

# **WCF Management Committee Report – December 2014**

This report covers the year ended 31 December 2014

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Membership**

Membership of the WCF is currently 30 divided into ten Full, eleven Associate and nine Observer Members. During 2014, Belgium changed its status from Observer to Associate Membership and Uruguay has just been elected as an Observer Member.

### **What the WCF does**

The work of the WCF falls into four main categories, namely:

- (1) **World Championships** – from the perspective of the great majority of competitive croquet players around the world the organisation of world championships is by a large margin the WCF's most important function.
- (2) **Development** – the expansion of organised croquet throughout the world remains a key WCF objective.
- (3) **Communication with Members** – keeping Members up to date with WCF and WCF MC activities and seeking Council's approval of MC recommendations through the e-mail decision process.
- (4) **Administration and finance** – ensuring that the day-to-day running, periodic tasks and financing of the WCF are managed efficiently. Specific subjects requiring management include the 10 year Championship Schedule, the WCF web-site, the Hall of Fame, the Rules of Golf Croquet and the WCF Statutes and Regulations.

## **1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **1.1 Association Croquet World Team Championship**

2014 began with the 21st holding of the MacRobertson Shield in New Zealand since its foundation in 1925. This is the blue riband of Association Croquet and also constitutes Tier 1 of the Association Croquet World Team Championship. Victory went to New Zealand, thereby ending a run of seven consecutive victories by Great Britain since 1990. England were second (replacing Great Britain) followed by Australia and the USA.

The Tier 2.1 ACWTC event was held at Carrickmines in Ireland and produced another home victory after the closest of finishes between Ireland and the holders, Wales, who were followed by Scotland and South Africa.

The Tier 2.2/3 ACWTC event involved seven countries of whom three, Austria, Germany and Norway, were competing for the Tier 3 trophy as well as being able, in theory, to embarrass the four Tier 2.2. countries of Canada, Czech Republic, Spain and Sweden, by winning the senior trophy as well. In fact, Austria came very close to pulling off this feat, losing only to the Tier 2.2 winners, Spain, and thereby being decisive winners of Tier 3 as well.

### **1.2 Over 50 Golf Croquet World Championship**

This event was held for the second time and was again held in Cairo in October 2014. A field of 36 was split evenly between home players and visitors. Although the latter slightly outperformed expectations in providing five of the last 16, none survived the first round of the knock-out and Salah Hassan, a former double GC World Champion in 1997 and 2000, defeated Hazem Mahmoud 3-1 in the final to take the title.

### **1.3 Women's Golf Croquet World Championship**

The fifth WGCWC was held in Cairo in November 2014 with a field of 40. Egypt provided 18 players including 17 of the top 20 by ranking. However, Judith Hanekom from South Africa produced a battling performance after a slow start. She only just made it into the knock-out but then defeated four top Egyptian women players to reach the final where she defeated New Zealand's Jenny Clarke, the 2011 runner-up to England's Rachel Rowe, in five games.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Three events are scheduled for 2015:

- The Under 21 Golf Croquet World Championship to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from 1 to 5 February 2015.
- The Golf Croquet World Championship to be held in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand from 7 to 15 February 2015.
- The Women's Association Croquet World Championship to be held in Nottingham, England from 25 July to 1 August 2015.

### **Event Hosts**

The MC and its Event Sub-Committees are responsible for arranging and scheduling these events and handling entries and these involve considerable amounts of time and effort. However, it is the Event Hosts who do the hardest work of making World Championships actually happen by providing and maintaining lawns, appointing officials, seeking sponsorship, arranging catering and taking care of all the other practical arrangements that are part and parcel of holding a large tournament. On behalf of all the participants and other Members, the MC would like to express its gratitude to the 2014 Event Hosts, namely the Croquet Association of Ireland (AC WTC Tier 2.1), the Croquet Association (AC WTC Tier 2.2/3) and the Egyptian Croquet Federation (Over-50 GCWC and Women's GCWC).

## **2. DEVELOPMENT**

The MC approach to development recognises that the WCF is not resourced to be a missionary organisation. It is founded on the principle of supporting national organisations because only they can provide the continuous support necessary for the growth of croquet within their own borders. This support can take two main forms, namely providing coaching and making capital grants to help develop croquet playing facilities. Coaching can be in relation to improving playing standards, refereeing standards and coaching skills so that Members can become self-sufficient. Coaching assistance can take place either in a Member's country or by offering courses for representatives of several of the smaller Members in one of the larger and more established Members.

A Development Sub-Committee consisting of Gabrielle Higgins (chairman), Keith Aiton and Roberts Stafeckis has been established. Its work this year consisted of conducting a detailed membership survey to refresh the WCF's awareness of the state of croquet among its Members and in drawing up a Development Plan which is annexed to the 2015 Business Plan.

During 2014, the MC arranged and supported coaching trips to Germany, Latvia and Switzerland.

In relation to capital grants, the MC would like to encourage any Member that does not yet have a top-class venue with at least four full-size lawns to consider putting together a project which we can partly fund. The WCF will always limit itself to match-funding which means that the Member must expect to raise at least 50% of the project funds itself.

The idea of a World Croquet Day was endorsed by Members as a single day when croquet would be promoted or advertised worldwide. The first Saturday in May was agreed as the most generally suitable. The next WCD will be on 2 May 2015.

Any other ideas from Members for boosting Development are very welcome and will always be actively considered by the MC.

### **3. COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS**

#### **WCF 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The WCF Silver Jubilee was commemorated by the award of special medals generously donated by Amir Ramsis to the winners of national championships in AC, GC and US Six-Wicket Croquet held in the twelve months from July 2014 to June 2015. 24 medals have been awarded in 2014.

#### **Newsletters**

The practice of sending newsletters to Members and to the wider croquet community is now embedded and hopefully ensures that all those interested in what the WCF and the MC are doing feel adequately informed.

#### **Web-site**

The WCF web-site is now established and working better than the previous version. However, it does not have much marketing appeal and its content management system is Joomla 2.5 which is not easily upgradable to Joomla 3 given the current ISP. The MC has funded the development of a new website based on Joomla 3 and hosted by a new Joomla-friendly ISP. This should greatly assist future website administration and development. The new website should be available for parallel running early in 2015.

#### **Council decision-making**

The Council took six decisions in December 2013 which had not been concluded at the time of the 2013 MC Report and ten decisions in the course of 2014 as well as responding to two consultations (Topics 33 and 34). These were:

December 2013

- 19: Allocation procedure for World Championships.
- 24: Extension of trial period for e-mail voting to the end of 2014.
- 25: Approval of 2014 Business Plan
- 26: Approval of 2014 Budget.
- 27: Election of Independent Examiner for 2014.
- 28: Election of Treasurer

2014

- 29: Appointment of Governance Working Group.
- 30: Amendment of Statute 303.3.1.2.
- 31: Investment proposals.
- 32: Croquet Federation Belgium upgrade to Associate Member.
- 33: Consultation on amendments to Statutes 300ff.
- 34: Consultation on advertising consultations to individuals.
- 35: Request for Ratification of refunds policy.
- 36: Approval of 2015 Business Plan.
- 37: Election of Independent Examiner for 2015.
- 38: Approval of 2015 Budget.
- 39: Election of Uruguay Croquet Federation as an Observer Member.
- 40: Adoption of e-mail voting as an approved method on a permanent basis.

At the year end, the Council had one decision before it, namely:

- 41: Amendment of Statutes 301 to 309.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATION**

##### **Hall of Fame**

The 2014 inductees were Creina Dawson, David Maugham and Rhys Thomas. We are very pleased to add them to the WCF Croquet Hall of Fame.

##### **WCF Regulations**

The most significant development concerned the Topic 19 amendments to Appendices 1 and 2 of the Sports Regulations which introduced a new rankings-based method of allocating places in World Championships. This was applied for the first time for the 2015 Under-21 GCWC, the main GCWC and the 2015 Women's ACWC. It has been implemented successfully, ensuring the strongest possible fields and, from an administrative perspective, allowing the smooth replacement of a withdrawal by the next person on the Replacement Allocation Ranking List.

##### **WCF Statutes**

As noted above, Council has approved the use of e-mail voting to reach Council decisions on a permanent basis. There will be a full review of the current drafting of the Statutes in 2015.

**Management Committee matters**

Stephen Mulliner and Gabrielle Higgins have settled into their roles as Secretary-General and Treasurer and have both completed a full and active year in office. The 2013 elections added Peter Landrebe (Australia), Roberts Stafeckis (Latvia) and Geoff Young (New Zealand) to the MC and all have made positive and constructive contributions. In particular, Roberts serves on the Development Sub-Committee and Pete and Geoff have each served on three Event Sub-Committees.

**Management Committee operations**

The MC makes its decisions by e-mail, frequently but not exclusively following discussion at regular Skype conference calls. These are held once a fortnight if there is sufficient business and monthly otherwise and a total of 18 were held in 2014.

*The Management Committee of the World Croquet Federation  
31 December 2014*