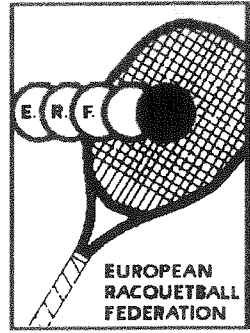
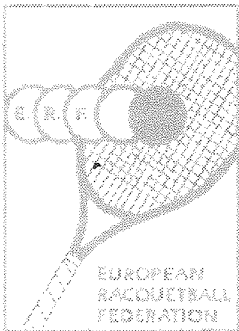
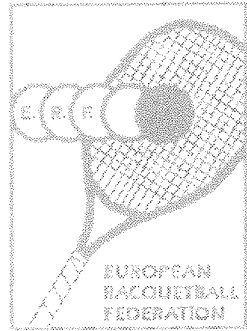
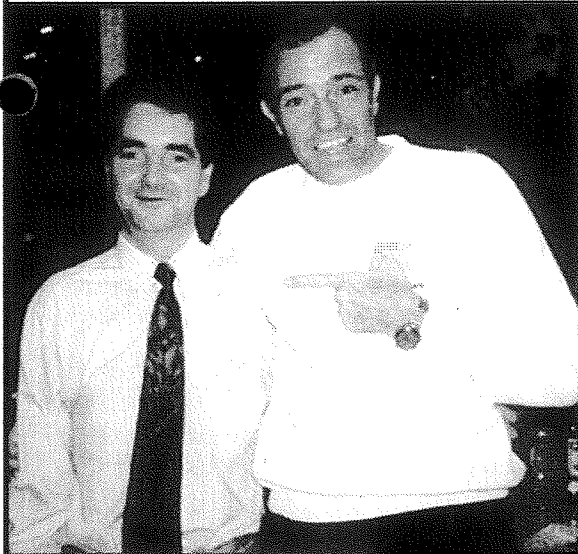


RACQUETBALL EUROPE



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This issue:

- ★ World Games
- ★ The IRF and You
- ★ European News/Results
- ★ European Masters Report

Racquetball Europe is a publication of the E.R.F. All views expressed in *Racquetball Europe* are those of the Editorial Staff and not necessary those of the ERF or its Executive.

Articles, photographs and advertisements are most welcome and will be considered for inclusion.

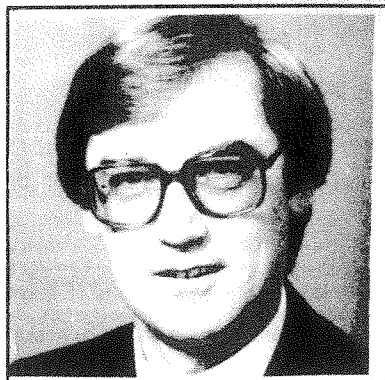
The next issue Vol. 1 No. 8 will cover April/July 1993 and deadline for submissions is July 1st, 1993.

NEXT ISSUE:

- ★ San Louis Potosi (Mexico) venue for 1994 World Championships
- ★ Coaching
- ★ European results/news
- ★ World Games results
- ★ European Championship results from Hamburg

Editorial

OVER the next few months the European Championships and World Games racquetball competitions will be held ensuring further publicity and profile for our sport. It is important that all Federations support and commit themselves to these showcases for racquetball with maximum effect.



Mr. Philip Duignan (Editor)

Tied to the European Championship will be the European Congress and to me this is possibly the most important Congress held under the wing of the ERF since we started.

Racquetball in Europe is going through a difficult time at present. While the work to date at all levels has been excellent. The time has however arrived to start to build further on these achievements.

Direction must be established for promotion, expansion, growth of participants and the agreement of a European Racquetball Development programme.

We can only do this by sitting down and working on such plans. When all the countries are together with the ERF Exco.

I would like to thank that this opportunity will not be missed and the Congress in Hamburg will be remembered as one of the significant steps forward for racquetball in Europe and its promotion and expansion.

— *Editor*

EUROPEAN NEWS

FRANCE

OPEN TOUR EIFFEL — PARIS — JAN.

The French International Open "Tour Eiffel 1993" received a huge boost when the world's leading professional player Cliff Swain took part. The obvious attraction of watching a leading Pro compete brought many visitors and supporters of the sport to watch the final days play.

It was fitting that he played Trevor Hayter (Germany) — one of Europe's best in the final. The final was a great display of racquetball with Swain winning 15-1, 15-5.

The semi-finalists in the Mens Open were Mathias Drieschner (Germany) and French champion Phillipe Lecomte.

The tournament was organised by Objectif Racquetball and attracted over 70 entries from Holland, Belgium, US, France, Sweden and Germany.

RESULTS: Mens Open: Swain (USA), Hayter (GER), Lecomte (FR), Drieschner (GER). **Womens Open:** Kunos (SWE), Dewever (BEL), Vercammen (BEL), Dewever (BEL). **Mens B/C:** Gomez (US), Malenfant (FR), Roche (IRL), Groleau (FR). **Mens D:** Chambrelent (FR), Boon (BEL), Benoit (FR), Courtios (FR).

GERMANY

A NEW Federation has been established in Germany. The Executive members are Wolfram Heese (president), Jurgen Denk (vice-president), Olaf Balzuweit (secretary), Bjorn Jensen (treasurer), Antonio Bebia (technical commissioner).

The contact addresses and phone numbers for the new German Federation are: **Wolfram Heese (president), Walter Schmedemann Str 12, 2000 Hamburg 62, Germany. Tel.: 040-5278200. Fax: 040-35982175 and Olaf Balzuweit (secretary), Birckholtzweg 17, 2000 Hamburg 72. Tel.; 040-6440250.**
GERMAN OPEN, HAMBURG Feb 19/21

The 12th German Open was held in Hamburg on February 19/21. Sixty participants had a big party, especially our guests from the US Forces, Holland and Switzerland. The German Racquetball Federation regrets that we couldn't change the

date to give the racquetballers with disabilities the opportunity to participate. In all seven categories were played.

Results: Juniors: 1, P Rakowski; 2, R Lysakowski; 3, S Frank; 4, S Wuthrich (SWISS). Seniors: 1, G Summers Jnr; 2, C Brown, US; 3, J Kailipaka, US; 4, K. Matla (HOL). Mens C: 1, J Lysakowski; 2, P Hutter (SWISS); 3, A Walder (SWISS).

HOLLAND

The European Secretary is still very involved with the European Federation while also spending more time with his family. Racquetball in Holland or indeed Europe would not be where it is today without idealists such as Rene, who is available to us all on such a constant basis.

Mirjam Wielheesen has been recognised by the AARA for her results (best ranking top 4 in the USA and semis in the US Nationals) and more than 15 years of racquetball. She is now the first non American female player voted into AARA's Racquetball Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. Congratulations to Mirjam from *Racquetball Europe* and ERF. We are all very proud of you.

The local organising committee for the World Games in July are Rene Hehemann, Wim Vink and Karel Matla.

DUTCH NATIONALS ZOETERMEER February 27/28 HOLLAND

The 15th Dutch Nationals were held in Zoetermeer recently. In the Mens Open event, Richard van Doezum tore his knee ligaments on matchpoing. Most regrettable for the best man in the event. In the women's open, Angelique Baart de la Faille showed the most progress over the last months. As expected, Hans van Veen was the best golden oldie!

Results: Mens Open: Final: Richard van Doezum - Michiel van der Holst 15-9, 14-11. 3, Jeroen van der Holst; 4, Jeroen Vink, 15-5, 15-4. Womens Open: Philomine van Pelt - Angelique Baart de la Faille 15-9, 15-8. Mens 30+: Han van Veen - Rene Hehemann 15-13, 15-7. 3 & 4: Karel Matla - Paul Somers 15-10, 13-15, 11-2. Mens Doubles: Vink/van Doezum - P. Matla/M van der Holst 15-11, 15-8. 3 & 4: K Matla/Radder - Hehemann/de Jong 15-14, 9-15, 11-4.

BELGIUM

BELGIAN OPEN ANTWERP

February 13/14

FORTY TWO people entered the Belgian Open held in Antwerp on February 13 and 14. Thirty eight players showed up, but only two female players who played in the Mens C.

The Mens Open had some tough European competitors from France, Germany and Belgium. Those who reached the semis were: Matthias Drieschner and Antonio Bebia from Germany and Philippe Lecompte (France) and Erland Schonberger (Belgium). Drieschner won easily from Bebia and unfortunately Lecompte received an injury thus giving Schonberger a straight path to the final. In the final he defeated Drieschner 15-11, 15-8.

The Mens B was won by Craig Marvin, who played a terrific final against his fellow American Willie Session. The score was 8-15, 15-10, 11-7. Consolation winner was Johan Van Harte (Holland).

The Mens C was won by Bjorn Jensen from Germany who defeated Koen Geelen from Belgium 15-9, 15-3. Consolation was won by Sonny Kunnos (France).

Marijke Hillen, new treasurer of the ERF confirmed that the ERF account has been moved to Belgium. All European fees (100 US dollars) should be paid to the Kredietbank, Leuven to ERF Account Number 431-062 1919-22.

IRELAND

NATIONAL OVERAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Mens 35+ 1, M Mulhall; 2, S Watters. SF: M Murphy, G Redmond. Mens 40+ 1, P Duignan; 2, J Comerford. SF: M Murphy, M Walsh. Mens 45+ 1, P Duignan, 2, M Walsh. SF: J Comerford, M Walsh.

ULSTER RACQUETBALL LEAGUE:

Queens RC, Belfast, are Ulster League champions for the third time in four years. Last year they lost the last game of the season and the title went to Newry by a single point. This year they finished with a two point margin over Beechmount. This is a tremendous achievement and a great credit to the club which set the standard for all the others to follow. This had looked like being Beechmount's year and they seemed unbeatable with just two matches to go. Six points clear they slumped 7/1 to Queens in their penultimate match, allowing Queens to draw level. Queens whitewashed Cookstown in

their final match to take the title.

ULSTER OPEN: Mens Open: N O'Callaghan bt A Butler 2-1. Mens D: D McCaul bt M Crudden 2-1. Mens Novice: Des McLoughlin bt R Donnelly 2-1.

MUNSTER OPEN

Fermoy

Mens Open: A Butler bt N O'Callaghan 2-0. Womens Open: B Brennan bt M Duignan 2-1. Mens C: T Joyce bt B Walsh 2-0. Womens C/D: C Morrissey bt J McGrath 2-0. Mens D: P Price bt C Powell 2-1. Womens Novice: B Geary bt L Moloney 2-0. Mens Novice: P Price bt S O'Hagen 2-0. Mens 35+: M Mulhall bt P Duignan. Mens Open Dls: O'Callaghan/Slattery bt Butler/Duignan 2-0. Mens C/D Dls: M Walsh/S Connolly bt P Loy/T Joyce 2-1. Womens C/D Dls: J McGrath/L Hallahan bt V Spencer/A Ahern 2-1.

NATIONAL UNDERAGE C'SHIPS Fermoy

Boys u-14: J Norris bt P Hanley 2-0. Girls u-14: E O'Donnell. Boys u-16: A McNamara bt K McGrath 2-1. Girls u-16: C O'Donoghue bt K Grumbridge 2-1. Boys u-18: A O'Brien bt C Shanahan 2-0. Girls u-18: A Kennedy.

KILKENNY OPEN

Kilkenny

Mens Open: N O'Callaghan bt A Butler 2-1. Womens Open: M Duignan bt B Brennan 2-0. Mens B/C: T Geelan bt T Walsh 2-0. Womens B/C: O Heffernan bt C Morrissey 2-0. Mens D: T Joyce bt M Fogarty 2-0. Womens D: C Comerford bt L Donovan 2-1. Mens Novice: P Roche bt R Sheridan 2-1. Mens 40+: P Duignan bt M Barnes 2-1. Mens Open Dls: N O'Callaghan/C Slattery bt T Walsh/J Comerford 2-1. Womens Open Dls: M Duignan/B Farrell bt P O'Brien/M Kavanagh. Mens C/D Dls: S Connolly/M Walsh bt M Barnes/D Brennan. Womens C/D Dls: C Comerford/L Donovan bt P O'Brien/B Finnerty.

NATIONAL WOMENS C'SHIPS Arklow

Open: B Brennan bt M Duignan 2-0. B: O Heffernan bt P O'Brien 2-1. C: M Kavanagh bt R Redmond 2-0. Novice: E Fitzgerald bt M Mordaunt 2-1.

LEINSTER OPEN

Dublin

January

Ireland

Mens Open: N O'Callaghan bt J Gannon 2-1. Womens Open: M Duignan bt B Farrell 2-1. Mens B/C: S Hallissey bt T Geelan 2-0. Womens B/C: M Kavanagh bt A M Grumbridge 2-1. Mens D: P Traynor bt R Sheridan 2-1. Womens D: K Grumbridge bt P O'Brien 2-0. Mens Novice: H McShane bt P Hand 2-1. Womens Novice: I O'Regan bt L Kavanagh 2-0. Mens 35+ S Waters bt B Walsh 2-1. Mens Open Dls: N O'Callaghan/C Slattery bt J

Gannon/M Rowlands 2-0. Womens C/D Dls: K Grumbridge/I O'Regan bt L Kavanagh/M Torney 2-0. Mens C/D Dls: G Redmond/V Fitzgerald bt M Barnes/G Barnes 2-1.

UNIVERSITY C'SHIPS Galway
Feb 12/14 Ireland

Galway University made a clean sweep of all the team events at the 3rd Annual University Championships in Galway. They captured the Mens, Womens and Combined team events ahead of Maynooth, Queens, and UCD. The individual awards went to UCG and Maynooth with Irish international Jenny Lynch taking the womens title for the second year. Results: (Mens) Open: B Connolly; B: S Harney; C: D Hickey; D: E MacGiollacoda; E: C O'Brien. (Womens) Open: J Lynch; B: B O'Sullivan; C: N O'Hara; D: E Custy; E: A Bradley.

12th TRALEE INTERNATIONAL (Irish Open)
February 19, 20 & 21 Ireland

TRALEE once again proved to be THE players tournament with over 80 players taking part. Noel O'Callaghan (Irish no 1 seed) and the tournament favourite excelled in his final match against national squad member Anthony Butler from Arklow.

In his semi-final, O'Callaghan met Shailesh Tatal of New Jersey and with the scores tied at 1-1 he made a remarkable recovery in the tie-breaker. Trailing the 22-year-old American star by 6-2, O'Callaghan won many admirers by his wonderful composure as he stormed his way back to tie the match at 6-6 and went on to take the game 11-7. The other semi-final between Anthony Butler and John Talty Jnr from Chicago also went to a tiebreak. Butler's overall fitness and stamina saw him earn his ticket to his second Irish Open final.

Lady luck was again to desert Butler as O'Callaghan took the title on a score of 15-14, 15-6.

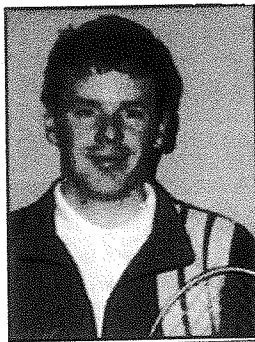
The Women's Open saw Bobbie Brennan, European no. 1 seed and last year's champion defend her title against Marie Duignan, the Irish no 1. Both players looked evenly matched, but Brennan's power upset her more experienced opponent as she took the title 15-8, 15-5. She has now joined an elite band of players to have won three titles in a row.

For the first time ever in Europe wheelchair racquetball was featured in the 12 strong competitions of the International. David Hinton of Racquetball Canada brought Mark Cormack and Terry Pratt who gave two great exhibitions of racquetball. The second exhibition on final day had over 150 spectators

enthralled as the Canadians showed their skills.

The tournament banquet on Saturday night was a great success with over 140 people enjoying the function. Tournament directors Tommy King and Bertie O'Connor and the organising committee of Tralee Racquetball Club must be complimented on staging this wonderful show of racquetball and hospitality over the weekend. Keep up the good work folks!

RESULTS: Mens Open semi-final: N O'Callaghan (IRL) bt S R Tatal (USA) 2-1; A Butler (IRL) bt J Talty Jnr (USA) 2-1. Final: O'Callaghan bt Butler 2-0. Ladies Open semi-final: B. Brennan (IRL) bt B Farrell (IRL) 2-1; M Duignan (IRL) bt W Hackett (GB) 2-1. Final: Brennan bt Duignan 2-0. Mens Doubles N O'Callaghan/C Slattery bt P Duignan/A Butler 2-0. T. Mens C/D: V Fitzgerald bt B Murphy 2-0. Mens C/D Dls: K Foster (USA)/M Barnes bt V Fitzgerald/G Redmond 2-1. Mens 0-35: J. Donovan (Tralee) bt D Hinton (Canada) 2-0. Mens 0-45: K. Foster (USA) bt J. Talty Snr (USA) 2-1. Womens Open Dls: M Duignan/B Farrell bt W Hackett/K Walker (GB) 2-0. Womens 0-35: K Walker (GB) bt B Redmond 2-1. Womens C/D: K Grumbridge bt B Geary 2-0. Womens C/D Dls: P O'Brien/B Finnerty bt K O'Regan/I O'Brien 2-0.



Irish team captain Christy Slattery was one of two sports star awards received by racquetball players for their achievements in 1992. Christy represented Ireland at the Floriade International and the World Championships in Montreal. He won a silver medal in mens

doubles. He is presently ranked no 4 and successfully partnered Noel O'Callaghan to victory in the Kilkenny Open, Munster Open, Leinster Open and Tralee International doubles events.

The second sports star award was won by Orla Heffernan (Ballina) who is considered to be one of the brightest stars of Irish racquetball. Orla was recognised not only for her two singles wins in Tralee '91 but also on her achievement in winning the 1992 National B championship and her success in the 1992 Kilkenny Open.

European Report

by Jurgen Denk, President, ERF

WITH the departure of our military friends a new situation in Europe arises and marks a time for us to join together. I think I speak for all European players when I express sadness in seeing so many of our American friends leave and with them all the help we had in racquetball. Since the European tournaments will now be less frequented, we must make every effort to support one another, especially in countries where racquetball has not reached a higher level yet.

However, we are at a stage where our top players can and must pick up the task of teaching junior players everything they know about the game. The past World Championships proved that we have such capable players.

The junior work is progressing nicely in Ireland and I'm also pleased to hear that in Holland, Daphnee Waneé alone is providing lessons for some 30 children. Marijke Hillen also works with youngsters in Belgium and hopefully Eric Meyer is receiving more help in recruiting young players in racquetball.

We hope to see continued junior support from the German Federation under the new leadership of Wofram Heese. The new and young German group has established itself as strong leaders and players and I myself feel honoured to be German Federation Vice-President.

We must also support the endeavours of the French, as they have been working extremely hard for the sport, as proven by the Masters being held in Strasbourg. Very constructive and positive feedback resulted from the Masters and a special thanks is owed to all the organisers and planners who made the tournament a reality.

The decision by Phil Duignan to buy different trophies was made in good judgement and enhanced the tournament. However, I agree with Marijke Hillen that in future budgets must be dictated by entry fees or funds donated by sponsors. This will free the European Federation to use some of its funds to support those tournaments where racquetball is still weak. We all know that Ireland, Holland, Germany, Belgium and France can find sponsors, while it might be more difficult for other nations. These are the nations we must support to continue to make racquetball international.

On the same note, everyone must understand that racquetball is playing a large part in the July 22-31 World Games. All competitors will have free accommodation and meals. Individuals will be nominated by the European and National Federation. Phil mentions the participation quota in his article on the World Games.

The European Championships to be held in Hamburg is a great opportunity for the German Association to show its sense of leadership. There is no doubt that Wolfram Heese and his crew will do an excellent job with the tournament, as they have proven in the past. Co-operation with early entries will help to ensure smooth planning.

Congress in Hamburg will hopefully be constructive and lead to stronger and firmer direction for the 90s. Meanwhile, let's all have a great 1993 in trying to promote racquetball to the best of our abilities.

EUROPEAN MASTERS

November

Strasbourg, France

THE fourth European Masters was held in Strasbourg from November 2 to 9. The tournament attracted teams from Germany, Ireland, France, Holland and Switzerland.

The Mens team event saw Ireland and Germany again meet in the final match to decide the team event. After a very tough finish, Ireland emerged as winners on a 3 games to 1 scoreline and retain the title won in 1990. France placed 3rd for bronze position while Switzerland and Holland tied for 4th place.

In the Womens event only two teams attended — Germany and Ireland. On this occasion Ireland emerged as victors after both teams played twice and counted back on games won.

The individual and doubles events which were played on the final two days saw new champions in all categories with two great final games in the Mens Over-30 and Over-40 singles competitions.

In the Mens Over-30, France captured their first singles title since 1988 as Pierre Sibera beat Hans Van Veen 11-9 in the tiebreak game.

In the Masters event, newcomer to the Irish team Gerry Redmond was pushed all the way by Wolfram Heese before emerging winner on a 2-1 scoreline.

The event was a great social occasion thanks to the excellent preparation and work of Pascal Muller who acted on behalf of the French Federation as co-ordinator and event director. The facilities of the Hotel le Forum were excellent and the various trips, discos, banquet kept everybody busy.

RESULTS:

Mens Team: 1, Ireland, 13 pts; 2, Germany, 10 pts; 3, France 9 pts; 4, Switzerland 4 pts; 5, Holland, 4 points.

Womens Team: 1, Ireland 4 pts; 2, Germany 4 pts. Ireland won games counted back.

Combined Results: 1, Ireland; 2, Germany.

Individual Women 30+: 1, R. Hoenig, Germany; 2, B. Redmond, Ireland; 3, E. Murphy, Ireland; 4, C. Carstens, Germany.

Individual Men 30+: 1, P. Sibera, France; 2, H Van Veen, Holland; 3, J. McGarvey, Ireland; 4, B. Sallour, France. Cons.: P. Hutter, Switzerland.

Men 35+ 1, P. Duignan, Ireland; 2, W. Wentzel, Germany; 3, S. Waters, Ireland; 4, R. Christ, Germany.

Men 40+: 1, G. Redmond, Ireland; 2, W. Hesse, Germany; 3, M. Murphy, Ireland; 4, M. Barnes, Ireland. Cons.: U. Morach, Switzerland.

Mens Doubles: 1, McGarvey/Waters, Ireland; 2, Murphy/Duignan, Ireland; 3, Van Veen/Matla, Holland; 4, Rieger/Christ, Germany.

1993 European Championships

THE venue for 1993 is Hamburg, Germany. The event will be held in Racquetball Jenfeld — an 11 court facility.

The schedule is as follows: Wednesday, May 26, European Congress, starting at 7.30 to be followed by team managers meeting. Play will commence on Thursday 27th and conclude with finals and closing ceremony on Monday, May 31st. There will be a banquet on Saturday, May 29th.

Participating countries must confirm entry in writing, including the number of players before May 1. Entries should be directed to: Rene Hehemann, General Secretary ERF

and a copy sent to Wolfram Hesse, President German Federation at Walter Schmedemann Str 12, 2000 Hamburg 62, Germany. Fax 49-40-35982 175.

It should be noted that countries intending to take part must have paid their 1993 membership fees before the closing date for entries (May 1, 1993).

There is an entry fee of \$25 per player and team coach to cover meals and T-shirts.

The German Federation have advised all countries taking part to book their accommodation early as the championships will be held on a holiday weekend.

WHEELCHAIR RACQUETBALL 1992 PARALYMPICS (BARCELONA)

THE BITTERSWEET DREAM

by Dave Hinton

HOW is it that a sport receiving recognition and inclusion within the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sport Federation and the International Racquetball Federation only two years earlier could consider their participation at the Barcelona Paralympics in any way a bittersweet experience? To be part of the Paralympics but not fully involved was truly driven home during the opening ceremonies. To be in Barcelona, have accreditation but not involved in the opening parade or even able to obtain tickets to watch dramatically pointed out how much further we still have to travel to reach our goal.

The Spanish Racquetball Federation did us proud with the arrangement of facilities and pre-event promotion. The Club de Naticio Barcelona was ideally situated just one kilometre down the beach from the Olympic village. The members of this private exclusive club, took to the event and the athletes with unbelievable vigour. Autograph and photo sessions were the order of the day; every day, prior to the competition. The proximity to the Village coupled with promotion offered through the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation guaranteed a steady flow of athletes, officials, administrators and media to the facility each day.

All of this are important reasons for being in Barcelona but another not the least of which was the actual competition. With five athletes in attendance representing three countries a round robin format was setup to best display the diverse talents of the athletes as well as the explosiveness and excitement of the sport. Throughout the eight days of competition the final two matches decided all the medal winners. The bronze medal game featured Gary Baker of Indianapolis, Indiana (USA) defeating Ken Michaylenko of Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada). Recently crowned world champion, Chip Parmelly of Diamond Bar, California (USA) carried on his winning ways with an exciting gold medal victory over Jake Smellie of Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada). Although placing fifth Mark Jenkinson of Great Britain still provided stiff competition.

Through all of these efforts, the athletes and administrators stressed the fact that this year we were here as an unofficial event but see this as serving notice that we want to be a fully accepted sport in the future. And more than just a demonstration event. In fact, we want to be part of both the Opening and Closing ceremonies in 1996.



Chip Parmelly (left) smashes an overhead shot while Mark Jenkinson anticipates where it will be going.

The I.R.F. and You

Racquetball Europe talks to Luke St Onge

ONE of the most often asked questions and one of the most misunderstood areas of sport is "What is the International Federation and why do we need it?" Without the International Federation and the World Championships in each sport, no real growth and development can happen.

The International Racquetball Federation is organized with the purpose of governing the sport worldwide by standardising the rules, court specifications, national and international competitions, and communicating the advantages and benefits of the sport on a worldwide basis.

The sport of racquetball is in competition with over 160 sports worldwide for athletes, media, space, sponsorship, TV, print media, and many other areas of promotion. Unless racquetball becomes part of the International sports family, it can not compete with the other 159 sports on an even basis. The World Championships are a culmination of all efforts in this area where the world's best from each country come together to compete and organise these areas on a worldwide basis.

The IRF has recognised this need since its inception in 1979 when 13 countries came together to form the International Amateur Racquetball Federation. The word amateur was dropped in 1988 to more realistically represent the development of the sport worldwide to include all areas not just amateur athletes.

The IRF is a full member of the General Association of International Sports Federations. GAISF is a unique world body dedicated to the promotion of all member sports to all citizens of the world to increase their mental and physical well-being. The IRF is also a full member of World Games which is the only international multi sport competition for non-Olympic sports held every four years.

Probably more important to a sport than any other single thing is belonging to the Olympic family. Being part of the Olympic family not only fulfills all of the previous mentioned goals but allows the Olympic ideals and identify to become an integral part of the sport. Olympic recognition brings instant success to a sport. In order to become an Olympic sport some basic organisational structure must be achieved.

(a) There must be only one World Federation for the sport. The IRF is the only world federation for racquetball.

(b) Its constitution and by-laws must be approved by the IOC. The IRF document are so approved.

(c) The IRF may only recognise one racquetball federation in each country.

(d) The World Federation must have continent and sub-continent federations that govern different parts of the world in the absence of the IRF.

The IRF has the following continent and sub-continent groups

CONTINENT

(a) European Racquetball Federation

(b) Asian Racquetball Federation

(c) Pan American Racquetball Federation

SUB-CONTINENT GROUPS

(a) South American Confederation

(b) Central American Confederation

(c) Central American Caribbean Confederation

Each of these sub IRF federations are responsible for holding regional games, introducing racquetball to the Olympic committee of each member country, lobbying racquetball into the IOC Continental Games such as the Mediterranean Games, Asian Games, Pan American Games, South American Games, Pac Rim Games, Central American Games, and Central American Caribbean Games.

The IRF must be extremely well organised to govern the sport on a worldwide basis. Currently there are 85 countries on five continents that are members of the IRF. The IRF has two levels of membership:

(a) Provisional: in which racquetball is in its infancy and is heading towards holding sanctioned competitions.

(b) Full Membership: has constitution bylaws, holds national championships and is the recognised national governing body of racquetball in that country.

The IRF is governed by a duly elected executive committee with all actions by the executive committee approved by the full members at the World Congress, held every two years. Currently, the executive committee is made up of the following:

President: Han van der Heijden, Holland.
 Executive Vice-Presidnet: Rodolfo Echeverria,
 Costa Rica
 Secretary General/Treasurer: Keith Calkins,
 USA
 North American Commissioner: Benoit
 Turcotte, Canada
 Central American Commissioner: Enrique
 Villagran, Mexico
 South American Commissioner: Jose Virreira,
 Bolivia
 European Commissioner: Jurgen Denk,
 Germany
 Asia Commissioner: Ken Ishiguro, Japan

The IRF is financed by IRF dues, estimated
 at \$3000 per year and a \$8000 grant from the
 IOC. All other expenses are covered by
 donations from by individuals and member
 federations. Total donations exceed \$100,000
 per year, and all staff are volunteers and
 receive no monetary compensation.

The IRF has various committees outside of
 the executive committee to help manage the
 association. Current active committees are:

- (a) Rules Committee
- (b) Junior Committee
- (c) Doping Committee
- (d) World Championships Committee 1994

There are also many other committees
 which have not been activated yet but will
 become active as the IRF continues to grow.

Day to day activities of the IRF are handled
 by the appointed Executive Director — Luke
 St Onge.

CANADA

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS TOURNAMENT

LAST year the first International Masters
 Tournament was held in Phoenix, Arizona.
 Teams from US, Japan, Canada and Guam took
 part. This year according to organiser Alan
 Adirim they expect teams from Venezuela,
 Argentina and other South American
 countries.

The intention is to encourage European
 countries to attend also this year.

The tournament will be held in Vancouver,
 BC, Canada from June 24 to 28. The age
 groups are: 45/49, 50/54, 55/59, 60/64, 65/69
 and so on. Scoring for the event is weighted to
 allow countries with fewer players an
 opportunity to achieve medals.

Information is sketchy at this time and more
 detailed information can be obtained by
 contacting Alan Adirim in Canada at Fax no
 604-273-1005.

LONGINES-WITTNAUER COACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

GARY NESS, Racquetball Canada's National
 Team Coach was one of 24 national coaches
 recognised by the Coaching Association of
 Canada with the prestigious
 Longines-Wittnauer Coaching Excellence
 Awards. The awards were made at its seventh
 annual coaching awards dinner held in Ottawa
 recently.

For coach Garry Ness it was his second
 Longines-Wittnauer Award, having been
 recognised also in 1990 following Heather
 Stupp's women's single gold medal and the
 team's silver medal performance
 in Venezuela.

RACQUETBALL CANADA RANKINGS

MENS SINGLES

- 1 GREENFELD, Sherman
- 2 ROY, Simon
- 3 HARRIPERSAD, Roger
- 4 CERESIA, Mike
- 5 JONES, Haydn
- 6 MCQUARRIE, Doug
- 7 HARVEY, Ross
- 8 MERCIER, Martin
- 9 PRATT, Robert
- 10 DEMERS. Jacques

WHEELCHAIR

- 1 MCARTHUR, Earl
- 2 SMELLIE, Jake
- 3 MICHAYLENKO Ken
- 4 CORMACK, Mark
- 5 NEUFELD, Stan
- 6 BREEN, Jon
- 7 WHERRETT, Mark
- 8 HERON, Scott
- 9 TEICHRIB, Gerald
- 10 PRATT Terry

WOMENS SINGLES

- 1 STUPP, Heather
- 2 MCFETRIDGE, Carol
- 3 MACTAGGART, Sue
- 4 GRANDMAITRE, Josée
- 5 SHANKS(BROWN), Vicki
- 6 ELLERINGTON, Linda
- 7 WARD, Debbie
- 8 NICHOLS, Catherine
- 9 JOHNSTONE, Lori
- 10 VERILLI, Nadia

NEW EUROPEAN RANKING LIST

DURING this season, the ERF will start composing an experimental European Ranking, based on the results of the various tournaments that are listed on the ERF calendar (and all additional tournaments, provided that they are open to ALL players ie, no national events, US military tournaments etc.).

Initially we will try to establish a satisfying system to compose this ranking before starting a definite version. To start with, points will be attributed as stated below:

★ Brackets of 32 players: 1/4 fin: 1pt; 1/2 fin: 7pts; runner-up: 15pts; winner: 20pts; winner cons: 3pts.

★ Brackets of 16 players: 1/2 fin: 2pts; runner-up: 10pts; winner: 15pts; winner cons: 3pts.

The events for which a ranking will be composed are: Mens Open, B, C/D, 35+; Womens Open/B, 35+; Doubles Open.

Included you will find a standard form to communicate the results of all the tournaments organised in your club, they will be included in the first try-out ranking that will appear in the next issue of *Racquetball Europe*. Please send in your results as soon as possible. Of course this is just a try — if you have any remarks, suggestions or questions, please contact me:

Angelique Baart de la Faille,
Nervilijn 67, 2728 BJ Zoetermeer,
The Netherlands.
Tel: 079-420048. Fax: 079-310418.

WORLD GAMES

THE 1993 World Games will be held in The Hague from July 22 until August 1. This is one of the largest sporting events of 1993 and is organised by the International World Games Association with the International Olympic Committee as patron.

While this is the 4th World Games since the inaugural event in Santa Clara in 1981, it is only the third time that racquetball has been included.

The winners in London in 1985 were Andy Roberts, US and Cindy Baxter, US. Europe was represented on that occasion by Arno Moyoman, Holland; Guy Masterman, Great Britain; Jurgen Denk, Germany; Tony Luykx, Holland; Brendan Doyle, Ireland; Jorg Hanold, Germany and John McDonald, Ireland.

Our Women representatives were Wendy Hackett, Great Britain; Marie Duignan, Ireland;

Dineke Kool, Holland; Marijke Hillen, Belgium; Ann Marie Whelan, Ireland; Sarah Hart, Great Britain; Mirjam Wielheesen, Holland and Hannelore Hildebrand, Germany.

On this occasion the European allotment will be made up as follows: MEN — Belgium 1, Ireland 1, Holland 2, Germany 2. WOMEN — Ireland 2, Belgium 1, Holland 2, Great Britain 1.

We wish them every success in the event. There will be 26 sports represented at the World Games and these include body building, bowling, archery, karate, netball, powerlifting, roller hockey, softball, taekwondo, triathlon, water skiing and volleyball.

The racquetball segment will be played from July 22 until Wednesday, July 28. Registration of competitors will take place on July 21. Countries are required to provide the names of their representatives to Rene Hehemann, European Secretary before May 1st.

US NATIONAL RANKING LIST

MEN'S OPEN

1. Chris Cole, MI
2. Doug Ganim, OH
3. Michael Bronfeld, CA
4. Tim Hansen, GA
5. John Ellis, CA
6. Tony Jekso, NM
7. Mike Guidry, TX
8. Dan Fowler, MD
9. Chris Marshall, NC
10. Jim Floyd, MI

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Malia Bailey, VA
2. Michelle Gould, ID
3. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
4. Kersten Hallander, FL
5. Kim Russell, GA
6. Diane Adams, CO
7. Corinna Banks, WA
8. Dot Fisch-Kelly, PA
9. Terry Latham, NM
10. Nadine Akimoto, NC

WHEELCHAIRS

1. Chip Parmely, CA
2. Gary Baker, IN
3. Steve Kuketz, MA
4. Les Gorsline, WI
5. Joe Hager, PA
6. Bob Nichol, MA
7. Joe Soares, FL
8. Doug Champa, MA
9. Raleigh Perry, FL
10. Tom Bosco, MA

COACHES CORNER:

PRE-MATCH COACHING

by *Jim Winterton, US Team Head Coach*

HAS this ever happened to you? The match begins. The nerves set in. The first eight or nine points it's like you are on another planet. You may not have warmed up correctly. A good coach could help prevent this.

In the heat of battle many situations will occur that the athlete maybe has not prepared for. The coach can prepare his athlete for those situations. The following is a seven step approach called the PREPARE method.

PUT A GAME PLAN IN THE MIND: The athlete and coach should have a game plan in mind that will work. This should include a back-up game plan as well. The second game plan should be used if the first one fails. This plan should be rehearsed mentally.

REALLY WARM UP WELL: A warm-up routine of light weightlifting, stretching, dressing in the sauna and a light jog, bike or stairmaster workout should get the athlete in a "full sweat" and ready to play.

EXECUTE: After the complete warm-up given above the athlete should be ready to go both physically and mentally.

PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARE: The athlete must use techniques to prepare themselves psychologically. The type A "hyperplayer" may have to listen to classical music to relax, while the mellow, laid back player may want to plug into the "headbanger ball" to gear up.

ANTICIPATE THE UNEXPECTED: The athlete should try to think of things that can go wrong and how to deal with them.

REHEARSE MENTALLY: The player must rehearse types of shots they are going to see and what is going to happen.

ERASE ALL NEGATIVITY FROM THE MIND: When preparing for competition mentally positive self truth should be employed. "I will not lose to this bozo" is definitely negative! "I will maintain my composure" is an example of a positive affirmation.

EKTELON: Oliver Gibney and Seamus Waters have combined to make Ektelon equipment available to players. They can supply racquets, gloves, grips, eyeguards, clothing and bags all through their Ektelon agency. Price lists and brochures are available. Contact numbers are: Oliver Gibney (049) 41826, 41302. Seamus Waters (049) 32726 and work (049) 31100.

Coaching in Ireland

THE drive towards improved standards and coaching development has continued over the past few months with further two day coaching sessions in Moylough (December) and at the Underage National Championships in Fermoy (November).

The plan to hold a short two hour discussion on coaching with a question and answer session were thrown into disarray when over 40 players and club officers turned up. The final result was a four hour session, too many questions and answers and a promise from National Coach Marie Duignan to develop a further day-long seminar for early in the year, principally to discuss player improvement at junior levels and build on the obvious enthusiasm in Fermoy for coach development.

A similar situation in Moylough in December. A full club turnout for a two day coaching clinic led by a revisit in January for a further one day workshop with 14 junior club members.

The results of the Moylough clubs successes in the Leinster Open and UCD novice events indicate that good coaching certainly helps.

The RAI are now actively working with the National Training and Coaching College on coaching development and coaching standards along with a programme for elite player development.

LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSE

Liam McCarney, Course Conductor, tells that eight coaches attended a Level 1 coaching course in Belfast on February 20 and 21, 1993. Following the format of the Canadian Certification Programme the course consists of three parts — Technical consisting of eight hours intensive coaching in coaching techniques over a weekend; a minimum of 25 hours practical coaching a minimum of 14 hours theory.

The group have now completed their technical and are currently keeping a log of their practical coaching. They will receive full certification as coaches when they complete the theory aspect of their work later this year.



BEHIND THE SCREENS

by Marie



WELL DONE:

Daphnee Wannee and Angelique Baart de la Faille spent the winter training in Colorado. Both worked hard on all aspects of their game with great success. Daphnee placed first in one Open tournament while Angelique placed third in another.



WEDDING BELLS:

Big day for Bobbi Brennan on June 25 when she walks down the aisle with new husband Pat. Wedding bells also in the Barnes house in Arklow on June 12 when daughter Corrine ties the knot.



TRIP

Jurgen Denk is planning a trip to the ancient Maya Cultural sites after the Worlds in Mexico 1994. Interested in sightseeing? Contact Senor Jurgen.



BABY BLISS:

Congratulations to Tony and Sheila Neary on the arrival of daughter Toni.

AIRWAVES:

We hear that John Mooney (pin swapper from Montreal) and Jurgen again organised a very successful fundraiser for the IRF's Olympic Dream (you modest people).

Anybody interested in charity fundraising on the Dublin to Belfast maracycle contact Pat Loy.

We hear stories of a Europe v Americas tournament in 1995. Venue: Colorado Springs. We'll keep you up to date on developments?

Finally, we wish Marty McCone a very speedy recovery from his accident. Congratulations to Sharon (Marty's wife) who is expecting again. Marty received his injuries in a car accident? Hmmmmm!!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rene Hehemann, General Secretary, ERF; Jim Winterton, US National Team Coach; Dave Hinton, Racquetball Canada; First Serve, Racquetball Canada; Pierre Groleau, Objectif Racquetball France; Michael Murphy, Racquetball Ireland; Racquetball Magazine, USA; Linda Mojer (Media Director) AARA; Luke St Onge, Executive Director IRF; Michel Houthuys, TNT Belgium; Erik Meyer, Belgian Racquetball Federation; Wolfram Heese, German Racquetball Federation; Jurgen Denk, President ERF; Angelique Baart de la Faille.

EUROPEAN RACQUETBALL CALENDAR 1992/93



DATES:	TOURNAMENTS	CITIES	COUNTRIES	CONTACT/PHONE:
05-08 MAR	3rd ANNUAL TOURNAMENT	SOESTERBERG	HOLLAND	Willy Waters 030-312582
19-21 MAR	15th DUTCH OPEN	ZOETERMEER	HOLLAND	Wim Vink 079-317586
27-28 MAR	CASTLEBAR OPEN	CASTLEBAR	IRELAND	Michael Havery
07-11 APR	2nd SOUTH-WEST OPEN	BIARRITZ	FRANCE	Philippe Lecomte 01-48200874
16-18 APR	2nd BRUSSELS OPEN	BRUSSELS	BELGIUM	02-3491411
24-25 APR	CAVAN OPEN	CAVAN	IRELAND	Seamus Watters
08-09 MAY	ARKLOW OPEN	ARKLOW	IRELAND	Michael Murphy 353-0402-39950
25-30 MAY	NEWRY OPEN	NEWRY	N. IRELAND	Martin McCone 0693-8397
27-31 MAY	7th EUROPEAN C'SHIPS	HAMBURG	GERMANY	ERF 079-413575
22-27 JULY	WORLD GAMES IV	THE HAGUE	HOLLAND	IRF 719-635-5396
1994				
18-20 FEB	13th TRALEE INTERNATIONAL (Irish Open)	TRALEE	IRELAND	Tommy King 353-66-25421
05-13 AUG	7th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	S.L. POTOSI	MEXICO	IRF 719-636-5396

Corrections/additions, contact RENE HEHEMANN. Dates for the season 1993-1994 are most welcome too!!

IRISH CALENDAR 1993

13-14 MAR	TAILTEANN GAMES (underage)
27-28 MAR	CASTLEBAR OPEN
9-11 APR	ALL-IRELANDS SINGLES/DOUBLES
24-25 APR	CAVAN OPEN
8- 9 MAY	ARKLOW OPEN
25-30 MAY	NEWRY OPEN



M. Murphy
M. Havery
M. Murphy
S. Waters
M. Murphy
M. McCone



Bobbie Brennan (European no 1) receiving the Tralee International Womens Open trophy from Paddy Downey (president, Tralee Racquetball Club). From left: Dermot Hanafin, Bertie O'Connor (tournament director), Marie Duignan (runner-up) and tournament director Tommy King.