

WCF Management Committee Report 2022

This report covers the year ended 31st December 2022.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Members and Recognised Croquet Organisations

There are currently 29 Members of the WCF across 6 continents. 11 are Full members, 6 Associate Members and the remaining 12 are Recognised Croquet Organisations.

The Hong Kong Croquet Association has now been formed and they joined the WCF as an RCO on 19th December 2022.

There has been contact with several other countries, namely Nigeria, Costa Rica and the Bahamas, but these are at very early stages in their development. We hope they can join us when they are more established.

2. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pandemic and impact of Global Economic disruption

The impact of the pandemic on international travel continues to impact our events, although less so than in prior years. Entries into the GC World Championship from Australia and New Zealand were well down on normal years. However, entries were strong from other continents.

Events Held in 2022

Reports from previous WCF championships can be found on www.worldcroquet.org/world-championships/championship-archives/. Links to CroquetScores can be found on each report.

2020 World Team Championship Tier 3

This event was held between 20th to 23rd July 2022 at the Guildford & Godalming Club, England. England experienced a dry summer and the lawns were fast and challenging. Congratulations to Winners, Mexico.

2022 Golf Croquet World Championship

64 players were welcomed to the Sussex County Croquet Club, in Sussex, England between 30th July to 7th August 2022. The lawns had been expertly prepared and the Club hosted a well-run event with plenty of support from local volunteers. Live streaming was provided by the English Croquet Association and was available for several hours each day courtesy of Alison Maugham and her support team. Extensive use of Facebook helped with the communication and sharing of photos. Congratulations to Champion, Matthew Essick.

2022 AC World Team Championship – Tiers 2 and 3

This event took place at the Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club, Devon, England between 9th to 14th August 2022.

On 8th August Sweden won a play-off match against Canada to determine which team would play in Tier 2.1. Tier 2.1 therefore consisted of Ireland, Scotland, Sweden and Wales. By the final day it was very tight between Scotland and Wales. The final test was 3-3, a tie, however, Scotland took the series due to winning more of the Singles matches.

Tier 2.2 was won by Canada and Tier 3 by South Africa.

2022 AC World Team Championship – Tier 1 – The MacRobertson Shield

Congratulations to the England team who put up a fantastic performance in Australia to triumph in the MacRobertson Shield. They won all three tests against the other nations, including a nail biting 11:10 against New Zealand.

Thank you to the ACA and to the Victorian Croquet Centre at Cairnlea, Melbourne for hosting the event. The lawns were challenging, with tight hoops and strong winds, which resulted in more interaction than might be expected at this level.

The event was filmed every day by 'MySportLive', with expert commentators from around the World. The videos can be watched in full on their site. To see highlights, go to the WCF YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/worldcroquet) and select the 2022 MacRobertson Shield Playlist.

3. STRATEGY

The 2020-2023 Business Plan, published in 2020, remains the current strategy.

4. CAPITAL GRANTS

The MC encourages any Member wishing to improve its facilities 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.

No grants were authorised during 2022, however, at time of writing the MC has two potential Grant requests on hand:

- i) Balgreen Croquet Club, 2 additional lawns, Edinburgh – awaiting further information.
- ii) Telč Croquet Club, 2 additional lawns, Czech Republic – Topic 122 seeking approval for a €15,000 grant - vote closes 17th January 2023.

Funds were approved in 2021 for a new 3 lawn club in Latvia. We are pleased to report that this club is now thriving. Earlier this year it hosted the inaugural European GC Women's Championship, and in 2023 it is due to host the European GC Under 21 Championship.

5. EUROPEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE (ERC)

Following a Member Vote in July 2021 to allow the formation of Regional Committees, the ERC was formed in January 2022. ERC events and activities will be self-funded, mainly through entry fees. Since its formation the ERC has accomplished the following:

- February: elected a committee formed from representatives of European WCF Members and Associates.
- Two events held: Congratulations to Aston Wade, winner of the European Open held in Devon in May and to Begonia Elizaburu, winner of the inaugural European Women's Championship held in Latvia in July.
- Created a forward Calendar of European events.
- Re-introduced the European Team Championship which includes both AC and GC players.
- Instigated a European Club League, with one heat held in Portugal in October.

The ERC is not operating a separate website but has several dedicated pages on the WCF website. Further information regarding the operation and activities of the ERC can be found on page: www.worldcroquet.org/european-regional-committee-erc/.

6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

WCF Development Working Group

This group was inactive in 2022. Following a review of responsibilities and workload within the Management Committee, this working group will be disbanded. Instead, an MC led Development Committee will more closely manage the operations of the various specific development Working Groups (see below).

Specific Working Groups

In 2022 there were five Development Working Groups. Progress has been slow, but see below for a brief synopsis of activity.

Working Group 1 – Development of a global handicap system

After initial consideration of the matter this group is waiting for the output of Working Group 2 before work continues.

Working Group 2 – Development of a global player and games database

Phil Cordingley presented a draft outline to the Working Group in November 2022. Further progress is expected early in the New Year.

Working Group 3 – Advantage GC

Advantage GC has now been incorporated into the 6th edition of the GC Rules. The rules can be found on the WCF website: www.worldcroquet.org/advantagegc/

Clubs are encouraged to continue using this variant. This working group is now closed.

Working Group 4 – Development of online referee training and accreditation

An initial GC training module has recently been approved by the GC Rules Committee. Further modules will now be completed to create a full GC training programme.

Working Group 5 – AC Regeneration

This workgroup was formed late in 2022. It aims to identify ways in which the WCF, at a global level, can help with the regeneration of Association Croquet.

7. WCF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

This Media Workgroup has been dormant in 2022 and has been disbanded. There are four main strands of activity which the Secretary-General currently oversees:

The WCF Website

The website continues to operate well, with news items (www.worldcroquet.org/mainnews) and Event Notifications the main updates.

Several new pages were added during 2022:

- The new European Regional Committee (ERC) page: www.worldcroquet.org/european-regional-committee-erc/. This page includes news items about the ERC and the work of the committee as well as links to Event pages.
- A page explaining how to join the WCF: www.worldcroquet.org/member-countries/we-welcome-new-members

The use of the site as a Gallery for the retention of historic photos is planned. Please send any suitable photos that would benefit from being retained for future generations to the Secretary-General.

The WCF YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/worldcroquet

This site aims to showcase some of the very best videos of top class, international croquet from around the world. Playlists provide links straight to videos created by WCF Members and International croquet players. This site is now fully populated with predominantly WCF Championship videos, taken by various contributors. There are currently 354 subscribers.

Facebook Page www.facebook.com/WorldCroquet

This site continues to post news items on a regular basis. It now has 910 followers, and the most popular post (with over 2000 impressions to date) was the item announcing the MacRobertson Shield result.

Live Streaming

Both the MacRobertson Shield and the GC World Championship benefited from extensive live-streaming, enabling players from around the World to view top players competing. Our thanks to the Australian Croquet Association and to the England Croquet Association. Other live-streaming via mobile phones or similar is growing.

8. COURSES

During 2022 a GC Referee's course was held prior to the Tier 3 WTC at Guildford & Godalming before which Stephen Mulliner also ran a GC Master Class.

Prior to the European Teams Championship at Cheltenham 2nd to 5th August 2023, there are plans to run a similar GC Referee's course between 30th and 31st July 2023. Some AC coaching has been offered by Sarah Hayes on 1st August 2023 and we hope to organise some GC coaching on that day as well.

Coaching assistance generally takes two forms:

- i) by arranging for a coach to visit the Member's country, or
- ii) by offering courses located at our more established Members' venues (typically the academies in England) for attendance by representatives from new or smaller Members and RCOs.

The WCF highly recommend that smaller and more recent croquet nations arrange for people to learn the key skills needed to develop croquet locally, such as Coaching Courses or Refereeing courses.

The WCF will fund the travel expenses of a coach from their home to the WCF Member where the coaching will take place, with the Member then responsible for the travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses of that coach whilst inside the Member's country. If sending delegates to attend courses elsewhere, the MC remains willing to provide financial support, usually in the form of the course fees and a small travel grant. Please contact the Secretary-General in the first instance.

9. COUNCIL BUSINESS

Council decision-making

The Council took eleven decisions in 2022 and there were five completed consultations. There was one election.

There are four open items as at the year end.

Decisions

- 102 2022 Budget – approved
- 103 Sports & Admin Regulations – approved
- 104 Ranking Regulation – amend clause 4.5 to 75% - approved
- 106 Gender Policy – approved
- 107 GC Rules 6th Edition – approved
- 112 WCF Forward Calendar – approved
- 113 Change age of GC Over 50's to Over 60's – approved
- 114 Refereeing Regulations – approved
- 115 Sports & Event Regulations – approved
- 116 Ranking System Changes Proposal – approved
- 118 Forward Calendar England proposal – approved
- 121 2023 Budget – vote closes 15th January 2023
- 122 Capital Grant €15,000 for Czech-Moravian CA – vote closes 17th January 2023

Consultations:

- 108 AC Regeneration Working Group
- 109 WCF Forward Calendar (see 112 decision)
- 110 AC World Teams Championship Format (only sent to relevant members)
- 111 AC World Teams Championship potential Select Team
- 117 Single or multi-venue Singles Events
- 119 Equipment Regulations – vote closes 11th January 2023

Elections:

- 105 Vacancy on Management Committee: Mohamed Raslan Elected
- 120 Election of Independent Examiner – vote closes 11th January 2023

10. STATUTES & REGULATIONS

Admin Regulations [Topic 103]

Version 5 was published on 22nd February 2022.

Sports Regulations [Topics 103 and 115]

Two amendments were put through during the year.

103 – miscellaneous amendments

115 – updated the regulations in line with Topics 112 and 113

Sports Regulation - current version is 9.1 published on 1st October 2022.

Event Regulations [Topic 115]

Version 5.1 was published on 1st October 2022 to reflect changes made to U21 timing (in Topic 112) and change to an Over 60's (Topic 113).

Refereeing Regulations [Topic 114]

Version 1.6 was published on 30th June 2022 to reflect changes required following the approval of the 6th Edition of the GC Rules.

Ranking Regulations [Topic 104]

Version 1.1 published on 18th January 2022 - clause 4.5 amended to allow up to 75% of players in an eligible ranking tournament to come from one club.

11. RULES AND LAWS

WCF Rules of Golf Croquet [Topic 107]

Following the consultation held during 2021 (Topic 100), Members approved the 6th edition of the GC Rules.

The MC is very grateful to the GC Rules committee for their hard work. Our thanks to Brian Boutel for his many years of support Chairing this committee. He has now resigned and we await confirmation of his replacement.

12. COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

WCF Forward Calendar [Topic 109]

Following a proposal put forward by Croquet New Zealand, Members were consulted on event congestion and timing. Players were also surveyed. The results did not show any strong requirement to reduce the overall number of events, although there is no doubt that for those players who qualify for several events, the calendar is very busy and choices may be required. In June Members voted to approve the Forward Calendar [with 45 votes cast, 37 for and 8 against].

Proposed Amendment [Topic 118]

England proposed an amendment to the above proposal, which the MC reviewed and, after checking that hosts would be available, submitted to Members for a vote. This was approved on 15th December 2022.

Single or Multi-Venue Events [Topic 117]

The results of this Consultation were mixed, however, there was a slight preference for larger events, ideally single venue, but multi-venue if necessary. Several Members expressed a wish that if events are multi-venue these should be as few as possible and travel times minimised. The MC will bear the above in mind when considering future bids, however, it is clear that no bids will be refused on the basis of this consultation alone.

The WCF 12 year forward calendar can be found on page: www.worldcroquet.org/world-championships/upcoming-events/

If you wish to host an event, please send your Expression of Interest to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

13. ELECTIONS

Management Committee [Topic 99]

Mohamed Raslan was elected on 20th March 2022 and will serve until 31st December 2025.

14. WORLD RANKINGS

GC Ranking System [Topic 116]

Changes to reduce under grading of players from developing members were approved under Topic 116 on 13th December 2022.

The Ranking Operations Committee analysed issues within our developing countries causing many players to be under-ranked by the GC Ranking system. Proposals to amend the GC algorithm to fix the problem were put to Members in October and approved in December. Changes were implemented on 18th December 2022.

Other Ranking Matters

The Ranking Operations Committee (ROC) are currently putting the final touches on a proposal regarding how to deal with Rebasing Players who return to the game after a long absence, or who unexpectedly jump significantly in standard. This should be circulated to Members for consultation early next year.

GC and AC Country Rankings continue to be published every quarter on the WCF website.

The MC would like to thank the hard work of the Ranking Officers and their Assistant Ranking Officers (AROs), who ensure that results are entered properly. Without their efforts, the ranking system would not be able to produce such accurate data.

The AC Rankings continue to be run by Chris Williams.

Richard Bilton took over as GC Ranking Officer. The GC AROs are: Richard Bilton for England, John Christie for New Zealand, Peter Freer for Australia, Jeff Soo for USA and Felipe Mestanza for Spain.

15. HALL OF FAME

The MC congratulate three new inductees to the Hall of Fame elected in November 2022: Geoff Young, Joe Hogan and Khaled Younis.

The citations for all our Hall of Fame Members can be seen on the WCF Webpage: www.worldcroquet.org/world-croquet-federation/hall-of-fame/

16. OTHER MC BUSINESS

Newsletters

Newsletters are published on the WCF website approximately 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.

Other matters

There were no other matters of note to report which have not been covered elsewhere. The MC

continues to operate efficiently by email discussions and decisions with the added support of monthly video conference calls.

Members of the Management Committee

The members of the WCF Management Committee for 2022 were:

Ian Burridge (Wales), President
Debbie Lines (England), Secretary-General
Peter Payne (Switzerland), Treasurer
Begoña Elzaburu (Spain)
Graeme Roberts (New Zealand)
Hal Denton (United States)
Mohamed Raslan (Egypt)
Roberts Stafeckis (Latvia)
Samir Patel (England)



Debbie Lines
Secretary-General
28th December 2022