

**Executive Summary – North West Federation Spring meeting of Croquet Clubs - Tony Thomas
Saturday 7th March 2020 at Culcheth**

Chairman Paul Rigge welcomed about 17 people to the Meeting, reminding members his term of office will be ending in November and we are looking for suitable nominations. Despite last month being the wettest on record, members could still watch some brilliant Croquet from the World Championships in Australia, - the excellent coverage is still available on catch up TV. We are still awaiting the 7th Edition of Croquet Rules from the World Croquet Federation, however, recent discussions between Paul and WCF representatives have resulted in assurances that our concerns about Short Croquet have been addressed. For 2020 we will continue to use the existing rules.

Secretary David Walters reported there had been a poor response to the invitation to involve more members in training to become Referees. National Croquet Week will commence on Sunday 17 May 2020.

Treasurer Liz Wilson has received subscriptions from 16 clubs and is expecting two more responses. Salford are not joining this year and Liverpool are undecided.

Development Officer, Sarah Andrew reported that less than 50% clubs nationally are CASC registered, this may be because some clubs are a section within a larger sporting club or they have elected to have Registered Charity Status. It is felt CASC offers more advantages and there are some guidance notes on the CA website. There are several sources of funding available to clubs, much of which does not get claimed:

- Sport England offering Grants up to £5,000 for flood damage
- SCC (formerly BIFFA) offer £2,000 to £100,000 grants for community projects, provided your club is within ten miles of a Land Fill Site.
- The Croquet Association offer interest free loans to clubs, with little risk, on very advantageous terms.

League Manager, Ivan Wheatley informed the meeting, the 2020 Fixture List will be published this week – there are 49 teams and the season runs from 19th April till 11th October. The 2020 League Rules were adopted with changes as decided at our last Meeting. There are some conflicts between our League Rules and Tournament Regulations and Ivan will be analysing these in the coming months.

Coaching Officer, Paul Rigge, congratulated members who have now become Club Coaches. He has not received any requests from clubs to run coaching course under the Flying Circus banner, however, he will be running Coaching Clinics at Fylde on Mondays and Pendle on Wednesdays.

Jean Hargreaves, Safeguarding Officer informed members the new guidance for safeguarding “under 18’s” in Tournaments will be updated on the CA website. Don Williamson, Federation Handicapper informed the meeting new handicap cards have been sent to Club Secretaries and there is a guide for Club Handicappers on the CA website. CA Council Member, John Dawson, explained how the new Council are working through a transitional phase, the outcomes of the recent Club survey are being analysed and there are a number of working Parties looking at various issues.

The Motion from Penrith and North Lakes requesting a qualifying competition for clubs wishing to enter the national Short Croquet Competition was defeated after a wide ranging discussion.

The Motion from Bowdon requesting a play off between Bowdon (existing national Short Croquet Competition holders) and Bury (2019 Fed Short League Winners) to decide the Federation entry to the national competition was remitted to the Chairman to contact the national competition organisers to appeal that the existing holders of the trophy should have automatic entry as in other national competitions.

The North West Festival will be held on 27/28 June at Southport and Entry Fees are unchanged. The Pennine Cup will be held at Pendle on Sunday 5th July and player volunteers are requested (contact Liz Wilson). Crake will be hosting a C Level Golf Croquet event on 25th April and individual entries are required from the Federation.

Under Any Other Business, a request for gender specific loos at the Festival was rejected. There was also a discussion about the changes being enacted by the CA (no Fixtures Book and Gazette), tournament entries priority for Premium members and it was felt these changes were not helpful to clubs and members.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 14th November 2020 at Culcheth.