

World Croquet Federation

Management Committee Election 2007

(WCF Rule 105 and WCF Management Committee Regulations)

The WCF Management Committee is comprised of six (6) elected members, the current elected President and the appointed Treasurer and Secretary-General.

Every two years, half of the elected members are subject to re-election. Every four years the President is also subject to re-election for no more than two terms in total.

The following persons serve on the Committee:-

David Openshaw – President – CA (of England) – (in second term) until December 2009

Rhys Thomas (United States of America CA) – seeks re-election

Charles Jones (New Zealand Croquet Council) – seeks re-election

Kevin Garrad (Isle of Man CA) – currently co-opted but seeks election

Amir Nagiub (Egypt CA) – until December 2009

Carole Jackson (South Africa CA) – until December 2009

Max Murray (Australian CA) – until December 2009

Andrew Hope (Scotland CA) – appointed Treasurer

Brian Storey (CA (of England) – appointed Secretary-General.

In the 2007 election the following elected persons retire. All have indicated they wish to be re-elected.

Rhys Thomas (United States of America CA) – seeks re-election

Charles Jones (New Zealand Croquet Council) – seeks re-election

Kevin Garrad (Isle of Man CA) – currently co-opted but seeks election

In addition, the following two persons have also been nominated for consideration of election.

Keith Aiton (Scotland)

Gordon Smith (New Zealand Croquet Council)

There are therefore five candidates for three vacancies and an election will take place.

All FULL member associations of the WCF are eligible to vote according to the schedule below:-

Australia 3 votes, Canada 1 vote, Egypt 2 votes, England 3 votes, Ireland 1 vote, Italy 1 vote, Japan 1 vote, New Zealand 3 votes, Scotland 1 vote, South Africa 1 vote, United States of America 3 votes :- Total 20 votes.

In accordance with the WCF Statutes (WCF Rule 110.6) an Association may not give more than one vote to any one candidate, and may not record more votes than there are vacancies. Any such error will invalidate the voting paper.

The closing date for return of the voting paper to the WCF Secretary-General (Returning Officer) either by post or electronically, (secretary@wfcroquet.org) is 1st December 2007:-

Brian Storey
WCF Secretary-General
3 Groby Place
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 4AL
United Kingdom.

Two Scrutineers have been appointed by the WCFMC as follows:-

1. Chris Williams (Wales)
2. Leopold Walderdorf (Austria)

They will authenticate the votes cast and confirm the result. In the event of a tie, the Scrutineers will decide the matter by lot. (WCF Rule 113). Please find attached biographies of the candidates and a voting paper

Keith Aiton (Scotland Croquet Association)

I am 49 years old and have been playing croquet since 1980. I have represented Great Britain and Scotland internationally as a player both in individual and team events. I have also played in many tournaments, been a member of the Council of the Croquet Association for nine years (1987-96), organised the 1996 MacRobertson Shield in England, been a National coach of both senior and junior squads for the Croquet Association and currently run an annual coaching weekend for the Scottish Croquet Association. During that time I have seen a lot of changes to our sport, not least of which has been the expansion of international activity, particularly since the formation of the WCF. Professionally I am a Master Practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming and a partner in a firm devoted to business improvement through people development.

My vision for the WCF is that it should become THE governing body of world croquet. That means that it will not only organise world championships and "spread the word" about croquet, as it currently does, but that it will also set standards for tournament organisation and regulation, control the qualification standards for international players (in particular their eligibility to play for different countries) and set standards for coaching, equipment and everything else connected with our wonderful sport. In order to make that vision a reality the WCF will need to be (and demonstrate itself to be) an organisation that is well run and has the ability to carry out the many tasks involved in a way that commands the respect of the member countries. Continuing to build trust with the membership will be vital, and to build that trust openness and clarity in communication will be at the forefront. I believe that my professional skills and experience would be of benefit to the WCF in realising that vision."

Kevin Garrad (Isle of Man Croquet Association)

I have been playing croquet since 1992, firstly at Nailsea & District CC in England, where I became secretary of the club.

Redundancy, and a new job, took me to the Isle of Man in 1994 where I was quickly appointed to the role of Chairman of the Isle of Man CA, as well as coach. I have represented the Isle of Man ever since.

Further changes in my career (imposed due to outsourcing!) moved me to the Netherlands in 1997, where I continue to work today. Although I now live in the Netherlands, I continue to hold residence in the Isle of Man.

Because of my involvement with European croquet, I was elected to the management committee of the Federation Europeenne de Croquet in 2003 and became Secretary-General in 2005.

I became a member of the Welsh CA in 1993, due to the fact that my mother was born in Wales. I have continued to support the Welsh CA ever since.

I am a member of Jersey CC, due mainly to the number of times I visit each year, and the friendships I have made there.

I am also a Friend of the WCF.

So, it can be said that I represent Isle of Man, Wales, Jersey and Europe!

I think I can uniquely represent the views of the smaller nations within the WCF, as I have so many links to many of them.

I am naturally keen to spread the "gospel" of croquet through Europe, and would like to see more development in other parts of the world.

I am keen for the WCF to support all forms of croquet, and I would like to investigate the possibility of a WCF promoted World Nordic Croquet Championship. Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark all play slightly different forms of 1-handed, 9-hoop croquet.

Charles Jones QSM JP (New Zealand Croquet Council)

Charles started playing croquet when he left college in 1970. Over the past 37 years he has held the following positions in NZ Croquet:

Vice President 1979 - 83

President 1999 - 03

Chairman International and Selection 1999 - 07

Manager NZ MacRobertson Shield Team 2000, 2003, 2006

Manager NZ Trans Tasman Team 1995, 2001, 2003, 2006.

Manager New Zealand Championships 2007

On the International Scene he has been involved in the following:

Member of WCF Management Committee 2003 - 2007

Managed HQ Venue 2002 World Champs

Refereed 2005 World Champs UK

Venue referee Napier 2006 World GC Champs

MC Opening and Closing Presentations 2006 World GC Champs

Tournament Referee 2006 Austrian Wine Cup

Tournament Director 2008 World Association Champs Christchurch.

Charles is a qualified Association Croquet Referee and an examining referee for Golf Croquet. He has visited and played Croquet in the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Australia and the United States of America

Gordon Smith (New Zealand Croquet Council)

Back in the 1930s when I was born, my mother, her sister and both my grandmothers were croquet players at Huntly. Dad took the game up in the 1960s, but it was not until 1978 when severe arthritis drove me away from cricket and golf that I started playing croquet myself at the St Martins club in Christchurch. I am still enthused by this fascinating game. Although my skill levels are falling off, my enjoyment level is still very high and, against expectations, I still win the occasional game. Playing Golf Croquet as an additional game has greatly increased my enjoyment of our sport.

We left Christchurch for Palmerston North in 1982, where after a year as president of the Takaro club, I helped establish the Rose Gardens club. I was president of the club for its first 17 years, and have been club handicapper throughout and am now a life member of the club. During this time I also spent 4 seasons (1985-1989) as a Vice-President of the New Zealand croquet Council (NZCC), 11 years (1990-2001) as Manawatu Association Referee, and was Manawatu President and Handicapper (2001-2006). I have managed many NZCC and other tournaments and have been a referee at two NZ-Australia test matches and at the 2000 MacRobertson Shield Tournament.

I returned to the NZCC Council in 2002 where I have served on many NZCC committees, namely the Laws, Handicapping, Selection, Finance and Coaching Committees as well as being Convenor of the Golf Croquet and the Tournaments Committees. I have been a Vice President of the NZCC since 2004.

In February 2003 I became the NZCC representative on the World Croquet Federation's Golf Croquet Rules Revision Committee and have been Chairman of the committee since November 2004. I was also the WCF Events Manager for the 2006 World Golf Croquet Championships in the Hawke's Bay and was Referee of the Tournament.

My working life was mainly spent as a teacher, at high school level, then at Christchurch Polytechnic and finally at Massey University, moving from teaching mathematics to teaching industrial applications of statistics and Quality Management. During this time I spent many years involved with teacher unions as local chairman and national council member. I was a founding national council member of the NZ Organisation for Quality, an organisation devoted to improving and maintaining the quality of products and services provided in New Zealand. I also established and was founding chairman of CREST, an organisation set up to encourage and recognise innovative project work in science and technology by secondary school students.

Since retiring in 1995, I have taken up playing bridge, where I soon found myself teaching the beginners' classes and, having qualified as a director, directing club play. Listening to music, reading, dabbling in genealogy and cooking fill up the time I have left from croquet, bridge and supporting my wife and family in their interests.

Rhys Thomas (United States Croquet Association)

Rhys Thomas, author, writer, director and croquet player, has worked in television production for more than 20 years. He has written and directed more than 100 hours of documentary films which have aired on various American networks including Fox, A&E, The History Channel, Discovery, NBC and ABC. In addition to writing and producing for television, he was a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times and is the author of the non-fiction book *The Ruby Slippers of Oz*.

As a championship croquet player, he has been a member of the US National Team six times and served as coach and manager for the USA in the 1996 MacRobertson Shield. In 2003 he was the Tournament Referee for the Mac. He is also the Director of Croquet at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California.

Outside croquet, he is an avid skier, poker player and beach bum. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in Sherman Oaks, California.

He has been a member of the WCF Management Committee since 2003.