



International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians

Rotary Ace



Score an ace with Rotary... for a winning service !

Friday, December 27, 2013

Newsletter no. 38

**Next
ITFR World
Championship
will be held in
ITALY:
San Benedetto
del Tronto
at the
"Riviera
Delle Palme"
August 23-30,
2014**



***Plan your
holidays today
and come to Italy
in August 2014!***

9th ITFR World Championship Cluj-Napoca, Romania, August 24-31, 2013

Dear fellow tennis players,

I truly enjoyed participating in the 9th ITFR World Championship in Cluj-Napoca.

The 9th WTC was held in Cluj-Napoca, a cosmopolitan European city situated in the heart of the region of Transylvania. Cluj-Napoca is the second largest city in Romania, with a long history and old traditions, rich in cultural and academic life. There are 12 universities in Cluj-Napoca with more than 100,000 students, which gives the multicultural mentality of the city a special atmosphere.



We enjoyed the hospitality of our Romanian friends under the leadership of Mircea Corches for seven days. We had a week to enjoy camaraderie through various activities and events. We discovered the beautiful surroundings of Cluj-Napoca and Transylvania, we toured through unique landscapes and historical towns, visited fortresses and monuments from Roman and Saxon times. After a whole

day of playing tennis, we took relaxing evening strolls in the pedestrian zone of Cluj, tasted delicious domestic food, and enjoyed live music at numerous coffee bars, restaurants and pubs.

Our Romanian friends proved to us once again that there is a good reason to reserve a week on our calendar for the ITFR World Championship. It is a great joy and excitement each year to see old friends

from different parts of the world, meet new ones, and together find different ways to undertake service activities and support local social projects.



At the Championship in Cluj, we promoted tennis and the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. I am very glad to emphasize that all of the members have improved their playing skills, and we can make an overall assessment of the quality of the tennis played at the Championship - it reached quite a high level. Equally as important, I must stress that fair play and behavior on the courts was at a high level as well.

Finally, I would like to thank to Mircea Corches and Tournament Director Ciprian Porumb, as well as the many volunteers who helped run the Championship.

Having had the fine experience of attending the ITFR World Championship yet again, I can say once more: it is a great pleasure to be a part of our wonderful Tennis Fellowship!

Mladen Novakovic

ITFR Chairman



Report about 9th ITFR World Championship by Mircea Corches

ITFR aims implementation of social projects and donating to the fund End Polio Now, through development of friendship among Rotarians and their families, who love to play tennis. Established by its statute, the championship tournaments are held yearly, worldwide. Until today, over \$280.000 were raised from 69 ITFR Events and donated to various Rotary projects.

The 9th World Championship, organized by International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians, was held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, from August 24th to 31st, at Winners Tennis Club, a perfect place to practice tennis, with twelve excellent red clay courts, located in a very nice green area.



The official opening was attended by participants, players and their families, inspired by the spirit of the “white sport”, in a great atmosphere of Rotary International Fellowship.



Representatives came from 8 countries: Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, United States, Italy, Estonia, Spain, and Romania. 52 players, divided into 7 categories, started the tournament with 6 days of intense sports activity.



On the 4th day, when the organizers ordered a lot of rain, the group made a tour to the well known medieval city Sighisoara.



The group held its Annual General Meeting acting approvals by the accounts of the previous management, leading fellow Marcos Franco, Brazil, the Director for South America, Brazil has approved the proposal for inclusion of Interactors as members of the group and approved the proposal for realization of the 10th World Championship in San Benedetto, Italy, the land of Silvio "Il Cavaliere".



On Friday the 30th, in the evening, everyone was able to attend the official dinner of the competition, held at the luxury restaurant of Opera Plaza Hotel.

On Saturday, at Winner Tennis Club, the finals and the award ceremony took place. Both ceremonies were honored by the presence of the Governor of District 2241, Marian Mocan, who also participated in the tournament.



Many thanks to all who believed in the success of the event and contributed for it.



I conclude inviting everyone to participate in this wonderful experience, and registering the words of Eugene McNease, vice-president of ITFR during the General Assembly:

"I challenge you to seek Rotarians to be part of ITFR – Fellowship International Tennis for fun, enjoy new personal contacts with different people, in different places of the world. Feel free to engage and plan their participation in upcoming events. Each group member is responsible for himself. Our limitation depends on our imagination".

By

Mircea Corcheș

Few words about Championship from Eugene McNease, ITFR Vice Chairman:

Hello, my Rotary tennis friends across the oceans and around the world.

Greetings from sunny warm Georgia USA.

ITFR World Championship Cluj-Napoca, Romania, was so much fun. I was privileged to play tennis, the game I love, once more on the European Red Clay Courts.

The Winners Club at Roses Park was first-class, and we had excellent social interaction with local Rotary hierarchy and prominent historical and cultural leaders. My motel, the Grant Italiano, was exceptional. It has a huge rotunda lobby similar to the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

I was also privileged to meet Croatian ITFR members, Tomislav Maravic, Mladen Novakovic, Davor Alaburic, Eddo Dorocic and Damir Kutnjak on cross country tour of Croatia, Hungary, and Romania. We were very impressed with the people and their culture. We also were privileged to taste some unusual and exotic recipes including goose liver. Yuck! Yuck!



I always enjoy the tennis, but this tournament included some very dramatic matches with finals in all categories coming down to the last critical points. My Croatian friends and I were the talk of the tournament, not because of our tennis skills, but because of our after-match theme, "It was an itsy, bitsy, teeny, weeny yellow polka dot bikini...." We made the evenings and dinner the more entertaining part of the tournament. Thanks to Micha Corches and his staff of volunteers for wonderful hospitality.

While visiting Eastern Europe I was reminded of "The Turning Point". Some older members may remember the Pilic affair. It was the "Turning Point" in men's professional tennis when they formed a players' union called The ATP. It was June 1973 when Nikki Pilic, a top-ten player for Yugoslavia, was suspended from the tour for nine months and became the catalyst for the boycott in which 82 men including 13 of the top 15 seeds refused to play Wimbledon and forever changed the players' relationship with the formal governing body of tennis. Once tennis officials recognized the players were willing to sacrifice their dream of playing Wimbledon for the sake of one of their union members, the tables turned. From then on, the players had control of the game and the power to determine their own fate.

We look forward to our next world championship in beautiful romantic Italia. My dear old friend Andra Gentili will be our host! I look for you all to be there.

Yours in Rotary,

H. Eugene McNease

Vice Chairman

10° ITFR World Tennis Championship : work in progress

An old proverb says, "good things come in threes, bad things come in threes"! Therefore, after the good experiences of Salerno 2007 and Pugnochiuso 2010, the 10 ° World Tennis Championship for Rotarians, planned from 23 to 30 August 2014, will once again be held in Italy, in the Marche, a Central Region overlooking the Adriatic Sea, less than two hundred kilometers from Rome.

The Organizer will be a "Veteran" of the ITFR circuit, Andrea GENTILI, several times World Champion in its category and at the top of the ITFR rankings ; in this assignment Andrea



will be assisted by three Rotary Clubs, Ascoli Piceno, San Benedetto del Tronto and San Benedetto del Tronto North.

This event, which is the most important among those scheduled in the Fellowship dense program , will prove that the motto "score an Ace with Rotary! For a winning "service" are not just words, but deeds. In fact, once again the passion for sports, and tennis in particular, will give support to two specific humanitarian initiatives.



But, as stated in the ITFR objectives, this will be a wonderful opportunity to let Rotarians know a part of Italy that tourist agencies around the world define "unexpected, unusual, surprising" because not very well known even by the same Italian: the Marche Region and, in particular, its southern area, the Piceno.



The Piceno offers the opportunity to choose between multiple routes : cities of art (starting from the beauties of Ascoli Piceno , where the juxtaposition of styles has created real gems) , ancient medieval villages, historic theaters , museums and art galleries, archaeological sites, medieval and Romanesque architecture . And then the wonderful nature of this land, with the two

National Parks of the Sibillini and Monti della Laga.

The Tournament will be held in San Benedetto del Tronto , which, with its fine sandy beach , more than ten kilometers long and its promenade full of palm trees , oleanders and other ornamental plants , to whom we owe the name " Riviera delle Palme , " is considered one of the main tourist areas of the Adriatic, ideal for a family holiday.

In the heart of its modern center, which features a wide range of recreational opportunities, that enlightened designers of the past inserted the Tennis Club " Maggioni", the Tournament location, in a very beautiful and green context .



But tennis matches will not be the only attraction for Participants : sightseeing tours to nearby towns , most notably the county town Ascoli Piceno, will contribute to make their stay more attractive.

Ascoli Piceno, which is only about twenty kilometers away, with its historical Center made by travertine marble, its Roman archaeological sites, its medieval "Hundred Towers", and the opulence of artistic masterpieces kept in museums and churches, is rightfully considered among the most admired Italian art cities.

The attractions of the Piceno do not end at these two centers: the unmistakable hills, medieval villages, routes, landscape and nature, the striking views of the mountains, are shows that will remain long in the memory of visitors. In addition, less than an hour's drive from San Benedetto del Tronto is Loreto, with its Marian Shrine, which the Catholic tradition binds to the Holy House of Jesus.

Furthermore these treasures of art, nature and culture must be added to an ancient and solid

culinary tradition, mixing flavors and aromas of earth and sea, and to a manufacturing industry that has reached peaks of excellence; the shoe district, with its most prestigious fashion brands, such as TOD'S, NERO GIARDINI, CESARE PACIOTTI and others, and their well-stocked outlets, are a few kilometers away, to the delight of the Ladies eager to dive in a few hours of shopping.

The Organizing Committee is already working to offer pleasant convivial evenings on the beach or in the neighboring villages to all Participants, enlivened by music, folk dances and other moments of joy, in the most genuine spirit of Rotarian friendship and mutual understanding.

And in this spirit that the Organization has linked the event to two "services": the first, in order to make the little decisive final step in the project

"Polio Plus", and the second in favor of one hundred children with disabilities, giving them a little vacation.

Finally, a few words on the chosen logo: it represents a heated tennis match between the two cities involved in the Championship, Ascoli and its hundred towers and St. Benedetto and its palms. Those who have experience in



organizing an event like a World Championship know how complex it can be, but the wish to contribute to the aims of the Fellowship and the hope to share with friends, even though opponents on the tennis court, the best the Italian cultural and artistic heritage can offer, make these difficulties disappear.

The Committee is working, but all his efforts will be rewarded if all the participants will leave bringing home good memories of this Championship.

The call is therefore to participate in large numbers: the Piceno and its inhabitants, primarily ITFR members, are waiting for you!

Ciro Cocozza

Organizing Committee Member

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

February 22-23, 2014, ClujNapoca, Romania

5th ITFR SAMVS Winter Cup

March 29-30, 2014, Zagreb, Croatia

14th ITFR Zagreb Indoors- Gordan Cacic Memorial

April 01-05, 2014, Asuncion, Paraguay

Sudamericano de tennis

August 23-30, 2014, San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy

10th ITFR World Championship

ITFR Fact sheet

Total members 1331, by 69 countries

Members by countries:

ITALY 268, BRAZIL 168, UNITED

STATES 146, CROATIA 136

INDIA 120, ROMANIA 90, AUSTRIA 40

BULGARIA 34, TURKEY 25, SERBIA 22

NIGERIA 20, UK 17..etc

For more information please use the website www.itfr.org

Season's greetings and best wishes for healthy, successful and peaceful New Year from Mladen & ITFR Board !