

A THOROUGHLY EGYPTIAN GAME NOW BELONGS TO THE WORLD

Almost 15 years after CROQUET WORLD published "Croquet by the Nile is Hard, Fast, and Thoroughly Egyptian" - the article that introduced Egyptian Golf Croquet to the croquet world - Egypt has influenced the croquet world much more than the croquet world has influenced the croquet played in Egypt - which is still mostly Golf Croquet. Although there was talk of Egypt hosting an ASSOCIATION CROQUET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP in the late nineties, it never happened. Now, it seems unlikely to happen, with the proliferation of so many other events in Egypt for Golf Croquet.



Cairo's Gezira Club is to world croquet what the Vatican is to the Roman Catholic Church and Mecca is to Islam. It's the heart and source of the game. It's where the game was "discovered" by the Egyptians in the middle of the 20th Century in the wake of the British colonials' departure from that country and developed to its ultimate form by the Egyptians, who are the acknowledged and seldom-defeated master practitioners of Golf Croquet. They play with hoops and balls of their own manufacture, and they don't seem to care whether the lawns are fast or level. They win on anything.

All the following events have been played in Egypt, most of them several times, since Egypt joined the World Croquet Federation in 1995, as one of the world's largest and most highly developed croquet nations.

- * Women's Golf Croquet World Championship
- * Over 50 GC World Championship (now being played for the first time)
- * Golf Croquet World Championship
- * The "Under 21" World Championships, Golf Croquet
- * The WCF-sanctioned Egyptian Open (Golf Croquet)

It could be argued that Egypt - after Mother England - is the most essential member of the World Croquet Federation. Organizers who value the contribution that Golf Croquet has made, is making, and is likely to make in the sport over the long term would be the strongest proponents of this position.

To review some of the fascinating history of Egyptian croquet, see the 1996 article CROQUET BY THE NILE IS HARD, FAST, AND THOROUGHLY EGYPTIAN, at <http://www.croquetworld.com/News/Egypt.asp>. The irony is, of course, that the entire croquet world now plays what was once known as "Egyptian Golf Croquet," but now it's called WCF Golf Croquet, and it's the game most often used by everyone, everywhere, to introduce novices to the equipment, to the courts, to the sport, and to the game, for its apparent simplicity (compared to Association Croquet), interactiveness, and obvious kinship to other crowd-pleasing, fast-moving, hard-hitting sports.

(Source unknown. 2016-17 Croquet Tasmania President Bob Godfrey has played in an international Golf Tournament in Cairo)