



# Women's World Golf Croquet Champs 2019 New Zealand

Australia, England, Egypt, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, Spain and the U.S. entered this year's Championships, held February 2-9 in Hawkes Bay, North Island, New Zealand. 56 players took part in the competition hosted by Heretaunga and Marewa clubs - located at Havelock North and Napier.

A Maori ceremony in spectacular sunshine set a great tone for the week ahead, which culminated in a prize-giving dinner at Hastings Racecourse on Saturday night.

Egypt produced finalists for both the Cup and Bowl and the final was held in fantastic weather at Heretaunga. I was delighted to see Manal Koudeir reach the final as I enjoyed played against her in our first block.

**Congratulations** to Soha Mostafa, Cup winner at the championships 2019 who held her game as Manal appeared to close Soha's early lead. Jenny Clarke and Alison Sharpe, representing New Zealand and Australia respectively, reached the Semi and Quarter-Final stages of the main competition, while Phyllis Young and daughter, Dallas Cooke, New Zealand won the Plate and the Shield. Congrats also to Eleanor Ross also, Runner-up for the Bowl, at 16 yrs.

**A great vibe** developed during the week between contestants and organisers at each club, including President of the World Croquet Federation, Amir Ramsis Naguib, New Zealand Croquet President, Annie Henry, Tournament Chief, John Christie, Shiela and Colin Hurst, Stevens family and all of the NZ officials and club members.

Like Ireland, Spain and Scotland were represented by new players this year. We are hoping to return with more players from our countries if possible to the next tournament.

UK players, in great spirit, offered to step in behind the Irish Flag to beef-up our numbers at the Opening Ceremony!

As the next event is scheduled to be held in the UK in four years' time **WATCH THIS SPACE??** - particularly as the WCF President noted at the closing ceremony, pressure to increase the frequency of the WGC event from every four years to two years – to full applause!

## OTHER NEWS FUTURE PLANS

Newbridge House Croquet Club NHCC

NHCC is about to launch the new croquet club at Newbridge House, Donabate, Fingal- home of Cyril Corbally - an official pre-launch is pencilled for **April 21<sup>st</sup> 2019**.

High-ranking players at the World Championships in New Zealand have already signed up for International Membership at this strategic World venue.

NHCC can also announce it's first Honorary International Member – Champion Allison Sharpe from Sydney, New South Wales, who is due to visit (and play) between **June 17th and 26th**

We will soon announce our Honorary Irish Member, Captain and Patrons

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NHCC is looking forward to its growing membership - both national and international – and competition over the coming months.

*Impressions + NHCC News text by Nicola Kelly  
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