

Women's World Golf Croquet Championships Cairo, Egypt Nov. 16 – 21, 2014



40 players competed from 10 countries. Egypt had the most players with 18, then New Zealand with 9, Australia 3, England 2, South Africa 2, US 2, France 1, Finland 1, Scotland 1, and Ireland 1.



Pictured above l-r: Cheryl Bromley (USA), Colleen Reynolds (NZL), Jenny Clarke (NZL), and Zoe Van Wyck de Ropp (USA)

After an official practice day on Saturday, Nov. 15th, the tournament got underway Sunday morning when we were welcomed by the President of the World Croquet Federation, Amir Ramsis Nagib, as well as, by members of the Board of the Egyptian Croquet Federation and our tournament manager Tim King from the UK.

The first 2 days consisted of Block play (8 blocks of 5 players each) and we played each player in our block 2 out of 3 games to 7 points (13 pt games). There were quite a number of blocks with ties, so playoff matches were needed to sort out qualifying and seeding.

Each of the matches had an on court referee and two ballboys/men as well as a scoreboard. It was not unusual for the Egyptian players to ask the ballboy to tap the hoop with his hammer before shooting to make sure it was tight so that their ball would not only score the hoop, but continue on down the lawn.



Zoe had a very nice opening match against Sandy Mmdouh of Egypt losing 7-5, 7-4, then played Somaia Saad of Egypt losing 7-3, 7-2, and played one of the top players in the world, Jenny Clarke from New Zealand losing 7-4, 7-1. Unfortunately back troubles sidelined Zoe for the remainder of the tournament.

In Cheryl's block there were 3 Egyptian players and a Kiwi from New Zealand. Her first opponent was Shadin Okasha and although she played pretty well, lost 7-4, 7-2. Her next match was against Abeer Mourad and this time Cheryl managed to get take first game 7-5, but then lost 7-3, 7-3. Day 2 was a bit of a rollercoaster as she lost a disappointing close match to Jayne Powis of New Zealand 6-7, 7-6, 7-5. But in her final block match, she played Soha Moustafa (the number 25 ranked player in the world for both men and women) and managed to win the match 7-6, 7-4. With one win, this allowed Cheryl to enter into a playoff match and she was able to secure a spot in the Championship Knockout. Cheryl's lost her first match in knockout, but then won a round in the Bowl finishing 24th overall.

On the final day, the Championship Match went the full 5 games in nearly a 6-hour bout with Judith Hanekom of South Africa edging out Jenny Clarke of New Zealand. Interestingly, Judith had placed 4th in her block with only one win but then defeated four top Egyptian women to reach the final, improving with each match. Final score 7-3, 4-7, 5-7, 7-6, 7-5. Judith's sniper-like clearances and excellent hoop running earned her the title and unfortunately, Jenny needed to find another gear and raise her game but wasn't able to do so. She had been stellar throughout the tournament just coming up short in the end.

~Cheryl Bromley

Complete tournament results may be found at: <http://www.croquetscores.com/2014/gc/the-5th-womens-world-championship>