

PRESS-RELEASE

FOLLOWING THE RESULTS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CLUB OF RUSSIA IN TOURNAMENT COLUMBUS CUP 2007 IN BELGIUM

In July 2007 the male team of IC Russia consisting of 6 persons took part in the Columbus Cup held by IC Belgium in Brussels. The event was dedicated to the 60th Anniversary of IC Belgium and gathered teams from 16 countries of the world including USA, Germany, Spain, Ireland, France and Russia.

The team of Russia was represented by G. Ryzhevskij and M. Dibtsev in the category "65 and older", by V. Korotkov and V. Petrov in the category "55 and older", by the Club Captain and Vice President of the Club of Russia, Y.A. Khokhlov, and by the First Honorary Secretary of IC Russia, a long-time friend of the Club of Belgium, Mr Boris Fomenko. The event continued four days on the clay courts of the Royal Club "Leopold".

In the first round the team of Russia played with IC Spain, with whom our players had already had matches at the Potter Cup 2007. Despite the stiff fight, our players lost a round with the score 0:4 against the Spaniards who met the IC South Africa in the second round and also won. The team of the Club of Spain was formed of rather strong players, but in spite of that, the Spaniards were defeated by the players of the Club of USA who became winners of the tournament having conquered the equally strong team of the IC Germany in the final game with the score 4:2. Our players met the Americans at the Columbus Cup in Mexico in 2004 and the German – during the friendly match in Moscow in 2005, where the powers of our players and the guests were nearly equal.

The consolation draw also brought no result to our team. IC Russia lost the matches of the first round to the Club of Holland.

The Club of Belgium organised a fabulous entertainment and cultural program on the occasion of the said competitions and its Anniversary, which made an indelible impression of the event on the Russian team. The participants and guests of the tournament visited Museum Van Buuren, Bruges town, a golf tournament and enjoyed the Gala Cocktail in the Royal Club where the matches were played.

Mrs Christine Mercelis, the founder of the trophy Mercelis Cup (for ladies in the categories 35+ and 45+) and the Honorary President of the Club of Belgium, attended the Gala Dinner on the occasion of the tournament closing. Grateful for the perfect tennis play and hospitality, the guests delivered solemn speeches towards the organizers. Mr Gerald Kaisin, Captain of the Club of Belgium, has been an international member of the Club of Russia for several years what symbolises close friendship and tight relations between the Clubs of these two countries.