

RACQUETBALL EUROPE

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IRELAND RULES AT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007 IN ITALY



**Congratulations to Ireland
for winning 15 out of 17
titles at the 14th ERF
European Championships in
Brembate, Italy!!**

Also congratulations to
defending champion Marie-
Josée Collet (France) and new
European Champion Victor
Montserrat (Catalonia/Spain).
The 2007 Europeans were a
great success for European

Racquetball and for the first time it brought our sport to Italy where Marco
Arnoldi and his enthusiastic team put up a great event.





THANKS TO ITALY FOR A GREAT 2007 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP!!

What a great event in Brembate, Italy!! The 14th ERF European Championships 2007 have been a very successful and great tournament. Marco Arnoldi, President of Racquetball Italia, and his young and enthusiastic team did a surberb job on hosting Europe's most import racquetball competition.



Over 60 players from nine countries competed in Italy for European gold medals in various divisions.

For the first time, Turkey and Catalonia (Spain) competed in the European Championships! While Catalonia did very well in the Mens Team competition, Turkey will hopefully increase it's participation in the coming years to send at least either a mens or ladies team.



And European Racquetball is still very active on the courts. There was an increase in womens participation in this event, four ladies teams and on top some more individual ladies who either did not compete for their country or were unable to form a full team (Turkey, Italy).

And the 2007 venue was the right decision at the right time for our sport. It was the first time that Italy was the host of such a racquetball competition and while this event has been in France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and Ireland, already it was about time to bring Europe's best racquetball players to a new country and a new venue.



Marco Arnoldi receives
spezial recognition

The city of Bergamo, the Italian hospitality and athmosphere paid off: Everyone enjoyed him- or herself during the week. The host hotel was the perfect hotel for the European Championships and everyone felt extremely comfortable and relaxed.

To summerize, Italy, Marco Arnoldi and everyone involved deserve a big **WELL DONE AND THANKS!!**

Check out some great pictures from the 2007 Europeans at
<http://picasaweb.google.it/RacquetballItalia/EuropeanRacquetballChampionship2007Italy>

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

MENS SINGLES FINAL:

VICTOR MONTSERRAT (CATALONIA(SPAIN)) - NOEL O'CALLAGHAN (IRELAND) 15-1, 14-15, 11-7

MENS LADIES FINAL:

MARIE-JOSÉE COLLET (FRANCE) - SUSAN FARELL (IRELAND) 15-13, 15-2

MENS DOUBLES FINAL:

TRISTAN HICKEY/ADAM NEARY (IRELAND) - PASCAL MATLA/ MICHEL V.D.HOLST (NETHERLANDS) 15-7, 12-15, 11-8

LADIES DOUBLES FINAL:

SUSAN FARELL/ANTONIA NEARY (IRELAND) - MARIE-JOSÉE COLLET/NATHALIE RAPHANEL (FRANCE) 15-8, 9-15, 11-7

LADIES 30+ FINAL:

BERNADETTE O'CALLAGHAN (IRELAND) - AYTEN KECECI (TURKEY) 15-5, 15-1

MENS 30+ FINAL:

JOE FARELL (IRELAND) - BART WOUTERS (BELGIUM) 15-4, 15-2

MENS 40+ FINAL:

JIMMY GANNON (IRELAND) - STEPHEN O'LOAN (IRELAND) 15-6, 15-9

MENS 50+ FINAL:

TONY NEARY (IRELAND) - JOHN COMERFORD (IRELAND) 15-5, 15-8

MENS 30+ DOUBLES FINAL:

PAUL DEVOS/PADRAIC BENSON (BEL/IRE) - BART WOUTERS/ NIKLAAS DEBOUTTE (BELGIUM) 15-13, 15-11

GIRLS 16 AND UNDER SINGLES FINAL:

MAJELLA HAVERTY (IRELAND) - ANTONIA NEARY (IRELAND) 4-15, 15-7, 11-7

GIRLS 18 AND UNDER SINGLES FINAL:

EITHNE SKEHAN (IRELAND) - ANTONIA NEARY (IRELAND) 15-10, 15-1

GIRLS 18 AND UNDER DOUBLES FINAL:

EITHNE SKEHAN/MAJELLA HAVERTY (IRELAND) - LARA LUDWIG/ SINA KRIEGER (GERMANY) 15-2, 15-1

BOYS 16 AND UNDER SINGLES FINAL:

JONATHAN O'KEENEY (IRELAND) - RU Aidhri O'ROURKE (IRELAND) 15-9, 15-0

BOYS 18 AND UNDER SINGLES FINAL:

JONATHAN O'KEENEY (IRELAND) - RU Aidhri O'ROURKE (IRELAND) 15-4, 11-15, 11-7

BOYS 18 AND UNDER DOUBLES FINAL:

JONATHAN O'KEENEY/RU Aidhri O'ROURKE (IRELAND) - MICHAEL O'LOAN/SEAN KEANE 15-5, 15-10

FINAL STANDINGS:

MENS TEAM

1. IRELAND
2. GERMANY
3. CATALONIA (SPAIN)
4. THE NETHERLANDS
5. BELGIUM
6. ITALY

LADIES TEAM:

1. IRELAND
2. GERMANY
3. FRANCE
4. CATALONIA (SPAIN)



Opening Ceremony



Local Organizing Committee



SEASON PREMIERE IN HAMBURG

2007/2008 season kicks off in Germany

The 24th Hamburg Open 2007 will be the season premiere of the 2007/2008 European Racquetball Tour (ERT). The event will be held 21-23 of September in the Sport Department, Barsbuetteler Str. 43, 22043 Hamburg, Germany.

Check out more on the Hamburg Open at www.hamburgopen.racquetball.de and sign in online as soon as possible to guarantee yourself a spot in the draw.



ERF CONGRESS AND ELECTIONS

The well attended 2007 European Congress was held on August 1 at the Jolly Hotel in Bergamo, Italy.

This year was election year. And while there were already some speculations whether the current committee would stay or not, all four members were available for re-election. President *Erik Meyer*, Vice President *Mike Mesecke*, General Secretary *Michael Haverty* and Treasurer *Karel Matla* will stay in office for another 2-year-term. Also *Pascal Matla* will stay onboard as Technical Director.



Some rule and constitutional changes were also on the congress' agenda. Those changes will be downloadable on the ERF website soon.

A motion was discussed whether the ERF shall support the Racquetball on Squashcourt version (also known as Australian Racquetball,

WORLDS 2008 WEBSITE

Where you find some first hand information...

Less than a year until the Opening Ceremony of the 14th IRF World Championships in Ireland.



While the Kingscourt Organizing Committee is currently working hard on the construction of the demanded 5th court, some other important issues have been decided as well.

The Worlds 2008 official logo has been approved and an official website is published, with some first information on the 2008 event, some news about the host country Ireland, as well as other interesting stuff. Check out www.racquetball-wc2008.com.

If you want to be a volunteer of this event or want to help to make this 'the best Worlds ever', contact the ERF!!



Racketball or Softracket). The sport enjoys great participation in England and Catalonia (Spain) already. All ERF members are asked to check out the possibilities themselves.

The ERF also invited all members to submit their bids for hosting the 2009 European Championships. A decision of the host country will be announced by the end of the year.


EUROPEAN TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2007-2008





Revised: Sep 5, 2007


2007	EVENT	LOCATION	COUNTRY	CONTACT
Sep 21-23	24th Hamburg Open 2007	Hamburg	Germany	Marcel Czempisz
Oct 13-14	K-Town Open	Kaiserslautern	Germany	Jason Ille
Oct 27-28	Ramstein Halloween Tournament	Ramstein	Germany	Lisa Tolarchyk
Oct 27-28	Lakenheath Holloween Tournament	Lakenheath	England	Lorraine Botwright
Oct 27-29	Kingscourt Open 2007	Kingscourt	Ireland	Sean Gargan
Nov 01-04	International Trophy of Barcelona	Barcelona	Catalonia	Victor Montserrat
Nov 17-18	Turkey Shootout	Vogelweh	Germany	Bill Gurr
Nov 17-18	Belgian Open 2007	Antwerp	Belgium	Erik Meyer
Dec 01-02	Christmas Angel Tree Rollout 2007	Heidelberg	Germany	James Johnson
Dec 08-09	Schinnen Open	Schinnen	Netherlands	Joe Lewis
2008	EVENT	LOCATION	COUNTRY	CONTACT
Jan	21st French Open 2008	Paris	France	Jean Pierre Boudart
Feb 01-03	27. Deutsche Meisterschaften 2008	Hamburg	Germany	Jörg Ludwig
Mar 08-09	3rd Italian Open 2008	Brembate	Italy	Marco Arnoldi
Mar 15-16	Schinnen Tournament	Schinnen	Netherlands	Joe Lewis
Mar 22-23	Grafenwoehr Tournament	Grafenwöhr	Germany	Tony Lee
Mar ?	Turkey Open 2008	Istanbul	Turkey	Ayten Kececi
Apr 04-06	27th German Open 2008	Hamburg	Germany	Mike Mesecke
Apr 05-06	K-Town Spring Open	Kaiserslautern	Germany	Jason Ille
Apr	18th Castlebar Open 2008	Castlebar	Ireland	Michael Haverty
May 02-04	Arklow Irish Open 2008	Arklow	Ireland	Vanessa Barnes
May 10-11	USAFE Championships	Ramstein	Germany	Lisa Tolarchyk
July 19-20	Summer Slam 2008	Heidelberg	Germany	James Johnson
Aug 01-10	14th IRF World Championships 2008	Kingscourt	Ireland	Luke St. Onge


FROM THE MEMBERS:


 Plans for the construction of a 5-court-facility in Barcelona have been published recently. Construction shall start in fall 2007.

 Germany has successfully initiated family activities in racquetball which brings families and the sport together. Playing and socializing at the same time.

 Great Britain Racquetball still negotiates movable backwalls for two courts in Rendlesham. It is hoped that the problem will be solved soon.

 Former US team coach Jim Winterton agreed to coach Team Ireland at the Worlds 2008 in Kingscourt.

 No Dutch Open are scheduled for the 2007/2008 season. Hopefully this will be changed in the months ahead.

 Italy has already scheduled the 2008 Italian Open: The weekend March 8-9 will hopefully attract players from all Europe again to come (back) to Italy

ERT RANKINGS

SEE COMPLETE RANKINGS ONLINE

Ladies Singles

1	Gibney, Elma	IRE	1	Chin, Ian	USA
2	Gibney, Ailish	IRE	2	Montserrat, Victor	CAT
3	Haverty, Majella	IRE	3	Hardison, Timothy	USA
4	Kortes, Yvonne	GER	4	Hickey, Triston	IRE
5	Skehan, Julie	IRE	5	v. d. Holst, Michiel	NED
6	Kyzer, Brenda	USA	6	Meyer, Trevor	GER
7	Comerford, Bernie	IRE	7	Hughes, Liam	IRE

Mens Singles

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