**Charles Edmund Jones JP QSM**

**Born 4 March 1953 Died August 2011**

**Inducted into WCF Hall of Fame: 2012**

Achievements

*President Croquet New Zealand 1999-2003*

*Life Member Croquet New Zealand 2010*

*President World Croquet Federation 2010-2011*

*MacRobertson Shield*

*2000 in New Zealand Manager*

*2003 in USA Manager*

*2006 in Australia Manager and non-playing captain*

*2010 in England Manager*

*NZ Representative Match*

*1979 in New Zealand*

*Trans-Tasman Open Croquet Tests*

*1995 Manager*

*2001 Manager*

*2004 Manager and non-playing captain*

*2006 Manager and non-playing captain*

*2009 Manager*

*South Island Open Doubles*

*1987, 1988 with R J Murfitt*

*NZ President’s Invitation Event Third Eight 1985 winner*

Charles Jones was President of the World Croquet Federation from 2010 until his untimely death in August 2011. He was murdered in Thailand while on holiday, on his way back to his native New Zealand after the WCF Under 21s and GC World Championship in England in July 2011.

Here he is seen at his last official function for the WCF, presenting the GC World Championship trophy to Mark McInerney at Hurlingham, London.

(*The following is an excerpt from the eulogy by Sue Piper, President, Croquet New Zealand)*

Charles started playing croquet at the Rangimarie Croquet Club here in Westport when he was nine or ten. He was a regular competitor at the national level from the mid-seventies to early 2000.

Charles’ greatest contribution to croquet was on the administration and support side. Charles was the preferred team manager for Trans-Tasman and Mac Robertson Shield teams. Charles’ team management skills were impressive. He was chief cook and bottle washer, mentor and organiser. NZ teams’ success over the last sixteen years owe a great deal to Charles’ commitment and support.

Charles convened the association croquet selectors’ panel for many years. He had a good eye for talent and many young players have acknowledged, in recent days, the important role Charles played in their development as elite players. Charles gave the same attention to encouraging and supporting recreational players.

Charles held senior leadership positions in the Wellington and Canterbury Associations and was a regular attender at Croquet NZ AGMs. Charles was elected CNZ President in 1999 serving for four years. Charles’ tenure saw the start of CNZ’s moves to establish a strong national office supporting the game throughout the country.

Golf croquet was becoming popular and Charles’ efforts made sure that the game became an important part of NZ croquet scene. He played a pivotal role in putting the game’s administration on a more professional basis. Charles’ contribution was acknowledged when he joined the small band of life members at last year’s AGM.

Charles’ contribution to international croquet was not limited to managing NZ teams. He played at both golf and association world championships. He refereed and managed at a number of international events from 2002 to earlier this year.

Charles joined the World Croquet Federation’s management committee in 2004. He was elected President of the Federation in 2010 being the second New Zealander to take this role in the WCF’s twenty five years. Charles' contribution to international croquet administration is summarised perfectly by Martin French, the WCF Secretary General. He said in an email:

*Charles’ forthright, honest and often colourful contributions to these discussions and to the vigorous e-mail traffic generated by his Management Committee colleagues played a significant part in energising the work of the committee. He deserves much of the credit for the significant improvement in the relationship between the Management Committee and the larger WCF member countries over the last year.*

It didn’t matter whether Charles was in Cairo, Cheltenham or Christchurch; the room lit up when he came in and the stories started. Charles was awarded his QSM (Queen’s Service Medal) for public services. It could equally have been awarded for services to the community.

Not all of us have an opportunity to contribute in as many areas as did Charles. Charles seized all his opportunities and gave it his best. It is not just the croquet world that is better for it.

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