

Centenary Tennis Clubs

The 2010 Centenary Tennis Clubs (CTC) competitions came to a close at the end of October after a two-month period that saw member clubs competing in junior and senior ties across Europe.

The seniors' competition saw participation from 15 clubs at four venues. The first ties to be completed took place at Belgium's Royal Leopold Club, where Ireland's Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club emerged victorious after scoring 7-2 wins over both CLTK Praha and the host club. Mid-September saw TC Geneve make the most of their home court advantage to narrowly defeat TC Milano in an epic final by 5 rubbers to 4.

During the same weekend, Kungliga LTK of Stockholm won through from a distinguished group participating at the Haagsche Lawn Tennis Club in the Netherlands.

TC Parioli in Rome, winners of the competition in 2009, hosted the final group, which also featured the RCT Barcelona-1899, Santander TC and Cumberland LTC. A highly competitive weekend saw an impressive standard of play, with the host club able to draw on some formidable names, such as former WTA Top Ten player Sandrine Testud, and twice ATP title winner Stefano Pescosolido.

Parioli beat Barcelona 6-3 in the final, and in line with tradition will join the other three group winners in the group of champions in 2011.

In the junior competitions, Cesky Lawn Tennis Club of Prague successfully defended their Under 12s Carrickmines Cup title in Ireland, holding off opposition from five other clubs to win the group. The final pitted the host club (watched by Tennis Ireland President Letty Lucas) against the winners of the last three editions, and was a tense affair in which the Czechs eventually clinched a deciding doubles match to claim the tie 5-4.

The club had hoped to repeat last year's sweep of Under 12 and Under 14 events, and hosted six clubs with a total of 33 players at the 14 & Under ICLTK Praha Cup at the end of October. In the end, the defending champions lost out by the slimmest of margins, as Kungliga LTK of Stockholm edged victory by one set with the final score standing at three matches apiece. During the event, the children also enjoyed a boat trip on the Moldau river and a traditional sightseeing tour of Prague.

The win was Kungliga's second of the season, hav-



Above: (top), Players at the Under 14 event in Prague, (below, left to right) RCT Barcelona 1899's Gloria Balil and TC Parioli's Sandrine Testud prepare for their final match in Rome.

ing earlier wrapped up the Under 17 Fitzwilliam Cup, which this year was staged at the Villa Primrose in Bordeaux, France.

A Tennis Europe affiliate, the Association of Centenary Tennis Clubs was founded in 1996 by eight European clubs who shared the aim of creating an international organisation to support the traditions of tennis. Each of the eight founder clubs had a history dating back at least one hundred years, as well as significant tennis and sporting traditions and important social roles in their communities.

A competition was organised for the original eight clubs, hosted each year at a different founder club. As increasing numbers of clubs joined the association, the Geographical Areas Club Competition was approved by the General Assembly in 2005, with a founders' group competition every three years, enabling all member clubs to participate in the competition. The organisation is now comprised of 52 clubs from five continents, and earlier this year unveiled a three-year partnership with EFG international private bank.

For more information, visit the website at www.centenarytennisclubs.com.