



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Africa's World No.1 to contest international croquet title in Adelaide next month**

The world's number one croquet player and reigning world champion, African-born Reg Bamford, heads an international line-up of the sport's top stars to descend on Adelaide next month for the 13<sup>th</sup> World Croquet Federation (WCF) Association Croquet Championship.

The titles will be contested in Adelaide from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2012. Considered by some to look and move more like a rugby loose forward, Bamford, now in his mid-forties, has been playing croquet since the age of nine when his father taught him to play in his native South Africa. He has been at or near the top of the sport for the past 10 years and goes into the event as the Number One seed and main attraction for the **World Championship, to be contested** across 10 venues around **Adelaide**.

**There will be 79 world class players** looking to challenge Bamford for the title, especially the South Australian players, Tim O'Leary, Harley Watts, Dwayne McCormick and seasoned world championship contender, Mark Prater.



Apart from Bamford, the winner's list in recent years has been dominated by British names, but this event will also see the emergence of a group of young players. One in particular is **Robert Fletcher from Lismore in Victoria who at 18 years of age is the first Australian to ever be ranked number one in the world not to mention the youngest player to hold the ranking.**

**Robert Fletcher is the current Australian Open Champion** and was runner up in his first appearance in the New Zealand Open in 2011. More importantly, Robert has held or holds every other major Australian title and was runner up to Bamford in his first ever appearance in the British Open, then aged 17.

There will also be a strong contingent from England including 35-year old **Rob Fulford, 5 times world champion**. Competitors from 11 other countries will also contest the title.

The Australians will field the country's strongest entry ever world title bid, and the depth and strength of the Australian contingent is testament to the fact that **Australia is the largest and most competitive croquet playing nation in the world with over 9000 registered players.**



Robert Fletcher - Australian Champion and world No 3 lining up

Further details on the Championship, the game of croquet, dates and locations of playing venues are available at [www.croquetworlds2012.org](http://www.croquetworlds2012.org)

**Media enquiries including sponsorship opportunities please contact:**

Cathy Leske  
[croquetsa@bigpond.com](mailto:croquetsa@bigpond.com)  
0427 028 788

Rosie Graham  
[rosienews@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rosienews@yahoo.com.au)  
0414 884 702

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