

Minutes of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs AGM

Saturday 4th March 2017

- 1 **The Meeting** was attended by 27 people representing 13 clubs:
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Bowdon | Ken Cooper, Graham Good, Steve Reynolds |
| Bury | David Barrett, Richard Harvey |
| Chester | Sarah Andrew, John Dawson |
| Crake | Jim Alcock |
| Culcheth | Bob & Ann Connop, Alan Wright, Keith Woodward |
| Flixton | Jean Matthews |
| Liverpool | James Hawkins |
| Fylde | Ian Theakstone, Jean Audsley |
| Pendle & Craven: | Kathryn Schofield, Roger Schofield, Garry Wilson |
| Salford | Frances Rollinson, Irene Waterhouse, Gloria Egan |
| Southport & Birkdale | Don Williamson |
| Tattenhall | Ruth Wrigley, Marjorie Checkley, Sheila Marsland |
| Westmorland | Ivan Wheatley |

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Clubs: Keswick, Craig-y-Don, Llanfairfechan: Committee Members: David Walters, Tony Thomas, Paul Rigge, Jean Hargreaves, Liz Wilson; Other members: John Shakespeare (Westmorland)

3. **The minutes** of the AGM held on 19th November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.
Proposed – Roger Schofield, Seconded – David Barrett

4. **Matters Arising** – none

5. **Officers and Committee Members Reports since the previous meeting.**

- A **Chairman – Garry Wilson** reported that much of his time had been taken up with the question of CA Governance. As there was an agenda item to follow, he would report under that item. He went on to remind members that he would be “out of a job” at the next meeting, as under the constitution, his time in office as Chairman would have come to an end.

- B **Secretary David Walters**

Nothing to report that is not up for discussion during the meeting.

- C **Treasurer - Bob Connop**

Bob gave a brief report on the finances and maintained that the Federation was in a comfortable position.

- D **CA Representative – John Dawson**

His report would be given under agenda item 6

- E **League Manager – Ivan Wheatley** The 2017 fixture lists have now been published and all is ready for the new season.

This year we have one less league, the Advanced A league, which last year was contested by only two clubs. Despite the fact that the league had been set up with three clubs on both a home and away basis, one club dropped out early in the season and one of the two remaining matches was declared void resulting in the title being won on the basis of the one game played.

For 2017 we have 46 teams (51 in 2016) from 9 clubs competing in 165 matches spread over 6 leagues so with the usual dedication and commitment we are in for some good croquet. As the season progresses I, as League Manager, and Tony Thomas, as webmaster, will try to stay on top of the results as they come in and keep the league tables up to date. To that end I have already asked team captains to make sure they send the results though to me promptly preferably by email or text or, if necessary, by a phone call and I will make sure they are passed on to Tony to keep the website up to date.

Pulling together the fixture list has been a bit of an eye opener has only served to increase my respect for the work that Tony has done for the last 8 years. He is not here today but I can't let the opportunity pass without thanking him for all the hard work he has done in the past, the good shape in which he has left the role of League Manager and the support he has given me over this, the transition year.

Version 1 of the draft league rules for 2017 has been on the website since November and version 2 has been in circulation for about a month. So far I have had a couple of points raised, which, after discussion, have not resulted in any changes. This item is however a separate item on the agenda, which I am sure we will cover later.

- F **Coaching Officer – Paul Rigge**

1) There had been very few formal requests for Flying Circus visits, but dates are to be confirmed for GC coaching at Craig-y-Don and at Tattenhall, and AC Silver Level at Chester and Llanfairfechan.

2) There was a Referee's Course held at Bowdon on 25/26 February 2017.

3) There will be a meeting for Club Handicappers, Team Captains and other interested parties at Bury on 25th March 2017 hosted by the Federation Handicapper, Don Williamson.

4) CA Pods for AC will be hosted at both Bowdon and Bury (Coronation Park) and I am optimistic that CA Pods for GC will also be run – venue to be confirmed.

- G **Development Officer – James Hawkins**

There had been no activity in the North West

- H **NW Championships – James Hawkins**

Nothing to report

I **Child Safeguarding Officer – Jean Hargreaves**

The CA has approved a revision of its Safeguarding policy requiring all clubs to report any incidents to the CA. Furthermore all clubs were strongly urged to have their own internal policy and an appointed Safeguarding officer. I will be available to advise clubs, if required.

J **Pennine Cup Captain - Liz Wilson**

Nothing to report

K **Federation Handicapper – Don Williamson**

There will be a meeting for Club Handicappers, Team Captains and other interested parties at Bury (Whitehead Park) on 25th March 2017 hosted by the Federation Handicapper, Don Williamson.

It is hoped that ALL clubs will send their Club Handicappers to this event or at least a representative, should the Club Handicapper be unavailable.

L **Web Manager – Tony Thomas**

Nothing to report

6 **Millennium Competitions**

These were re-confirmed as:

- a) Advanced at Fylde (8-9 April 2017)
- b) Level Golf at Bury (14 May 2017)
- c) Handicap AC at Pendle & Craven (6-7 May 2017)
- d) Short at Chester (14 May 2017)
- e) Handicap Golf at Bury (15 July 2017)

Fylde commented that there were still places available for 2 to 3 A Class players and 3 B Class players.

Pendle & Craven had yet to send out the application forms.

7 **CA Representative's Report – John Dawson (continuing his 3 year term)**

He reported on recent CA meetings. The Council had approved a revision of its Safeguarding policy requiring all clubs to report any incidents to the CA. Furthermore all clubs were strongly urged to have their own internal policy and an appointed Safeguarding officer. Jean Hargreaves is available to advise clubs if required. A decision to recruit a National Development Officer was significant. The AC tournament committee had approved new tournament regulations regarding permissible warm up periods and a 10 minute warm up period now replaces the 5 minute one. The reversion in the AC law on calculating the handicap in AC doubles was noted. The marketing committee continued to wrestle with the issue of the target recruitment population and publicity for National Croquet Day.

During the subsequent discussion concerns were raised about the continuing delays and confusion on the implementation of new IT systems.

The topic of NW clubs getting their fair share of key tournaments was discussed.

8 **Motions:**

- a) The B level league requirement that the total number of bisques for the three players in a team should add up to a minimum of 6 be deleted. There should be no restriction but the minimum handicap for a player should remain at a half.

Proposed by Southport & Birkdale CC.

The motion was discussed, voted upon and REJECTED

- b) Rule 18 currently states: "Time limits shall be 1 hour 30 minutes plus 15 minutes for double-banked games". We believe that the move to full bisque play and the extension of the time limit to 90 minutes makes the need for additional time for double banking un-necessary. We propose removing the additional time and hence Rule 18 should be "Time limits shall be 1 hour 30 minutes."

Proposed by Bowdon Croquet Club

The motion was discussed, voted upon and ACCEPTED

- c) The draft 2017 League Rules previously circulated, incorporating those changes agreed at the Federation AGM in November 2016 and other items as identified separately in the preamble, be adopted for use in NWFCC league matches over the course of the 2017 season.

Proposed by Ivan Wheatley, League Manager

The motion was discussed, voted upon and ACCEPTED

9 **CA Governance Working Party**

Garry Wilson, Chairman spoke at length about the discussions which had taken place over several months regarding governance of the CA. He explained that there were no firm suggestions in place, from the CA, as to how the CA should operate now that every individual was a voting member, nor suggestions from the CA as to the future role of Federations, who were also now members. He went on to explain that the CA had set up a working party, chaired by Strat Liddiard, to arrive at some recommendations on governance. Members of our clubs in the NW had been leading the discussions (via email and social media) and he believed that although the cogent argument put forward by individual members from this region was both sensible and comprehensive, it was right that the NW Federation, as a member of the CA, should have its preferred stance and submit its findings to the Governance Working Party. This was undertaken at a meeting of the Committee, the notes from which were supplied with the agenda too this meeting. As David Walters had recently been seconded on to the Governance Working Party, he would submit our findings. The chairman finished by saying that he eagerly awaited the publication of the working party's findings.

10 **Club Announcements:**

1. Bury – Paul Kenworthy is no longer Chairman having been succeeded by Richard Harvey. His email address is richardrvey@me.com
Please amend your records
2. Chester CC was 40 years young this year and National Croquet Day would be used to celebrate the 40th anniversary.

11 **Federation Equipment Assets**

Reported as all in order – list attached to agenda

12 **Any other business**

None

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

AGM 18th November 2017 at Culcheth

NWFCC

2015-2016 Income & Expenditure Statement

Current Year to 30 Sept 2016

		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
Income & Expenditure			
<i>Member Club Affiliation Fees</i>	Affiliation Fees @ £20/Club	£340.00	£340.00
<i>Development</i>	Income		
	Expenditure	-£69.00	-£69.00
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>			
	Crake Millenium Tournament	£50.00	
	Interest	£18.43	£68.43
<i>Festival of Croquet</i>	Income	£900.00	
	Expenditure	-£713.00	£187.00
<i>Miscellaneous Expenditure</i>			
	Coffee/Tea at AGM/Spring Meeting	-£10.00	
	Website Expenses	-£41.35	-£51.35
Nett income (loss) during year			£475.08
Opening Balances			
Cash			£0.00
Current Account			£1,048.78
Deposit Account			£3,304.69
Total Opening Balances			£4,353.47
Total as at 30 Sept 2016			£4,828.55
Bank Balances as at 30 Sept 2016			
Cash			£0.00
Current Account			£1,205.43
Deposit Account			£3,623.12
Total as at 30 Sept 2016			£4,828.55

NWFCC Accounts Oct. 2015 - 2016

Certified as Correct

 Bob Connop, Hon. Treas.

16/10/16

 Chris Slater, Hon. Auditor

20/10/16

NWFCC LEAGUE MANAGERS REPORT FOR SEASON 2016 – Tony Thomas 23 November 2016

Thank you to all team captains who have kept me updated with scores and information throughout the season. It has been a dramatic season of 177 matches, ranging from a disastrous A League to an exciting finish in other leagues, the number of postponements has reduced and in general the league still remains a vibrant arena for competitive croquet.

A CLASS LEAGUE: This was a 'disaster' area. Only three teams entered (cf 5 in 2015) enabling an 'all play all', home and away format. Then Crake withdrew early in the season, leaving only Bowdon and Pendle, then Bowdon were given a walkover, leaving only one real match – Bowdon 6 Pendle 3. Consequently, Bowdon were crowned champions but a very unsatisfactory situation. We must now assume this league is defunct, with future matches being held under the 'Pop Up' system to be organised by James Hawkins, outside of the league structure.

B LEVEL LEAGUE: We changed the system of Bonus Points so they could only be gained by the losing team – surprisingly, no team was awarded any Bonus Points this season. We also changed the criteria for handicaps (individual min ½ and team min 6) - this has had a mixed response depending on difficulties clubs have in selecting players. There have been a few suggestions for further changes but no overall consensus. The league was very competitive with most matches being won by one game, however Bowdon finished as clear leaders.

WEEKEND HANDICAP: Very close finish to the season, the championship only being decided in the last few weeks. Chester finished level on points with Bowdon St Marys but had a superior game difference.

MIDWEEK HANDICAP: Another close finish with the title being decided in the last week by the results of three matches when Westmorland edged into championship position. This is a very efficient league with no void or walkover matches, only one match being postponed throughout the season.

SHORT CROQUET: Bowdon deservedly won this league but were helped by being awarded a walkover which mathematically (although unlikely) could have effected the final outcome. There has been a growing feeling that the Base could be abandoned in this league to encourage more break building and peg outs – see the Motion later on the Agenda.

GOLF CROQUET: This is another very efficient league with few postponements and no walkovers. Southport led the league for most of season and finished clear champions. The changes to Golf Croquet Handicaps caused consternation at the start of the season, (due to CA late announcements) and this area needs reviewing for next season.

LEVEL PLAY GOLF CROQUET: This league continues to gain in popularity with nine teams involved this year (there were only 4 in 2013) and is set to expand further next year. Bowdon Bandits finished very strongly to take the title in the last month.

POSTPONEMENTS: There was a significant reduction in postponed matches (26, compared to 35 in 2015), 12 occurring in the first month, thereafter we ran at about 2 or 3 postponements per month. Weather was a major factor in the early part of the season but subsequently it was player availability. Perhaps clubs should reconsider how many teams they can practically enter into our leagues.

Since this is my final report may I thank everyone for your continual support over the last eight years. Ivan Wheatley (Westmorland) will be taking over the role and I am sure we all wish him every success.

2016 ADVANCED A CLASS LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games	Pts
Bowdon	2	2	0	0	11-03	4
Pendle	2	0	2	0	03-11	0
Crake Valley	0	0	0	0	00-00	0

2016 ADVANCED B LEVEL LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games	Bpts	Pts
Bowdon	5	5	0	0	17-06	0	10
Southport	5	3	2	0	12-11	0	6
Bury	5	3	2	0	10-09	0	6
Fylde	5	2	3	0	12-13	0	4
Pendle	5	1	4	0	08-13	0	2
Chester	5	1	4	0	07-14	0	2

2016 WEEKEND HANDICAP LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games	Pts
Chester	9	7	2	0	40-22	14
Bowdon SM	9	7	2	0	34-24	14
Fylde	9	6	3	0	35-28	12
Crake Valley	9	5	4	0	30-33	10
Southport	9	5	4	0	28-32	10
Pendle	9	4	6	0	34-26	8
Bury Peelers	9	4	5	0	28-24	8
Bury Caesars	9	4	5	0	25-32	8
Bowdon Firs	9	2	7	0	29-34	4
Birkdale	9	1	8	0	16-37	2

2016 MIDWEEK HANDICAP LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games	Pts
Westmorland	7	5	2	0	28-21	10
Chester	7	4	3	0	29-17	8
Bury	7	4	3	0	28-21	8
Southport	7	4	3	0	26-23	8
BowdonGriffins	7	4	3	0	25-24	8
Pendle	7	3	4	0	24-25	6
Bowdon Earls	7	3	4	0	17-30	6
Fylde	7	1	6	0	16-32	2

2016 SHORT CROQUET LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games	Pts
Bowdon	5	4	0	1	48-25	9
Westmorland	5	3	1	1	49-33	7
Bury	5	2	2	1	40-32	5
Southport	5	2	3	0	35-45	4
Chester	5	1	3	1	29-60	3
Pendle	5	1	4	0	25-41	2

2016 GOLF CROQUET LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games w-l-d	Pts
Southport	8	7	1	0	91-47-06	14
Llanfairfechan	8	5	3	0	75-66-03	10
Westmorland	8	4	3	1	73-70-01	9
Culcheth	8	3	3	2	71-72-01	8
Fylde	8	3	3	2	69-72-03	8
Bury South	8	3	3	2	68-71-05	8
Bowdon	8	2	5	1	67-75-02	5
Bury North	8	2	5	1	62-77-05	5
Chester	8	2	5	1	58-84-02	5

2016 LEVEL PLAY GOLF CROQUET LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Games	Pts
BowdonBandits	8	7	0	1	96-48	15
Chester	8	5	2	1	82-54	11
Southport	8	5	3	0	76-68	10
Pendle Forresters	8	4	4	0	69-67	8
Bury	8	4	4	0	70-74	8
Pendle Tykes	8	3	4	1	66-78	7
Bowdon Sinners	8	3	5	0	61-76	6
Culcheth	8	2	5	1	59-85	5
Fylde	8	1	7	0	53-83	2

Appendix iii

North West Federation Equipment November 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	CA Start up Set
Llanfairfechan	None
Nannerch	None
Pendle	None
Penrith	4 Mallets, 1 set hoops, 1 peg
Salford	CA start up Set
Southport	none
Tattenhall	CA Start up Set + set of 2 ^{ndary} balls,
Westmorland	None
Secretary	One projector