

2013 Golf Croquet World Championship Cairo, Egypt by Len J. Canavan

William Bromley and I were very fortunate to represent the USCA in the recently held Golf Croquet World Championships hosted by Egypt and played at various clubs in Cairo.

To begin with, the weather was hotter than William and I am accustomed to in Florida. After 5 p.m. during the first week the temperatures would drop dramatically to what we felt was near freezing. Fortunately after day one we had enough clothing to handle the situation.

As in any event there can only be one winner and that honor went to Reg Bamford from South Africa. Day by day as the competition got tougher and tougher we were improving but alas so was everybody else.

William and I had our share of victories but not as many as Reg and the endless number of Egyptians leading up to the final.

For those who have not seen the final and are interested you can see all 5 games played in the final on YouTube...type in Bamford vs Nasr and singularly you can watch each game. The final was probably the best one could wish to see. Probably the best of any match played in the 10 World Championship Events. Ahmed Nasr would propel the balls like rockets and Reg as steady as he was from stroke number one cleared his opponent equally as well without the flair and dramatics.

The 5th game in the final (best of 5 games) is in many ways a Cinderella story. Reg was down in the beginning 5-0, then without really noticing he was down 6-2 one point away from fulfilling his dream of being the first to be World Champion in AC rules and GC rules. Quietly and without fanfare Reg doggedly pressed on, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, at the 12th hoop Reg cleared red to the side boundary with blue. Blue continued rolling to the boundary to be in scoring position at the 13th hoop if he was able to tie the score at 6 all. Ahmed attempted to clear black from the 12th hoop scoring position and missed. Reg very comfortably scored the hoop to tie the match up. Ahmed hit yellow first for position at the tie-breaker hoop. Both players had good position and with the Egyptian crowd roaring with approval at every step Ahmed would take drowned out the clapping by the Internationals cheering for Reg. Wiping any possible perspiration from his hands and taking deep breaths, shuffling his feet into a comfortable position and with a smooth regulated typical Bamford swing nailed the Blue ball through the hoop into history as joint rules World Champion.



Though William and I didn't win the Championship we certainly won and made lots of friends from Egypt and worldwide. The Egyptians were great hosts and catered for all players and visitors alike with nothing overlooked. The banquets, boxed lunches, drinks, and the awards dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel were outstanding. The referees and ball boys at every match gave each of us an air of importance and a mood that gave you absolute concentration on playing your shot without worrying about where the last ball finished up. The Tournament Manager did a super job accommodating all the players with more matches than thought possible with a field of 64 players and 9 courts and 6 straight days of play starting at 9 a.m. and at times finishing after midnight. No matter what time or where you finished your play we were never left to fend for ourselves or worry about a lift back to the hotels. There was a shuttle bus or Egyptian players or spectators would ensure you got a ride back to the hotel, door to door service every single day.



At the awards dinner everybody felt like a winner and royally treated like one by our hosts and fellow competitors. This is an experience every US player should strive to achieve in the future.

