



CENTENARY TENNIS CLUBS

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ISSUE #5 ➔ March 2018

CENTENARY TENNIS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the fifth edition of the official newsletter of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association.

With this online bulletin, we aim to keep you up to date with the latest news from our events, competitions, membership and partners, as well as articles of historical interest, and we welcome contributions from our member clubs.

ABOUT US

The Association of Centenary Tennis Clubs (CTC) is an umbrella group of clubs more than 100 years old, including some of the most prestigious clubs in the sport.

Initially founded by eight European clubs, we now have an extensive and truly global membership and are recognised by the sport's governing body, the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

All member clubs have a history dating back at least one hundred years, with a significant sporting tradition and social role.

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New members welcomed at CTC Annual General Meeting



The Centenary Tennis Clubs Association (CTC) held its 21st Annual General Meeting in Lausanne on Saturday November 18nd, 2017.

The main item of the agenda of the Meeting was the elections for the Committee of Management for the period 2017-2020, at which current President Juan Maria Tintoré

of the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899 was re-elected to serve a further term.

He will be joined on the committee by founder club representatives Lars Myhrman (Kung LTK), Guido Schultz (LTTC Rot-Weiss Berlin), Donald Macloed (Cumberland LTC) and Eric Rogers (Tennis



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Club Geneve), who will serve as CTC Treasurer. The member club representatives will be CTC Vice-President Petr Simunek (I. Cesky LTK), Tom Hamilton (Fitzwilliam LTC), Bernard Dupouy (Villa Primrose) and Pedro Navedo (Real Sociedad de Tennis la Magdalena).

In addition, the Committee of Management co-opted two additional members to serve the Committee for the same term; Ota Ungerman (Royal Leopold Club) and Jorge Esponda (TC Argentino).

Five new clubs were accepted as members of the Association; Monte-Carlo Country Club (Monaco), The Northern Lawn Tennis Club (Great Britain), Lawn Tennis Club Festina (Netherlands), America Tennis Club (Colombia), and Seattle Tennis Club (United States). This brings the total number of

member clubs to a new record high of 72. You can read more about some of these new members elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Assembly heard details of the organisation's activities in 2017, including the successful staging of the CTC Senior Winners' Group in Athens and summaries of the myriad other competitions held around the world.

Looking ahead, 2018 looks set to be another year of growth, with member clubs including Villa Primrose (France), Carrickmines (Ireland), I.CLTK Prague (Czech Republic), Fitzwilliam (Ireland) Guayaquil (Ecuador), Rot-Weiss Berlin (Germany), RCTB-1899 (Spain) and Edgbaston Priory (Great Britain) amongst those to have already committed to staging events. 🏆

2017 CTC COMPETITIONS

I.ČLTK Prague defends Winners Group title

The CTC Winners Group 2017 took place on Sept 22-24 at the Athens LTC and included various group winners from 2016 senior level tournaments. On this occasion, the member clubs that would fight it out for the trophy were Real Club de Polo Barcelona, Tennis Club de Genève, I. Cesky Lawn Tennis Klub (Prague), acting as defending champions, and the hosts. The 2017 tournament turned out to be the strongest yet to be held in Athens. Excitement and sunny conditions overflowed into a great weekend of social yet competitive clay court matches, where the standard of tennis at this senior level was high.

The first day of tennis saw Real Club de Polo Barcelona tied against Tennis Club de Genève and I. Cesky Lawn Tennis Klub competed against Athens LTC. At the end of a long day, the team from Prague advanced to the finals with relative ease where they would confront Tennis Club de Genève, who battled the team from Real Club de Polo Barcelona in a thrilling deciding mixed doubles rubber. In the evening Athens LTC held an official dinner in honour of the guests which occurred simultaneously with the Autumn party



forming a convivial atmosphere with a view of the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Parthenon in the background. The event was attended by CTC Vice President and representative of I.CLTK Petr Simunek, Athens LTC President Ioannis Hadjiprodromou and Athens LTC Board Member & CTC Representative Evangelos Soupionas.

The joyful atmosphere carried into finals day where absorbing shot-making by both teams was witnessed and celebrated. I. Cesky Lawn Tennis Klub Praha managed to secure a better start and





comfortably led Tennis Club de Genève by 4 - 2 rubbers. Soon after, the team representing Tennis Club de Genève was forced to abandon the tie to catch their flight home. The defending champions

from Prague once again proved their might and emerged victorious for a second time in a row. Third and fourth places went to Real Club de Polo Barcelona and Athens LTC, respectively. 🏆

CTC Seniors Leimonias

On the weekend of September 1-3 HLTC Leimonias, The Hague, Netherlands hosted another Centenary Tennis Club (CTC) senior tennis event. Four clubs took part, with visitors coming from Circolo Tennis Bologna, LTTC Rot Weiss Berlin and Fitzwilliam LTC, Dublin.

The weekend started magnificently with a practice session and a reception to welcome the visiting players to the grounds on a sunny, late summer Friday afternoon. The hosts encouraged all the visitors to spend a night in the town (or at one of the nearby beach clubs), in the vain hope that they might start the matches Saturday a little less sharp and fresh.

This clearly wasn't the case, as Saturday morning all the teams made a quick and serious impression. Leimonias managed to battle its way past Rot-Weiss Berlin (6-3), whilst on the other courts Fitzwilliam narrowly beat an impressive CTC debut making CT Bologna (5-4), the last 45+ mixed doubles making the difference. Afterwards there was an extremely enjoyable Saturday evening dinner together at the club, excellently catered by the Leimonias chef Fabian and his crew. Followed by a (not too late) night on the town – for a small selec-



tion of the players. The evening went in a great atmosphere with friendship and laughs between all four teams.

On the Sunday hosts Leimonias played Fitzwilliam in the final, while Rot-Weiss took on Bologna for the third spot. On another beautiful sunny day Leimonias quickly built a lead in the final, winning most of the men's and women's singles matches. After another hearty lunch, Rot-Weiss won the encounter with Bologna to take the third spot. And Leimonias was able to deal the decisive blow with a few strong performances in the doubles. Meaning that, for the first time in its history, Leimonias had finally managed to win a CTC tournament! 🏆

CTC Seniors Malahide

Malahide LTCC hosted Le Tir from Paris in Dublin for the weekend of 29th September / 1st October.

The Le Tir players were welcomed with Cheese & Wine in the Club on Friday evening, with play starting on Saturday morning.

The doubles came first with Malahide managing to win all 3 matches including the Over 45 Mixed Doubles on a scoreline of 7-6, 6-7 (10-8) which could not have been any closer. The Home team came out on top in the singles in the afternoon also.





Saturday night saw a very enjoyable night with both teams enjoying a meal and good night together in the Club. It was the first time that any of the Le Tir players had visited Ireland.

The weekend proved to be a great opportunity for two Clubs who had not played each other previously to meet, play some good tennis and make new CTC friends. 🏸

CTC Seniors Wiener Park

A CTC Seniors competition was held at Wiener Park Club in Austria during the weekend of September 23-24, 2017.

Following the unfortunate withdrawal of the Edgbaston Priory LTC, the organizers changed the open draw format into a round robin, which gave all of the participating clubs the opportunity to play against each other. Despite an unfavorable weather forecast, all matches were carried out.

The ties turned out to be very close, and finished up with Kung. Lawn Tennis Klubben of Sweden in first position and therefore advancing to take part in next year's Winners Group.

The results were: Wiener Park Club d. KLTk 5/4, KLTk d. Carrickmines 9/0 and Wiener Park Club d. Carrickmines 6/3.



All the teams gathered together on Saturday evening at the same club where a typical Austrian buffet was offered and the participants enjoyed a social evening. The

two days were a great showcase of sportsmanship with all the participants already committing to take part in next year's competitions. 🏸

CTC Super Seniors RC Polo

Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899 won the CTC Super Seniors Competition after a very competitive, sunny and social weekend at RC Polo. The Haagsche Lawn Tennis Club Leimonias, the Carrickmines Croquet & Lawn Tennis Club, the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona and of course the



host RC Polo all participated in this doubles team competition of 55+ and 65+ category that combines men's, women's and mixed doubles.

The weekend saw two very tight semifinals between the RCTB 1899 and Leimonias, with the local club claiming the win by





4 points to 2. The visitors from Dublin got a win over the host Club after some very close matches and a countdown on sets.

In the finals the RCTB 1899 scored a win over the Irish by 4 points to 2, leaving the host club in third place and the team from the Netherlands in fourth position.

The President of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association, Mr Juan M^a Tintoré attended the Saturday night official dinner, where all the teams enjoyed a meal and good night together in the Club. All the players expressed their support to this new event and encouraged the Association to keep the ball rolling to organize further editions of this new format within CTC. 🏆

CTC U16 Edgbaston

Edgbaston Priory Lawn Tennis Club played host to Real Club de Polo de Barcelona and Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club on the weekend of September 30 - October 1, 2017.

All of the teams really enjoyed the weekend and especially the competition, which was played in a format of two boys and two girls on each of the teams playing two boys' singles, two girls' singles and two doubles matches respectively.

In the first tie the team from Dublin got a win over the Barcelona juniors and the host team also

showed some better tennis scoring a 6/0 win overall. In the final tie, the host team defeated Fitzwilliam by 5 matches to 1.



Edgbaston has already announced their intention to host the competition once again in 2018. 🏆

CTC U14 RCTB-1899 Cup

I. CLTK Prague has defended the RCTB-1899 Cup title after a weekend of high quality competition held at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899 from 25-27 August.

The host club and defending champions were joined by Under 14 teams from Carrickmines (Dublin), Roehampton (London) and the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona. The final saw the Czech team score a one-sided victory over Roehampton, winning 6-0 with victories in both boys' singles, girls' singles and the two doubles matches.

The Roehampton Club players leave Barcelona with silver medals, while Carrickmines finished in



third position, beating RC Polo into fourth place ahead of the host club.

The tournament was followed by a presentation ceremony at which all teams and players received medals from Centenary Tennis Clubs secretary Berta Tintoré and Marc Visiedo, the CTC coordinator at the RCTB and tournament referee. 🏆

CTC U14 I.CLTK Cup



The tenth edition of the CTC U 14 I CLTK Cup took place during the weekend of September 22-24, 2017. A total of five teams were in action: Carrickmines from Dublin, Kung LTK from Sweden, Real Club de Polo from Barcelona, Cumberland from UK and the host Club, I. CLTK Prague.

The competition was organized with a knock-out draw, enabling Carrickmines to reach the semi-finals by defeating the British team on the opening day. On the other side of the draw the Swedish team got a victory over the Spanish team of the RC Polo. The other matches saw the Cumberland playing against KLTK and the host team playing against the Irish. On the afternoon of the Saturday, the host team played the Swedish visitors and was able to defend the CTC U 14 I CLTK Prague title.

The official dinner was attended by all the teams, who expressed their gratitude to the Tournament Director, Mr. Jan Pecha, and also by the CTC Secretary, Berta Tintore who recognized the Clubs General Manager, Mr. Savdra, with a specially engraved plaque in honour of the 10th edition of the Competition. 🏆



CTC U12 Carrickmines Cup

Carrickmines LTC was delighted to welcome five visiting overseas teams to Dublin, with two teams from the host club making up the numbers. Every club played three matches over the two days with the first round determining who played for the Cup, (the winning teams), and who played for the plate, (the Runners up)!

The Cup was retained by Carrickmines, after tight matches against I.Cesky (Prague) and SALK (Stockholm). SALK edged out I.Cesky for 2nd place on a set count back having finished even on points. It was the third time the Carrickmines won the tournament.

The RCT Barcelona 1899 edged out a tight victory for the plate defeating neighbours, the Real Club de Polo, to win the shield.

Again, the players fortunate to have wonderful sunshine for the weekend and to get full use out of the grass courts. For many of the players, the tournament represented a first ever experience of playing on grass courts.

Carrickmines looks forward to hosting the 2018 event. 🏆



CTC TIME MACHINE

Villa Primrose celebrates its 120th anniversary

1897 - 2017



120ans

The Villa Primrose was founded in 1897. It was officially declared under the name of SAVP (Société Athlétique de la Villa Primrose). Situated in the chic and

residential suburb of Caudéran, just outside Bordeaux City Centre, the founder members worked in the wine trade, harbour business and the banking world.





Daniel Lawton, son of the Club's first President, describes the atmosphere at the Clubs beginnings as "mundane and a little snob-bish". Tennis meets were discussed at Board meetings of the "Belle Époque" but also the organisation of dinners, receptions and Balls that were held all year round.

At this time, the Villa Primrose was a multi-sports club, but tennis was largely predominant and served as the link between the Entrepreneurial spirit and the sporting world.

The first Singles championships were held in 1897, when English terms were current usage as the Anglo-Saxon influence reigned. The first "Primrose Cup" was organised and non-Club players were able to participate. It was the first of many to come. In 1909 the French Championships were organised at Primrose, the first time they had been held outside of Paris.

During the 1920's, Suzanne Lenglen played mixed doubles at the Villa Primrose with Jean Borotra during the France-Spain Cup. Homegrown talents Jean Samazeuilh and François Blanchy were respectively French Champions in 1921 and 1923.

The 'musketeers', on the brink of world domination, could also be regularly spotted on the red clay courts of the Villa.

In 1925, a field hockey team was created, which would allow to train during the wet weather season. The sport established itself in its own right and saw its glory days during the 1950's, winning the French title 4 times (in 1950, 1954, 1955 & 1956). This success was prominently due to the investment of the following 4 families; Lawton, Allard, Hauet and Castéja.

This period was just as glorious for the tennis, as the Villa Primrose hosted more and more tournaments. They welcomed again the French Championships in 1956. The Jauffret family distinguished themselves. François, the Club sweetheart, won the title in 1973, shortly followed by another club talent Patrice Dominguez.

The years 1979 to 1995 were the most significant in the Clubs history to date. Primrose hosted the



International "Passing-Shot" tournament (50,000 dollars prize money) the worlds finest played in front of packed tribunes. Yannick Noah won in 1979; Ivan Lendl in 1989, Guy Forget in 1990 and 1991, Sergi Bruguera lifted the trophy in 1993.

At the same time, Primrose's own players continued to win many individual and team world titles.

In 2008, Primrose became an International major tournament organiser once again with the first edition of the BNP PARIBAS PRIMROSE Challenger tournament. In 2010 the winner was Richard Gasquet, Gael Monfils in 2013, and Julien Benneteau in 2014. For the Clubs 120th anniversary in 2017, Steve Darcis, a player of the Primrose's men's first team clinched the title.

The Villa Primrose were crowned French team Champions in 2011, 2015 & 2017. The last victory was won under the captaincy of Michaël Llodra, the Club's ambassador.

Numerous celebrations were held all year long for the clubs 120th anniversary. President Bernard Dupouy and the Board honoured the memory of the founder members by organizing a photo exposition, which was displayed in front of Bordeaux City Hall. In September a delegation came from the prestigious AELTC, an updated version of the book tracing the 120 years of the Club was released during a press conference, not to mention all the events and tournaments for members and sponsors all under the banner of its anniversary.

The year was rounded off by a Gala evening in December. More than 300 members attended in presence of many high profile guests including Mr. Alain Juppé, Bordeaux City Major, Mr. Bernard Giudicelli, President of the French Tennis Federation and Mrs. Tintoré, General Secretary, representing her Father, the President of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association.

The Villa Primrose continues to write the next chapter of its book..! **To see a special video made to commemorate the landmark occasion, [click here](#)**



West Side Tennis Club celebrates 125th anniversary

West Side Tennis Club held a grand gala to mark the occasion of the club's 125th anniversary. The event, organized by the West Side Tennis Club Foundation was a truly fun affair with over 200 attendees.

Festivities included a round robin on grass with guests from Centennial and US Tennis Clubs; stadium exhibition matches with tennis professionals Jan Michael Gambill, Vince Spadea, Michael Russell and Luke Jensen and the home team; a Banner Ceremony and Party under the Stadium which included the families of the two tennis greats that were honoured – Maureen Connolly and Jack



Kramer, and special guests Gordon Smith (USTA), Todd Martin (International Tennis Hall of Fame), Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Tommy Lin from the Mayor's Office, the president and general manager and their spouses

es from the Kooyong Lawn & Tennis Club, Melbourne, plus local dignitaries and representatives from the press.

This event was followed by a sunset dinner and dancing on the Clubhouse lawn under a perfectly clear sky. Pictures of this event can be found on West Side's website at www.wstcfoundation.org



FRIENDLIES

CTC UK & Ireland Friendly

Cumberland LTC won the CTC British-Irish Friendly 2017 for the first time after a very competitive and social day of tennis on Saturday 2nd September. Carrickmines, Edgbaston, Roehampton and Winchester all participated in the competition in the Open Men, Open Ladies, 40 Ladies, 45 Men, 50 Ladies and 55 Men.

Thankfully the event was blessed with one of the more sunny days of the summer, which put everyone in great spirits and allowed some competitive hard-court tennis. After some competitive matches, the host club Cumberland emerged as winners after finishing in first place in 5 out of 6 categories, with Winchester undefeated in the Men's Over 55 category.

Jono Sumner, Cumberland's newly appointed Tennis chair said "I felt the day epitomised what was so special about the Centenary Events. I had heard much about the organisation itself and

previous events but prior to last

weekend had never played in one myself. The day saw an enjoyable standard of tennis throughout all categories with a number of competitive matches all played in the best of spirits. The chance to not only play a high standard of tennis against other clubs but also support other members of your club amplified the sense of team that comes with such an event. Cumberland looks forward too many more matches in the future!"

The club hosted some well-enjoyed social tennis organised by Tennis Director, Daren Quilty. The official dinner was attended by Centenary Tennis Clubs secretary Berta Tintoré and Cumberland LTC President & CTC Committee Member Donald Macleod. 🎾



NEW MEMBERS

Introducing...LTC Festina

LTC Festina is a well-established tennis club in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Its roots date back to 1894, whereas official foundation took place in 1904. Festina's history is one which combines competitive fair play with a true social club spirit.



Festina has been national club champion, has hosted large national tournaments on the highest Dutch competitive level and has a group of members, which have at played international level (both Davis-Cup and ATP/WTB).

Even more important than the competitive fair play is the social role Festina plays in its members' lives. Members appreciate the many social activities ranging from large dinners after internal tournaments, to the Festina international tennis holiday, to the annual longstanding exchange with CTC member H.L.T.C. Leimonias. This all takes place in the tranquil environment of the club in Amsterdam's largest national heritage city center park, the Vondelpark.

Festina's facilities include 11 clay court courts and a recently fully-renovated historic clubhouse. Testimonial of the appreciation of its members, is that the churn rate of members leaving the club is less than 1%, that many members are a member since young age (multiple generations of the same family can be found playing tennis on a sunny day) and that – regrettably – the waiting list for joining the club is now well in excess of 8 years.

Pivotal for Festina is that junior players are provided with ample opportunity to develop a passion for tennis in a safe carefree environment. Festina is proud to be part of an initiative of the municipality of Amsterdam to offer socially disadvantaged youth the opportunity to be introduced to sports.

Festina members very much look forward to participating in CTC events and bilateral exchanges. Furthermore, we will be delighted to welcome you at our club in case you spend time in Amsterdam and would like to play some tennis. 🎾

Introducing...The Northern Lawn Tennis Club

THE NORTHERN LAWN TENNIS CLUB IS ONE OF THE LEADING LAWN TENNIS CLUBS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND



We are situated in 5 acres of secluded grounds in the suburb of West Didsbury in Manchester.

Situated only 3 miles (or 6 tram stops away) from the city centre, a 15-minute taxi from Manchester Airport and 5 minutes from the M60 motorway by car.

The Northern, established in 1881, has a rich history of international grass court tennis with Fred Perry, Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall, Maureen





Connolly, Maria Bueno, Billie-Jean King, Margaret Court, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras, Stefan Edberg, and Goran Ivanisevic all gracing the club's courts over the years.

The Northern has hosted 3 Davis Cups (1958, 1991 and 1994) and the Manchester Trophy, A pre-Wimbledon \$100,000 grass court event will be played at the Northern from 10 to 17th June 2018.

The excellent quality of the club's nine grass courts have often found it referred to as 'the Wimbledon of the North', also the title of a book written in 1981 to celebrate the centenary of The Northern.

The Club boasts 9 grass, 6 synthetic clay, 3 American clay, 3 indoor courts, together with 6 squash courts, a fully equipped gym, and a dance studio.

CTC member clubs will receive a warm welcome in our modern bar and lounge areas and relax with a drink and a bite to eat on our South facing patio after a game of tennis. ●



Tell us the story of your club!

Would you like your club to feature in future editions of CTC News? Many of our member clubs have done much to shape the development of tennis in their local communities.

We know that each and every one of our member clubs has its own long and illustrious history, and we'd like to share your stories with our members and readers.

If you would like to contribute in future, let us know by contacting info@centenarytennisclubs.com

Find us on social media!

Keep up with all the latest from the CTC with our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Don't forget to follow us and tag us when posting about your CTC-related activities.



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