

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Changes to the Constitution proposed to the 2013 AGM

This set of amendments to the current CA constitution, which was last changed in October, 2010, is proposed by Council to the 2013 AGM.

A. Changes to the Domain

In October, 2012, Council asked its International Committee to make a recommendation about how to deal with the draft report of the Domain Working Party, which was published in March, 2011. It recommended that the Domain should be restricted to England, but that some of the CA's objectives should be widened to allow it to operate in neighbouring countries with the agreement of their governing bodies, where they did not have the necessary resources or to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Council therefore proposes:

1. that the definition of "The Domain", which currently reads:

“England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man”

shall be replaced by:

“England”

2. that a definition of "The Home Area" should be added as follows:

“England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man”

3. that the definition of "Home Members", which currently reads:

“Individual Associates and Member Clubs resident or situated in the Domain and Scotland, ”

shall be replaced by:

“Individual Associates and Member Clubs resident or situated in the Home Area”

4. that, in the definition of "Federations", which currently reads:

“Groupings of Croquet clubs within the Domain run under the auspices of the Association but independent of it”

“Domain” shall be replaced by “Home Area”:

5. that after the Objects set out in Clause 1, which currently read:

- “(a) To encourage, promote, develop and control Croquet in the Domain.*
- (b) To codify and publish the laws of Croquet and regulations for tournaments applicable in the Domain.*

- (c) To assist Croquet clubs and provide coaches in the Domain.
- (d) To assist the development of Croquet and its clubs in conjunction with the Regional Croquet Federations.
- (e) To represent the interests of its members in the Domain with Government departments and other bodies and organisations.
- (f) Within the Domain to promote, hold and manage tournaments, matches and other events, to sanction championships and provide official managers, referees and handicappers.
- (g) To represent the interests of its members and promote development of Croquet internationally.
- (h) To enter individuals and teams in international events to represent nations or groups of nations associated with the Domain and to host and support such events.”

the following text shall be added:

“The area in relation to which any or all of these objects, with the exception of (h), may be pursued may be extended to all or part of the Home Area outside the Domain, subject to the agreement of the Council and any national association(s) recognised by the World Croquet Federation for the area concerned.”

6. that, in clause 12(a)(iii), which currently reads:

“a maximum of nine Council members (“Federation Representatives”) elected via the Federations to represent Member Clubs situated within the Domain; Federation Representatives shall be elected on the basis of one Council member for each Federation.”

“Domain” *shall be replaced by* “Home Area”.

7. that, in clause 18(b)(ii), which currently reads:

“Candidates for election as Federation Representatives must be Individual Associates resident in the Domain or Scotland. A retiring Federation Representative shall be eligible for re-election.”

“Domain or Scotland” *shall be replaced by* “Home Area”.

8.. that, in clause 18(b)(iv), which currently reads:

“Any Member Club situated within the Domain but not within the boundaries of any Federation may, with the agreement of that Member Club and for the purposes of Clause 18(b) only, be allocated by the Council to a Federation and shall be deemed to be a Member Club situated within the boundaries of that Federation.”

“Domain” *shall be replaced by* “Home Area”.

B. Recognition of WCF

Clause 10 of the current constitution deals with Affiliated Organisations and reciprocal membership, and probably pre-dates the formation of the World Croquet Federation. Its statutes contain the following provisions:

“305. RECIPROCITY OF MEMBERSHIP

(305.1) A player who is affiliated to a Member should be granted reciprocal rights to play in calendar fixtures (tournaments) when visiting another Member.

(305.2) Visiting players who are currently affiliated and in good standing with their Member association should obtain a letter or similar form of introduction from their Member association to present to the visited Member. The letter, or similar, should be sent or presented initially to the Head Office of the visited Member and a copy carried to present to each club etc. visited.

(305.3) Members should provide details to fellow Members if any visiting player fails to observe the highest standards of behaviour.”

To recognise this, Council proposes:

1. that Clause 10, which currently reads:

“10. AFFILIATED COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Other Croquet Councils and Associations may be affiliated to the Association on payment of such annual or other fee as Council may from time to time determine. The obligations and privileges of Affiliated Councils and Associations shall be as follows:

- (a) The mutual interchange of all official publications.
- (b) The right of any duly accredited member of the affiliated body, when visiting the Domain for a limited period, to enjoy, on payment of half of the appropriate annual subscription payable by a Home Member, all the privileges of an Individual Associate except that of voting at General Meetings.
- (c) The extension of reciprocal rights for any duly accredited Individual Associate when visiting the country of the affiliated body.”

be replaced by:

“10. WORLD CROQUET FEDERATION

While the Croquet Association is a member of the World Croquet Federation (WCF), it shall implement the provisions for reciprocal membership rights contained in the WCF Statutes.

C. Laws or Rules and Regulations

The following proposal is to update Clause 27, which deals with Laws and Regulations, to cater for Golf as well as Association Croquet and to remove explicit reference to the International Laws Committee, as it may be replaced by a WCF Committee. (The ILC is currently recognised by the WCF under its statute 301.2).

1. that the definition of Croquet, which currently reads:

“Association and/or Golf Croquet as defined in the current laws including all forms of play described therein and in the current regulations for tournaments.”

be replaced by:

“Association and/or Golf Croquet as defined in the current laws or rules, including all forms of play described therein, and in the current regulations for tournaments.”

2. that Clause 1(b), which currently reads:

“To codify and publish the laws of Croquet and regulations for tournaments applicable in the domain.

be replaced by:

“To codify and publish the laws or rules of Croquet and regulations for tournaments applicable in the domain.”

3. that clause 27, which currently reads:

“27. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

(a) Amendments to, or new editions of, the Laws of both Association and Golf Croquet may be submitted to the Council for approval by the International Laws Committee on which the Council is entitled to be represented or by a Council committee. If the Council is satisfied that adequate opportunity has been given for Individual Associates and Member Clubs to comment on the proposal, the Council may approve it by passing, with a majority of at least 6 to 4, a resolution specifying the date on which it is to take effect, which fact shall be published in the Association's official journal. Such approval by the Council of alterations to the Laws shall apply within the Domain under the provision of Clause 1(b).

(b) The Council shall have power to authorise the adoption of temporary variations in the laws and regulations.

(c) The Council shall, for both Association and Golf Croquet, appoint one of its members to decide questions arising on the interpretation of the laws and regulations. The Council may additionally delegate power to issue rulings and commentary on the laws to an international body on which it is entitled to be represented.”

shall be replaced by:

“27. LAWS OR RULES AND REGULATIONS

(a) The Council shall determine the laws or rules of Croquet and regulations for tournaments to be used in the Domain, under Clause 1(b), in the light of any versions adopted by the World Croquet Federation, or proposed by bodies recognised by it to make recommendations on these matters.

(b) If the Council is satisfied that adequate opportunity has been given for Individual Associates and Member Clubs to comment on a proposal to amend or adopt a new version of laws or rules, the Council may approve it by passing, with a majority of at least 6 to 4, a resolution specifying the date on which it is to take effect, which fact shall be published in the Association's official journal and/or on its website.

(c) Power to change the regulations for tournaments may be delegated to council committees.

(d) The Council shall have power to authorise the adoption of temporary variations in the laws or rules and regulations for tournaments.

(e) The Council shall appoint one or more of its members, by default the Chairman of the responsible committee, to decide questions on the interpretation of the laws or rules and regulations for tournaments. The Council may additionally delegate power to issue rulings and commentary on the laws to bodies recognised by the World Croquet Federation to make recommendations on these matters.

(f) The Council shall appoint one or more Individual Associates, by default the Chairmen of the responsible committees, to represent it on bodies recognised by the World Croquet Federation to make recommendations on these matters.”

D. Miscellaneous

The following miscellaneous amendments are also proposed:

1 that clause 3(c), which currently reads:

“(c) Applicants may exercise the privileges of membership immediately, though shall cease to do so if informed by the Hon. Secretary that the Council has been recommended to refuse their application under (b) above.”

be replaced by:

(c) Applicants are admitted as members and may exercise the privileges of membership immediately, though shall cease to be and do so if informed by the Hon. Secretary within 30 days that the Council has been recommended to refuse their application under (b) above.

2 that, from clause 11(c) which currently reads:

“(c) Members whose subscriptions are in arrears shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership including, in the case of Individual Associates, the right to play in Calendar Fixtures. Individual Associates in arrears on 1 May and Member Clubs in arrears on 1 June shall forthwith cease to be members of the Association but shall remain liable for their subscriptions.”

the following text shall be deleted:

“, in the case of Individual Associates,”

3. that in clause 26(a), which relates to the Indemnity for Council Members, and which currently reads:

“(a) as soon as possible, but in any event within one month of being made aware of such claim, notifies the Honorary Secretary of the Association both of the existence of the claim and of the circumstances in which it has been brought;”

the word “possible” shall be replaced by “is reasonably practicable”.

4. that, in Clause 29, which currently reads:

“The Council shall maintain in the name of the Association such bank accounts as it deems necessary. The person or persons authorized to operate these accounts, to sign cheques and make other payments in respect of them shall be as determined by the Council from time to time. These provisions shall be reviewed by the Council at least once a year including immediately following the Annual General Meeting. The persons so authorized shall keep account of all receipts and disbursements for which they are responsible.”

the words “immediately” shall be replaced by “at its first meeting”.

5. that, Clause 1(d), which currently reads:

“(d) If complainants are dissatisfied with the way in which the decision of the Appeals Panel has been reached they undertake to agree to binding arbitration by the Sports Disputes Resolution Panel Limited, 107-111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB”

shall be replaced by:

“(d) If complainants are dissatisfied with the way in which the decision of the Appeals Panel has been reached they undertake to agree to binding arbitration by Sport Resolutions (UK), the trading name of The Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Limited, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company number 3351039.”

6. that clause 14, which currently reads:

“14. GENERAL MEETINGS: REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Council shall submit to the Annual General Meeting a Report and Statement of Accounts for the preceding year signed by the Chairman of Council and accompanied by a Report from the Reporting Accountants. Copies shall be available before the meeting and on request shall be sent by post or may be transmitted electronically to Home Members. The Report and Statement of Accounts shall also be published in the official journal of the Association as soon as possible after the Council has approved them.”

shall be replaced by

“14. GENERAL MEETINGS: REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Council shall submit to the Annual General Meeting a Report and Statement of Accounts for the preceding year signed by the Chairman of Council and accompanied by a Report from the Reporting Accountants. Copies shall be available at the meeting and on request by Home Members shall be sent by post or transmitted electronically to them beforehand. The Report, Statement of Accounts and Report from the Reporting Accountants shall also be published on the Association's website and they or a summary of them in the official journal of the Association.”