

# Croston and District Boules League

## 2026 Annual General Meeting

**Venue: Croston Sports Club – Monday 26th January 2026 at 7.30pm**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies.**

The meeting was opened by our Chairman, Craig Howard. All 12 teams were represented at the meeting and there were NO apologies. A minute's silence was held to remember our friends past and present.

#### **2. New Team Applications**

The Landlords from the Rose and Crown in Ulnes Walton and the Seven Stars in Leyland, have had applications accepted by the Committee to enter a new team into the Boules League for the 2026 season and have been invited to attend the AGM for the Members to vote on their acceptance in to the League. The venues have confirmed to the Secretary that their representatives will attend the AGM, both were in attendance. It has been confirmed that the new teams will be named **Rose and Crown and Seven Stars.**

Prior to the vote, the Chairman explained that the ethos of the League was to promote the sport of Boules and that their applications were fully supported by the Committee. It was also confirmed that the new teams will provide food in their hospitality.

Also; a league of 14 teams would need an earlier start date by one week and a later season end date of 3 weeks which would replace the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds of the Team Trophy. There will be a re-arranged format for the Team Trophy competition fixtures, however; a point was raised about the proposed date for the Finals being held on the Sunday prior to the last League game of the season. This point will be considered by the Committee.

Due to the extended season when the nights would be darker earlier, concern was raised about the standard of lighting at some of the venues. This was considered to be an important point and also a major consideration in terms of health and safety. It was agreed that the Committee would be happy to work with the venues to improve this situation and subject to estimates received from the Team Captain's and if necessary, the League could provide funds for this work to be completed.

A VOTE was taken to approve acceptance of the new teams **Rose and Crown and Seven Stars** into the league. **12 For and 0 Against. APPROVED.**

#### **3. Minutes from the last Meeting.**

Minutes of the last meeting from 27th January 2025, were circulated to all Team Captains for review and approval.

The minutes were proposed by Allan Roe (Warriors) and seconded by Neil Ashcroft (Mariners). There were NO reported matters arising. **APPROVED.**

#### **4. Chairman's Report.**

This has been my fifth year as Chairman of The Croston & District Boules League and last season saw us get back to a complement of 12 competing teams, lots of competitions and once again a really high standard of boules being played.

It was great to see the many new and younger players coming through within our teams and the progress that they made.

I would like to thank the rest of the League Committee and the team Captains for assisting us in ensuring that the league continued to provide an enjoyable pastime for our members and team participants.

Can I also welcome the new captains taking up their positions within their respective teams for the coming season.

This year we enter our 30<sup>th</sup> Year as a league and will be organising a few events throughout the season to mark this significant milestone. Whilst some other sports are seeing a natural decline, our league continues to grow and is going from strength to strength, which is wonderful to see.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Martyn (Secretary), Clare Hughes (Treasurer) and Allan for their support this year. Thank you also to Clare, Martyn and Allan for your acceptance to continue in your roles for the next 12 months.

There has been one nomination of others wishing to join the Boules Committee, and I hope you will all vote in favour to welcome Darren Cadman onto the Boules Committee, who I am sure will be a valuable asset.

I would like to thank the venues of the league for their continued support and the landlords and landladies for their hospitality over the season.

I must, though, remind everyone here tonight and all those who play in our league, that the pitches belong to the venues and not to the league. I know most do, but I must stress that you support the venues by purchasing refreshments from the pubs and clubs. As I said the pitches belong to the venues, so it is important that everyone understands that unless participants are willing to support the venues, then these facilities may not be here in the future.

Congratulations to The Wanderers on winning the League and The Barbarians on winning the Team Trophy. Can I also congratulate all those who won competitions throughout the season. Furthermore, can I congratulate Darren Cadman and Andrew Singleton, who won our Player of the Year and Best Newcomer awards and Sam Minshall for winning the Young Player of the Year Award.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Presentation evening. The evening was very well supported and was a very enjoyable evening.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for continuing to support the league and making it an enjoyable experience for all, and we can now look forward to another season ahead of us with lots of boules to be played.

## 5. Proposed New Fixture List for 2026 season.

It was reported that the Fixture List had been prepared and will be circulated following the AGM. It was confirmed that all 14 teams will be participating in the League this season.

The Proposed season start date would be **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026** and the finish date **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026**.

Team Trophy competition confirmed dates:-

R1. TBA

R2. TBA

Finals Day Proposed date: **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

### Team Trophy Competition - Proposed new format

Update from the committee.

We discussed an alternative for the **Team Trophy Competition**, days, dates and format. As the new season will be extended to accommodate League fixtures for 14 teams; it was considered that we could use the weeks currently allocated for the team Trophy competition.

It was proposed by the Committee that the Team Trophy draw could take place at the beginning of the season. The draw will be completed at the next Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, and the committee will endeavour to select venues. Fixtures can be played by the Teams on selected dates throughout the season as agreed between the Team Captain's. Flexibility of the dates was deemed a good idea.

**Team Captains were requested to confirm with the Secretary their teams participation in the Team Trophy by the end of February 2026.**

A completion date would need to be agreed when the last four qualifying teams were known. The Team Trophy format would be based on the current format of play. The Finals day would be as normal on a Sunday in September at the Sports Club.

## 6. Proposed 2026 Season Competition List.

Details received and confirmed to date: -

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Peter Briggs Memorial Trophy (Doubles)
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Buzzards. Ian Blythe Trophy (Doubles)
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Sports Club Trophy including Juniors (Doubles)
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Bretherton - Wanderers Triples
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Black Horse. Billy Howard Trophy (Doubles)
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Red Lion. Chris Lyon Trophy (Doubles)
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. Lord Nelson Shield (Doubles)
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Red Lion Charity. (Singles)
- **Broughton Open Trophy. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026 (Doubles)**

## 7. Finances – Annual Balance sheet and Treasurer’s report.

The Treasurer, Clare Hughes has prepared a Final 2025 Balance Sheet for the AGM, copies of the Finance Statement have been provided.

Summary details as follows : -

Balance from the Previous Year.	£2,293.32
Income. 2025 – 2026	£2,044.00
<u>Expenditure. 2025 - 2026</u>	<u>-£2,854.64</u>
<b><u>Current Balance</u></b>	<b><u>£1,482.68 up to 18/10/2025</u></b>

This is a reduction of -£810.64 on the previous financial statement as reported at the 2025 AGM. Note: this also included purchase of an annual Public Liability Insurance Policy (cost £232), which is for the benefit of all our players.

*“Although we have had a good season, the final balance is lower this year due to the pitch payments we have made during the year. These will hopefully not be required next season as each teams facilities are in good shape. I am happy to leave the subs this year at £120 as hopefully we will have two extra teams. Competition donations of £25 per competition also help towards the trophy bill. Presentation night raffle raised an excellent amount, we do need to work out how we can get the correct numbers for food - this year we had about 10 not turning up on the night but we paid for food.*

*This is the first year that the bank has started to charge each month for our account- approximately £60 a year. I have looked for alternatives but nothing is available for our needs.”*

A question was raised as to why the cost of trophies are so expensive? It should be noted that all competitions are now fully supported with League trophies and that we have more competitions than in recent years. In 2025 we spent £77.50 less than in 2024 and including the contributions from competitions the total was reduced to £453. The total also Included an increase of approx. £50 on engraving on the small awards.

The Secretary has looked into the possibility of sourcing from alternative suppliers, however; it was found that our current supplier (who we have used for many years) provide the most competitive prices, quality and service to meet our requirements.

## 8. League Fee’s.

The Committee proposed that the League Fees for the 2026 season would remain unchanged at £120 per team.

The Treasurer’s Financial Summary and League Fees were proposed by Allan Roe (Warriors) and seconded by Jaye Clarke (Outlanders).

A VOTE was taken for acceptance. **14 For and 0 Against. APPROVED.**

## 9. Presentation Night.

Confirmed date. **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026 @ 7.30 pm.** at Croston Sports Club.  
**APPROVED.**

## 10. AGM Proposals and or Rule Changes.

A request was issued to the Team Captain's on 27/11/2025 for any proposals or rule changes teams would like discussed at the AGM. **NO PROPOSALS OR RULE CHANGES have been received from the Team Captain's.**

The following Rule Changes/Amendments (changes are highlighted in red text) are proposed for discussion by the Committee as follows: -

### **Rule 13 amendment**

Team Captain's should ensure that the designated referee is confident and competent to referee in a match. The first team to throw is decided by a single throw at the cochonnet (jack), usually placed by the referee. **At the start of a game the player from the AWAY team will be required to throw the first boule for off.** The player nearest to the jack goes first. Any player in this team chooses a starting place **and should use the rings provided or in the absence of rings** may draw a circle on the ground in which to stand. This should be between 1 ft 2 ins (36 cm) and 1 ft 8 ins (50 cm approx.)

### **Rule 21 amendment**

Players are allowed to use their own **non electronic** measures, to determine the winning boule(s). In the case of a dispute then the string measure provided by the League **or an Umpires Measure** must be used. When measuring, the front of the cochonnet must be used and **not the centre.** **The referee determines the outcome of the measurement and informs the players.**

### **Proposed New Rule**

**Only team-mates may stand between the circle and cochonnet (playing area); opponents must be beyond the jack, behind the circle and to one side or must stand off the playing area.**

A VOTE was taken for acceptance. **14 For and 0 Against. APPROVED.**

## 11. Discuss New Policy documents and updated Constitution document

New policy documents for Code of Conduct, Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding Adults and an updated Constitution document as prepared by the Secretary and previously approved by the Committee were issued as "Advisory" documents to the Team Captain's on 27/11/2025. They were requested to review, for comments or proposed changes prior to a vote for acceptance at the AGM. **Only POSITIVE feedback was received and NO negative comments or proposed changes were received from the Team Captain's.**

The Secretary explained that these documents have been prepared so that we as a Committee can demonstrate a responsible and considered ethos to our sport and our League, respect for all of our Members and to any other interested parties that may need to understand our full commitment to managing, sustaining and promoting the Croston and District Boules League in a professional manner.

A VOTE was taken to accept and implement these proposed Policy documents into the Boules League Constitution. **14 For and 0 Against. APPROVED.**

Further to implementation of the new Constitution and Policy documents they will be posted on the Croston Boules website.

## **12. Discuss Proposed Nominations for the Committee**

A request for any nominations for positions on the committee was issued to the Team Captain's on 27/11/2025. **Only one NOMINATION for the Boules Committee has been received from the Team Captains.**

We have received a nomination for one new Committee Member, **Darren Cadman** who has been proposed by Team Captain's Allan Roe (Warriors) and seconded by Olivia Whitehurst (Wasps). The Committee propose acceptance.

A VOTE was taken for the nomination of Darren Cadman to the Committee. **14 For and 0 Against. APPROVED.**

The Committee and all Members were delighted to accept Darren's nomination and we know that with his vast experience and knowledge of the League he will be an asset to the Committee as we continue to promote and progress the quality of the Boules League for the next generation.

## **13. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Summer Evening Event**

Update from the Committee. ***Scheduled date: Friday 26th June 2026.***

The Chairman explained the Committee's proposal for a social event to be organised in 2026 to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Croston and District Boules League.

The following suggestions were considered as follows: -

- Venue to be the Sports Club for an informal social evening. Time TBA.
- Format BBQ, raffle, music entertainment. TBA
- Tickets to be issued as a contribution towards the evening. Cost TBA.
- Maximum Ticket quantity TBA
- Raffle Prizes will be required.
- Invited Guests Landlords and Landladies.
- Consider event promotion and media coverage.
- Presentation Night to be held as normal on 16th October 2026.

**More details will be provided to the Members in due course when they have been finalised at the next Committee meeting.**

**The Meeting was closed at 8.28pm**

Martyn Littlewood (League Secretary)