PLAYER PROFILES

Kevin Beard | *Australia*

Kevin is 71 and lives in Melbourne with his wife of 50 years, Janet. Kevin has played over 2,600 AC ranking games and completed over 500 triple peels since he began at the Brunswick Croquet Club 25 years ago. Kevin has represented Australia in the MacRobertson Shield (England, 2010) and the Trans-Tasman. He has won the Australian Open Doubles with Stephen Mulliner and the British Open Doubles with Jeff Dawson.He has won the Scottish and Swiss Open Singles Championships.

Playing GC, Kevin has represented Australia in the World Teams Championships and Trans-Tasman and has won the Australian Open Singles three times and the Open Doubles once with John van der Touw.

Lachlan Berryman | *Australia*

Lachlan lives in Melbourne and works in the Department of Education, teaching students with special needs. After 30 years away from the sport due to teaching in Outback Australia, he has recently returned to croquet. He credits much of his success to playing croquet at the highest level in the Melbourne Cricket Club. It's his first time ever playing in London, and he is excited to be playing in the World Championships for the second time.

Robert Fletcher | *Australia*

Robert has been playing croquet since he was 10 years old and competed in his first World Championships when he was 15. Since then he has remained one of the more consistent players on the world croquet stage. He is a member of the Ballarat Alexandra and Caloundra Croquet Clubs and resides on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Initially, Robert began his croquet journey at the Lismore Croquet Club, coached by the late Eric O'Donnell, in Victoria.
One of the highlights of his croquet career was being part of the winning Australian Team at the 2017 MacRobertson Shield held in California, alongside two of his brothers.Robert is competing in his 5th AC World Championships and his second in the UK. Robert works for a company founded by his brother.

Stephen Forster | *Australia*

Stephen is married to Julie and has two children, Zach and Eden and two dogs, Lulu and Liquorice. He is a theatre technician in the Geelong Hospital.
He is a member of the Belmont Club (Geelong) where he has been a Committee member over the past 32 years, and is the part time green keeper. He is the current Vice President of the Victorian Croquet Association.

Stephen has been playing competitive croquet for 49 years and this is his 10th World Championships. He won his first open tournament at the age of 11. His most memorable achievement is being in the Australia team when they won the MacRobertson Shield in 2017.

Callum Hyland | *Australia*

Callum is from Tasmania and works as a business manager in the Earthmoving and Civil Construction industry. He has a varied background, including growing up on a fruit farm, and occasionally dipping into the realm of academia to indulge his passion for ancient literature.

He took croquet lessons for sheer novelty in 2009, having never seen the sport before, and has never looked back. Callum is only interested in AC and was competing in Interstate events after playing for only 15 months. This will be his 4th AC World Championships.

Dwayne McCormick | *Australia*

Dwayne was born in Adelaide, but grew up in the steel works town of Whyalla. When he was young he was involved in so many sports and he never knew croquet even existed. Fast forward a few decades and he found himself in Mt Barker, a small country town in the Adelaide hills. This was where he first found croquet, at the ripe old age of 37. Since then, he has represented South Australia ten times in the Eire Cup (AC) and once in the Interstate Shield (GC). Most recently he was a member of the Australian team in the MacRobertson Shield. This will be his fourth World Championships and his first time travelling to England.

Max Walderdorff | *Austria*

Max was born in 1977 and lives in Salzburg with his wife and son. He works at a 200-year-old jewellery company.

In 2007 he joined the Römergolf Club to play croquet in the snowboarding off season. In 2010 he was runner-up at the Italian GC Open and in 2011 won both the AC and GC national tournaments. Since then he has won both codes in a year five times in 2011, 2013, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and AC-only in 2016 and 2019. He has represented Austria at the Rheingold trophy, winning at Hamburg in 2015, and other European team events. He experienced the 2013 GC World Championships in Cairo and was part of the 2014 AC World Teams Championships tier 3 winning team in Southwick and runners-up of tier 2.2 in Budleigh Salterton in 2022.

Brian Cumming | *Canada*

This will be Brian's 10th appearance in an AC World Championships. He took up the game in a cow pasture in the mid-1990s. He has since won a number of Canadian and USA Nationals titles. He achieved 10th place in the world rankings for a nanosecond in 2008 but claims this was due to a statistical anomaly.

David Druiett | *Canada*

David discovered croquet in 1985 after reading an article about a tournament in New York's Central Park and being astounded the game was taken seriously. So, in 1986 while on holiday, he sought out the CA headquarters at The Hurlingham Club, where he learned of contacts back in Canada. On his return to Toronto he attended the very first Canadian Croquet Championship, at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

He is a two-time Canadian AC Champion and in the top 10 in Canada. He was a Founding Director of Croquet Canada and recently became the Tournament Chairman of the Bayfield International Croquet Club. This year, he plans to retire from his IT career and to devote even more time to turning his wife Lyn, into a "croquet widow". He is excited to return to Hurlingham for his first overseas tournament.

Mark Avery | *England*

Mark is a semi-retired 57-year-old from Ipswich, with over 40 years playing experience and nearly 40 years at international level. He was the youngest ever winner of the Open Championships in 1987, a finalist in the first AC World Championships in 1989, is a winner of various regional championships and a former Open Doubles Champion in both England and New Zealand. More recently, Mark won the 2021 President's Cup.

He has represented England in five MacRobertson Shields winning four of them including the latest 2022 series played in Australia where he won the deciding match for England. He has played croquet in all the main playing countries of England, New Zealand, Australia, USA and South Africa.

Robin Brown | *England*

Robin is 54 years old. He started playing as a teenager in Tyneside and then at Oxford. This will be his fourth appearance in the World Championships with his best result to date being a quarter-final in the 2001 Championships. Aside from that, he has won the Chairman's Salver twice and has been part of winning teams in the Home Internationals, the Intercounties and both AC and GC English Interclub competitions.

He currently lives in Oxfordshire, is a member of Blewbury Croquet Club and works as an accountant for Save the Children.

Christian Carter | *England*

Christian was born in the late eighties in North Yorkshire, he moved to London in 2006 for University. It was here he was introduced to croquet. Now living in Ascot with his wife Fiona, son Nicholas and daughter Florence, Christian works for KFC. Outside of croquet he is a keen hobbyist furniture maker and DIYer.

Christian first represented England in the 2013 World Championships where he reached the block playoffs. Since then he has reached the final 32 in the USA and the final 16 in New Zealand. He has also represented Great Britain in the Solomon Trophy and England in the 2022 winning MacRobertson Shield team, winning 5 out of 6 singles matches.

In recent years Christian has won the Coles Championship and is the three times winner of the Jacques Cup.

Gavin Carter | *England*

Gavin was born and lives on the Island of Jersey and is a creative content producer for the Jersey States Greffe. He started playing croquet at the age of 36 under the watchful eyes of Tony Le Moignan and Sarah Haynes. He won the Championships of Southern England in 2012 and reached a career world ranking high of 10 in 2016.

He also plays golf, badminton and last year cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats covering the 985 miles in nine days.

Eugene Chang | *England*

Eugene started playing croquet in 2000 as a teenager. He is based in Sheffield and is a regular on the UK's AC tournament circuit. This is his 4th AC World Championship having reached his highest ever D Grade earlier this year. He helped Middlesex win the AC Inter-County Championship in 2021 and 2023, and is hoping to debut for Yorkshire in the GC equivalent in August. He is passionate about promoting croquet to a wider audience and has held various roles in croquet administration, including marketing (in particular building the English CA's live streaming capability) and promoting junior croquet. He is chairman of Yorkshire Croquet Federation and Sheffield Croquet Club. Eugene has two young daughters and is a data scientist for the UK Government, with a PhD in computational biology. He enjoys making music, cooking, knitting, running, cycling and inline skating.

Tom Coles | *England*

Tom is 64, comes from London and is a publisher. He started playing croquet at The Hurlingham Club in 1981. Between 1986 and 1988 Tom lived and played croquet in the United States. In 1991 Tom won the Selector's Weekend, and in 1992 was a semi-finalist in the British Open Singles Championship and played in the Chairman's Salver. He played in the Solomon Trophy team against the United States.

From 1996, for about 20 years, his growing family took priority. More recently, Tom has occasionally won The Hurlingham AC Club Championship and The Hurlingham GC Club Championship.

James Death | *England*

James has been playing tournament croquet since the mid' 90 though he first played croquet when he was much younger. His best performance in previous World Championships has been to reach the semi-finals in 2005. He has won two British Open Singles titles, five Open Doubles titles, seven Men's titles and one President's Cup. He was also part of the victorious England MacRobertson Shield team last November in Melbourne.

He currently works for the CA in Cheltenham. He is a very fluent player and often draws a crowd.

Edward Duckworth | *England*

Edward is 50 and is a solicitor. He has been playing croquet since he was 12, always based at Bristol, in south-west England. Before starting a family, he was ranked in the World top ten but now bounces around outside the top 50. He has won the Southern Croquet Championships several times, the Jersey Open, the Spencer Ell and was runner-up in the President's Cup. This is his 4th World Championships.

His children, Sam and Lottie are now 14 and 12, and once they stop needing lifts everywhere, he hopes to get back to playing more!

Marcus Evans | *England*

Marcus was introduced to competitive croquet by Peter Dyke at Nailsea and District Croquet Club, where he is still a member today. He won the All England Handicap Championships when 15 and was awarded the Apps Memorial Bowl for most improved male player the following year. Marcus has been a fierce competitor in both AC and GC ever since. He reached the quarter-finals of the 2005 AC World Championships, and the semi-finals in 2012. Marcus has also been part of several winning English and British teams in the Home Internationals and Solomon Trophy. In recent years Marcus has stepped back from the tournament circuit to spend more time with his young family. When not working in financial promotions compliance for Hargreaves Lansdown, Marcus also enjoys classical singing, and a wide variety of other sports.

Harry Fisher | *England*

Harry has been playing croquet for 15 years. He has been a member in a number of winning teams across both AC and GC including the 2022 MacRobertson Shield. This will be his 4th AC World Championships, with his best result so far being a quarter finalist in 2020.

He is a member of both Roehampton and Blewbury croquet clubs and lives with his wife and son in Pangbourne.

Robert Fulford | *England*

Rob is one of the most successful players in the history of the game. He has won the World Championships five times and has been part of a winning British MacRobertson Shield team on seven occasions (twice as Captain). His other achievements include winning the British Open 11 times, the President's Cup 12 times, the British Open Doubles 10 times with Chris Clarke and twice with James Death. Rob loves tactics, employing a wider range than other top players.

Rob was born in 1969 and started playing aged 15 at the Colchester Club. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Hawkhurst, Kent.

Alain Giraud | *England*

Alain took up croquet in his childhood. He returned to playing in his late 30s when he moved to Ealing and steadily climbed up the rankings. He has represented both England and Great Britain in team events in the UK and USA and has played in four World Championships in the UK, USA, New Zealand and Australia, winning the Plate in 2020.

He currently lives in Derbyshire with his partner, Caroline. He enjoys walks in the country, travelling and playing badminton.

Gabrielle Higgins | *England*

Gabrielle discovered croquet on a vicarage lawn, and continued the ecclesiastical theme with her first club in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. She played at university under the tutelage of Ian Plummer and reached A-class standards more than ten years later through The Hurlingham Club getting her to play more and coaching from Keith Aiton, her partner in five Mixed Doubles Championship wins. She has won four British Women's Championships, and been runner up six times, losing to a different woman each time. She was also runner up in both Women's World Championships she has competed in, again to a different woman each time. This is her fifth open World Championships. Away from croquet, she is Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Chichester, ensuring that her ecclesiastical connection still thrives.

James Hopgood | *England*

James discovered social garden croquet in 1994 while at Cambridge. In 2004, he spotted an advert for the Meadows Croquet Club. It was here he discovered it was a thoroughly more interesting game than he thought possible from his experience at university.

James entered his first AC tournament in 2006. He was a quarter finalist in the 2012 AC World Championships and has won the 2013 AC World Bowl, the Scottish Open three times, the CA Chairman's Salver twice, and the North of England and South of England Regional Championships in the same weekend in 2016. James was a member of the 2017 England MacRobertson Shield team. He is an academic at the University of Edinburgh researching Machine Learning and Signal Processing. He is married to Laura and has two young children.

Dave Kibble | *England*

Dave was born in 1958. He started playing croquet in 1992 and was soon playing well over a hundred tournament games a year until marrying Linda in 2017, when life became more balanced. He has won Cheltenham's D, C, B and A-Class tournaments, the British Mixed Doubles, and reached a peak by winning the Western Championship in 2005. Dave was the first person to play in all four AC Eights. As a coach, he introduced the Platinum Award for completing a sextuple peel and became the first person to hold all four AC Merit Awards. He created the CA website technology platform, and served on the CA's Council and committees for many years being honoured with a Council Medal in 2019. Dave is an engineer with broad experience creating innovative products and IT solutions. He loves music, fine food and wine, real ale, and cooking.

Debbie Lines | *England*

Debbie entered her first tournament in 1985 having played garden croquet for some years. Her first triple peel was in 1987 and she won the Spencer Ell in 1988. She has played in the Chairman's and President's Cups, the Solomon Trophy, was second at the Sonoma Cutrer Championships and has been a USCA American Rules Doubles Champion. In 1995 she reached the semi-finals of the British Opens and won the North of England Championships. She was in the GB team that won the 1996 MacRobertson Shield. In January 2023 Debbie won the WCF AC Women's World Championships.

Debbie lives near Stamford with husband Ian. Previously a Senior Manager with Interflora, she semi-retired in 2019, and now works part-time in a local community role. She is Secretary-General for the WCF and Secretary of Peterborough Croquet Club.

Ian Lines | *England*

Ian was born in 1965. He started playing croquet in 1993, and won the 1995 All England Association Handicap Championship. In 2004, he won the Chairman's Salver and played in GB's successful Solomon Trophy team. More recently he has represented England in the Home Internationals, won the Chairman's Salver twice, the Coles and the North of England Championships. He was in the GB team that won the MacRobertson Shield in 2010 won the Plate at the 2016 and AC World Championships and the 2009 New Zealand Open Doubles. He has been ranked as high as 5th in the Association world rankings. Ian also enjoys GC, winning the Musk Cup in 2007 and the Plate at the 2008 World Championships. Ian was the Tournament Secretary for Bowdon Croquet Club from 1997 to 2011. He has served as Chairman of the CA International, AC Selection and Mac Selection Committees, and is the CA Event Lead. Ian is a Grade 3 coach and championship referee.

David Maugham | *England*

David was introduced to croquet by his father in 1981 when he was 12 and started playing competitively in 1985. He has won various singles honours including the British Open Championship twice, four British Men's Championships, five British President's Cups, the Sonoma-Cutrer Championship three times, the Australian Open, the US Open and over-25 British Regional Championships. His doubles successes include four British Open Doubles titles and five British Mixed Doubles.

David has also been on six MacRobertson Shield winning Great Britain sides, and considers his best match to be the one in which he completed a TP to win the deciding game of the final match of the test against New Zealand at Christchurch in 2000 when the scores were level. In 2018 David won seven of the nine top UK AC Championships.

Stephen Mulliner | *England*

Stephen is 69 and he began playing in tournaments in 1976. He was the 2016 AC World Champion; has won the British Open three times; the Open Doubles Championship 10 times, the President's Cup five times, the Sonoma-Cutrer four times, and the European Championships 13 times. He is the only player to have won both the Singles and Doubles Championships of Australia, England, New Zealand and United States. He has represented Great Britain in the MacRobertson Shield six times and England twice. He has reached the GC World Championships semi-finals three times; has been British Open Champion eight times, English National Champion three times; and European Champion five times. He has represented England in the GC World Team Championships three times. He is a Vice-President of the CA and a former WCF Secretary-General.

Andy Myers | *England*

Andy was born in London in the same year that Batman debuted on television. He started playing croquet in the early noughties and although his long-suffering wife and four children tempered the time he could spend on tournament croquet, this will be his third AC World Championships.

Andy lives in North Hampshire and plays his croquet at Aldermaston and Basingstoke. He is an Electronics Design Engineer and Project Manager and enjoys gardening, playing various musical instruments and visiting his children and grandchildren. The empty nest is filling up with croquet paraphernalia.

Dom Nunns | *England*

Dom played garden croquet from the age of 3, and around thirty years later joined the Sussex County Croquet Club playing AC and GC. His AC tournament wins include the Coles Championship, three COWhorns and one Southwick Salver. He has been part of three winning England teams at the AC Home Internationals and a key member of the Sussex Inter-Counties team. Dom is a previous UK Open Doubles Championship semi-finalist. At the 2020 AC World Championships, Dom reached the last 32 and the Shield final, and more recently the last 16 at the 2022 GC World Championships. He recently finished 3rd in the Irish Invitational at Carrickmines and joined the England GC Elite squad. Dom works as a pensions consultant, having previously travelled widely as a composer, conductor and French horn-player

Nick Parish | *England*

Nick is still just the right side of 50 and lives with his wife and two children close to his main club, Surbiton. He is also a member of England's most northerly and picturesque, Bamburgh.

Nick has been playing croquet for 25 years, he has recently clawed his way into the UK top 20 in a triumph of perseverance over natural talent. His proudest croquet moments were representing England in the Home Internationals in 2021, and defeating Stephen Mulliner in a playoff to progress to the knockouts in the 2013 World Championships. Nick has worked for the Bank of England even longer than he has been playing croquet. When doing neither of those things he enjoys running, board games, and country and rock music.

Nigel Polhill | *England*

Nigel is 62 and grew up in St Albans. He spent his working life in commercial IT. He discovered croquet when he was 38, won his first tournament in 2002 and has been a regular on the circuit ever since. He played for England in the 2022 Home Internationals and the Inter County Champions, Middlesex, in 2021. He has twice been the runner up in the South of England Plate, joint winner of the Treasurer's Tankard (2018) and winner of the Opens Plate doubles in 2014. He has also won the Letchworth Challenge Cup four times, the Roehampton Ranelagh Gold Cup twice, the Tompkinson Shield three times as well as the Guildford and Godalming Challenge Cup.

Nigel is a Grade 2 coach. His coaching services have been employed by the WCF, the CA, the Croquet Academy and The Hurlingham Club.

Richard Smith | *England*

Richard has been playing croquet for 25 years and is playing in his 6th World Championships. He won the Shield last time the World Championships were held here in 2013.

He started his international croquet journey in Adelaide in 2012, and has since competed in Australia, USA, New Zealand and Ireland as well as in the UK. He has twice represented England at the Home Internationals, and in 2019 secured the winning point for Great Britain against Ireland to win the Maugham Salver. Having played predominantly AC, he has recently begun playing GC and has represented his county on two occasions.

Richard enjoys keeping fit through running and cycling, and at the time of writing is training hard for his first marathon.

Joel Taylor | *England*

Joel is playing in his first world championships, having started playing the game in 2007 while at university in Cambridge. He taught himself to play by reading Ian Plummer's website and he enjoys the game for its precision and tactical challenge. When not playing croquet, he is a secondary school maths teacher.

Pete Trimmer | *England*

Pete took up croquet aged 13 and claims he peaked 20 years ago when he was 30. However, he is still very capable of claiming a top player's scalp. In a nod to his brother, he predicts the Championships will be won by a player with a quality mallet!

Mark Van Loon | *England*

Mark was born and raised in The Netherlands. He moved to the UK for university and started playing casual croquet at Oxford. After some initial success in the internal university tournament, he decided to take the game seriously, joined the university club, and croquet replaced tennis as his primary sport. With coaching from Ian Plummer, he started playing A-level tournaments in 2018. After university he moved to London, and joined The Roehampton Club, where he started playing GC as well as AC. In 2022 he was in the GC and AC teams that won the national AC and GC Interclub tournaments. His personal croquet highlights include winning the AC Student Championships; playing with university friends at an invitational in Nantucket; winning the Roehampton Ranelagh Gold Cup three times; and most recently playing in the President's Cup.

Tim Wilkins | *England*

Tim started playing croquet at university in the 1990s and has played ever since, although with less time for croquet while his children were growing up. He is a member of Surbiton and lives near Dorking with his wife, three daughters and two dogs.

Aston Wade | *England*

Aston started playing AC in 2016 and GC in 2020. He played in his first tournaments in 2020. He is a member at The Hurlingham Club. He won the 2021 British GC Open at the age of 18 and in 2022, the European GC Championships, the GC First Eight, the AC Second Eight and the Plate at the GC World Championships. Earlier this year he won the U21 GC World Championships. He has also won the AC Students Championships (twice) and the National Junior GC Championships. He won the Spiers Trophy for the most improved male GC player in 2021 and the Apps Memorial Bowl for the most improved male AC player in 2022. Aston represented England at both the AC and GC Home Internationals in 2022 and the 2022 and 2023 England vs Spain GC Test Matches. He is currently studying Medical Sciences at Exeter and enjoys playing squash, golf, snooker and chess.

Bruno Hess | *Germany*

Bruno has been playing tournament croquet since 1999 and has competed in several World Championships, European Championships, Open tournaments and test matches. He is a board member (Sportwart) of the Deutscher Krocket Bund and the 1st Croquet Club Southwest.

His titles include 13 AC National Championships, six GC National Championships, two German South-West Open Championships, 13 National Doubles Championships in Association Croquet and Golf Croquet and two Belgium Open Doubles Championships.

Bruno works as a transportation logistician.

Omied Hallam | *Iran*

Omied, with his brother Sanaa, started playing croquet in 2009 coached by their father Brian Hallam. Within a month they had entered their first tournament playing each other in the final. Since then Omied has competed in tournaments around the country, winning The Chairman's and Spencer Ell. His proudest moment was winning the handicap doubles at Nottingham with his brother 25 years after his father and Aunt won in 1985! He has won over twenty doubles competitions.

Omied is half Iranian and is very proud to be the first-ever Iranian entering the AC World Championships. Omied has worked within the community sector, supporting vulnerable people for the last 26 years and is currently working as an Organisational Manager at a local Homeless Charity, Framework.

Sandy Greig | *Ireland*

Sandy was born in Scotland in 1954. He has lived in Dublin, Ireland since 2005 where he is a member of Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. It was here he developed his interest in and enthusiasm for croquet. He has been the AC and GC Champion at Carrickmines, and in 2022 represented Ireland in the AC Home Internationals and the WCF AC World Team Championships. He has played in England, Scotland and Australia! He is a member of the CAI Council and Chairman of the CAI Selectors Committee.

Andrew Johnston | *Ireland*

Andrew is from County Wicklow south of Dublin in Ireland. He is an investment services professional and a father of three brilliant boys Zach, Archie and Beau as well as husband to an amazing wife Yvonne. He was introduced to the game by his late dad as a young boy and croquet held equal status alongside other sporting passions of rugby, tennis and golf.

Having won two previous world championships bronze medals, this will be Andrew's 5th World Championships. In his previous World Championships, he has only been beaten by the eventual winners or runners up. Andrew is a six-time Irish Open champion, former European Champion and Captain of an Irish team that achieved a very rare win over Great Britain.

Simon Williams | *Ireland*

Simon, one of the undecayed Williamses, has played croquet since 1982 and is a proud member of Carrickmines, Newbridge House and Dulwich Croquet Clubs. Since 1987 he has regularly played for Ireland, and also occasionally wins tournaments. He has reached the quarter finals in two previous World Championships.

Andrejs Savinovs | *Latvia*

Andrejs won the Latvian Association Croquet Champions Cup in 2021 and 2022. He has taken part in the previous three World Championships but says he has yet to win a match. He is hoping to win his first match this Championships and hopes his opponents will let him.

Dennis Bulloch | *New Zealand*

Dennis is a young 75 and has been playing croquet for 54 years. He is an international coach, senior referee and promoter of croquet and gateball. He has represented NZ in many world championships and the MacRobertson Shield series. He has played in the President's 8 twice, has been third in an AC World Championships and runner up in a GC World Championships. He has also won the NZ Open Singles and Doubles (with Roger Murfitt) titles.

Dennis lives in Palmerston North, NZ, and plays at the Rose Gardens and Takaro Mallet Sports Clubs and enjoys playing badminton, classical piano but loves croquet the most.

He is looking forward to renewing acquaintances with friends again and to playing at the superb venues in London.

Jenny Clarke | *New Zealand*

Jenny is a 51-year-old former physicist and sport scientist, who is now concentrating on improving her golf handicap and garden. Since learning to play croquet while studying at Oxford University, she has won multiple national and international titles including the 2016 Openshaw Shield in a NZ team captained by her husband Chris.

Peter Filbee | *New Zealand*

Peter was born in Wellington in 1949. He lives and works in Hawera in Taranaki with his wife Cherol and their five children. He is a Chartered Accountant with his own practice and was recently conferred a fellowship of the CAANZ.

He was introduced to croquet by his mother 44 years ago and has played with some success without winning any major national titles. This is his fifth World Championships having previously played in the UK, USA and NZ. He plays out of the Hawera club where he is both President and a life member. He has been a NZ selector and is active in local administration.

He also plays tennis and snooker and was an avid squash player until a couple of years ago. He is currently learning to play bridge.

Logan McCorkindale | *New Zealand*

Logan grew up in Ashburton, a little town in the middle of South Island, New Zealand. He is 23 and in his third year of studying a bachelors in sports science at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. He first picked up a mallet when he was 9 years old but only played in the occasional local tournament. Once he turned 18 he decided to compete in some of the top tournaments and has never looked back. He has won a GC Nationals and a New Zealand Open. He competed in the 2020 AC World Championships, and the 2015 and 2019 Under 21 World Championships. He is looking forward to meeting new people and testing himself against the best players in the world at this World Championships.

Lorna Dewar | *Scotland*

Lorna has been playing croquet for six years and has represented Scotland nationally and internationally several times. Her notable performances include winning the SCA Scottish Masters in 2021 and the Scottish GC Open Championship in 2018.

She and her husband are both retired and now live in Nottingham.

Sam Murray | *Scotland*

Sam took up croquet at the age of 36, having the good fortune to join the Surbiton club. This is his third world championships. He made the final 16 in Florida in 2016, but did less well in Wellington in 2018, despite winning the NZ Open doubles a month earlier. He plays mainly AC. In addition to playing, he serves as the Croquet Association's chair of AC Selectors, and is on the AC Tournament Committee.

Sam previously worked as a derivatives trader in the energy markets in London before escaping the world of work in 2014. He turns 50 in 2023. He now lives in rural Norfolk, with his wonderful young daughter, Winnie, and his amazing wife, Ellen. He is writing a supernatural thriller, which he expects to be in all good bookshops soon.

Duncan Reeve | *Scotland*

Duncan started playing croquet seriously as a student at Durham University, and in 1985 and 1986 was part of one of the few teams outside Oxbridge to win the Edmund Reeve Universities Croquet Challenge Cup, named after his great-grandfather. He has represented Great Britain in the Solomon Trophy, Scotland in the Home Internationals on a number of occasions, won the Eastern Championship, and reached the final of the Open Doubles. Having 'retired' from croquet for about 15 years to follow family pursuits, he re-entered the tournament scene in 2013 and has since played in the President's Cup on two occasions, won the Western Championship in 2022, and been Captain of the winning Scotland team in the tier 2.1 Teams World Championships in 2022. Duncan recently moved to Devon where his home club is Budleigh Salterton.

Stephen Wright | *Scotland*

Stephen started playing association croquet at the age of 13 in the 1970s. By the age of 21 he had won the Scottish Championships four times as well as the All England doubles championships with Michael Heap. In the 1980s he played in the UK's second eight invitation event, the Chairman's Salver, before giving up serious play towards the end of the decade. Stephen returned to competitive croquet in 2018, after a gap of 30 years in ranking games. He won the Scottish Open last year after a gap of 43 years.

Reg Bamford | *South Africa*

Reg is 55 and is the current AC World Champion. Since 2001, he has been one of the dominant forces in world croquet. He is the only player to have won the Golf and Association croquet World Championships holding both titles simultaneously in 2013. He has won the Association Croquet World Croquet Championships five times (2001, 2005, 2009, 2012 and 2020), and the WCF World Golf Croquet Championships twice (2013 and 2017). He has won the British AC Open Championships 12 times and the British GC Open Championships 12 times. He was ranked 29th in the 100 Best Sports people in the World for the year 2020 by Sports Media. He is a businessman and qualified chartered accountant, who founded and runs Sable International. He has two sons and is married to Adrienne.

Andrew Hobbs | *South Africa*

Andrew is 49. He grew up in Somerset West and finished school and university in Johannesburg. He is married to Lindsay and has two children and a granddaughter. He lives in the UK, providing support for universities mentoring students with educational needs. He first learnt about croquet from his grandparents, playing in their back garden, before going on to play AC at the Somerset West Croquet club at the age of 13. He now plays both forms of croquet. He represented South Africa B vs Japan and obtained national colours representing South Africa vs Ireland in 2000. He has represented South Africa in the 2001 WCF World Championships, South Africa v England (2003) and in two World Team Championships. He enjoys music, braais, field hockey, reading and collectable card games.

Neil McHardy | *South Africa*

Neil is a retired engineer. He started playing golf croquet at the now defunct Waterfront Croquet Club (Cape Town) in 2012 with the goal of playing good club croquet. He considers himself very fortunate to have guidance from previous senior South African players like David Cunningham, Bruce Stalker and Christina Vries and the support of the South African Croquet Association. Neil was selected for the RSA 2013 World Golf Croquet Team, has won the Western Province singles GC title several times and is the current holder of the South African singles GC title. He competed in the over 50s GC World Championships in Cairo and the Australian GC Open in Melbourne. He is a self-taught AC beginner with much to learn having only started playing in 2021.

Juan Bravo-Ferrer | *Spain*

Juan was born in Madrid, 35 years ago, and has been playing croquet since the age of 7. He is a member of the Somio Club de Croquet de Gijon. He was the Spanish Under 16 champion in 1998 and runner-up at the Spanish AC Championships in 2006. He has also competed in a number of European Championships.

He is currently working as an architect in London.

Ignacio Gross Ariza | *Spain*

Ignacio was born in Spain in 1986 and lived in Madrid until he was 18. He studied International business and finance in Germany before moving to the UK in 2010 and starting his career in investment banking in London with JP Morgan. He started to play GC in Spain in 2019 and AC in the UK in 2021. He was the runner-up in the Spanish AC Doubles Championships in 2021. He is a member of Surbiton Croquet Club and Ealing Croquet Club. He is also a member of Club de Campo Villa de Madrid.

Jose Riva | *Spain*

Jose, nicknamed Pepe, was born in 1986, is married, and is the father of a ten-month-old daughter. He studied economics at university and worked in London for an infrastructure investment fund for five years before moving back to Spain in 2016 to join the family shipping business.

He has always been very keen on sports. He plays football, swims in open waters races on a regular basis and despite being the top croquet player in Spain says that golf is his favourite sport, playing off a 1.4 handicap. Jose hasn't played much croquet recently due to work and family pressures, but is an experienced player of both association and golf croquet.

His birthday is on Thursday 20 July in case anyone wants to celebrate.

Joakim Norbäck | *Sweden*

Joakim grew up in Eskilstuna, Sweden where, in 1992, he along with some friends started the croquet club, Croquet Clubben Cuculidae. Soon afterwards, he moved to Los Angeles to attend college. His stay in the United States was longer than expected and it wasn't until his return to Sweden in 2007 that he picked up croquet again. He has won the Swedish Championships in both AC and GC and helped Sweden win the AC World Team Championships Tier 2.2.

Joakim currently lives in Stockholm where he works as a Risk Manager at Nasdaq. Besides croquet, he enjoys long distance running, downhill skiing, watching ice hockey, and travelling.

Archibald Zimonyi | *Sweden*

Archibald is 48 years old, and lives in Göteborg, Sweden. Working with Enterprise Architecture, he is currently working at Volvo Trucks. He first started to play croquet around 2007, but only in the last year has had time to play both GC and AC more seriously. He reached the quarter finals of the 2022 GC Swedish Championships.

Peter Payne | *Switzerland*

Peter has worked in the Swiss financial sector for almost 45 years and now runs his own financial and administrative service and advisory company. He played croquet in the family garden as a youngster and joined the CERN CC in Geneva in the late 80s. For many years he was involved in the administrative side of the game, but also managed to play both AC and GC in numerous events. He reached the quarterfinals of the 1998 GC World Championships. After a 12-year extended sabbatical, he reappeared on the lawns in 2018, and was elected Treasurer of the WCF in 2021. He is also Treasurer of CERN CC and a member of CroquetVS in Sion (Valais, Switzerland). A widower, his other interests include travel, skiing and hiking, music, philately, and all things epicurean.

Sherif Abdelwahab | *USA*

Sherif is 62 years old from Bonita Springs, Florida. He is the Croquet Director at the Bonita Bay Country Club, the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club in beautiful North Carolina, and High Hampton. He is also the croquet pro at the Indian Creek Country Club in Florida. Sherif is the winner of 20 national championships and was inducted into the USA Hall of Fame in 2020. Sherif is extremely proud to have represented the USA in many international events.

Thomas Balding | *USA*

Thomas is 26 years old, and was born on Long Island, New York. He currently lives in North Carolina where he works as a croquet instructor at the Grandfather Golf and Country Club as well as the Linville Golf Club. He first found croquet when he attended St John's College in Maryland, where he won two consecutive Collegiate National Championships.
He started his competitive croquet career in 2018, earning the USCA Junior Rookie of the Year award, and winning several tournaments. Since then he has reached the semi-finals in two national championships, won the North Carolina AC Open, and played in the 2022 MacRobertson Shield in Australia. He serves as the Chairman of the USCA Youth Committee, which is dedicated to the development of collegiate and youth croquet programmes.

Paul Bennett | *USA*

Paul grew up in Kentucky and learned how to play croquet from his grandma; they would set up croquet on a lawn overlooking the river and enjoy the old game. Years ago, he won the North American Open and after that, the US Open and the main club tournament at Mission Hills CC in Palm Springs. When not playing or thinking about croquet, he keeps himself busy with amateur radio, bicycling, billiards, hiking and flying his plane. When he can't travel across the pond to play croquet, he tries to reach ham operators around the globe with his radio.

Matthew Essick | *USA*

Matthew is 24 years old, and has been playing croquet competitively for 18 years. He was introduced to the game by his family when he was six and has continued to play ever since. He won the 2022 GC World Championships and was a silver medallist in the 2020 AC World Championships. He has represented the USA on two MacRobertson teams and five Solomon Trophy teams.

Blake Fields | *USA*

Blake is 16 years old. He has been playing croquet since he was 7 and has already won two GC National Doubles Championships. He recently competed in New Zealand at the U21 GC World Championships. He is a sophomore at Xavier College Preparatory High School in Palm Desert and plays croquet at Mission Hills Croquet Club. One of his main goals in croquet is to win a world championship, but equally important to him is growing the game and promoting it across the world. He has played in tournaments in North Carolina, New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, and California, as well as internationally in Spain, England, New Zealand, and Ireland.

His hobbies include saltwater fishing, golf, and pickleball.

Doug Grimsley | *USA*

Doug has tried his hand at many vocations, some more marginal than others, and finally settled for retirement, now spending too much time (and money) travelling great distances to play croquet with a moderate degree of success. When away he leaves behind a wife, an 11-year-old daughter, and a poorly maintained croquet court. Frequently the oldest player in the tournaments that he enters, Doug's goal in croquet has narrowed to the quest of continuing to be the oldest player in most tournaments for many years to come. Back at home, the Arizona Closed is held every spring on his property in Virginia, with one of the highlights being the impressive load of cans and bottles to be recycled following the post-tournament clean-up.

Rich Lamm | *USA*

Rich is a member of the Mission Hills Croquet Club in California. He is an eight-time US National Champion (three AC, three American rules, two GC) and has won the US Open four times. He has also played in three MacRobertson Shield teams and two Solomon Trophy teams. In his spare time, he is a slayer of dragons and a watcher of trashy sci-fi movies; when not playing tennis or the piano, he can be found skiing and mountain biking, all while simultaneously saving the world from high taxes.

He is excited and surprised to be playing at the WCF World Championships for just the second time.

Stuart Lawrence | *USA*

Stuart took up competitive croquet in 1990. Since shifting his focus to AC in 2007, he has been one of the USA's most active AC players. His home club, where he also serves as greenskeeper, is the Lenox Croquet Club in Western Massachusetts.

Stuart made his way into his first AC World Championships in 2009 via the qualifying tournament, and has played in every ACWC since then. He was a member of the USA teams in the 2011 Carter Challenge against Ireland, the 2016, 2018, and 2019 Solomon Trophy tests against Great Britain, and the 2017 MacRobertson Shield. Stuart credits croquet for having taken him to a fascinating variety of English-speaking countries, where he inevitably gets to play against Brian Cumming. A retired attorney, Stuart lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Diane.

Kyle Maloof | *USA*

Kyle is 35 years old and from Lake Wales, Florida. He played tennis at Flagler College and started teaching tennis after he graduated. Two years ago, Kyle began competing in croquet and took over as Director of Tennis and Croquet at Mountain Lake from his father and team USA member, David Maloof. Kyle was runner up last summer in his second AC National Championships in doubles playing with his father and reached the semi-finals of the singles. He is also a GC National Doubles Champion with his father. He is very excited to compete in his first ever international competition.

Stephen Morgan | *USA*

Stephen grew up in the Washington D.C. area and began playing croquet with the Capitol Croquet Club at the age of 5. After finding the USCA through the West River Wickets, Stephen began competing frequently in tournaments. He began his croquet coaching career in 2014 at the Ocean House, in Watch Hill, Rhode Island. He has won 2 AC National Championships in singles and three in doubles. He was also the winner of the World Championship Plate in 2019. He competed for the US team in the MacRobertson Shield in 2022 in Australia.

Stephen frequently goes fishing when he is not playing croquet.

Ben Rothman | *USA*

Ben is a member of the Oakland Croquet Club and has played croquet since 1996. He has won 20 US National Championships and the 2016 British Open as well as the 2019 World Golf Croquet Championship. Ben has represented the United States in three AC World Championships, and was a finalist in 2009.

Ben lives in Berkeley, California with his wife, two daughters and his dog named Rover.

Jeff Soo | USA

Jeff is 59 and married to Eileen. He lives in North Carolina where he works as a croquet coach and event manager at the coastal resort of Bald Head Island, the mountain resort of Highlands, and elsewhere. He has been playing croquet since 1994, when few USCA clubs played anything other than "American Six-Wicket" rules. He was lucky to have a mentor in the late Mack Penwell, who set him on the path to AC team play. He made the first of his eight Solomon Trophy appearances in 1999, and the first of his six MacRobertson Shield appearances in 2000. He also played in the 2001 Carter Challenge.

He has won 21 US national championship titles in various disciplines, including three AC singles and four AC doubles titles. This is his third AC World Championships.

Zack Watson | USA

Zack is from the eastern side of the US. He has been playing croquet for around eight years and recently played in the 2022 US MacRobertson Shield team. His ambition is to grow to compete at the highest level someday.

Ian Burridge | Wales

Ian was born in Aberdare and began playing croquet as a 17-year-old at school, when living in Colchester. He rapidly progressed becoming an AC International for Wales and Great Britain, playing in the 1996 MacRobertson Shield.

Ian has won the Welsh national singles title on 17 occasions. More recently Ian has focussed on GC, winning the English National Singles in 2016 and the First Eight in 2017. He is President of the World Croquet Federation and Treasurer of the Croquet Association. Ian lives near Grantham and plays at the Nottingham croquet club with his son Euan.

Rick Harding | Wales

Born in Lancashire, Rick was one of 'Bennett's bandits', learning the game at school aged 14. Rick returned to the game in 2021, joining Llanfairfechan after a 28-year hiatus. In 2022, he made his debut in both the UK Men's and Open tournaments getting through to the knockout stages of the latter. In May, he made his Welsh debut in the AC Home Internationals and has won the Southport Spring Advanced twice, the Cumbria Cup and the North West Federation Trophy, as well as helping Llanfairfechan retain the Welsh GC Club Cup. Rick is working hard to progress to the next level and win a Tier 1 event. His playing style on any given day is determined by his choice of hats, which are many and varied.