***IPRO Director’s Message January, 2022***

***‘Worlds were a hit’***

**The 2020 IRF World Racquetball Championships were held in Guatemala City, Guatemala over two weeks (November 28 through December 11). The *adult and Junior* tournaments overlapped to create a true *festival of racquetball.* Over thirty matches were streamed on the IRT broadcast network. Highlights from Guatemala:**

 ***…Players represented 14 countries. In addition to this hemisphere, players came from***

 ***Ireland, Japan, and South Korea.***

 ***…The newly opened Centro Deportiva Complejo hosted the event. It is part of a growing***

 ***sports park with 10 racquetball courts; two with side wall glass & fixed seating for hundreds.***

 ***Another World Senior Doubles event is being planned there for 2023.***

 ***…Over twenty professional officials were part of the festival. They represented 8 countries.***

 ***…Because of the pandemic, the 2020 event was held in 2021. The 21st IRF World***

 ***Championships will be held this August at the La Loma Club in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.***

 ***…The event was a qualifier for the World Games, a multi- sport quadrennial festival, scheduled***

 ***for Birmingham, Alabama in July.***

 ***…Congratulations to Team USA. They captured the Men’s and Team crowns, the first time***

 ***since 2014. Team coaches are Jim Durham and Malia Bailey.***

**UPCOMING**

 ***April Level 3 Officiating Course; Santa Cruz, Bolivia Gustavo Farell***

 ***July Level 3 Officiating Course; Birmingham, Alabama Gary Mazaroff***

 ***August Level 1-3 Certification Course; Albuquerque, NM Gary Mazaroff***

**As we complete our 25th year with the current administration, HAPPY NEW YEAR to all,**

***Gary***

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