



NEWSLETTER

July 2005

This Newsletter gives all the latest information of the forthcoming WCF World Croquet Championship together with details of proposed changes to WCF Statutes, Membership re-organisation and consideration of other matters that will shape the WCF of the future. There is also a special invitation to WCF Friends to join the WCF Friends dinner at the event.

WCF FRIENDS DINNER

All WCF Friends are invited to attend a dinner held for them during the 2005 World Championship. Held at a local Cheltenham restaurant on Monday 8th August 2005, 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The cost will be approximately £20-£25(GBP) per head. Apply now, as spaces are limited. Contact the WCF Secretary-General by:-

Email: secretary@wfcroquet.org

Post: 3 Groby Place, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4AL, United Kingdom.

WCF GENERAL MEETING

During the 2005 World Championship a General Meeting of members will take place. Proposals have been made to amend the current WCF Statutes to make changes that will affect the way the organisation operates in the future, allow for quicker decision making and prepare it for acceptance into the wider International Sports Community.

The main proposal is to move to a three tier system of membership. This recognises the current situation where there are members that are fully developed, members that are developing and those just starting their croquet involvement. Each will require a different level of service from the WCF in the future. As an example, under discussion by the Management Committee will be the making of grants or loans of money and/or equipment to stimulate growth in countries that show a need.

A second proposal is to move to greater electronic means of communication. Currently all official WCF correspondence has to be sent via postal services, which is slow and costly.

A proposal has been made to adopt the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child. This will give greater strength to WCF to ensure that members comply with basic child protection procedures within their countries and allows for emerging nations to take this on board at an early stage. Many members already have such procedures in place already, but many do not. Proposals have been made to amend some further current WCF Rules but the main one is to allow the production of Regulations based on them. This will lead to greater consistency of approach to common issues that arise between General Meetings.

HOW DID YOU GET THIS NEWSLETTER?

The WCF, has circulated Newsletters via postal services, yet it is costly, time consuming and slow. More and more WCF Friends are now email capable.

Where an email address is known to the WCF you will have received this current issue electronically. However, there may be many Friends that have yet to let WCF know their email address. **Please let us know your email address if you have one.**

WCF and ANTI-DOPING

During the General Meeting of Members (see this page) a discussion will take place on the application of the World Anti-Doping Agency protocols. Croquet is now one of the few sports yet to sign up to them. Without that we will remain outside the mainstream sports fraternity, yet there are serious implications for doing so too. Some members already have individually signed up to them. This discussion will gauge the strength of arguments for and against. If you have a point of view, make sure your National Association knows about it.

World Championship Fever hits South West England

With less than two months to go before the start of the 10th WCF World Association Croquet Championship, work to make the event the most successful of all time is well under way.

With a total of 22 lawns made available at four different venues, this year sees a return to the popular format of 80 entrants, initially playing in 8 blocks of 10 players each. 21 countries from around the world will be represented by their best players that will see eagerly awaited encounters between those from emerging nations pitted against the world's best.

The full Championship format is as follows:-

80 players placed in 8 blocks of 10 players each, according to their ranking at 1st June 2005, playing a round robin of one game against each opponent.

Top four players in each block will qualify for the knock out stage with most wins and possibly net points and rankings coming into play according to a pre-arranged criteria.

If necessary, play off's will take place to determine the qualifiers.

The 32 qualifiers are then re-seeded according to the rankings after all block play and a public draw is made. Same Block and Country conflicts will be avoided wherever possible. Matches proceed at best of three games, with the semi-final and final stage being best of five games.

In addition, there will be two consolation events for all those that fail to qualify for the knock out stage. One will be for those players from WCF Observer countries with a low ranking grade and the other for players of a higher standard.

The CA World Championship Organising Team

The Tournament Director, Phil Cordingley, has had the inevitable task of co-ordinating all the myriad of jobs that goes with organising such a large scale event. He is no stranger to administering large scale events and in his spare time, manages to be the Chairman of the England Selectors too.



The Tournament Manager is Andrew Gregory. Andrew is no stranger to managing large scale tournaments with his most recent event being the CA Men's and Women's Championships earlier this year.

The Tournament Referee is Professor Bernard Neal, 83. Bernard is the current President, not only of the main hosts, the Cheltenham club, but of the CA itself and has represented Great Britain in the MacRobertson Shield tournaments of 1974 and 1979. He was head of department of civil engineering 1976-82 at Imperial College, London, but more famously, until recently was a serving Committee Member at the home of lawn tennis, Wimbledon, for many years. Whilst there he won the All England Club's other sporting championship - croquet - 37 times, regularly beating opponents half his age. He still does!





Cheltenham Club co-ordinator is David Magee. He has been given the special task of ensuring that all goes well at the venue. Responsible for all those little things that together make a very special event, from transport, to accommodation to catering, David has it all under control.

The Block Draw is as follows:-

| BLUE | | | RED | | | BLACK | | | YELLOW | | |
|------|------------------|-----|------|------------------|-----|-------|-----------------------|-----|--------|------------------|-----|
| Draw | Player | | Draw | Player | | Draw | Player | | Draw | Player | |
| H | Clarke, Chris | Eng | I | McInerney, Mark | Ire | F | Gibbons, John | Eng | E | McInerney, Ronan | Ire |
| J | Irwin, Colin | Eng | H | Death, James | Eng | H | Avery, Mark | Eng | I | Kirby, Jonathan | Sco |
| G | Stark, Jerry | USA | J | Burrow, Matthew | Jer | I | Dumergue, Ian | Aus | A | Lines, Ian | Eng |
| I | Williams, Simon | Ire | F | Chapman, Paddy | NZ | D | Mulliner, Stephen | Eng | G | Dawson, Jeff | Eng |
| A | Batchelor, Peter | NZ | E | Hockey, Simon | Aus | G | Williams, Jenny | NZ | H | Prater, Mark | Aus |
| B | Beard, Kevin | Aus | C | Burrige, Ian | Wal | E | McInerney, Alan | Ire | F | Roberts, Graeme | NZ |
| E | Williams, Chris | Wal | A | Jackson, Stewart | USA | C | Drake, Curtis | USA | J | Sexton, Ian | Swi |
| C | Forster, Stephen | Aus | B | Guest, Jerry | Eng | A | Beijderwellen, Rutger | Hol | C | Thomas, Rhys | USA |
| F | Foulser, David | Rus | G | Hanekom, Judith | RSA | J | Elmaadi, Ahmed | Egy | B | Hess, Bruno | Ger |
| D | Varnas, Anton | Swe | D | Wells, Kevin | IOM | B | Ojeda, Juan | Spa | D | Qualifier 4 | |

| GREEN | | | PINK | | | BROWN | | | WHITE | | |
|-------|-------------------|-----|------|-----------------|-----|-------|----------------------|-----|-------|---------------------|-----|
| Draw | Player | | Draw | Player | | Draw | Player | | Draw | Player | |
| G | Maugham, David | Eng | I | Bamford, Reg | RSA | E | Trimmer, Peter | Eng | D | Fulford, Robert | Eng |
| I | Goacher, David | Eng | H | Westerby, Aaron | NZ | A | Bassett, Trevor | Aus | C | Duckworth, Ed | Eng |
| B | Garrison, Toby | NZ | J | Lowe, Robert | NZ | G | Openshaw, David | Eng | F | Brown, Robin | Eng |
| E | McBride, Leo | Can | A | Evans, Marcus | Eng | F | Johnston, Andrew | Ire | E | Aiton, Keith | Sco |
| D | Bald, Ken | Aus | B | Fleming, Liz | Aus | I | Wilkins, Tim | Eng | G | Sands, Alan | Aus |
| C | Jenner, Mike | USA | G | Bennett, Paul | USA | H | Watson, Leslie | Aus | A | Bulloch, Dennis | NZ |
| A | Louw, William | RSA | E | Ashwell, Ben | Eng | C | Tudor, Sam | Wal | J | Rosenberry, Kenster | USA |
| J | Dourthe, Rodolphe | Fra | C | To be notified | Ita | B | McIntyre, Jane | NZ | I | Cumming, Brian | Can |
| F | Yamada, Masaaki | Jap | D | Wahban, Walid | Egy | D | Grimley, Doug | USA | B | Magin, Thomas | Ger |
| H | Qualifier 3 | | F | Qualifier 1 | | J | Alvarez Sala, Andres | Spa | H | Qualifier 2 | |

WCF World Ranking as at 19th July 2005 (Top 50)

| Grade Games Wins Index %age peels | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| Num | Name | Country | Grade | Games | Wins | Index | %wins | Tps | Tpos | Otps | Sxps |
| 1 | Chris Clarke | England | 2735 | 134 | 94 | 2711 | 70 | 78 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | David Maughan | England | 2723 | 153 | 116 | 2839 | 76 | 82 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | Robert Fulford | England | 2710 | 148 | 114 | 2611 | 77 | 90 | 8 | 0 | 37 |
| 4 | Reg Bamford | South Africa | 2663 | 86 | 62 | 2706 | 72 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| 5 | Peter Trimmer | England | 2646 | 36 | 19 | 2564 | 53 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Mark Avery | England | 2583 | 102 | 72 | 2595 | 71 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Ronan McInerney | Ireland | 2570 | 50 | 34 | 2515 | 68 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Jonathan Kirby | Scotland | 2545 | 88 | 52 | 2536 | 59 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Aaron Westerby | New Zealand | 2543 | 36 | 25 | 2582 | 69 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Bob Jackson | New Zealand | 2541 | 107 | 89 | 2443 | 83 | 42 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Mark McInerney | Ireland | 2539 | 78 | 48 | 2426 | 62 | 39 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | Keith Aiton | Scotland | 2535 | 75 | 46 | 2586 | 61 | 30 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 13 | Trevor Bassett | Australia | 2535 | 138 | 102 | 2521 | 74 | 81 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | John Gibbons | England | 2530 | 58 | 38 | 2507 | 66 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Colin Irwin | England | 2528 | 41 | 25 | 2565 | 61 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Matthew Burrow | Jersey | 2526 | 54 | 42 | 2518 | 78 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Martin Clarke | Australia | 2517 | 73 | 61 | 2535 | 84 | 25 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 18 | Ed Duckworth | England | 2498 | 49 | 29 | 2513 | 59 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | David Goacher | England | 2493 | 106 | 66 | 2557 | 62 | 23 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | John Prince | New Zealand | 2479 | 15 | 8 | 2328 | 53 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | James Death | England | 2476 | 95 | 65 | 2420 | 68 | 36 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 22 | Robert Lowe | New Zealand | 2468 | 41 | 31 | 2446 | 76 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Toby Garrison | New Zealand | 2463 | 55 | 30 | 2396 | 55 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 24 | Tony Stephens | New Zealand | 2462 | 55 | 37 | 2488 | 67 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Ian Dumerque | Australia | 2458 | 27 | 19 | 2515 | 70 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Harley Watts | Australia | 2457 | 33 | 26 | 2504 | 79 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Marcus Evans | England | 2457 | 83 | 51 | 2435 | 61 | 31 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | David Openshaw | England | 2453 | 39 | 20 | 2426 | 51 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Dave Kibble | England | 2452 | 112 | 76 | 2422 | 68 | 38 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | Leo McBride | Canada | 2448 | 74 | 55 | 2528 | 74 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Jocelyn Sutton | Australia | 2447 | 24 | 17 | 2313 | 71 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Brian Wislang | New Zealand | 2446 | 41 | 25 | 2398 | 61 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Rutger Beijderwellen | Netherlands | 2442 | 127 | 71 | 2480 | 56 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 34 | Jerry Stark | USA | 2442 | 65 | 47 | 2464 | 72 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 35 | Paddy Chapman | New Zealand | 2440 | 56 | 37 | 2496 | 66 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | Jeff Dawson | England | 2436 | 70 | 48 | 2388 | 69 | 25 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 37 | Bruce Fleming | Australia | 2426 | 72 | 44 | 2377 | 61 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38 | Ed Cunningham | Ireland | 2422 | 36 | 26 | 2503 | 72 | 18 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 39 | Peter Parkinson | New Zealand | 2422 | 33 | 25 | 2472 | 76 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | Andrew Johnston | Ireland | 2415 | 24 | 15 | 2398 | 63 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | Simon Williams | Ireland | 2414 | 35 | 20 | 2377 | 57 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 | Damon Bidecove | USA | 2411 | 46 | 25 | 2416 | 54 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|-----|----|------|----|----|---|---|---|
| 43 | Helene Thurston | Australia | 2410 | 30 | 26 | 2427 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | Stephen Mulliner | England | 2389 | 93 | 58 | 2344 | 62 | 39 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| 45 | Robin Brown | England | 2388 | 67 | 38 | 2229 | 57 | 21 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | Mark Prater | Australia | 2381 | 68 | 49 | 2394 | 72 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 47 | Patrick Hort | England | 2377 | 13 | 5 | 2331 | 38 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | David Harrison-Wood | England | 2370 | 128 | 77 | 2332 | 60 | 40 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 49 | Tim Wilkins | England | 2368 | 90 | 51 | 2408 | 57 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 50 | Ken Bald | Australia | 2366 | 111 | 75 | 2419 | 68 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

WCF to review Association Croquet Ranking System

The WCF has announced a major review and public consultation of the WCF Association Croquet Ranking System.

Since its inception in 1985 the Ranking System has been generally accepted as the primary guide to the ranking of individuals in the sport, yet has regularly been the subject of vociferous and passionate debate surrounding its accuracy, particularly from those players of a statistical or mathematical background.

Given that the Ranking System is used to determine the participation of players in some high quality competitions around the world, including forming the basis for nominations to the WCF World Championship, it is important that the integrity of the System is viewed with confidence.

The main factors under scrutiny will be:-

1. the volatility of the System and the algorithm utilised;
2. to determine if there is a bias for or against certain member nations that would require some adjustment to be built in to any future algorithm;
3. the WCF policy for inclusion of players in the official Ranking System list, published from time to time.

The review will be in two parts.

Public consultation

All persons with an interest in croquet, are asked to forward their points of view regarding the Ranking System and ideas for improvement to the [WCF Secretary-General](#)

To elicit informative responses, and allow for that public discussion to develop over the next few months, the closing date is 31st October 2005.

Respondents are asked to remain focussed and where possible identify practical changes that may be made.

Committee Appraisal

A WCF Ranking Committee will be formed, under the Chairmanship of Chris Williams, WCF Ranking Officer, to consider all the proposals made and the options for future change. This will report back to the WCF Management Committee, with recommendations by March 2006.

It is anticipated that the WCF Management Committee will then consider that report so that any required changes are made at a suitable time during 2006.

Selection of the Ranking Committee

Any person that believes that they have the right skills and knowledge of statistical data, particularly in a sports setting relating to a Ranking System, is asked to nominate themselves to the [WCF Secretary-General](#) for consideration of joining the committee.

Further Electronic Reading

A series of papers by Steven Mulliner, Chris Williams, Tim Harrison, Ian Plummer and Louis Nel relating to the mathematical basis of the ranking System at: [OxfordCroquet](#)

Two articles in Croquet World on the workings of the Ranking System at:

1. [Croquet World 1](#)
2. [Croquet World 2](#)

In May 2005 WCF Members were asked to report on their overall strength of membership and other information. These are the responses so far.

| WCF Members Survey 2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3 | 4 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 |
| Australia | 7741 | 6500 | 2000 | 0 | 0 | 300 | 285 | 750 | 260 | 24 | 1 | 0 | 783 | 330 | 1500 | 20 | 80 | 20 |
| Austria | 15 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 6 | 4 |
| Belgium | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egypt | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| England | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finland | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| France | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | 90 | 30 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1000 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Guernsey | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ireland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Isle of Man | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Italy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Japan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jersey | 25 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| New Zealand | 3705 | 2500 | 1000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 131 | 360 | 95 | 31 | 6 | 0 | 757 | 138 | 200 | 1 | 40 | 0 |
| Norway | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Palestine | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Russia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scotland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | 468 | 101 | 436 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 27 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 500 | 20 | 50 | 100 |
| Spain | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sweden | 300 | 75 | 30 | 0 | 5 | 200 | 15 | 30 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 30000 | 15 | 0 | 5 |
| Switzerland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | 2999 | 580 | 1000 | 2195 | 115 | 12 | 200 | 266 | 202 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 123 | 45 | 200 | 26 | 42 | 9 |
| Wales | 70 | 70 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3.5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| Total | 15493 | 9874 | 4591 | 2195 | 120 | 512 | 670 | 1458.5 | 600 | 65 | 7 | 1 | 1683 | 515 | 33650 | 89 | 222 | 149 |

INDIVIDUALS

- Number of individuals that are affiliated to your Association, either through personal membership or through an affiliated club at 1st April 2005
- Of those, as follows:
 - the number that regularly play Association Croquet (i.e. Advanced, Handicap, 25pt, 14pt, short or 2 ball variations);
 - the number that regularly play Golf Croquet;
 - the number that play 6 wkbt American Rules;
 - the number that play 9 wkbt American Rules;
 - the number that play another variant of the game (e.g. Arched Croquet): Gateball 300

NOTE: The total of 2.1 to 2.5 (inclusive) may exceed the answer at 2

CLUBS

- The number of organised clubs that are members of your Association, or where your individual members regularly play at 1st April 2005;
- The assumed or known total number of laws that are regularly available to your member clubs at 1st April 2005:

Of these, the assumed or known number of clubs that have:

 - 3 laws or less;
 - 4-5 laws;
 - 6-9 laws;
 - 10+ laws

OFFICIALS

- The number of qualified referees you have in your Association at 1st April 2005
- The number of qualified coaches/instructors of all types you have in your Association at 1st April 2005

NON MEMBERS

- The estimated number of persons who play croquet, in any variant in your Association's country, that are NOT members of your Association;
- The estimated numbers of clubs and laws that exist with your Association are that are NOT part of your club membership:-
 - Organised Clubs;
 - Private laws - house;
 - Private laws - hotel

NOTE: Derived from empirical evidence, a calculated guess, anecdotal evidence, known sales of croquet equipment within an Association area.