

RACQUETBALL EUROPE

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www.european-racquetball.org erf@european-racquetball.org



**WPRO Pro Brenda Kyzer
Wins 2007 German Open in
Hamburg!**

„The Peter de Jong Tribute Tournament“

A tournament was held just for former Dutch National Team member Peter de Jong, in Istanbul, Turkey.

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**ALSO INSIDE: ALL
ABOUT THE 2007
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS!!**



This' years German Open had Brenda Kyzer (USA), No. 6 of the Womens Professional Tour extra coming over to Germany to play the competition.

Besides her, many players from all over Europe participated and the Mens Open singles draw was the toughest in the past 15 years as there were many close matches to see in first and second round already.

See complete draws at www.germanopen.racquetball.de

RECENT RESULTS:

Italian Open 2007, Brembate, Italy:

Men's Open Singles:

1. Victor Monserrat (Catalunya)
2. Franco Illino (Italy)

Men's Doubles:

1. Victor Monserrat-Ivan Flores (Catalunya),
2. Franco Illino- Cristobal Accorsi (Italy)

Men's B Singles:

1. Hermann Bachmaier (Germany)
2. Benedetto Zonca (Italy)

Dutch Open

Schinnen, The Netherlands:

Men's Open Singles:

1. Ian Chin (USA)
2. Michel Van Der Holst (NED)

Mens B Singles:

1. Bart Wouters (BEL)
2. Jerome Wells (USA)

Mens 40+ Singles

1. Ian Chin (USA)
2. Bruno Bouillac (FRA)

Mens Doubles

1. v.d.Holst/Schipper (NED)
2. De Jong / Timmermans(NED)

German Open 2007

Hamburg, Germany:

Mens Open:

Trevor Meyer (GER) – Joachim Loof (GER) 15-8, 15-4

Womens Open:

Brenda Kyzer (USA) - Yvonne Kortess (GER) 15-7, 15-11

Mens Doubles:

Joachim Loof/Trevor Meyer (GER) – Martin Klippel/O. Bertels (GER) 11-15, 15-12, 11-7

Mens A:

Oliver Bertels (GER) – Timothy Hardison (USA) 15-3, 13-15, 11-9

Mens B:

Jim Kimbrough (USA) – René Pierre-Ciura (GER) 15-8, 7-15, 11-10

Mens C:

Paul Maurer (COL) – Lara Ludwig (GER) 15-13, 15-10

Juniors U 17:

Christopher Czempisz (GER) –Lara Ludwig (GER) (NED) 15-12, 15-6

Seniors 35+:

Eduardo Avila (MEX) – Curtis Morgan (USA) 15-8, 15-8

Seniors 40+:

Timothy Hardison (USA) – Torsten Krieger (GER) 15-7, 15-6

FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES....



Catalonia (Spain) currently plans its first racquetball tournament, most likely held in November. Due to the lack of enough courts, only a men's event may be held.



The German Open showed the comeback 'of the old men': Trevor Meyer and Joachim Loof played the open final (again), as seen so many times before...



England will send juniors to the European Championships! President Alan Abburow-Newman already asked for hotel information. Hopefully a mens team as well!



Noel O'Callaghan won his 17th Ireland Singles title in a row, defeating Triston Hickey. Elma Gibney secured her second title after defeating Bernie O'Callaghan.



A successful Italian Open but room for improvement for new ERF member Italy. A minor change on the EC plan as well, as the host hotel will now be in Brembate.



The Dutch Open were held again this year. Schinnen was the site for one of Europe's oldest events. Good to have the traditional tournament back on the calendar.



The postponed Turkey Open will now be held April 14-20 in Istanbul. International players can join the competition from the quarter finals on.

ERT RANKINGS

SEE COMPLETE RANKINGS ONLINE

Ladies Singles

- 1 Kortess, Yvonne
- 2 Kyzer, Brenda
- 3 Hartmann, Renate
- 4 Skehan, Julie
- 5 Tritsmans, Kathy
- 6 Ventura, Ana
- 7 Gibney, Elma

Mens Singles

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|
| GER | 1 Chin, Ian | USA |
| USA | 2 Montserrat, Victor | CAT |
| GER | 3 Hardison, Timothy | USA |
| IRE | 4 Meyer, Trevor | GER |
| BEL | 5 Klippel, Martin | GER |
| CAT | 6 Bouillac, Bruno | FRA |
| IRE | 7 De Jong, Peter | NED |

European Racquetball Federation Executive Committee:

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Mr. Erik Meyer (Belgium)

Vice President:

Mr. Mike Mesecke (Germany)

General Secretary:

Mr. Michael Haverty (Ireland)

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Technical Director: Pascal Matla (Netherlands)

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...MY OWN RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

BY PETER DE JONG

It all started at the Hamburg Open 2006. I met the president of the Turkish Racquetball Federation, Ayten Keçeci. We talked about our lives in the Netherlands and Turkey. I told her it would be nice visit Istanbul and see how she lives and play racquetball of course. Finally there was the Turkish Open, planned at the end of March. I kept my promise to come to the Turkish Open and signed in for the tournament, booked tickets for myself and my wife. Then there was the email with the message that, due sponsor problems, the tournament was postponed.

Of course I was very disappointed, I couldn't change the tickets anymore. Ayten Keçeci emailed me, told me I had to come over, she would take care of everything and I could play against some local players. So I decided to go to Istanbul.

I arrived on Thursday afternoon, was picked up at the airport and we went to dinner in a nice fish restaurant. On Friday we visit the old center of Istanbul, the Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia mosque, Grand Bazaar and the Basilica Cistern. Friday night we went to the Hill Side City club, to meet the other players.

Arriving at the club, after a ride in the always existing traffic jams, the first thing I saw were the big posters outside the club, announcing the Hill Side Tournament with the Dutch Team racquetball player, Peter de Jong. Inside the club I saw more of them. The club is very nice, clean and exclusive. The center has 3 squash, 1 racquetball, fitness and different sauna. The racquetballcourt is very nice and fast. Near the court I met the Turkish players who were qualifying to play against me the next day. I was supposed to show up in the semi final on Saturday. Some players wanted to play already, so I played a few games on Friday night. After meeting a lot of (English, German and Dutch speaking) Turkish players, after explaining and discussing a lot of rules and different situations on the court we finally left to have dinner in another very nice fish restaurant in the center of Istanbul.

On Saturday afternoon I played my semi-final and final. Of course I played a little nervous, with all the people watching, some of them especially came over to watch the "Dutch Team player". I won both matches with 2-0. If I compare the Turkish racquetball level with other European events I would qualify them as top B players. After the final there were a lot of people who wanted to play a match against me, but I had to go to the price ceremony, the food and drinks.

On Sunday and Monday we visited more interesting



places in Istanbul, a museum, more nice restaurants other sport clubs, played some squash and so on. On Tuesday we flew, reluctantly, back to Holland.

I would advise people to visit Istanbul. It's a nice, big city with a lot of interesting places, good food en restaurants, nice people and of course there is racquetball. I think the Turkish Racquetball Federation will try to organize another Turkish Open this year. I will go there and hope to see you in Istanbul too.

Finally I would thank the Turkish Racquetball Federation, Ayten Keçeci and Tunç Limasollu for their hospitality and all other things they did for me and my wife. It was a tournament (my tournament) I will never forget.



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Dear ERF members,

The European Championships will be held in Brembate, Italy from 28th July to the 4th August 2008.

On behalf of the European Racquetball Federation, I cordially invite your country to participate in this the 14th European Championships, 11th European Masters Championships and 5th European Junior Championships.

The ERF have successfully found a new venue for the Championships this year and I am confident that the Italian Racquetball Federation and the people of Brembate will accord a huge welcome to each team and individual players.

On behalf of the ERF, I appeal to each country to send teams and individual players to this event. There will be great competitions at team and individual level and important Championship titles to be competed for in team, singles and doubles events. For team competition (Men's & Women's), a team shall consist of a minimum of 2 players and up to a maximum of four players. There is no limit to the number of players a country can enter into the Individual Singles and Doubles in any category, Open, Overage or Junior.

Further information on the Championships are available in the flyer attached to this invitation and on the Racquetball Italia website and also the ERF website.

For technical information regarding the Championships and information on entry qualifications please contact the ERF Technical Director, Pascal Matla pascalmatla@quicknet.nl

Yours in Sport
Michael Haverty
General Secretary, ERF

Competitions

14th European Championships

Team – Men's Team, Women's Team
Individual – Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles

10th European Master Championships

Team - Men's Team, Women's Team
Individual – Men's 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+ Singles
Women's 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+ Singles
Men's 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+ Doubles
Women's 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+ Doubles

4th European Junior Championships

Individual – Boys 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under Singles
Girls 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under Singles
Boys 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under Doubles
Girls 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under Doubles



Venue

Brembate, Italy, nearest airport Bergamo

Club

Centro Sportivo Comunale
Via Oratorio, 20
24041 Brembate(Bergamo)
Italy

Club Information

2 Regulation Courts both with glass back walls, Gymnasium

Other Sports –tennis, soccer, basketball, handball

Accommodation

JOLLY HOTEL BERGAMO
Via Paleocapa 1/g
24122 Bergamo, Italy
Tel: +39 0352271811
Fax: +39 0352271812
E-mail: bergamo@jollyhotels.com

Transport

Collection to and from Bergamo Airport. Shuttle from approved hotel to the club

Hospitality

Daily meal at the club, barbeque

Opening Ceremony

Saturday 28th July at 1830

Entry Fees

Adult: 55 Euros
Junior: 35 Euros
(Entry fees include €5 levy towards the development of European Junior racquetball)

Entries

Entries to Pascal Matla
pascalmatla@quicknet.nl
Entry deadline for the team competition will be **July 1st, 2007**.
Entry deadline for the seniors and juniors Championships will be **July 15th, 2007**.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN EUROPE: A BRIEF OVERVIEW BY ERIK MEYER

Almost 7 years ago some 'pressure' started to build up from within the IRF to hold the World Championships of Racquetball in Europe. Not an easy task at that time because one of the requirements to host a WC was a minimum of 8 courts.

The only place that ever held a WC in Europe was Hamburg in 1988, but Jenfeld doesn't have the necessary number of courts anymore. The only possible place where we could things make happen was Paris.

City Form in Nanterre has 5 courts. Paris is of course the perfect location to host a WC. The format was adapted so that a championship could be played on 5 courts instead of 8.

Plans were made up to host the WC2002 in Paris.

Philippe Lecomte, French player #1 at that time, was the right person to work with. We had meetings with the club owners and pieces started to fall into place. The announcement became official: Paris was going to be the host city for WC2002. Everybody around the world was very enthusiastic.

A small LOC was formed and things were moving in the right direction until out of the blue Philippe resigns for personal reasons and with him our major contact in Paris disappeared. The ERF decided that without a local contact it would be impossible to organise an event of this magnitude.

Thanks to the Puerto Rican RB federation the IRF could host another WC in San Juan

A couple years later questions started to arise again on why not giving it another try in Europe. The ERF felt that it was worth investigation again even without a

major contact in Paris. The club in Nanterre was contacted once again, they are after all the key to a successful start.

The first negotiations didn't go as foreseen but after digging in deeper we found the right contact to start working in a positive direction. Hotels in the neighborhood were successfully contacted and we seemed moving in the right direction.

Until we finally received the financial demands of the club. We knew that organising the WC in Nanterre was going to cost us an arm and a leg but in our worst nightmares we could never imagined that the rent of the club would have been 43% of our budget.

New negotiations failed over and over and with our back against the wall we decided that it would be improper to spend that much money in a club that is not racquetball minded and only in it for the money.

Paris not being an option anymore we were ready to throw in the towel once more. In an act of desperation we contacted the Irish RB Association. They have an almost new 3 court club in Kingscourt + 1 court at 100m away.

We told them that we need 5 courts. The Irish never gave it a second thought and were right from the start raging enthusiastic, and still are. They intend to build a 5th court within the existing facility.

The IRF approved of the change of venue and that's where we are right now.

A great club, a great hotel, a fantastic LOC, great Irish hospitality, everything to make it great Championships.

The WC2008, Kingscourt, Ireland is a reality and it will be the "best ever".



FACTS ABOUT THE IRF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- 35 countries expected
- appr. 200 players
- Team and Individual competition
- One day off for sightseeing and relaxing
- Have been held thirteen times so far with venues around the world
- Ireland is the second time only that the Worlds will be held in Europe
- The Worlds always left a legacy in the host countries

VENUE

Sport Department
 Barsbuetteler Strasse 43
 22043 Hamburg, Germany
 Tel: +49 40 6530065
 Fax: +49 40 6522626
 www.sport-department.de

MEMBERSHIP

Players must present proof of current membership with their respective National Association.

OFFICIAL HOTEL:

Ibis Hotel Hamburg-Wandsbek
 Pappelallee 61
 22089 Hamburg, GERMANY
 Tel: + 49 (0) 40 65 80 20
 Fax: + 49 (0) 40 65 26 603
 E-Mail: H3282-AM@accor.com
 Mention "Racquetball"



ENTRY FEE AND DEADLINE

Entries: \$70 for one event; \$100 for two events (limit of two events each); Individual guest packages \$35 (includes banquet).

AWARDS

The top 4 finishers in each age group receive Olympic-style medals. Other special awards.

Deadline: Registration forms and fees must be RECEIVED by **May 28, 2007**. Late entries that are accepted will be assessed a \$15 charge. All entries are final.

CHECK WWW.WORLDSENIORDOUBLES.RACQUETBALL.DE

European Tournament Calendar 2007

2007				
12-14 Jan	French Open	Paris	France	Jean Pierre Boudart
02-04 Feb	German Nationals	Hamburg	Germany	Jörg Ludwig
10-11 Feb	Moylagh Open	Moylagh	Ireland	Paddy Traynor
- Feb	UK Open	Rendlesham	England	Alan Aburrow Newman
24-25 Feb	National Dbls & Overage C'ships	Arklow	Ireland	Pat Keane
16 - 18 Mar	Dutch Open	Schinnen	Netherlands	Erik Timmermans
03 - 04 Mar	2nd Italian Open	Brembate	Italy	Marco Arnoldi
10-11 Mar	National Sgls & Even Junior C'ships	Kingscourt	Ireland	Pat Keane
23-25 Mar	Turkey Open	Istanbul	Turkey	Ayten Kecici
30 Mar-1 Apr	German Open	Hamburg	Germany	Jörg Ludwig
24-25 Mar	Munster Open	Munster	Ireland	Triston Hickey
13-15 Apr	Castlebar Open	Castlebar	Ireland	Michael Haverty
21-22 Apr	8th Irish Junior Open	Fermoy	Ireland	Liam Hughes
4-7 May	Irish Open	Arklow	Ireland	Vanessa Barnes
18-20 May	Antwerp Open	Antwerp	Belgium	Niklaas Deboutte
19-20 May	Kilkenny Open	Kilkenny	Ireland	John Comerford
06-09 June	2nd IRF World Senior Doubles	Hamburg	Germany	Gary Mazaroff
29 Jul- 4 Aug	14th ERF European Championships	Brembate	Italy	Pascal Matla