

Italy 2013



EUROPEAN
RACQUETBALL
FEDERATION

September 2013



European Champions 2013 AISLING & NOEL

Ireland takes European Team & Individual Open titles this year.

Impressive performances have been seen at this year's European Championships in Brembate, Italy as all individual open titles as well as all team titles were won by Ireland. 2 years ago, Germany almost swept all gold medals (except the ladies doubles), this year it was Ireland (again). A remarkable success was seen in the Mens Singles as Noel O Callaghan is the first Irishman to win the European title since the inception of the European Championships in 1981.



Dear European Racquetball Friends,

We have just finished our 17th European Championships in Brembate, Italy. Players from nine European countries competed in our bi-annual event - Thanks to each of them for making the **EURO 2013** another remarkable event in the history of the ERF and European Racquetball.

During the five days of competition we have seen great competition, sportsmanship and fairness. We have also seen a lot of friendship on and off the court, something that you only see in the great sport of Racquetball.

Grazie mille to **Marco Arnoldi** and the team of Racquetball Italia for once again being a great host. Thanks also to the **Centro Sportivo de Brembate**. Last but not least, thanks to our Technical Director **Michael Haverty** from Ireland for running an extremely smooth tournament this year.

Congratulations also to **IRELAND** for sweeping the team competition with some great performances and to the Irish players performing some stunning results and matches during the individual competition as well. Ireland and the Irish players have once again set standards in regards of professional preparation for such an event.

Special congratulations to our new European Champion **Noel O Callaghan**, the first Irish ever who won the Mens Singles division. A well deserved triumph after a long and very successful career in our sport.

With the EURO 2013 in the history books, it is now time to look forward again. This successful event should not let us forget that the sport is still in critical condition in many European countries. Our sport needs each one of you! The work and commitment starts **NOW**.

Racquetball depends on those who still play and love the sport. It is up to us to spread the word about it and let others know what great fun, friendship and in some ways even family Racquetball can be. So come out, make plans to attend some of the European events, help us in promoting the sport to new or maybe even former players and share your ideas with us and/or your National Federation as to what we can do to get our sport in the limelight.

I wish everyone a successful new season and hope to see you on one of the upcoming events in Europe.

Yours in sport,

Mike Mesecke
President, European Racquetball Federation

From the President



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ERF Executive Committee:

President: Mike Mesecke (Germany)

Vice President: Carlo Papini (Italy)

General Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Karel Matla (Netherlands)

Technical Director:

Mr. Michael Haverty (Ireland)

Pictures: B. Zonca, M. Mesecke, M. Haverty

FOUND

New Editor for Racquetball Europe

Racquetball Europe is an official publication of the European Racquetball Federation. It is published at least once a year on 4-8 pages each and contains a latest update on what's going on with European Racquetball.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the ERF has found a new editor for the next edition(s) as Benedetto Zonca (Italy), together with Mario Corcione and Carlo Papini, have taken the task from now on.



Ireland's Aisling Hickey and Noel O'Callaghan have both won their singles competitions at the recent 17th European Racquetball Championships that were held in Brembate (Bergamo), Italy with players from nine European countries competing for prestigious gold medals.

Aisling Hickey defeated 2011 European Champion Andrea Gordon (Germany) 15-2, 15-6 while Noel O'Callaghan defeated last times finalist Trevor Meyer (also Germany) 15-4, 15-10. All Irish finals were seen in the ladies and mens doubles competitions were Aisling Hickey and Kate Ryan defeated team mates Donna Ryder and Katie Kenny in an exciting final 9-15, 15-4, 11-6 while Mark Murphy and Stephen Quinn defeated Noel O'Callaghan and Ray Breen 15-5, 15-11.

IRELAND ALSO SWEPS TEAM COMPETITION

Ireland also swept the Mens and Ladies Team finals at the 17th ERF European Racquetball Championships that are currently being held in Brembate, Italy. On the ladies side, Ireland defeated defending champion Germany in an impressive 3-0 (winning both singles and one doubles match) to claim the 10th team championships in the history of European Racquetball. On the mens side it was once again Germany, also defending champion, that faced the Irish lads and lost 1-2. Congratulations for a great performance by all players.

NINE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Nine European countries have been represented in Italy this year. with France, Catalonia (Spain) and Belgium sending players after a 4-year-absence from Europe's most important bi-annual competition.

Team Ireland 2013



Results

Ladies Open Singles

Aisling Hickey (IRE) def. Andrea Gordon (GER) 15-2, 15-6

Mens Open Singles

Noel O'Callaghan (IRE) def. Trevor Meyer (GER) 15-4, 15-10

Ladies Open Doubles

Kate Ryan/Aisling Hickey (IRE) def. Donna Ryder/Katie Kenny (IRE) 9-15, 15-4, 11-6

Mens Open Doubles

Mark Murphy/Stephen Quinn (IRE) def. Noel O'Callaghan/Ray Breen (IRE) 15-5, 15-11

Ladies 30+ Singles

Andrea Gordon (GER) def. Sylvia Heidrich (GER) 15-12, 10-15, 11-6

Mens 30+ Singles

Jan Lysakowski (AUT) def. Peter Rakowski (POL) 15-3, 15-10

Mens 40+ Singles

Jimmy Gannon (IRE) def. Gary Lynch (IRE) 15-3, 15-9

Mens 50+ Singles

Jimmy Gannon (IRE) def. Padraic Benson (IRE) 15-0, 15-10

Mens 55+ Singles

Padraic Benson (IRE) def. Joe Glynn (IRE) 15-8, 15-12

Mens 30+ Doubles

N. O'Callaghan/R. Breen (IRE) def. T. Meyer/P. Rakowski (GER/POL) 15-2, 15-8

Mens 40+ Doubles

J. Devenney/G. Lynch (IRE) def. S. Heaney/P. Cleary (IRE) 3-15, 15-5, 11-8

Mens 50+ Doubles

J. Gannon/M. Kelly (IRE) def. J. Comerford/P. Cleary (IRE) 15-6, 15-10

Juniors U18

1. Niklas Krieger (GER)
2. Kate Ryan (IRE)
3. Stephen Quinn (IRE)
4. Leonardo Tasca (ITA)

Mens C Singles

Joe Devenney (IRE) def. Eoin Tynan (IRE) 15-12, 15-5

2013 ERF EUROPEAN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 15-20 JULY 2013



Team Catalonia 2013



Final Team standing:

Mens

1. Ireland
2. Germany
3. Catalonia (Spain)
4. Italy
5. France

Team France



Team Italy 2013

Ladies

1. Ireland
2. Germany
3. Catalonia (Spain)
4. Italy

Team Germany



European Congress 2013

Carlo Papini elected as new Vice President

Seven countries were represented at the 2013 European Congress that was held on 17th of July in Brembate, Italy during the European Championships. All country representatives gave a brief update on the situation of the sport in their countries. Some information was encouraging and some was not so encouraging.

Every 2 years, the ERF members have to elect their Executive Committee. President **Mike Mesecke (Germany)** was available for re-election as well as **Karel Matla (Netherlands)**, Treasurer since 1999. Both were elected for another 2-year-term.

Not available for re-election were Vice President **Marco Arnoldi (Italy)** and **Gary Lynch (Ireland)**. New Vice President became **Carlo Papini (Italy)** while the position of General Secretary remains vacant at this point.

Mike Mesecke thanked Marco Arnoldi and Gary Lynch for their service to European Racquetball: „Both have made important contributions to European Racquetball and we have to thank them for their commitment to the ERF. Special thanks to my friend Marco Arnoldi, the founding father of Racquetball Italia who I hope will still play a pivotal role within the ERF and Racquetball“.

The Congress also made some important decisions for the future of European Racquetball and adopted the **new eligibility rules** for the European Team Competition which were suggested by the ERF's Technical Director Michael Haverty and which allow non European passport holders to compete for a European country under certain conditions. The new rules were already tested during the 2013 Europeans and made a French team possible and strengthened the Italian Team participation.

Other important decisions were a **point system for European Team Championships** when not enough teams have entered, a case that is certainly not really wanted by anyone. The Congress also changed its **statutes for memberships** to reflect the current situation of many European countries: ERF Membership is now split into three categories: **Full, Associated and Provisional Membership**. The difference will basically be a different annual payment and different voting rights at the ERF Annual General Meeting.

Last but not least, the ERF installed the position of a media officer for the ERF and a player grading system.

The next ERF Congress will be held in September 2014, most likely in Antwerp, Belgium again.

The men behind the ERF and the EURO 2013: Carlo Papini (Italy), Michael Haverty (Ireland), Mike Mesecke (Germany) and Marco Arnoldi (Italy)



ERT Rankings

The TOP 10 in Europe

MENS OPEN SINGLES

#	Player	Country
1	Meyer, Trevor	Germany
2	Bertels Oliver	Germany
3	Hanley Patrick	Ireland
4	O'Callaghan, Noel	Ireland
5	Murphy, Mark	Ireland
6	Klippel Martin	Germany
7	Lysakowski, Jan	Austria
8	Ramirez, Mike	USA
9	Loof, Joachim	Germany
10	Bizeau Maxime	France
11	Ryder Padraic	Ireland
12	Cerevantes Rene	Bolivia
13	Paez Esequiel	Venezuela
14	Derric Victor	USA
15	Schmitz, Arne	Germany
16	Surel Orhan	Turkey
17	Schipper Edwin	Netherlands
18	Skehan Conor	Ireland
19	Aydin Hulusi	Turkey
20	Serfaty, Alberto	Catalunya

LADIES OPEN SINGLES

#	Player	Country
1	Hickey, Aisling	Ireland
2	Krieger Claudia	Germany
3	Ludwig, Lara	Germany
4	Kenny, Katie	Ireland
5	Ryan Kate	Ireland
6	Mahoney, Cathryn	USA
7	Toban Mariana	Venezuela
8	Haverty, Majella	Ireland
9	Kececi, Ayten	Turkey
10	Wahl, Rosi	Germany
11	Heidrich Sylvia	Germany
12	Fox Cynthia	USA
13	Ryder, Donna	Ireland
14	Yilmaz, Aynar	Turkey
15	Hartmann Renate	Germany
16	Jorczik Simone	Germany
17	Soykan Dolunay	Turkey
18	Tas Emel	Turkey
21	Mitten, Beth	Ireland
22	Farrell, Susan	Ireland

MENS B SINGLES

#	Player	Country
1	Casenave Emilio	?
2	Kisicki, André	Germany
3	Papini Carlo	Italy
4	Ryder Padraic	Ireland
5	Krieger Niklas	Germany
6	O'Donnell, Pa	Ireland
7	Hartmann Bernd	Germany
8	Barnes jr, Michael	Ireland
9	Buggy Eamonn	Ireland
10	Guerrero Nathan	USA

MENS C SINGLES

#	Player	Country
1	Roy Stephen	USA
2	Hartmann Renate	Germany
3	Rocha, Javier	Bolivia
4	Suchting, Lasse Arne	Germany
5	Suechting Falk	Germany
6	Langmeier, Stefan	Germany
7	Nguyen Humg	USA
8	Roth, Alexander	Germany
9	Casemave E	?
10	Clarke, Robert	USA

Check out all rankings at
www.european-racquetball.org

25 years ago - World Championships in Hamburg

25 years ago, on 6th of August 1988, the Opening Ceremony for 4th World Racquetball Championships were held in Hamburg, Germany, right in front of the big Hamburg City Hall. The 1988 Worlds were the first World Championships there were held in Europe and attracted 23 nations to compete. The competition was held at the "Racquetball Jenfeld" with it's 11 courts back then. Some great performances were seen during that week of competition and also European players were quite successful: The Netherlands placed 3rd in the Ladies team (!) (but 'only' 9th in the Mens) and the final performances of European teams in the overall standings were impressive as 5 European teams made it into the top 10 back then: 5th Netherlands, 6th Ireland, 7th (West-)Germany, 9th Belgium, 10th France!

1988 was a time when Racquetball was still growing in Europe, when courts were built and a large group of motivated players travelled to tournaments in Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands and France. The sport was also still huge on the US military bases with more than 300 courts in Germany alone. Now things have extremely changed in Racquetball, Europe was never again that successful in World Championships and the sport declined in many countries while it grew Southern and Latin America. However, the sport is still being played in many countries and various locations in Europe, some of them we have not even heard about before.

Racquetball is as attractive as it was in 1988 and against all odds one could have seen this at the recent and very successful European Championships in Italy where players from all over Europe competed for gold medals and showed some stunning performances. The journey is not over yet so stay with us or come back aboard and enjoy some great competition and friendship. It's worth it!

News from Italy

A new era has just begun for Racquetball in Italy: Since current President **Marco Arnoldi** was not available for re-election, a new President was needed and found in long time player and contributor **Benedetto Zonco from Bergamo**. New Vice President became **Mario Corcione**. Congratulations!

Both new officers are joined by a great group of individual supporters who are committed to work on the future of Italian Racquetball.



ERT Rankings

More TOP 10s in Europe



SENIORS 35+

#	Player	Country
1	Gannon Jimmy	Ireland
2	Gary Lynch	Ireland
4	Rakowski, Peter	Poland
5	Devenney Joe	Ireland
6	Acuavera, Ed	USA
7	Kisicki, André	Germany
8	Mindnich Markus	Germany
9	Ramirez Mike	USA
10	Droge, Bernd	Germany

MASTERS 50+

#	Player	Country
1	Johnson, James J	USA
2	Gibbons Joey	USA
3	Bachmaier, Hermann	Germany
4	Cleary Pat	Ireland
5	Fitzgerald, John	Ireland
6	Sigona, Mike	USA
7	Comerford, John	Ireland
8	Fitzgerald Vinny	Ireland
9	Langmeier, Rudolf	Germany
10	Arnoldi, Marco	Italy

Juniors 17 and under

#	Player	Country
1	Krieger Niklas	Germany
2	Suchting Lasse Janik	Germany
3	Langmeier Stefan	Germany
4	Henny Marcel	Germany
5	Ryan James	Ireland
6	Acuavera Matthew	USA
7	Skehan Jack	Ireland
8	Roth Alexander	Germany
9	Zuber Peter	Germany
10	Scheffler Tim	Germany



European Tournament Calendar 2013/2014

As of 28th August

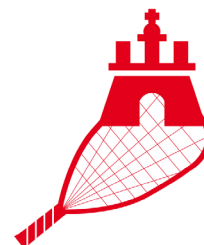
C = CONFIRMED tbc = AWAITING CONFIRMATION

Date		Tournament	Location	Country	Sanction	Contact
2013						
17-18 Aug	C	Stuttgart Walbanger	Stuttgart	Germany	AERA	
7-8 Sep	tbc	Wiesbaden Splat Attack	Wiesbaden	Germany	AERA	
7-8 Sep	tbc	Kilkenny Doubles 60 x 30 Open	Kilkenny	Ireland		
28-29 Sep	tbc	Wexford Doubles 60x30 Open	Wexford	Ireland		
12-13 Oct	tbc	USAFE C`ships	Ramstien AB	Germany	AERA	
12-13 Oct	tbc	Irish 60x30 National Dbls	tba	Ireland	RAI	Mark Murphy
19-20 Oct	C	Hamburg Open	Hamburg	Germany	ERF	Major Mike Mesecke
20-26 Oct	C	World Junior Championships	Sucre	Bolivia	IRF	
2-3 Nov	tbc	Irish Junior Uneven C`ships	tba	Ireland	RAI	Christy Slattery
9-10 Nov	C	Ballinrobe Open	Ballinrobe	Ireland	RAI	M Kelly
16-17 Nov	tbc	AERA Doubles Shootout	Mannheim	Germany	AERA	
23-24 Nov	C	Fermoy Open	Fermoy	Ireland	RAI	Noel O`Callaghan
30-1 Nov/Dec	tbc	Irish National Jun B C`ships	TBA	Ireland	RAI	
7-8 Dec	tbc	Angel Tree	Heidelberg	Germany	ERT	Major Vic Farrier
2014						
18-19 Jan	tbc	Kingscourt Open	Kingscourt	Ireland	RAI	Sean Gargan
24-26 Jan	C	German Nationals	Hamburg	Germany	DRBV	
25-26 Jan	tbc	3rd Paris Open	Paris	France	ERT	Satellite
1-2 Feb	C	Irish National Dbles & Overage	tba	Ireland	RAI	
8-9 Feb	tbc	Winter Showdown	Aviano	Italy	AERA	
15-16 Feb	C	Galway Open	Galway	Ireland	RAI	
15-16 Feb	tbc	Wiesbaden Valetinus	Wiesbaden	Germany	AERA	
22-23 Feb	C	Irish Club Championships	tba	Ireland	RAI	
1-2 Mar	C	Irish Club Championships	tba	Ireland	RAI	
8-9 Mar	C	Wexford Open	Wexford	Ireland	RAI	
8-9 Mar	tbc	Turkish Open	Istanbul	Turkey	ERT	Ayten Keçeci
22-23 Mar	C	Castlebar Open	Castlebar	Ireland	ERT	Major Michael Haverty
29-30 Mar						
5-6 Apr	C	German Open	Hamburg	Germany	ERT	GS Mike Mesecke
12-13 Apr	C	Irish National Singles	tba	Ireland	RAI	RAI
26-27 Apr	tbc	Irish Junior Open	tba	Ireland	ERT	Major Christy Slattery
3-4 May	C	Irish Open	Arklow	Ireland	ERT	GS Adam Neary
10-11 May	tbc	Bavarian Open	Bad Tolz	Germany	ERT	Major Simone Jorcik
17-18 May	C	Kilkenny Open	Kilkenny	Ireland	RAI	John Comerford
24-25 May						
7-8 Jun	c	Italian Open	Brembate	Italy	ERT	Major Marco Arnoldi
14-15 Jun	tbc	AERA Killshot	Stuttgart	Germany	AERA	
14-21 Jun	C	IRF World Championships	Toronto	Canada	IRF	Luke St. Onge



Ready for the new season??

The 2013/2014 season opens in Hamburg again!! The 2013 Hamburg Open will be held 18th-20th of October. See all information at www.hamburgopen.racquetball.de.



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