we play on our indoor mat and were pleased to welcome members from Bury on several occasions. Other club members are welcome to join us. Some of our members also meet together during the winter to play cards and indoor games.

We shall be holding our usual club competitions and once again will be urging members to play their games earlier in the season rather than leaving everything until September.

vi) Ellesmere

No report received.

vii) Fylde - Betty Bates

Fylde are very excited to have an improved clubhouse with electricity and kitchen, with an extended outside area with awning. Much work has been carried out over the Winter and the lawns have never looked better. The club now has 3 lawns and is delighted to be holding the Millennium Short event and the CA v CAI (for the MacWeeney Trophy) on 16-17 July (players who have a handicap of 8 or below should contact Paul Rigge if they wish to play in this event).

The club is celebrating its Silver Jubilee and is hosting an Open Day in the last weekend of July.

viii) Isle of Man - Richard Bellwood

I'm afraid we have nothing to report. Hoping we might be allowed back on to the lawns but the local corporation hasn't been very helpful. Bowls seems to rule, unfortunately for us. Will keep you posted if there is any good news.

Best wishes to all from the IOM.

ix) (Keswick)

No report received.

x) Liverpool - James Hawkins

James would like to extend an open invitation to players to come and play at the new club.

xi) Llanfairfechan - Anwen Williams

For those of you who don't know me my name is Anwen, and I am the new Chairman of the club taking over from Jack Pattenden last month.

Jack mentioned in his report last November that the club had been nominated for an award in the seniors section of the Welsh sports Awards, we managed to get down to the last three but were pipped to the post by a group of men in tight shorts, should we be lucky in getting nominated again we will be ready this time.

Our Annual presentation lunch was well attended in November. And at the beginning of December we held a Christmas fun night. There should have been an informal Christmas Luncheon a week before Christmas, but it was cancelled due to the bad weather.

Every January we hold a charity beetle drive, and this year we made £135 for our local branch of North West Cancer Research, it helps run research at Bangor University as well as Liverpool and Lancaster.

This is the second year for the indoor croquet to play at the Llandudno Junction Leisure Centre, and the laying out and the rolling up of the mat is done by the centre staff which is brilliant.

On the 28th of March we are holding a Hot Pot and soiree evening, when we will make good use of members' talent.

We are hoping to take part in more Federation activities this year, and have entered in the Millennium Competition.

We are in the process of registering as a Community Amateur Sports Club with HM Revenue and Customs - if any other club in the Federation has already become a CASC then Georgina would like a word with a representative to compare notes.

xii) Pendle and Craven - Ron Welch

Various social events have been held over the winter to raise money.

A golf weekend tournament is being held on 4-5 June (note that this is not in the CA Fixtures Book).

There are still spaces left in the other CA events being held at Pendle & Craven.

xiii) Penrith and North Lakes - Howard Bowron

Nothing new to report.

xiv) Salford - Irene Waterhouse

I am so sorry but I am unable to attend this Saturday's meeting, along with Frances Rollinson. We are looking forward to a new season, and are hoping for permission to use the old bowling green area in Buile Hill Park this year - a decision is to be made very shortly by the Council.

Wishing all the members a good season, and will make every effort to attend the next meeting.

xv) Southport - Tony Thomas

We have kept our membership together with a full programme of social activities – annual winter dinner, 10 pin bowling, skittles, games evening, plus soup served in clubhouse every Sunday lunchtime. We have kept our monthly Newsletter going throughout the winter. We have maintained our subscriptions at the 2009 levels.

The winter sub zero temperatures caused a burst pipe in the clubhouse much to the chagrin of the mice who had taken up winter residence. The clubhouse is now undergoing some essential maintenance to the verandah steps and brickwork. It will be repainted later in the season.

We have now contracted with a Groundsman to carry out a full programme of lawn maintenance to supplement the diminishing lawn work carried out by the local council.

xvi) Westmorland - Ivan Wheatley

2011 will, hopefully, continue the progress made in 2010 and the state our lawns should support our efforts after a fairly benign winter with no major flooding recorded.

We have again entered a team in the mid-week league and will be supporting a team in the handicap league in conjunction with Crake Valley Croquet Club. We are also hopeful of being able to enter a team in the Croquet Festival at Southport.

Steps have been taken to organise a novices (handicap 20 and above) coaching programme for Association Croquet and initial discussions held on participating in both the bronze and silver courses organised by the Flying Circus. To support the development to the higher handicap players we are introducing an alternate stroke doubles block competition for 2011 with pairings decided on the basis of handicaps (highest with lowest etc.) to run alongside our Association, Short and Golf blocks.

On the equipment front we are upgrading our storage and transportation of equipment with a view to protecting our equipment and at the same time to reducing the risk of injury to members. We are also looking to upgrade our stock of club mallets through repair where possible and the purchase of a small number of new mallets in time for the new season. Our ability to fund equipment purchase took a step backwards last year, however, due to the unexpected high cost of lawn mower repairs that was incurred half way through the season.

Recruitment of new members continues with local advertising and the provision of taster courses both through a local community college and other local organisations. Whilst this approach resulted in a net increase in club membership last year, we are as yet not adding significantly to the number of players prepared to engage in competitive play.

Westmorland remains a relatively small club but we are hopeful of being able to continue to participate in the NWFCC affairs as befits a club of our size.

8. Any Other Business

- (i) Jean Hargreaves drew attention to the Grass Roots and Centre Stage National Tournaments for Golf Croquet. Bury are again hosting the Regional final for the Grass Roots Competition on Saturday 6th August 2011. Jean distributed draft copies of the entry forms for both events to all clubs, and anyone interested should contact Jean. It was emphasised that the Grass Roots is open to beginners, even if they don't have a handicap.
- (ii) David Barrett drew attention to the fact that his 3 year term of office as Chairman will end at the next AGM, and so if anybody is interested in taking on this role then please contact David. Clubs should also consider who might be suitable.

9. Date, time and locations of next meetings

Autumn 2011 Meeting (AGM) 5 November 2011 at Culcheth
Spring 2012 Meeting 3 March 2012 at Culcheth

10. Close of Meeting

David Barrett thanked Culcheth Croquet Club for hosting the meeting and closed the 2011 Spring Meeting at 12:22pm.

Ian Lines

Secretary of North West Federation of Croquet Clubs

5 March 2011

FEDERATION OF NORTH-WESTERN CROQUET CLUBS

COMMITTEE 2011

Chairman:	David Barrett 01706 368214	61 Heywood Hall Road, Heywood, Lancs., OL10 4UZ davidbarrett.db@tiscali.co.uk
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League Manager:	Tony Thomas 07841 538 676	20 Talbot Street, Southport, PR8 1HP tonythomasuk@btinternet.com
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NW Club Champ.:	Barry Keen 01565 632 420	20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA barry.keen1@ntlworld.com
Pennine Cup Captain:	Paul Rigge 01706 212 280	4 Lyndale Close, Crawshawbooth, Rossendale, BB4 8LT paul.rigge@tiscali.co.uk
Child Protection Officer:	Barry Keen 01565 632 420	20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA barry.keen1@ntlworld.com

NWFCC LIST OF CLUB SECRETARIES / REPRESENTATIVES / CONTACTS

Names of Club Secretaries listed first in bold, followed by any other NW Federation representatives/contacts.

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BURY	Secretary	Vi Richards 0161 7246473	22 Harper Fold Road, Radcliffe, M26 3RU. ll.richards@ntlworld.com
	NW Fed. Rep.	David Barrett 01706 368 214	61 Heywood Hall Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 4UZ davidbarrett.db@tiscali.co.uk
		Paul Rigge 01229 861040	paulrigge@croquetnw.co.uk
CHESTER	Secretary	Janet Davies 01244 350 370	10 Dee Hills Park, Chester, CH3 5AR janetdavies@aol.com
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CRAKE VALLEY	Secretary	Joan Clinch 01229 861 343	Brow Head, Spark Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8BT No e-mail address
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PENRITH & NORTH LAKES		Howard Bowron 017683 62353	Oak Tree House, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1TA howard.bowron@btinternet.com
	Treasurer	Mrs C. Bretherton 01768 867 5811	The Beeches, Brougham, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2DF No e-mail address
SALFORD	Secretary	Frances Rollinson 0161 794 8593	24 Elizabeth Street, Swinton, Manchester, M27 6BZ doris17@tiscali.co.uk
	Treasurer	Irene Waterhouse 0161 736 2758	gandewaterhouse@hotmail.com
SOUTHPORT	Secretary	Tony Thomas 07841 538 676	20 Talbot Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1HP tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk
	Chairman	Brian Lewis 01704 226 718	49, Norwood Crescent, Southport, PR9 7DU brianlew@sky.com
	President	Alan Pidcock 01772 743 859	The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0SX pidcock@manorh.plus.com
WESTMORLAND	Secretary	Nancy Gregory 01539 563806	The Delves, The Princes Way, Heversham, LA7 7EE nancy_gregory2003@yahoo.co.uk
	Chairman	Ivan Wheatley 01524 824796	8 Hest Bank Lane, Hest Bank, Lancaster, LA2 6DG. iwheatley@yahoo.co.uk
	President	Peter Wardle 01229 885 105	Fairfield, Lake Bank, Water Yeat, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8DL. No e-mail address
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An invitation to our Centenary Vintage Croquet Day

Saturday 11th June 2011

Our history goes back to 1873 when The Bowdon Bowling and Croquet Club played on land between Stanford Road and Winton Road. Alas tennis was becoming more popular than croquet and in 1909 the club was renamed The Bowdon Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club. Fortunately there was still interest in croquet and a group of players decided to form a new croquet club and in 1911 they established the Bowdon Croquet Club on the site between the Firs and St Mary's Road that we still occupy today.

To celebrate our centenary, we are having a day of vintage croquet where we will be playing to old rules with old equipment. Come along and enjoy the whole day or just part of it.

Schedule of activities:

10.00am onwards: Mr & Mrs Irwin are organising vintage croquet games

Lunch: Members and guests are invited bring a hamper and enjoy a picnic by the lawns

4.00pm: A gala afternoon tea will be served to the assembled company

5.00pm onwards: Mr Mayne invites members and guests to a cross-country croquet challenge

7.00pm: Cocktails & canapés will be served in the Clubhouse.

Dress code: croquet attire from any decade from 1911-2011 is encouraged.

Please let Christine Irwin know how many are coming by 1st June.
christine@irwin-ce.freemove.co.uk

