

NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE 2010 SPRING MEETING

The Meeting was held on Saturday 6 March 2010 at 10.00 am at Culcheth Sports & Social Club, Charnock Road, Culcheth, WA3 5SH.

The Meeting was attended by 28 people representing:

Bowdon:	Ken Cooper; Christine Irwin; Colin Irwin; Ian Lines; John Saxby; David Walters;
Bury:	David Barrett; Jean Hargreaves; Paul Rigge; Barbara Young; Geoff Young;
Chester:	Janet Davies;
Culcheth:	Pat Barlow; Alison Charters; Eric Charters; Anne Connop; Bob Connop; Alan Wright;
Fylde:	Betty Bates; Lee Hartley;
Llanfairfechan:	Georgina Llewellyn;
Pendle & Craven:	Kathryn Schofield; Roger Schofield;
Southport:	Melanie Foster; Terry Foster; Tony Thomas;
Westmorland:	John Shakespeare; Ivan Wheatley.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Barry Keen (Bowdon); Liz Wilson (Fylde); Peter Wilson (Fylde); James Hawkins (Liverpool); Jack Pattenden (Llanfairfechan); Howard Bowron (Penrith and North Lakes); Robin Delves (Pendle & Craven).

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM – 7 November 2009

The minutes of the AGM were approved nem con.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from the Officers

A. Chairman - David Barrett

David noted that the NW Federation Committee had met on 31 January 2010.

B. Secretary - Ian Lines

The 'Croquet in the North' leaflet has been drafted (and is distributed with these minutes). In view of the excellent websites now available, it is probably no longer worth producing hundreds of printed copies, but it will be made available for download as a pdf on the NW Fed website. Clubs are encouraged to post a copy on club noticeboards.

C. Treasurer - Peter Wilson

David Barrett reported that Peter Wilson had indicated that the Federation currently has about £2,900.

D. Development Officer - Janet Davies

1. Clubs may find the following guidelines to CA Development grants useful.

Basic Guide to CA Development grants for Clubs

- Grants will only be given for genuine development (i.e. enhancement of facilities/equipment).
- Maximum grant is £5000 (and only for projects greater than £10,000).
- Maximum grant is 50% of total project cost.
- Grants of over £250/£300 will only be considered at the two annual Development Committee meetings (mid November and mid February).

- Small grants of £250/£300 can be considered at other times in an emergency (the Committee will confer via email) but all other considerations still apply.
- Applications for grants must be submitted to the Federation Development officer on the correct CA application forms at least 3 weeks before the relevant Development Committee meeting.
- If you are applying for a grant to improve your lawns the Federation Lawns expert (Barry Keen) must be consulted and be given plenty of time to inspect the site before the application is made.

In all cases please contact the Federation Officer well in advance to discuss your plans.

2. Janet also reported that Chester had received a letter from Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) – a new unitary authority – who had commissioned an ‘Open Space Audit of Need’ with a detailed questionnaire for the club to complete. David Barrett and Janet Davies have done this, and Janet Davies and David Guyton have been invited to attend a meeting with CWAC on 18th March 2010. It appears that CWAC have also commissioned a survey of the public to help determine needs in the Chester area, and several Chester members have received questionnaires. Please could any clubs or individuals who are contacted in respect of this needs audit, or any similar studies elsewhere, contact Janet Davies.

E. League Manager - Tony Thomas

The 2010 NWFCC League Fixture list has now been published. Thank you to all team captains for consulting with each other to convert my provisional listing issued in January to the final listing. All captains have been emailed the final fixture list, league rules and appropriate scoresheets. All this information can also be downloaded from the website (www.croquetnw.co.uk). I also have a Summary sheet for club noticeboards for distribution at the meeting, and it is included with these minutes.

The fixture list of 149 matches is made up of 7 teams in the Advanced League, 9 in the Golf, 9 in the Handicap, 8 in the Midweek and 8 in the Short League. We welcome two extra teams this year – Bowdon in the Golf League and Crake Westmorland in the Midweek.

I would be grateful if team captains will keep me updated with any further changes and results of matches. I can be contacted by text, email or phone and will update the website as soon as possible. I will also send information about Advanced matches to Chris Williams for incorporation in the national rankings database.

The website is currently undergoing significant redesigning and it is hoped to replace the present site in the next week, this will be quickly followed with a contract to Easily.com for future hosting of the site.

Have a good season.

F. Coaching Officer - Ken Cooper

1. Flying Circus

There have been four requests for the Flying Circus to run courses at the beginning of this year:

- Monday 26th April: Golf Croquet course at Pendle (coaching for players at any level)
- Saturday 15th May: Gold course at Pendle (advanced coaching for experienced players with handicaps 0-4)
- Sunday 16th May: Silver-Gilt course at Bowdon (for experienced players with handicaps 4-8)
- Sunday 23rd May: Bronze course at Chester (for players with handicaps 14-20)

Details of these courses are advertised on the NW website so now is the time to get your club members to get themselves booked on an appropriate course.

A number of coaches have kindly volunteered their services to help me run them.

2. Coaches Advancement

We not only run these courses for players at our clubs to improve, but we also use them to advance our existing coaches’ skills and, hopefully, advance their grading.

One of our Grade 1 coaches is to be assessed for his Grade 2 badge.

Our preparation programme will need to be reviewed for any aspiring Grade 1 coaches who need to be trained in the future.

G. CA Representative - Geoff Young

The CA is considering the implications of cheques becoming obsolete at some future date – clubs will also need to consider this for tournament entries. It seems likely that web based systems will become more prevalent.

H. NW Club Championship Manager - Terry Foster

It is planned to use a similar format to last year. An entry form for clubs, which also describes the format, is included with these minutes – please could clubs complete and return the form to Melanie Foster as soon as possible.

The closing date for entries is 14th June but early return is preferable.

I. Pennine Cup - Paul Rigge

The Pennine Cup will be held on 18 July at Pendle & Craven. The format requires 3 Advanced and 3 Handicap players. Anyone interested in playing should contact Paul asap. It was noted that the cup itself is currently at Pendle.

J. Child Protection Officer - Barry Keen

Jean Hargreaves (the CA National Child Protection Officer) reported that there would shortly be a new policy on the CA website, as well as code of practice guidelines and a reporting form. Jean emphasised the importance of keeping original hand written reports even if electronic versions are subsequently produced. The new Vetting and Barring Scheme is planned to start in June, so there may be more changes. Jean explained that it was important to get parental permission (form downloadable from WCF website). If a group of children or vulnerable adults visit a club regularly (e.g. weekly for 4 weeks) or intensively then every member dealing with that group will need to be vetted (volunteers will not have to pay for this).

There was a suggestion at the meeting that Jean Hargreaves could perhaps take over from Barry Keen as the Federation Child Protection Officer. This has been considered after the meeting, and it was concluded that it was probably best if the two roles were kept separate, and that Barry's general experience could be invaluable and so he should remain on our Committee. No doubt if Barry or Jean become aware of any specific issues that need debate, then Jean could be invited to attend that particular meeting rather than having her 'on call' for every Committee Meeting.

5. Millennium Competitions

The Millennium Competitions have been arranged as follows:

Advanced	Heaton Park	24-25 April	There are still two vacancies – contact Paul Rigge.
Golf	Heaton Park	8 May	Only 2 or 3 entries so far.
Handicap	Chester	15-16 May	Allocation date is 10 th April. Contact Janet Davies.
Short	Southport	12 June	Only 4 entries so far. Contact Melanie Foster.

It was noted that the entry fee for the Advanced and Handicap events is £15.

6. NW Federation v Australia Match at Southport (2-3 August 2010)

This event has been arranged as a warm up match for Australia before the Mac.

The NW Federation team is:

Ian Lines (Captain)
David Walters
David Nicholson
Ken Cooper
Lee Hartley
Bob Burnett

Precise details have yet to be finalised with Steve Jones and the Australian team.

7. MacRobertson Shield at Bowdon and Heaton Park (6-10 August 2010)

Christine Irwin was congratulated on being made the overall Manager for this event.

Colin Irwin gave a brief history of the Shield (which Colin had brought to show the meeting), described the format and expressed the hope that as many people as possible would take this rare opportunity to come and watch. Clubs in the NW should try to organise group visits to Bowdon and/or Heaton Park. There will be catering for spectators at all venues.

The official opening ceremony will be at the Orangery in Heaton Park on 5th August 2010.

The official website for the event has recently gone live at www.MacRobertsonShield2010.org

See also a page on the Manchester City Council website:

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/5347/croquet_hits_the_sporting_spotlight_at_heaton_park

8. NW Federation Equipment Assets

The current inventory is as follows:

- Penrith 1 set of Townsend Hoops (2007)
 - Penrith 1 set used Barlows bought from JB (2007)
 - Penrith 4 mallets and 1 centre peg bought from JB (2007)
 - Fylde 3 mallets purchased in 2004 (John Hobbs Mallets - two 36", one 34", all 3 lb weight)
 - Liverpool 3 sets of hoops (2007 cast iron Jacques hoops with thick uprights)
 - Liverpool ? sets of balls and ? mallets (2007).
 - Llanfairfechan 3 sets of secondaries and 1 set of primaries (all old Birkdales)
 - Llanfairfechan CA indoor carpet (note that CA requires this to be insured).
Jack Pattenden reports (February 2010) that the mat with hoops and equipment is safely stored with Llandudno Junction Leisure Centre and continues to be included within the Llanfairfechan club's insurance policy. Whilst the mat has been properly maintained, it has seen something like ten years service, and is showing signs of wear round the edges. It is probably showing at zero in the CA's capital reserves. The CA may be considering a replacement (Geoff Young and Janet Davies to consider).
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- Bowdon has loaned 5 mallets refurbished by Colin Irwin to Chester (a long term loan in 2007).
 - Southport has loaned some equipment to Liverpool (2007).

Please could clubs inform Ian Lines of any errors or omissions.

9. Club Reports and Announcements

i) Bowdon - John Saxby

The winter programme has been washed out by rain, and the club is currently dealing with an outbreak of fusarium. The high bank now has steps and a gravelled area for spectators (ready for the Mac). The club has purchased a new mower for £5k, partially funded by selling an old mower and a grant from Manchester Airport. A sub-committee is currently looking at options for redevelopment of the clubhouse. The club will be holding a one day taster for the public on 25 April, and the 6 week beginner course will start on 4th May. There are 3 places left in the May Handicap weekend – contact Ian Lines.

ii) Bury - Barbara Young

Bury's Coronation Park lawns are unfortunately still on their winter vacation and we do not yet know when the work will be completed. The turf however still looks in good condition so we are keeping our fingers crossed for some dry weather soon. This means of course that we have not yet been able to plan our usual Fun Days but we are still hoping to be able to run them and we will let all clubs know as soon as we have fixed the dates.

Meanwhile we are expecting to play at Heaton Park and are hoping to keep on good enough terms with the bowlers that we can have two lawns for club sessions at least most of the time, also that we can play home matches there early in the season.

The tournaments at Heaton Park still have spaces available and more entries would be welcome viz:

Lancashire Open Golf	10/11 April
Millennium Advanced	24/25 April
Millennium Golf	8 May
Heaton Park Advanced	3/4 July
Heaton Park Handicap	8 September

iii) Chester - Janet Davies

CWAC got a report from the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), and following its recommendations the lawns should in future be cut more often (3 times each week). It is therefore hoped that the lawns will improve.

iv) Crake Valley

No report received.

v) Culcheth - Alan Wright

We are looking forward to another enjoyable year though we have learnt that because of financial problems Culcheth Sports Club would not be funding the cost of top dressing our lawn as they have done previously. Fortunately our policy of organising social and fund raising events has meant that we have sufficient funds to be able to pay for that to be done, albeit in Spring, rather than last autumn.

Funds raised over the last few years have also paid for an awning, which we hope will protect our players from the sun rather than the rain. This will be put up ready for the start of our season in April.

Over the winter months we held a Quiz which was very successful and we are fortunate that we have members who are prepared to work hard, selling tickets and organising such events. We hope to attract new members from these events.

Bury were welcome guests at our annual dinner and some members attended Fylde's annual dinner.

During the winter we play on our indoor mat and several of our members also meet together during the winter to play cards and indoor games.

As we are blessed with several qualified coaches the committee has decided to run regular short coaching sessions on club days in the forthcoming season to help the skills and technique of members. Hopefully this will be popular and profitable in terms of increased ability.

We shall be holding our usual club competitions and once again will be urging members to play their games earlier in the season rather than leaving everything until September.

vi) Ellesmere

No report received.

vii) Fylde - Lee Hartley

The construction of a drainage ditch (trench warfare) appears to have helped solve the drainage issues.

vii) Isle of Man

No report received.

viii) (Keswick)

No report received.

ix) Liverpool - James Hawkins

No report received, though new address for club noted.

x) Llanfairfechan - Jack Pattenden

We have kept together with a successful Presentation lunch in November, Christmas party in early December followed by an informal lunch a week before the holiday and then in January a Charity Beetle Drive for the benefit of a local care hospice.

Since the New Year indoor croquet has been enjoyed by about 20 members at the Llandudno Junction Leisure centre which will continue till we start on the lawns weather permitting on 27th March. A big bonus is that the mat is cared for, laid down and taken up by the staff at the centre - Georgina will vouch for the added pleasure this gives!!

At our recent AGM John Hunt was appointed President for a three year term. I am sure many members here today will remember John well. Also we welcome Glyn Jones on to committee to replace retiree Malltwn Williams.

May I wish all members a very happy new season.

xi) Pendle and Craven - Roger Schofield

Nothing to report.

xii) Penrith and North Lakes - Howard Bowron

No report received.

xiii) Southport - Melanie Foster

A new innovation – ‘Super Sunday’ – has proved very successful over the winter, attracting 15 to 25 members each Sunday. The club provides lunch of soup and a roll for £1. Work is starting on the equipment shed. There are a few spaces left in the April Advanced weekend – 17-18 April – Contact Melanie Foster.

xiv) Westmorland - Ivan Wheatley

The floods have now subsided and we again have access to our lawns. They are drying out well and we hope to have them in shape for the start of the season in April.

As reported at the November AGM we have entered a team in the mid-week croquet league and are looking forward to our first game against Bury in May.

To help build the competitive spirit within the club we are introducing one-day in-house golf and short croquet tournaments alongside a two-day association golf tournament. At this stage these tournaments will be restricted to club members only but could be opened up in future years.

Finally, we have carried out an audit of our equipment and have identified that an upgrade in our balls and an additional two sets of hoops are needed to support our plans for the year. Any assistance available to either enable us to purchase or to borrow suitable equipment would be appreciated. Bowdon may be able to assist in this respect – Colin Irwin will liaise with Janet Davies and Ivan Wheatley.

10. Any Other Business

- (i) Jean Hargreaves drew attention to the Grass Roots and Centre Stage National Tournaments for Golf Croquet, which do not seem to be widely understood. Some explanatory notes on these events are included with these minutes.

11. Date, time and locations of next meetings

Autumn 2010 Meeting 6 November 2010 at Culcheth
Spring 2011 Meeting 12 March 2011 at Culcheth

The spring meeting has been pushed back a week to avoid clashing with CA meetings.

12. Close of Meeting

David Barrett thanked Culcheth Croquet Club for hosting the meeting and closed the 2010 Spring Meeting at 11:42am.

FEDERATION OF NORTH-WESTERN CROQUET CLUBS

COMMITTEE 2010

Chairman:	David Barrett 01706 368214	61 Heywood Hall Road, Heywood, Lancs., OL10 4UZ davidbarrett.db@tiscali.co.uk
Secretary:	Ian Lines 0161 929 5443	8 Oakwood Lane, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 3DL Ian.Lines@atkinglobal.com
Treasurer:	Peter Wilson 01253 735 266	9 West Beach, Lytham St Annes, Lancs, FY8 5QJ peter@palnet.co.uk
Development Officer:	Janet Davies 01244 350 370	10 Dee Hills Park, Chester, CH3 5AR janetjdavies@aol.com
League Manager:	Tony Thomas 07841 538 676	20 Talbot Street, Southport, PR8 1HP tonythomasuk@btinternet.com
Coaching Officer:	Ken Cooper 01625 420 615	32 Hightree Drive, Henbury, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9PD kenco99@btinternet.com
CA Representative:	Geoff Young 0161 766 6048	12 Millom Drive, Bury, BL9 8NJ gandb.young@btopenworld.com
NW Club Champ.:	Terry Foster 01704 512324	29 Portland street, Southport, PR8 1HU terry.foster@fsmail.net
Pennine Cup Captain:	Paul Rigge 01706 212 280	4 Lyndale Close, Crawshawbooth, Rossendale, BB4 8LT paul.rigge@tiscali.co.uk
Child Protection Officer:	Barry Keen 01565 632 420	20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA barry.keen1@ntlworld.com

NWFCC LIST OF CLUB SECRETARIES / REPRESENTATIVES / CONTACTS

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

BOWDON	Secretary	John Saxby 0161 928 4692	2 Southfield, Richmond Road, Bowdon, WA14 2TY Saxbyj@aol.com
	NW Fed. Rep.	Ian Lines 0161 929 5443	8 Oakwood Lane, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 3DL Ian.Lines@atkingglobal.com
BURY	Secretary	Maureen Whittle 01204 885850	112 Moorside Road, Tottington, Bury, BL8 3HR maureenwhittle12@yahoo.co.uk
	NW Fed. Rep.	David Barrett 01706 368 214	61 Heywood Hall Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 4UZ davidbarrett.db@tiscali.co.uk
		Paul Rigge paulrigge@croquetnw.co.uk	
CHESTER	Secretary	Janet Davies 01244 350 370	10 Dee Hills Park, Chester, CH3 5AR janetdavies@aol.com
	Chairman	David Guyton 01244 675 978	Springfield, 22 Lache Lane, Chester, CH4 7LR DFGuyton@compuserve.com
CRAKE VALLEY	Secretary	Joan Clinch 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 davenick26tp@hotmail.co.uk
CULCHETH	Secretary	Doreen Groom 01925 733893	5 Thorlby Road, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4JU dgroom2@googlemail.com
	Chairman	Alan Wright 01925 765 945	No address alanwright16@googlemail.com
		Bob Connop 01925 765194	12, Burnham Close, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4LJ bobconnop@talktalk.net
ELLESMERE		John Leach 0161 799 6463	10 Woodlea, Walkden Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2BJ No e-mail address
FYLDE	Secretary	Betty Bates 01273 722742	11 Parkside Road, Lytham St Annes, FY8 3SZ marshall_betty@hotmail.com
	NW Fed. Rep.	Liz Wilson 01253 735 266	9 West Beach, Lytham, Lancs., FY8 5QJ liz@palnet.co.uk
	Chairman	George Warcup 01253 735 150	No address No e-mail address
ISLE OF MAN		Kevin Wells 01624 880551	4 Ballasteen Drive, Kirk Andreas, Isle of Man, IM7 4HQ Kevin.wells@manx.net
	NW Fed. Rep.	Richard Bellwood 01624 813 128	7 Auckland Terrace, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 1AF RBellwood@ci.collins-stewart.com
	Vice Chairman	Kevin Garrad 01624 815 340	c/o French, Jawarra, Lezayre Mount Windsor Mount, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 3HB kevin.garrad@clericalmedical.com
(KESWICK)	Chairman	Tim Pickles 01768 774135	The Archway, 17 St John Street, Keswick, CA12 5AE tim@timpickles.com
(LIVERPOOL)		James Hawkins 0151 722 4207	17 Dudlow Drive, Liverpool, L18 2HB james@liverpoolcroquet.co.uk
LLANFAIRFECHAN	Secretary	Georgina Llewellyn 01248 680 861	111 Gorwell, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, LL3 0DR gmllewellyn@gmail.com
	President	Jack Pattenden 01745 582 098	No address jack@pattenden9636.freeserve.co.uk
	Vice Chairman	Anwen Lloyd Williams 01248 680 738	No address anwenlloyd.williams@lineone.net
PENDLE & CRAVEN	Secretary	Geoff Whittaker 01282 865565	43, Alma Avenue, Foulridge, Colne No e-mail address
	Chairman	Robin Delves 01535 642 565	Ashdene, Yake Lane, Oxenhope, Keishley, W. Yorks, BD22 9HL christine.delves@virgin.net
		Roger Schofield 01282 814571	46 Willow Bank, Manchester Rd, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs., BB18 5AR rog.kath@virgin.net
PENRITH & NORTH LAKES		Howard Bowron 017683 62353	Oak Tree House, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1TA howard.bowron@btinternet.com
	Treasurer	Mrs C. Bretherton 01768 867 5811	The Beeches, Brougham, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2DF No e-mail address
SOUTHPORT	Secretary	Tony Thomas 01704 538 885	20 Talbot Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1HP tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk
	NW Fed. Rep.	Melanie Foster 01704 512324	29 Portland Street, Southport, PR8 1HU reikileo@fsmail.net
	Chairman	Terry Foster 01704 512324	29 Portland Street, Southport, PR8 1HU terry.foster@fsmail.net
	President	Alan Pidcock 01772 743859	The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0SX pidcock@manorh.plus.com
WESTMORLAND	Secretary	Nancy Gregory 01539 563806	The Delves, The Princes Way, Heversham, LA7 7EE nancy.gregory2003@yahoo.co.uk
	Chairman	Ivan Wheatley 01524 824796	8 Hest Bank Lane, Hest Bank, Lancaster, LA2 6DG. iwheatley@yahoo.co.uk
	President	Peter Wardle 01229 885 105	Fairfield, Lake Bank, Water Yeat, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8DL. No e-mail address
Web Site		Tony Thomas 07841 538 676	20 Talbot Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1HP tonythomas@croquetnw.co.uk

NWFCC LEAGUE FIXTURES 2010

ADVANCE LEAGUE 2010	GOLF LEAGUE 2010	HANDICAP LEAGUE 2010	MIDWEEK LEAGUE 2010	SHORT LEAGUE 2010
Sat 10 Apr Southport v Fylde	Sat 01 May Pendle & Craven v Llanfairfechan	Sun 18 Apr Bowdon Saints v Bowdon Firs	Wed 05 May Bury v Westmorland Crake	Sat 17 Apr Pendle & Craven v Fylde
Sun 11 Apr Bowdon Saints v Bowdon Canons	Sat 15 May Southport v Bowdon	Sat 24 Apr Crake Westmorland v Bury Peelers	Thu 06 May Pendle & Craven v	Sat 24 Apr Birkdale v Southport
Sat 01 May Crake Valley v Pendle & Craven	Sat 22 May Bury South v Bury North	Sun 25 Apr Bury Caesars v Fylde	Mon 10 May Bowdon Earls v Bowdon Griffins	Sun 25 Apr Chester v Bowdon
Sat 08 May Fylde v Pendle & Craven	Sat 22 May Llanfairfechan v Chester	Sun 09 May Bowdon Firs v Fylde	Tue 18 May Bowdon Earls v Southport	Sun 16 May Southport v Fylde
Sun 09 May Bury v Bowdon Saints	Sun 23 May Southport v Fylde	Sun 23 May Fylde v Crake Westmorland	Wed 19 May Fylde v Westmorland Crake	Sat 22 May Fylde v Bury
Sat 15 May Crake Valley v Bowdon Canons	Sat 05 Jun Bury South v Pendle & Craven	Sat 29 May Fylde v Chester	Thu 20 May Bowdon Griffins v Bury	Sun 23 May Bowdon v Pendle & Craven
Sat 29 May Pendle & Craven v Bowdon Canons	Sun 06 Jun Chester v Southport	Sun 30 May Bowdon Firs v Crake Westmorland	Wed 02 Jun Fylde v Pendle & Craven	Sun 30 May Llanfairfechan v Chester
Sun 13 Jun Southport v Bowdon Saints	Thu 10 Jun Bowdon v Pendle & Craven	Sun 30 May Bury Caesars v Southport	Tue 08 Jun Westmorland Crake v Pendle & Craven	Sat 05 Jun Pendle & Craven v Llanfairfechan
Sat 10 Jul Crake Valley v Bury	Sat 12 Jun Fylde v Bury South	Sun 06 Jun Bury Peelers v Bury Caesars	Wed 09 Jun Bury v Chester	Sat 05 Jun Southport v Chester
Sat 10 Jul Pendle & Craven v Southport	Sat 12 Jun Pendle & Craven v Bury North	Sun 06 Jun Crake Westmorland v Bowdon St. Mary's	Wed 16 Jun Southport v Fylde	Sun 06 Jun Birkdale v Bowdon
Sun 11 Jul Bowdon Canons v Fylde	Sun 13 Jun Chester v Culcheth	Sat 12 Jun Pendle & Craven v Fylde	Thu 24 Jun Southport v Bowdon Griffins	Sat 19 Jun Llanfairfechan v Fylde
Sun 18 Jul Southport v Crake Valley	Sat 19 Jun Bury North v Bowdon	Sat 12 Jun Southport v Bowdon St. Mary's	Fri 02 Jul Bury v Bowdon Earls	Sat 03 Jul Chester v Birkdale
Sat 31 Jul Fylde v Bowdon Saints	Sat 19 Jun Culcheth v Pendle & Craven	Sun 13 Jun Bowdon Firs v Bury Caesars	Wed 14 Jul Bury v Pendle & Craven (to be played at Pendle)	Sun 04 Jul Llanfairfechan v Bowdon
Sat 31 Jul Pendle & Craven v Bury	Sun 20 Jun Southport v Llanfairfechan	Sat 19 Jun Southport v Crake Westmorland	Wed 14 Jul Chester v Westmorland Crake	Sat 10 Jul Bury v Pendle & Craven
Sun 01 Aug Fylde v Crake Valley	Sat 03 Jul Bury North v Fylde	Sun 20 Jun Bowdon St. Mary's v Bury Caesars	Thu 15 Jul Bowdon Griffins v Fylde	Sat 10 Jul Fylde v Bowdon
Sat 28 Aug Bury v Southport	Sat 03 Jul Culcheth v Bowdon	Sun 20 Jun Chester v Bowdon Firs	Thu 22 Jul Chester v Southport	Sat 10 Jul Southport v Llanfairfechan
Sun 05 Sep Bowdon Canons v Bury	Wed 14 Jul Fylde v Culcheth	Sat 03 Jul Pendle & Craven v Bury Caesars	Tue 27 Jul Bowdon Earls v Pendle & Craven	Sat 17 Jul Bury v Llanfairfechan
Sat 11 Sep Bowdon Saints v Pendle & Craven	Sat 17 Jul Chester v Pendle & Craven	Sun 04 Jul Bowdon St. Mary's v Chester	Thu 29 Jul Westmorland Crake v Southport	Sat 24 Jul Pendle & Craven v Birkdale
Sun 03 Oct Bowdon Saints v Crake Valley	Sat 17 Jul Culcheth v Southport	Sun 11 Jul Bury Peelers v Southport	Tue 17 Aug Pendle & Craven v Bowdon Griffins	Sun 25 Jul Bowdon v Southport
Sun 03 Oct Bury v Fylde	Sat 24 Jul Llanfairfechan v Bury South	Sat 17 Jul Fylde v Southport	Tue 17 Aug Westmorland Crake v Bowdon Earls	Sun 25 Jul Chester v Bury
Sun 10 Oct Bowdon Canons v Southport	Thu 29 Jul Bowdon v Chester	Sat 17 Jul Pendle & Craven v Bowdon Firs	Wed 18 Aug Southport v Bury	Sat 07 Aug Chester v Pendle & Craven
JAMBOREE WEEKEND A Croquet weekend not to be missed Sat 26 Jun and Sun 27 Jun At Southport	Sat 31 Jul Bury North v Llanfairfechan	Sun 18 Jul Bury Caesars v Chester	Thu 19 Aug Chester v Fylde	Sun 08 Aug Bury v Southport
	Sun 01 Aug Bury South v Chester	Sat 24 Jul Crake Westmorland v Pendle & Craven	Thu 02 Sep Chester v Bowdon Earls	Wed 11 Aug Birkdale v Fylde
	Thu 05 Aug Pendle & Craven v Fylde	Sun 01 Aug Chester v Bury Caesars	Wed 08 Sep Bowdon Griffins v Chester	Sun 15 Aug Birkdale v Llanfairfechan
	Sun 08 Aug Southport v Bury North	Sun 01 Aug Southport v Bowdon Firs	Wed 08 Sep Fylde v Bury	Sun 22 Aug Fylde v Chester
	Sat 14 Aug Llanfairfechan v Bowdon	Sat 07 Aug Pendle & Craven v Bowdon St. Mary's	Tue 14 Sep Fylde v Bowdon Earls	Sun 05 Sep Bury v Birkdale
	Thu 19 Aug Bowdon v Fylde	Sat 14 Aug Southport v Pendle & Craven	Wed 15 Sep Pendle & Craven v Southport	Sat 18 Sep Pendle & Craven v Southport
	Sat 21 Aug Bury North v Culcheth	Sun 15 Aug Bowdon Firs v Bury Caesars	Thu 23 Sep Bowdon Griffins v Westmorland Crake	Sun 19 Sep Bowdon v Bury
	Sat 21 Aug Fylde v Chester	Sat 21 Aug Chester v Pendle & Craven	20 th World Series MacRobertson Shield 2010 1st Round Matches Friday 6 to Tuesday 10 August GB v USA at Bowdon & Australia v New Zealand at Heaton Park	
	Sat 21 Aug Pendle & Craven v Southport	Sun 22 Aug Bowdon St. Mary's v Bury Caesars		
	Sat 28 Aug Culcheth v Bury South	Sun 22 Aug Bury Caesars v Crake Westmorland		
Thu 02 Sep Bowdon v Bury South	Sat 04 Sep Fylde v Bowdon St. Mary's			
Sat 04 Sep Bury South v Southport	Sun 05 Sep Chester v Southport			
Sun 05 Sep Fylde v Llanfairfechan	Sat 18 Sep Bury Peelers v Fylde			
Sat 11 Sep Llanfairfechan v Culcheth	Sun 19 Sep Crake Westmorland v Chester			
Sun 12 Sep Chester v Bury North	Sat 25 Sep Bury Peelers v Pendle & Craven			
MILLENIUM EVENTS 2010				
Sat 24 Apr NWF Millenium - Adv w/e at Bury				
Sat 08 May NWF Millenium - 1d Golf at Bury				
Sat 15 May NWF Millenium - Hcp w/e Chester				
Sat 12 Jun NWF Millenium - 1d Short at Southport				

To all Golf Croquet Players

Dear Friends

I am trying to encourage clubs in the North West Federation to enter the Grass Roots and Centre Stage National Tournaments. Despite entry forms being sent to all clubs each year I am still hearing comments like "what are they?" So, here I am to tell you a little bit about each.

Grass Roots –

This is for players whose handicaps fall in the range 9-12, or for those players who haven't yet got a handicap. It is a fun and sociable introduction to competitive golf croquet games. Entry is usually by a club putting forward a group of 8 people. This number is not set in stone. I have had several discussions during the winter with the Director of the tournament regarding the ability of clubs to get this number of players, especially in the smaller clubs. If 8 is a problem please speak to me. It is all played at level play, that is no one has bisques. The first round is played at club level and the initial rounds or games are played as progressive doubles then with semi-finals and finals played as individuals. Don't worry if you don't understand all this it can all be explained. Depending on the initial number of people entering, the club will then be told how many go forward to the next round from the finals etc. in the club rounds. There are 2 region finals – in the north of England this is scheduled at Bury on Saturday 7th August (assuming enough clubs enter from the North -West and East). I shall be managing that event. The final is at Northampton on Saturday 11 September.

Centre Stage –

This is the next stage on – for players with Golf croquet handicaps from 5-8. Entry for this is a minimum of 4 players from the club. Again this is all level play, the initial round is at the club and play this time is singles. If time permits the rules in previous years has been that all play all, the best of 3 games. And again there might be a semi-final and final round. This has varied depending on the number of entries from a club. There are not usually enough clubs entering this event to warrant a region final so at the moment clubs would be told how many people would go forward to the Final at Northampton on 12 September. With more club entries this might change.

Clubs entering will be sent the full rules and regulations. For both events at the club round stage this can be played on half size lawns if needed. Further rounds are on full lawns.

At my own club these also became club events so that the winners received a trophy they held for a year. This meant at least they had one trophy even if they didn't win in the overall finals.

Since 2000 for the Grass Roots, and 2001 for the Centre Stage there has not been a winner from the North West. We have had a losing finalist however. Please can we try and change that and perhaps see a N.W. Federation club member as a winner this year.

I am willing to answer any questions anyone may have, and to help in anyway I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Each club secretary should have received this year's entries forms. If your club hasn't yet received them please let me know.

Thank you for reading this. I would be grateful if someone in your club could let me know if your club has entered one or both events.

Yours sincerely

Jean Hargreaves
Bury Croquet Club.

Contact details 9 St. Paul's Rd., Salford M7 3NY 0161 792 4694

jwjh@care4free.net

North West Federation of Croquet Clubs

Club Championships 2010

To be held at Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club, Victoria Park, Southport
Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th June 2010
Manager: Terry Foster - 01704 512 324

List of Events - (All singles play except Advanced)

Golf Croquet - 13 point full lawn ***Short Croquet (Base 4)**
Association Croquet – Handicap (Base 8)***Advanced Rules - doubles play**

All events will be double banked and, as far as possible, all teams will play an equal number of games on the north lawns and on the south lawns.

General Regulations

The CA Regulations for Tournaments will apply to this competition with the exception of Regulation P1(a)
Each club may enter ALL events and each club must field 3 players per match (2 in advanced match see 19 below)
There is no limit to the number of players in a squad.
Each club MUST nominate on the entry form a Captain with whom ALL communication will be carried out by e-mail.
The names of ALL the players in the club squads and their respective handicaps MUST be given to the MANAGER, in writing, at least 15 minutes before the start of play on the first day of competition
Play will start at 9am on Saturday. ALL Captains will meet with the MANAGER 15 minutes before start of play.

All start times, lawn allocation and time limits will be determined by the MANAGER.

Prior To Play

Prior to the commencement of a match each opposing captain will exchange the written order in which the teams play. **They must be in handicap order.** Lawns will be allocated by the Manager.
Each match will start promptly at the appointed time.
In the event of a player failing to be ready to play 5 minutes after the appointed time his or her ball will be placed on a baulk line by the opponent and play will continue as if the opponent won the toss.
In the event of a player failing to be ready to play 15 minutes after play was due to commence then they will forfeit the game.

Playing Conditions

GOLF CROQUET games will be played over 13 points, full lawn. Current CA rules will apply. Games will be handicap play.

After Play

Immediately a match has been played the result MUST be given to the Manager.
Results will be recorded as games won and lost eg. won 2-1 or lost 0-3
The winning club in each event shall be that which wins most matches. In the event of a tie on wins between two or more teams, the team that has won most games shall be the winner. In the event of a tie on games between two or more teams the winner will be the team that won the match(es) played between them. If a tie still exists, then the teams will play off AMD.
From all the results a league table will be produced for each event.
The bottom team will be awarded 1 point. The second from bottom - 2 points and so on
The North West Club Championship will be awarded to the team which has accrued most points from all events at the close of play on the final day.
In the event of a tie for first place for the Championship then competition regulation 15, as above will be applied.

Advanced Rules Event

Doubles play. Two players in a match. One game only per match.

Trophies

The Champion Club shall be awarded the Championship Cup
Each event winning club shall be awarded the respective event cup.

Entry Form

Instructions

The entry fee is £36 per club, per event, (£24 for advanced event) and MUST be enclosed with the completed application form. Cheques should be made payable to "The North West Federation of Croquet Clubs".

All clubs are encouraged to enter as many events as possible.

Depending on the number of entries the format of the various events may have to be altered from previous years. Team captains will be notified of any changes as soon as possible after the closing date.

Please send the completed entry form together with the entry fee to: The Tournament Secretary:
Melanie Foster, 29 Portland St, Southport PR8 1HU -- Tel 01704 512 324 Mobile 07789 874 296

The closing date is 14th June 2010

Entry Form

Club:

Club Captain: Contact :

Contact e-mail:

We will enter:

Event	(tick box)	Team Captain	Fee (£36 per event) (£24 for Advanced)
Advance event	<input type="checkbox"/>	£.....
Handicap event	<input type="checkbox"/>	£.....
Short event	<input type="checkbox"/>	£.....
Golf event	<input type="checkbox"/>	£.....
Total Fees Enclosed			£.....

Catering

In order to assist the Southport & Birkdale Club in catering for all the players over the weekend it is essential that advance notice is given, on the entry form, of your lunch and tea requirements. The combined cost for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea is £7.00, payable on the day by each individual player when collecting their lunch.

Number of Meals Required: Saturday

Sunday

***Please make cheques payable to NWFCC & return with entry form to
Melanie Foster, 29 Portland St, Southport PR8 1HU***