

**NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS**  
**Minutes of A.G.M. Held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006**  
at Culcheth Sports and Social Club  
By kind invitation of Culcheth Sports and Social Club

**Committee:**

Chairman:	<b>Barry Keen</b> 01565 632 420	20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA <a href="mailto:barry.keen1@ntlworld.com">barry.keen1@ntlworld.com</a>
Secretary:	<b>Ian Lines</b> 0161 929 5443	8 Oakwood Lane, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 3DL <a href="mailto:Ian.Lines@atkinsglobal.com">Ian.Lines@atkinsglobal.com</a>
Treasurer:	<b>Geoff Young</b> 0161 766 6048	12 Millom Drive, Unsworth, Bury, Lancs., BL9 8NJ <a href="mailto:gandb.young@btopenworld.com">gandb.young@btopenworld.com</a>
Development Officer	<b>Keith Roberts</b> 01704 875529	17 Beechwood Drive, Formby, L37 2DG <a href="mailto:keithandshelda@aol.com">keithandshelda@aol.com</a>
League Manager	<b>John Wilkinson</b> 01928 724 367	33 Ardern Lea, Alvanley, Warrington, Cheshire, WA6 9EQ <a href="mailto:valjohnwilkinson@btinternet.com">valjohnwilkinson@btinternet.com</a>
Coaching Officer:	<b>John Haslam</b> 01704 547875	77 Sandown Court, Albert Road, Southport, PR9 0HF <a href="mailto:bjh77@hotmail.co.uk">bjh77@hotmail.co.uk</a>
CA Representative:	<b>Barry Keen</b> 01565 632 420	20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA <a href="mailto:barry.keen1@ntlworld.com">barry.keen1@ntlworld.com</a>
NW Club Champ.	<b>Keith Roberts</b> 01704 875529	17, Beechwood Drive, Formby, L37 2DG <a href="mailto:keithandshelda@aol.com">keithandshelda@aol.com</a>
Pennine Cup Captain	<b>Paul Rigge</b> 01706 212 280	4 Lyndale Close, Crawshawbooth, Rossendale, BB4 8LT <a href="mailto:paul.rigge@tiscali.co.uk">paul.rigge@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Child Protection Officer.	<b>Barry Keen</b> 01565 632 420	20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA <a href="mailto:barry.keen1@ntlworld.com">barry.keen1@ntlworld.com</a>

**Present:**

John Saxby, John Wilkinson (Bowdon)  
David Barrett, Jean Hargreaves, Geoff and Barbara Young (Bury)  
David Gaylor, Janet Davies, Elwyn Hughes (Chester)  
Dave Nick (Crake Valley)  
Pat Bowler, Jane Connolly, Bob Connop. Alison and Eric Charters (Culcheth)  
James Hawkins (Liverpool)  
Georgina Llewellyn, Jack Pattenden (Llanfairfechan)  
Kathlyn Schofield (Pendle and Craven)  
Bob Burnett, Alan Pidcock, Keith Roberts, Tony Thomas (Southport and Birkdale)

**1. Welcome by the Chairman**

Tony Thomas welcomed everybody to the meeting and explained that subject to the approval of members he had been asked to act as chairman in Barry Keen's absence and John Wilkinson to act as secretary in Ian Lines' absence.

The meeting observed one minute's silence in honour of John Beech after the chairman read a copy of the letter sent to his widow by Barry Keen on behalf of the Federation.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from:

Barry Keen, Ian Lines (Bowdon)  
Paul Rigge (Bury)  
Liz and Peter Wilson (Fylde)  
Richard Bellwood (Isle of Man)  
Roger Schofield (Pendle and Craven)

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

None.

## 5. Reports on the Year from Officers

### A Chairman - Barry Keen

The Federation seems to be very healthy at the moment with significant development activities amongst the existing clubs and of course the probable addition of Liverpool Croquet Club next year.

### B. Secretary - Ian Lines

The Croquet in the North leaflet will be prepared by Ian as in previous years.

### C. Treasurer - Geoff Young

Geoff submitted his report and added that the CA Development Grant of £500 had been approved but had not yet been received and was therefore not included in the accounts.

He recommended that the Affiliation Fee should remain at £20 and requested clubs to pay him after the meeting.

The report was approved.

### D. Development Officer - Keith Roberts

Bowdon

They have just received planning permission for the erection of the new equipment hut – they are hoping to have the new hut erected by the start of next season.

Bury

Heartfelt thanks from Bury to the CA for the £3K grant in September 2005. All of the work has recently been completed regarding the installation of electricity supply. Bury has firm dates from Heaton Park for 2007 and will be holding tournaments – to be included in CA fixtures book. Membership has grown during the last 12 months.

Crake

Now playing with 3 decent lawns with potential for a fourth. Club house now has a proper WC and washroom. Ran two successful tournaments this year and hosted CA vs Scots.

Chester

The council appears to be taking its time over the plans for the new clubhouse, but it still appears to be in hand.

Culcheth

This has been mainly a golf croquet club, but there are signs that short croquet could be taking off.

Fylde

A full report on recent developments supported by the CA was presented (see club reports).

Penrith

The U3A club has moved to a new site where they have two lawns and a modern clubhouse as part of a village owned sports centre. They are a small club but are very keen and only play Association Croquet.

Liverpool

Unremarkable but steady progress. A year of resolving practical problems/teething troubles! Lease was signed in July. Have a regular mowing of 1 court which is/can be used as 2 short as 'club' has 2 sets of hoops courtesy of a NWF/CA grant and a loan from Southport. Storage is a problem. Hoping to be able to commence next season with 15+ members and up to 3 full lawns – although lawn quality leaves a little to be desired.

Llanfairfechan

A grant application for help for a new club house has been submitted to the CA.

Pendle

The club has hosted a large number of tournaments – club, CA and Federation. The only problem is that the club seems to be situated in an oasis where it never stops raining!

Southport

Now has its own (direct) electricity supply. Last autumn's deep scarification caused some problems but this has resulted in benefits overall. Toad rush has been controlled (eventually) and the playing surface ended the season in quite good condition. North lawns still problematic. Drain repairs 2 years ago still not been adequately controlled.

## Coaching

Coaching visits have been made to four clubs as part of the ongoing project of improving the standard of play. A new Grade 1 coach has been appointed. Two new referees have been appointed.

### Expenditure for 2006

New hoops for carpet at Llanfairfechan	£180
Support with removal costs at Fylde	£250
Support with equipment shed – Bowdon	£200
Coaching expenses	<u>£198.75</u>
	£808.75

### Grant for 2007

The federation would like to receive £500 to enable it to continue to provide coaching and support the work of the Federation [This has now been granted by the CA].

## **E. C.A. Representative - Barry Keen**

I have been appointed chairman of the Development Committee and also serve on Laws, Equipment (chaired by Alan Pidcock), Publishing, Major Grants and Management.

The CA is currently reviewing the roles of Association and Golf within its organisation with the aim of ensuring that both games develop successfully under its auspices. Of particular concern is that there are a few examples overseas where Golf croquet has taken over association clubs and have banned the playing of the Association game. There is no sign of this happening in the UK but it is important that both wings of the game recognise that both games can be played alongside each other and support each other. A survey has been made of the ratio of players in clubs and the results show that nationally there is no domination by either game.

As has been shown in 2006, the CA has funds available to assist the development of clubs – so do not be afraid to ask. The CA has a scheme for starting up new clubs where a set of equipment is provided free of charge. Keith Roberts has details.

I would like to remind clubs that the CA has a lawns advisory group (LAG) to help you with any lawns problems or maybe just trying to improve. Peter Taylor at Bowdon is the NW Rep. For major problems, through its membership of the Sports Turf Research Institute, an expert can be provided for a day visit to clubs to advise on overcoming problems. This will cost about £250 but the CA will pay £100 of this.

The CA would like to enlarge the LAG and is considering setting up a one day course with invited lecturers from the Institute for keen groundsmen (i.e. players who want to learn about how to improve their lawns). Three clubs indicated that they would be interested in attending such a one-day course on lawn maintenance.

The meeting agreed that efforts should be made to eliminate adversarial attitudes between Golf and Association Croquet. Alan Pidcock reported that the subject was on the agenda for the next Council Meeting and invited clubs to send any views to him or Barry Keen.

## **F. Coaching Officer - James Hawkins**

The course for coaches which James had hoped to run was not possible because of the non-availability of lawns. He was hoping to hold a two-day course for potential Golf coaches at Southport early in May.

There was a clear demand for a similar course for Association and indications were that about 10 potential coaches would attend. He will arrange a date and venue.

Following James' visit to Chester he was expecting that Mollie McBride would be confirmed as a Golf coach and Janet Davies as an Association coach.

John Saxby indicated a need for coaches of long standing to be re-accredited with appropriate documentation so that their names could be used by clubs seeking accreditation as bone fide sport clubs in order to achieve rate relief and other benefits.

Janet Davies reported that the C.A. Directory list of coaches was woefully out of date.

Alan Pidock and James will take these issues up with the appropriate C.A. Authorities.

Barry Keen will be running a laws course for potential referees at Bowdon on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March.

James announced that he was resigning from the appointment due to other commitments, primarily the Liverpool Club. He informed the meeting that John Haslam was willing to take over from him.

James was thanked warmly for his work in this office.

## **G. Championship Manager - Keith Roberts**

Keith was anxious to inject new life into the Championship, as interest appeared to be waning. He would welcome any ideas or suggestions.

## H. League Manager - John Wilkinson

John had nothing to add to his report which had been circulated.

It was agreed that no action should be taken for the time being if a club was unable to fulfil an away commitment because of reluctance by team members to travel and the existing procedure for dealing with postponements will continue.

It was agreed not to amend the rule concerning the maximum handicap permitted in handicap doubles matches.

It was agreed that those who wished to amend the format of matches to seven games with one doubles and six singles games should submit a firm resolution at the Spring Meeting for discussion and a decision to be made.

## I. Penine Cup Captain - Paul Rigge

Pendle and Craven were happy to host the 2007 match.

Paul was elected to serve as captain for a further year.

### PENNINE CUP REGAINED BY NORTH WEST 7 -2

The annual cross-Pennine challenge cup, contested by a team drawn from the North West against a team from the Croquet North & Yorkshire Federations, took place this year at Pendle & Craven on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August in cold blustery conditions.

With Heaton Park not being available to host this fixture this year for the first time since it came on-stream, selection fell upon the Yorkshire Federation as hosts, over which club to approach. Pendle & Craven happily jumped at the opportunity and it was reported that the lawns showed significant improvement, compared to earlier this season. Both the clubroom facilities and catering were first class (some of the faster players were seen to be strolling, rather than running around, after the four course lunch provided!).

The match format is a contest between two teams of six, balanced on handicap to ideally produce an interesting contest of advanced doubles in the morning, with stronger players partnering & coaching class B or C players round. The afternoon comprises of six single games, three advanced and three handicap, again balanced on ability.

This year's NW team were slightly stronger both on paper and on the day, and for that I apologise, but I had difficulty raising interest in some players this year. My profound thanks are due to those who did compete with a special mention to the 'Haslams'. Without John (and the current Mrs Haslam) stepping in, the fixture would have been cancelled this year.

I hope, since the NW Federation are hosts in 2007, a venue can be selected at this AGM today for mid-August that will maximise our player availability.

The results (NW names first) were:

#### Advanced Doubles

John Haslam & Andrew Winn	beat	Charles Waterfield & Mike Evans +12
James Hawkins & Tony Thomas	lost to	Peter McDermott & Alice Fleck -10
Rob Essler & Barbara Haslam	beat	Phil Errington & John Kennedy +8

#### Advanced Singles

John Haslam (-1/2)	lost to	Charles Waterfield (0) -8
James Hawkins (0)	beat	Peter McDermott (1 1/2) +23
Barbara Haslam	beat	Phil Errington (3) +23

#### Handicap Singles

Rob Essler (2 1/2)	beat	John Kennedy (6) +8
Tony Thomas (8)	beat	Alice Fleck (9) +14
Andrew Winn (8)	beat	Mike Evans (10) +6t

## J. Child Protection Officer - Barry Keen

The CA has appointed a new CPO Pam Mason.

## 6. Millennium Competitions

It was agreed that fees should not be refunded following the abandonment of the Handicap Tournament after one day due to inclement weather as Pendle had already incurred expenditure.

Ian Lines won the A Class and Paul Rigge the B Class.

In 2007 the Handicap Competition will be held at Chester on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> May. The League Manager will avoid programming handicap or short croquet league matches on this weekend.

Clubs were asked to enter 4 players, two of whom would be guaranteed places. The entry fees for these players should be paid on entry and those of the other two on the day if they are awarded places.

The A and B Class competitions will be played at Heaton Park on 31<sup>st</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April.

## 7. Heaton Park - David Barrett

David reported that it continued to be difficult to arrange firm dates for croquet tournaments. However, in addition to the Millennium Advanced Competitions he had been able to negotiate the following fixed dates for 2007:-

14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> April	Lancashire International Golf Tournament
23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> June	Heaton Park Handicap Week-end
22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Heaton Park Advanced Week-end

## 8. Club Reports and Announcements

### Bowdon - John Saxby

John Saxby reported that the experiment of separating the Northerns Week from the Northerns Championship proved to be successful and will be repeated in 2007 with the Week being held in July.

All the other tournaments had been fully subscribed. A B Class tournament will be added to the programme in 2007 being held on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> September.

While the Short League team was their sole team success, individual members had been successful in a number of tournaments.

Funding for the new equipment shed had been put together but there were some logistical problems which had yet to be solved.

The accreditation by the Trafford Council as a bone fide sports club was proving to be a tortuous and frustrating business.

The club now had 93 full playing members but the number of country members was increasing considerably.

There had now been in excess of 50,000 hits on the club's website.

### Bury

We have Lift Off, or should that be LIGHT UP!

Eighteen months after the launch of the Chairman's Appeal, with the help of various grants, and donations from members both financially and in work done by them, we eventually have electricity in our clubhouse. This is despite going one step forward and three back at times! We also have a refurbished kitchen. Work will continue during the winter with the clubhouse refurbishment.

Our club has had a mixed year with regard to successes. We once again fielded seven teams, two of which came second in their respective leagues. Our Advanced team again won at the N.W. Federation Championships and the club came second overall. One member came third in the All England Handicap; a second came fourth in the Grass Roots; a third, in his first full season, won the Heaton Park Handicap Challenge and subsequently had his handicap chopped! Several members entered external competitions with some successes as winners and runners-up. The club got to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round in the Longman Cup (Quarter Final).

We have hosted several competitions at Heaton Park on behalf of the C.A., the Federation and the Club.

Our membership numbers were unchanged with some leavers but others having joined us. Sadly, in July we had our first death in the club's history and in September we lost John Beech, our President and Founder member. They will be missed.

We look forward to the 2007 season and all the pleasures and challenges it brings.

### Chester

Another successful & busy year. We feel that more croquet has been played at Chester this season than ever before.

For the first time we entered the golf & midweek handicap leagues, thus doubling our match commitment, and we played (& won) our annual fixture against Shrewsbury.

Membership is slightly down this year (to 59), after 8 years of steady expansion, for a variety of reasons – members moving away (5), lack of time due to working away or other commitments (11), loss of interest (2), disability (1) and death (1). But we have several keen new players, one of whom has already played in a league match. John Prescott's efforts on behalf of croquet produced 2 new members for us!

We organised 4 external golf croquet events as part of our general publicity & public education programme:

1. A heat of the CA's National Garden Croquet Championships
2. A party for Samaritan weekend volunteers which raised several hundred pounds for Samaritans (this is an annual event).
3. A croquet morning for 12 children from the special needs unit of a local primary school, which resulted in the school using their Sainsbury's sports equipment vouchers to buy 2 garden croquet sets.

4. A session as part of the Council's hospitality programme for the twinned towns which found 34 young sports development officers from towns in France, Italy and Germany having a go.

We are making some (slow) progress with the Council towards a new pavilion.

### **Crake Valley**

We have ¾ lawns at Greenodd. The tennis half of the club is almost defunct with all-weather and indoor courts 5 minutes away at Ulverston. This had had an impact on our membership but I hope we're over the worst and have acquired 8 new members this year resulting in a total of 30-35 members.

We tried to play weekends throughout the season and club days on a Tuesday. We often have 6-8 people playing on club day. We run 3 in-house competitions – the alternate stoke doubles being the most popular.

We run 2 advanced tournaments per year which are well supported by near and far. This year we hosted the English CA v Scottish CA in September.

Crake Valley again won the advanced League and finished mid table in the handicap league.

Our objectives the coming year are to improve the tennis court to the standard of the other 3 lawns, and we are looking at ways of getting the electricity supply to the clubhouse.

### **Culcheth - Margaret Williams**

It is lovely to everyone again and I hope you all had a good season.

We have been very disappointed with the state of our lawn this year, the new part looked like Kojak's head, bald and undernourished. The Groundsman has promised to fix it before next season.

We did very well at Southport again this year and came away with the Trophy for the third year running. We hope to put two teams in next year.

We ran three internal competitions again this year, Golf singles, Golf doubles and Short Croquet.

We have three new members this year bringing our total to fifteen (its quality not quantity that we possess).

We came top of the Golf league this year giving away 511 bisques, an average of 73 per match – not too bad from a small club.

### **Ellesmere**

No report.

### **Fylde - Liz Wilson**

Fylde moved to Blackpool South Shore Tennis Club at the beginning of this season.

As well as the £1,000 CA grant for lawn improvement we were successful in getting a grant of £600 from Sport for All which we put towards the purchase of the pavilion.

Membership donations were over £500 either in cash or sponsorship for various parts of the project and we managed to keep all our members despite a subscription increase from £20 (plus approx £40 to the Council in green fees) to £90.

We have been "given" an area which was, at one time, the "ladies" tennis courts. We unfortunately did not get the "Authority" to move until late in October and it was too late to do any scarifying work on the lawns which had been left wild for many years. We did however have time over the winter to invest time and money on improvements as follows:

- Removal of 6 large Leylandii trees which had fallen on to the courts and taken root.
- Repair of the underlying ground.
- Removal of the concrete base to the tennis court net surround down one side.
- Removal of concrete blocks down the middle of the proposed lawns (old net support foundations).
- Removal of an old concrete/asbestos sectional building.
- Construction of a fence down one side to "define" our area and deter dog walkers etc.
- Purchase and erection of a 10' by 12' wooden shed (aka the Pavilion) laid on the existing concrete base from the sectional building.
- Installation of Electricity to the Pavilion.
- Felling of all the remaining Leylandii trees (approximately 15 - all very very large)

Twice weekly mowing and some care has resulted in vast improvement of the playing surface and we had quite positive comments from the visiting teams. The courts are however quite undulating even though the area was once flat, and they do flood in very heavy rain. We suspect that the drains which were laid underneath in the 1970s have collapsed. We hope to do some improvement work over the winter but do not have the funds for any major work.

The courts were not usable until later in the season - approximately end of May and so we did not have time for a successful recruitment drive. We hope to keep 5 new members from this year's try it sessions and aim for better things

next year. Our stable membership is really enjoying the new environment and club nights are well supported with a shortage of lawn space ensuing. It is becoming quite a sociable place to be.

We do not yet have security of tenure but have a very good relationship with the tennis club who are all happy to see the land being used. We intend to invite them down to a few try it and social evenings next year.

All improvements have been documented (with photos) on our website [www.fyldecroquet.co.uk](http://www.fyldecroquet.co.uk).

### **Keswick**

No report.

### **Isle of Man - Richard Bellwood**

Not much to report from the IOM. Sorry that we didn't make the NW Clubs, will try harder next year.

Our thanks to Don and Diana for coming over for a coaching weekend.

Our full-size lawn is up and running and hoping for a longer season next year (didn't start till mid May); we reckon it could be used for 4 short lawns!!

Hoping to entice some local business's to have corporate evenings next year - might encourage some interest.

We did send 2 contestants to the World Championships and 3 to the Europeans - some good play but not much success as you might imagine.

Kevin Garrad has been appointed Secretary General of the FEC and to the WCF Management Committee.

### **Liverpool**

James Hawkins reported that two lawns were now operational and were being maintained by the Council. However, there was no storage facility so that play could take place only when he could bring equipment from home. He hoped that this problem would be resolved in time for next season when he expects to be able to provide three lawns if required. He had received expressions of interest from a number of potential members both existing players and non-players who wished to learn. He was optimistic that a viable club was a real possibility.

### **Llanfairfechan**

No report.

### **Pendle and Craven**

We have had a very turbulent year, first of all with the prolonged illness and ultimate death of John Beech. As a club we would like to pay tribute to John for all the work and energy he put into our club from its inauguration through to the redevelopment. We would also like to thank everyone who visited him when he was in hospital and at home. Finally we would like to thank all the individuals and clubs who sent condolences on his death and paid their respects at his funeral.

We are on the long road to recovery with the courts. After the contractor dumped an excess of sand on the lawns last September, turning it more into a desert than a croquet court, there has been a lot of work done to improve the grass. I think those of you who came at the beginning of the season thought at best that they were challenging to play on, but if you came recently you will have seen a lot of improvement. Work has been ongoing all season on the courts and is continuing, so next season this should pay dividends.

On a happier note we are delighted to have won the Longman Cup, we reached the semi-finals of the Mary Rose and were knocked out by Colchester, and we won the Handicap League.

For 2007 we have introduced a "B" level Tournament in May and we hope you will give it your support.

The CA has asked us to host the Musk Cup, the Golf Selectors weekend in August 2007.

With all this going on we have had a drop off in membership. We had a recruitment drive in May and Roger ran a coaching course. Unfortunately only one person joined after the course. We had an "invite the neighbours day" and leafleted the houses surrounding the club but this was also unsuccessful. We would be grateful for any development aid or advice.

### **Penrith and North Lakes U3A**

No report.

### **Southport and Birkdale - Tony Thoma**

Southport has had a year of consolidation with a change in recruitment strategy to adjust the membership profile. The clubhouse has had an independent electricity supply installed and is now just waiting for the consumer meter to be fitted. From the lawns perspective, the local council have appointed new Contractors who have produced lots of new ideas and equipment. Although the lawns have received more treatment and better mowing than for many years, for which we are grateful, many of the promises are still awaited. The North Lawns continue to be a problem with the drainage repairs of

three years ago still rendering a large part of the field unplayable - despite many, many, promises of action by the Council.

On the playing side, the club were worthy winners of the NW Fed Club Championship in July, in the process winning the Short and Handicap competitions. Three of our players were selected to play for the English CA in the annual match against the Scotland CA. Two of our members won competitions at other clubs (Bob Burnett at Crake and Terry Foster the West of Scotland Championship). Many of our members played in tournaments outside the Federation at venues such as Budleigh, Nottingham, Cheltenham and Glasgow.

Bowdon have continued their annual capturing of Southport trophies by again winning our three advanced open tournaments. On a lighter note, one of our members became a Turkish Croquet Champion in Kaya, his Certificate stating he won with distinction and without undue disgrace or bloodshed!

## **Westmorland - John Burrows**

### Facilities

The Club plays on what was the bowling green in the grounds of Levens Hall gardens. We have rented the lawn from the owner, Mr H Bagot, for the last 3 years since our move from Kendal Abbot Hall. The Club paid to bring the lawn to a good standard, mostly by loans from members, which we have not yet been able to pay back.

We have 2 half lawns side by side so we can maximise play. Next year we hope to layout a full size lawn again so more members can have experience of the 'true game'.

We are allowed the use of a small shed to store playing equipment, chairs etc. Unfortunately this does not overlook the lawn so the only shelter we can provide on the lawn is a tent like gazebo and then only when someone is present who knows how to put it together!

We own a 28 inch cylinder mower, which is stored with Levens Hall garden equipment. The Club is responsible for mowing and scarifying the lawn. We had a grant towards the purchase of the mower.

### Season

Our season is limited to when Levens Hall is open to the public; that is about mid-April to mid-October.

We play golf and association croquet plus a few other variations involving play in turn.

The playing times are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Sunday to Thursday inclusive. Tuesday and Thursday we may play until 8:30pm. Unfortunately these times limit the opportunities for any members who still have to work for a living. Wednesday afternoon has evolved as our social day, when we get the biggest attendances.

### Membership and Subscriptions

We had 6 new members join this year. At the end of this season the Club had 21 members 2 of whom were non-playing.

Most of our members are retired but we are encouraged that 2 relatively young ones joined towards \* end of the season.

Membership fees are: Single £40; Family £70; Country £20; Visitors £3 per visit.

There is no playing fee. The fees are set to cover our costs and create a small reserve. We have not planned to build up big reserves since it is most unlikely we will be able to make any developments. However we have the loan repayments to consider as mentioned above.

### Coaching

We are fortunate to have a qualified coach in Peter Wardle. Peter has been a great help to all members but particularly with 3 of the new members, who were beginners.

### Committee

The Committee is:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Peter Wardle	<u>Captain:</u>	Graham Whitehouse
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Vivienne Seabrook	<u>Members:</u>	Val Burrows, Bryan Seabrook.
<u>Secretary:</u>	John M Burrows, Apartment 4 High School House, 1 Thorny Hills, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 7AF Tel: 01539 737182. Email: johnburrows@ktdinternet.com		

We are affiliated to the national association.

### Matches and Competitions

The Committee decided to not enter any leagues after 2005. Members were finding the days too long with the travel involved.

We have played a few friendly matches with Crake Valley as they are close by but again there have been problems raising teams.

The Club sends players to compete in the annual Morland Cup at Morland near Penrith. Canon Markham organises this match on his own lawns and prove most enjoyable and competitive. It has been held for decades and was originally preachers versus teachers but for various reasons other professions now take part to make up the numbers.

### Social Events

Our membership is quite scattered so social activities have been limited. Further with a café in the gardens and no suitable Club Hut we feel restricted in what we can do. So since moving to Levens we only have a Christmas Dinner and end of season croquet and tea party in the café.

#### **9. NW Federation Equipment Assets**

Geoff Young reported no change.

#### **10. County Captains**

Alan Pidcock informed the meeting that counties were required to appoint a captain and an organiser who could be the same person.

David Barrett's proposal was amended to read Colin Irwin to be captain and organiser for Cheshire, Alan Pidcock to be organiser for Lancashire and David Openshaw to be captain. This was agreed without dissent. Warm appreciation was expressed for James Hawkins' contribution as captain.

#### **11. Presentation of Trophies**

The Chairman presented trophies to the following:-

Advanced	Crake Valley
Handicap	Pendle and Craven
Short Croquet	Bowdon
Golf Croquet	Culcheth
Midweek	Chester

#### **12. Election of Officers**

The following officers were elected:-

Chairman	Barry Keen
Secretary	Ian Lines
Treasurer	Geoff Young
Development Officer	Keith Roberts
CA Representative	Barry Keen (3 year appointment)
Coaching Officer	John Haslam
League Manager	John Wilkinson
Championship Manager	Keith Roberts

#### **13. Any Other Business**

##### **Croquet North Leaflet**

The secretary asked all club secretaries to send information required for the Croquet North pamphlet to Ian Lines by the end of December.

##### **Secretary's Records**

Club **secretaries** were asked to report to Ian Lines changes to their officers and/or their contact details be sent to him as they arise.

##### **Officers' Length of Service.**

David Barrett recalled that during his time as Chairman it had been agreed that officers should be in post for three years at a time in order that they did not feel tied down and to ensure a flow of fresh ideas. However, he could not remember if this had been formally recorded or left on an informal basis. It was agreed that this procedure had merit but that the appointments made during the meeting should stand. Ian Lines would be asked to check past minutes to see whether such a resolution had been passed and inform the Spring Meeting of the situation when a decision will be taken concerning future policy.

#### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00 am at the Culcheth Sports and Social Club.

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am at the Culcheth Sports and Social Club subject to confirmation

#### **15. Close of Meeting**

The Chairman thanked the Culcheth Sports and Social Club for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 12.15 pm.

**Ian Lines**

**NW Federation Secretary**

**12 December 2006**

## NWFCC LIST OF CLUB SECRETARIES / REPRESENTATIVES / CONTACTS

Names of Club Secretaries listed first in bold, followed by any other NW Federation representatives/contacts.

<b>BOWDON</b>	Sec: <b>John Saxby</b>	2 Southfield, Richmond Road, Bowdon, WA14 2TY <a href="mailto:Saxbyj@aol.com">Saxbyj@aol.com</a>
	NW Fed. Rep. Ian Lines	8 Oakwood Lane, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 3DL <a href="mailto:Ian.Lines@atkinsglobal.com">Ian.Lines@atkinsglobal.com</a>
<b>BURY</b>	Sec: <b>Jean Hargreaves</b>	9 St Paul's Road, Salford, M7 3NY <a href="mailto:jwjh@care4free.net">jwjh@care4free.net</a>
	Chairman/NW Fed. Rep. David Barrett	61 Heywood Hall Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 4UZ <a href="mailto:david@barrettd.fsbusiness.co.uk">david@barrettd.fsbusiness.co.uk</a>
	Paul Rigge	<a href="mailto:paulrigge@croquetnw.co.uk">paulrigge@croquetnw.co.uk</a>
<b>CHESTER</b>	<b>Janet Davies</b> 01244 350 370 Geoff Reynolds	10 Dee Hills Park, Chester, CH3 5AR No e-mail address <a href="mailto:geoffreynolds@croquetnw.co.uk">geoffreynolds@croquetnw.co.uk</a>
<b>CRAKE VALLEY</b>	<b>Joan Clinch</b> 01229 861 343	Brow Head, Spark Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8BT No e-mail address
	Chairman David Nicholson 01229 861040	6, Bankside, Penny Bridge, nr. Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7RH <a href="mailto:dave_nick10@hotmail.com">dave_nick10@hotmail.com</a>
<b>CULCHETH</b>	Sec <b>Bob Connop</b> 01925 765194	12, Burnham Close, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4LJ <a href="mailto:bobconnop@onetel.net.uk">bobconnop@onetel.net.uk</a>
	Chairman/NW Fed. Rep. Margaret Williams 01942 516 904	"Isis", 167B, Wigan Road, Leigh, WN7 5DF <a href="mailto:Margaretw38@aol.com">Margaretw38@aol.com</a>
	David Poole 01925 763 241	11 Clifton Avenue, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4PD <a href="mailto:david-poole@beeb.net">david-poole@beeb.net</a>
<b>ELLESMERE</b>	<b>John Leach</b> 0161 799 6463	10 Woodlea, Walkden Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2BJ No e-mail address
	NW Fed. Rep. Eileen Cowsill	No address
	No telephone Dorothy Oldclough	No e-mail address No address
	No telephone Pat Hague 0161 790 3514	<a href="mailto:Dorothy@oldclough.totalserve.co.uk">Dorothy@oldclough.totalserve.co.uk</a> Brookside, Brereton Drive, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2GW No e-mail address
<b>FYLDE</b>	<b>Liz Wilson</b> 01253 735 266	9 West Beach, Lytham, Lancs., FY8 5QJ <a href="mailto:liz@palnet.co.uk">liz@palnet.co.uk</a>
<b>ISLE OF MAN</b>	<b>Kevin Wells</b> 01624 880551	4 Ballasteen Drive, Kirk Andreas, Isle of Man, IM7 4HQ <a href="mailto:Kevin.wells@manx.net">Kevin.wells@manx.net</a>
	NW Fed. Rep. Richard Bellwood 01624 813 128	7 Auckland Terrace, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 1AF <a href="mailto:RBellwood@ci.collins-stewart.com">RBellwood@ci.collins-stewart.com</a>
	Vice Chairman Kevin Garrad 01624 815 340	c/o French, Jawarra, Lezayre Mount Windsor Mount, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 3HB Kevin.Garrad@tiscali.nl or kevingarrad@compuserve.com
<b>(KESWICK)</b>	<b>Tim Pickles</b> 01768 774135	The Archway, 17 St John Street, Keswick, CA12 5AE <a href="mailto:tim@timpickles.com">tim@timpickles.com</a>
<b>(LANCASTER)</b>	<b>Tony Saville</b> 01524 822 661	1 Croft Avenue, Slyne-with-Hest, Lancaster, LA2 6JJ <a href="mailto:tonysaville69@hotmail.com">tonysaville69@hotmail.com</a>
	Hugh McKinney 01524 852 293	17 Heysham Ave., Morecambe & Heysham, Lancs., LA3 2DH No e-mail address
<b>LLANFAIRFECHAN</b>	<b>Georgina Llewellyn</b> 01248 680 8611 Anwen Lloyd Williams 01248 680 738	111 Gorwell, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, LL3 0DR <a href="mailto:gmllewellyn@icnorthwales.co.uk">gmllewellyn@icnorthwales.co.uk</a> No address <a href="mailto:anwenlloyd.williams@lineone.net">anwenlloyd.williams@lineone.net</a>
<b>PENDLE &amp; CRAVEN</b>	<b>Abdul Ahmad</b> 01282 601770	35 Church Street, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 6EB <a href="mailto:pendleandcravenc@yahoo.co.uk">pendleandcravenc@yahoo.co.uk</a>
	Roger Schofield 01282 814571	46 Willow Bank, Manchester Rd, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs., BB18 5AR <a href="mailto:rog.kath@virgin.net">rog.kath@virgin.net</a>
	Chairman Geoff Whittaker 01282 865565	43, Alma Avenue, Foulridge, Colne No e-mail address
<b>PENRITH &amp; N. LAKES U3A</b>	<b>Mrs E. M. Hare</b> 017683 51473	Castle Park, Boroughgate, Appleby-in-Westmorland, CA16 6XH No e-mail address
	Chairman/Treasurer Mrs C. Slater 01768 8675811	The Beeches, Brougham, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2DF No e-mail address
<b>SOUTHPORT</b>	NW Fed. Rep. <b>Tony Thomas</b> 01704 538 885	20 Talbot Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1HP <a href="mailto:tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk">tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk</a>
	Anne Belcher 01704 214 261	12 Merepark Drive, Southport, Merseyside, PR9 9FB <a href="mailto:anne.belcher1@btinternet.com">anne.belcher1@btinternet.com</a>
	Pres. Alan Pidcock 01772 743859	The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0SX <a href="mailto:pidcock@manorh.u-net.com">pidcock@manorh.u-net.com</a>
<b>WESTMORLAND</b>	<b>Austin Brown</b> 01539 720 009 Graham Whitehouse	Gynn Cottage, New Hutton, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 0AR <a href="mailto:secretary@westmorlandcroquet.co.uk">secretary@westmorlandcroquet.co.uk</a> (fails) <a href="mailto:grahamwhitehouse@croquetnw.co.uk">grahamwhitehouse@croquetnw.co.uk</a>
<b>Web Site</b>	<b>Tony Thomas</b> 01704 538 885	20 Talbot Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1HP <a href="mailto:tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk">tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk</a>