

Minutes of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs Special General Meeting
Saturday 22nd November 2025 (For approval at Spring Meeting) - Draft 29/11
Held at Bury Croquet Club, Whitehead Park, Ainsworth Road Bury. BL8 2PY

- 1 **The Meeting** was attended by 19 people representing 10 clubs:
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bowdon | Nigel Matthews, Angharrad Walters |
| Bury | Ian Saunders, Bernard Lord, David Barrett, Gail Burnett |
| Chester | Robin Tasker |
| Craig-y-Don | |
| Crake Valley | David Cornes, Sandra Cornes, Chris Williamson |
| Ellesmere | Alan Wright |
| Flixton | |
| Fylde | Phil Snowden, |
| Keswick | |
| Llanfairfechan | Elaine Crook |
| Pendle & Craven: | |
| Penrith & North Lakes | |
| Southport & Birkdale | John Haslam, Peter Williams, Paul Rigge |
| Stonyhurst | |
| Tattenhall | Frank Sharps |
| Westmorland | Sue Pritchard, David Massey |

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting & thanked Bury Croquet Club for hosting the meeting and their kind hospitality.

- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Clubs: Penrith & North Lakes. Individuals: Chris Alvey, Howard Bowron, Ian Tupling, Roy Spencer, Roger Schofield, Tom Grievson, Sarah Andrew, Graham Jowett, Ruth Wrigley, Liz Wilson, Peter Wilson
3. **The proposed amendments to the Constitution** as specified in the meeting notice to reduce the limit of consecutive terms that the Chairman can serve to three was approved Nem Con.
4. **Meeting Closed at 10:34 am**

Minutes of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs AGM
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2 **Application for Membership.**

Following the Committee's acceptance of Wilmslow u3a's application for Associate Membership of the Federation, their application was ratified Nem Con.

- 3 **Apologies for Absence.** Clubs: Penrith & North Lakes. Individuals: Chris Alvey, Howard Bowron, Ian Tupling, Roy Spencer, Roger Schofield, Tom Grievson, Sarah Andrew, Graham Jowett, Ruth Wrigley, Liz Wilson, Peter Wilson

- 4a. **The minutes** of the Spring Meeting held on 2nd March 2025 were approved as a correct record Nem Con.

- 4b. **Matters Arising** – None.

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

A **Chairman – John Haslam**

Thanks to Angharrad, Peter and the rest of the Committee for their support. In particular, Robin as Festival Manager, who with the support of his team, did an excellent job. Another big thank you to Phil for his skilful management of the Federation Leagues.

Concerns re the proposal for 3 player teams and how that sits with the Federation aims to promote croquet, whether in the longer term this might lead to fewer opportunities to play competitively.

As I reach the end of my playing career, I note that when the Confederation was formed, it only had one league for Handicap AC play. Now we have many more opportunities for competitive play within the region.

B **Secretary - Angharrad Walters**

A quiet period on the Secretarial front. The Committee met once to discuss the actions identified at the Spring General Meeting.

I had intended to step down at this meeting having done 10 years in the role, but John beat me to it. So I have agreed to continue for another year to ease the transition to a new Chair.

C Treasurer – Peter Williams

It's been a very quiet year for financial activity, which of course made the preparation of the accounts nice and straightforward. There has been no expenditure over and above the usual festival costs and the fees for hosting the website. I can report that 16 clubs renewed their membership and paid subs totalling £320. We also earned £62 in bank interest on our deposits.

The Fed had a relatively profitable festival - the deficit on putting on the festival in 2024 was £529 and this has been reduced this year to just £35. How did we manage this? By reducing conveniences!! After some initial confusion, we ordered 3 toilet units, as opposed to 6 in the last couple of years. As far as I could see, there were no queues formed on either set of lawns. If anyone saw differently, please let us know. It seems to me that we can renew the experience in 2026, unless there is a sudden spike in numbers attending the festival.

Our bank balances as at September 30th totalled £6247, an increase over 2024 of £230. Thus, our financial position remains healthy, which enables us to maintain subs at the same level for 2025-26

Thanks to all club treasurers for paying the annual subs promptly. Also to Paul Rigge for acting as the examiner. He has indicated that he is happy to continue in the role next year.

John Haslam noted that Southport are considering a proposal to charge a flat rate for the festival lawns, rather than a variable rate per the actual number of lawns used.

D League Manager – Phil Snowden

2025 fixtures issued as planned covering a total of 165 fixtures across the 6 leagues. From initial team entries we had some withdrawals in the 14 point and 26 point handicap AC leagues. This season has seen many competitive leagues with several of the leagues being decided on Hoop points.

Final league positions

a) Advanced B-Level, with 3 teams ending the season on 6 points the winner was decided on games played, with Chester retaining the title.

b) Handicap Golf, Pendle and Craven were confirmed the winners of League A after a nail biting wait for the last couple of matches to be completed.

Southport Falcons were confirmed as winners of League B.

Following a couple of years of not managing to complete the play-off, thanks to Bury for hosting the match, after a close match, Southport Falcons were confirmed league winners.

c) Level Play Golf, another close fought league, with Southport edging out last year's winners (Bowdon) on hoops scored.

d) 14 Point Handicap AC (previously the Weekday 26 point AC Handicap), congratulations to Fylde who finished the season unbeaten.

e) 26 Point AC, out of the 8 teams within this league 6 teams ended the season on 6 points and 2 teams finished on 10 points. This led to another hoop count deciding the overall winner with Fylde securing the league by 2 hoops.

f) Short AC, 1 point separated the top 3 teams in the league of Bowdon Weekdayers, Westmorland and Fylde. Thankfully no hoop count needed in this league with Bowdon Weekdayers winning by 1 point

Through the season there were a couple of amendments to the Handicap Golf Advantage scoring sheet developed by Bury to ease use and printing for those clubs who manually complete.

During a season, a few clubs struggled to field teams of 4 & matches were played with teams of 3 on an exceptional basis. Hence the proposal to be considered later in the meeting.

The League application form will be issued shortly after the AGM to the relevant club secretaries, capturing the relevant amendments agreed.

E Coaching Officer – Chris Williamson

Chris has joined the Croquet England Coaching Committee. His responsibilities there include:

- Managing new Provisional Coaches and monitoring existing Provisional Coaches to ensure they complete before their end date.
- To go through all the coaching pages on the CqE website and ensure they are up to date and correct.

The Croquet England Coaching Committee will meet next week. Please advise Chris of any items that might be suitable to be raised nationally. One such item identified at the meeting was the restriction on Club Coaches to coaching within their own Club. Only Graded Coaches are currently covered by Croquet England's insurance policy to coach at other clubs.

F Development Officer – Vacancy / John Haslam

Nothing to report.

G NW Festival – Robin Tasker

Thanks as usual to Southport & Birkdale for hosting and to all those who attended. Please see Appendix 3 for the report published in the Croquet Gazette.

H Safeguarding Officer – Roger Schofield

Nothing to report.

I Pennine Cup Captain - Liz Wilson

The annual contest for the Pennine Cup was played at Middlesbrough in mostly pleasant conditions.

The morning doubles were won by the North West 2 - 0, and the afternoon singles by croquet North 3 - 1 meaning the match was a 3 - 3 draw. North West therefore retain the trophy.

Match Scores (CN first)

Andrew Killick and Julian Gibson lost to Peter & Liz Wilson 23 - 26

Anthony Miller and Nigel Durie lost to Stephen Skelton * Chris Williamson 12 - 26

Andrew Killick beat Peter Wilson 26 - 15

Anthony Miller beat Liz Wilson 26 - 15

Julian Gibson beat Stephen Skelton 21 - 19 (t)

Nigel Durie lost to Chris Williamson 10 - 15 (t)

Liz is standing down this year & Chris Williamson has agreed to take on the role of captain.

J Federation Handicapper – Tom Grievson / Liz Wilson

AC: No issues this year.

GC: Two incidents in late Summer 2025. A Club handicapper altered a player's GC handicap from 10 to 9. The handicapper was unaware that such movements should be two or more increments. It was amicably resolved.

At a different Club the handicapper altered a player's GC handicap (probably under some duress) from 6 to 8. This rather unusual situation was unwound following a three-way conversation with the handicapper and the player.

K Website Manager – Chris Alvey

There has been a lack of reports from people for publication on the website. While I don't want league match reports, any tournaments that have been run or other events of note aren't being sent to me.

Again all team captains need to send results to the correct email address not directly to Phil, as this is still happening. A reminder will be included in next year's League documentation.

L CqE Trustee (NW) - Robin Tasker

Since the Spring Meeting setting aside the usual business of Croquet England, the following significant activities have taken place.

1. A new CEO

Following the departure of Beatrice McGlen as Croquet England CEO and considering the work load that the role now entailed, the Trustees agreed that it was now the appropriate time for Croquet England to consider employing a full-time paid CEO.

A re-structuring exercise was initiated following a review of the activities of the Croquet England Office and Shop which following the statutory process resulted in the post of Office Manager being made redundant.

The role of CEO was advertised in the summer and following a thorough recruitment process, Croquet England were delighted to appoint Andy Dalby-Welsh to the post.

Andy brings a wealth of experience in the sports environment, most recently, as CEO of London Youth Games, where he created and drove a new five-year strategy that brought together local authorities, funders, volunteers, and national partners, evolving governance and driving diversification in both participation and income generation. Previously, as Deputy CEO of Activity Alliance, (the national lead organisation for getting disabled people active) he worked nationally to influence disability inclusion and oversaw governance reform to a federated structure, whilst achieving over £2m in sustained Sport England funding.

2. A new Organisational Structure

As a part of the transition from the Croquet Association and as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Croquet England based its new constitution on the model constitution from the Charities Commission. And this new governance structure which is echoed by Sports England, the size of the Board of Trustees is reduced. Whereas previously the CA Council elected 12 Council members from the Federations, the new Board structure elects 6 Trustees from the membership, elects 3 independent non-executive Trustees and is able to appoint a further 2 Trustees to fill identified skills gaps. The transitional arrangements are now complete and as a consequence 2 Trustees will be elected by Members each year to ensure continuity within the organisation and its business.

To that end to accommodate the reduction in the number of elected Trustees, the constituency boundaries have been re-drawn, and the North West Federation is now a part of the Northern Counties, a constituency composed of the Federations of Yorkshire, the North and the North West. My term of office runs to October 2026 at which point it is my intention to stand down. I will therefore start a process in the Northern Counties to encourage Croquet England members to stand for election to ensure that we are well represented on the Board of Trustees.

3. Independent Non-Executive Trustees

In the summer following a recruitment process, Trustees were delighted to appoint 3 Independent Non-Executive Trustees to the Board. The three bring a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to our work. As a consequence we now have access to professional expertise in the areas of safeguarding, inclusion and diversity, fundraising and publicity, and sport business administration. And it's great to report the positive and constructive impact these appointments have already made.

4. The Croquet England Strategy

The new Strategy of Croquet England was published at the 2024 AGM, and since that time Trustees have been working to develop the Delivery Plan of that Strategy, and a good draft document now exists. It was thought beneficial to ensure that our new CEO had the opportunity to provide input to this work and to ensure that all stakeholders were similarly engaged. Andy is holding a series of meetings in the coming weeks in London (28th November), in Nottingham (4th December) and online (1st December 6:30-8:30PM) where input and discussion with members is invited, and for anyone interested in attending I can provide the necessary joining details.

As always please do contact me if there is any matter you wish to raise or discuss about the activities of Croquet England; I would be delighted to hear from you.

6 Motions re League Rules

6.1 Option to Declare intent to field 3 player teams

To assist clubs with fielding teams within the 3 Handicap AC Leagues, the proposal is for clubs to be able enter a team consisting of either 3 or 4 players. During the completion of the entry form, clubs will need to indicate the team size the club will be entering. This will be for both Home and Away matches.

Any club who doesn't state the team size will be assumed to default to the league rule team size.

Approved - 4 (BOW, CHE, CRA, TAT) in Favour, 3 (BUR, LLA, COM) Against, 3 (ELL, SOU, WES) Abstentions

6.2 Establishment of a 1-ball league

Approved by acclamation, with only Bury indicating that they opposed the idea.

7 Subscriptions - Peter Williams

Subscriptions to remain unchanged at £20, approved nem con.

8 Millennium Competitions

The meeting was reminded that these events are intended to provide an opportunity for players to gain experience of tournament play within the NW, with an entry initially reserved for a player from each club.

Several Clubs undertook to consider hosting an event at their next Committee meeting in early December and to offer dates to Angharrad before Christmas, so that they can be settled before the League calendar is developed.

AC Advanced
GC Level Play
AC Handicap
GC Handicap
Short Croquet

Remember that the host club can now retain all the entry fees, as well as any catering / bar income.

9 Arrangements for NW Festival of Croquet - Robin Tasker

The Festival will be held at Southport on 27-28 June.

10 Co-ordination of Dates for Tournaments & Events

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 3-6 Apr | Pendle & Craven John Beech Memorial Easter Tournament |
| 25-26 Apr | Lancashire GC Open at Pendle |
| 23 Apr | Crake Alternate Shot Doubles AC |
| 2 May | Pendle & Craven D-Level (10+) GC |
| 2-3 May | Bury A Level (0+) GC |
| 3 May | Pendle & Craven (7+) Advantage GC |
| 2-4 May | Bowdon May Handicap AC Weekend |
| 6 May | Crake D level (10+) GC Series National Qualifier |
| 7 May | Crake C level (7+) GC Series National Qualifier |
| 9 May | Pendle & Craven B-Level (4+) Golf |
| 9-10 May | Bury A Level (0+) GC |
| 9-10 May | Southport Carol Lewis Memorial Handicap AC ??? |
| 16 May | Chester National C Level (7+) GC |
| 16-17 May | Pendle B/C level AC Advanced Weekend |
| 17 May | Chester National D Level (10+) GC |
| 17 May | Charity 1-ball Northern Regional Final at Bowdon |
| 30 May | Chester National B Level GC |
| TBC | National Croquet Week |
| 30 -31 May | Bowdon Advanced Weekend |
| 3 Jun | Crake Advanced AC - Cumbria Cup |
| 4 Jun | Bob Vaughan Trophy - AC Short Lawn Invitation |
| 6-7 June | Pendle & Craven A level Golf |
| 7 Jun | Bury National B Level (4+) GC |
| 7-8 June | Home Internationals AC - Budleigh |
| 13-14 June | Pendle & Craven Advanced Weekend |
| 16-17 June | Bowdon B level AC |
| 19-21 June | England v Spain GC Test Match at Bowdon |
| 27-28 June | Festival at Southport |
| 1-2 Jul | Crake A Level A level (DG <2000) GC National Qualifier |
| 7-10 July | Pendle Midweek Tournament |
| 15 Jul | Bury National C Level (7+) GC |
| 18-19 July | Southport Super B and B-Level Advanced Weekend |
| 23 Jul | Crake B Level B level GC (non-series qualifier) |
| 22-23 Jul | Bowdon Short Croquet Tournament |
| 27-28 July | Pendle & Craven A Level (0+) GC |
| 27-28 July | Pendle & Craven AC Handicap Weekend |
| 1-2 August | Chester A level GC 0+ Cross Over Tournament |
| 1-2 August | Bury AC Handicap Weekend |
| 5-6 August | Crake Advanced AC - Cavendish Clock |
| 5-6 August | Bowdon 14pt Handicap AC |
| 8 Aug | Bury National D Level (10+) GC |
| 16 August | Northern Stars Final at Bowdon GC |
| 22-23 Aug | August Handicap Weekend at Pendle |
| 29-31 August | Bowdon North of England Championship |
| 29-31 Aug | GC Eights |
| 2 Sept | Crake GC Ladies Open |
| 5-6 Sept | SCA v CqE AC at Chester |
| 19-20 Sept | GC B level Final at Pendle |
| 14-15 Sept | Southport AC Advanced Weekend |

The above dates have been added to the calendar on the website. Please send any amendments to results@croquetnw.co.uk so that it can be updated accordingly.

Bowdon (Nigel Matthews)

Bowdon has had a good season this year. The One-ball format has proved useful in introducing new players to croquet and there has been a resurgence of Short croquet, being played by both beginners and minus handicap players.

Internal competitions continue to thrive, with summer and winter knockouts as well as the popular box leagues in AC, GC, Short and One-ball. These ensure regular competitive games for members throughout the year, alongside the regular roll-ups for AC on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, One-ball on Saturdays and GC on Fridays. Over the winter, the lawns are reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ size to protect the grass, playing 18 point games, Short rules and the Saturday One-ball competition. Whilst Bowdon members mainly play AC, there is opportunity for GC with Friday roll-up and the box league.

Along with awards for summer competitions, a trophy is also presented to the club's most improved player. This year the winner is Alan Dix.

Bowdon hosted seven tournaments over the summer –

GC open – winner Angharrad Walters Plate – David Beddy
 May handicap – Sue Longcroft (York) NWFed Millennium winner Andrew Thomson
 June advanced – Neil Adams (Crake) Plate – Angharrad Walters
 B-level advanced – Paul Harboard (York)
 Short croquet – Bowdon Cup – Alan Dix NWFed Millennium winner Alan Mayne
 Midweek handicap – Mike Blackburn
 The North of England Championship – David Maugham

Bowdon will also be hosting the England v Spain GC Test Match next year

Away from the club, Bowdon members Angharrad Walters, Jack Good and Euan Burrridge have represented England and Wales in international matches and also played in the AC World Championships in Florida. David Beddy captained the Bowdon team in the European GC League heat in Dublin

Bowdon reached the finals of both the AC and GC inter-club competitions, but lost both narrowly

We feel very positive about the future of Bowdon Croquet Club. As well as having some top international players, we have had a good influx of new players.

Bury (Roy Spencer)

The club has been busy preparing both venues for the 2026 season.

Lawns have fared well this season despite suffering from burning during heat extremes. The club has invested several thousand pounds undertaking a complete remediation of the lawns at both venues by a sports amenities contractor. We have experienced ongoing damage to the lawns at Whitehead by foxes, particularly following the remediation work.

Our current playing membership stands at 72. This season we have introduced a more flexible membership structure to try and appeal to a wider audience, including evening & weekend, trial and facility to pay by instalments. The trial membership has proved quite positive attracting 9 people, most of whom have indicated that they intend to join next season.

We have attended a number of outside events as part of our croquet in the community programme, creating awareness of both the club and the sport.

We will continue to play all formats of croquet and will be continuing to encourage GC players to try AC in line with CqE Action for AC strategy.

This season we have committed to host four GC National Tournaments:

A Level – Saturday/Sunday 9-10th May

B Level – Sunday 7th June

C Level – Wednesday 15th July

D Level – Saturday 8th August.

Chester (Tom Grievson)

Chester Croquet Club had a good 2025 Season. Although overall membership numbers dropped by around ten to approximately 120, member engagement with competitive play improved. More internal competition were introduced this year across both handicap and level play. Although this was mostly for Golf Croquet players a start was made to introduce One Ball as a variant which can be played by both AC and GC competitors and perhaps act as a conduit across the divide. A very successful 16 player One Ball competition was held in September with 10 GC and 6 AC entrants. Honours were almost exactly even between the codes. We hope to develop this variant further next season.

Weather often disrupted play once again this year but rather than dust dry lawns which greatly exaggerates lawn inconsistencies and, in our case lawn slope, our lawns suffered frequent waterlogged conditions. This at least thickened the sward and helped to mask lawn faults because the grass better gripped the balls. Every cloud....

Next season the number of our internal and external competitions will increase again with the aim of giving all members the chance to improve their competitive skills and provide for an enjoyable croquet experience.

Craig Y Don (John Hannah)

Crake Valley (Graham Jowett)

Investment in the club's infrastructure continued at the start of the season with new drainage installed, lawns reset, and the clubhouse given a full spring clean and fresh coat of paint inside and out. A smart new fence was installed along the southern boundary.

On the AC circuit, Neil Adams claimed the Lord Fermoy Cup at the Hunstanton Open with a +9TP victory over Mark Avery (2025 WCF World Championship Finalist), later receiving the trophy at the Hunstanton AC Advanced Open.

The club hosted the Bob Vaughan for the first time for several years. A short lawn tournament featuring 6 players from Crake and 6 from York. It is hoped it will become a regular addition to the fixtures calendar.

Three of our members attended the GC Tactics Course in York, joining 12 delegates and 4 coaches for two days of learning and inspiration. They returned full of enthusiasm and fresh ideas to share.

Our members have been busy both home and away, proudly representing Crake Valley in tournaments across the country and beyond.

Colin Dykes competed in the Trevelyan Bowl Handicap AC Tournament at Roehampton.

Neil Adams continued his winning streak, securing both the Peterson Cup at Watford and the NW Federation Millennium Advanced Cup.

Chris Williamson and Louise McElarney travelled to Ikskile, Latvia, for the Midsummer GC Mixed Doubles, reaching the Plate Final and enjoying the solstice celebrations. Chris Williamson also won the short lawn "Viking Challenge" in September at York.

Ray Hodgson won GC C Level national qualifier at Wrest Park in May.

At the Southport Festival of Croquet, Crake Valley celebrated an impressive double — winning both Overall Festival Champions and Short Lawn titles. More success followed as Chris Williamson captured the Irish Cup AC Handicap Egyptian, and Neil reached the quarterfinals of the AC British Open Championship at Surbiton.

This year also marked the 20th anniversary of the Cavendish Clock, first presented by Lord Cavendish in 2005. We were delighted to welcome The Hon. Lucy Cavendish to present the trophy, with Omied Hallam securing his second consecutive win — and already eyeing a third next year!

Crake Valley rounded off a remarkable season by winning the CqE National GC Federation Handicap Shield, defeating Phyllis Court 4–3 in a closely fought final. The club will have automatic entry to the 2026 Federations Shield as holders so there should be two clubs representing NW Fed.

Chris Williamson travelled to the USA to referee in the final stages of the WCF World AC Championships at West Palm Beach Florida.

To close the year, members came together to recognise Sandra and David Cornes and Frank Sharps for their outstanding contributions to the club. With David, Sandra and Frank relocating to Cheshire, they will be stepping down from the Committee at the December AGM. We thank them sincerely for their many years of dedication and service.

Crake Valley Croquet Club remains a vibrant, community-driven hub of competitive croquet — breaking records, winning titles, and hosting fixtures that bring players together from near and far. As several Committee members prepare to hand over the reins at the upcoming AGM, we wish the new Committee every success for the seasons ahead.

Ellesmere (Alan Wright)

Our season has gone well on the two new lawns that have been created on the outfield of the cricket ground. This was necessary as Padel Tennis courts had been installed on the old lawns. The groundsman has worked hard and there was a marked improvement in the quality of the lawns as the season progressed.

We held our competitions in the summer and we entered a team in the Golf Handicap league. This year we were able to fulfil all our fixtures and enjoyed playing the other teams. We were able to recruit new players to the club who want to play League games.

We held sessions for outdoor organisations, U3A and Westhoughton Local History group among others. These were enjoyable events and hopefully will lead to new members joining the club.

We are looking forward to next year now that our new lawns are improving.

Flixton – Nothing to Report

Fylde (Catherine Bass)

Fylde was runner up at the NW Championships at Southport, winning the AC Advanced and Handicap GC events.

The Club also celebrated its 20th season at Midgeland Road with two League wins – the AC Midweek 14pt and (beating its 2024 runner up place) the AC Weekend 26 pt.

Padel Court development – South Shore Lawn Tennis Club (SSLTC) applied for planning permission for indoor padel courts on two Fylde lawns in January 2024. Permission was granted subject to Building Regulations. Various tests and surveys have been undertaken but as yet, no work has started.

The Club has not maintained those Lawns in the meantime. SSLTC allocated their two lawn tennis courts to Fylde and the Club have been maintaining these. So, currently two full lawns are available. No dates are known for further development. Demolition/relocation of Club facilities will be required before building work starts.

Keswick (Steve Skelton)

Llanfairfechan– (Sarah Andrew)

Our membership remains buoyant. The Club finances are considerably boosted by two years of volunteer mowing from the members. We have recently purchased a SISIS aerator, although it is very second hand it does the job. The summer attendance by Giles Pepperell and Sarah Andrew at a lawn maintenance day at Nottingham made us realise how important regular aeration is for croquet lawns. We are playing on until the end of December when we will close for two months. In common with all Croquet Clubs, we have a predominance of GC players. However, our number of AC players is holding up well currently. We will continue with coaching sessions next season.

Pendle & Craven (xx)

Penrith & North Lakes – Nothing to Report

Southport - Nothing to Report

Stonyhurst – Nothing to Report

Tattenhall (Ruth Wrigley)

We have enjoyed our season partially due to the long summer days, but mainly because we have for the first time managed to recruit a considerable number of enthusiastic new members. For many years we have held open and 'taster' days and have been disappointed by the result. This year our Introductory Day run by David and Sandra Cornes was a great success, in addition, as some of our newer members were able to join in, our overall standard of play has improved enormously. There is now talk about joining the NW Federation League.

Our Internal Ladder League was re-vamped this year to include a format which encouraged players to adopt a positive approach to arranging and playing their matches. Again, this was successful, with 99% of games played, and an increase in competitive play.

We have completed the erection of a Gazebo and acquired additional furniture and lawn maintenance equipment – all achieved by active fundraising via social activities.

Thank you to the Federation for the loan of additional hoops, balls and mallets, which have been used to introduce croquet to the Retirement Village in Tattenhall, in the hope of increasing membership.

Westmorland - (John Shakespeare)

No NW Fed trophies won this year but another enjoyable season on the lawns both home and away.

Our membership has increased this year and currently stands at 43 having been up to 47 – our highest number ever – mainly golfers. We have held coaching sessions in the hope of introducing AC to Golfers but unfortunately the only two definite converts have now moved from the area.

This year we have spent a lot of time and money on improving our lawns and we are confident that we will reap the rewards next season.

Our work has been helped by the purchase of a new lawn mower – helped by a generous grant from our local council.

We play in the grounds of Levens Hall and are restricted to the times that the garden is open. From this season this is seven days a week.

Wilmslow u3a

12 Federation Equipment Assets

See Appendix 1. Please confirm any amendments to the Hon. Secretary

13 County Captains

The following were confirmed:

Cheshire AC: Simon Jenkins (Captain & Organiser)

Lancashire AC: James Hawkins (Captain) & Paul Rigge (Organiser)

Cheshire GC: Tom Grievson

If anyone would like to try raising a team for Lancashire in the GC Inter-Counties, please let Angharrad know. Eligibility for Counties can be expressed on the CA website.

14 CqE Diplomas

Congratulations to Sarah Andrew (Llanfairfechan)

The citation can be found on the CqE website at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=tournament/honours/caDiplomas/2025>

Congratulations also to Nigel Matthews (Bowdon) for winning Croquet England's Most Improved Player - AC (Male).

15 Election of Officers

The following were elected nem con.

- i) Chairman; No volunteer had been identified for this role. Paul Rigge was asked to be Acting Chairman whilst the search continues.
- ii) Secretary; Angharrad Walters (10th Year)
- iii) Treasurer; Peter Williams - (3rd Year)
- iv) League Manager; Phil Snowdon - (4th Year)
- v) Coaching Officer; Chris Williamson (2nd year).
- vi) Development Officer; Vacancy
- vii) Safeguarding Officer; Roger Schofield (3rd Year)
- viii) NW Festival of Croquet Manager; Robin Tasker (2nd year)
- ix) Pennine Cup Manager; Chris Williamson (1st year)
- x) Federation Handicappers; AC: Liz Wilson, GC Tom Grievson - (4th year)
- xi) Website Manager; Chris Alvey - (5th year)

16 Election of Independent Examiner

Paul Rigge, nominated by Peter Williams, approved nem con.

17 Any Other Business

17.1 Most Improved Player Awards. Agreed nem con that the Coaching Officer should convene a Sub-committee of 3 to assess the nominations.

17.2 Funding of Coaching Courses. Agreed that our preferred option is for Courses to be held (at no or low cost to attendees) within the North West area. It is hoped to hold a Coaches Development Course at Southport on 11/12 April (TBC). Bowdon are also planning to host a Laws event in the Spring which may lead to Referee exams if desired. If no suitable local course is being offered, then the Federation should be prepared to match the support being offered by Croquet England.

17.3 Status of Advantage system for GC Handicap Play. Advantage has been confirmed as an alternative form of GC Handicap play, i.e. in addition to "Extra Turns". Croquet England have adopted Advantage for National GC Handicap events. The NW Fed League will continue to use Advantage unless a change is proposed to the League Rules & subsequently approved by Clubs..

18 League Trophies

The 2025 Winners are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| AC B Level League | Chester |
| AC 26pt Handicap | Fylde |
| AC 14pt Handicap | Fylde |
| GC Level | Southport |
| GC Handicap | Southport Falcons |
| Short | Bowdon Weekdayers |

The outgoing Chairman suggested that consideration be given to presenting the trophies at the Festival in future years, where the audience is larger.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Spring Meeting 7th March 2026, by Teams & YouTube. AGM 21st November 2026 at Bury

20 Meeting Closed at 1210.

Appendix 1

North West Federation Equipment November 2025

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Bowdon | None |
| Bury | Projector |
| Chester | None |
| Craig-y-Don | CA Start up Set |
| Crake | 2 sets of Jacques Hoops (ex Liverpool) |
| Ellesmere | 3 Mallets |
| Flixton | None |
| Fylde | None |
| Keswick | None |
| Llanfairfechan | Gazebo, 1 set Dawson primary balls, 1 centre peg, 1 set of Foxy hoops (CA) |
| Pendle | None |
| Penrith | 4 Mallets, 1 set hoops, 1 peg |
| Salford | CA start up Set |
| Southport | 1 set Tertiary Balls (Dawson) |
| Stonyhurst | None |
| Tattenhall | Set of 2 nd ary balls, 6 Foxy Hoops, CA start up kit (set of hoops, set of primary balls, centre peg) and 4 CA George Wood mallets Set of clips, flags, markers and assortment of balls (three Barlow - white / pink / green, one Dawson - black, 7 assorted poor condition - 3 green / 2 white / 2 yellow) - (All ex Liverpool). |
| Westmorland | None |
| West Pennine (U3A group) | 1 set Jacques Hoops, 1 centre peg, 1 set of flags, 1 set of Dawson first colours, 1 set of Dawson 2nd colours, 1 set of primary clips, 5 George wood mallets, 1 hoop puller, 1 36" metal shaft mallet, 3 mallets (All ex Liverpool) 5 Round head mallets, 1 set Dawson primary balls, centre peg (ex Criccieth) |
| Wilmslow (U3A group) | In carrying case 4 George Wood mallets, centre peg, 1 set primary Sunshiny balls and 1 set secondary Barlow balls, 1 set metal primary clips |
| Available | With Bury CC - 1 centre peg (primary colours), 1 set carrot hoops (poor condition) (ex Cricceith) |

North West Federation of Croquet Clubs – Constitution

1 Name

The Federation shall be called “The North West Federation of Croquet Clubs”.

2 Area of Influence

The area of influence of the Federation shall be North Wales, Isle of Man, the counties and metropolitan counties of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside and Cumbria. Unitary authorities shall be considered as part of the county within which they are situated.

3 Aims

The aims of the Federation shall be to promote and develop the game of croquet and co-ordinate the activities of croquet clubs in its area, especially in the organisation of leagues, tournaments and other events and by assisting existing clubs in all appropriate ways. The Federation shall be the body responsible for the administration and resolution of all disciplinary matters brought to its attention. The Federation shall be run under the auspices of Croquet England (“CqE”) and shall be responsible to that body.

4 Membership

4.1 Every croquet club or croquet section of a larger club in the Area of Influence, that is affiliated to Croquet England, shall be eligible for full membership of the Federation. Membership shall be by application to the Secretary of the Federation, payment of the current subscription and ratification, by majority vote at the next General Meeting, that the applicant club be admitted as a member. Full member clubs may participate in the Leagues and Tournaments, play in the Festival, & participate in the administration of the Federation.

4.2 Any croquet club or croquet section of a larger club in the Area of Influence, that is not affiliated to Croquet England, shall be eligible for associate membership of the Federation. Membership shall be by application to the Secretary of the Federation, payment of the current subscription and ratification, by majority vote at the next General Meeting, that the applicant club be admitted as a member. Associate member clubs may receive development & coaching support from the Federation, but may not participate in the Leagues and Tournaments, play in the Festival, or participate in the administration of the Federation. They may attend Federation meetings as observers only.

5 Membership Fees

The membership fees for each year shall be determined by the Autumn General Meeting. The membership fee will become due at the Autumn General Meeting. Any club failing to pay within one calendar month of this meeting shall no longer be deemed a Federation member.

General Meetings

- a) The Autumn General Meeting shall be held in the Autumn, no earlier than October, to elect officers, approve the accounts, appoint an independent examiner, fix the membership fees and conduct business for which notice has been given. Other business may be conducted at the discretion of the Chairman.
- b) A further General Meeting shall be held in the Spring to conduct business for which notice has been given. Other business may be conducted at the discretion of the Chairman.
- c) A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or at the written request of at least three member clubs. On receipt of such a request by the Federation Secretary, the committee must arrange the meeting within two months. A Special General Meeting may not conduct any business, save for that for which it has been convened.
- d) At least 21 days' notice of General Meetings and the business to be conducted at them shall be given to all member clubs, this may be provided electronically. Notice of motions must be given to the Secretary at least 28 days before the meeting at which they are to be considered.
- e) All club members of this Federation's clubs shall be entitled to attend General Meetings. Each full member club shall be entitled to send one representative to the meetings, who may speak and vote. The Federation Committee, as a whole, also has one vote. Other interested persons may attend and speak but not vote. Six members entitled to vote shall form a quorum.
- f) Motions (except for those covered in paragraphs 10 and 11 below), shall be carried by a simple majority of the votes cast by those present and entitled to vote. In the case of a tie the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.
- g) Nominations for election as Officers shall be made in writing or by email to the Secretary at least 14 days before the Autumn General Meeting, proposed and seconded by any club member with the consent of the person nominated. If there is more than one candidate for any post a ballot shall be held, otherwise the persons nominated shall be declared elected. If any post remains unfilled, nominations, duly proposed and seconded, shall be accepted from the meeting and a ballot held if necessary.
- h) If the Chairman is unable to attend a General Meeting, those members present at the General Meeting shall elect a Chairman for that meeting who shall have an additional casting vote in the event of any tied vote.

Officers

- a) The Executive Officers of the Federation shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All posts are held until the next Autumn General Meeting.
- b) Should the Chairman for the time being be re-elected for three consecutive terms, they must retire after their third term and become ineligible for election to the office of Chairman until a further term has elapsed.
- c) The Chairman shall normally chair the General and Committee Meetings and act as directed by the committee.
- d) The Secretary shall keep minutes of General and Committee Meetings, maintain a register of member clubs and act as directed by the committee.
- e) The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Federation and transact its financial business. They shall lay before the Autumn General Meeting examined accounts for the year ending 30 September and act as directed by the committee.
- f) Other officers of the Federation shall be the Safeguarding Officer, Development Officer, Coaching Officer, League Manager, Web Manager and the North West Federation Championships Manager (Festival Manager) and shall act as directed by the committee.
- g) All offices in the Federation shall be voluntary.
- h) Any two offices, other than two of the Executive Offices, may be represented by the same person. Any Officer undertaking two Offices will only be entitled to one vote at both General Meetings and Committee Meetings.

Committee

- a) The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Executive Officers, other Officers and the CqE Board of Trustees Member representing the North West Federation.
- b) The Committee may fill casual vacancies until the next Autumn General Meeting.
- c) The Committee shall fix the dates of the General Meetings.
- d) The Committee shall meet as necessary either in person or by electronic means. A simple majority of those voting shall decide any question, and in the case of a tie the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote. Three members shall form a quorum.
- e) Notice of Committee Meetings shall be given to all Committee Members.
- f) If the Chairman is unable to attend a Committee Meeting, those members present at the Committee Meeting shall elect a Chairman for that meeting who shall have an additional casting vote in the event of any tied vote.

Banking

Bank accounts shall be maintained in the name of the Federation.

Amendments to the Constitution

Notices of motions to amend the constitution shall be sent to all member clubs at least 21 days before the meeting at which they are to be put. An amendment to the constitution shall be carried if more than two-thirds of the votes are cast in its favour by those present and entitled to vote.

Dissolution

Notice of motion to dissolve the Federation must be sent to all member clubs at least 21 days before the meeting at which it is to be put. If approved by at least two thirds of those voting upon it, the Federation shall be formally wound up and the assets transferred to Croquet England.

Approved November 2025

Appendix 3 Festival Report from Croquet Gazette