

CENTENARY TENNIS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the new official newsletter of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association.

We will keep you updated on our latest news, events, competitions and membership and partners in this online bulletin.

ABOUT US

The Association of Centenary Tennis Clubs (CTC) is an umbrella group of clubs more than 100 years old, including some of the most prestigious clubs in the sport. Initially founded by eight European clubs, we now have an extensive and truly global membership and are recognised and supported by the sport's governing body, the International Tennis Federation (ITF). All member clubs have a history dating back at least one hundred years, with a significant sporting tradition and social role.

ISSUE #1

January 2015

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CENTENARY TENNIS CLUBS

Foreword

It is a great honour for me as President of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association to address all the members of our Association that today can be found across the five continents. The Centenary Tennis Clubs Association (CTC) has the mission of promoting the sport of tennis amongst the clubs, organizing social, sporting and cultural events always with special attention to the values of sport, fair play and solidarity.

The Association was founded on June 11, 1996 and based at the Olympic Museum of Lausanne, counting with the support of the President of the IOC at the time, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch. Eight European Clubs were the founders of the Association and thanks to their great support and work a basis for the future was established. Mr Samaranch was especially supportive of the Association and we were privileged to have his invaluable advice. The CTC today is active in five continents and offers a unique opportunity for member clubs to foster close relationships.

The CTC is affiliated to Tennis Europe and to the International Tennis Federation. Personally I have devoted my activity with passion as CTC President to create a relevant Association for the global sports action. The desire to reach for high goals was always present in Mr.



Samaranch and I remain true to those aims. Finally I would like to state that it is my goal to be close to the Clubs and to listen to their proposals and goals in order to plan for the future with optimism and positive projects.

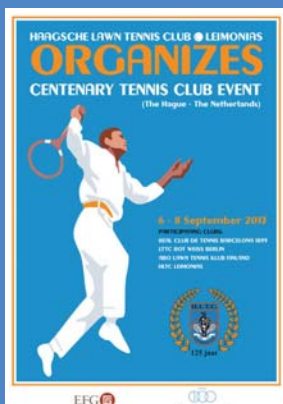
I would like to take this opportunity to greet all of the Clubs and their partners, and I hope that you enjoy this first edition of our newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Juan Maria Tintoré (President)



CTC Tournaments: A Guide



The member clubs of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association organise a number of special tournaments throughout the year.

CTC senior competitions are typically held in groups, with mixed teams of male and female players. The winner of each group advances to the 'Winners' Group' for a special competition to decide the CTC champion each year.

A growing variety of junior events, player exchanges, continental competitions and special events are also staged each year and are summarised on the following pages.

The CTC encourages all our member clubs to participate at these events, which are greatly enjoyed by the players and offer a unique opportunity to travel, compete and create lasting friendships through sport.

TC Parioli Defends Winners' Group Title

TC Parioli 1906 of Rome, Italy, has successfully defended the Centenary Tennis Clubs Winners' Group title after a busy weekend at RC Polo in Barcelona.

Four teams took part in the final rounds of the competition in which the defending champions were joined by the winners of the previous year's senior groups. Fitzwilliam LTV 1877 of Ireland also took a spot alongside the hosts and RCT Barcelona 1899 after TC Gèneve pulled out of the competition.

Each of the ties consisted of nine matches including senior men's and women's doubles, plus mixed doubles.

The competition began on a sunny Saturday where the TC Parioli was able to edge to a nail-

biting 5-4 win over the host team RC Polo, 5-4. The second semi-final saw the RCTB 1899 defeat the Irish team 6-3.

On the final day, the competition got an early start and was able to finish before some unseasonal rainstorms arrived in Barcelona. The defending champions beat the RCTB 1899 6-3, while Fitzwilliam claimed third place as the host club suffered another 5-4 defeat. The winning team of TC Parioli was comprised of Ugo Biagganti, M. Ribbecchi, Eduardo Mazza, Luigi Scuderi, Daniela Cigna, Elisabetta Morici and Francesca Todaro.

The social side of the Competition was highlighted by a bike ride around the Barcelona night and an official dinner at the RC Polo.



2014 Competitions Round-up

SENIORS - ATHENS

Clubs from Athens LTC, Real Sociedad de Tenis La Magdalena and Tennis Club Genova, gathered for a three-team Round Robin format competition of the CTC Seniors Group in Athens on the weekend of September 27.

The event began with Spain's Real Sociedad against TC Genova of Italy. The two teams were inseparable, with a mixed doubles match to decide the winner when the tie reached 4-4. Eventually Real Sociedad de Tenis La Magdalena claimed the win. The next match saw Athens LTC and TC Genova face off, with each time featuring exciting players, such as Stefano Valle and Christopher Boggetti. The host team won the tie by a score of 6 to 3.

The Tournament winner was therefore decided between Real Sociedad de Tenis La Magdalena and Athens Lawn Tennis Club, with both teams showing a great level of play. Amongst the team members were the Santander club's Vice President Mr. Enrique Teran and on the host team Mr. Konstantinos Efframoglou, the club's Secretary General. Finally the host team

was the winner by a score of 6 to 3.

The social side of the competition saw a welcome party on the eve of the Championships, where members from each team got the chance to meet each other while the captains revised the final details of the event. On the Saturday night, the Club's restaurant hosted the official dinner with a really friendly atmosphere, with players exchanging gifts and visitors having the opportunity to get a taste of local Greek products.

SENIORS LYON

On the occasion of its 150th anniversary, the Tennis Club Lyon recently organized a CTC Seniors competition group, which saw teams from the Rot-Weiss Berlin and Carrickmines of Dublin joining the host club at the event.

Unfortunately, TC Milano Bonacossa had to default their participation the competition, so the event was turned into a round robin format, giving all clubs the opportunity to play against each other.

The sun was there during the whole week-

end and the competition was played under a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere, with all participants joining in with the host club's Saturday night celebrations of the 150th anniversary.

This was the first time that TC Lyon had participated in such a competition since joining the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association and it was a perfect debut for the club - at the end of the two day event, and captained by Jean Francois Lagloire, the hosts emerged as champions of the tournament. Carrickmines finished in second position with Rot Weiss Berlin in third.

SENIORS PADOVA

CT Padova hosted a Centenary Tennis Clubs Senior competition from 19-21 September. The event was won by the host team, who beat Cesky from Prague 5-4 in the final. Third place went to Wiener Park from Vienna and the fourth position by Salk from Stockholm (the tie ended 5-2 for Vienna).

There were some exciting matches in the finals between Padova and Prague, the matches being very demanding with the



Photos: Players at Lyon, action in Athens

2014 Competitions Round-up

highest levels of play on the courts. Padova's team was formed by Davis Cup player and former world number 18 Omar Camporese, Alessandro Fornaro and Dario Pizzato, the latter both backed by a best ATP ranking around the 700th position in the world; other players included Stefano Tacchini and Marta Conean. The Prague team relied mainly on the ranking of the women: a former world number 30, another former number 86, both players of the Federation Cup for former Czechoslovakia. But there were many other athletes on the courts playing the matches with a past and a present "to boast."

The event was complete not only because there have been demanding matches on the courts but also because really lovely people came over to Padova, and took advantage of the chance to socialize and make new friends. All the team members and spectators enjoyed the matches where all the players were committed to winning, but always with class and fair play.

The final night featured a Gala event with a delicious dinner followed by singing and

dancing in the mixture of countries and different languages as everybody had a great time. Vice President of TC Padova Michele Scapolo said, "For Padova it has been an honour to have hosted one of the four rounds of the Centenary Club; we are obviously happy with the results, but also of how these three days of tennis and fun have been going on. Next year we will enter the final stages of the event that will decide on the winners of the title that is biennial. Many thanks to everybody, home players and guests as well as to the staff of the club for these days of great tennis". Here's a video of highlights from the week-end: <http://youtu.be/2D8bP7iA2Qs>

SENIORS LE TIR

On October 4-5th 2014, LE TIR (Paris, France) hosted a CTC seniors tournament gathering a Swedish team from KLTK Stockholm, a Dutch team from HLTC Leimonias (The Hague), and a French team from Villa Primrose (Bordeaux).

9 matches were played by each team on Saturday and on Sunday, with over 35 & over 45 categories men's and ladies' categories in action, plus one mixed doubles match.

On Saturday, Villa Primrose Bordeaux won over KLTK Stockholm (8/1) and Le Tir beat HLTC Leimonias, 5/4. On Sunday, Villa Primrose, whose team was comprised of former top French players or current top players in their age categories, was superior to Le Tir and won the CTC Cup by a score of 7/2.

The third-place match between HLTC Leimonias and KLTK Stockholm was extremely tight and ended up being decided by the mixed doubles match after the eight previous matches left the two teams level at 4/4. Neither team wanted to go back home with two defeats but the two teams were eventually separated when HLTC Leimonias claimed the 3rd-set super tiebreak at 10/8! The Dutch team was all the more proud because it was their first victory at a CTC competition.

The event was played in a great atmosphere between all four teams during the whole week-end with a competitive spirit blended with friendship, laughs and fair-play. After such 2 days, the teams were left hoping that the next CTC week-end will take place very soon.



Photo: The Seniors event in Le Tir

Notes on upcoming competitions in 2015

Delhi Gymkhana Club has confirmed that it will once again organise the CTC tournament, with a provisional date of November 2015.

Royal Kings Park from Australia has expressed an interest in organizing a four day, over 50's grass court Tournament in week two of January 2016. The club would be able to host teams from eight different countries, each team comprising 3 or 4 men and 3 or 4 women.

The annual Centenary Tennis Clubs Dinner at Roehampton will take place on the middle Sunday of the Wimbledon Championships, Sunday July 5, 2015, from 6:30 p.m.

2014 Junior Competitions

U17 FITZWILLIAM CUP

The team from Fitzwilliam LTC was the winner of the recent third edition of the Fitzwilliam Cup. Played under a round-robin format at the Real Sociedad de Tenis La Magdalena, the Irish were the strongest team, defeating the Kungl LTK team by 6 matches to 0 and the host team by 5 to 1.

The third-place tie between the Swedish team and the hosts had a result of 5 to 1 for Kungl LTK, but the score did not reflect the level of the matches, all of which finished with very close scores and some nailbiting finishes. For instance, La Magdalena player Patri Sagasitzabal held a 6-1 3-1 advantage but was unable to close out a victory, and the girls' doubles was lost on the super tiebreak by a score of 11-9.

My experience at the Fitzwilliam Cup, by Lauren Deegan, Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club:

From 2 October to 5 October 2014, I went to Santander in Spain as part of an u17 team representing Fitzwilliam with Julie Byrne, Georgia Drummy, Simon Carr, Morgan Lohan and Sean Collins. Jimmy McDonogh and Caroline McNulty accompanied us on the trip.

This event consisted of centenary clubs Magdelana Club from Santander and Kunglinga club from Sweden. We arrived in Santander on the Thursday evening and were brought straight to the club to practice and meet our host families. The club is located right on the sea front with a magnificent view of the coast. We were then given a tour of the club and facilities and it greatly exceeded our expectations. It had five outdoor clay courts and a massive swimming pool overlooking the sea. We were told that the Davis Cup finals were held in the club in 2000.



The children's club was located just across the road and we were told that up until the age of 17 you trained in the children's club. I previously represented Fitzwilliam in 2012 in Sweden and 2013 in Dublin on the same trip but the host families was new for me this year. Arriving at the club we were all anxious to meet our hosts. I stayed with a Spanish girl called Carmela and the other two girls stayed in a different house nearby. I recognised Carmela from the previous year as she had travelled to Dublin and played in Fitzwilliam the year before in the same fixture.

The competition started on the Friday and we played both Spain and Sweden leaving us with Saturday as a day off. We beat both Spain and Sweden resulting in Fitzwilliam being the overall winners. On the Friday evening we all ate together in the club and then returned to our host families and on Saturday we were presented with our medals. The sun was shining on Saturday afternoon so we decided to go down to the beach for a swim before going to visit the museum nearby. Afterwards our hosts took us into the centre to get frozen yoghurt. We returned to the club after dinner for a party. We all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend in Santander, none of us having been there before. It was a great experience and a great privilege to represent Fitzwilliam.



Photos: (Above) Players and coaches at the Fitzwilliam Cup, (Below) Players at the Rot-Weiss Berlin Cup

U16 LTTC ROT-WEISS BERLIN CUP

Almost 20 years ago the Lawn Tennis Tournament Club (LTTC) Rot-Weiss Berlin and seven other European tennis clubs with a tradition of one hundred years founded the CTC Association. The very first CTC Tournament of Seniors took place on these courts in Berlin in 1997. Now, in July 2014, Rot-Weiss organized their first Junior Competition U16 with participants from the CTC community.

In the tennis world Rot-Weiss Berlin is well known for many tournaments. For thirty years we had hosted the International Ladies German Open with the top tennis players. Steffi Graf won the tournament nine times. Later Rot-Weiss organized the International German Juniors, a tier 1 tournament with juniors from all over the world. It has just taken place in July this year. And a week later Rot-Weiss hosted the 1st Berlin CTC Cup 2014, a tennis event for CTC teams from Barcelona and Dublin.

The guest teams represented Real Club de Tennis Barcelona – 1899, Real Club de Polo de Barcelona, and Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club from Ireland. The five juniors and one or two accompaniments of each team arrived at the two airports of Berlin on Friday throughout the

day and were picked up by club members. The Friday program covered some training in the club and sightseeing to get first impressions of Berlin. Some of the juniors stayed with families others in a hostel not too far from the club.

The tournament games themselves were held on Saturday and Sunday. When the players were not on the courts, they watched other matches or socialized with members of other teams. LTTC Rot-Weiss placed an emphasis on having meals as a whole group so that the young athletes of the four teams got the chance to exchange experiences with others.

Lunch and dinner were eaten at one long table with close to 25 people sitting around it.

The Berliners were capable of using the home terrain as an advantage and won the Cup with three wins and no loss. After an intense match for second place on Sunday, Carrickmines was able to secure it against the two teams from Barcelona. RCTB came in third, the Barcelona Polo Club played very good tennis but, unfortunately, came in fourth.

All in all, the members of LTTC Rot-Weiss saw very good tennis and obviously all players and coaches enjoyed the international experience and the atmosphere of the competition. After returning home the teams made clear that they did not regret coming to Berlin. Realizing that this was an under 16 event, one can be confident that this was not the last international championship for some of the athletes.





Photos: (Above) Events in Prague (left) and Carrickmines (right). Below, the U14 RCTB Cup

U14 PRAGUE

The I.CLTK in Prague hosted the CTC junior competition under-14 from 17-19 October. A total of six teams took part, including the host club who was joined by squads from Dublin, London, Barcelona and Stockholm.

The six teams were divided into two round-robin groups, with Cumberland LTC (GBR), RCTB-1899 (ESP) and Kung LTK (SWE) in the first group, and I. CLTK (CZK), Carrickmines (IRL) and RC Polo (ESP) in the second group.

The winners from last year, Cumberland LTC were narrowly defeated by I.Cesky Lawn Tennis Club Praha in the tightest ever final. Both teams finished 3-3 all in matches and at the end only one set gave the Czechs victory in the tournament.

The visiting teams stayed during the tournament at Belvedere hotel near Stvanice island where I. Cesky Lawn Tennis Club is

located and they enjoyed lunch and dinner at club restaurant. Official dinner with short speeches from all captains was hosted by Mr. Petr Simunek, board member of I.CLTK, on the Saturday night.

U14 RCTB CUP

The Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899 hosted the third edition of the CTC U14 RCTB-1899 Cup during the final three days of August.

Four teams took part in the friendly competition –during which the host team was joined by those from ICLTK Prague, Carrickmines of Dublin and RC Polo (Barcelona).

The visiting teams were all hosted by families of the host team, enabling the players to forge new friendships and enhance their language skills.

The competition was played with a Round Robin format and consisted of two boys' singles matches, two girls' singles match-

es and one double for each gender per tie. On this occasion, the host club was able to end the two-year reign of ICLTK Prague, edging past the visitors by a slim margin in the final. RC Polo beat Carrickmines to claim third position overall.

The event was complimented by a social programme which saw the players able to enjoy a bowling afternoon and a visit to Barcelona's famous Tibidabo amusement park.

U12 CARRICKMINES CUP

Six Centenary Tennis Clubs competed again in year's tournament held in Carrickmines from the 28th to the 30th of August.

The hosts, Carrickmines, won the tournament for the first time defeating the I.Cesky Klub, from the Czech Republic in the final match.



This was the first defeat for the Czechs who had won all seven previous editions of the tournament.

The following clubs participated in this year's tournament: Carrickmines (Dublin), Cumberland LTC (London), RCT Barcelona, Real Club de Polo (Barcelona), I.Cesky (Prague, RC Magdalena (Santander). There was a new format this year, with each team playing a first round match seeded on last year's results. This determined who played in the cup and plate sections with Carrickmines winning overall and RC Magdalena winning the Shield.

Photo: the U12s at Carrickmines.



Charlie O'Kelly: My experience of CTC competitions...

My name is Charlie O'Kelly. I am 18 and a member of Carrickmines Tennis Club in Dublin, Ireland. I've played tennis here from a very young age and competed in tournaments as a junior all over Ireland.

The CTC competitions were a great experience for me as it was the first time I got to play someone, from abroad, my own age. It gave me an opportunity to see what kind of standard kids from across Europe were at, and compare it against my own game.

Being picked to represent Carrickmines was a huge honour. It felt more as if I was playing for Ireland against Spain, Czech Republic and England. The tournament itself has a Davis Cup format which made it feel very professional, especially as a young junior. Travelling abroad was a huge part of the professionalism attached to all the CTC tournaments.

Going over this year to Barcelona as a coach was a different but a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Half of the time I was desperate to play myself, but being able to watch the high level of tennis in the heat was a fair trade.

The group that I travelled with, the kids, and Denise, were a pleasure to be with. Coupled with the hospitality and friendly nature of Real Club de Tennis, it made for an excellent trip and one that I certainly hope to be a part of next time.



Photos: Above: Charlie and the Carrickmines team in Barcelona pictured with Berta and Juan Maria Tintore in 2014. Below: The Carrickmines U12 team with Team captain Libby Lyons and Charlie on left in Dublin in 2008.

2014 Special Events

DELHI GYMKHANA INTERNATIONAL

The second edition of the Annual Delhi Gymkhana Club CTC Invitational Tournament was held on March 1 – 2, 2014. Amongst the out-station clubs invited to participate were South Club Kolkatta, Oudh Gymkhana Club Lucknow, CCI Mumbai, and Chandigarh Club.

Being a large tennis fraternity, the host fielded three teams and the International Lawn Tennis Club of India entered two teams, whilst the outstation clubs fielded one team each. The format of the tournament was one men's doubles team under 55 years, one over 55 and one mixed doubles with no age bar.

Normally early March in Delhi is the ideal time for grass court tennis, however due to unprecedented heavy rains 2 days prior to the event made the grass courts unplayable and forced the organisers to shift the play to the Plexi Cushion courts. Despite the constraints, the tournament was completed on time.

The tournament was a grand success, with over 50 men and 10 ladies taking part. The matches were held on a semi-league basis

with teams from the South Club, Delhi Gymkhana `A` and `B`, and the IC `A` teams reaching the semi-finals. South Club lost in the semi finals to IC `A` team.

The final was played between the IC `A` and the Delhi Gymkhana `A` teams. In a closely contested finals the Delhi Gymkhana `A` team emerged winners beating the IC `A` team 3 – 0. The DGC winning team comprised of Mr.Pragun Poddar, Mr.Aditya Khanna, Mr.Arvinnder Chhatwal, Mr. Raveen Chaudhry, and Mrs.Sangeeta Badhwar.

The tournament was enjoyed by all the participants, and the social events on the side-lines added to the gaiety of the occasion. In the absence of the President of Club, the Chairman of the outdoor sports committee Col.J.P.Singh gave away the prizes. The Secretary and the tennis staff of the Club deserve appreciation for the arrangements and hospitality extended to the participants.

The tournament Director for this year was Mr.C.M.Sharma, and the Organising Committee was chaired by Mr.Yogesh Prasad.

SOUTH AFRICA CHALLENGE

2014 CTC South Africa Challenge took place again this year at the Wanderers Club of Johannesburg. Although reduced to a club match as opposed to a round robin of 4 clubs, the CTC 2014 resulted in a wonderful afternoon's tennis for the two 8-player teams. It was a close affair, as the scorecard attests. Each match was important, as all of the games were very close, giving the final victory to The Bedfordview Club.

UK & IRELAND DAY

Carrickmines, for the first time, hosted the annual CTC United Kingdom & Ireland CTC Tournament played from the 5th to 7th of September in glorious sunshine. Congratulations to Winchester who won by the tightest of margins, over Carrickmines, (119-118 points). Cumberland, Edgbaston Priory and Roehampton were the other competing teams.

All of the teams enjoyed a fantastic evening of entertainment and supper on the Saturday evening and we were especially privileged to be joined by Juan Maria Tintoré, the President of the CTC and his daughter, Berta, for the weekend.



Photos: (Left) Players at Delhi Gymkhana, (right) The South Africa Challenge



Photo: All dressed in white for the UK/Ireland Day at Carrickmines

There were sections catering for all standards of play and the club was abuzz with activity with all 18 courts in use with the Grass courts playing superbly. Well done to Gillian and her team for making the weekend such a memorable occasion!

SOUTH AMERICA CHALLENGE

The first CTC South American Challenge took place during the weekend of October 11-13 at the Tennis Club Argentino in Palermo.

The tournament was a four-team event bringing together other Centenary Tennis Clubs from the area; Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club and Santa Fe Lawn Tennis Club. A fourth club, Los Olivos, was invited

to complete the competition draw.

The competition was held under a spirit of fair play from all the participants both on and off the court. The event was preceded by a welcome cocktail, which gathered the Presidents of the Centenary Tennis Clubs of Argentina together with members of the International Club, Olympic Committee and the Argentinian Tennis Federation.

The competition was played under a round robin format, combining men and women on all teams. The eventual winner was the Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club.

Amongst the participants were many well-known faces, including Beatriz Araujo,

(Argentina's #1 player for many years during the late 1960s and 1970s and former Fed Cup captain), Ricardo Canon (Argentinian #2, former Davis Cup player and twice ATP Tour singles finalist) and Carlos Junquet (a member of the team that reached the Davis Cup final in 1981 when Argentina lost to USA).

During the competition, Argentinian tennis legend Enrique Morea received a replica of the Conde de Godo tournament trophy from the hands of the Honorary President of RCTB 1899, Juan M^a Tintore. The gift was a symbolic reminder of the historic match of the first edition of the tournament in 1953, which saw Enrique losing against Vic Seixas 22-20 in the third set.

The Big Bang of Tennis in Argentina

By Eduardo Puppo, Tennis analyst for Spanish CNN and author of the tetralogy of the History of Tennis in Argentina, member of the IC of Argentina.

When I was doing my research into the history of tennis in Argentina, one of my goals was to find a list of Clubs that counted a tradition of more than one hundred years in Argentina and if possible in the world.

Together with my colleague and co-author in the book, Mr. Roberto Andersen we knew that it would be a highlight of the book, just because tennis was started in the Clubs. We soon found the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association and realized that the CTC had already done the hardest work of bringing together the most traditional institutions, the most relevant and traditional Clubs worldwide.

Soon we realized that in Argentina the rules for tennis began in 1877, three years after the British Mayor, Mr. Walter Wingfield, registered the rules in London. Up to then, tennis was played in private houses in the area of Buenos Aires on

courts painted onto the ground. Tennis was also played in the areas of Rosario, Cordoba and Buenos Aires.

Shortly afterwards (in 1889), the Quilmes Lawn Tennis Club was founded, the first club in the country and the third one in the region following the English Club in Viña del Mar, Chile (1884) and the Lawn Tennis de la Exposición, in Peru (1884).

At the same time the Lomas Athletic Club was founded (1882), a multisport facility which combined soccer, cricket, rugby and bowls. Even though tennis was just one more sport there, among its founders we find Mr. James Gibson, the father of John, who was the Argentinian Davis Cup captain for the nation's first Davis Cup tie against Switzerland on 1923.

As a curiosity we can also mention that the Association took off the 'Lawn' and the double 'n' and in 1953 was named Argentina Tennis Association.

Soon most Clubs began their tennis activities, developing strongly both in terms of quantity and quality and resulting in the

Interclub Championship on 1915, a competition that it is still played today.

The relevance of relating the history of the game is that the venue where the first Centenary Tennis Clubs Championships was played, the Tennis Club Argentino, was also the venue for the first international Tournament of Buenos Aires, in March 1886, which featured a singles draw of 56 and a doubles draw of 15 pairs; all men because the women did not yet have a competitive level.

Today, just 100 meters from the Tennis Club Argentino and in front of the Planetarium we can find a sculpture that celebrates this history. This was the area of Palermo where the Buenos Aires Cricket Club was founded in 1864 and where the tennis players both of the country and of the city got a start.

We can clearly read on the plate that this was the place where the first sanctioned tournaments not only of tennis, but also of cricket and soccer took place. This is the way history goes.



Photo: The Presidents of the Centenary Tennis Clubs in Argentina and other dignitaries.

Tennis & the Olympic Games Exhibition

The International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum, in partnership with the Barcelona Olympic Foundation, hosted a special exhibition entitled Tennis and the Olympic Games, which was on display to the public at the Olympic and Sports Museum Joan Antoni Samaranch in Barcelona, Spain last year. Tennis and the Olympic Games offered a comprehensive look at the most successful tennis Olympians in history, and highlighted the appeal of tennis as one of the world's most international sports. It also detailed the interesting role that tennis has played in the Games, having gone from a full medal sport to having no presence for many years, and back to a full medal, extremely popular sport in the last several decades.

The organizers gathered with media and Spanish tennis industry leaders for an opening ceremony in Barcelona. The exhibit was made possible through a unique tennis partnership among the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum, the Barcelona Olympic Foundation, the Spanish Tennis Federation, and the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona - 1899.

"Tennis is one of the world's most international sports year-round, but when combined with the spirit of the Olympics, the game's international nature truly shines. The sport has had a rich history within the Olympic movement, and we are delighted for this unique opportunity to showcase tennis' role in the Games for the fans who visit the Olympic and Sports Museum," said Hall of Fame President Stan Smith. "The Hall of Fame's mission is to preserve and celebrate the rich history of tennis, and we are grateful to the Olympic and Sports Museum of Barcelona, and our partners at the Barcelona Olympic Foundation, the Spanish Tennis Federation, and the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona - 1899 for helping us to share this important part of tennis history with an international audience."

Smith was a speaker at the opening ceremony and was joined by José Luis Escañuela, president of the Real Federación Española de Tennis, M. Teresa Fandos, president of the Fundació Barcelona Olímpica, and Albert Agustí, president of the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899.

Hall of Famers Manuel Orantes and Andres

Gimeno came out to support the exhibit opening, as did many players. Among those in attendance were Jordi Arrese, who was a silver medalist at Barcelona 1992, José Higuera, Lis Arilla, Jordi Bardou, and Alex Corretja and Albert Costa, doubles bronze medalists from Sydney 2000.

The exhibit featured Olympians from many nations, including a full listing of every Olympic and Paralympic tennis medallist in history. There was a special emphasis on Spain's celebrated players, such as Hall of Famer Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Rafael Nadal, Conchita Martinez, and Sergi Bruguera.

Highlighting Spain's great accomplishments in the Games, the exhibit included memorabilia from Rafael Nadal's success at Beijing 2008, when he won the gold medal, as well as memorabilia of Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario's from Atlanta 1996, when she won a silver medal in singles and a bronze in doubles. Spanish players Alex Corretja and Albert Costa contributed their racquets from the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney when they won the bronze medal. In addition, Sergio Casal's silver medal from the 1988 Games in Seoul is on dis-



Photo: Organisers at the exhibition launch, Albert Costa and Alex Corretja with their Olympic memorabilia.

Tennis & the Olympic Games Exhibition

play. A particularly interesting item in the exhibit is Spaniard Eduardo Flaquer's scrapbook and racquet from the 1924 Olympic Games, which was the last year that tennis was a medal sport until 1988. Among the highlighted artifacts in the exhibit was a racquet of Andy Murray's from the 2012 London Games, when he clinched the gold medal before an adoring home crowd at the All England Club. A racquet belonging to London doubles gold medalist Bob Bryan was also on display.

In the exhibit, fans were able to read about historic victories, such as Steffi Graf's 1988 Gold Medal, which made her the first person, and the only person to date, to achieve the Golden Slam (all four majors and the Olympic gold medal in one year). Guests took away some interesting tennis facts; for example, who would have guessed that the 1900 champion would have won a coffee and liqueur serving table as his Olympic prize, or that some years there were both indoor and outdoor tennis events contested? The exhibit also

showcased the Paralympic Games, highlighting how eight competitors from five nations showed off their skills at the 1988 Seoul Olympics in a convincing demonstration that propelled wheelchair tennis to a full medal sport at Barcelona in 1992.

Imagery throughout the exhibition showcased great moments from the Games, including the unstoppable Williams sisters, who have captured three gold medals in doubles and one each in singles; the extraordinary wheelchair tennis champion Esther Vergeer, who has won five Paralympic gold medals (3 in singles, 2 in doubles); and the overjoyed Andy Murray, from the moment he captured gold before his home crowd at the Olympics in London in 2012.

The Olympic and Sports Museum Juan Antonio Samaranch is managed by the Barcelona Olympic Foundation. Through changing exhibitions and interactive displays, the museum showcases how the qualities of sports transcend all cultures

and places special emphasis on the Olympic spirit.

Located in Newport, Rhode Island, USA, the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of tennis, honoring its greatest champions and leaders, and inspiring the future of the sport. The Hall of Fame operates an extensive museum that highlights the history of tennis from its 12th century origins through present-day, as well as the fascinating life stories of the game's greatest athletes and industry contributors. The museum's collection features vintage tennis equipment, video highlights and iconic photos, tennis apparel ranging from Victorian dresses to modern fashions, tennis inspired paintings and fine arts, and memorabilia from remarkable moments as recent as the current-year Grand Slams. Changing exhibits and special exhibitions, similar to Tennis and the Olympic Games are displayed year-round in the museum.

About EFG International and Tennis



At EFG, we are keen

supporters of tennis and are delighted to lend our support to Centenary Tennis Clubs as its Principal Partner. We also enjoy supporting the development of young talent, and have teamed up with IMG, the global sports and media company, to create The EFG Junior Tennis Programme.

This is an innovative way of supporting leading junior players making the transition to the senior ranks. Current members are

Gianluigi Quinzi of Italy, the 2013 Boy's Wimbledon Singles Champion; Kyle Edmund of the UK, winner of the boys' junior doubles title at the 2013 French Open and Michael Mmoh of the United States.

EFG is a global private banking group with a record of dynamic growth, courtesy of offering clients a service they expect and deserve. Headquartered in Zurich, our business operates in over 30 locations worldwide, with circa 2,000 employees.

Through our marketing and sponsoring activities, we look to reflect the diversity of

our clients, and of our people. EFG is proud to support excellence and talent across a range of sporting and cultural areas – in addition to tennis, these include historic motorsport, polo, sailing, classical music, jazz, literature and art.

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