

PROPOSED WORLD CROQUET FEDERATION

Meeting held at the Hurlingham Club on Thursday 17th July 1986 at 11.0am.

- Present:
- Andrew Hope The Croquet Association
- Martin Murray The Croquet Association
- Bernard Neal The Croquet Association
- Fred Rogerson The Croquet Association of Ireland
- Terence Read The Croquet Association of Ireland
- Jack Osborn The United States Croquet Association
- Ian Gillespie The South African Croquet Association
- Howard Wright The Scottish Croquet Association
- Dr. Val Payne The Australian Croquet Council
- Jose Sanz-Tonnellier The Australian Croquet Council
- Neil Spooner The Australian Croquet Council
- Ashley Heenan The New Zealand Croquet Council
- John Prince The New Zealand Croquet Council
- Mrs. Wills The New Zealand Croquet Council
- Maseru Ikeda The Croquet Association of Japan
- Mike Quinn The Cern Croquet Club, Switzerland
- Chris Hudson The Croquet Association (attending as Secretary)

Andrew Hope took the chair to get the meeting started.

The Chairman outlined the reasons for the meeting and the ideas behind the formation of a World Croquet Federation.

At the Chairman's invitation, a delegate from each country explained his Association's Constitution and how its officers were elected.

Voting Rights for this meeting only:

It was agreed that all Associations present should have a single vote for this meeting only, except for South Africa and Switzerland who were welcomed as observers, with no vote.

Objectives of WCF

The objectives of the proposed World Federation were discussed and agreed to be:

- Holding World team Championships.
- Holding World individual championships.
- Awarding official Croquet Championships.
- Representing Croquet at World Games.
- Obtaining sponsorship and government funding.
- Encouraging Croquet in those countries where it is not currently played.

Eligibility for joining the WCF

It was agreed that the main criteria for membership of the WCF would be that the organisation concerned was a completely individual body. It was also agreed to accept only one body per area.

The following Associations were regarded as fulfilling the above requirements:

- The Scottish Croquet Association
- The Croquet Association of Ireland
- The New Zealand Croquet Council
- The Croquet Association of Japan
- The United States Croquet Association
- The Australian Croquet Council
- The Croquet Association

It was agreed that the following Associations should be given "observer" status at present:

The South African Croquet Association
The Cern Croquet Club, Switzerland

It was felt that there was no real independent governing body for the game in Switzerland at present. However, it was hoped that the WCF could encourage the formation of such a body.

The following Associations would be invited to apply for "observer" status, once an independent national organisation had been formed.

"The Canadian Croquet Association"
"The Croquet Association of Bermuda"

The Steering/Management Committee, when elected, would establish any other countries/associations/clubs that would be invited to apply for "observer" status.

Voting Rights

It was agreed that "observers" would not have a vote and that no "veto" function would be written into the Constitution.

The details of the number of votes would be left to the Steering Committee to draft, but it was recommended that there should be a sliding scale up to a maximum of 3 or 4 votes per association, depending on the number of players in the association. It was recommended that the voting figures should be so calculated that 25% of the associations could not outvote the other 75%. The number of "members" could, if necessary, be established from an Association's accounts.

Officers and Committees

It was agreed that the President should not be part of the Management Committee. It was also agreed that there was no need for an Editor, as the work of circulating news items etc., would normally be done by the Secretary.

It was further agreed that the Management Committee should consist of 5 people - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer. and one other (possibly called a "Liaison Officer"). It was recommended that the Committee should be structured to ensure continuity.

Laws

Clause 32 should refer to a list of those empowered to alter the Laws, which would be updated from time to time.

Subscriptions

It was agreed that subscriptions would be linked to voting rights. The Steering Committee was asked to estimate cost of running the Federation for one year and to set the subscription accordingly. Subscription details would be listed outside the Constitution, which would refer to "subscriptions as determined from time to time".

Amateur Status

It was unanimously agreed that the WCF would aim to govern both amateur and professional croquet if, as expected, some players were able to make a living from the game. In such circumstances the WCF would organise "Open" croquet tournaments in which both professionals and amateurs could play in competition with each other.

Other points:

Attendance at Meetings

It was agreed that it was up to each Association to make sure that its top players were fully represented at WCF meetings. Article 15(f) gave the President discretion to allow any non-accredited persons to attend a General Meeting.

Qualifications for player to represent country

Scotland and New Zealand delegates expressed some concern at the requirements listed in Clause 25. Anyone who felt strongly about this Clause was asked to write to Andrew Hope, outlining their suggested amendments.

Entitlement to Votes

It was unanimously decided that proxies could be appointed to vote at meetings if a delegate was unable to attend. However, a voting delegate should not be appointed as such a proxy.

It was also agreed that the possibility of a postal vote would not be included in the Constitution.

Domicile

It was pointed out by Mr. Quinn that the WCF would need to define its point of domicile for legal purposes. This might be changed from time to time.

Frequency of Meetings

It was agreed that the interval between meetings should not be longer than 4 years. Mr. Gillespie suggested that the WCF ought to aim to meet every year, or at least every other year to maintain momentum. Mr Osborn did not favour the idea of meetings necessarily coinciding with MacRobertson Shield series.

Constitution of an Association

It was agreed that this needed re-drafting to cut out the requirement for written permission, or perhaps Clause 3 could be omitted altogether. Riders should be added to the effect that 2 organisations cannot control the same area, and that Constitutions of each member body must be lodged with the WCF.

Other changes proposed to draft Constitution

Apart from points mentioned above, the following details require more consideration and possible redrafting.

Clause 5. Alter 5(a) (i) to: "To uphold and enforce etc..." (Making and amending rules is the responsibility of those organisations empowered to do so - see Clause 32)

Clause 15. Alter 15(d) to read "Each country/affiliated organisation may send three additional...." (This should not just be the prerogative of the host country).

Clause 19. Rewrite in line with final decision on voting entitlements.

Clause 20. Alter 20(a) to reflect discussion on the composition of the Management Committee.

Clause 22 & 23. Redraft these two Clauses to the effect that a list of recognised championships, which may be amended from time to time, is attached as an addendum to the Constitution.

Clause 25. To be redrafted following any comments received (see above).

Clause 32. "American" rules should be "USCA" rules. Delete "possibly" (Two ball and Golf Croquet rules will be recognised). Delete "currently" and add a sub-paragraph defining those organisations who are currently empowered to change the laws of each variation.

Future action

It was agreed that delegates would report back to their governing bodies. The Chairman expressed the hope that delegates would recommend their governing bodies to join the WCF, subject to acceptance of the second draft of the Constitution.

Standing Orders

There was no comment on these.

Appointment of Management Committee

This was deferred until the official formation of the WCF.

Appointment of Steering Committee

It was agreed that the Croquet Association's "International Committee" would act as a Steering Committee, with responsibility to prepare the next draft of the Constitution and prepare the way for the formal setting up of the WCF.

Election of Management Committee

It was agreed that the Management Committee could be elected by postal vote when the time came. It was also agreed that no more than 3 of the Management Committee should be from any one country.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Andrew Hope
Chairman

30th July 1986