

Under 21 Golf Croquet World Championship 2019

Final Bid Document, 26 Sept 2018

1. Introduction

The event will be held at Nottingham Croquet Club (NCC), Highfields Park, Nottingham NG7 2PS, which has 8 full size croquet courts, although only 5 will be available for this tournament. Nottingham is in England, about 120 miles (192 Km) north of London. Information about the club is available on its website <http://www.nottinghamcroquet.org.uk> and a Google Map is available by searching for 'Nottingham Croquet Club'.

The maximum number of players that can be accepted will be 24 and the dates for the event are Saturday 20th July to Wednesday 24th July 2019. The club reserves the right to reduce the duration, change the format, or as a last resort cancel the tournament unless there are at least 16 entries (including any wildcard invitations to be issued) by the allocation date. No commitment should be assumed from the club unless stated below.

Nottingham Croquet Club has a strong contingent of golf croquet players, at least one of whom has played in a previous U21 GC World Championship and gone on to be one of the top GC players in the country. We have experience of hosting national GC finals and other prestigious events such as the MacRobertson Shield and the Women's AC World Championship.

2. Events

The championship will be a singles event, for the WCF Trophy donated by Stephen Mulliner, with three consolation events. Suggested formats for these, based on the WCF event regulations, are given below but these may be revised after discussion with the Tournament Manager and WCF Event Lead once the final size of entry is known.

The format of the main event will be best of three, 13-point game block play involving 4 blocks of up to 6 players, followed by a knockout involving the top 4 players from each block (with play-offs for qualification if required). Time limits will not be used unless they become necessary to complete the event. Play-offs in accordance with WCF Regulations to determine progression to the knock-out stage will be arranged between contestants who finish the block stage on the same number of wins. The draw for the knockout will follow the format given in Appendix 7 of the WCF Sports Regulations, modified for a field of 16. All matches in the knockout will be best of three, except the final which will be best of five if time permits. All games will be single banked, except in an emergency.

The proposed format of the consolation events below is subject to review by the WCF Event Lead and the Manager.

Players who do not qualify for the knockout stage of the main event will proceed to the Plate event. This will be played as an all-play-all, single 13-point game block. The winner will receive a WCF salver.

Players who are first round losers in the knockout stage of the main event will proceed to the Bowl event. This event will be played as a best of three knockout. The winner will receive a WCF salver.

The Shield event will use the approach of paragraph 5.3 of Appendix 8 of the WCF Sports Regulations, and will be a single 13-point game knockout for those losing in the Quarter-Finals of the Main Event and the Bowl. The winner will receive a WCF salver.

The envisaged format of all consolation events may be altered if some players choose not to participate.

The playing schedule is expected to be:

Day 1 Main Event Blocks: 2 matches per player

Day 2 Main Event Blocks: 2 matches per player

Day 3 Main Event Blocks: 1 match per player, Block Play Offs and Plate (2 games)

Day 4 Main Event Last 16 and Quarter Finals, Plate (3 games) and Bowl QF

Day 5 Main Event Semi Finals and Final, Plate (2 games), Bowl SF and Final, Shield

Players should be available to start play at 9.30 am each day. 15 minutes of practice will be allowed before each player's first game of each day. There are no floodlights at the club but at this time of year the light will be good enough to play until at least 8.30 pm and can continue until dusk.

3. Rules and Referees

Games will be played under the 5th Edition of the Rules of Golf Croquet (with any rulings then in force) and the WCF Sports and Refereeing Regulations.

A tournament referee will be appointed. Other non-playing referees will be appointed so that all courts have access to a referee nearby. All referees will be on call unless, exceptionally, the tournament referee judges that a referee in charge is needed.

4. Number of competitors and Entry Timetable

The event is restricted to 24 players.

The WCF has agreed the following timetable for the entry process:

Invitation: Sunday 7th October, 2018

Response: Sunday 2nd December, 2018

Allocation: Sunday 16th December, 2018

Announcement: Sunday 30th December, 2018

Closing: Sunday 27th January, 2019

Cut-Off: Sunday 9th June, 2019

5. Event Planning and Management

Overall responsibility for the planning and running of the championship will be with a group which will include representatives of the WCF, the CA and the host club. It is anticipated that sub-committees of club members will be formed to undertake specific tasks, such as catering and ground management.

The following are willing to take on the major roles up to and during the tournament, subject where necessary to appointment or approval by the WCF:

Chairman of Organising Committee – *Beatrice McGlen*

WCF Event Lead – *Samir Patel*

CA Representative – *Ian Lines*

Tournament Director – *Peter Death*

Tournament Manager – *Ian Burridge*

Tournament Referee – *Ian Vincent*

Website Manager – *Ian Vincent*

Publicity and Media Relations – *David Brydon*

Child protection officer – *Omied Hallam*

6. Lawns and playing equipment

Nottingham Croquet Club (NCC) has 5 full size croquet courts available for this tournament, all with an automatic sprinkler system that can be manually adjusted. We would anticipate a speed in the range 10-12 plummets in normal weather conditions and will aim for the upper end of that range. Support will be given by

Nottingham City Council, which is the custodian of Highfields Park where the croquet club is situated and which provides the maintenance.

It is expected that a professional groundsman with significant experience of preparing the courts for major events will be available throughout the tournament and he will be assisted by volunteers from the club. The hoops have to be taken in at night so the groundsman will set the hoops each morning and these will be checked before start of play. Hoops will be set into new holes immediately prior to the tournament commencing. They will be moved to new holes for the semi-finals of the main event and otherwise as required.

All the lawns will be mown before the tournament begins and then every alternate day throughout the tournament, weather permitting.

The hoops used will be Hopewell hoops, although Atkins Quadway hoops may be used if they are available, and they will be set as specified in the WCF Sports Regulations (as close as possible to, but not less than, 1/32" clearance from the largest diameter of any ball to be used on the court). Hoop widths will be checked prior to the start of play and at the beginning of main event matches.

Dawson balls will be used

Players wishing to practise before the tournament starts will be welcome between 10am and 5pm on Friday 19th July, though some lawns may be unavailable at times for maintenance and hoops will not be set to tournament standards.

7. Catering

NCC has a long established tradition of providing good quality home cooked lunches. We have kitchen facilities in the pavilion and we have a team of volunteers who cater throughout the season. We have set up a catering sub-committee for this tournament, under the auspices of our catering manager, so morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea will be available for £12 per day to all players and tournament officials. It is expected that we will also be able to cater for accompanying supporters who pre-book. It is unlikely that refreshments will be available on an ad-hoc basis for other spectators, although there is a café in the Lakeside Pavilion about five minutes walk away.

8. Social events

A formal opening ceremony will be held on Friday 19th July with a light finger buffet. This will follow the player briefing. Players, their accompanying supporters and officials are invited. A group photograph will be taken. There are no flagpoles permanently on the site; but temporary ones will be erected. It is assumed that the WCF will supply the necessary flags for this ceremony.

An event sub-committee will be formed to investigate other possible events for players and those accompanying them.

A closing ceremony and prize-giving, open to all, will be held at the end of play on Wednesday 24th July.

9. Accommodation and travel

Travel to Nottingham from overseas will usually involve a flight to London and then the train from St. Pancras station to Nottingham station. Birmingham airport also has some international flights and a train service to Nottingham. East Midlands airport is situated between Derby and Nottingham but international flights are mainly restricted to holiday destinations in Europe. There is a good bus service between the railway station and the croquet club and there is also a tram service with stops at either end of University Boulevard.

Nottingham has a full range of hotels and guest houses. A list will be put on the website with contact details. For budget accommodation, university halls of residence are conveniently situated within walking distance of the club and the University also has a conference grade hotel on the campus.

10. Publicity

A publicity officer has been appointed to liaise with CA, the local press, national press and radio and television stations. It is expected that the CA will organise national publicity covering both the U21s and the main GC World Championships. A separate website has been set up for this tournament www.u21gcwc2019.org with links from the CA website and the Nottingham Croquet Club website. Results will be posted on croquetscores.com and there may also be a running commentary provided of key games. WiFi internet access is available at the club.

11. Spectators

Spectators will be welcomed and admitted free of charge. Space, and shelter, for them is limited, but previous experience suggests that the club can cope with the numbers likely to attend. A temporary fence will be erected around the playing area for the safety of spectators and other members of the public.

12. Programme and Merchandise

A printed programme will be produced. Consideration is also being given to making clothing or other memorabilia available.

13. Finance

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14. Child protection

Duty of care for any player under the age of 18 is primarily with the parent or accompanying adult. No child may leave the club premises without the express permission of the tournament manager and they must be accompanied by their parent or responsible adult. In addition, the club has appointed a child protection officer who has been fully checked under UK child protection legislation. He will have a safe-guarding role while players are on club premises.

15. Medical facilities

A basic first aid kit will be available in the pavilion. For serious illnesses/accidents the accident and emergency department at the main hospital in Nottingham is only 5 minutes drive away.

16. Risks

The event will be covered by Public Liability Insurance of £5M under the CA's block policy for itself and its member clubs.

The most likely problem with court availability is if there is considerable rainfall, in which case the lawns can become flooded. However, the soil is free-draining and standing water normally drains away within a couple of hours. In the event of playing time being lost completely, priority will be given to finishing the main event and the format of other events may be amended accordingly.

The city centre and western suburbs of Nottingham are generally fairly safe (though the city centre can get a bit lively in the early hours!). There have been occasional incidents of vandalism to, and theft from, the pavilion.