

# THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

## SIGNIFICANT COUNCIL DECISIONS 1905 – 2022

### **A guide to inform members about previous decisions**

*Prepared by Lt Col D M C Prichard to March 1983 and updated to December 1994 by D C Caporn. It was further updated to March 2002 by A J Oldham, then by Q Barrett and I G Vincent to November 2020 and finally by Q Barrett, P Duke-Cox and J Reddish in 2022*

This guide, and extracts from it that are published separately, paraphrase relevant minutes which members should refer to if they wish to read the definitive rulings.

### **The Index is at the end of the document**

#### 1 CONSTITUTION

20 Mar 1999}	Club membership introduced.
A G M 1999}	Affiliate membership abolished.
	Federation Representatives on Council replaced by Regional Representatives.
AGM 2007	Rules of the Association renamed its Constitution and changed to allow electronic voting and enfranchise overseas members.
27 Jan 2007	Charitable status working party appointed.
26 Jan 2008	“Croquet” to be defined in Constitution (later clarified to include garden croquet).
23 Mar 2013	Federation Working Party report recommended that individual members of clubs should become members of the CA and there should be a 'pay to play' component for members who play competitive games.
18 Oct 2014	Federations to become eligible for membership of the CA and be directly represented on Council from the date of the 2015 AGM.
17 Oct 2015	The nine Federations were admitted as members of the Association.
22 Oct 2016	Individual Members under the age of 16 years not be entitled to vote, hold office, or be members of the Council. Members of student and school clubs to be entitled to Standard Membership.
21 Oct 2017	Members of Member Clubs to become eligible for standard membership of the CA from a date to be determined by Council.

1 Jan 2018	Membership changes implemented and Club voting rights removed.
30 Mar 2019	SGM agreed changes to the Constitution to reduce the size of Council and confine its role to high-level policy, strategic initiatives, scrutiny and transparency, with a separate Executive Board.
19 Oct 2020	Affiliate club membership no longer open to clubs with facilities for playing croquet. Dissolution clause added. Quorum for SGMs reduced to be same as for AGMs.
16 Oct 2021	Disciplinary and Appeals procedure specified in Clause 8 and Appendix 1 replaced by reference to a Complaints Procedure agreed by Council.
18 Jul 2022	The Chairman of the Council and the Honorary Secretary were authorised to make an application to the Charity Commission to register Croquet England as a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
2	<u>COUNCIL</u>
	<u>(i) General</u>
2 May 1912	Office of Chairman of Council and Honorary Treasurer not to be held by the same person.
18 Nov 1954	Every affiliated club entitled to nominate one (existing) member of Council as its representative.
22 Oct 1964	Existing procedure for nominating Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council to continue.[Under this procedure, the retiring Chairman consulted past Chairmen to decide on the appropriate person to be nominated as the next Vice-Chairman, it being understood that normally this person would automatically succeed the next Chairman.]
26 Feb 1966	Ex-Chairmen and Vice Chairmen eligible for re-election after interval of five years.
16 Nov 1974 } 6 Mar 1976 }	Travelling expenses for Council members authorised.
8 Dec 1990	Executive Committee to report action to Council.
23 Mar 1991	Members claims for expenses must be made before end of calendar year.

7 Dec 1991	Federation representation on Council approved. Such persons to act as representatives not delegates (reconfirmed 21 March 1992).
19 Oct 1996	Executive Committee to ensure that nominations are forthcoming for position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and that such nominations are published in advance of the October Council meeting.
22 Mar 1997	Membership of the Executive Committee increased to five by the addition of one member who is not an <i>ex-officio</i> member.
22 Mar 1997	Powers of co-option of non-Council members extended to all Standing Committees.
11 Jul 1998	New Standing Orders adopted and Council Practice Book established.
20 Mar 1999	New structure and modus operandi adopted allowing greater autonomy to the committees. Management Committee established. Detail of routine committee decisions not to be reviewed by Council which will in future concentrate on policy matters.
25 Mar 2000	Summary of Council decisions to be prepared by Chairman of Management Committee for publication in <i>The Gazette</i> .
25 Mar 2000	Sub-committee appointed to consider all requests for loans from clubs.
14 Oct 2000	Laws and Tournament committees empowered to change Tournament regulations without seeking prior approval of Council.
24 Mar 2001	Investment Standing Committee established.
13 Oct 2001	Publishing Committee established as a Principal Standing Committee.
13 Oct 2001	Administration Committee no longer to be a Principal Standing Committee. (Reversed 17 Dec 2005, and reinstated 11 Oct 2008, when the Administration Committee was replaced by the Information and Communication Technology Committee.)
15 Dec 2001	“Think Tank” Committee set up .
23 Mar 2002	Membership sub-committee disbanded.
12 Oct 2002	Addition of optional member without portfolio to the Management Committee.

27 Mar 2004	Strategic Plan adopted (superseded 26 Mar 2011).
18 Dec 2004	Motion that committees should report directly to Council rather than the Management Committee, which should be replaced by a Finance Committee, was defeated.
18 Dec 2004	Coaching Committee designated a Principal Standing Committee.
25 Mar 2006	Winter Council meetings to be held in January rather than December.
14 Oct 2006	Role of Chairman of Council defined.
24 Jan 2009	Chairmen of non-Principal Committees to be elected by Council rather than by the committee itself.
23 Jan 2010	Full results of elections to Council to be published.
27 Mar 2010	Committee chairmen must be members of Council but need not be “currently elected”. [This allowed the President, Vice-Presidents, the Hon Secretary and the Hon Treasurer to chair committees.]
22 Jan 2011	Conflict of Interest Policy for relations with WCF approved.
22 Jan 2011	Committee Chairmen to report significant decisions to Hon. Secretary each June.
26 Mar 2011	Strategy Document adopted.
25 Jan 2014	President and Vice-Presidents no longer need explicit permission to be members of Council committees.
24 Jan 2015	Minutes of meetings to be approved by e-mail rather than waiting until the next meeting.
21 Oct 2017	Committee chairmen no longer need to be members of Council. Chairmen of Principal Committees no longer sit on Management Committee. Additional member of Executive Committee drawn from Council rather than Management Committee.
19 Oct 2019	New Council, consisting of 12 voting members, with President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Chairman of the Executive Board as non-voting members, took over from larger one. It defined its top-level policy as “to get more people, playing more croquet in more places by promoting , developing and administering the sport.”

- 18 Apr 2020 Chairmen and members of the Executive Board to be nominated by an Appointments Committee and designated ahead of formal appointment at the start of the session, to enable better preparation and hand-over.
- 17 Oct 2020 New Executive Board members appointed after positions had been advertised, with specific portfolios.
- 18 July 2022 The Executive Board was authorised (if the application to register Croquet England as a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation is successful) to transfer all of the assets and liabilities of the CA by stages to Croquet England so that Croquet England CIO would eventually replace the CA completely.

#### ii) Annual General Meeting

- 11 Dec 1993 Any controversial motion should be published in *The Gazette* well in advance, eg, ideally in the May/June edition for the AGM in October.
- 19 Oct 2013 Accounts to be published on website with summary in *The Gazette*.
- 23 Jan 2016 General Meetings Working Party reported. Its recommendation that binding votes should not be taken at general meetings, but in postal/electronic votes afterward, was accepted in principle.
- 17 Oct 2020 AGM held by teleconference, with only electronic/postal voting in advance of the meeting, as physical meeting was thought inappropriate due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- July 2021 The Beneficiaries Book to be published annually in the Gazette rather than read out at the AGM. By this means it would reach a much wider audience.

#### iii) Confidentiality of Council proceedings

- 6 Feb 1964 Council meeting minutes to be confidential.
- 9 Feb 1974 Decisions of Feb 1964 rescinded and fuller reports of Council meetings to be published in *The Gazette*.
- 22 Jan 2011 Minutes, reports and agreed policy documents of Council and its committees to be published to Associates on the website, normally within four weeks of the meeting. Management Accounts and Budget also to be published.

#### iv) Dissent by Council members

6 Dec 1928} 2 Nov 1981}	Members of Committees may express dissent from a majority recommendation to Council, even though they had been present at the Committee meeting, subject to the following provisos: (a) Prior notice to the Chairman of the Committee had been given, and (b) Dissent is on a matter of principle only and not on details.
23 May 1966	Members of Council should be loyal to Council at AGM or SGM. They should abstain or resign from the Council (in which case they could speak from the floor).
19 Nov 1966} 21 Nov 1981}	Council members not to sign petitions or publications in the Gazette expressing dissent from Council decisions.
23 Apr 1988	Council members should not make public statements about controversial matters whilst claiming to represent the Council unless authorised.
25 Mar 2000	New guidelines for Council members introduced.

#### v) Discipline and Appeals

24 Mar 2001} AGM 2001} AGM 2002	Disciplinary and Appeals Procedures agreed.
17 Dec 2005	Motion that the Executive Committee should appoint an Appeals Panel to hear a case lost. This was subsequently overturned after postal consultation on the grounds that Council had no power under the CA Rules to decide whether an appeal was in order. The panel met and reported to the March 2006 meeting (see Golf Croquet).
14 Oct 2006	Appeals working party recommended that an Appeals Scrutiny Committee be established.
19 Mar 2016	Tournament committees do not have the power to impose sanctions on a player, only to refer the case to a disciplinary panel.
7 May 2021	New Complaints Procedure, with provision for mediation, and Croquet Online Policy agreed following a review.

#### vi) Public Policy

21 Mar 1998	Statement on Equal Opportunities Policy adopted.
21 Mar 1998	Statement on Conflicts of Interest adopted.

- 12 Oct 2002 Child Protection Policy adopted.
- 23 Mar 2013 Agreed that CA should arrange and pay for Disclosure and Barring Service checks for CA members.
- 28 Jan 2017 CA Safeguarding Policy revised.
- 27 Jan 2018 Equalities Policy adopted.
- 7 May 2021 Equalities Policy expanded to include Inclusivity and Diversity. Code of Conduct revised.

vii) CA Logo

- 12 Dec 1987 Approved
- 22 Oct 1988 The CA logo may only be used by Federations and Registered Clubs if it is clearly indicated on the letter etc. that the Federation or Club is "affiliated to the Croquet Association".
- 26 Oct 1991 No addition to the logo is allowed, eg no entry may appear within the ball circle.
- 6 Jul 1996 Modified logo approved for use in connection with the Centenary of the CA.
- 11 Dec 1999 New design by Paul Castell adopted.

viii) Short Croquet

- 2 Mar 1985 Name for the alternative game accepted unanimously.

ix) Commonwealth representation on Council

- 1 Mar 1951 New Zealand appreciated invitation to appoint a representative on Council but considered that there should be a separate international body for law making, interpreting and management of international competitions, with reps on equal terms from England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Difficulties foreseen with such scattered membership. New Zealand (copy to Australia) asked for more detailed suggestions.
- 13 Dec 1951 Australia not in favour of International Council. South Africa no comment. New Zealand to be informed of Australia's view and desirability of New Zealand rep on Council reiterated.
- 23 May 1966 Leslie Riggall appointed South African rep on Council for 3 years.

x) CA Ground at Surbiton club

- 1 Mar 1986 Trustees instructed to sign 42-year lease of the ground at Alexandra Drive, Surbiton on behalf of the CA.
- 19 Mar 1988 Grant of £6,000 given to Surbiton Club for its club house at Alexandra Drive, subject to conditions, and recognition that the ground was a CA Regional Centre. In 1993 a licence was granted to this club for use of the grounds.
- 14 Dec 2002 Agreed there was no objection in principle to transferring the Alexandra Drive lease to the Surbiton Club.
- 6 Jan 2010 Lease of Alexandra Drive ground surrendered in favour of one directly between the Surbiton Club and the Royal Borough of Kingston.

### 3 ROLE OF CA PRESIDENT

- 2 Mar 1933 Report of ad hoc committee on office of President stated that founders of the CA intended Presidents to occupy independent position at General Meetings to hold balance between Council and Associates.
- 31 May 1975 M B Reckitt as Past President invited to attend Council meetings.
- 3 Apr 1982 E P Duffield as Past President invited to attend Council meetings.
- 16 Oct 2004 J W Solomon as Past President invited to attend Council meetings.
- 28 Mar 2009 B G Neal as Past President invited to attend Council meetings.
- 23 Jan 2010 Agreed that Council had power to grant expenses for overseas travel by the President.
- 23 Jan 2010 President to be elected by single ballot with both individuals and clubs having one vote.
- 19 Oct 2019 Following changes to the Constitution the President may continue to attend and speak at Council meetings but may no longer vote at them. Quiller Barrett said that he intended to maintain an independent role representing the wider membership.
- 15 Oct 2022 Patricia Duke-Cox was declared elected as President of the Croquet Association following the retirement of Quiller Barrett.

### 4 CA OFFICE



15 Dec 2001	Cost of new office building to be financed from a Building Appeal Fund, the Benefactors Fund and from General Reserves.
23 Mar 2002	C A Office to relocate to Cheltenham.
13 Oct 2007	Restructuring to replace CA Secretary by a Manager, with responsibility for membership services, the shop and publicity, and an Honorary Secretary, with responsibility for servicing Council and its Committees, agreed in principle.
29 Mar 2008	Changes to Constitution, Standing Orders and Council Practice Book and extension to CA Office approved to implement restructuring.
11 Oct 2010	Appointment of Commercial Assistant and extension of office building at Cheltenham approved to accommodate the shop.
25 Jan 2014	All posts in CA Office to be advertised at least on the CA Website.
26 Feb 2018	Mark Suter replaced Liz Larsson as CA Operations Manager.
16 Oct 2021	Role of the Honorary Secretary changed to be that of leader of a Secretariat Team, with individual Secretaries for Council and the Executive Board.

## 5 CA MEMBERSHIP

### i) General

15 Dec 2001	Professional survey of C A members commissioned in connection with a proposed package of benefits for Individual Associate members.
14 Oct 2006	Bonus of £10 to club for recruiting Associates introduced.
26 Mar 2011	Replaced by introductory discount scheme.
28 Mar 2009	Coaching courses opened to non-Associates.
1 Jan 2018	Standard Membership offered to members of Full Member Clubs. Tournament membership renamed Premium, and Non-Playing renamed Supporter. Additional daily levy of £5 introduced for Standard members; Premium members get priority entry to tournaments.
10 Aug 2020	Priority entry for Premium Members withdrawn from 1 Jan 2021.

## ii) Election of Associates

- 8 Feb 1975                      Council retained power of veto over election of Associates.
- 2 Mar 1985                      Criteria for election of Honorary Associates - See F & G P minutes as amended by Council Minute 7 (a) (i): Honorary Associate membership will be awarded to those who have rendered "exceptional services on a normally national basis, normally in one or more of the official posts recognised by the CA".
- 28 Mar 2009                      Membership to be on application rather than election by Council.

## iii) Subscriptions

- 6 Mar 1976}                      Power given to Council to increase C A individual subscriptions  
AGM 1976}                      (by not more than 50%) without prior reference to AGM or SGM.
- 17 Jul 1993                      Increases in Club Registration Fee after 1995 to be limited to the rate of inflation unless approved in General Meeting.
- 26 Mar 2011                      Discount scheme for new Associates approved.
- 28 Mar 2015                      Increases in per-capita club subscriptions of up to £1 above inflation per year permitted for the next five years.

## iv) Club or Delegate Conferences

- 13 Mar 1982}                      Policy agreed that only Associates entitled to attend.  
3 Apr 1982}

## v) Amateurs and Professionals

- 14 Dec 1933}                      Definition of amateur.  
15 May 1934}                      }  
AGM        }
- 1 May 1934                      Ruling that being a professional in another game does not affect amateur status as a croquet player.
- 17 Nov 1949                      Letter from A G F Ross (NZ) re his eligibility to play for New Zealand in the MacRobertson Shield as he accepted coaching fees. Decided that there was nothing in the MacRobertson Shield conditions to debar him.
- 26 Feb 1966}                      Breach of Reg.10 (Eligibility to Compete) if expenses paid for  
23 May 1966}                      players in Centenary celebrations. CA took Counsel's Opinion which confirmed this.

- 29 May 1969 Revised CA Rules. Definition of amateur and requirement for an Associate to be an amateur deleted, it being thought that Reg.10 (Eligibility to Compete) was a sufficient safeguard.
- 23 Oct 1976}  
12 Mar 1977} Motion to abolish Reg.10 passed on 23 Oct 1976 but failed ratification on 12 March 1977.
- 24 Oct 1987 Regulation 2 amended to recognise professionals.

#### vi) Ireland and Scotland

- 18 Oct 1962}  
1 Nov 1962} Irish not to be regarded as Overseas Associates. Because of the early association of the CA with Irish croquet, Irish members were to have the same privileges as UK Associates although Eire is outside the Domain of the CA in matters of governance.
- 17 Nov 1973 Constitution of Scottish C A approved.
- 19 Oct 1985 Formation of Irish C A reported to Council.
- 25 Mar 2000 Associates in Scotland and Eire to be treated in principle as Overseas Members (with an option to be Home Members).
- 25 Mar 2000 Reciprocal playing rights not to be offered to members of the Scottish or Irish C A. [This decision has been superseded by a WCF rule guaranteeing reciprocity of playing rights between all Member Associations of the WCF, which was incorporated into the Constitution at the 2013 AGM.]
- 25 Mar 2000 Category of Overseas Member Club instituted.

## 6 COMMUNICATION

- After 3/98 C A Web Site established.
- 2 Mar 1999 Fixture Book material to appear on website.
- 16 Dec 2000  
AGM 2001 Electronic mail to be allowable as a means of communicating with members.
- 18 Mar 2005 Standing orders and Practice Book amended to allow use of e-mail for communication and committee decisions.
- 14 Oct 2006 Rules, standing orders and Practice Book amended to allow electronic voting on urgent and non-contentious items between meetings and for AGM motions and elections.
- 23 Jan 2016 New website launched.

24 Jun 2020 Monthly e-mailed newsletter and club webinars introduced.

19 Oct 2020 Publishing and Marketing Committees merged.

7 FINANCE

10 Mar 1973 Benefactors Fund established.

23 Mar 1991 Apps-Heley Memorial Fund merged with the Benefactors Fund.

12 Dec 1998 A finance policy adopted, aiming to make a net profit of 7-10% per year in order to build up the funds of the CA.

14 Oct 2000 Annual budgets should be on a “ break even “ basis with reserves invested so as to maintain their real value allowing for inflation.

14 Dec 2002 Benefactors Book.  
That, unless anonymity had been requested, the names of donors of gifts and bequests to the Croquet Association to the value of £1000 or more, or of those deemed by Council to have rendered service to an equivalent value, should be inscribed in the Benefactors Book, and  
that only those names entered into the Benefactors book within the previous 25 years should be read at the Annual General Meeting.

22 Mar 2003 Group civil liability policy as a benefit for clubs approved in principle.

29 Mar 2008 Scheme extended to cover private coaching.

11 Oct 2008 Single signature to be sufficient for cheques not over £500.

23 Jan 2010 Limited borrowing power to be sought for financial transactions.

15 Oct 2011 Arrangements for banking signatories changed.

28 Jan 2012 Reserves strategy agreed.

28 Jan 2012 Fraud insurance agreed, but this was reversed 23 Mar 2013.

24 Mar 2012

19 Mar 2016 Budgetary and expenditure authorisation procedures agreed.

7 May 2021 Trophies to be valued at scrap metal price C A Balance Sheet.

16 March 2022 The use the Special Projects Fund to finance the recruitment of a Next Generation Development Officer as a full-time role and to explore options for longer-term fundings was approved.

8      DEVELOPMENT

18 Mar 1989	Four Court Fund established.
5 Dec 1992	Improvement Fund established.
25 Mar 1995	Four Court and Improvement Funds amalgamated to form a Development Fund
24 Mar 2001	Enterprise Fund established.
24 Mar 2001	Financial support to be given to the larger clubs.
24 Mar 2001 } 13 Oct 2001 }	Benefactors Fund to be used to make substantial grants for major projects (rescinded Dec 2001).
15 Dec 2001	Lawns Advisory Group established, but disbanded 23 Mar 2013.
14 Dec 2002	Federations can use approved grants from the CA to fund small capital projects up to a limit of £150 per club per annum. The Development Committee may authorise grants over £150 up to a limit of £1000 [raised to £2000 in January, 2017]. Applications for grants over that amount will be handled by a Major Grants Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Management Committee, the Chairman of the Development Committee and the Treasurer.
18 Dec 2004	New club fund established.
25 Mar 2006	Grants or/loans totalling £5K or more to be approved by Management Committee.
24 Mar 2007	Lawns Advisory Group formalised as sub-committee of Development.
24 Mar 2007	New club fund closed and assets transferred to development fund.
23 Jan 2010	Mentoring scheme for juniors established.
26 Mar 2011	Grant policy for 4-lawn clubs adopted.
26 Mar 2011	Growth and Recruitment Strategy Working Party reported, recommending concentration on competitive play.
23 Mar 2013	Level of development grants to be held pending a wider review of the financial position.

23 Mar 2013	Recommendations from the Association Croquet Regeneration Working Party to be presented to members as suggestions.
25 Jan 2014	Loans to clubs will no longer require individual guarantors, but the total outstanding is to be limited to £15K.
28 Jan 2017	National Development Officer post approved for two years.
24 Mar 2018	Young Person's "passporting" scheme established.
26 Nov 2020	Separate Funding Committee created to handle grant applications.
January 2022	New sponsorship scheme for players under the age of 25 introduced to replace the "Passporting" scheme.
January 2022	New Bursary scheme for aspiring international players introduced.
21 July 2022	The first "Next Generation Development Officer" appointed

## 9 C A AWARDS

11 Feb 1984	Apps-Heley Award. Minute of 1972 confirmed that the interest on these two legacies should be paid annually "to the Club that has done the most for croquet, or which has made the most progress during the year"
24 Oct 1987	Apps-Heley Award restricted to clubs over 3 years old.
14 Mar 1987	Townsend Award approved for Club less than 3 years old which has made the most progress.
27 Mar 1993	Five years substituted for three in Townsend Award conditions.
21 Mar 1998	Council Medal instituted in recognition of outstanding services to the CA. [Known recipients are Don Gaunt, Paul Macdonald, Bill Lamb, Judy Anderson (2002), John Solomon (2004), Alan Oldham (posthumously, 2006), David Magee (2007), Derek Trotman (2008), Bernard Neal (2010), Ian Plummer (2010), George Noble (2011), Chris Williams (2012), Bill Arliss (2013), Roger Bray (2013), Ian Vincent (2015), Robert Fulford (2016), Martin French (2017), Jeff Dawson (2018), Michael Hague (2018); Dave Kibble (2019) and Jonathan Isaacs (2021)}
11 Dec 1999	C A Diplomas instituted for those who have made a very significant contribution to croquet by helping at club level.

11 Dec 1999	Townsend Award to be open to clubs of any age but with 2 courts or fewer and Apps-Heley Award to be open only to clubs with 3 or 4 courts; both to be awarded in alternate years.
	Millennium Award to be awarded in alternate years for clubs with 5 courts or more.
14 Oct 2006	Executive committee to consider candidates for major awards annually.
28 Mar 2009	Trophy donated by John Spiers for most improved GC player.
27 Mar 2010	Criteria for award of Council Medal and Diplomas widened.
26 Mar 2011	Most improved player awards to be made at end of the year to which they related, rather than during the subsequent year.
25 Jan 2014	Members of Council not to receive long service awards, but those with more than 12 years service to be commended in <i>The Gazette</i> .
21 Oct 2017	New awards policy adopted.
16 May 2020	Bernard Neal Award for Exceptional Services to Croquet instigated, to sit between Council Medal and Diplomas.
2021	Trophy for most improved female GC Player presented by Frances Colman.

## 10 TOURNAMENTS

### i) General

23 Mar 1905	Letter from AELT&C Club handing over control of Croquet Championships and several of the challenge trophies with the following provisos: (a) that the Open, Ladies and Mixed Doubles Championships be advertised for open competition among amateurs as in the past. (b) if C A .at any future time unwilling or unable to continue the Championship shall revert to AELT&C Club and not be transferred to any other club or organisation. Agreed.
3 Dec 1908	Practice without permission forbidden.
6 Apr 1922	Title of South of England Championships authorised for tournament at Devonshire Park.
23 Nov 1968	Despite formation of independent Scottish CA, title of All-England Handicap not to be changed.

23 Oct 1969	Play off for 2nd place in Draw & Process at the Manager's discretion.
2 Mar 1985	Manufacturers of balls which had passed the specification must not advertise them as "Tournament Balls" without written permission from the CA .
19 Oct 1985	Open Championship and Mens and Women's Championships renamed <u>British</u> Open Championships and <u>British</u> Mens and Women's Championships.
11 Dec 1993	Decision of Oct 1985 rescinded.
10 Dec 1988	Tribute discontinued.
22 Apr 1989	Full bisque game to be used in All-England Handicap.
22 Apr 1989	Letter from A E L T & C Club releasing C A from its obligation (See 23 March 1905 above) to adhere to conditions that Championship events be restricted to amateurs.
28 Oct 1989	Veterans Tournament - minimum age reduced to 60.[Raised again to 65 on 14 Dec 1996].
9 Dec 1989	No entry for any CA event to be accepted until fee paid.
9 Dec 1989	To accommodate entries for a CA event which exceeds lawn capacity of the chosen venue, pre-qualification should be used.
8 Dec 1990	No prize money in CA Tournaments.
23 Mar 1991	Advanced Handicap approved as an authorised variation.
21 Mar 1992	Use of the designation "The Masters" authorised for the President's Cup for media purposes. Decision rescinded 11 Dec 1993.
23 Oct 1993	Acceptance of entry fee only by Tournament Secretary.
22 Mar 1997	Inter Counties Tournament separated into two divisions.
6 Dec 1997	Regulation 13 amended to allow for the introduction of "Wharrad turns" in place of the usual time limits.
6 Dec 1997	Late entries to CA sponsored tournaments may be accepted at the discretion of the manager on payment of a 50% surcharge.
14 Oct 2000	Regulations to be published separately from the Laws.



- 14 Dec 2002 Practice before start of play permitted unless forbidden by the Manager.
- 2002 Block play introduced as qualification stage in Open Championship
- 2008 Blocks replaced by “Elimination Swiss” as a trial.
- 23 Jan 2016 Accommodations made for players with colour vision deficiency.
- 25 Mar 2017 CA events not to clash with AC and GC Opens.
- 20 Oct 2019 Higher rates of lawn and ball hire introduced for major events.

#### ii) Selection Events

- 18 Nov 1967 Experiment of selecting President's Cup in order of merit to be discontinued.
- 25 Feb 1976 Holders of Chairman's Salver and Surrey Cup (Spencer Ell Cup) have right to defend their titles unless selected for a higher event. [This was subsequently superseded by the CA's Selection Policy.]
- 11 Dec 1999 }  
15 Dec 2001 } Golf Croquet Selection Committee, to be chosen by Council, established separately from the Association Croquet selection Committee.
- 16 Dec 2000 Fourth Selection Event (Treasurer's Tankard) instituted.
- 22 May 2008 Selection policy adopted (amended 17 Oct 2009 following an appeal, by Management Committee, 20 Jul 2013 and Council 28 Jan 2017).
- 24 Jan 2009 Selection committees to take responsibility for elite team development.
- 17 Oct 2009 Acceptance of promotion to a higher eight after selection announced not mandatory.

#### iii) Seeding

- 30 Nov 1985 No seeding in CA events.
- 19 Apr 1986 Seeding in Open Championships for 1986 passed.
- 29 Nov 1986 Ditto for 1987 and also for Mens & Women's Championships.
- 10 Dec 1988 Approved for CA Opens Singles and Doubles, and Mens and Women's Singles only.

#### iv) Managers

- 16 Nov 1974 Expenses at Devonshire Park allowed.
- 31 May 1975}  
15 Nov 1975} Expenses at Open Championships authorised.
- 18 Dec 1988 Fees for non-playing managers for Opens (Association Croquet), President's Cup and Mens and Women's Championships approved. (In addition to traditional payment of specific expenses such as lunches and travel.)

#### v) Doubles

- 21 Mar 1972}  
10 Mar 1973} Doubles without a partner ruled to be legal (and Laws amended in 2008 to clarify this).
- 01 Mar 2018 Tournament regulations changed to allow Alternate Stroke doubles to be played if both sides agree.

### 11 HANDICAPS

- 19 Nov 1953 Proposal to introduce 1/4 bisque rejected.
- 22 Mar 1969 Decided that if Australia or New Zealand wished to introduce 1/4 bisque, they could do so under their own Regulations but CA need not follow suit.
- 5 Dec 1992 Automatic Handicapping System adopted for general use.
- 20 Mar 1999 Initial handicap test to be mandatory for novices before entry to first tournament.
- 20 Mar 1999 Maximum handicap to be 20 for both Doubles and Singles in C A Association Croquet events.
- 25 Mar 2000 Club handicappers to have discretion to set or alter handicaps above 8 for Association Croquet.
- 24 Mar 2001 14-point Association Croquet games to be included in the Automatic Handicapping System with a 5-point index change.
- ? Bisque allocation amended for play on courts which are below standard size.

22 Mar 2003 New guidelines and introduction of Federation handicappers.

23 Jan 2016 New GC Handicapping system introduced.

## 12 TROPHIES

26 Oct 1922 Gold and Silver Medals to be presented annually to South Australia and South Africa.

12 Aug 1952 Agreed to revive medals but gold medals obviously impossible.

18 Oct 1997 Medals no longer to be sent to the French Federation.

30 Mar 1939 Allocation of Ranelagh Gold Cup (Ranelagh Club defunct) to be settled by private negotiation. (Upshot unknown but it went to Roehampton)

24 Oct 1970 Ranelagh Gold Cup reported as lent to Roehampton in 1941 "until such time as Ranelagh Club could resume tournaments". As this is unlikely, cup virtually belongs to Roehampton and CA has no claim. There was evidence that the Creyke Cups originally belonged to the CA.

2 Mar 1950 Robin Hood Gold Cup presented to Nottingham Club by CA.

18 Oct 1975}  
6 Mar 1976}  
26 Oct 1976} Dispute re ownership. Eventually resolved that the Cup should revert to the CA in the event of the demise of the Nottingham Club.

19 Oct 1974}  
16 Nov 1974} CA Selection Events. In the event of a tie, only the name of the winner of the play-off to be engraved on the trophy.

20 Nov 1976 Established that Cripps Gold Cup was on loan to Parkstone Club from the CA.

10 Dec 1977 Insurance of CA trophies discontinued- too expensive. In future CA to bear its own risks.

4 Dec 1982 "Mary Rose" Flagon for new Inter Club Competition presented by Richard Rothwell.

7 Apr 1984 Shield for Schools Competition presented by Richard Rothwell.

7 Apr 1984 Veterans Tournament "C" Class Handicap Singles Trophy presented by Mr E Strickland.

2 Mar 1985 Hamilton-Miller Trophy donated by Mrs R Weir for competition between undergraduates of all universities in the U K and Eire, such to be arranged by the universities.

27 Apr 1985	Reeve Trophy conditions were published in Gazette for July 1962. It is a trophy for competition between undergraduate teams from all universities.
2 Mar 1985	Eastbourne Corporation approved their South of England Championship trophies being competed for at the Compton Club.
10 Dec 1988	Eastbourne Corporation accepted that all except two of the trophies for the South of England Championships belong to the CA (F&GP Report to Council)
22 Oct 1988	Medals and five silver trophies, won by Miss Ruth Weightman, donated to the CA by Mr R Britcher. One trophy was from Menton, South of France, four from the former Ranelagh Club.
22 Apr 1989	One of the Ranelagh Cups presented by Mr Britcher allocated as trophy for the winner of the Selector's Weekend.
1993 } 1994 }	The Menton trophy and one of the Ranelagh Cups allocated to the National Short Croquet events. The Ranelagh Doubles Cups allocated to the Golf Croquet Doubles Championships.
22 Apr 1989	AELT&C Club presented silver Wimbledon Bowl to the CA for the World Croquet Championship (see 23 Mar 1996).
8 Dec 1990	Cost of engraving CA trophies to be borne by CA. Prize money no longer to be awarded to winners.
23 Mar 1991	Surrey Cup loaned to Surbiton Club.
23 Mar 1991	Needham Trophy ( a mounted silver croquet ball ) accepted as a bequest from late Capt. R F B O'Callaghan. (Stolen from CA office in 1993).
11 Dec 1993	Silver (but not gold) Medals to be presented annually to the French, Italian and Swiss Croquet Associations.
16 Jul 1994	CA trophies must not be taken out of the U K.
15 Oct 1994	Delves-Broughton Cup for Golf Croquet Doubles and the Tingey Trophies for the All England Handicap retired and to be held in the archives. Latter replaced by one of the Gilbey Supplementary Cups (Trevor Williams) with no trophy for the runner up (who will already have been awarded a plaque as an area winner.) Felixstowe Cup (South of England) renamed "Brittain Porringer".

- 23 Mar 1996 Terms of loan for the Wimbledon Bowl to WCF confirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding.
- 14 Dec 1996 Cup presented by John Beech accepted for use as trophy for the Apps-Heley Award.
- 21 Mar 1998 Proposal that winners of trophies should be responsible for insuring them while in their possession was defeated.
- 11 Jul 1998 At the request of Australian CA silver and bronze medals no longer to be sent to them.
- 20 Mar 1999 Spare Trevor Williams cup to be used for SENIORS event.
- 20 Mar 1999 Shield for Div. II of the Inter-Counties presented by Paul Campion.
- 25 Mar 2000 Barlow & Woodlands Cups for Open Golf Croquet Doubles presented by John Beech.  
Framed prints to be awarded outright as additional prizes to winners of certain major events accepted from Alan Pidcock.
- 24 Mar 2007 Beddow Cup rediscovered and donated to the CA as a trophy for the Association Croquet Inter-Club competition (though to be retained by the CA)
- 27 Mar 2010 Murphy Shield donated by John Handy for 2<sup>nd</sup> Division GC Inter-Club.
- 24 Jan 2012 Glass trophy presented by CA for event in Seniors Championship in memory of Nigel Graves.

### 13 SPONSORSHIP

- 16 Oct 1982 Principles adopted by Council - Minute 7(vi)
- 1 Mar 1986 Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council and Chairmen of F&GP and P&D appointed as Executive Committee to allocate any sponsorship or other income additional to budget received during the summer when Committees are normally inactive.
- 27 Oct 1990 If club hosting a CA Event finds a sponsor, club is entitled to a share of the money.
- 10 Dec 1994 Responsibility for obtaining sponsorship for the MacRobertson Shield assigned to the International Committee.
- 17 Dec 2005 Clubs offering to host events should indicate if they are willing to try to obtain sponsorship. They can keep two-thirds of any

surplus. Budgets for sponsored events may include provision for paying direct expenses of players.

14 MAGAZINE

- 19 Oct 1985 Name *Croquet Gazette* again changed to *Croquet*. (Note: the magazine was called *The Croquet Gazette* from its inception in 1904 until 1954 when the new style magazine was entitled *Croquet*. A reversion to the old title took place in 1970.)
- 17 Jul 1993 *Croquet* is the official magazine of the CA but opinions expressed in it are not necessarily those of Council.
- 9 Dec 1995 Name changed back to *The Croquet Gazette* following a poll of readers.
- 23 Jan 2016 *The Croquet Gazette* is no longer to be a journal of record. New members to receive it on paper for a year.
- 24 Mar 2018 Advertising policy adopted.
- 30 Mar 2019 Standard members to receive paper copies of the Croquet Gazette only until the end of the calendar year in which they joined, or the end of the following year if they joined after 1<sup>st</sup> August in any year.
- January 2022 A monthly electronic CA newsletter introduced to be sent to all members who have a registered e-mail address.

15 INTERNATIONAL

i) Excluding World Croquet Federation

- 8 July 1947 Proposed by New Zealand and South Africa that Croquet be renamed Lawn Billiards. Clubs and Australia to be consulted.
- 16 Oct 1947 Clubs unanimously against the change of name.(No further action )
- 18 Oct 1986 MacRobertson Shield Tests to be planned on a 10 year cycle.
- 18 Oct 1986 Solomon Trophy for annual or bi-annual matches between GB and USA under Association Croquet Rules to impose no financial obligation on the CA.
- 21 Mar 1992 Cost of entertaining official teams invited by Council is a proper expense of the CA.

27 Mar 1993	Test Tour Fund renamed "The International Fund".
24 Mar 2001	Overseas entrants to be granted temporary honorary membership of the C A prior to the 2001 World Championship in order that they can enter C A tournaments as a "warm up".
15 Dec 2001	Budget to be established to enable better hospitality to be offered to teams from other countries taking part in International matches.
23 Mar 2002	International Fund may be used to assist players with their expenses in needy cases.
Nov 2006	MacRobertson Shield meeting agreed that teams can apply to play on a one-off basis without having to commit to hosting.
24 Jan 2009 22 Jan 2011	Bursary scheme, primarily for Juniors, established for a trial period of two years [and subsequently continued].
16 Oct 2010	Payments offered by clubs to host MacRobertson Shield test matches waived.
24 Mar 2012	Payment of travel and accommodation expenses for GC World Team Championship players agreed on same basis as for MacRobertson Shield. Grants towards travel expenses for other international team members agreed.
29 Mar 2014	"Improving International Performance" paper adopted following loss of the MacRobertson Shield. Ian Burridge was subsequently appointed as AC International Performance Director.
24 Jan 2015	Junior Action Group established. Marcus Evans was subsequently appointed to lead it.
23 Jan 2016	Precedent confirmed that players who are borderline for selection cannot be a member of the Mac selection committee.
24 Mar 2018	Under 21s to be given preferential entry to tournaments.

#### ii) World Croquet Federation

22 Oct 1988	Appointment of John Solomon as President and Chris Hudson as Secretary of the World Croquet Federation approved.
21 Mar 1998	Liaison Officer with W C F appointed.
11 Dec 1999	Recommendations made to W C F re MacRobertson Shield. ( Some
25 Mar 2000	of them accepted)

14 Oct 2000 24 Mar 2001	Proposals re W C F Constitution made to W C F (mostly not accepted)
24 Jan 2009	Support for WCF re-affirmed: CA seeks to work with other national associations and the WCF to increase the effectiveness of the WCF Council, the accountability of its Management Committee and confidence in the WCF's processes and procedures. Policies relating to transferring control of the MacRobertson Shield and AC Laws to the WCF agreed.  International Committee to organise the hosting of a reasonable share of the Championships held by the WCF, subject to the Management Committee agreeing a budget on each occasion.
10 Jul 2010	Proposal before WCF Council to ban composite teams to be opposed (but it was nevertheless passed).
22 Jan 2011	Agreement to be sought for WCF to take over MacRobertson Shield subject to supermajority approval by 4-GB of changes to its regulations.
22 Jan 2011	CA team in MacRobertson Shield to represent England rather than GB in future. Solomon Trophy and Maugham Salver to remain as GB. Northern Irish players to play for Ireland not GB nor England.
23 Mar 2013 19 Oct 2013	Agreed to propose constitutional amendments to restrict the Domain of the CA to England, but allow cooperation with other associations within a Home Area by agreement.
19 Oct 2013	Membership of WCF recognised in the Constitution.

## 16 LAWS

24 Mar 2001 A G M 2001	Proposals to amend the Laws of Association Croquet and Golf Croquet may be submitted to Council by the International Laws Committee Council may approve changes, if satisfied that there has been adequate opportunity for members to comment on them, without the need for explicit publication of the proposals in <i>The Gazette</i> and a confirmatory second vote on them. Power to issue Rulings and Commentary on the Laws effective in the domain given to the International Laws Committee in addition to the power given to a member of Council appointed for that purpose.  [On 19 January 2008 Council decided to adopt the Rules of Golf Croquet drafted by the WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee and publish them with its own rulings.]
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- 13 Oct 2001 Official Rulings on the Laws to be published ( on the Internet).
- 24 Jan 2009 Temporary variation to for Super-Advanced play introduced.
- 25 Jan 2014 GC Laws committee renamed GC Rules Committee.
- 25 Mar 2017 Agreed that copyright of AC Laws should be transferred to WCF.
- 30 Jan 2021 7<sup>th</sup> Edition AC Laws published by WCF adopted for use in the domain from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021
- 17 DRUGS
- 22 Oct 1988}  
4 Feb 1989} "Drug Testing Procedures should follow those recommended by the Sports Council" - unanimously approved.
- 25 Mar 2006 Drugs working party established.
- 24 Jan 2009 Agreed that it was not in the interests of croquet to join WADA nor to perform drug tests.
- 18 REFEREES
- 27 Nov 1947 Laws Committee report on Referees and Examining Referees.
- 4 Dec 1982 Classification and re-examination of referees.
- 12 Mar 1983 C A Tournament Referees to be re-examined every 5 years.
- 12 Dec 1998 Assistant Referee category created.
- 19 GOLF CROQUET
- 19 Oct 1985 Referendum to be conducted of all resident Associates as to whether or not the CA should take active steps to promote the televising of Golf Croquet.
- 30 Nov 1985 Referendum result was "YES" 281, "NO" 138.
- 19 Apr 1986}  
AGM} A motion that CA should take active steps to ensure that any television of Golf Croquet is in an acceptable form was carried.
- 25 Mar 1995 Golf Croquet Committee established as a Standing Committee.
- 21 Mar 1998 Support expressed for the holding by the WCF of a World Golf Croquet Championship in England but Council declined offer to

- run the event or to incur any financial risk in connection therewith.
- 12 Dec 1998 Competitions to be run under a new set of Golf Croquet Rules.
- 20 Mar 1999 W C F Rules (1999) to be adopted for one year trial period.
- 11 Dec 1999}  
25 Mar 2000} C A to publish its own Rules for Golf Croquet .
- 16 Oct 1999 New competitions (Opens and Inter-Counties ) to be initiated in 2000.
- 23 Mar 2002 Associates playing the Non- Tournament rate of subscription are nevertheless entitled to play in C A Golf Croquet events.
- 11 Oct 2003 2004 WCF world championship to be hosted and underwritten to the extent of £3K if necessary (it wasn't). Host club to assume financial responsibility.
- 25 Mar 2006 Appeal by Surbiton Club against non-award of 2005 Inter-Club Trophy after failure to play final resulted in final being played the following year. Final to be on a fixed date in future.
- 25 Mar 2006 Eligibility for selection restricted to those who have played at least two ranking events in the previous twelve months (but see selection policy agreed in May, 2008).
- 27 Jan 2007 Committee structure revised to replace the Golf Croquet Committee by a Golf Croquet Tournaments Committee, transferring its other functions to other committees, so that Golf Croquet and Association Croquet were treated equivalently.
- 19 Jan 2008 WCF Rules (2008) adopted as Laws of Golf Croquet in the Domain.
- 16 March 2022 The 6th edition of the GC Rules approved for implementation on 27 March 2022.

20 MUSEUM AND ARTEFACTS

- Oct 1988 Painting of Croquet Pavilion at the Roehampton Club by John Prince donated by him to the CA and loaned to the Roehampton Club.
- 10 Dec 1988 Council agreed to seek storage for items of historic interest and to consider establishment of a museum.
- Alan Oldham appointed as first Archivist.

- 1 Feb 1989 Gift of Bussey Table Croquet Set (100 years old) from Professor MD Warren accepted.
- 28 Oct 1989 Brian Macmillan donated a 1860 Mallet to the Museum. Purchase from Mr Batty of a Sheffield made silver "Objet Trouve" with croquet theme (1883 or earlier) approved.
- 2004 Two books of Crowther-Smith cartoons donated to the Compton Club by the Chittenden family and then by the club to the CA. Subsequently stolen and later recovered in 2006.
- 16 Oct 2004 Tremaine Arkley notified his intention to make a substantial gift from his collection in recognition of John Solomon's contribution.
- 14 Oct 2006 Chris Williams appointed CA Archivist.
- 16 Oct 2010 Archiving Policy adopted.

21 ROYALTY

- 6 Nov 1952 HM Queen Elizabeth II granted patronage.
- Feb 1966 HM Queen invited to attend Centenary of Open Championships at Hurlingham on 28 July 1967. (She accepted and attended.)
- 15 Oct 1994 HM Queen invited to attend Centenary of CA in 1997.[She declined and Prince Charles was invited instead on 24 Nov 1996, but he was unable to accept.]
- June 2006 Chairman of Council invited to attend HM Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday thanksgiving service.
- 26 Mar 2011 2012 Inter-Counties to be named in recognition of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession.

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\* Not featured in the Extracts as at Jan 2011

~ No equivalent heading in the Extracts