

Craig Y Don Croquet Club News July 12th.

My late-night last night was worth it! Bring on Messie.

Let's cry for you Argentina.....

However, amongst the euphoria let's think for a moment about a club member who was a great friend and lovely man who died almost two years ago now, Martin Tovey.

MARTIN TOVEY

29TH OCTOBER 1946 - 20TH OCTOBER 2024

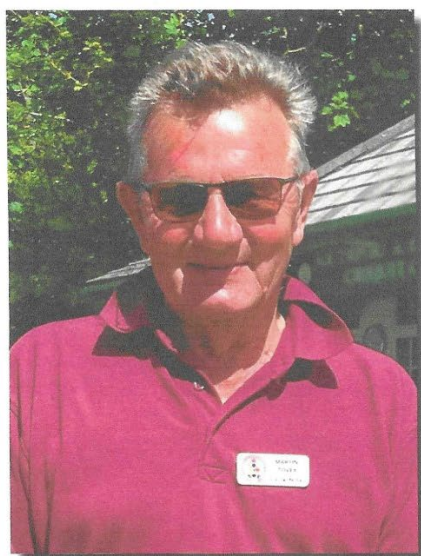
by Giles Pepperell

Martin Tovey died on 20th October 2024 after a fairly short illness, borne with dignity and his usual good humour whilst trying to beat it. He spent some time away supported by family but particularly by wife Sue as he attended treatment. However they both made regular appearances when possible to check on friends at the clubs and it was always a delight to see them; we are grateful for those visits.



Martin was a man of many interests, talents, and successes, including being a past President of the British Beekeepers Association. He started wielding a mallet during his time in the Lake District when he became a member of the Kendal Croquet Club. Martin moved to North West Wales and became an extremely popular member of both Craig y Don and Llanfairfechan & North Wales Croquet Clubs. Perhaps this popularity was at least in part because of his generosity of spirit and bonhomie as he never took himself too seriously, having the unusual ability to carry off being a model elf with style and aplomb. He became a good personal friend to several members of both clubs and beyond.

Martin gave his time freely as the GC Level Play team captain of Llanfairfechan in recent years but just as easily playing for Craig y Don when the need arose, as these clubs are quite close. This was demonstrated by playing for both



clubs as required at the wonderful annual two day event at Southport and Birkdale Croquet Club, the Festival of Croquet, where in recent years he arranged the Saturday evening meal at a great restaurant attended by players from more than two clubs.

As a competitive skipper, Martin led the Llanfairfechan GC Level Play team to victory at the first two Welsh Team Challenge competitions, through regional heats and then a final at Llanidloes, and also around the North West Federation area for matches in the hotly contested GC LP league.

Martin was always both welcoming and charming, and whilst a level play player he played with members of any handicap at any time, taking part in handicap/advantage club competitions, encouraging all players. He also organised in part, or sometimes in whole, the ever popular Captain's Day at Llanfairfechan; for me the sun always seemed to shine on that day.

For my small part, I recall my first proper time meeting Martin at the season's opening GC LP NW Fed league match in June 2021, when I had just joined the club and started my croquet journey. Martin demonstrated a friendly, organised and relaxed approach to managing the day for the teams and club, as he always did. Over the short years I knew Martin I observed traits and behaviour that have made me think about my own and often resulted in the thought 'I need to be more like Martin'. We have lost a rare individual.

Martin's wife Sue sponsors an annual memorial tournament for croquet friends from Chester, Llanfairfechan and Craig Y Don croquet clubs which is taking place at Llanfairfechan next Sunday 19th July.

The contest is Golf doubles, no handicaps. Roger Edwards has the task of mixing up the pool of invited players in an attempt to balance the skill level of each pair which range from a handicap of 12 down to 1 or lower!...no easy task! Each pair will be playing six long lawn matches.

This will be a lovely day out and anyone from our club who wishes to come/go over to Llanfairfechan club to spectate during the day will be welcomed. This is not a club match. Last year's winning pair was a gentleman from Llanfairfechan playing with a lady from Craig Y Don. Mind you, the gent had a handicap of 1 or 2 and had played for England, or was it Wales?

We should be able to watch some good quality croquet in very friendly company including Martin's family members. The dress code for players is to wear as much (clashing or not) colour especially socks. Martin would be disappointed to see white socks!

That's the days good, but still sad, news folks

Cheers John Sec