

THE WORLD CROQUET FEDERATION

Minutes of a Meeting of the Management Committee held at The Hurlingham Club,
Ranelagh Gardens, London, at 3.30pm on Thursday 6th September, 1990.

Present: Brigadier C.J. Miles
Mr C. Hudson (Secretary-General)
Mr F.J. Rogerson (Treasurer)
Mr R.E. Carter

Apologies: Mr A.D.J. Heenan, OBE (President)
Professor M. Ikeda

In the absence of Mr Heenan, due to illness, the Management Committee elected Brigadier Miles as Acting President and he took the chair.

1. Matters for Approval

The Management Committee approved the following papers which were circulated prior to and at the meeting:

- (a) The Minutes of the inaugural General Meeting of the WCF, held at Hurlingham on 15th July 1989.
- (b) The Procedure for bids to hold WCF Championships.
- (c) Draft amendments to Rules agreed at 1989 General Meeting.
- (d) Qualifications for WCF membership.

1989 Accounts

The Management Committee received the 1989 Accounts and Mr Rogerson answered a number of questions. The accounts were then approved by the Committee for presentation to the General Meeting the following day.

Discussion took place on the budget for 1991 and a provisional expenditure budget was prepared. It was agreed that the Secretary-General should be paid an annual honorarium of £1000.

Provision would be made in future budgets to cover travel expenses incurred by WCF officials, and travel expenses incurred by those who coached and demonstrated the game in non-playing countries. The latter activity might be covered in whole or part by a WCF grant to a neighbouring WCF member country to enable them to carry out the task.

1989 World Championship Report

A retrospective report by the Secretary-General on the 1989 World Championship was tabled at the meeting and accepted by the Committee.

2. Matters for Decision

- (a) 1991 World Championship

The only bid that had been received was from the (English) Croquet Association, who wished to host the event at Hurlingham in September 1991, subject to confirmation of sponsorship.

The Committee agreed that the Licence Fee for the 1991 Championship should remain at £1000.

It was agreed that regional qualifying competitions should be held at venues that would enable overseas players to compete more easily than in 1990.

National Associations could allocate a sponsored ticket to qualifying competitions if they so wished.

The Committee agreed that the WCF should retain the right to nominate one or two players independently of National Associations.

Nomination of players would continue to be by National Associations. It was agreed that every Full and Observer member of the WCF would have the right to nominate at least one player. Additional nominations would be allocated taking into account the size of membership of each WCF member country and the "World Ranking" list.

Sponsored places would be allocated only to Full members of the WCF.

After some consideration, it was agreed not to make a decision on South Africa's participation in the 1991 Championship until March 1991, in view of the improving political situation.

(b) Subscriptions for 1991

After consideration of the 1991 expenditure budget, it was agreed that membership subscriptions for 1991 should remain the same as for 1990.

(c) New Members' Application Form

This Form was discussed and accepted by the Committee, subject to the addition of a question about the number of subsidiary groups that reported to the prospective member.

The Secretary-General was asked to follow up those members who had not supplied complete statistics with their original application. The Committee however agreed that there was no need at present to require an annual update of statistics from all member bodies.

(d) WCF Logo

The Committee considered all the logos that had been submitted, and agreed on the one that should be used by the WCF. The Secretary-General was asked to decide on the colours to be used with the logo and to obtain printed letterheads.

(e) Championship Ball Specification

The Secretary-General explained that the (English) Croquet Association's Equipment Committee were drawing up a Championship Ball specification on behalf of the WCF. However, they had been held up by the need to define the effect of temperature on the bounce specification.

A number of new balls had appeared on the market, and it was necessary to ensure that the specification was applicable to all of them if the manufacturers were to be persuaded to use the specification.

3. Matters for Discussion

(a) Rules

It was agreed that the existing vote entitlements should continue. There seemed little reason to change them until more experience had been obtained. It was agreed that no proposal about Postal Voting should be put to the General Meeting, as the existing Rules already allowed for proxy voting which was considered sufficient.

(b) 1990 Championship

Progress was reviewed. Both players and officials seemed to be happy with the new format, and it was agreed to seek further feedback after the event.

(c) 1992 Championship

Mr Carter said that the USCA had been planning to bid for the 1993 Championship, but now wanted to consider bringing forward their bid to 1992.

(d) Membership of GAISF

The Secretary-General outlined progress on the WCF's application for membership of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF). To become a member, the WCF needed to have 20 member countries from 3 continents, and to have organised at least 3 World Championships.

Attempts to join the International World Games Association (IWGA) had foundered, and it would not now be possible to be a participating sport in the 1993 World Games:

It was agreed that the WCF should pursue membership of GAISF, for the reason that this would establish the WCF's position as the world governing body for croquet. It was further agreed that attempts to join the IWGA would be discontinued for the time being. Croquet could only participate in a World Games if adequate facilities were available, and as this seemed unlikely, it was agreed it would be better to organise our own World team championships as and when required.

The Secretary-General had recently established contact with the British Olympic Committee, and was following this up to see if there was any advantage in WCF members affiliating to their National Olympic Association.

(e) Publicity

Some discussion took place on how the number of WCF members might be increased by encouraging new countries to take up the game.

The Secretary-General would aim to circulate 4 WCF press releases each year to all the national Croquet magazines and relevant national press worldwide. He would endeavour to build up an information network through government agencies to publicise croquet in non-playing countries.

(f) Future timetable

Members should be encouraged to schedule their National Championships further ahead in their own interests to encourage publicity and avoid congestion and clashes of date.

In some countries, forward scheduling of WCF Management Committee and General Meetings would enable delegates to apply for travel grants from their National Sports Councils.

(g) World Ranking List

It was agreed that the Secretary-General would contact Steve Mulliner (England) and Professor Stan Hall (Australia) who both rank ranking systems, with a view to establishing a WCF World Ranking List. This could be published regularly, and would provide additional publicity for the WCF.

(h) Telephone conferencing facilities

It was expensive to use telephone conferencing facilities, but even so, it was thought it might be cheaper than travel. Mr Carter, who uses such a system regularly in the USA, advised the meeting to obtain the service from a professional company and ensure that the conference had a tight agenda to cut down costs.

4. Any Other Business

It was agreed that Brigadier Miles would chair the General Meeting on the following day, as Mr Heenan would be absent.

There being no other business, the Acting President declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.