

CRAIG Y DON CROQUET CLUB Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th April 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Thanks were registered by the Chair to the ladies who provided the prior refreshments

2. Welcome and Apologies for Absence at 2.00pm.

The Chairman welcomed the 39 attendees (A club record for the annual AGM). There was a good number of Apologies, too many to mention individually.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held the 26th of April 2024: -

The draft minutes were proposed for acceptance by Beth McLelland, seconded by Graham Bunn and approved unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report: -

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2025 AGM of Craig y Don Croquet Club.

I am pleased to report that overall, it has been a very successful year for the club. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for all of the hard work they have put into making this year so successful,

Special appreciation goes to the following:-

Jack for organising the Snowdonia Cup competitions and the inter club competitions.
Team Captain Nick for organising the Golf Team in the NW Fed League matches and the Snowdonia Cup. (Nick has done a super job considering he has very poorly during last year.) Nick for organising his regular Tuesday morning training sessions.

The ground works team for getting the lawn into such excellent condition.

Members are getting older and unable to carry out heavy jobs. We now employ a grounds-man and odd-job man costing circa £3,000. We need fit younger helpers to minimise costs. Simple jobs like painting etc.

Lorna for managing the web site and all the graphics (and 'her cakes') 627 unique visitors 1572 sessions. Please, all of us must regularly VISIT the website

Roger for keeping Facebook up to date. Need your input to keep the content up to date and excellent

Elaine for managing the two new WhatsApp sites. These sites have proven to be very successful in assisting members to arrange ad hoc games. It has proven to be so successful that we now have three WhatsApp sites

A special thank you to Linda Pike for organising the social events, raffles and competitions, she puts a lot of effort into making sure everything is correct. Linda organises events which included the Autumn Lunch and the two Round Robin tournaments. It is no mean feat to co-ordinate these events and sometimes this hard work is taken for granted so thank you Linda and friends for everything this year.

Linda has also jointly managed the Llandudno u3a Croquet Group which has proven to be a very successful separate social club. It has also been a positive route for recruiting new club members and very productive in generating a good income for club funds.

Graham Bunn and Keith Roobottom have taken over the running from Linda and John and we wish them well.

Thank you to Michael Smee for the use of his lawn for the winter croquet games. With the kind weather this year the winter sessions have been very popular. As a gesture of thanks to Michael for us using his lawn for so many years and at his presentation of the Sheraton Cup at his home in Craigsides, the club awarded him Honorary membership.

This year we have had two new competitions and thanks must go to Jeff Wright for organising the winter Sheraton Cup as well as a number of raffles and thanks to Barbara and Lynn for organising the Tweedle Dumb and Tweedle Dee KO Cup which has taken place for the first time very early in this new season.

The indoor games sessions this year have proven to be very popular with a new Canaster group meeting several days a week.

Ann our treasurer for the past 12 years retired last year but has still been of tremendous assistance with Linda P the Bookkeeper and has helped me get the bank account transferred so that I can now manage the financial payment of accounts.

Special thanks to Linda, Jean and Ann, Beth, Ros and the rest of the crew for providing refreshments today and at all the events. Linda unfortunately cannot be with us, but she has organised the hot cross buns in advance. (Another oxymoron? Cold hot cross buns make some cross.....Get it?)

Not forgetting all the Club members who have assisted behind the scenes in running the club over the last twelve months without whom we could not carry on, this includes keeping the club house and the composting toilets as tidy and clean as possible.

Finally, a special thanks to John as Secretary he keeps us all up to date with his emails, for producing all of the Committee agendas and minutes of the meetings and for keeping me under control (I would be lost without him).

Congratulations to the Winners of last year's competitions,

Presidents Cup Short Lawn John Hannah

Chairman's Cup Long Lawn John Hannah

Dukes Trophy. Winner Roger Edwards. Plate Winner Jean Roberts.

Captains Cup Doubles Competition. First Place Lynn and Linda runners up Alison and Betty

May Round Robin. Winner Jean Roberts; runner up Beryl Lee

August Round Robin. Winner Graham Bunn; runner up Roy Haley

Sheraton Cup Sue Eccles runner up Lynn

Tweedle Dumb and Tweedle Dee. Winners, Sue Eccles and Frances Williams; runners up, Jeff Wright and Graham Bunn

We have had a good second year in NW Federation League where we came joint second. The details of the results are on the web site. We narrowly lost our first match last weekend it was a close match. This year Nick will be rotating players as players return from injury and sickness and hopefully more opportunity for people to play. _

Well done to Jack's Association team and Nick's Golf team. as they did very well in the Snowdonia Cup the combined Golf and Association competition between – CYD, Chester, Llanfairfechan and Tattenhall. We came in fourth.

Border Trophy. Last year we lost to Tattenhall home and away and unfortunately, we lost the first game of the Trophy yesterday at Tattenhall by 16 and a half to 7 and a half. Well done Linda T for pulling the team pairings together. We were a very depleted team and could only field 10 players and had to use one of Tattenhall reserve players as one of our team could not play the last game. It was disappointing that we could not field

more players as this is a super day out, very sociable competition that everyone can enjoy without pressure. Tattenhall is a very similar club to our own.

Socially we have had a very good year with the Social Sundays and the Wednesday Drop-in sessions, many thanks to Jackie Shaw for organising most of the events last year. Jackie is not as fit right now and cannot organise any events this year, so we need more assistance co-ordinating of the issuing of cards etc. on the Sunday sessions and the organising on Wednesday afternoons.

The evening summer solstice game and buffet year with Llanfairfechan last year was very enjoyable. We are hosting Llanfairfechan this year on the Sunday 22 June from 2.00pm so put the date in year diary as it a Social with competitive golf foursomes followed by a buffet. So put the date down in your diary.

I reported at last year's AGM that it was with regret that after 12 years Ann Harty was retiring as Treasurer. During her time as Treasurer, Ann did an excellent job keeping the accounts and spending under control. We unfortunately have not managed to find a volunteer to replace Ann as treasurer, but Linda Pike agreed to be the bookkeeper, and I took over the account payment part of the Treasurer's role. This situation was just a temporary fix and cannot go on. We cannot continue without a formal treasurer, and it is too much to keep giving jobs to Linda. So, if you think you have the required skills or know someone that may be able to help, they do not have to be a member, please step forward and contact me after the meeting. If we cannot find a volunteer, we will have to employ a treasurer, and this will have to be paid for out of club funds and could cause us to increase the subscriptions next season. We are already employing a groundsman this season as well as a handyman to do some building maintenance we have been putting off for several years.

We are not able to maintain the lawns fully ourselves any more by our aging membership and increasing health problems. These additional costs may cause us to increase membership fees next season.

5. The Club Constitution: -

The Draft version V14 May 2025 previously circulated was not put to the meeting for approval because debate is still continuing regarding the actual need for an overarching Trustee Board/Executive Committee or simply leave all decisions to the Management Committee of such a small organisation as is the Craig Y Don Croquet Club.

There was a strong consensus who agreed that regulation changes, procedure and **running the club** policies should be better placed within the website perhaps in a member's own section and not simply added as a chain of Appendices to the AGM as has been done in the past.

Consequently, the three such **running the club** policies which had been circulated as inclusions within Constitution Appendices were put to the AGM attendees as separate proposals for Approval:-

Firstly, the new Social Membership category, its' instigation and associated policy proposed by Jack, seconded by Jeff was passed unanimously by those present.

Secondly the new Petty Cash Policy proposed by Linda T and seconded by Ann was passed unanimously by those present.

Thirdly, for insurance purposes, the new requirement for novice (by definition, not members of Croquet England) visiting players either singly or as part of a Group to sign that they had been given a short Health, Risk and Safety, verbal briefing from an accompanying CYD club member before being allowed to play on our lawns. This

proposal from Keith seconded by Nick was also passed unanimously.

6. Finance and Accounts: -

a) Financial report 2024/25

With the continuing lack of a Treasurer and the bookkeeper absent, a discussion was led by the Chairman.

Our finances are in a strong position with circa £13k in the bank, but we should revisit and check our Financial Control Policy suggested by Rosemary. Most of that money is held in our development fund as Membership contribution towards gaining Grant funding for the new clubhouse project. Severe problems were caused by our bank when trying to change signatories which led to a £100 compensation payment being made to us from the bank CHSB.

b) The Scrutinised Annual Accounts 2024/25

The accounts were proposed for Approval by Jean, seconded by Jack and passed unanimously by those present. Thanks were offered to Alan Thomas our scrutineer and to Ann and Linda P. This has been a particularly onerous procedure this year as we have been running two accounts, Current and Development, which made it much more complicated than normal. The need for a Treasurer was reiterated and if not forthcoming from membership, we will probably need to pay an external source for that service in future.

7. Progress with the new Clubhouse Project: -

A positional statement and discussion were led by the Chairman. The original traditional construction costed at circa £120k plus VAT escalated dramatically in cost to the extent the Architect was instructed to seek a cheaper solution. This turned out to be a sectionalized timber framed panel system which still met the requirements of Building Regs and Sustainability. However, the costs of this alternative construction have risen and the architect has been instructed to make further savings. In the meantime, the decision of the Gwynt Y Mor Wind farm fund procrastinated for nearly a year but eventually we received a £50k grant offer in February this year. In addition, Croquet England have offered £1k and our own membership fundraising now stands at more than £10k. We need another large Grant funder to **'play ball'** and these are few and far between! The Chairman stated that in all his experience he had never seen such a change in grant objectives in so far as Grants used to be for Capital projects with none offered for revenue but that has almost reversed. Nevertheless, we are in serious discussion with The National Lottery with a meeting on May 7th to review the situation and our progress toward their requirements. There requirements include the need for largescale Community Consulting and involvement with high profile minority Groups. The club has joined the National Charity 'Sported'. (at zero cost) Sported's objectives is to get more young adults playing outdoor sports in safe friendly organisations which respect diversity. We think Croquet fits that *'bill to a T'*. Hence, we are involved with an Open Day, contact with schools, higher level contact with local U3a and contact with Sported's local LGBTQ+ Groups. The latter are organising a Group visit to our lawns under their proposed Group name of, 'The Glad Hatter'

8. **Community Open Day/Consultations:-**

Our Open Day is on Sunday 18th May from 12noon 'till 4.00pm. All members who normally participate on Sundays plus others are asked to attend and help visitors get a good introduction to croquet (including children). We will be offering drinks and biscuits so catering help is required in addition to the game of croquet!

Members are encouraged to take posters from the clubhouse and ask friendly shopkeepers to stick them in full view, plus giving them to friends and neighbours who might be interested in attending. We have printed 500. We hope to distribute 100+ at the U3a monthly meeting on Tuesday 6th May and 170 at Deganwy Primary school on 12/13th May for children who have had a croquet introduction to take home. If all club members can distribute 3 or 4 posters, then we should have made good use of our print run!

9. **Election of Officers and Committee: -**

All our current Committee members had offered themselves for re-election. No formal requests/applications for Committee Membership were received in advance of the meeting and although volunteers from the floor were welcomed at the AGM for co-option to increase committee membership and experience. None were forthcoming. Consequently, all the previous committee members retain ***their seats at the table!***

10. **Q&A:-**

There were two questions submitted to The Chair/ Secretary in advance of the meeting.

Firstly, from Jeff regarding the need for more organisational help for Sunday and Wednesday afternoon drop-ins.

The Chairman stated that we are constant seeking volunteers to help but like most clubs and societies

We have a silent majority who just want to play and not get involved. The problem is that the minority who are prepared to help are another year older and health issues start affecting them as has happened to a greater extent this year.

During the meeting and afterward, volunteer offers for Sunday afternoon help has increased thank you!

The second was regarding new membership applications and the vetting procedure which came from Graham Bunnbut was echoed from the floor by Keith Roobottom. This was regarding members of the U3a Group.

A very useful discussion led to the conclusion that the experienced club members who regularly helped coach and play with U3a novices should agree when they felt a potential applicant from the U3a Group met the simple requirements laid down for membership and endorse the new applicant's membership form which would then be accepted after the pro rated fee is paid for the remainder of the playing season. Two experienced non committee members Linda and Alan T offered to help if an arbiter was deemed necessary or simply to allow an applicant to have a couple of games with another member outside the U3a Group. In the case of an applicant coming forward by direct approach or via friendship with a club member then they would need to be assessed by playing with a couple of experienced players and Linda and Alan's offer may be the correct route in this case.

New applicants must be advised to get handicapped ASAP.

11. **AOB**

There was no further business.

12. **Close of AGM** The meeting closed at 3.25pm.