

SOUTH AFRICAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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www.croquet.org.za

It appears from the number of requests to hire or buy croquet equipment for weddings in particular, that croquet is fast becoming the latest fashion in South Africa. The website has brought about an increasing interest in Croquet with the realisation that we have the sun and space to enjoy it everywhere. It is exciting too to see the enthusiasm for the game at 2 preparatory schools in Somerset West with a third wishing to introduce it in 2011. Carroway Croquet is launched in Gauteng by Peter Caroto who is manufacturing complete croquet sets & individual mallets and balls as required. The prices are affordable and the equipment of good quality as illustrated on the SACA Shop on the website. This has made croquet equipment within the reach of guest houses, retirement villages & private homes.

The Nationals this year have just been played in Gauteng at the Johannesburg Country Club. This year there were sufficient entries to run the Association Croquet Tournament as well. In every respect it was a great tournament at a beautiful venue & the standard of play was generally considered to be very high. The 2010 Inter-Provincial Golf Croquet Challenge was played on the Sunday in between the Association & Golf Croquet events. Sadly Kwa-Zulu Natal could not get a team together so it was contested by Gauteng, Western Province & Eastern Province . The tournament was based on the Davis Cup format of 2 singles players and one doubles per team with 2 singles playing reverse singles against the opposing team. In the final Gauteng beat Western Province 4/1 to win.

Congratulations to our South African team – Reg Bamford (Captain), Andrew Hobbs, William Louw & Nick Harvey – who proudly played in Tier 2.1 of the World Team Championships coming in a very close second to Wales in their group of 4 countries. For the first time this year, The MacRobertson Shield formed the top tier of the World Team Championship for Association Croquet, with tiers two and three being played at the Hurlingham Club, Sussex County Croquet Club and Compton Croquet Club.

Discussion amongst the 2nd Tier of the World Team Championship (inclusive of SA) culminated in the suggestion that each tier should hold their tier's event at one of the competing tier's countries. This was considered to be financially more practical and better quality players would be attracted. Regarding regulations and moving tier to tier it was suggested that to move to a higher

tier the winner of the tier should challenge the loser of the next tier, however the challenge should take place in the country of the upper tier team and under the same conditions and number of players in the higher tier.

One of the pictures of Croquet in South Africa, Safari Lodge, submitted to the Russian Croquet Association competition & exhibition was amongst the highest results of e-mail reviews. All the entries can be viewed on <http://www.croquet-club.com/events/rover2010/>.

The SA Croquet Association President since 2008, Ellis Langeveld, sadly passed away just before the Nationals and AGM. The Vice-President, Chris Wakeham, was nominated and elected to fill this vacant position at the AGM and Pat Erskine (Eastern Province) was elected Vice-President. Judith Hanekom (Western Province) remains an elected member of the SACA Executive and John Hedding (Gauteng) was elected to fill the other member vacancy.