

# 2007WCF European Team Championship

## Questionnaire Results

In June 2007, the World Croquet Federation (WCF), in conjunction with the Fédération Européenne de Croquet (FEC) and with the grateful assistance of the sponsors Mitsubishi Motors, and the Cheltenham Croquet Club, England, held the European Team Championship.

After the event all participants were asked to complete an internet on-line questionnaire which solicited their views on aspects of the event, including the quality of facilities, the event structure and the future of the event.

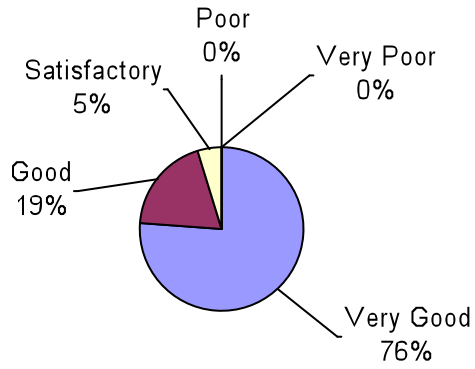
In all, 22 persons responded to the questions asked.

Key Messages are:-

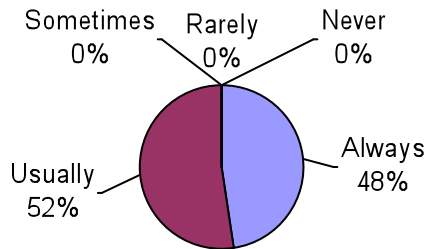
- the event was considered an overwhelming success with 100% satisfaction rate (Q1);
- a 95% satisfaction rate of the seeding, block and format arrangements (Q4 and Q5);
- 85% of respondents were satisfied with the mixture of Association and Golf formats (Q6);
- 95% expressed satisfaction or better with the quality of the lawns and meals supplied at the event (Q7 and Q8);
- 86% stated they wanted the event to be organised every one to two years (Q9);
- 95% satisfaction with the playing times allowed in the event (Q10);
- A divided opinion on whether the event should be longer or shorter with 60% wanting a 3 or 4 days event in the future (Q11);
- 74% said that if the event has more teams they wished a longer event rather than a shorter playing time (Q12);
- 95% expressed satisfaction with the early Sunday afternoon finish (Q13 and Q14);
- Opinion was evenly divided about whether future events should have teams of 3 or 4 players (Q15);
- Very little support (16%) to include or change the Association matches to 14 point games from the current 26 point game (Q16 and Q17).

Brian Storey  
WCF Secretary-General  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

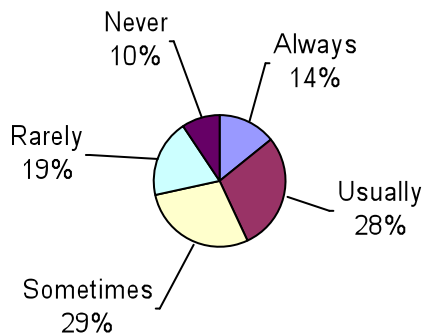
**Q1. Overall, the European Team Championship was:-**



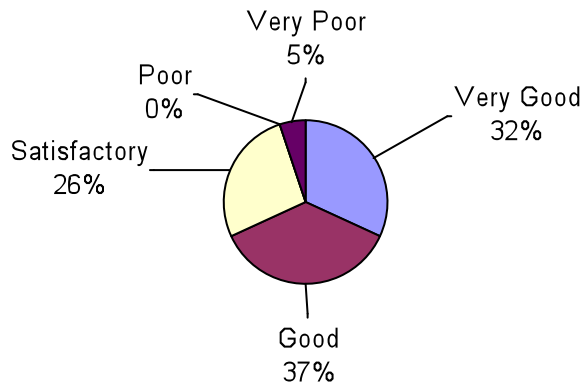
**Q2. If selected, would you play in a future European Team Championship?**



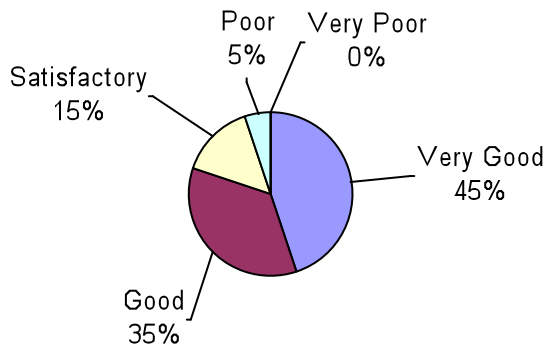
**Q3. Would the choice of venue influence your decision to play in a future European Team Championship?**



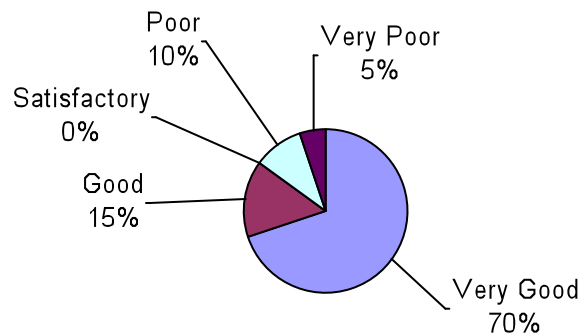
**Q4. What did you think of the seeding arrangements for the event?**



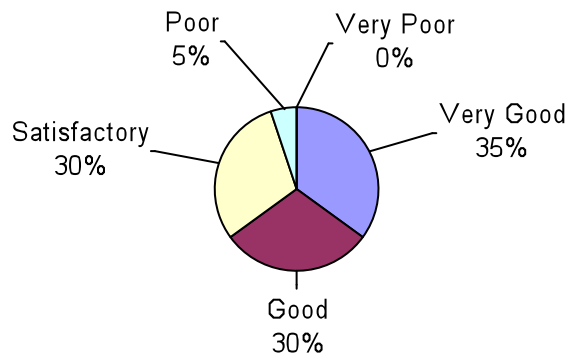
**Q5. What did you think of the 2 group format and knock out arrangements for the event?**



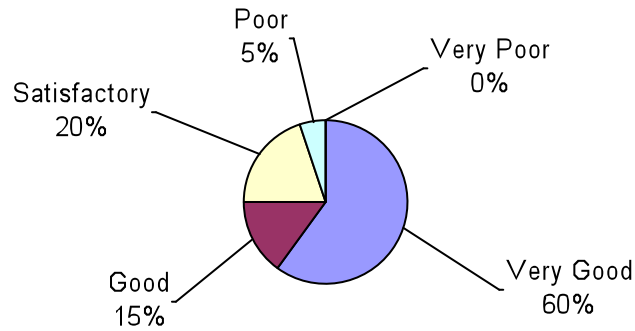
**Q6. What did you think of the mixture of Association and Golf matches for the event?**



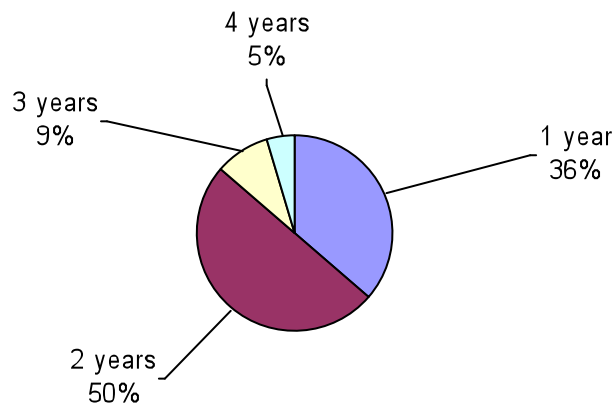
**Q7. What is your opinion of the quality of meals provided at the event?**



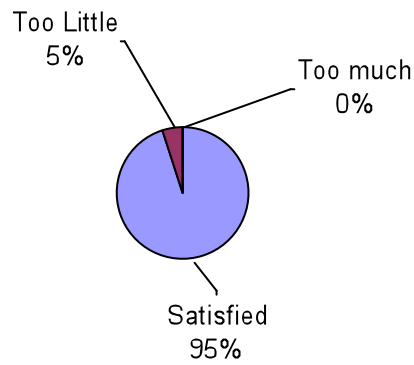
**Q8. What is your opinion of the quality of lawns at the event?**



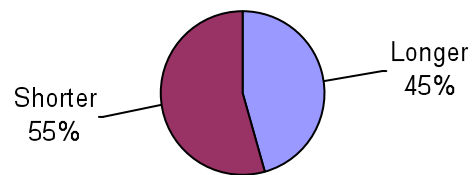
**Q9. How often should the event be held?**



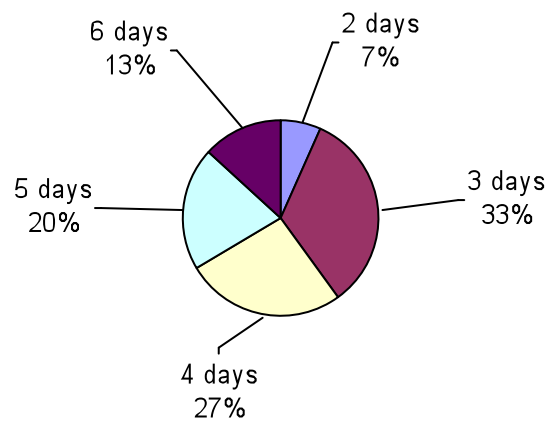
**Q10. Were you satisfied with the actual playing time on the lawns, or was it too much time or too little?**



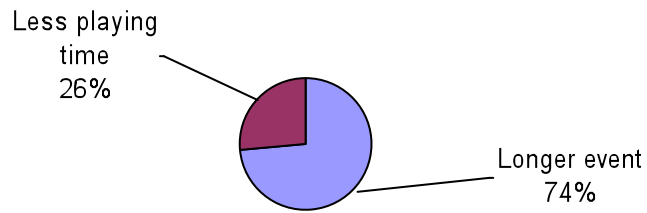
**Q11. Would you like a longer or shorter event?**



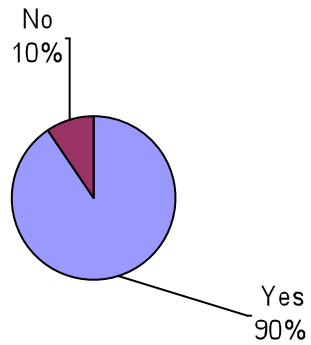
**Q11: Days**



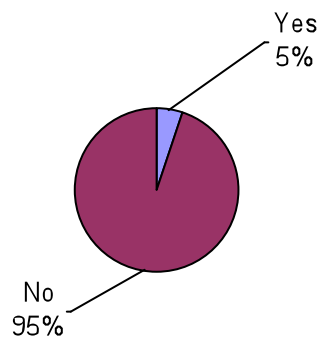
**Q12. If the event was extended to more teams, would you be prepared to play in a longer event, or to have less playing time per day?**



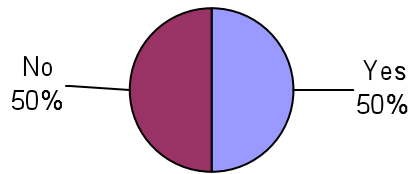
**Q13. Was finishing the event at Sunday 13.00hrs a good idea?**



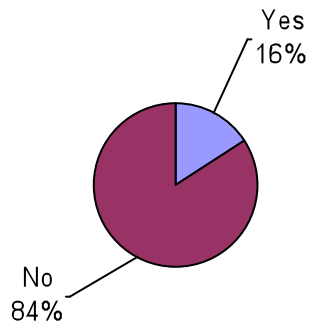
**q14. Would you prefer a full day's play on Sunday?**



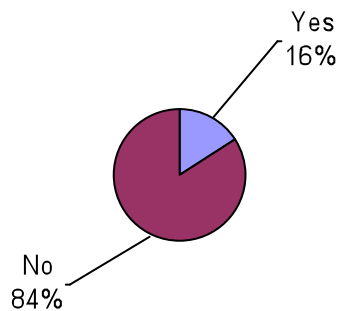
**Q15. No. of players per team: We used 3, should it be increased to four?**



**Q16. Would you like to see 14pt Association games as part of the event?**



**Q17. Would your answer to the previous question change if 14pt games were included in the rankings?**



**Q18. What would you change in any future European Team Championship?**

Comments made:-

It seemed a good mix and would take a couple of years to see where it could be improved if at all

Attempt to ensure that all countries fielded something nearer their strongest team.

At the end I would publish a finishing list. So that every country knows its final place.

I have not much experience of "real" competitions (being from Sweden) but the ETC had everything I want and almost nothing I dislike.

Maybe for the Plate event to be run as a (flexible) Swiss instead of a knock-out, otherwise games can become "mere" friendlies

Not much. It was the best ever croquet experience for me.

The event was perfect and games were well organized.

I'm not sure that something needs to be changed. I enjoyed the tournament and I think that the playing time per day was good (with four players in the team). But if the number of countries and players/team is increased, I would prefer to add one day before decreasing the playing time.

The board should be defined before starting to play with x, y and z and the choice should be public; i.e. 1st against 4th and 2nd against 3rd, but already defined.

Nothing much

Doubles event (AC) should be included and GC should be excluded. The format could be something like Tennis Davis Cup (two-four singles and one double event, 26 points). Alternatively, 14p matches.

I thought it went very well, although I felt sorry for the inexperienced teams from Northern Europe, but hopefully they learnt from the experience.

### **Q19. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on any WCF related topic?**

As a spectator, I responded only to find that most of the questions were aimed at players. I will never be a player in this event (or any other) so I have left many unanswered. As a spectator, I liked the combination of AC and GC, but would not want GC to have a greater role, i.e. two games GC and one AC. Although GC is touted as easier for spectators to understand, and this might be so, it doesn't make interesting to watch - quite the reverse in fact, so having it as part of a threesome did actually make it interesting. This was because the ebb and flow in the GC game was totally different to the AC game, and so from a spectator's point of view, it really gave another dimension to the matches. Now as I'd rather stick pins in my eyes rather than play GC, this is quite a statement, I assure you. I'm not against GC per se (as long as I'm not asked to play it) and I know many people who get great enjoyment from it, and to bring AC and GC together was a good idea, and one that made the event more interesting to me as a spectator. BTW, I don't play AC either these days, but it can be interesting to watch.

I don't think though that the Event will ever become a spectator's event really any more than any other type of croquet tournament or championship, but you have my views. From talking to other teams, it was clear that many countries on the mainland of Europe and Scandinavia got a lot from the tournament, and I really felt that they would taking a lot back to their countries and clubs. The amount of coaching that seemed to go on a various points, and at the end as well, freely given by the British and Jersey players will have helped and was

in the best spirit of the game. There may have been other countries that gave coaching, but I didn't see it as I was only there at the weekend.

I'm not sure about 14pt: I think that the 26pt and GC was the right mix, and I cannot for the life of me see how you could include 14pt in the rankings because you'd be mixing apples and pears. Based on the statistics that I studied during my degree, I'm not sure that the mix would produce valid results and I think you'd need a separate ranking lists, which might be what you meant of course.

Thanks!

Some pre-information of groups and possibly playing schedule of the first day would have been great if provided in advance.

In view of the big range of abilities maybe the event could be organized like the Inter-Counties with 2 divisions and promotion/relegation each year?

It is a little bit unhappy to hold two World Championships within 5 weeks.

Not clear who these extra teams would be. If they are new weak members would suggest that either more blocks or some form of divisional structure is adopted to avoid lengthening the tournament.

Thank you for everything!!

I did however not hear from or even saw any of the observers you said would be watching the games to give us beginners help on tactics and so on. This was a very good idea even if it did not work.

I'd like that the tournament is all Golf Croquet or Association Croquet 26 points or Association 14 points. Maybe with double, both in golf and in croquet

I'd like that all teams can play without jumping turns as you did and that it is presented not as ranking but as it likes. I think that all teams should have a fixed max number of player, not like galles and england who let be playing a number of players higher than other teams.

Cannot believe 14pt croquet gets a mention in this survey. Give up all thoughts of developing this pathetic version of the game and concentrate on 26 pt (and GC if you feel you must).

The finishing time on Sunday is a must for us foreigners who have to catch the flight home.

To sum up: There is no question that I will be back next time if selected by my captain.

I was a little dubious to how some of the referees judge the crush and double tap when you are very close to the hoop (some meaning it happened twice during the event...). For example, the ball is one inch from the upright in a 45 deg angle and is hit so it travels from hoop 1 to hoop 2. In my opinion this is physically impossible, but I might be wrong. Maybe some high speed filming would make it easier for the referees to make correct calls or to make me understand that it actually is possible to hit the shot mentioned above correctly. i.e. not filming the actual competition but making an instruction DVD or something with critical examples.

Am not in favour of mixed AC/GC tournaments. They are different games, you wouldn't suggest a croquet/tennis European Champs so why AC/GC?

## **WCF Questionnaire**

### **European Team Championship 2007**

#### **Can you help us please?**

##### **Introduction**

The WCF, with the assistance of the Fédération Européenne de Croquet (FEC) recently organised a European Team Championship incorporating both Association and Golf Croquet. The main purpose was to nurture emerging European croquet nations to involve themselves in International play and develop and improve their own domestic standards.

This survey is to find out what participants and others present at that event, thought about various aspects of it. Additionally, WCF seeks views on **any** aspects of its work.

All your views are valuable and will be fed back to the member associations at the next WCF Council Meeting on 6th February 2008 in New Zealand.

#### **What happens if you do not wish to participate in the completing of the Questionnaire?**

You have a choice about whether or not you wish to participate and we understand that some may not wish to take part.

#### **Can you get help to complete the Questionnaire?**

Yes – if you wish to have assistance or have any queries about the questionnaire you can contact the WCF Secretary-General via email.

#### **Is the questionnaire anonymous?**

Yes.

#### **What is the return date deadline?**

We have set the **final date** for questionnaire returns for **1st October 2007** but you can return it as soon as you have completed it by electronic means.

#### **What will happen to the information gathered from the Questionnaire?**

WCF will collect the information, advise the WCF Member Associations at the next WCF Council Meeting on 6th February 2008 in New Zealand and publish it so it can be shared with everyone. The information will be used to help us plan our future development.

Thank you for your help.

**Brian Storey**  
**WCF Secretary-General**

**1. Overall, do you think the 2007 European Team Championship was:-**

- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Very Poor

**2. If selected, would you play in a future European Team Championship?**

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

**3 . Would the choice of venue influence your decision to play in a future European Team Championship?**

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

**4. What did you think of the seeding arrangements for the event?**

- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Very Poor

**5. What did you think of the 2 group format and knock out arrangements for the event?**

- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Very Poor

**6. What did you think of the mixture of Association and Golf matches for the event?**

- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Very Poor

**7. What is your opinion of the quality of meals provided at the event?**

- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Very Poor

**8. What is your opinion of the quality of lawns at the event?**

- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Very Poor

**9. How often should the event be held?**

- Every year
- Every 2 years
- Every 3 years
- Every 4 years

**10. Were you satisfied with the actual playing time on the lawns, or was it too much time or too little?**

- Satisfied
- Too much
- Too little

**11. Would you like a longer or shorter event? (Indicate your ideal number of days)**

- Longer
- Shorter

Days

**12. If the event was extended to more teams, would you be prepared to play in a longer event, or to have less playing time per day?**

- Longer Event
- Less Playing Time per day

**13. Was finishing the event at Sunday 13.00hrs a good idea?**

- Yes
- No

**14. Would you prefer a full day's play on Sunday?**

- Yes
- No

**15. No. of players per team: We used 3, should it be increased to four?**

- Yes
- No

**16. Would you like to see 14pt Association games as part of the event?**

- Yes
- No

**17. Would your answer to the previous question change if 14pt games were included in the rankings?**

- Yes
- No

**18. What would you change in any future European Team Championship?**



**19. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on any WCF related topic?**

