

## Minutes of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs AGM Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016

The Meeting was attended by people representing:

Bowdon:	Brian Storey, David Walters, Barry Keen, Graham Good
Bury:	David Barrett, Jean Hargreaves, Barbara Young
Chester:	John Dawson, Elmyr Hughes, David Crawford
Craig-y-Don	Apologies
Culcheth:	Alan Wright, Bob Connop, Anne Connop, Keith Woodward
Ellesmere:	Apologies
Fylde:	Peter Wilson, Liz Wilson.
IOM	Apologies
Liverpool	James Hawkins
Llanfairfechan	Apologies
Pendle & Craven:	Garry Wilson, Kathryn Schofield, Roger Schofield
Salford	Frances Rolinson, Elsie Wataker, Irene Waterhouse
Southport:	Tony Thomas, Don Williamson,
Westmorland	Ivan Wheatley

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** :-Ken Cooper (Bowdon), John Hannah (Craig-y-don), Viv Seamen (Ellesmere), Richard Bellwood (IOM), Sarah Andrew (Chester), Tom Griffith (Crake), Georgina Llewelyn (Llanfairfechan) ,Howard Bowron (Penrith)

Note Keswick and Nannerch are no longer members

2. The minutes of the Spring Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.  
Proposed – David Barrett                      Seconded – Ivan Wheatley

3. Matters Arising – None

4. Reports on the Past Year

**A Chairman – Garry Wilson**

In some respects it had been more of the same. First, the difficult task of finding replacement officers for those who wish to retire seems to be being accomplished. Secondly, with the assistance of Graham Good, who has my thanks for his legal expertise, we believe that we have created a constitution, which both reflects the CA changes and is now fit for the 21st century. It is my intention that this should sit on the web-site for everybody to peruse and question. I will happily field all questions and would hope to resolve any concerns and frame any amendments by mid-September so that this new constitution can be put to the AGM. I have continued my discussions with Croquet North and Yorkshire Croquet regarding the Pennine Cup, which are still on going. We have a date which is Sunday 10th July at Pendle. Whilst there will not be any golf croquet counting towards the cup this year, it is hoped that we can have a friendly golf competition running alongside so that we can look at the format necessary to then integrate it into the Pennine Cup competition. Lastly, I have been talking to a number of organisations regarding sponsorship of the Festival and the Pennine Cup.

**B Secretary - Liz Wilson**

The Federation have received a letter from the CA on three subjects. One relates to Disciplinary and Appeals Process. Our Federation already have a procedure in place. The second is on the subject of Federation Representative on Council. We also have this in hand. The third is stating that we should, but do not have to, have a representative on the Coaching and Development Committees. This relates to the problem of the meetings being inquorate. We have had a missive about CVD – details later. We have been asking around for Committee members to fill various vacancies – details later. All offers will be well received.

**C Treasurer - Bob Connop – See appendix 1. Most subs are paid with IOM outstanding**

**D CA Representative - Peter Wilson**

**Peter started by stating that he is standing down as CA Rep and will cease office in September 2016**

He reported on the recent activities of the Membership Changes Implementation Working Party and the way things stand at present. There are two main areas, the club side and the individual side.

**Club Side:** Next year, as usual, the subs will be calculated from the membership as at the end of the preceding September. However it will also then be a requirement to provide the personal details of all your club members making up that number. Should a club have a new member joining after September their details will also need passing on to the CA separately at that time and any member joining after that will need registering immediately with the CA. The CA would very much like these details in electronic form but this will not be a requirement. However it will be necessary for each club to indicate for each member if this is to be their primary club or not. Clubs only pay the levy for their primary members. But the CA still want to know of secondary club members. Regarding data protection the Information Commissioner has indicated the requirements are simple to implement and require only a light touch. Firstly the CA will provide clubs with a 'Data sharing agreement' which is a very simple and transparent document. Secondly clubs should give each member the option to opt out of data sharing. The wording for that option & further explanations will be sent to clubs in a letter in due course.

### **CA Representative - Peter Wilson - continued**

The CA website is being prepared to hold these and other membership details I will come to later. The plan is for this to be directly editable by either/or the member or a club nominee. Clubs will benefit from being able to query the CA database and also to print membership reports from the database. The online payment system and tournament booking features will expand.

The exact time scale is not yet decided but this system will, at some point, make each of your club members BASIC CA members who will then receive the Gazette through the post. This is expensive but regarded as very important at this stage of the changes.

#### **Individuals Side:**

Once the club side system is in place each member will have several choices to upgrade their membership. Work is progressing designing a membership cost structure and options for the basic member. The terminology has not been fixed but at the moment the club levy makes everyone a BASIC CA member.

Those wishing to play in tournaments would pay an additional amount to be a PREMIUM CA member. The structure will accommodate student, overseas and supporter membership with options to reduce the membership fees by taking the Gazette and or Fixtures Book and other communications electronically. Although Dual membership would seem to be redundant under the new system it may be continued for some time. There is also an idea to allow basic members to play in tournaments for a levy per day of play. This levy would be set to allow for about 4 days tournament play, paid in this fashion, being a small saving on premium membership.

So individuals will need to consider if they wish or need to upgrade their basic membership. It is planned that members will be able to log onto the website and select or edit their membership choices and pay by card there and then. Of course the CA office will accept postal applications and payments. The existing DD discount will still apply.

David Barrett asked for clarification and assurance re access and safety of member's details. He was assured that the security is paramount and that the relevant CA Officials dealing with this are very experienced.

E

### **League Manager - Tony Thomas**

Thank you to all Secretaries for sending me their club information for 2016, this year it was really comprehensive and enabled me to structure the League programme in record time. The draft programme was available in early January and gave clubs ample time to make amendments before the official listing was published on 1st March. It was gratifying that we have had far fewer amendments than in previous years. The full programme lists 190 league matches and 42 other events.

The league season will start on 2nd April and finish on 9th October. I have sent fixture lists to all clubs, in addition to contact details of captains and a copy of the League Rules. These are all available on the website.

May I remind everyone about the change in handicap procedures for Golf Croquet games and also to be aware that it is now permissible to give opponents advice about the colour of clips and balls.

At our last meeting we agreed to abandon bonus points in the Advanced League but to amend the system for the B League, where Bonus points are only available to losing teams, subject to a maximum of two points per game. We also discussed changes to the criteria B League players and teams and I was asked to conclude this with a 'postal vote' of clubs. Consequently, players in the B League must have a minimum handicap of ½ and the total team handicap must be 6 or over.

The League Rules for 2016 contain these changes and there are also cosmetic changes to reflect the references to Golf Croquet handicaps. We need to ratify these rules today.

As always, my request to team captains to send in results as soon as possible, especially in advanced games where I have to send data to the CA Rankings Officers. In return I will endeavour to keep the League information as up to date as possible on the website. Have a great season, but most importantly, enjoy your Croquet.

After the above Presentation, the League Manager raised two issues which had developed in the last few days – (a) Current use of team Handicaps in Association Doubles games, and (b) A recommendation from the CA Handicapping Committee on the same topic.

(a) Use of Handicaps in Association Doubles Games - until two years ago, team handicaps were simply the mean handicap of the team players. It was felt this gave an advantage to very low handicap players so the system was changed to one based on individual players Index. Some players now feel this system has disadvantaged the coaching/mentoring aspects of doubles games, especially when a high and low handicap players are partnered, who can now be playing without any bisques. A solution was suggested that we retain the current system of calculating handicaps but play the doubles game with zero base, (Singles games still retain the base of 8). After much discussion the meeting decided the situation described only applied to a minority of games so we should continue with the current system for 2016.

(b) Recommendations from the CA Handicapping Committee – this committee have been analysing the results of Association Doubles matches in CA tournaments and decided the method of determining the handicap of a double team needed further amendment. Consequently they have produced a Granular Look-Up tables to enable teams to look up their doubles handicap. Since the methodology is granular, it is not possible to calculate the handicaps manually and the granular table must be used (copy on CA website). This new system will be in use for all CA tournaments in 2016 for Association Doubles Matches. They recommend we adopt the system for Association League games and send our results to the CA for further analysis. After discussion, the meeting decided the Federation Leagues should retain our present system for 2016.

F	<p><b>Development Officer – James Hawkins</b></p> <p>The CA Marketing Committee may have funds available for promotional material for federations. Vinyl banners and feather flags could be useful for clubs, particularly those in public parks. James will report back on costs and possible funding.</p> <p>The CA Development Committee has funds for infrastructure improvements, and more applicants are invited. The Spring meeting recommended awarding three grants: Guildford &amp; Godalming are building a clubhouse, which allows them to become a viable tournament venue; Penrith need a trailer to transport equipment away from flood areas; Pendle want to buy a lawn tractor for maintenance.</p> <p>General conditions for grants:  The CA will provide 50% match funding, and expect the club to finance the rest; grants up to £1000 are awarded by the Development Committee, but £1000-£5000 need approval from the Major Grants Committee, and for sums up to £10000 by the Management Committee; The Development Committee rarely awards money for replacement maintenance equipment, and clubs must show that new mowers etc provide an additional benefit rather than a substitution for existing kit.</p>															
G	<p><b>Coaching Officer – Elmyr Hughes –</b></p> <p>Following my emails to the Club Secretaries I had replies from all except I.O.M and Craig y Don, the latter having out date contact details on our webpage, soon to be corrected. Llanfairfechan do require a beginners/ improvers course which could include some players from Craig y Don from whom I am waiting a response, - which I will personally take.</p> <p>Ken Cooper of Bowdon will be running a fast improvers course for his club members on the 22nd May 2016 and has indicated that should there be vacancies he would accept players from other NW Fed Clubs so they need to email me with names of any interested members. Ken also very generously asked if I would like to participate in this course, which I hope to do.</p> <p>Approximately 90% of the Clubs have notified me of an interest in a course, except Salford and Culcheth who play only GC but have said that they could cope internally should the need arise for AC. The remainder I believe are waiting for a response from the members and/ or their Committee - this includes Bury, Southport, Flixton and Westmorland. I am currently in the throes of collating the replies and levels of interest and when this is complete I shall be better placed to coordinate courses at mutually convenient "Centres" for the relevant courses. David Barrett has kindly offered his assistance in any coaching courses and I have yet to make contact with the other NW Fed coaches whose expertise would greatly appreciated.</p> <p><b>David Crawford –</b></p> <p>Over the coming year I will be getting to know the clubs, the GC coaches and the favourite 'travelling' coaches, and in the shorter term what the coaching plans entail if the Fed is required. All clubs have been emailed twice to this effect, but just five have replied so far. Of these five, three have requested help with coaching plans and I am looking to advise on what is suitable for each club. I expect that there will be three or four more clubs in the Federation responding shortly. There is a link on the CA Website to a Golf Croquet Coaching Manual.</p>															
H	<p><b>NW Championships –</b></p> <p>Keith Roberts has stepped down as he is away for much of the lead up time. Garry Wilson will co-ordinate the event and will seek out probably two helpers – one to manage the golf and one to manage the association.</p>															
I	<p><b>Child Safeguarding Officer – Jean Hargreaves</b></p> <p>Only one club has had a change of Safeguarding Office - Nothing else to report</p>															
J	<p><b>Pennine Cup Captain – Garry Wilson</b></p> <p>Details were covered in the Chairman's Report</p>															
5	<p><b><i>Change to the Constitution</i></b></p> <p><u>The current wording of the Constitution stated:</u></p> <p>2b) The Federation Croquet Association Council Representative shall be elected at the Spring meeting each year and hold office until the next Spring meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election with no limit on the total length of service.</p> <p><u>It was proposed to amend our Constitution to read:</u></p> <p>2b) The Federation Croquet Association Council Representative shall be elected at the Spring meeting each year and hold office as defined in the current CA Constitution.</p> <p>Proposed by: Garry Wilson, Chairman  Seconded by: Liz Wilson, Secretary  This was passed unanimously</p>															
6	<p><b>Election of CA Representative</b></p> <p>John Dawson was proposed by Liz Wilson Seconded by Peter Wilson and elected to serve from September 2016</p>															
7	<p><b>Arrangements (dates and locations) for NW Federation Millennium Competitions</b></p> <table data-bbox="129 1962 1559 2119"> <tr> <td>a) Advanced</td> <td>23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> April</td> <td>Pendle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Handicap –</td> <td>21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> May</td> <td>Crake / Back up Fylde</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Short</td> <td>15<sup>th</sup> May</td> <td>Chester</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Hcp Golf</td> <td>11<sup>th</sup> June</td> <td>Bury</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Lvl Golf</td> <td>14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> May</td> <td>Bury</td> </tr> </table>	a) Advanced	23 <sup>rd</sup> / 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Pendle	b) Handicap –	21 <sup>st</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Crake / Back up Fylde	c) Short	15 <sup>th</sup> May	Chester	d) Hcp Golf	11 <sup>th</sup> June	Bury	e) Lvl Golf	14 <sup>th</sup> / 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Bury
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**Golf Handicaps – Don Williamson****2016 Golf handicap Changes**

The range has been extended it now runs from 16 down to - 5.

Club Handicappers have the responsibility of ensuring that all their club's golf player's cards are altered correctly to reflect the new system.

Existing Handicaps only your index value in the range 12 to 5 your handicap does not change

from 12 to 6 should add 1100 to their existing index figure,

handicap 5 add 1150

4 & 3 add 1200, if this takes the index above 1800 the handicap becomes 2 otherwise it remains the same as before

Existing handicap is 2 or below take you cgs grade and look up on the chart and take the handicap of the trigger point at or below your grade figure

If you don't have a grade but you had an "effective handicap" and a "real" one set your handicap between the two. No handicaps should increase as a result of the changes

The testing of new players is now even more important and the three times round test must be used.

Strokes Taken	Initial Handicap	Initial Index
50-54	7	1350
55-60	8	1300
61-64	10	1200
64-70	12	1100
71-78	14	1050
>78	16	1000

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**CVD**

See appendix ii. Member clubs were reminded of the new suggestions of the CA re marking of clips, allocation of first colour balls and use of golf croquet pegs.

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**Sponsorship**

Garry Wilson is hoping to come up with some sponsorship for the Pennine Cup and the North West Federation Championships at Southport. Nothing is finalised yet

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**Club Reports and Announcements**

**Bowdon**:- We have 134 members of all categories of whom 88 are full members. We have been running a very successful Winter one ball competition with up to 30-40 members participating. The summer AC Wednesday Competition will again be held commencing in April. This year we will host the Solomon Trophy GB v USA in 28th June to 1st July inclusive.

Northern Week now 15-20th July. The CA V Swiss CA 18-19th August. Visitors welcome.

Also pleased to announce that we have been selected to host the Annual Home International Tournament in 2018.

On the coaching front apart from our taster days for new players, we will be holding a 1 day fast improver course on 22nd May.

**Bury**:- This year for the first time we decided to keep the lawns at Coronation Park open in the winter but unfortunately the weather has been too wet to make any significant use of them. At Whitehead Park we have had the kitchen done up so it is now palatial. We are now trying to get more grants to enable us to do up the main middle room as well. The lawns there have been suffering badly from poor drainage so we arranged for a firm of specialists to come and do 'fracking' which includes injecting compressed air and dried seaweed which expands to fill the spaces then filling the holes with hard-core and top dressing. The firm came in November but after doing about a third they decided it was too wet to continue. We are still waiting for a dry enough spell to be worth their while coming back. We hope this will have been done successfully before our events this year.

**Chester**:- Membership continues to hover around the 100 mark. We are running 2 "taster sessions" to recruit new members with the emphasis on would be AC players. There are concerns about recruiting more GC players; GC play tends to concentrate at the busy mid-week day periods and the weekends/ evenings tend to be underutilised. We'll enter the same leagues as last year (all except AC advanced). We have 2 new international fixtures - a GC match vs Zurich in April and an AC match vs Carrickmines, Dublin in June - both at home. We host the AC Short Millennium in May. We keep debating trying to level some or all of our lawns. We find it hard to evaluate the risks to our lawns and turf (we have a thin layer of good soil over clay) and need the advice of an independent agronomist. If you know someone (we are happy to pay), email [johngdawson@onetel.com](mailto:johngdawson@onetel.com).

**Crake Valley**:- No report

**Craig-y-Don**:- Craig Y Don Croquet club has had a quiet winter though we have offered a weekly indoor games afternoon and outdoor croquet on a member's own scaled mini lawn which together has kept approximately half our members in touch with each other. We are in the middle of erecting a modest clubhouse which should be operational from Easter offering shelter and the ability to make refreshments, so this should make a real difference in the future in attracting a more diverse membership and use all year round though our lawn is unavailable in Winter being used by Winter Bowlers! We are offering our local secondary school a summer sports option for over 16s to learn and play Association croquet. We have recently surveyed our paid membership of approximately 35 to see whether there is a call to be more competitive within and external to the club. The numbers responding are still too small to start thinking of playing in the league but there is a call for long lawn handicapped golf

**Craig-y-Don:- continued**

which we will try to satisfy and expand this year, bringing more players to the Southport Festival in due course".

Should any of the NW Region intend to visit North Wales this year, we would be delighted to offer them a game or two of croquet any day of the week in Craig Y Don, Llandudno, whether individuals or a group. Just give us a couple of weeks' notice"

**Culheth:-** Once again we are looking forward to another enjoyable year. At the moment we have 29 members, the highest total we have had for many years. Thanks to our social activities which are well supported, we are able to keep our subscriptions at a reasonable figure. I am very grateful to the practical support our members give, not just attending events but also for their willingness to help organise them and run them. We have held croquet sessions on our indoor mat every week during the winter and our members have had lots of fun, even coping with double banking doubles. We even arranged competitions for trophies. Other club members are welcome to join us. Members from Bury were welcome guests at our annual dinner, which was the usual enjoyable evening with the presentation of our club trophies. Some of our members attended the Bury dinner. Some of our members also meet together during the winter to play cards and indoor games. As for the summer season, we shall be entering teams in the Golf League and the Golf Level play and hope to improve on last year's final positions. We shall be holding our usual club competitions and the policy of deadline dates we imposed last year proved successful with all competitions completed without the usual end of September rush. Several members are also keen to enter other CA competitions and tournaments which is to be applauded.

**Ellesmere:-** No report

**Flixton:-** No report

**Fylde:-** We are running our usual Association Handicap Tournament on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July. Already half full.

**Isle of Man:-** No report

**(Keswick):-** Not a member

**Liverpool:-** Nothing to report

**Llanfairfechan :-** No report

**Nannerch:-** Not a member

**Pendle and Craven:-** There are still some vacancies in the John Beech. Can clubs please make their entries into the Millennium Advanced.

**Penrith and North Lakes:-** On the subject of weather the news from Penrith & North Lakes CC is that we got badly flooded in December along with much of Cumbria. The lawns, pavilion and stores were all waist deep under water for several days. Although the flow of water was very powerful the Sports Ground is one field back from the river Eden so we didn't get the same level of silt and debris on the lawns as was the case at Keswick. Following a big clean-up we should be okay for the start of the season provided the Sports Ground is open by then. Currently it is closed because the ground is 'contaminated' and there is much repair work needed to fences and the pavilion itself. James Hawkins is helping us with a CA grant application towards the purchase of a box trailer which we can use to transport and store our kit and mowers off site over winter, away from the flood plain. We've already been awarded £650 from the local council. Other news worth reporting is that the Cumbria Tankard fixtures between ourselves, Keswick, Crake and Westmorland are already in the diary for 2016. There is an AC short lawn handicap league providing competitive play amongst club members, without having to stray outside Cumbria.

**Salford:-** 2015 saw the regular players attending every week, enjoying golf croquet in a pleasant setting. We also played a friendly game with Flixton Croquet Club. The pavilion now has a brand new kitchen thanks to Lottery Funding and the council are resurfacing the paths around the park. We feel this is good news for members and for visitors alike. In 2016 we are going to trial playing on Saturday afternoons in addition to our usual Thursday afternoons. Hopefully this will lead to new members. In February 2015 we were filmed by CBBC playing croquet. This was for an Alice in Wonderland themed "marrying mum and dad" organised by a 10 year old girl. It was a bitterly cold day but thankfully the grass was dry. It was a great success and the programme went on air in August 2015.

**Southport and Birkdale:-** S&BCC would like to remind all about the new format of our May Handicap tournament it will be 2 games a day 28th 29th 30th May.

**Tattenhall:-** No report

**Westmorland:-** The new club committee was elected at the club's AGM in October 2015 and the various changes advised to both the Federation and the CA. Over the winter period the grounds at Levens Hall, in fact most of Cumbria, suffered from the storms which seemed to roll in in a continuous and never ending succession. Our lawns and storage facilities were flooded first over the weekend of the 5th and 6th December as Storm Desmond caused the River Kent to burst its banks leaving the hall grounds under about a metre and a half of water. Immediate action was taken to recover as much of the equipment as possible but with the lawns being under water on three further occasions during December and January the clean-up has been somewhat delayed. Our current assessment is that it will cost us between £1,000 and £1,500 to recover all the lost playing equipment and we are currently putting together a plan to get the lawn back into a playable condition.



**Westmorland - continued**

If any anyone is interested in seeing the state of the lawns as the floods subsided in the December go to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/westmorlandcroquetclub](http://www.facebook.com/westmorlandcroquetclub). We remain hopeful to have everything necessary operational for the first of our home league fixtures on the 17th May. Since the end of the 2015 season we have picked up one new member and five potential new members however it will not be until mid-April that we will be able to assess the membership numbers for the new season. For 2016 we have again entered teams in the midweek handicap, handicap golf and short-lawn leagues and plan to enter similar teams in the Federation Festival in June. We continue to maintain a good, mutually beneficial relationship with our hosts at Levens Hall and the likelihood of our leaving Levens Hall for pastures new in the near future is negligible. So for the benefit of those who seemed determined to predict our demise towards the end of last season, I may take this opportunity to misquote Mark Twain by saying that, the rumours of (our) death are greatly exaggerated.

12 Fed Equipment  
CA Start-up sets on load to Liverpool and Salford are now the property of the respective clubs. The projector is with Paul Rigge

13 AOB  
**National Croquet Day** – The subject was raised as to what clubs are intending to do on that day. Bury is having an official opening of Whitehead Park, Fylde are having a “Club Competition” with open day try it sessions on all afternoons of the following week.

**North West Federation Website** – Tony Thomas asked clubs to check their details and report any alterations

14 **Next Meetings**, AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Spring Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March – both at Culcheth

## Appendix i

### North West Federation of Croquet Clubs

#### 2015-2016 Income & Expenditure Statement

Current Year to 12 Feb 2016

		Amount	Account
Income & Expenditure			
Member Club Affiliation Fees	Affiliation Fees @ £20/Club (2 outstanding)	£260.00	£260.00
Development	Income Expenditure		£0.00
Miscellaneous Income	Fylde Millennium Tournament Interest	£6.94	£6.94
Festival of Croquet	Income Expenditure	£0.00 £0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous Expenditure	Coffee/Tea at AGM/Spring Meeting		
	Website Expenses	-£41.38	-£41.38
Nett income (loss) during year			£225.56
Opening Balances			
Cash			£0.00
Current Account			£1,048.78
Deposit Account			£3,304.69
Total Opening Balances			£4,353.47
Total as at 12 Feb 2016			£4,579.03
Bank Balances as at 12 Feb 2016			
Cash			£0.00
Current Account			£1,267.40
Deposit Account			£3,311.63
Total as at 12 Feb 2016			£4,579.03

## Appendix ii

### Helping players with colour vision problems

A paper regarding the problems for those members with Colour Vision Deficiency (“colour blindness”) was circulated to Council in October 2015, and a proposal made to establish a small working group to see what could be done. A Gazette article illustrating the problem was printed in the December issue. It was a shock to find that the 8 balls on a croquet lawn could be so hard to tell apart, with red, brown and green in particular hard to distinguish for the majority of those affected by CVD. About one in 12 of the male population is affected.

We set out to see what could be done in time for the 2016 season. A panel of 8 members affected by CVD have helped steer solutions, and there has been great support from a number of CA committees. Council is now asked to approve the following:

1. The duties of the tournament manager – set out in tournament regulation M1 – will now include the allocation of 1st Colour balls whenever possible to a player who has told the manager they have CVD. This will apply henceforth to managers of all CA events - we hope that federation and club tournament managers will also include this in the many things the TM has to juggle. [Thanks to the AC & GC Tournament Committees]
2. How should players let the TM know they have a CVD difficulty? The paper entry form in the 2016 Fixtures Calendar has been updated to include a CVD tick-box, and the player profile on the CA website will include this question - any on-line entries the player makes will then carry the information through to the entry list the TM receives. [Thanks to CA Office Manager and CA Webmaster]
3. Brighter colours are being recommended to re-paint AC clips – which makes them clearer for all players - and specifically club equipment officers are asked to add a white dot to green clips and a diagonal white stripe to brown clips – so that red, green and brown clips may be distinguished by those with CVD. The detailed spec for the colours and markings will shortly be on the CA website. [Thanks to the Equipment Committee]
4. A new approved laws variation has been added to the tournament regulations (L5) which clarifies that in AC Law 47 and GC Rule 8, the information on the state of the game which a player, if asked, must tell the opponent includes information about any of the balls and clips in their game, and also the colour and position of clips and balls in any double- or triple-banked game. [Thanks to GC Rules Committee and AC Laws Committee]
5. Clubs will be asked (via the Gazette and Equipment webpage) to think of players with CVD when picking plastic pegs to use as GC scoring clips. There is no specification for these clips in the rules, and their use is optional, but it would help to avoid red clips for the Red and Yellow side (use yellow only), and to only have one of green or brown in use too for the Green and Brown side. [Thanks to the Equipment Committee] These actions will make it much easier for croquet players who have a colour vision deficiency to concentrate on their play and to avoid confusion.

Martin French, Peter Wilson, Richard Hoskyns  
CA Council CVD working party



**North West Federation Equipment – Spring 2016**

Bowdon	None
Bury	None
Chester	None
Crake	Mower (50%)
Craig-y-Don	CA Start up Set
Culcheth	None
Ellesmere	3 Mallets
Flixton	None
Fylde	None
Harlech	None
IOM	None
Keswick	None
Liverpool	None
Llanfairfechan	None
Nannerch	None
Pendle	None
Penrith	4 Mallets, 1 set hoops, 1 peg
Salford	None
Southport	None
Tattenhall	CA Start up Set + set of 2 <sup>ndary</sup> balls,
Westmorland	5 Mallets, 1 set primary and 1 set secondary balls
One projector	With Paul Rigge