

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS**

Saturday 19th November 2016 at 10.00 am

To be held at Culcheth Sports & Social Club, Charnock Road, Culcheth, WA3 5SH
by kind invitation of Culcheth Croquet Club

ALL ARE WELCOME

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** by the Chairman.
2. **Apologies** for Absence.
3. Confirmation of the **Minutes of the Spring Meeting** held on 5th March 2016.
4. **Matters Arising** from the last meeting.
5. **Reports** on the Past Year from the Officers (please e-mail liz@palnet.co.uk for inclusion in minutes).

A. Chairman	- Garry Wilson
B. Secretary (acting)	- Liz Wilson
C. Treasurer	- Bob Connop (see appendix i)
D. CA Representative	- John Dawson (Peter Wilson retiring to speak first - see Appendix ii)
E. League Manager	- Tony Thomas
F. Coaching Officer	- Elmyr Hughes / David Crawford
G. Development Officer	- James Hawkins
H. NW Festival of Croquet Manager	- James Hawkins
I. Safeguarding Officer	- Jean Hargreaves
J. Pennine Cup Captain	- Garry Wilson
K. Federation Handicapper	- Don Williamson
6. **Adoption of the New Constitution for the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs**
See appendix iii
- 6a. **Amendment to the Constitution if Adopted**
Deletion of Clause 7b
7. **Provision of Meals at NWFCC League matches - proposal from Bowdon Croquet Club**

That, in ALL NWFCC League matches, ALL players shall provide their own food catering during the match and afterwards. The Home team shall provide, free of charge to the away team, beverages of hot coffee and tea, water and biscuits as required by any player from their arrival at the match venue.

Narrative: It has been a long standing arrangement that the provision of a meal shall be made by the home club to the players of the visiting clubs in any NWFCC League matches, with no expense to the latter. This has also stimulated the feeling of togetherness and forged friendships. As first formulated this was for a sit down "Tea" to be provided. Over the years it has morphed so that now Lunch is provided by most, if not all, clubs with the exception of the NWFCC Golf Croquet Level Play League where ALL players bring their own food to the match (usually sandwiches). The provision of food to both teams of 6 to 8 players is not only an onerous duty but is an additional expense for the host club.
8. **Bisques in Short Croquet League – proposal from Don Williamson, Fed Coaching Officer**

Rule 18 – delete "to base 4" and new rule 18 to read "Games shall be played full bisque handicap"

Narrative - Short croquet was introduced to encourage newer players and to enable them to learn to play 4 ball breaks and to experience the end game including pegging out. The handicaps were designed to ensure that majority of games finished with a peg out. As players improved they learned how to peel an opponent through hoop 6 and peg them out, the opponent learned how to play a 3 ball break. The use of base four in the League has destroyed this, it was introduced because 1 or 2 players found the game too easy and did not have their handicaps reduced quickly enough. In league games fewer than 25% have ended with a peg out and in 1 club's internal competition using base 4 only 10% pegged out, however in a club not using a base over 80% pegged out. It seems clear no base means more games finish with a peg out. As Federation handicapper, a CA handicapper and a member of the C.A. Handicap Committee I feel the league should revert to using the original full bisque system which should see the return of better break play and be a better preparation for moving up to full lawn play. To make sure that the system works as it should club handicappers must also ensure that rapid improvers handicaps are adjusted outside the automatic system and that cards are properly completed and kept up to date. Chester have suggested lengthening the time to 90 minutes.

9. **Handicap in GC handicap league matches to be limited to 14 - proposal Jean Hargreaves.**
 League Rules for Handicap Golf Croquet Rule 21 amend 21 (b) to read:-
 (b) No player shall play off a handicap higher than 14. Current (b) to be renumbered (c)
Narrative - I propose the above following discussions with members (with a wide range of handicaps) from various clubs in the Federation following the change in the range of Golf Handicaps this season. The upper limit could be 20! CA guidelines suggest Federations and/or clubs can set lower limits for league games, matches, tournaments. This should be reviewed after one season.
10. **Arrangements (dates and locations) for NW Federation Millennium Competitions**
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|-------------|-------------------------|
| a) Advanced | Offer Fylde – 6-7 May? |
| b) Handicap | |
| c) Short | Offer - Chester |
| d) Hcp Golf | Offer – Bury 10 June? |
| e) Lvl Golf | Offer – Bury 13-14 May? |
11. **Arrangements for NW Festival of Croquet**
12. **Coordination of dates** for any other CA or other tournaments in the NW – clubs should check draft calendar on CA website.
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|------------------|---|
| 8 April | Crake Alternate Shot Doubles AC |
| 14-17 April | Pendle & Craven John Beech Memorial Easter Tournament |
| 22-23 April | Southport Advanced Weekend |
| 29-30 April | Lancashire Open Golf * Subject to confirmation |
| 29 April -1 May | Bowdon May Handicap Weekend |
| 13-14 May | Pendle & Craven B-Level Advanced Weekend |
| 20 May | Pendle & Craven B-Level Golf |
| 20 -21 May | Southport Handicap Weekend |
| 3-4 June | Bowdon Advanced Weekend |
| 4 June | National Croquet Day |
| 10-11 June | Pendle & Craven Advanced Weekend |
| 17-18 June | Pendle and Craven Open Golf |
| 17-18 June | Crake Advanced |
| 24-25 June | Festival |
| 4-7 July | Pendle & Craven Midweek Tournament |
| 8 July | Bury National B Level Golf |
| 7-9 July | Bowdon Northern Week (Advanced and Level) |
| 10-12 July | Bowdon Northern Week (Handicap) |
| 22-23 July | Southport Super B and B-Level Advanced Weekend |
| 29-30 July | Fylde Handicap Weekend |
| 5-6 August | Chester GC Oplus Cross Over Tournament |
| 5-6 August | Bury Handicap Weekend |
| 11-13 August | Pendle Handicap Weekend |
| 19-20 August | Crake Advanced |
| 25-28 August | Bowdon North of England Championship |
| 2 – 3 September | All England Area Final Venue TBC |
| 16 -17 September | Southport Advanced Weekend |
| 16-17 September | Bowdon B-Level Advanced Weekend |
13. **Club Reports and Announcements** (to be taken in alphabetical order).
 Please could all clubs e-mail brief reports liz@palnet.co.uk for inclusion in the minutes.
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i) Bowdon | xi) Keswick |
| ii) Bury | xii) Liverpool |
| iii) Chester | xiii) Llanfairfechan |
| iv) Crake Valley | xiv) Pendle and Craven |
| v) Craig y Don (Llandudno) | xv) Penrith and North Lakes |
| vi) Culcheth | xvi) Salford |
| vii) Ellesmere | xvii) Southport & Birkdale |
| viii) Flixton | xviii) Tattenhall |
| ix) Fylde | xix) Westmorland |
| x) Isle of Man | |

14. **NW Federation Equipment Assets**
Please could all club representatives check the attached list (appendix iv) and report back to the Development Officer.
15. **County Captains** (Colin Irwin for Cheshire and David Openshaw for Lancashire in 2016)
Colin Irwin & Paul Rigge were organisers for respective counties in 2016.
16. **Presentation of Trophies** – Please could all holders of NW Fed League Trophies ensure that they are available for presentation at this AGM.
17. **Election of Officers**
 - i) Chairman; Garry Wilson (2nd Year) - Standing for re-election
 - ii) Secretary; Vacancy – David Walters
 - iii) Treasurer and Independent Examiner; Bob Connop (Treasurer – 4th year) – Standing for re-election
Chris Slater (Independent Examiner)
 - iv) League Manager; Vacancy - Ivan Wheatley
 - v) Coaching Officer; Vacancy – Paul Rigge
 - vi) Development Officer; James Hawkins (1st Year) – standing for re-election
 - vii) Child Protection Officer; Jean Hargreaves (5th year) - Standing for re-election
 - viii) NW Festival of Croquet Manager; James Hawkins - Standing for re-election
 - ix) Pennine Cup Manager; Vacancy
18. **Any Other Business**
19. **Date, time and locations** of next meetings (Spring Meeting on 4th March 2017 at Culcheth, and Autumn AGM on 18th November 2017 at Culcheth - to be agreed at meeting.
20. Close of Meeting

NWFCC

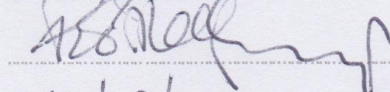
2015-2016 Income & Expenditure Statement

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			<u>£4,828.55</u>
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			<u>£4,828.55</u>

NWFCC Accounts Oct. 2015 - 2016

Certified as Correct



Bob Connop, Hon. Treas.

Membership Changes by Jeff Dawson

Further to my article in the February 2016 (*Gazette 360*), we now have more news as to what will be happening with the planned membership changes for next year.

On-line database

As you may know, we are developing an on-line membership database system to replace the current office-based one.

This will allow for the expanded membership (to include all club members), enable members to maintain their own handicap and contact details, and eventually provide a resource to clubs for managing their own membership data.

Unfortunately, as is often the case with significant software developments, this is running behind schedule, and it is not yet clear how much of this will be available for the 2017 season.

Irrespective of this, we have taken the decision to press ahead with one of the most significant changes next year, which is to allow all members of CA member clubs to play in club and CA tournaments listed in the Fixtures Book.

Membership categories

In view of this change, we are re-structuring our membership categories, as it no longer seems appropriate to refer to 'tournament members' when all club members can play in tournaments.

In addition, we are making several significant changes to the system.

- We are reducing the amount individuals have to pay, to reflect the fact that you are now paying a little more through your club subscriptions.

Paper Gazette & Fixtures Book (or not)?

- We are also for the first time allowing members to 'opt-out' of receiving The Croquet Gazette and Fixtures Book in paper form, and discounting the membership rate for those who choose this option.

For those who do opt out, all the information will be available online on our website and we will send email links when each Gazette or Fixtures Book becomes available.

End of Dual membership

- We are abolishing the dual membership categories. Dual membership was available to people who shared the same address and did not require more than one copy of the Gazette and fixtures book. As each individual will now be able to opt to receive these or not, it is no longer necessary to continue to offer this as a separate discount.

The new membership structure will have the following categories.

All membership prices are given in the notice on page 6.

Premium member

Roughly equivalent to the old Tournament Member category, this category gives members discounted entry into tournaments, worth around £5 per playing day, and will give priority entry where a tournament is over-subscribed. Thus if you play in tournaments for more than three weekends in a year, it should be worthwhile financially to continue as a Premium member, quite aside from the priority entry and the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to support the sport.

Supporter member

Roughly equivalent to the old Non-Tournament membership, this category is a way of supporting the CA, for those who want to contribute to the game they have enjoyed, even though they no longer play in tournaments. A few people may want to take out Supporter membership if they do not belong to a CA member club, in order to obtain Standard membership rights. Membership rights for CA club members will in future be available through Standard membership, so for those people taking out Supporter membership the only remaining benefit will be the discount vouchers you receive for shop purchases.

Standard Member

This category is free to all members of CA member clubs, and will be conferred automatically from a date to be set once the new database is implemented and your club has registered its members, unless you tell your club secretary you wish to opt out. Standard Members will get the Gazette and will have voting rights. Paper copies of the Gazette will be sent out to all such members free for the first year, and those who want to continue getting the Gazette in paper form after the first year of implementation will pay a small subscription for this. As with other membership categories, all the publications will be available on-line for those who are interested, without having to pay anything extra. Everyone who will be eligible to become a Standard member will be able to play in CA tournaments from the beginning of 2017, even if we have not yet been able to implement the rest of the benefits for this category. Full implementation of the Standard membership category will only be possible once work on the new membership

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 the Croquet Association and shall be responsible to that body.

4 Membership

Every croquet club or croquet section of a larger club in the Area of Influence shall be eligible for 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. All member clubs must be affiliated to the Croquet Association.

5 Membership Fees

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

6 General Meetings

- a) The Annual 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 elect the Croquet Association Representative when appropriate and 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 member club shall be entitled to send one representative to the meetings, who together with the Officers and Executive Officers may speak and 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 Annual 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.

7 Officers

a) The Executive Officers of the Federation shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Croquet Association Representative. All posts are held until the next Annual General Meeting, save the Croquet Association Representative whose tenure is defined by the Croquet Association Constitution.

b) Should the Chairman for the time being be re-elected for three consecutive terms, he must retire after his third term and becomes 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. He shall lay before the Annual 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.

8 Committee

a) The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Executive Officers and other Officers.

b) The Committee may fill casual vacancies until the next Annual 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.

9 Banking

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

10 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.

11 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 the Croquet Association.

November 2016

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	5 Mallets, 1 set primary and 1 set secondary balls
Secretary	One projector