

April 2024 Newsletter

Croquet Expands again...

Not so long ago we welcomed **Hong Kong** as an RCO and many of you will now be reading their regular Newsletter, recounting tales of their activity, including coaching and national tournaments. See the blog on their website to read all about them: [Hong Kong Croquet Club website](#)

Corfu



The WCF are now pleased to report that **Corfu** has joined the WCF. Corfu is one of the largest of the many Greek Islands. The Corfu Club have been welcoming players to their tournaments, both GC and AC, for many years, and we are really pleased that they've now chosen to join us. They too publish regular newsletters, see their website for more: [Corfu Croquet Club website](#)

Players enjoying a tournament in Corfu

Refereeing Corner

Want to learn the rules?

The WCF launched the [Online GC Rules Training Pack](#) in December. We know that many of you are now studying and learning using this online resource. We hope it is going well and that you are using either the WhatsApp group or the Facebook page if you need support.

The associated online test is currently under-going testing and will be launched within the next week or so.

Expertise Sharing

The WCF have also launched GC WhatsApp group "WCF Global GC Referee Queries". This group is specifically for qualified referees to use when they come across queries that they cannot answer. Each Member has nominated one individual to post into the group from their country. Other referees can join but will have view only access. Stephen Mulliner, chair of the GC Rules committee, is monitoring this group and will respond with answers. [WCF Launch GC Referee WhatsApp group](#)

Upcoming Events

Plans for the next [Golf Croquet World Championship](#) are well underway. The response date was 19th March and we've had 150 entries for the 80 places! The MC are reviewing the entries and will announce Ranking Places and Wild Cards by 16th April at the latest.

Members are reminded that names for their Membership Places must be received by the Secretary-General no later than 16th May 2024.

The Qualifier will be held from 13th to 16th October, also at Chesapeake Bay Croquet Club, and has 40 places. To find out more: [How to enter the Qualifier](#)

Regulatory Updates

Since our last Newsletter, the following regulatory updates have been approved by WCF Council:

Topic 126 - GC Knock Out seeding Consultation

Members voted to approve Block Separation by Grade as a new method to seed the Knock-Out stage of WCF GC Events. This method will be used at all 2024 championships.

Topic 127 - ERC committee nominations

Roberts Stafekis was re-elected and remains Chair of the ERC. See below for introductions to the new committee members.

Topic 128 - President and two new Management Committee Members

Jose Alvarez-Sala, Samir Patel and Jeff Soo. See previous newsletter.

Topic 129 - Election of Brian Havill as Independent Examiner.

Elected.

Topic 131 - WCF Statutes and Regulation Update

Revised versions of our Statutes and four of our Regulation documents were approved by Members on 28th March 2024. See post: [Revised Statutes & Regulations](#)

Topic 133 - 2024 Budget and approval of 2022 Accounts

The following consultations or votes are in-progress as at the publication of this newsletter:

Topic 130 - Code of Conduct consultation

A draft was previously sent out to Members some months ago. This original consultation received mixed results. Following further discussions and a complete re-draft, a second consultation was sent to Members on 17th March 2024. Consultation closes 8th April 2024.

Topic 132 - Ranking Amendments re Returners and Fast Improvers

The consultation closed at the end of January. The Ranking Operations Committee are reviewing the feedback received with the intention of this soon going out for a vote with minor amendments.

Topic 134 - Privacy Policy

A draft is with Members for consultation, which closes 9th April 2024.

Spotlight on....

A new feature of our Newsletter, each issue we will feature one of our useful links or resources.

This month the spotlight is on.... **Paddy Chapman's useful coaching site [croquetdev.com](#)**. In particular, the section on **AC Break Play**. Using simple and easy to follow interactive diagrams, this is a MUST read for everyone who wants to understand how the basic patterns of AC work.



Click here> [Croquetdev.com/breaks](#)

It's very easy to follow and it clearly shows how the **Roquet > Croquet > Continuation** pattern works, and demonstrates 2-ball, 3-ball and 4-ball breaks and various variations.

Share this with your clubs, and get your beginners understanding how to play AC, from their sofas!

NEWS from around the World

Croquet England

Croquet England has now been set up as a charitable organisation and is the new name for the National Governing Body for Croquet in England. The associated changes to administration and operation have been put in place during late 2023 and early 2024. This has involved many changes, including to their policies and procedures and to the website. The new Croquet England website is more outward focussed, whilst the old Croquet Association website remains but will increasingly be for affiliates only.

To see the new website: [Croquet England new website](#)

Croquet in Spain – artificial lawns

The A La Par Foundation in Madrid has a full-size artificial grass lawn, the first in Spain. The Spanish Croquet Federation are working with the WCF so that we can jointly learn more about how this type of club can help expand croquet in Spain, or indeed, around the world.



A La Par artificial lawn

The Foundation's croquet field is located in the Fuencarral-El Pardo district of Madrid. It was opened in June 2023 and the Spanish Croquet Federation have given it approval for use in their local events and tournaments.

EUROPE NEWS

European Club League – the heats



As we start the European summer season, we're excited that this new Club League continues this year with 28 clubs competing in 7 heats around Europe. Good luck to all the teams competing.

To find out more about the 3 ERC Events being held this year, visit the new look [Events page of the ERC website](#).

Introducing the new ERC committee

The ERC has now been operating for over two years, and some of our original committee have stood down. Our thanks to Kerstin Loretz, John Swabey and Daniel Larsson for their assistance over the past two years.

We welcome some new faces to the European Regional Committee team:



Alan Looney – Ireland

Alan Looney is the Honorary Secretary of the Croquet Association of Ireland (CAI) and is a Past President of Carrickmines Croquet & Lawn Tennis Club in Dublin, the home of the Irish Croquet Championship since 1909.

Alan has represented Ireland at both GC and AC and plays both disciplines both socially and competitively. He is a keen supporter of European competitions and has been a local advocate for the European Golf Croquet League with Carrickmines agreeing to be a host in June 2024.

Alan is also on the CAI organising committee for the 2024 European Association Championships which will be hosted by the CAI in Carrickmines CLTC in August 2024, and since joining the ERC in January, he has taken on the ERC Event Lead role.

Duncan Catterall – England



Duncan is keen to help croquet grow in Europe. He is keen to explore how we can promote croquet to a wider audience via both public engagement and highlighting world class play.

He hopes to utilise his experience as an architect/designer to look into the digital presence of the ERC, specifically a public facing website and social media engagement.

His croquet events business '[Croquet & Cocktails](#)' gives him experience with understanding the commercial viability of croquet and its potential sponsorship opportunities. Many of you will have seen the livestream footage from the recent Invitational Event in Mauritius which Duncan managed.

He also serves on the Croquet England marketing team and hopes these two roles will enhance each other.



Michael Boer – Germany

Michael is excited by all the new events and activity in Europe since the ERC was founded. He is keen to actively help to ensure that this continues successfully into the future.

Michael has been playing croquet for 20 years and loves maintaining contacts with players from all over Europe by playing in these international tournaments. He has been a member of the board of the German Croquet Association for several years.

They join **Roberts Stafekis, Chair**, who was re-elected and **Andrés Álvarez-Sala**, whose original term doesn't end for another two years.