



Alix Verge: World Croquet champion.
Photo: ALAN PLACE

Local croquet champ Verges on greatness

Rob Bates

ALIX Verge made history last month when she became the first Australian ever to win a World Croquet Federation Championship.

The Randwick resident, who turns 50 next month, said the win was a fantastic way to end her first half-century.

"I lay in bed dreaming this would happen every night for six months and now it has," Ms Verge said.

"I feel like this is that same dream

continuing and I'm worried that I'm going to wake up."

Held in Egypt three years ago and Ireland three years before that, the championship was staged at the Victorian Croquet Centre this year and Ms Verge said she was incredibly lucky to be in the right place at the right time.

The final game saw Ms Verge come back from behind to beat Egyptian player Iman Elfaransawi and seal her victory with a brilliant last jump-shot.

She said the triumph was all the more satisfying because she had unseated the dominant nation.

"The Egyptians are the absolute best in the world and they've been world champions for as long as world championships have gone on," she said. "They have their own unique style and are very powerful hitters and extraordinarily powerful hoop runners."

Ms Verge hopes her success will encourage more people to join one of the 30 croquet clubs scattered around the

Sydney, including clubs in Coogee, Woollahra and Bellevue Hill.

"It is a wonderful game because it doesn't rely on speed or strength; it relies on tactics and technique, so it can be played by people of any age and any physical condition," she said.

"In the state teams, ages range from 16 to mid-70s and they're the best in the country." Visit www.croquet-nsw.com.

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