

## Chairman's Report 2026 AGM

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2026 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 a everyone on the committee for all of the hard work they have put into making this year so successful,

I would like thank the following

- Jack for organising the Snowdonia Cup competitions and the long and short lawn handicapped club competitions; the Chairman and President's Cups.
- Team Captain Nick for organising the Golf Team in the NW Fed League matches and the Snowdonia Cup. (Nick has been assisted by Linda and Alan have done a super job considering Nick has been very poorly during last year.)
- Nick for organising his regular Tuesday morning competitive Golf training sessions.
- The ground works team for getting the lawn into such excellent condition. Members are getting older and unable to carry out the heavy jobs. We had to employ a green keeper to assist this year.
- Thanks to Jeff for co-ordinating the green keeper, watering the lawn and supervising the odd job man who now carries out those repairs us oldies can not do any more.
- Lorna for managing the web site and all the graphics (and *'her cakes'*), Separate report on the website
- Roger for keeping our Facebook pages up to date. He needs your input to make it work successfully.
- Elaine for managing the two WhatsApp sites. These sites have proven to be very successful in assisting members to arrange ad hoc games.
- A special thank you to Linda Pike for organising the social events and the competitions, she puts a lot of effort into making sure everything is correct in organising the events

which included; organising the Autumn Lunch, Christmas Party 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.

- Congratulations to Graham Bunn and Keith Roobottom who jointly manages the u3a group. This has proven to be a very successful group and now operates as a separate social section of U3A.
- It has also been a positive route for recruiting new club members and very productive in generating a good income for club funds.
- Thank you to Michael Smee for the use of his lawn for the winter games. This year the weather has not been as kind as previous years, but when possible, the winter sessions have been very popular.
- The indoor games sessions this year has proven to be very popular with a very popular Canaster group playing on two weekday afternoons.
- Special thanks to Linda, Jean and Ann, Beth and the rest of the crew for providing refreshment at all the events.
- 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 clean.
- Last but not least, a special thanks to John as Secretary he keeps us all up to date with his email and for producing all of the Committee agendas and minutes of the meetings, please note John will not be sending emails around he is now putting a weekly note on the front page of the website so please read it to keep up to date. Also, thanks to John for keeping me under control as I would be lost without him

Congratulations to the Winners of last year's competitions,

- Presidents Cup Short Lawn Jeff Wright
- Chairman's Cup Long Lawn John Hannah
- Dukes Trophy. Winner Lynn Seiler. Plate Winner Cecilia .
- Captains Cup Doubles Competition. Barbara Finnikin & Nick Challinor
- May Round Robin. Winner Keith Roobttom.
- August Round Robin. Winner John Hannah
- Sheraton Cup 2025 Sue Eccles
- The first competition of this year:- Sheraton Cup 2026 Helen Walker
- 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.
- 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 unfortunately lost to Tattenhall home and away. Well done Linda T for pulling a team together though depleted team and we could only field 10 players and had to use one of Tattenhall reserve players as one of our team in the last game. It was disappointing that we could not field more players as this was a super day out and it is a very sociable competition that everyone can enjoy without pressure.

Socially we have had a very good year with the Social Sundays and the Wednesday Drop-in sessions. Thanks to everyone who assisted in organising the events particularly Rosemary Brotherton who led a lot of the Sunday meetings and produced a new set of numbered cards. There is rota on the club house wall

for the Social Sunday events this season. If you feel confident, please add your name to the rota and share the work of these 'Super Sundays Sessions'.

The Christmas party was very successful with a quiz organised by Betty followed by the playlets by Lynn, Francis and the troupe, a ditty from Cecilia, Jeff's Super raffle followed by a superb buffet organised by Linda P and the Catering team.

We hosted last year's summer solstice evening with Llanfairfechan where we had a most enjoyable evening with some friendly games followed by a super buffet. It is Llanfairfechan turn to organise this year's event but there does not seem any enthusiasm from their side to organise anything as they have a full fixture list. We will therefore leave it to them to come back to us.

Following the retirement of Ann Harty last year it is a very big thank you to Linda P and Barbara Finnikin for doing the Bookkeeping and with me doing the bank account transfers etc, we have managed to manage the accounts for this past year. This current year, the accounts for the new Community Pavilion Project will be handled by the CyD S&CC Chairman (Me). The Croquet Club accounts this current year will therefore be more straight forward without the fund raising for the Pavilion. To continue the Club trading smoothly, we must have a formal treasurer for the Croquet Club as I cannot manage both accounts. I looked at employing an Accountant to handle the books, but no one was interested as the account is so small and even if they did the work with their rates, it would be cost prohibitive and we would need to put the Fees up considerably. If you have any accountancy skills or know of someone who can help, please contact me after the meeting. It is not an onerous task or time consuming we just need someone to keep control of the account which is very small with most of the income in April with income from membership fees.

Are there any questions from the floor regarding my report?

*From the floor a vote of appreciation was made to Pam Snellgrove for keeping the tea and coffee and biscuits in the club house replenished and to Dave Burke for the work on the lawns And his engineering skills and building knowledge on the Community pavilion project.*

## Progress with the New Pavilion

I am pleased to report that the building project is progressing although not as quickly as we would have liked.

The Project Team of Allison Ellison, John H, Dave Burke and myself together with the Architect John Parry Jones have been working extremely hard this year in driving the project forward. Following the success of the Gwynt y Mor application which gained an offer of a £50,000 grant towards the project, it was suggested the scheme was a bit ambitious for us, a relatively small organisation and we went back to the drawing board.

We looked at numerous types of building constructions including a log cabin type building imported from Finland, traditional block work and preassembled wooden panel construction .

The architect redesigned the building with a preassembled wooden construction in lieu of the original concrete but the size and floor plan of the building has not changed. We have incorporated all the original designed facilities such as the two disabled toilets etc, however, because of the change in construction we had to go back to Conwy CBC to get revised planning permission. After another 6 months delay and further expenditure, we received full planning approval for the revised method.

Raising the funds has been extremely difficult for capital projects for what is seen as a middleclass minority sport like ours gets a very low priority and most of the sport funding goes to elite athletes and sports schemes directly supporting Social Needs Projects.

We have had a meeting with the National Lottery Community Fund, and they liked our project but are concerned we are not a community led activity, just a simple middle-class sports club. We have difficulty in convincing the fund providers that we provide a social need, and we are a community-based project. We spent a lot of time and effort in providing proof and evidence that we are a community based organisation providing a social need.

We have held lots of activities over the past two years to demonstrate our community engagement and provide evidence to support this claim. We have/are working with following groups:

- The Charity 'Sported', delivering projects with them for groups that feel socially excluded including LGBTQ+.
- We worked with Conwy CBC Community Wellbeing Team and provided a taster session to demonstrate Croquet is a non-contact activity that is gender neutral and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. The session was advertised at local, GP practices and proved that Croquet is an ideal activity for the Community group to provide support for people who are isolated in the community.
- To explain the game of Croquet and demonstrate it is suitable for all ages. We had a taster session with Deganwy Primary School children on Monday and Tuesday 12 & 13 May. There were three sessions each day and we had 5 club members at each session helping on the day. There were 170 number of 10 to 11year-olds who played the game of Croquet during those days.
- A painting/drawing competition was also organised following the event which demonstrated the enthusiasm for the children had for the day and playing croquet
- A very successful open day was held on our lawns, and it involved local people showing them what happens behind that big hedge.

- We continued to host visiting groups like Soroptimists, Great Orme mine, Victoria Club to enable them to hold social evening for their members at the club enjoying a game of Croquet.

After a very lengthy application process with a huge online application form plus several thorough interviews with detailed questions, we convinced the National Lottery Community Fund that we are not just a sports club but a community asset. We have set a national precedent as we are the first sports club to be awarded an award from the NL Community Fund for a Capital sports project. The grant they have offered us of £85,000 along with then other grants we have 'in the bag' has enabled us to reach our target of £167,000.

National Lottery	£85,000
Gwynt y Mor	£50,000
Our own funds	£20,000 (from Membership activity)
LlandudnoTown Council	£5,000
Croquet England	£5,000
Sported Charity	£2,000

The Architect has completed the design, and we have now gone out to tender to 6 local builders with a closing date of the 11th May. Subject to the tenders being within our budget we will hopefully make an immediate start

I did warn you last year and the previous year that the journey would be a long one and unfortunately, I am being proven correct, but we are now making real progress. Many thanks to the team of Allison Ellison, John Hannah and Dave Burke, J P Jones Architects

**(Footnote by Secretary JH. The person owed the greatest thanks is our Chairman Roy Haley. I would have given up long ago)**

Q &A Received in advance, to provide detailed responses.

one written question:- from David Cartlidge

***Given for obvious financial challenges faced by CyD Community Centre how is this likely to affect the long-term costs and viability of our Croquet Club.***

***I note that many U3A groups are withdrawing from CyD Comm Centre on the grounds of costs. I think that this is very short sighted given the advantages of the site with regards to facilities and parking etc. We have to be prepared to pay to maintain such facilities.***

Answer from Chairman RH:-

*Every organisation is under financial pressure at present and reviewing its charges. I have contacted the Chair of the Community Centre and they do not have any financial problems and they are in constant contact with the Llandudno U3A regarding their charging structure.*

*The Centre is an independent registered Charity and is responsible for the effective management and operation of the Community Centre. The Croquet Club does not have any financial involvement or commitment with the Community Centre other than we purchase our electricity via a sub meter via their electricity supply.*

*I would agree with the comment that it would be extremely short sighted of the U3A if they are not using the excellent facilities provided by the Community Centre*