PANISH

12 to 15

Real Sociedad Hípica Española Club de Campo MADRID





AYERS GU



Con el patrocinio de:





GUILLERMO NAVARRO MARQUÉS

Chairman of the Spanish

Croquet Federation (FEC)



Welcome to the III Spanish Open Championship!

It is an honour for the Spanish Croquet Federation (FEC) to welcome all the players taking part in this new edition of the Spanish Open Championship.

As you may probably know, elections have been held recently for the FEC Management Committee and the candidacy that I have the honour to preside today has acquired, on the one hand, the commitment and responsibility to represent Spanish croquet and all its members and clubs during the next five years and, on the other hand, the challenge to continue with the magnificent work done by my predecessor Mr. José Luis Álvarez-Sala and his Management Committee during these last years. Amongst the numerous sporting successes of the previous Management Committee were the two editions of the Spanish Open Championship. We expect that the third edition, to be held in the next days, will have as much impact as those held in 2015 and 2019.

Therefore, on behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank all the players for the effort made to be with us these days and to ensure that this edition of the Spanish Open Championship will have a worldwide repercussion that will serve to place, once more, the international spotlight on our country. We would especially like to thank those who have had to make a long journey, but we are sure that the effort made will be worth it, as both, this third edition

of the Spanish Open and also the city of Madrid itself will make them enjoy themselves enormously. We feel very fortunate to have the presence of some of the best players in the world since their dedication, effort and passion for croquet are an example for all of us. For certain, their talent will make this III Spanish Open Championship a great success that will be remembered by players and fans for many years to come.

Of course, we would also like to thank the fans who will accompany us during the four days of competition, giving colour, atmosphere and support to all the players. Your presence is essential to create the good atmosphere that we enjoy in all the FEC competitions held in our country.

Likewise, the FEC Management Committee would like to thank the Real Sociedad Hípica Española Club de Campo (RSHECC) as the main venue for the competition and the Real Club La Moraleja (RCLM) as the venue for the Plate event. On behalf of these clubs, to their Chairmen, Mr. Joaquín Ayuso and Mr. Juan Pablo Ridrue-jo, respectively, as well as to their croquet members, Ms. María Corrales and Ms. Carlota Escribano, respectively, for lending their facilities to make this tournament possible as well as for the great work and effort made in the organisation of the tournament and for their hospitality to all the players and the public.

Finally, a very special thank you to the sponsor of this III Spanish Open Championship, Volvo, whose collaboration has been essential for the tournament to take place. Their commitment to sport is undoubtedly an example to follow and we are extremely proud to have the support of such a prestigious brand as theirs.

Mr. Guillermo Navarro Marqués Chairman of the Spanish Croquet Federation (FEC)



Introduction

- The Spanish Croquet Federation (FEC) together with Real Sociedad Hípica Española Club de Campo -a private Spanish sports club- will held the 3rd Spanish Open GC Championship (the Spanish Open or the Tournament).
- FEC is recognised by both the World Croquet Federation (WCF) and the European Regional Committee (ERC) Spain is a full member of both international bodies.
- The Spanish Open will be played from Friday 12th May to Monday 15th May 2023.
- The Spanish Open will be held at Real Sociedad Hípica Española Club de Campo (RSHECC), located in Madrid, Spain. The club has two full-size croquet lawns. Additionally, the Plate event (except the Final) will be held on Sunday 14th at the Real Club La Moraleja 2 (RCLM). The club has one full-size croquet lawn.

Organizing Committee and Event Officials

- Mr. Luis Álvarez-Sala, Tournament Director.
- Ms. Emilia Basa and Ms. Leticia González de la Bastida, Tournament Managers.
- Ms. María Corrales, member of the Board of Directors of the RSHECC.
- Ms. Carlota Escribano, member of the Croquet Committee of the RCLM.
- Mr. Alfonso Urbano, Director of Referees. A team of qualified referees will be available during the Tournament.



Timetable and Program

Thursday 11th May:

• Training session at RSHECC (16:00h).

Friday 12th May:

• Block Play (10:00h).

Saturday 13th May:

- Block Play (10:00h);
- Round of Sixteen of Main Event (17:00h approx.); and
- Informal dinner in Madrid city center (for more details see paragraph -Social Events- below) (21:00h).

Sunday 14th May:

- Round of Sixteen of Main Event (10:00h);
- Quarter Finals (13:00h) and Semi Finals (15:00h) of Bowl Event and Block Play and Semi-Finals of Plate Event; and
- Quarter Finals of Main Event (17:00h).

Monday 15th May:

- Semi Finals of Main Event (10:00h);
- Third and Fourth Place of Main Event and Finals of Bowl and Plate Events;
- Final of Main Event (13:00h); and
- Closing Ceremony/Prize Giving (15:00h approx.).

¹ Free afternoon for Plate Event players and half of the Round of Sixteen players.

² Free morning Round of Sixteen players who did play on Saturday afternoon.



Playing Conditions

- The player who wins a match will get 1 point, the player who loses 0 points. For the classification to the Round of Sixteen will be taken into account firstly the number of points obtained, secondly, the difference in hoops and thirdly the highest number of hoops in favour. In the event of a tie, in the case of a tie between only two players, the result of their particular confrontation will be taken into account; in the case of a tie between more than two players, five shots will be taken at the corsair stick from the penalty mark. If the tie continues, kicks at the peg shall be taken alternately until the tie is broken.
- The Championship will be played in accordance with the WCF 2022 Rules of Golf Croquet (6th Edition). The WCF Sports Regulations may also apply as subsidiary regulations. A translation of the Rules into Spanish is available at FEC web site (www.fecroquet.es).
- The Championship will be governed by the Organizing Committee.
- Participation: 24 players.
- The draw will be based on rankings calculated on performance in events up to 7th May 2023.
- Format:
 - > 4 blocks of 6 players each.
 - **>** Each Block match will consist of one 19 points games.
 - > The 4 top players of each block will qualify to Main Event (16 in total).
 - > The other 2 will go to Plate Event (8 in total).

Main Event:

- Best of 3 games will be used in the Knock-Out.
- Players not qualifying to Quarter Finals will play the Bowl Event.

Bowl Events

All matches will consist of one 19 points games.

Plate Event:

- _ 2 blocks of 4 players each.
- All matches will consist of one 19 points games.
- The 2 top players of each block will qualify to Semi Finals (4 in total).
- The other 2 will be eliminated (4 in total).
- Block Play and Semi Finals will be played on Sunday 14th at the RCLM.
- Final will be played on Monday 15th at the RSHECC.
- Double banking will be used during the Tournament
- Dawson balls will be used.
- Play is scheduled to start each day at 10:00 am.
- Floodlights may be used if necessary.
- The use of mobile phones during a match and within five meters of any court in which a game is in progress is prohibited. Players who keep phones on them or in their court-side bags must ensure they are switched off or in silent mode.
- All results of matches played in this Tournament will be included in the WCF Golf Croquet Ranking and published on the www.croquetscores.com website.
- Any decision not comtemplated in the rules will be decided by the Tournament Director.



Awards

- Main Event: Trophies for Winner, Runner-up and Third place.
- Bowl Event: Trophy for Winner.
- Plate Event: Trophy for Winner.

Accomodation

We suggest the following options since transport will be organized for players from:

- Holiday Inn Express Madrid-San Sebastián de los Reyes: Avenida de los Pirineos, S/N, 28700 Madrid
- NH Las Tablas: Avenida de Burgos, 131, 28050 Madrid

Dress Code & Miscellaneous

- Clothing for players should be 90 per cent white. Players may wear international colors if licensed by their national bodies on the 'top half' (shirts/sweaters). Bottom half must be white.
- The Spanish Open will finish on Monday 15th (16:00h approx.) after the Closing Ceremony held at the RSHECC. Players may travel back on Monday afternoon if they wish (note the RSHECC is close to the Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport -18 km approx.-).
- All players and accompanying persons will have free entrance to the RSHECC and access to the members bar and catering facilities (at member's bonus prices). Entrance to the club is strictly controlled.
- Players and accompanying persons accept photographs to be taken by media.
- Streaming will be used on Sunday 14th and Monday 15th.

Social events

- An informal dinner will be organized on Saturday 13th evening at -Restaurante ANEL- located at calle Villalar 1, 28001 Madrid.
- All players will be invited to the dinner by the FEC.
- The price per accompanying persons is EUR 50,00 to be paid in anticipate to FEC by cash.
- The dress code will be Smart Casual.



Distances

Real Sociedad Hípica Española Club de Campo is:

- 8 km from Holiday Inn Express Madrid-San Sebastián de los Reyes.
- 18 km from NH Las Tablas.
- 15 km from Real Club La Moraleja.
- 18 km from Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport.
- 25 km from Madrid city centre.

Contact & Further Information

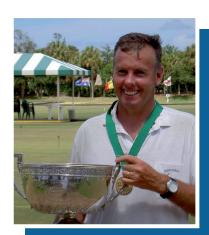
- Addresses:
 - > FEC: Calle Francisco Suárez 20, Local C, 28036 Madrid.
 - > RSHECC: Carretera de Burgos Km 26 400, 28709 San Sebastián de los Reyes, Madrid.
 - > RCLM: Camino Viejo del Cura 76, 28055 Madrid.
- Telephones:
 - > FEC: +(34) 613 04 14 44
 - > RSHECC: +(34) 91 657 10 18
 - > RCLM: +(34) 91 650 07 00
 - > Taxi: +(34) 91 405 12 13 or 91 547 82 00
- Websites:
 - > FEC: www.fecroquet.es
 - > RSHECC: www.rshecc.es/
 - > RCLM: www.realclublamoraleja.com/deportes-instalaciones/golf/campo-2/
- For any further enquiry please do not hesitate to contact FEC: secretaria@ fecroquet.es

PLAYERS PROFILES



REG BAMFORD

WORLD RANKING N° 1



DGrade 2.674 **SOUTHAFRICA**



Reg Bamford is the only player to have won both versions of the World Championships (Golf Croquet and Association Croquet) and held both titles simultaneously in 2013.

He has won the Association Croquet World Croquet Championship five times (2001, 2005, 2009, 2012 and 2020) and the WCF World Golf Croquet Championship twice (2013 and 2017). He was runner-up on two occasions (2018 in AC and 2012 in GC) and semi-finalist on two occasions (2014 and 2016 in AC).

He has won the British AC Open Championship 12 times and the British GC Open Championship 12 times, the premier events in the UK of each code. He is the current AC World champion.



MOE KAREM

WORLD RANKING N° 5



DGrade 2.573 **EGYPT**



He started playing croquet a little over 10 years. He has participated in five World Championships and two World Championships Teams (Tier 1). He has been top ranked in the world for the last years and in 2019 he was runner-up of the World Championship.

Mohammed believes that you have to love what you do to be able to achieve your targets.

Professionally, he is a shareholder in a catering Facility (Trattoria). Now Moe wants to start coaching to share and make use of what he experienced and explored through his little journey in croquet.

AMR ALEBIARY

WORLD RANKING N° 13



DGrade 2.511 EGYPT



Amr, 33 years old, lives in Cairo and works as a digital advertising sales manager.

He plays croquet since 2001 having reached the World No 1 ranking in 2020. He has participated in three Word Championships and in one World Team Championship representing his country. In terms of titles, his main success are winning four times the Egyptian league, three the Egyptian cup, five the double tournaments and one the Egyptian International Open Championship.



BEN ROTHMAN

WORLD RANKING N° 22



DGrade 2.451 **U.S.A.**



Ben Rothman has played croquet since 1996.

He has 20 US National Championships, and he won the 2019 World Golf Croquet Championship to become the World No 1 ranked player.

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

STEPHEN MULLINER



at the age of 62.

WORLD RANKING N° 24



DGrade 2.449 **ENGLAND**

At Golf Croquet, he reached the World Championship semi-finals in 2000, 2006 and 2015 and has won the British Open Championship eight times, most recently in 2020. He also won the English National Championship in 2012, 2014, and 2021 and the European Championship in 2007, 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2019. Stephen has now competed in 19 different countries, 11 at GC, and had the honour of winning the first Spanish Open Championship in 2015.

Stephen Mulliner discovered competitive croquet as a Cambridge undergraduate in 1975 and began playing in Association Croquet tournaments in 1976. In 2016, he became the oldest AC World Champion



MANUEL ÁLVAREZ-SALA WORLD RANKING Nº 29



DGrade 2.431 SPAIN



Born in Madrid in 1990, he is a lawyer by profession. He started playing croquet at a very early age in Gijón (Asturias) where he played throughout his childhood with all his brothers and cousins in the family's summer house. Passionate about this sport and the values it transmits, he is a cold and calculating croquet player.

Selected for two consecutive years as the Spanish player with the highest annual progression (2018 and 2019), he has been Spanish Single Champion (2021), Spanish Doubles Champion on three occasions (2015, 2020 and 2021) and Spanish Champion with his club on four occasions (2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022).

He has represented his country in international events more than 150 times and was part of the Spanish Team that moved up to Tier 1 in October 2021.

He is currently ranked No. 2 among Spanish players and on the top 30 croquet players in the world.





DGrade 2.412 SPAIN



Born in Madrid 38 years ago, he studied Business Direction and Journalism in the Complutense University of Madrid. He moved to Asturias 6 years ago where he started his croquet career as a child. He is the current AC Spanish Champion; he has won the tournament in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2021. In Golf Croquet he has been Spanish Champion two times already in 2008 and 2018.

His very big achievement arrived in 2017 when he conquered the European Championship. He finished as runner-up in the 2009 Emerging Countries World AC Championship in Miami. José has represented Spain internationally more than 120 times and he is one of only three players in Spain who has managed to move into the first division in the 2nd AC World Team Championship and also in the GC World Team Championship in Vista Hermosa (Spain).



EUAN BURRIDGE

WORLD RANKING N° 37



DGrade 2.400



Euan took up the game at the age of 7 under his Dad's wing at Nottingham Croquet club and has since gone on to play various tournaments both nationally and internationally. His notable performances have been a Semi-Final at the U21 Golf Croquet World Championships in 2019 and winning the plate and the main event that year.

He has also won the GC Welsh Championship, AC National Junior Championship, GC Under 25s Open Championship and also reached the final of the 2021 Ricki Savage Memorial. Away from croquet Euan is currently finishing his studies on International Business Management and Professional Golf.

STUART M. SMITH





DGrade 2.402 ENGLAND



Stuart M. Smith started playing croquet in 2016 and currently is a member of Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club.

Awarded the 2018 Most Improved Player award.

He has represented England at European and World Championship levels and won the GC World Championship Shield in 2022.

Part of the 2022 England Test Match team against Spain, and Captained England to Home International glory in 2021.

Domestic titles include:

- Two-time Open Series Champion 2019 / 2020
- National Doubles Champion 2020
- Selectors 2nd Eights in 2019



ANDRÉS ÁLVAREZ-SALA WORLD RANKING N° 47



DGrade 2.377 SPAIN



He was born in Madrid in 1986 and works as a corporate lawyer for the last eleven years in an international law firm. He enjoys practicing all sorts of sports in his free time (croquet, golf, tennis, skiing, boxing and most of all, football). He has played croquet since he was a child and has been ranked within the Spanish top players ever since he started, driven by several early victories in his croquet career.

He has been Spanish Singles GC Champion twice (2012 and 2019), Spanish Doubles GC Champion five times (2013, 2015, 2018, 2020 and 2021) and Spanish Champion with his club four times (2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022).

In 2015, he also finished in fourth place in the 1st Spanish GC Open Championship. In 2017 and 2018 he won the German GC Open and also that year, he took the fifth place at the European Championship.

SHERIF ABDELWAHAB WORLD RANKING N° 50





DGrade 2.370 U.S.A.



Sherif is 62 years old from Bonita Springs Florida. He is the croquet director at Bonita Bay Country Club, Wildcat Cliffs in beautiful North Carolina, Hight Hampton, and the croquet Pro at Indian Creek country club in Florida. Sherif was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020 and he is the winner of 20 national championship. Sherif is so proud to represent the USA in many international events.



JAMES GALPIN

WORLD RANKING N° 52



DGrade 2.363 ENGLAND



James started playing croquet in 2013, aged 12, after he attended an open day at Nailsea Croquet Club.

Some of his croquet achievements include winning the English AC National Junior Championship 3 times and winning the plate at the 2022 Egyptian Open GC Championship. He has also represented England twice, coming runner up in the 2019 GC World Under 21s and reaching the knockout of the 2020 AC World Championship.

He works as a communications rating in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and lives just outside of Bristol, England.

STEPHEN MORGAN





DGrade 2.331 **U.S.A.**



34 years old and is originally from Washington D.C. In the winter Stephen is the director of croquet at the Hillsboro Club. In the summer, Stephen is the director for croquet at the Ocean House in Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Stephen has won the USCA golf croquet national championship in singles and doubles as well as multiple titles in AC. When spending time away from the courts Stephen enjoys fishing.



CALLUM JOHNSON

WORLD RANKING N° 67



DGrade 2.319 **ENGLAND**



Callum took up AC at the age of 13 at York Croquet Club and, later, GC at the age of 20. He's since gone on to play in various tournaments both nationally and internationally.

His notable performances are; 2022 English National Singles GC Championship runner-up, 2022 British GC Open Doubles champion and winner of 2 English regional championships.

MARK STEPHENS

WORLD RANKING N° 82



DGrade 2.279
IRELAND

Mark has played croquet on and off for over a decade now but really grew to love the game when playing in his first international event in Spain in 2017 - The European Championships. Since then he has represented Ireland in all EU Championships since and had the honour of keeping Ireland in tier 1 when competing in the World Team GC Championship in 2020.

He also played in the GC worlds in 2019 at Sussex county but failed to make it from the groups - he is hoping to improve on this result this year!

He is currently the Irish GC champion.



BLAKE FIELDS

WORLD RANKING Nº 89



DGrade 2.264 **U.S.A.**



Blake Fields is 16 years old. He has been playing Croquet since he was 7 years old and has won 2 Golf Croquet National Doubles Championships along the way and.

He is one of the top players in the United States and will be representing the USA and represented them in New Zealand at the U21 Golf Croquet World Championships.

He is a sophomore at Xavier College Preparatory High School in Palm Desert and currently play Croquet at Mission Hills Croquet Club. Some of his hobbies are saltwater fishing, golf, and pickleball.

He has played in tournaments all over the country in North Carolina, New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, and California, but he has also played in some other countries like Spain, England, New Zealand, and Ireland. I am looking forward to the continuation in my Croquet career and meeting my goals.

MOHAMMAD KAMAL

WORLD RANKING N° 94



DGrade 2.250 **EGYPT**

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He started playing croquet at Zamalek Club in Cairo, Egypt as a child.

He won junior championships and several Egyptian national league titles during the 80s.

He moved to America in 1991 and started playing at the Beverly Hills Croquet Club.

In 1999, he won the first GC American National Championship. He won the title again in 2007 and 2009 and the national doubles with Blake Fields in 2021. He represented the US at the first Team World Championship in Johannesburg, in 2011 and in many World Championships. In 2021, he was inducted into the United States Hall of Fame.



BRIAN LOZANO

WORLD RANKING Nº 134



Current Champion of México

RESULTS 2023: México Open Championship, 1°; USCA Florida Regionals, 3° — single and doubles

2022: USCA Western GC Regionals - 3° single, 1° doubles; USCA National GC Championship - Top 8 single, Top 4 doubles; World Team Championship GC Tier 3 - Godalming, UK - 1° (Captain); Golf Croquet World Championship - Brighton, UK - Top 32; Copa La Galea, International Open - Bilbao, Spain - 3°; US Open (AC) - 2°; México National Championship - 1°.

2021: Mission Hills GC Open Championship - 3°; USCA GC Eights - 2°; NY State GC Championship - 2°, single and doubles; Baltic Open Championship - Riga, Latvia - Top 8; US Open (AC) - 3°

GONZALO ÁLVAREZ-SALA WORLD RANKING Nº 141



DGrade 2.185 SPAIN



Born in Madrid and living in Palma (Spain), he is 33 years old. He studied economical sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid and works as a consultant in an international company. He is fond of Real Madrid and, besides croquet, his hobbies are padel, golf and most of all football.

He has played croquet since he was a child in Asturias, with his brothers and cousins, and in the recent years, he has been Spanish Single Champion (2015 and 2016), Spanish Doubles Champion (2014 and 2022) and Spanish Champion with his club on four occasions (2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022).



NICOLAS DENIZOT

WORLD RANKING Nº 190



DGrade 2.134 SPAIN

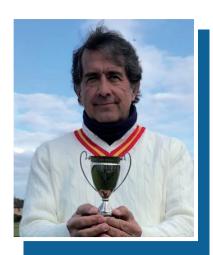


Nicolas Denizot was born on 1997. He is currently finishing his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at CIS university. At the same time, Nicolas works at a Marketing/Communication firm called Dentsu in Madrid. In his free time, he likes playing other sports such as paddle, tennis, golf and most importantly football.

He started playing croquet back in 2017 and slowly made his way up the Spanish rankings. Among his croquet achievements are winning the Madrid Open Championship in 2020; the Spanish Improver of the year in 2020 and the Spanish Presidents Cup in 2021. Besides, he did win the Spanish Single Championship in 2020.

PEDRO LOZANO

WORLD RANKING N° 243



DGrade 2.079 SPAIN



He started to play in the Real Club Pineda (Sevilla) in 2017. Since then, he has participated in numerous national championships and has won 42 trophies. He became third place in the Mexico GC Open 2018 which was his first experience in an International GC Championship. He played at the Irish Open Championship in 2021. The most recent and successful victories in 2022 are at the Cheltenham GC Open Championship and at the 1st GC Copa Giralda Seville. Since 2018, he is Captain of Real Club Pineda Team in the Spanish interclub championship that for three consecutive years has ranked in third place.

He has done the croquet coach course and enjoys a lot training new GC players and playing with friends. Pedro, currently ranked No. 6, is considered as one of the best Spanish GC players, the most prominent and highly-regarded GC player.



PATRICIO GARAY

WORLD RANKING Nº 234



DGrade 2.086 SPAIN

He was born on June 10, 1997 (He is 25 years old). He has been working for 3 years in the Infrastructure Department at Telefónica. Graduated in Business at the American University of Richmond, London.

His hobbies include all kinds of sports: swimming, skiing, cycling.... currently he is preparing to participate in what will be his first Ironman 70.3. He started playing croquet in 2020, managing to qualify among the top 10 players in the Spanish ranking. In 2022 he won the U25 Spanish Championship and participated in the Egyptian Open.

CARLOS MUÑOZ

WORLD RANKING N° 238



DGrade 2.084 SPAIN

He was born in Madrid in 1986. He started his professional career in M&A sector (specialising in infrastructures) and he is currently living in the US, where he represents his company. During his youth, he played football for Real Madrid and after quitting football he started playing handball, being part of the team that represented the Madrid Community in several national and international tournaments. Apart of croquet, he likes to play golf, padel, tennis, skiing and football. He has played croquet since 2014, when his friend Andrés introduced him to the game.

He has been Spanish Singles GC semi-finalist twice (2018 and 2021), Spanish Champion with his club RSHECC three times (2019, 2021, and 2022).

ÍÑIGO CASTAÑÓN

WORLD RANKING N° 738



DGrade 1.825 SPAIN

SPAIN

He was born on January 20, 2003, in Madrid and he is currently studying Ade and business analytics. He has a variety of hobbies that includes skiing, playing paddle, golf, and croquet. His interest at croquet began during the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, when here parents suggested him to give it a try and he ended up liking it.

His hard work and dedication to croquet have paid off with some impressive accomplishments. In 2021, he was part of the country club team that won the tier 2 of the Spanish team championship. The following year, in 2022, he achieved the second place in the Spanish under 25 championship. And most recently, in 2023, he won the silver category at the world championship under 21.



FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE CROQUET

FRANCISCO SUÁREZ, 20 · 28036 MADRID WWW.FECROQUET.ES





