

WCF Management Committee Report 2018

This report covers the year ended 31 December 2018

OVERVIEW

Membership

Membership of the WCF is currently 29, consisting of ten Full, ten Associate and nine Observer Members.

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, WCF membership applications, the Laws of Association Croquet, the Rules of Golf Croquet and the WCF Statutes and Regulations.

1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.1 Association Croquet World Championship

The first WCF event of 2018 was the ACWC and was won by Paddy Chapman of New Zealand. The event was held from 3 to 11 February at the Kelburn and Wellington Croquet Clubs in Wellington, New Zealand and at three other clubs, namely Paraparaumu, Plimmerton and Waikanae.

80 players from 11 countries took part with 32 progressing to the knock-out stage. Five countries were represented in the quarter-finals where Reg Bamford (ZAF) beat Simon Hockey (AUS), Jose Riva (ESP) beat Ed Wilson (AUS), Stephen Mulliner (ENG), the defending champion, beat Greg Bryant (NZL) and Paddy Chapman (NZL) beat Samir Patel (ENG).

In the semi-finals held at Wellington CC, Riva took the first game and almost completed a sextuple in game 3 but Bamford replied with two sextuples on his way to victory by -26tp, +26sxp, +4sxp, +6. Mulliner and Chapman went to the fifth game before Chapman won -4tpo, +26tp, +16tp, -25, -26 and so reached his second ACWC final.

The final began with a sextuple attempt from Bamford which failed unexpectedly through a missed gentle roquet. This mishap gave Chapman the first game.

Bamford then settled for triples and scored two quick wins without reply and, when an early Chapman error in game 4 allowed Bamford to reach 4-back, he seemed well set to win 3-1 and secure his fifth ACWC title.

However, Chapman hit the lift, went to 4-back and, when Bamford's lift shot missed by very little, made no mistake with the triple to level the match at 2-2. Bamford was again first to 4-back in game 5 but, again, Chapman hit the lift and reached 4-back himself. Bamford prepared with care for the vital lift shot and, again, missed it by a coat of paint. Chapman then showed great calmness under pressure to complete his triple to take the game, match and title +7tp, -26tp, -26tp, +15tp, +17tp.

1.2 Over-50 Golf Croquet World Championship

The Over 50 GCWC was held for the third time and was won by Hanan Rashad of Egypt. Hanan is the first woman to win a WCF world title in an event open to both sexes. The event was again hosted by the Egyptian Croquet Federation at its courts in Cairo and was supported by the Gizera Croquet Club.

48 players from 10 countries took part with 32 progressing to the knock-out stage. Nine countries were represented in the last 32 but this fell to only three (EGY, ENG and USA) by the quarter-finals with the hosts, Egypt, claiming six of the eight places. Stephen Mulliner (ENG) beat Wael Shahine (EGY), Hanan Rashad (EGY) beat Ayman Amin (EGY), Yasser Fathy (EGY) beat Sherif Abdelwahab (USA) and Hazem Mahmoud (EGY) beat Salib Erian (EGY). In the semi-finals, Hanan Rashad beat Mulliner 7-6, 7-6, 7-6 and Yasser Fathy overcame Hazem Mahmoud by 7-2, 5-7, 7-5, 7-6.

It was felt by the numerous spectators that Hanan Rashad needed a good start to have a chance of victory. Although she started brightly by taking the opening game, Yasser Fathy took the next two and seemed well set. However, to Hanan's great credit, she maintained her resolve and won the last two games 7-4, 7-5 to seal a famous victory.

1.3 Forthcoming Events

Three events are scheduled for 2019:

- the Women's Golf Croquet World Championship will be held in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand from 2 to 9 February.
- the Under 21 Golf Croquet World Championship will be held in Nottingham, England 20 to 24 July.
- the Golf Croquet World Championship will be held in Southwick, England from 27 July to 4 August.

1.4 Event Hosts and the venues

1.4.1 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, the Event Hosts and the host clubs have the heaviest burden by providing venues and maintaining lawns, appointing officials, seeking sponsorship, arranging catering and taking care of all the other practical arrangements that are an essential part of holding a world championship event.

1.4.2 On behalf of all the participants and other Members, the MC would like to express its gratitude to the 2018 Event Hosts, namely the Croquet New Zealand (ACWC) and the Egyptian Croquet Federation (Over 50 GCWC), and to the clubs which provided the venues, namely the Kelburn, Paraparaumu, Plimmerton, Waikanae and Wellington Croquet Clubs (ACWC) and the Gizera Croquet Club (Over 50 GCWC).

2. DEVELOPMENT

2.1 The MC approach to development recognises that the WCF is not resourced to be a missionary organisation. It is instead founded on the principle of supporting national organisations because only they can provide the continuous support necessary for the growth of croquet at club level within their own domains. This support can take two main forms, namely providing coaching to Members and making capital grants to help develop croquet playing facilities.

2.2 Coaching can be in relation to improving playing and refereeing standards and in developing coaching skills so that Members can become self-sufficient. Coaching assistance can take place either by arranging for a coach to visit 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, typically England to date. One of the key goals is to develop more qualified coaches in those Members able to benefit from this.

2.3 In May 2018, the MC repeated its financial support for those attending coaching courses for players and coaches from smaller WCF Members at the Croquet Academy at Sussex County Croquet Club in England. The WCF pays for the course fees and provides a small travel grant for those travelling from outside the UK.

2.4 The other standard form of support is when the WCF funds the travel expenses of a coach from their home to the WCF Member where the coaching will take place. The cost of an economy air ticket is the main item. The Member is then responsible for meeting all the travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses of the coach inside the Member's country.

2.5 The MC would also like to encourage any Member that does not yet have a top-class venue with at least **two** full-size courts to consider putting together a project which the WCF can part-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. This offer used to be restricted to projects involving four courts but the MC has recognised that this will only occasionally be practical in the smaller Members.

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

3. COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

Council decision-making

The Council took six decisions in 2018. These were:

- 67: Amendment of the Finance Regulations.
- 69: Adoption of the GC Rankings as a WCF responsibility
- 70: Amendment of the Hall of Fame Regulations
- 71: Adoption of the 5th Edition of the GC Rules
- 72: Amendment of the Event and Sports Regulations
- 73: Election of Yousry Ghamry as Treasurer

The Council also undertook two consultations in 2018, namely:

- 68: Consultation on World Team Championship formats
- 74: Consultation on the WCF membership structure

Elections

In addition to the annual election of the Independent Examiner there was an election for the post of WCF Treasurer made necessary by the decision of Martin French to retire at the end of 2018. The WCF was fortunate to have two very well-qualified candidates in Lorraine Smith (AUS) and Yousry Ghamry (EGY). Yousry was the successful candidate with 31 votes to Lorraine's 22 votes.

World Championships

Members receive direct email communication from the MC about all matters relating to the administration of championships, the key dates for Member action and player entries. The information is also posted on the WCF website.

Newsletters

Newsletters are published on the WCF website at least every three months depending on activity and are intended to ensure that all those interested in what the WCF and the MC are doing are adequately informed and kept up-to-date.

Website

The WCF website continues to be hosted by SiteGround who have proved both reliable and helpful. Using Joomla 3 as the content management system has greatly eased website administration and development. Updates now happen automatically. There was one outage lasting 48 hours caused by a random domain usage check that sent an activity confirmation request to an old email address.

WCF Facebook page

The WCF Facebook page has continued to gain followers, and has a correspondingly growing reach with posts being regularly shown to over 1,500 people. World Championship previews have proved to be more popular than WCF news, with a "40 days to go" post relating to the Women's Golf Croquet World Championship receiving 378 reactions, comments or shares and almost 5,000 impressions.

Starting with the GC World Championship 2019, we will be experimenting with using the main WCF Facebook page for tournament news in order to reduce the workload of contributors and improve the speed at which news is posted to Facebook.

4. ADMINISTRATION

WCF Statutes and Regulations

Amendments were approved for the Hall of Fame, Event and Sports Regulations. It is likely that the Refereeing Regulations will be the subject of an overhaul in 2019.

WCF Rules of Golf Croquet

The 5th Edition was adopted by the WCF Council on 8 July 2018 after 18 months work by the WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee under the chairmanship of Brian Boutel (NZL).

WCF Laws of Association Croquet

The WCF Association Croquet Laws Committee has been working on a 7th Edition of the AC Laws since early 2018 under the chairmanship of Graeme Roberts (NZL). It is expected to publish a draft for consultation in 2019.

Hall of Fame

There were no nominations in 2018. It is now intended to relaunch the Hall of Fame in early 2019.

Golf Croquet International Grading System

The WCF Council agreed in Topic 69 that the WCF should accept responsibility for the administration of the Golf Croquet International Grading System ("GCIGS") on the same basis that applies to the Association Croquet grading system and should adopt a revised algorithm recommended by the Golf Croquet Ranking Review Committee which reported in November 2017.

Work has progressed during 2018 to test the proposed coding and to move to a system where results data can be input by national ranking officers instead of by just one person. Spreading the load is an important objective. The continuing growth of GC was reflected in over 30,000 ranked games being reported in 2018.

Management Committee matters

There were no matters of note to report. The MC continues to operate efficiently by email discussions and decisions with Skype conference calls held at least every two months.

*The WCF Management Committee
16 January 2019*