

IC ASIAN JUNIOR CHALLENGE 2011

The Asian International Clubs have taken the initiative since 2007 of hosting an IC Junior Challenge event for boys and girls aged 16 and under (must not have reached 17 years before 31 December 2011).

The Asian event was held in New Delhi in late 2007 followed by the World Finals event held in New Zealand in early 2008.

In 2009, Delhi again hosted the IC Asian Junior Challenge. This was followed by the World Finals in Delhi in December 2010.

For 2011, one of the youngest ICs, Singapore, will host the IC Asian Junior Challenge to provide a welcome breather to India who has provided yeoman service to the IC Junior Challenge series. The World Finals will be held in 2012.

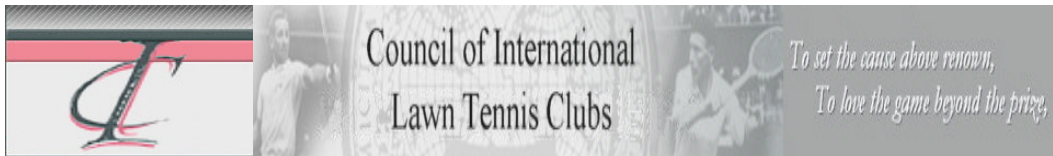
DETAILS OF THE IC ASIAN JUNIOR CHALLENGE EVENT IN SINGAPORE

Competition: For teams of 4 junior players with a captain who is an adult member of the IC or national tennis federation or coach. The winning team from the Asian IC Junior Challenge will qualify to play the World Finals.

Objective: To share the IC spirit with junior players, to promote sportsmanship and international fellowship amongst the participants.

Age group: All junior players must be below 17 years of age as of 31 December 2011. Players participating in the IC Asian Junior Challenge who turn 17 before the World Finals will be eligible to play in the World Finals.

Format: The playing format will be the best of three sets with the third set being a "super tie-break". The no-deuce rule will apply.



Depending on the number of entries, either a (a) round robin followed by semifinals/finals; or (b) straight knock, will be deployed. Teams will be seeded based on the ITF 18-and-under points/rankings.

Each tie will consist of two boys singles, two girls singles, one boys doubles and one girls doubles. In the event that the results of these matches (based on matches won) is a tie, a mixed doubles match consisting of a pro-set (first to reach nine games, with tie break at 8-all) will be played as the decider.

No umpires will be provided for matches. All players and coaches are to abide by the ITF Rules and will be expected to display sportsmanship of the highest standard (which includes but is not limited to honesty, fairness and respect for others).

A stringing service will be available (over night turn-around) at each team's own costs.

Practice Day: There will be a practice session on the day before the event. An event for physically/mentally disabled persons may be held in which case, all players are requested to assist. A Captains Meeting will be held in evening of the practice day.

Date: 24 to 26 May 2011 (23 May will be the practice day)

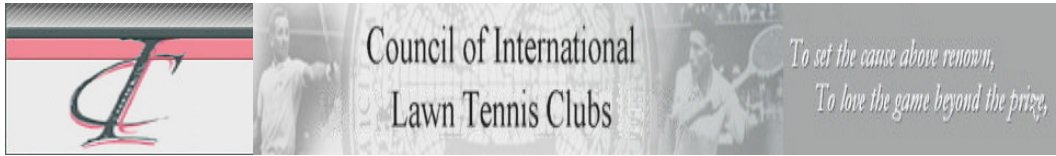
Venue: Changi Beach Club, No. 2 Andover Road, Singapore 509984

Accommodation: Changi Beach Club chalets. The chalets accommodate four persons per room (two double-beds per room). The junior players will share rooms with junior players from other countries of the same sex on a four-persons per room basis. Coaches will share on a two-persons per room basis.

Tournament Referee: Mr Chen Chee Yen, IC Singapore member

Tournament Director: Mr Tan Xu Teng, IC Singapore member

Cost: The entry fee for each team will be Singapore Dollars 500 per team.



The entry fee will cover accommodation on the nights of 23 to 25 May and late checkout on 26 May, airport pick up and return and meals.

History of the IC



*A. Wallis Myers
Founder of the IC movement*

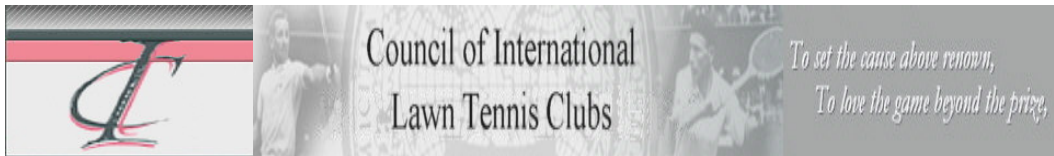
It was an idea born of its time. The early 1920's were lively years, when it was simply good to be alive. So many were not. A whole generation of young European and Dominion manhood had perished in the First World War. It was the age of the flapper and the Charleston, a time when chivalry was reborn in the almost conscious effort to banish the painful memories of conflict. Among those most concerned to restore faith in the value of international friendships and the essential goodness of man was Arthur Wallis Myers, the respected lawn tennis correspondent of The Daily Telegraph and the lawn tennis editor of The Field magazine. Wallis Myers (he was never called Arthur) had been a good tennis player before the war, steady but unspectacular, and with a keen appreciation of the finer points of strategy, especially in doubles. In addition to his interest in tennis Myers was a respectable golfer and in 1913 instituted the Lawn Tennis Golf Cup, a competition for all past and present tennis players, which survives to this day as the Desborough Cup.

When war broke out Myers was 36, too old for active duty. Nevertheless he spent a productive war. His wide knowledge of Europe was useful to the National War Aims Committee on which he served from 1917 until the end of the war. In 1918 he was seconded to the staff in Downing Street for two years. For his important contribution to the nation's affairs Wallis Myers was awarded the C.B.E.

The post-war period at Wimbledon saw a sudden surge in interest as a flood of new overseas stars appeared. It was during this period that an idea began to crystallise in the mind of Wallis Myers. According to the recollection of the late Ted Tinling, the idea had developed out of earnest conversations between Myers and Dwight Davis, the donor of the Davis Cup. Surely, thought Myers, there should be some way of nurturing and preserving the camaraderie that existed between the young gladiators of so many countries who met in serious but friendly rivalry at tournaments around the world each year. Another who influenced him in this direction was Lord Balfour, the former Prime Minister (1902-1905).

So it was that early in November 1924 Myers finally put physical expression to his idea. A fortnight before the inaugural meeting...I sent out letters to some 50 British players who had crossed the seas as members of touring teams. All that were in London at the time attended a gathering over which Sir Leonard Lyle presided.

This was an historic occasion. To an attentive and sympathetic gathering Myers explained his ideals. We are in some measure compensated for the temporary loss of supremacy on the courts by the reflection that our early pioneers, through their skill and enthusiasm, had sowed the good seed abroad. We are seeking to cement the ties that bind us to all international players, to exchange greetings with them from time to time, to offer them hospitality when they come in our midst. Hands across the net, in fact, means hands across the ocean. Myers had his audience enraptured.



They had all experienced hospitality abroad and were fully in tune with his sentiments as he continued...The I.C. will compete with no other club. It will pay fealty to constitutional authority and will not seek to usurp or overlap the functions of other organisations. We should, in principle and in spirit, be a society of players who have toured in and been educated by overseas countries, co-operating in the course of time with offshoots of the parent, which might be founded abroad for the same object. Our purposes are social, nonpolitical, of a masonic nature.

It was considered a great honour to be invited to wear the distinctive grey tie with the single pink stripe. But, as Myers recalled, not every player who had carried his racket abroad automatically became a member. Steadily our panel was enlarged so that by 1932 there were 107 ordinary and 55 honorary members. Election did not necessarily follow qualification; the deed was of more value than the word.



Jean Borotra 1929

The first overseas nation to form an International Club was France. It was launched at a meeting held in July 1929 at the Automobile Club of France in Paris. There were two pink stripes on their new tie. It was natural that the Americans should decide to launch their own I.C the following year and appropriate that they should choose to have three narrow stripes on their steel grey ties.

Wallis Myers died on the eve of Wimbledon in 1939 after being taken ill whilst returning from Britain's losing Davis Cup tie against Germany in Berlin. Accordingly he was not present to witness the strong revival of the I.C. movement after the war.

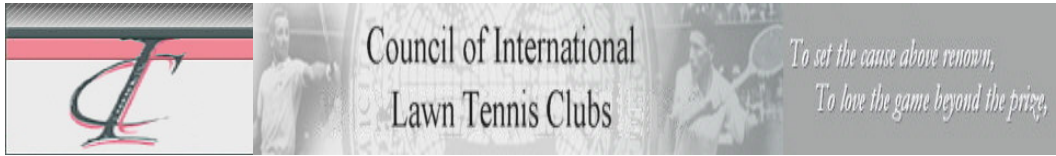
The arrival of open tennis in 1968, far from dimming the enthusiasm of prospective newcomers to the I.C. fold, served to accelerate interest. The game itself was growing fast and much of it was increasingly commercial. Yet there seemed to be the recognition among those responsible for directing its course in so many countries that the finest traditions needed to be actively promoted lest they were swept away on the rising tide of professionalism.



IC of the Netherlands v IC of GB, Noordwijk, 10-11 August 1963

Today, the IC family numbers 34 member nations. 30 were represented and played at the 75th Anniversary meeting at Wimbledon in 1999. Such vibrant activity proves beyond doubt the validity of Wallis Myers original concept that tennis, at the highest level, has all the finest thing of warfare about it. Although man is indeed a combative animal, he also feels the need to respect the enemy and afterwards to join with him in social union; in Sir Henry Newbolt's words:

“...To honour, while you strike him down,
The foe that comes with fearless eyes.



To count the life of battle good,
And dear the land that gave you birth,
And dearer yet the brotherhood
That binds the brave of all the earth".

(The above has been condensed from an article which appeared in 'The International Club' a history)