



December 2010 Newsletter

A monthly summary to the WCF Members of what the Management Committee has been doing during the past month and what is on the agenda for the coming month. Your comments very welcome.

*Martin French
Secretary-General*

Women's GC Championship

We have finalised an agreement with Croquet New Zealand to hold the 4th WCF Women's GC World Championship in the Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand in November 2011. Some initial details are on the WCF website <http://www.wcfcroquet.org/Tournaments/WWGC2011.html> with more details available soon via the event website being created by CNZ. Gordon Smith is the *WCF event lead* for the Women's GC championship (in other words, the MC member who is the prime contact with the organising committee and host).

European Team Championship

The WCF has organised two previous European Team Championship, both staged at Cheltenham in England. Another event had been planned for 2011. However, doubts were raised because of the success of the first WCF World Team Championship in August 2010 and concerns expressed about the WCF holding a regional event that wasn't open to all its Members. So we were pleased to speedily reach agreement with the English Croquet Association to take over responsibility for the ETC. The 2011 event will be held at Cheltenham in England from 23rd to 26th June. More details will be published in due course by the Croquet Association.

Under21s GC Championship

We haven't yet completed discussions with the CA and the specific venue but we are hoping to stage a 4 day U21 GC championship in England, the week before the 2011 World GC Championship takes place in London. This will be a useful developmental event and we plan to use two of the WCF wildcard places for the WGC, so the two highest-placed U21s (who are not already entered in the WGC championship) will be awarded places. Ian Burrige is the WCF event lead for the U21s.

What have we been doing in December?

In addition to progressing these events for 2011, we have begun forming the groups to look at specific areas in more detail (Development, Tournament, Regs), and have met with the organiser of *Jiminy Wicket*, a group dedicated to improving dementia care by bringing a simplified form of GC into care homes – they plan a great deal of croquet-related publicity too, starting in USA and UK but spreading to 8 other countries in next 2 years.

We have held weekly Skype conference calls, usually with just 3 or 4 people on them but we hope this will build up over time. It is sometimes possible to move a discussion along more quickly than just relying on emails.

I have spent a large amount of time on the website. I am learning how to drive the large software package by which we can alter the site and had begun updating some of the data on the site,



when on the 19th our service provider's systems were attacked and our website was one of many that were compromised. It proved to be a long and bloody business to restore the website, and I'm grateful to Brian Storey who gave me a great deal of help in rescuing the News area on the home page in particular. There are still bits and pieces working oddly, but I'll continue working on those. My apologies for the disruption to service.

Topics completed/ closed this month

The MC uses numbered email topics to discuss most significant items, so we can each sort and file contributions accurately. A large part of my role as S-G is to *choreograph* these discussions:

- 100 - Operation of MC: proposal agreed and already being followed. We need to reflect our new processes in the Admin Regs and Standing Orders when next updated
- 104 – Privacy of MC discussions: a formal vote was taken and a policy agreed
- 106 – Correspondence Policy: we agreed by consensus a short policy about how different types of inbound correspondence will be handled.
- 109 – Norwegian grant application: consensus was reached and Stephen Mulliner (Development group lead) asked to continue discussions with NCF
- 111 – Same country, block and family separation: a proposal was voted upon and approved, and has now been sent to WCF Members for Consultation. We need to feed in the results when the Events Regs are updated in the coming months
- 113 – Cabinet responsibility: a simple policy statement was approved via a vote and will be carried forward to the Admin Regs and Standing Orders.
- 114 – Qualifier for the WGC: we agreed some principles which Stephen Mulliner (as WCF event lead) took back to the event organiser
- 115 – Egyptian balls: a question about the specification and characteristics of Egyptian balls was quickly resolved when Amir Ramsis kindly offered that Egypt would buy sufficient sets of an existing approved ball when a WCF event was next staged in Egypt.

Open topics

- 102 - Financial Regulations: proposal mostly agreed but one difficult issue remains. A revised proposal is currently being considered
- 108 – U21 World GC Championships: this has moved quickly from a discussion item to detailed planning with the CA and a potential host club. A short bid document is being prepared to confirm what each party is expecting
- 110 – Seeding: a revised proposal is currently out for a formal vote
- 112 – 10 Year Schedule: we are close to having a proposed 10 year event schedule, together with a summary page for each event. As soon as we have reached agreement, we will circulate this to Members
- 116 – Overall management structure of WCF: we have had some good discussion on how to make the WCF operate effectively, involve the Members more and reach good decisions more quickly. A revised proposal will be produced shortly.
- 117 – Age limit for U21s: last year's Council meeting altered the age cut-off for events like the Over50s to make it the start of the event, rather than the start of the calendar year. We are considering what's best for the U21s
- 118 – Event naming: a look through our records and documents show huge variation in how we name events and what abbreviations we use (the latter causes some confusion – is WGC the World GC champs or the Women's GC champs?). There has also been a proposal that "developmental" events shouldn't be called "world championships". We are aiming for an agreed system.

There are also other topics in the wings, including a suggestion to reduce the costs for hosting WCF events. These will probably be formalised into the topic list shortly.



Outlook for January

1. complete the recovery of the website and start to make more progress with updating the information where needed
2. agree a bid document for the U21s between the WCF, the CA and the likely host club
3. make solid progress on two major and key topics: the 10 year event schedule and how to improve the WCF management structure.

It's been an enjoyable and productive month, disrupted a little by the holiday season and the website problems. We're looking forward to moving things forward in the New Year.

The WCF Management Committee would like to wish all Members a happy New Year.

Martin French
Secretary-General