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Envoyé: mardi 11 juillet 2023 08:24
À: Dominique Perrot
Objet: IGFR International Newsletter "Greetings from Rome"

Indicateur de suivi: Assurer un suivi
État de l'indicateur: Avec indicateur



International Golfing
Fellowship of Rotarians

Greetings from Rome

Newsletter, July 2023



Dear members of IGFR International,

Last week, we celebrated the 58th International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians world championship in Rome, Italy. First, a BIG thank you to the organizing committee for their hard work and dedication. More than 280 participants from 26 countries (Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,

Uganda, United Kingdom and the United States) met to compete under the blue Italian skies that accompanied us for the whole week.

The week kicked off with the traditional flag raising ceremony followed by a beautiful buffet dinner on the terrace of Parco di Medici golf club. On Tuesday, the fourball best-ball competition took place at the Parco di Medici and Castel Gandolfo courses. You can find the net and gross results of this fun game [here](#).

Tuesday started the competition for the first round of the Rotarian World Championships. We played on four beautiful, some say difficult, but all agree very nice courses: Olgiata, Parco de Medici, Castel Gandolfo and Ryder Cup 2023 location Marco Simone. The courses cannot be compared for their individual highlights: where Castel Gandolfo offers a unique opportunity to play in an old volcano crater, Olgiata tops with its old trees and beautiful scenery. Parco de Medici, apart from its closeness to the hotel, was in top notch condition, and Marco Simone – well that was truly special due to the Ryder Cup coming there in a few months. Of course, it's not an easy course, and collectively, our Rotarian group has lost quite a few balls in the rough.

Wednesday was the traditional rest day, where participants could either chose to practice more golf, visit Rome, relax by the pool, or join the organization committee's tour to Ostia Antica. Whatever was one's preference, it was an enjoyable day for all in the build up to the rest of the week, which saw the second and third round of the Rotarian World Championships.

Having seen some fantastic golf being played across the first, second and third division, as well as the partners and guest division during the three championship days, it was time on Friday evening to return to Marco Simone country club to celebrate the Opening Cocktail and Grand Opening Buffet, Gala Dinner and Awards Night. The complete set of results can be found [here](#). Many congratulations to all the winners! By the way, you can see all photos taken by our photographer on several golf courses, from the opening ceremony and the gala night when you visit [here](#).

Dear friends, I think we all realize what a big job it is for any organizing committee in a host country to make things work as smoothly as possible. And I hope you join me in thanking the organizing committee of the 58th IGFR world championship for their work and dedication. Yes, things can always be better, and I acknowledge that some of you have voiced complaints. These will not go unheard, and we will take any learnings and implement them for future world championships. We are always open for constructive criticism, and for any pointers to make our fellowship stronger. Anyone IGFR member should feel free to contact me or any of my fellow board directors at any time.

Looking ahead, there is much to look forward to in our fellowship. Next up is the IGFR Germany championship held between August 4 and 6 in Spa & Golf Resort Weimarer Land. [More information can be found here](#). This is closely followed by the 33rd US/Canada Golf open championship in Niagara Falls, Canada, from 17-20 September. [Information can be found here](#). And to catch a bit of winter sun, the IGFR Europe championship in Marbella, Spain, taking place from 13 to 17 November this year. [Information here](#).

Looking into next year, there will be two highlights I can already mention: between the 8th of July and 12th of July 2024, IGFR Europe welcomes you to the 48th European Rotary Golf Open Championship 2024 held in Crans Montana. And on

or around October 1st, 2023, the registration for the 59th International Fellowship of Golfing Rotarians world championship, held in San Diego, USA, will open. We will be sending a communication as soon as the registration opens.

There are many more tournaments on the horizon, and I invite all zone coordinators and tournament organisers to let us know the dates and accompanying information, so that we can share them with our IGFR members across the world.

Friends, the email is longer than usual, but there has been a lot to update you on. Going forward, we will also aim to inform you much better about regional IGFR events, to further foster our fellowship. For now, let me close in thanking the organizing committee once again for their hard work and dedication demonstrated last week in Rome.

All best Rotary wishes,

Andrea Oddi, president IGFR International







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