

# Draft Minutes of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs Spring General Meeting Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020

- 1 **The Meeting** was attended by 17 people representing 11 clubs:
- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Bowdon                | David Walters,                                 |
| Bury                  | David Barrett, Jean Hargreaves, Barbara Young, |
| Chester               | John Dawson, Jayne Taylor                      |
| Craig-y-Don           |  |
| Crake Valley          | David Cornes                                   |
| Criccieth             | Ken Humphreys                                  |
| Culcheth              | Keith Woodward, Alan Wright                    |
| Ellesmere             |  |
| Flixton               |  |
| Fylde                 | Liz Wilson, Peter Wilson                       |
| Keswick               |  |
| Liverpool             |  |
| Llanfairfechan        | Sarah Andrew (& Craig-Y-Don)                   |
| Pendle & Craven:      | Paul Rigge.                                    |
| Penrith & North Lakes |  |
| Salford               |  |
| Southport & Birkdale  | Don Williamson, Tony Thomas                    |
| Stonyhurst            |  |
| Tattenhall            |  |
| Westmorland           | Ivan Wheatley                                  |

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular to Ken Humphreys, the new Secretary at Criccieth, and Jayne Taylor, who is now Chair at Chester. Let's get my final year as your Chairman underway – I'll say that again – somebody from one of our clubs will need to step up for election as chair at our AGM in November, cause my time will be up. Please make a note and put the word out.

Last month was officially the wettest on record, I'm awaiting the club reports with interest to see how our various grounds men have coped under that strain and I hope, marvel if we have courts to play on anywhere, anytime soon. The new season is galloping at us and I can't wait to get some lawn time out there to see if I can imitate what I've seen our betters doing down in Australia on the streamed TV coverage from both the World Golf Team & World AC Singles Championships. If you didn't view live, I commend you to watch on catch up, the coverage was the best yet with very informative commentary trying to second guess what lines of play would be followed.

- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Clubs: Craig-Y-Don, Keswick, Penrith & North Lakes, Stonyhurst. Committee Members: None. Other members: Ken Cooper, Steve Reynolds (Bowdon), Jim Alcock (Crake), Jack Pattenden, John Hannah (Craig-Y-Don) John Shakespeare (Westmorland), Benedict O'Connor (Stonyhurst), Steve Skelton (Keswick).
- 3 **The minutes** of the AGM held on 16th November 2019 were approved as a correct record. Acceptance Proposed – David Walters, Seconded – David Barrett. Approved Nem Con.
- 4 **Matters Arising** – none
- 5 **Officers and Committee Members Reports since the previous meeting.**

## **Chairman – Paul Rigge**

A

The "New" CA is now in place and the changes to its structure have been adopted. It intends to use the nations Federations to "improve" communications twix it and all its members ... good idea since our club levies have all increased to pay for it. To this end, some Federations have now co-opted Council members onto their committees – we don't need to do that, since our old directly "appointed" Representative (John Dawson), as part of his manifesto promised to continue reporting Council Matters back to us & obviously our matters back to Council to ensure our voice is heard.

Last time at our AGM, I informed you of the impending drop of the "Revision 7" AC Laws. At the time a draft copy had been published for private consultation of interested parties for a two month process. As the only area on the planet that plays League AC Short Croquet, I had serious concerns over the intended changes to that variation it proposed. I, with other dissenters in this country, have had email exchanges over the winter with the WCF AC Laws Committee, stressing the detrimental effect that the draft would have upon our play and enjoyment. I am pleased to report that those concerns have been heard by the WCF ACLC and the rules for Short Lawn will be unchanged when the new revision is finally published – the draft still available is in the original form with the changes, but Ian Vincent (E) & Graeme Roberts (NZ) have assured Stephen Custance-Baker, Beatrice McGlen and myself that as and when the LC get their act together, Revision 6 Laws will prevail. Either way up, this season we will all be playing to Rule Release 6.

Following a question regarding Short Croquet Doubles handicaps, Paul agreed to copy Don Williamson (Federation

Handicapper) in on any correspondence with the CA on the matter.

**B Secretary - David Walters**

The Committee participated in the consultation on the new format for the IC Short Croquet competition run by the CA Tournament Committee and subsequently agreed to nominate the winner of the Federation Short Croquet League as the Federation's representative in this year's competition.

National Croquet Week 2020 will culminate in NCD on Sunday 17 May. An email with more information has been sent by the CA Office to Clubs.

There was an insufficient demand expressed for Referee & Coach training to justify running courses over the winter.

**C Treasurer – Liz Wilson**

16 Clubs have paid their subs with two promised but not yet received. Salford are not joining this year and Liverpool is still thinking about it. We have £6275.83 in the bank.

David Barrett to approach Salford to get a better understanding of their reasoning.

**D Development Officer – Sarah Andrew**

The recent meeting of the CA Development Committee brought up some interesting issues.

1. Fewer than 50% of croquet clubs are registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). In some cases this may be because they are parts of bigger sports clubs. However there are definitely clubs which would benefit from such registration. The CA has developed guidance notes to assist clubs in registering as CASCs. These are on the CA website. Please contact me if you need any assistance with this.
2. There are unexpected sources of funds for Croquet Clubs, among others. Firstly, Sport England announced in February 2020 that it has grants of up to £5,000 as emergency funding to help sports facilities affected by the recent floods. They are available through the Sport England Community Asset Fund. Secondly, the FCC Communities Foundation provides grants between £2,000 and £100,000 for amenity projects within 10 miles of an FCC Landfill site.
3. Many of you may know of the game of Pirates, a fun croquet-based game used to interest children and entertain visitors and mentioned in the Croquet Gazette this Spring in an article by Beatrice McGlen. The method of play can be found at <http://www.tauntuncroquet.org/PDF/TauntonPiratesRules.pdf>
4. Croquet Clubs are not taking up the opportunity of loans from the CA. These are interest free and without personal penalty to the club officers if a club folds before paying off the loan. The CA is being asked to make more funds available for loans. The benefit of a loan is that it can be used for items outside the strict terms of the Development Committee e.g. replacement mowers. Obviously if the loan cannot be repaid the purchased item will revert to the CA. If anyone wishes to consider this source of funding they should contact me in the first instance.

Apart from that I have a request from Cheadle Hulme School for a croquet session. For this, and other schools I intend to purchase 2 sets of wire hoops that will be easy to transport and place in the lawns. The CA Development Committee Chair has agreed to CA funds being used for these. If anyone has a request from a local school to give a session please feel free to borrow these hoops if your club does not have any already.

**E League Manager – Ivan Wheatley**

For the 2020 season we again have 49 teams entered in the various leagues. In the level-play GC we are two down having lost Southport, who were forced to withdraw part way into last season, and Culcheth partly offset by Westmorland who are entering the league for the first time. We also have a welcome return to the short-lawn league by Llanfairfechan after a number of years absence.

The 2020 season will get underway, weather permitting, immediately after Easter with both the handicap AC and GC leagues commencing on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The final day of the season will be Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Any matches which remain unplayed after that date will be declared void and the league records updated accordingly.

As agreed at the AGM in November, I have delayed publishing the final fixture list until after this meeting to give team captains a little extra time to finalise their team sheets and thus reduce the number of matches that are forced to be rescheduled for what can be considered avoidable reasons. It is inevitable that problems will occur as the season progresses and that matches will have to be rescheduled but we can only hope that the numbers can be significantly reduced and where genuine unforeseen problems do occur then team captains will be sufficiently accommodating to try to find a suitable alternative date.

There are a couple of proposed changes to the league rules for 2020 which are for discussion later in the meeting. I will update the league rules based on the outcome of these discussions and will publish the new rules along with the final fixture lists and team contact details immediately after this meeting.

Finally it has been identified that a number of changes in the published CA Tournament Regulations have brought our league rules into conflict with these regulations. In particular league rule 6(b) sets out what happens if a player arrives late for a game now conflicts with the options and procedures set out in Tournament Regulation M2(d), and league rule 24(b) in which we limit a player's allowable handicap in handicap GC to 12 which is in conflict with Tournament Regulations

H1(a) which state that players must play each game at their correct handicap. League Rule 1 states that whilst league matches are played in compliance with Tournament Regulations it further states that the League Rules supersede the Tournament Regulations if there is a difference. I therefore propose that for 2020 we will continue with the current arrangement and I will carry out a detailed comparison of the league Rule and the Tournament Regulations to identify the extent to which we conflict with a view to bringing forward a proposal to the next AGM to identify and address these items. (NB Discussion suggested that our method of calculating AC Doubles Handicaps may also be at odds with the Tournament Regulations. Since the meeting it has been confirmed that this is not the case.)

**F Coaching Officer – Paul Rigge**

Congratulations to all the Club Coaches who newly qualified and received their badges late last season – all got named in recent Gazettes.

This year I've already held two A class AC sessions at Pendle – one involved the attendees travelling a total of 352 miles – well it impressed me.

I'll finish with my usual appeal at this meeting for requests from you for Flying Circus visits, or any other coaching needs you may have.

This year I plan to attend clinics in Fylde on Mondays & Pendle on Wednesdays.

**G NW Festival – Ivan Wheatley**

The 2020 Festival of croquet tournament will take place at Southport and Birkdale CC over the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June. As in 2019 we will again be running level-play and handicap GC and advanced, handicap and short-lawn AC sections. Entry forms will be issued in early April with a deadline for entries of the 7<sup>th</sup> June to give us sufficient time to complete the various draws and orders of play. We are budgeting to leave the registration fees unchanged from the 2019 level of £39 per team per event (£26 for Advanced AC and level play GC).

Once again I would like to express my thanks to Liz Wilson who has agreed to handle the registration process and to Jean Hargreaves, Jim Allcock and Tony Thomas who have agreed to help with the management of the event and of course to the Southport Croquet Club and their numerous members who through their efforts in so many ways make this event possible.

**H Pennine Cup Captain - Liz Wilson**

Will be held at Pendle on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Likely to be a team of 6 and the format will include both Advanced & Handicap AC. Anyone interested in playing should contact Liz.

**I Safeguarding Officer – Jean Hargreaves**

Revised Safeguarding information & policy documents are in the final stages of approval by the CA. They will be shared with clubs as soon as that approval process is completed. Clubs should note that specific advice on Safeguarding During Croquet Competitions is available on the CA website.

**J Website Manager – Tony Thomas**

Nothing to report.

**K Federation Handicapper – Don Williamson**

A revised design for AC & GC Handicap cards has been agreed by the CA Handicap Committee and supplies have been mailed to Clubs. There remains an issue with the supply of cards for Short Croquet, however a pdf version is available on the CA website.

Any clubs requiring assistance with setting or revising handicaps should ask Don for advice.

**L CA Council Member (NW) – John Dawson**

The CA is in a transitional phase. The new smaller Council is settling in and the Executive Board to manage day-to-day business has been established. Ian Burrige has been appointed to take over as Hon. Treasurer. Council are trying to identify the changes required whilst maintaining stability in current processes. Working Parties have been established to focus on Efficiency improvements & Technology (in particular improving the CA website). An overall Mission Statement for the CA is being prepared. The Club Survey has provided useful information.

Given that the U3A is a regular source of recruits into croquet, (20% of clubs mention it in the recent survey and indeed there are a couple of CA U3A clubs), the CA Marketing Committee is attempting to formalise the linkage. Sally Slater of Chester is picking up a national role aimed at linking U3A members to clubs in a more systematic way. The U3A has a national magazine with a website and Subject Advisors, neither of which currently make any reference to croquet. Following contact with the editor an article on croquet is scheduled, a web page established and Sally named as the Subject Advisor. More publicity will follow when this goes live.

At a more minor level I recently got an article into a North West / North Wales glossy

<https://www.shiremagazine.co.uk/current-issue> page 75. (Ignore the fact that the editor managed to transpose World GC

team event into the summer of 2020.) Otherwise the glossy is a great source of what's on in its area.

## 6 Millennium Competitions

These were re-confirmed as:

- a) Advanced at Fylde (18-19 April)
- b) Level Golf at Bury – Whitehead Park (10-11 October)
- c) Handicap AC at Pendle & Craven (11-12 July)
- d) Short at Chester (10 May)
- e) Handicap Golf at Crake Valley (8 August)

Entry Forms to all events will be sent to Club Secretaries shortly.

## 7 Motions:

a) The 2019 league rules will apply to the 2020 season subject to the following proposed amendments:

Amendment to rule 6.

*6(a) Further to the discussion at the 2019 AGM and after due consideration the proposal for the amendment of League Rule 6(a) as presented at the AGM is resubmitted for approval.*

**Proposal:** That league Rule 6(a) of the current league rules be amended to read:

*“In a singles game, if a member of a team fails to play a game or fails to play to the agreed time limit for whatever reason, the game shall be conceded”.*

*6(b) League Rule 6(b) is modified to clarify that in an AC doubles game, if a member of a team leaves before a game is completed then the game may continue to completion subject to AC Law 43(c) limiting the maximum number of peels in a handicap AC doubles game.*

**Proposal:** That League Rule 6(b) of the current league rules be amended to read:

*“In a doubles game one player shall not play both balls for a side. If one member of a side fails to arrive by the start of the game his/her ball shall be placed on the first or third corner and deemed to have been played by the absent player. If the defaulter arrives late he/she shall be allowed to join his/her partner and play his/her ball from the position in which he/she finds it. If, for whatever reason, a member of a side leaves before a game is completed the other member of the team may continue to play their own ball subject to AC Laws 43(c) otherwise the game is conceded.”*

The earlier proposed clarification for the implication for handicap cards is withdrawn.

The background to the proposed changes were set out at the 2019 AGM and followed on from a situation earlier in the season when a player was forced to withdraw from a match due to ill health and the remainder of the visiting team were forced to abandon their remaining games in the best interests of the player concerned.

The motion was discussed and eventually approved. Proposed by Ivan & seconded by Liz. Ivan agreed to identify any inconsistencies between the League Rules and the Tournament Regulations and propose any changes necessary at the AGM.

### b) IC Short Penrith

“The objective of the IC Short Croquet Competition is to encourage novice AC players into competitive Inter-Club play. The method proposed to select a NW Federation representative into the revised format (i.e. the winner of the previous year’s SC League) excludes clubs that are unable, for whatever reason, to participate in the NW Fed Short Croquet League. We request that the NW Federation Committee changes its decision and allows the organization of a qualifying competition that member clubs who wish to participate in the IC Short Croquet Competition can enter.” Proposed by Penrith & North Lakes Croquet Club

Background -

P&NLCC’s issue with the NW Fed is that, as CA and Fed members, we are unable, due to lawn availability and location, to participate in the Fed Short Competition, or any other Fed Competition, but want to compete, when we can, and believe we have as much right, and prospect of winning, this CA event as any other NW club. If the Fed Committee can’t be bothered to organise a proper qualifying competition, open to all Fed member clubs, we are happy to take on that task.

The motion was discussed and a wide range of views were expressed, including many with sympathy for Penrith’s position. Southport repeated the offer for their lawns to be used as a neutral venue to reduce long distance travel to league matches. Ultimately it was felt that the first stepping stones from novices to national competitions should be either the Federation League or the Festival and the motion was rejected unanimously with one abstention.

### c) IC Short Bowdon

“Whilst we accept that the process for nominating a NW Fed representative team for the CA Inter-Club Short Croquet Competition is appropriate from 2021 onwards, we believe that, in this transition year, there should be a play-off between the current holders of the competition (Bowdon) and the 2019 winner of the NW Fed Short Croquet League.” (Proposed by Bowdon Croquet Club)

Background -

BCC believe that the holders of the trophy should have the opportunity to defend their title. Being denied the opportunity

to enter by a change in the format is unfair and should be remedied.

The motion was discussed and again much sympathy was expressed for the unfortunate position. It was noted that 6 Federations have entered the competition, necessitating the arrangement of preliminary matches to deliver four teams for the final weekend. Paul offered to approach Beatrice McGlen in her capacity as Tournament Director to make the case that the holders should be offered a place in the draw for the preliminary rounds. Don Williamson then proposed (seconded by Tony Thomas) that the matter be remitted back to Federation Officers pending further discussion with Beatrice. This was approved nem con.

## 8 Club Announcements:

### **Bowdon**

Thanks to all who attended the “warm-up” match for the England GC team in advance of their trip to New Zealand for the Openshaw Shield. Unfortunately we couldn’t control the weather!

We have continued to play regularly throughout the winter, with only a few days lost to poor weather. A reminder to all that our Short Croquet tournament (14-15 July) is not in the CA Tournament Calendar, so online entries are not possible via the CA website. Entries should be made to David Walters in his capacity as Bowdon’s Tournament Secretary.

### **Bury**

We are delighted to report that we continue to attract new members to our Club, many of whom have quickly integrating themselves into the heart of the Club as volunteers for management and maintenance etc.

For this coming season we have already booked two Hotels for our players who wish to enter the Southport Festival.

Like everywhere else this winter the extreme rainfall has caused flooding on our lawns but we are still confident that once the sun shines we can look forward to an exciting new season.

Our winter indoor croquet and social events are constantly growing in popularity. We recently entertained a group from the Culcheth Club when we mixed all the players and teams up and had an enjoyable day together.

We are holding several Tournaments this season and wish to let everyone know that entries should still be sent direct to Bury Croquet Club.

National B Level Golf (3+) Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

National C Level Golf (7+) Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Bury AC Handicap weekend 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> August

NWFCC Millennium Level Play Golf Weekend 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October

### **Chester** (Note that Jayne Taylor has taken over as Chair)

We are looking forward to a very busy and hopefully successful 2020 Season, with teams playing in all of the Federation leagues, plus a number of regional and national competitions, and we will also be taking part in the North Wales and Cheshire Golf Handicap and Association Short Lawn competitions. The lawns are looking good, in spite of the high rainfall over the winter (our sloping ground helping with the drainage here), though some moss treatment might be necessary!

Our season starts at the end of March, and we will be holding our first recruitment session on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a Taster session for anyone wanting to try Croquet for the first time, followed by separate beginners courses for both Golf and Association games running through April and May.

The club is looking forward to hosting the All England AC Handicap Final in September, and we are delighted that this year we will again be staging the National GC Cross Over Tournament for the Maggie Cowman Cup over the weekend of the 8/9<sup>th</sup> August. Hopefully we will also be able to revisit Carrickmines for a weekend of both AC and GC in May.

### **Craig-y-Don**

Following the success of last year's inaugural Cheshire & N Wales Tournament for the Snowdonia cup, won by Llanfairfechan, (a combination of Handicapped Golf and Handicapped Short Association, between Chester, Llanfairfechan, Tattenhall and Craig Y Don), a timetable for this season has been distributed. A discussion is taking place to see whether Criccieth might be able to join in and field a team this year or the next.

Diary dates are also being booked for CYD social club days home and away with those same clubs within our approx. 1&1/2 hour car driving range.

Our costs are rising as we have to pay a share, though modest, of the overheads of the whole Craig Y Don Sports and Community Centre. Our landlord, Conwy Council, have withdrawn from some of their previous agreements, including providing ground maintenance which has caused a considerable cost rise along with insurance cost for the whole, even though we use the CA insurer for liability and contents.

Over the Autumn and winter the club has spent a considerable amount on Health & Safety to minimise risk of accidents in future. This includes a new Asgard metal store shed which is being erected on March 12<sup>th</sup> and will allow us to remove trip hazards from both our current equipment store and clubhouse. A Croquet Association grant of £500 has been awarded to support our members’ investment of £700 to complete the project.

Playing members at Craig Y Don usually number between 50 and 60. Losses of members for whatever reason have in the past few years been made up with new members coming from our successful U3a Group, but of course this brings in more novice elderly folk (many more ladies than gents). However we have managed to raise the competitive level on our crown green lawn which offers one long lawn and one short, or three short but with many now wanting to play on '**long lawn**', it cuts down our capacity. We are very pleased that the NW Fed have agreed to allow us use of their set of tertiary balls this season, tried unsuccessfully at last years Southport Festival. We think that we will be able to use them along with primarys and secondarys on the **long lawn** allowing three groups of doubles to play Golf at the same time increasing the capacity but obviously there will be some hoop delays.

With our geographical position and demographics we do not see the club entering any of the Federation leagues but we want to take part in the June Festival and support individual club members wishing to take part in federation competitions.

Craig Y Don club was formed some eight years ago and was simply subsumed into the Craig Y Don Sports and Community Centre which is a registered company and charity without any formal arrangement. Governance of the club has been a topic of discussion for some time and it was decided we should seek CASC status (Community Amateur Sports Club) from HMRC in our own right whilst remaining part of Craig Y Don Sports and Community Centre. We applied for this status in January and are hopeful of it being granted by the end of April.

### **Crake Valley**

Exciting times at Crake Valley –

- Official Opening of the New Clubhouse is scheduled for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 with Roger Staples (Chair of the CA Executive Board) due to cut the ribbon. We have just over 40 confirmed attendees including representatives of the NW Federation, local Councillors, Funders and contractors alongside members.

We intend having 3.5 lawns in use from April and so, In addition, to our traditional Alternate Strokes and 2 Advanced AC tournaments we have, new for 2020 -

- We host a CA National Qualifier for C level Golf on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We have 4 confirmed entrants to date (including players from Scotland, Hunstanton and Ripon Spa). We can accommodate up to a maximum number of 12. We, therefore, ask clubs to support this tournament by encouraging their members to sign up on line or by email via Jim Allcock - £12 for CA Premium members and £17 others includes refreshments throughout the day.
- NW Federation Millennium Golf Handicap is scheduled for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Again, we ask clubs to identify representatives for this tournament in advance.
- As NW Fed representatives in the Golf Handicap Federations Shield we have been drawn to play the holders High Wycombe in the quarter finals with the date and venue to be agreed.

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 I aim to obtain a Grade 1 level GC coaching badge at the Northern Academy in York. If successful, I would be available to assist this federation to coach C level players at any club.

### **Criccieth – (Note Ken Humphreys is new Secretary) Nothing to Report**

#### **Culcheth**

Last autumn we were told that Culcheth Sports and Social Club, of which Culcheth Croquet Club is a section, was in debt and losing money. After several meetings with members it was decided that two members of the committee would undertake to subsidise the club for a period of two years by which time it was hoped that a new 4G all weather football pitch would be able to laid and would be a profitable source of income. This was good news after the threat of immediate closure was being considered.

Once again Culcheth Croquet Club are looking forward to another enjoyable year. At the moment we have 26 members. We shall only be entering one league this year as last year we found it difficult to field teams for certain matches.

Our social activities are well supported and 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 last night.

Some of our members also meet together during the winter to play cards and indoor games.

## **Ellesmere – Nothing to Report**

## **Flixton – Nothing to Report**

## **Fylde**

Pleased to report no flooding over the winter. We already have 9 entries for the Handicap AC Tournament in July (5 from the White rose county!) We are looking forward to entries flooding in for the Millennium Advanced on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

## **Keswick – Nothing to Report**

## **Liverpool– Nothing to Report**

## **Llanfairfechan–**

We have carried out intensive work on our lawns over the Autumn/Winter period. They are still far from perfect, but should provide a better playing surface over the coming season. Our cast iron hoops have widened over the 28 years of their life and we have submitted a funding request to the charitable foundation of the local hydroelectric scheme to obtain tournament standard steel hoops for the long lawns.

We are intending to use social media platforms and all other means at our disposal to recruit more players for the new season. Our mowing costs have risen and the club is under a small amount of financial pressure. The club is in a superb geographical position close to the sea and the mountains. Please come and visit us when you are passing through Snowdonia!

## **Pendle & Craven**

Our tournament schedule, including two new offers to extend the playing season at the back end of the year, one for GC players and another for Short Lawn AC, is ready and detailed both on the CA site & Pendle's website for everyone to enter and we are successfully making lots of changes to enhance the playing experience of our visitors, northern access to the new in-ground secure car park being just the first.

## **Penrith & North Lakes –**

The grounds, pavilion and storage buildings at Langwathby were again flooded this weekend (8/9 Feb). The water was 2 ft deep in these buildings. We remove all our kit, mowers etc. off site over winter. There seems to be less damage to the lawns than was the case when they last flooded in 2015. A working party will attempt a clean up this weekend (15/16 Feb), before the silt dries out completely. It may be a waste of effort since more heavy rain and flood alerts are forecast for the weekend.

## **Salford – Nothing to Report**

## **Southport**

The lawns have been under water several times over winter but have drained when there have been 2 or 3 successive rain free days, they were dry enough on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March to have lawn sand applied to counter the invasion of moss. Our Season starts 4/4 if weather permits.

We are hosting the CA Treasurer's Tankard 10-14 September (AC) & The Ascot Cup 19-20 September (GC), spectators welcome.

## **Stonyhurst – Nothing to Report**

## **Tattenhall – Nothing to Report**

## **Westmorland**

With a month to go to the start of our season our membership renewals are disappointing so far, but on the positive side a high proportion of our members are keen to play in inter club competitions and we are extending our involvement this year by joining in the level play golf.

At the end of last season we spent a lot of time and cash on our lawns which were in poor shape with bare patches and poor quality grass. Re-seeding and fertilising should reap benefits this year, although we have yet to see what damage has been caused by the over winter flooding.

## 9 **Federation Equipment Assets**

Updated list appended.

## 10 **Any other business**

- GC Handicap All England – Area Final – Bury, Bowdon & Crake are likely to enter 4 players each into the competition, but unless other clubs also enter, it is likely that the Area Final will remain a combined

Midlands/North event at Ashby.

- CA support for ordinary members – Frustration was expressed that the CA appears to be penalising / reducing its service to ordinary members e.g. withdrawal of Gazette, Tournament Secretaries not getting a copy of the Fixtures Book, Premium members getting priority over local club members in over-subscribed tournaments.
- Festival temporary toilets – following the provision of 3 toilets last year, a request had been received to make the toilets gender specific. This was not supported.
- Please note that the GC C level qualifier at Crake is fast approaching (25/4). An ideal opportunity for those with handicaps 7-16 to experience tournament play.

11 **Date of Next Meeting**

AGM 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at Culcheth, Spring Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (TBC)

12 **Meeting Closed at 1220.**

## Appendix

### North West Federation — Equipment March 2020

Club	Equipment
Bowdon	None
Bury	One Projector
Chester	None
Crake Valley	None
Craig-y-Don	CA Start up Set
Criccieth	6 Hoops & Peg, 5 round headed Mallets, 1 set primary Barlows plus CA Start Up Set
Culcheth	None
Ellesmere	3 Mallets
Flixton	None
Fylde	None
Keswick	None
Liverpool	None
Llanfairfechan	None
Pendle & Craven	None
Penrith & North Lakes	4 Mallets, 1 set hoops, 1 peg
Salford	CA start up Set
Southport & Birkdale	None
Stonyhurst	None
Tattenhall	CA Start up Set + set of secondary balls
Wilmslow (U3A Group)	In carrying case 4 mallets, centre peg, 1 set primary Sunshiny balls, 1 set secondary Barlow balls, clips.
Westmorland	None

Paul Rigge      1 set Tertiary Dawson Balls (to be borrowed by Criccieth)

Available      None