

Racquetball Europe

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www.european-racquetball.org



EUROPEAN
RACQUETBALL
FEDERATION



**The 14th World Racquetball Championships 2008
in Kingscourt, Ireland are over now !!**

26 countries competed in the 2008 World Championships. It was the second time only so far that this event has been held in Europe.

Thanks to all players and delegates for coming to Europe and Ireland.

Thanks to all volunteers for making these World Championships a successful event.



14th IRF 2008
RACQUETBALL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
KINGSCOURT • IRELAND

The Worlds are over !!

Congratulations to all volunteers and officials that have been involved in this event.

The first World Championships of Racquetball on European soil since 1988 were not always easy to organize. Many people have worked many hours to make the best effort. And who would have thought a few years ago that we will have the World Championships in Europe again?? It takes some vision, hard work by many people and we achieved this.

Well done, as the Irish say.....

Thanks also to the great hospitality of our Irish friends. During the Opening Ceremony in Kingscourt we could feel the special Irish flavor. The parade of nations through the town, all those people cheering for all 26 countries and the special Irish dancing performances gave all those athletes and officials from around the world a great insight view on the Irish people and traditions.

We also saw fantastic matches and performances from many countries and players. All those young talents from South and Latin America are hopefully a special motivation for the young European players and especially all those great Irish volunteers that helped out at the Worlds to continue to play and get better.

The Mens Singles Final between Rocky Carson and Jack Huszek (both USA) has been already called the best Worlds Singles Final ever. It will soon be available as video on demand at www.racquetballonline.tv.

In two years, **Korea** will be the host of the IRF World Championships, again. There is great development in that country and this will be supported by another World Championships.

European Racquetball wishes good luck to the Korea Organizers and once again THANKS to all countries who travelled to Europe, and Ireland, to compete in the 14th World Racquetball Championships.



The World Cup



Individual Competition:

Men's Doubles Open Gold:

Final: Jason Thoerner / Mitch Williams (USA) d. Gilberto Mejia / Javier Moreno (MEX) 15-13, 10-15, 11-7

Men's Singles Open Gold:

Final: Rocky Carson (USA) d. Jack Huczek (USA) 12-15, 15-14, 11-10

Women's Doubles Open Gold:

Final: Aimee Ruiz / Jacqueline Paraiso (USA) d. Geneviève Brodeur / Veronique Guillemett (CAN) 15-8, 15-6

Women's Singles Open Gold:

Final: Rhonda Rajsich (USA) d. Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (USA) 15-13, 15-8

Team Competition:

Ladies:

1. USA 2. Bolivia 3. Canada 4. Chile

Mens:

1. USA 2. Mexico 3. Canada 4. Bolivia

The IRF has not published the complete team standings yet!

The European Congress 2008

The European Congress was held on the night of the day off during the 2008 World Championships. 7 countries were represented at this meeting.

Some positive and encouraging news came out of the various European member countries. In **Barcelona, the Netherlands and maybe Poland and Italy**, new courts will be built in the next months and years. This is a great achievement but of course does not solve our major concerns and problems in Europe right away. Some encouraging news also from **England**. The construction of a movable back-wall will be completed this year so that one of the existing racquetball courts can be used again soon.

Sweden currently prepares it's comeback to the European Racquetball scene. A new group of enthusiastic players founded a new Federation and will apply for ERF membership in the coming weeks. We already welcome the new Swedish Federation to our family and are already looking forward to a Swedish Open, maybe already in 2009?

On the technical side, the ERF's ranking system was changed in that way that always the results of the last 12 months are always counted towards the rankings.

Plans for a European junior program, for which a funding system has been installed 3 years ago already, will go into action in the weeks ahead. The ERF will also meet again for a strategic session soon.

On the international arena, the congress unanimously voted in favor of a statement issued by the President Erik Meyer that the ERF will **withdraw from the International Federation** for an undefined period of time.

There was a very tough moment for European Racquetball, though the discussion about it only took 5 minutes and all countries attending were in favor of the move. Currently, Europe is not sending a representative to the International Board. During the 2008 elections, Europe also lost it's second seat on the IRF Executive.

It is sincerely hoped that the IRF and it's newly elected Executive Board will consider some of the concerns issued by the ERF in writing and also in discussions.

Statement issued by the ERF at the IRF World Congress in Ireland on Thursday August 31st. 2008

Due to ongoing issues with the International Racquetball Federation, the European Racquetball Federation wishes to separate itself from the IRF for a indefinite period of time.

For an ongoing number of years, Mike Mesecke and myself, both members of the IRF Executive board from Europe, have been trying to achieve that the IRF would function as a real International Federation, concentrate on a real development and NOT only as a IRF vehicle with PARC in the driver seat.

We feel that almost all efforts of the IRF board have been going into PARC related matters and not into the development of Racquetball in the rest of the world

We feel that there is no real interest shown by the IRF in Asia, Europe and elsewhere.

We also feel that there is a lack of real leadership within the Executive Committee to lead the IRF into the future. We do not believe that with some of the proposed Board members a real change and further development can be achieved.

It is therefore that the ERF will resign from the IRF board and will look from the sidelines how things will evolve in the future. We hope that this step will show the importance of changing the directions and priorities the IRF has at the moment.

We will bring this issue before the European congress next week wednesday where it will be officialised.

I'm asking the General Secretary to include the complete text of this statement in the minutes of this meeting and to add later the result of the vote in the European Congress.

At the ERF Congress on the 6th August, all 8 European Countries unanimously voted to support the decision of the ERF Exco on this matter.

Erik Meyer
President of the ERF



Large attendance at the ERF Congress: standing: Jacopo Sasso (ITA), Pascal Matla (NED), Mike Mesecke (GER), Peter Rakowski (POL), Erik Meyer (BEL), Jörg Ludwig (GER), Karel Matla (NED), Victor Montserrat (CAT), Josep Ripoll (CAT). Sitting: Niklaas Deboutte (BEL), Peter de Jong (NED), Erik Timmermanns (NED), Ayten Kececi (TUR), Michael Haverty (IRE)

European Racquetball Calendar 2008-2009

October 10th - 12th

Dutch Open

Schinnen, The Netherlands

Karel Matla

www.racquetball.nl

October 31st - Nov 2nd

Hamburg Open

Hamburg, Germany

Mike Mesecke

www.hamburgopen.racquetball.de

November 21 - 23

Belgian Open

Antwerp, Belgium

Erik Meyer

December 19 - 21

Catalonia Open

Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain

Victor Montserrat

www.racquetbol.cat

January 17 - 18

French Open

Paris, France

Pascal Matla / JP Boudart

www.paris-racquetball.org

February

Istanbul Open

Istanbul, Turkey

March 7 - 8

Italian Open

Brembate, Italy

Marco Arnoldi

www.racquetballitalia.it

April 3 - 5

German Open

Hamburg, Germany

Mike Mesecke

www.germanopen.racquetball.de

May 1 - 4

Irish Open

Arklow, Ireland

Michael Barnes

www.racquetball-ireland.com

July/August

15th ERF European Championships

Barcelona, Catalonia (Spain)

www.european-racquetball.org



The European Racquetball Tour (ERT) consists out of the major European National Opens in each country plus other major events.

Ranking points in all divisions will be granted towards the European Racquetball Rankings.

There are plans to include more tournaments to the calendar in the near future.

There are of course plenty more events in Europe, especially in Ireland and Germany.

Check out the new calendar in the coming weeks for a complete list.

Do you blog??

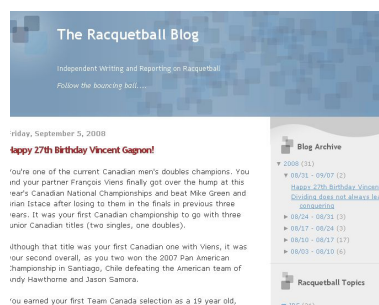
Independent writing and reporting on Racquetball...

Welcome to the 21st century. Yes, we all have heard, seen and read those blogs everywhere. There is a very interesting blog out there, only about racquetball!! Check it out, it's independent and great to read and of course everyone can make his or her own comments on the topics.

Some may not like what they can read there, remember it's independent, however, blogging seems to be a great tool for writing about the great sport of racquetball and for keeping people informed about what is going on around this great sport.

Check it out!!

<http://theracquetballblog.blogspot.com/>



RACQUETBALL EUROPE is a publication of the European Racquetball Federation.

All views expressed in RACQUETBALL EUROPE are those of the editorial staff and not necessarily those of the ERF or it's executive.

ERF Executive Committee:

President: Mr. Erik Meyer (Belgium)

Vice President: Mr. Mike Mesecke (Germany)

General Secretary: Mr. Michael Haverty (Ireland)

Treasurer: Mr. Karel Matla (Netherlands)

Technical Director: Pascal Matla (Netherlands)