

RACQUETBALL EUROPE

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This is the first issue of *Racquetball Europe*!!

Well actually, no, a newsletter under this name has been published 15 years ago already. Former ERF Vice President Philip Duignan took over the burden of a printed news coverage 4 times a year.

This new attempt will only be published online and shall keep interested people and players informed about what's going on in the greatest sport of all!! The next issue will be published once we have another 4 pages filled with European News. Could be sooner, could be later...

Enjoy!

RACQUETBALL EUROPE is a publication of the European Racquetball Federation. 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.

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)

Treasurer:
Mr. Karel Matla (Netherlands)

SITE FOR 2007 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS NAMED...

The European Racquetball Federation (ERF) has granted the 2007 European Championships to Italy. It is the first time that European Racquetball's premier competition will be held there.

The site for this event will be the Centro Sportivo in Brembate, a little village close to Milan and Bergamo. The date for the 'EURO 2007' has been provisionally set for July 28th – August 4th 2007.

After visiting Brembate last week, ERF Vice President Mike Mesecke stated: "Our decision to grant the Europeans to 'Racquetball Italia' will give our fine sport another boost in that country and will attract even more players to start playing racquetball and possibly see other courts built in Italy".



Possibly 70 players from 10 nations are expected to compete in Brembate next year. The EURO 2007 consists of three major competitions: With the Open Individual and National Team Competition for Men and Women and the Senior Competitions in various divisions (30-85 years) as well as the Junior Championships (12-18 years), the two courts in Brembate will be filled with many matches in just one week.

A free day right in the middle of action will make sure that all players and delegates enjoy the great Italian hospitality with trips to Bergamo, Milan or even Verona and Venice.



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RECENT RESULTS:

Hamburg Open 2006, Germany:

Mens Open Singles: Martin Klippel (GER) – Tristan Hickey (IRE) 15-4, 15-5

Ladies Open Singles: Yvonne Kortés (GER) – Julie Skehan (IRE) 15-5, 15-6

Mens Open Doubles: Trevor Meyer/Joachim Loof (GER) – Martin Klippel/Marcel Czempisz (GER) 15-9, 13-15, 11-6

Ladies Open Doubles: Julie Skehan/Ailish Gibney (IRE) – Renate Hartmann/Yvonne Kortés (GER) 15-9, 15-5

Mens A: Arne Schmitz (GER) – Peter de Jong (NED) 15-13, 15-11

Mens B: Colm O'Regan (IRE) – Christopher Carey (IRE) 15-11, 15-11

Mens C: Jan Jensen (GER) – Russel Henry (USA) 15-3, 15-7

Mens D: Sebastian Rakowski (POL) – Jan-Hendrick Schubach (GER)

Seniors 35+: Ralf Klinke (GER) – Torsten Krieger (GER) 8-15, 15-7, 11-7

Seniors 40+: Peter de Jong (NED) – Bernd Hartmann (GER) 15-12, 13-15, 11-10

Ballinrobe Open, Ireland:

Mens Open Singles: Noel O'Callaghan - Tristan Hickey 2-0

Ladies Open Singles: Julie Skehan - Helen Shanahan 2-0

Mens Open Doubles: Noel O'Callaghan/Stephen O'Loan beat Triston Hickey/Pat Keane 2-0

Ladies Open Doubles: Eithne Skehan/ Donna Ryder beat Julie Skehan/Helen Shanahan 2-0

Men's D/Novice: Pat Conroy beat Pat Hayes 2-0

Mens D/Novice Doubles: Michael Kelly/ Michael Keane beat Niall Heaney/Frank McDonagh 2-0

Women's D/Novice: Clodagh McManamon - Donna Ryder 2-0

Men's 40+: Padraic Benson - Michael Keane 2-1

Ramstein Halloween, Germany:

Mens Open Singles: Peter Rakowski (POL) - Curtis Morgan (USA) *(no full results available)*

Kingspan Kingscourt Open, Ireland:

Men's Open Singles: Noel O' Callaghan (IRE) def Triston Hickey (IRE) 2-1

Women's Open Singles: Susan Farrell (IRE) def Elma Gibney (IRE) 2-1

Men's B/C Singles: Gerry O' Farrell (IRE) def John Fitzgerald (IRE) 2-0

Men's D Singles: Colm O' Regan (IRE) def Shane Laverty (IRE) 2-1

Men's Novice Singles: Sean Lyng (IRE) def Michael Carolan (IRE) 2-0

Mens 40+ Singles: Padraic Benson (IRE) def Gerry O' Farrell (IRE) 2-0

Women's C/D/Novice Singles: Sheree Clarke (IRE) def Toni Neary (IRE) 2-1

Men's Open Singles Plate: Steven O' Loan (IRE) def Martin McConnon (IRE) 2-0

Men's Novice Singles Plate: Joe Dillon Jnr (IRE) def Michael O' Loan (IRE) 2-0

Men's Open Doubles: Triston Hickey/Adam Neary (IRE) def Jimmy Gannon/Joe Farrell (IRE) 2-1

Women's Open Doubles: Ailish Gibney/Julie Skehan (IRE) def Toni Neary/Susan Farrell (IRE) 2-1

Men's C/D/Novice Doubles: Pa O' Donnell/ Michael Barnes (IRE) def Tony Neary/John Fitzgerald (IRE) 2-0

FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES....



The 25th Belgian Open were held with some great matches on November 11-12 in Antwerp once again. Timothy Hardison (USA) won the Mens Singles division.



Ms. Ayten Kececi is the new President of the Turkey Racquetball Federation. 4 courts exist in Istanbul. The first Turkey Open are planned for 2007.



The Netherlands Racquetball Association participates in a big sports exhibition in the Netherlands to promote the sport to club owners. A court model will be there too.



Not enough space to report all news from Ireland.... The recent newsletter of the RAI covers everything from there. Download it on www.racquetball-ireland.com.



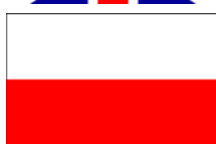
Italy National Champion 2006 is Alborghetti Giovanni from Brembate. He also tops the Italian National Rankings. See more info at www.racquetball.it.



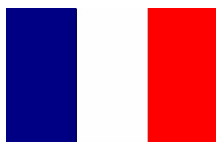
German winners at the 2006 Hamburg Open: Martin Klippel and Yvonne Kortés are the open singles winners of the first event of the season 2006/2007.



Great Britain Racquetball still works on the construction in Rendlesham. 3 courts will be available there for play by spring 2007. Tournaments are planned as well again.



Plans for courts in Poland are still on the table. Peter Rakowski and Andrzej Golebiowski, both played the 2006 Worlds, are currently investigating the possibilities.



The 2007 French Open will be held January 13-14 in Nanterre. Jean-Pierre Boudart will be the tournament director. Contact him to sign in: misterz@cegetel.net



Catalonia (Spain) will have it's first National Championships on December 20-23 in Barcelona. The tournament is for Catalonians only, of course.

FROM 'OTHER' TERRITORIES ...

While there seems little to none activity in Switzerland, we know of an internal club league in a club in Sweden. No Federation is in place and there also seems no interest in playing events. The ERF will try to establish a new contact soon....

...EURO 2007 CONTINUED...

Marco Arnoldi, chairman of the local organising committee, was delighted about the ERF's decision for Italy: "We are very happy about this decision and very committed to make sure that these European Championships 2007 will be one of the best in the history of European Racquetball".

Before the EURO 2007, the Italian Open next year will be a great test for those players and countries who have never played in Brembate before.

The date for the 2007 Italian Open has not been announced yet but it is expected that many players will make plans to attend next year. Check www.racquetball.it for further information in the future.

ERT RANKINGS

SEE COMPLETE RANKINGS ONLINE

Ladies Singles

1	Kortes, Yvonne	GER
2	Skehan, Julie	IRE
3	Gibney, Elma	IRE
4	Van Rijn, Mirjam	NED
5	Gibney, Ailish	IRE
6	Hartmann Renate	GER
7	Majella Haverty	IRE

Mens Singles

1	Hardison, Timothy	USA
2	Chin, Ian	USA
3	Klippel, Martin	GER
4	Hickey, Tristan	IRE
5	Bouillac, Bruno	FRA
6	Wouters, Bart	BEL
7	de Jong, Peter	NED

RECENT RESULTS:

National Junior Uneven Championships, Ireland

Under 11 Boys: Dean Cliffe (Touraneena) def Stephen Quinn (Rossmore) 2-0

Under 13 Boys: Joe Dillon (Kingscourt) def Daire Gargan (Kingscourt) 2-0

Under 15 Boys: Ruaidhri O'Rourke (Kingscourt) def Garvan Dunford (Touraneena) 2-0

Under 17 Boys: Johnny O'Keeney (Fermoy) def Sean Dalton (Touraneena) 2-0

Under 21 Boys: Colm O'Regan (Arklow) def Johnny O'Keeney (Fermoy) 2-0

Under 11 Girls: Clodagh Kearns (Touraneena) def Cliodhna Ryan (Templederry) 2-0

Under 13 Girls: Katie Kenny (Castlebar) def Aisling Hickey (Rossmore) 2-0

Under 15 Girls: Clodagh McManamon (Newport) def Ciara McManamon (Newport) 2-0

Under 17 Girls: Eithne Skehan (Touraneena) def Donna Ryder (Newport) 2-1

Under 21 Girls: Clodagh McManamon (Newport) def Eithne Skehan (Touraneena) 2-0

Belgian Open 2006, Belgium:

Mens Open Singles: Timothy Hardison (USA) def. Ian Chin (USA)

Mens B/C Singles: Niklaas Deboutte (BEL) def. Jason Meredith (USA)

Seniors 35+: Timothy Hardison (USA) def. Ian Chin (USA)

Open Doubles: Timothy Hardison/Ian Chin (USA) def. Edin Schipper/Peter de Jong (NED)

Kaiserslautern Thanksgiving 2006, Germany:

Mens Open Singles: Peter Rakowski (POL) - Dave Bucholz (USA)

Mens B: Arnold Harris (USA) def. Margarito Castaron (USA)

Mens C: Edwin Gleitman (USA) def. John Gurrero (USA)

ERF INSIDE...

... New members

The ERF Executive recently accepted membership applications from Catalonia (Spain), Turkey and Italy. While Italy has been a member in the early 90s already, it is the first time for Turkey and Catalonia to be part of the European Racquetball family.

... Visit to Paris

President Erik Meyer and Vice President Mike Mesecke recently travelled to Paris and met with representatives of the City Form club and the designated hotel for the 2008 Worlds. Also a meeting with the local government has been conducted.

... Rule Changes

The ERF Congress voted on various rule changes. Also, some changes on the tournament regulations have been discussed. Download the new rule book at www.european-racquetball.org. Any questions shall be submitted to the ERF Technical Director Pascal Matla at pascalmatla@quicknet.nl.

... History

The ERF celebrated it's 20th birthday last year and nobody recognized this.... The Federation was officially formed on June 29th 1985. Congratulations ERF!!!!



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European Tournament Calendar 2006/2007

Date	Event	Venue	Country	Contact	Webpage
15/17 Sept	Hamburg Open	Hamburg	Germany	Marcel Czempisz	www.hamburgopen.racquetball.de/
7/8 Oct	Ballinrobe Open	Ballinrobe	Ireland	Niall Heaney	www.racquetball-ireland.com
29-30 Oct	Halloween Tournament	Ramstein	Germany	Cherie Burns	http://www.racquetball-aera.com/
28-29 Oct	Halloween Tournament	Lakenheath	England	Lorraine Botwright	
4-5 Nov	Kingscourt Open	Kingscourt	Ireland	Sean Gargan	www.racquetball-ireland.com
10-12 Nov	Belgium Open	Antwerp	Belgium	Niklaas Deboutte	
2-3 Dec	Angel Tree Rollout	Heidelberg	Germany	James Johnson	http://www.racquetball-aera.com/
9-10 Dec	Holiday Tournament	Grafenwoehr	Germany	Serge Kearse	http://www.racquetball-aera.com/
16 Dec	Dutch Junior Nationals	The Hague	Netherlands	Erik Timmermans	www.racquetball.nl
2007					
12-14 Jan	French Open	Paris	France	Jean Pierre Boudart	
02-04 Feb	German Nationals	Hamburg	Germany	Jörg Ludwig	www.racquetball.de
10-11 Feb	Moylagh Open	Moylagh	Ireland	Paddy Traynor	www.racquetball-ireland.com
- Feb	UK Open	Rendlesham	England	Alan Aburrow Newman	
24-25 Feb	National Dbls & Overage C'ships	Arklow	Ireland	Pat Keane	www.racquetball-ireland.com
- Mar	Dutch Open	tba	Netherlands	Erik Timmermans	www.racquetball.nl
- Mar	Italian Open	Brembate	Italy	Matteo Urbani	www.racquetball.it
10-11 Mar	National Sgls & Even Junior C'ships	Kingscourt	Ireland	Pat Keane	www.racquetball-ireland.com
30 Mar-1 Apr	German Open	Hamburg	Germany	Mike Mesecke	www.germanopen.racquetball.de
24-25 Mar	Munster Open	Munster	Ireland	Triston Hickey	www.racquetball-ireland.com
13-15 Apr	Castlebar Open	Castlebar	Ireland	Michael Haverty	www.racquetball-ireland.com
21-22 Apr	8th Irish Junior Open	Fermoy	Ireland	Liam Hughes	www.racquetball-ireland.com
4-7 May	Irish Open	Arklow	Ireland	Vanessa Barnes	www.racquetball-ireland.com
18-20 May	Antwerp Open	Antwerp	Belgium	Niklaas Deboutte	
19-20 May	Kilkenny Open	Kilkenny	Ireland	John Comerford	www.racquetball-ireland.com
06-09 June	2nd IRF World Senior Doubles	Hamburg	Germany	Gary Mazaroff	www.worldseniordoubles.racquetball.de
29 Jul- 4 Aug	14th ERF European Championships	Brembate	Italy	Pascal Matla	www.european-racquetball.org



2ND IRF WORLD SENIOR DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

HAMBURG, GERMANY

June 6-9, 2007

VENUE

Sport Department

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

ELIGIBILITY

Those 35 years of age and older. Each player represents his or her own country and individual and country points will be awarded. Birth certificate or passport from one's homeland must be available for verification
Special: **30+ Friendship Doubles Division** will be offered

MEMBERSHIP

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

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