



# CENTENARY TENNIS CLUBS

Principal partner: **E. GUTZWILLER & C<sup>IE</sup>**  
PRIVATE BANKERS SINCE 1886

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## CENTENARY TENNIS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the sixth 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 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.

### CONTACT

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## Centenary Tennis Club Association celebrates new members



The 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Centenary Tennis Clubs Association (CTC) was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Saturday 24th November 2018.

Four new clubs were accepted as members of the Association; Ladies' Recreation Club (Hong Kong),

Manila Polo Club (Philippines), River Forest Tennis Club (Illinois, USA) and Murcia Club de Tenis 1919 (Spain), which celebrates its centenary this year.

This brings the total number of CTC member clubs to a new record high of 74. You can read introduc-



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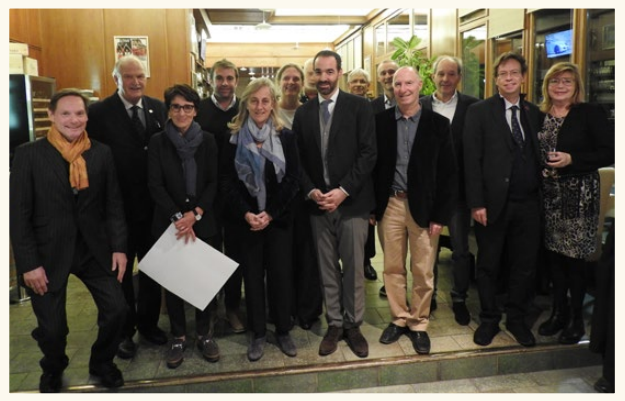


tions to some of the CTC’s newest members elsewhere in this issue.

The AGM Assembly also heard details of the organisation’s activities during 2018, including the successful staging of the CTC Senior Winners’ Group at I.CLTK Prague, and the first event of the Association ever to be held in Ecuador, where it was hosted in the Guayaquil Tennis Club.

Looking ahead, 2019 looks set to be another year of growth, with member clubs including Leimonias (Netherlands), Carrickmines (Ireland), I.CLTK Prague (Czech Republic), TC Geneve (Switzerland), Lawn Tennis Club Festina (Netherlands), RCTB-1899 (Spain) and Guayaquil (Ecuador) amongst those to have already committed to staging events.

The Committee of Management was invited to attend a cocktail at the Tennis Club Stade Lausanne, where they shared their thoughts with the club’s President, Mrs. Michèle Antipas and the members of its Board of Management. The club has expressed an interest in joining the association on the occasion of its 100th anniversary in 2020.



The CTC is an umbrella group of clubs that are more than 100 years old and includes some of the prestigious and best-known clubs in the sport. Initially founded by eight members as a pan-European association, the organisation now has an extensive and truly global membership and is affiliated to Tennis Europe and recognised by the sport’s governing body, the International Tennis Federation.

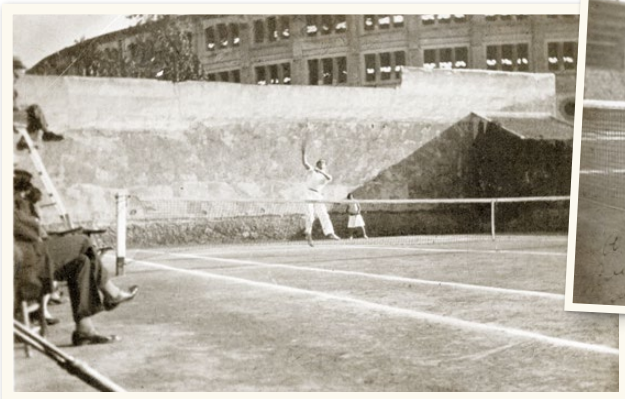
In January 2019, the organisation welcomed a new principal sponsor; **E. Gutzwiller & Cie** private bank.

### NEW CLUBS

## Murcia Club de Tennis 1919 – A Brief History

### The origin of lawn tennis in Murcia dates back to 1908.

A lack of both courts and official support were no barriers to participation for the most faithful fans, who in 1919 constituted the Murcia Tennis Club, providing it with 2 courts and changing rooms.



Five years later, problems with the landlord forced them to find a new site, which was generously offered by D. Luis Pardo, President of the Real Murcia Football Club. Two courts were built in the Stadium of the Condomina.

Despite the difficulties of the Spanish Civil War, the enthusiastic players from Murcia kept alive the flame of the club. After the conflict, these courts were the venue for some important exhibition games, amongst those a particularly well-remembered battle in January 1945 between the Italian Romanoni and Bartoli of Barcelona.

The growing interest and demand for facilities led D. José Vergés, president in 1946, to build a new





headquarters with three courts, El Portillo de San Antonio. Here, a young Manuel Santana came to delight the Murcian public for a first time. In 1959, the Club moved once again, for what would be the last time, settling at its current location in the vicinity of the Old Prison of Murcia.

From that moment on, the Club's expansion has continued uninterrupted. In 1965, two new tracks were built, the number of 500 members was reached and the venue began to stage national and international competitions.

The period of greatest growth and expansion of the Club took place under the mandate of Antonio Páez Saura who extended the number of courts to 16, inaugurated new changing rooms for men and women, an Olympic swimming pool, children's areas, a restaurant with social lounge, meeting rooms and offices. This period also saw the Tennis Club Murcia host its first Davis Cup tie (1975), in which Spain handed Denmark a heavy 5/0 loss. In 1977, it was the turn of the Grand Prix where José Higuera beat Britain's Buster Mottran, and from where the first colour television broadcast of tennis in Spain was transmitted.

In the years 1988 and 2000, the Davis Cup returned to Club de Tennis Murcia 1919 for historic qualifying matches against Brazil and Italy that concluded with two important victories of Spain.



Throughout its history, the Club has celebrated many other prestigious events: Spanish individual and team championships, Galea Cup, Fed Cup, ATP and ITF Futures tournaments, but also veteran and junior tournaments, such as the European 14 &

Under Championships for teams (Copa del Sol) or the Mutua Circuit Madrid Open Under 15s. In 2019, the club plans to organize its first ever ATP Challenger tournament, between the 8th and the 14th of April.

The Club de TEnis Murcia 1919 has received visits from the great personalities of the sport, like D. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Her Royal Highness Elena, Duchess of Lugo, and Prince Alberto of Mónaco, on the occasion of the Youth Olympics. Many great tennis players have passed through the doors and the competitions of the club, including the likes of Borg, Santana, Herrera, Orantes, Nadal, Corretja, Ferrero, Almagro and others. Also fondly remembered is a special exhibition and clinic given by André Agassi and Pat Cash, alongside Nick Bolletieri.

Almost 100 years of history intertwine with the history of the city itself. Great pages of sports glory have been written on these courts. Great athletes have played here. Great personalities have visited us. And many great people have gone through its governing bodies, ensuring the continued growth of the Club, but in terms of its membership and facilities. Nowadays it is a Club of great prestige at national level; the men's team is the current national champion of the top category; The Higher Council of Sports granted the club the Merit Sports Award, the Royal Spanish Federation recognised in 1994 with the 'Gold Club' category and more recently, in 2015, was designated best club of the year by the Professional Tennis Registry. Murcia Tennis Club is the pride of both its city and its members. 🏆



# Ladies' Recreation Club

The Ladies' Recreation Club is a private members' club located in the heart of Hong Kong. With five-star sports and dining facilities and outstanding service, the Club offers its members a place to gather, socialise and enjoy an array of activities with their families and guests. With members of many nationalities and ages, the LRC continues to be one of the most sought-after family-oriented sports and recreation clubs in Hong Kong.

## History

Founded in 1883, the LRC occupies an ideal location on Old Peak Road, which is easily reached both from the residential areas of the Peak and Mid-Levels and from Central, the business district of Hong Kong island.

After more than a century of sports and good camaraderie, the Club today remains committed to its original charter – that of providing members and their families with outstanding amenities in which they can enjoy sports, recreation, social life and dining.

Today, there are approximately 3,000 members from varied backgrounds. The LRC has three membership types – Single, Family and Corporate. Approximately 70% are family memberships.

## Club Membership Privileges

The LRC combines the intimacy and friendliness of a private club with excellent service, a reputation for good food, world-class sports facilities and great fun for the whole family. Children are offered a wide range of activities to choose from the adult

members have the choice of peace and relaxation as well as a lively social environment.



### All club members have access to:

- world class sports facilities
- a range of dining options
- private function rooms
- wine shop & deli
- outside catering and banqueting services
- sport and leisure activities for adults and children
- a five-star spa
- hair salon
- library and
- reciprocal club access

### Reciprocal Clubs Around the World

The privileges that come with membership of the LRC extend far beyond Hong Kong. The Club has reciprocal rights with over 40 of the finest private clubs worldwide, which affords members access to home comforts away from home. Members have the opportunity to visit private clubs while on holiday or business travel and receive the same perks and service they would here at the LRC.

An updated list of Reciprocal Club is available from the Club's website at [www.lrc.com.hk](http://www.lrc.com.hk) or the Membership Office. 📞



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# River Forest Tennis Club

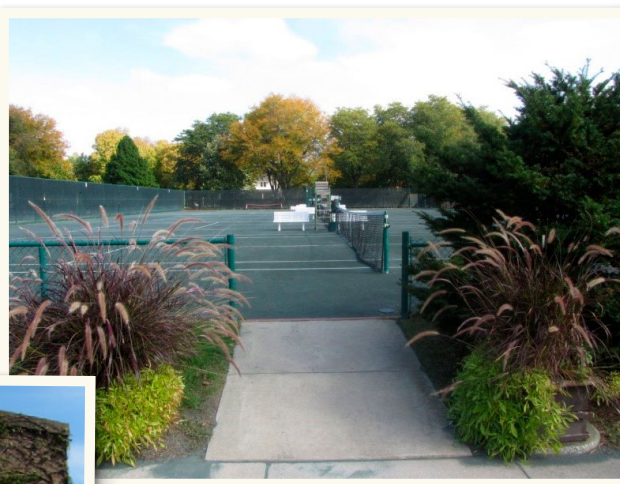
Hello all! It is an honor and pleasure for the **River Forest Tennis Club** to be a new tennis club member of the Centenary Tennis Clubs organization. Thank you all for your support.

The RFTC has a rich history since 1905 in the support of tennis competitions and family participation in tennis and swimming events. We wish to support tennis and its history with other CTC member clubs. We believe in supporting traditions, including our work at the RFTC as a member service club. Ours is a unique club that has many fun social events, including member shows and professional entertainers throughout the summer.

Our clubhouse was designed by world famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Our ten green, self-watering Har-tru courts are great for clay court tennis! We have play during all of the summer months, and have a robust women's and men's team tennis competition.

RFTC members pursue philanthropy in underserved populations through Chicago Tennis Patrons, whose mission is "Creating Opportunity Through Tennis". We also have an annual mixed doubles charity event that supports local charities.

Besides our many in-house and inter-club tennis competitions, the RFTC hosts a CDTA/USTA junior



event and we have an active junior tennis program. We also host a college Division 1 clay court tournament, one of the few held in the United States.

The RFTC and its members look forward to interactions and competitions with fellow CTC member clubs. This year, we will get to know the CTC and

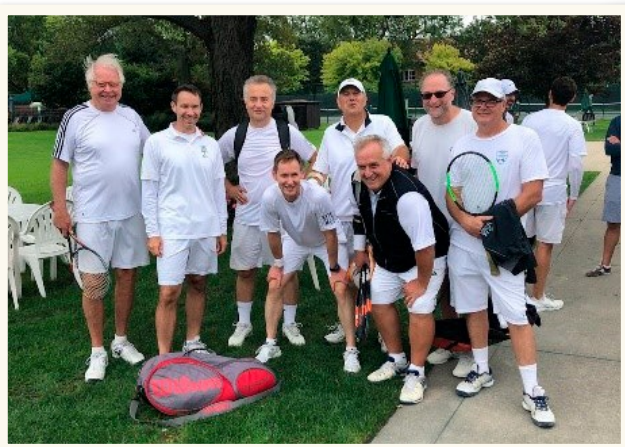
could travel to events held in the US as we become more familiar with the CTC. Travel abroad should also be possible going forward.

The RFTC welcomes any visiting CTC club members who are in Chicago during the summer months. Please contact us if you would like to meet us, play tennis at our club, and/or partake in one of our social events. Opportunities include tennis, swimming, grill days, and Saturday night dinners and social events. Please note that our club plays tennis in white clothing, so bring yours along if you would like to play at our club.

Please refer to our [rftc.org](http://rftc.org) website for more information.

If you have any questions or ideas for ways in which to interact, please feel free to email me at [edsloan.rftc@gmail.com](mailto:edsloan.rftc@gmail.com). We are a fun group with many people who are up for tennis and a great time!

**Ed Sloan**  
*RFTC Past-President and CTC Liaison*



TIME MACHINE

# Conde de Godó – A Trophy for the City

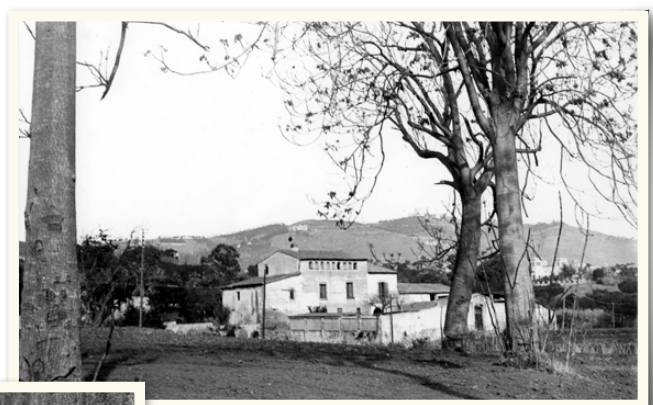
In 1952, the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899 began to plan its relocation from the facilities of the institution on Ganduxer Street to its current headquarters in Sarrià. It was a complex operation, not only because of the reform of the Masia (farmhouse) of Can Canet de la Riera into the headquarters, but also because of the clearance of the adjoining land for the location of the courts.

Carlos Godó Valls, the Count of Godó and president of the institution, also decided that, following its tradition of organizing major international events, the new headquarters would launch with an important competition for which he would donate a great trophy. The Conde de Godó Trophy was born, a landmark in today's world tennis as a prestigious ATP 500 Series event.

It was clear that a top notch international competition, in a club established among the best institutions of the tennis world, needed a powerful image to convey its transcendence. Aware that the opening of the new facilities would attract the media, Carlos Godó Valls, Count of Godó, thought that the trophy that bore his name and symbolized victory, ought to have a great personality.

An excellent player of the RCTB himself, especially in doubles, of which he was champion of Spain in 1940 (pairing up with Luis Carles), Jorge Soler Cabot was the person appointed by the Count of Godó for the creation of the trophy. There were no doubts about it: President of the RCT Barcelona between 1972 and 1976, until he suffered a heart attack on the eve of a tournament to which he always made a great contribution, Jorge Soler Cabot had both goldsmith abilities and tennis in his veins.

The Cabot dynasty began in Llavaneres and its work as goldsmiths dates back to the 16th century, as reported in the book of the Real Colegio Arte de Plateros de Mataró. In 1842, they opened their first jewelry store in Argentería street, next to Santa María del Mar. Francisco Cabot specialized in the design and manufacture of objects for the cult and traditional jewels of the time. In 1899, the year of the founding



Masia Can Canet.



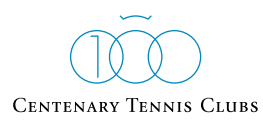
Mr. Lerin and Mr. Soler Cabot.

of the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, they moved the jewelery to the corner of Ferran Street and Plaza de Sant Jaume. In 1905 he opened a renowned jewelry store in Plaza Catalunya, with a work-room in the basements that used steam machines. There, Joaquín Cabot updated the classic tone of his father Francisco's jewelry, and worked with platinum, brilliants and pearls, making the geometric shapes of neoclassical inspiration prevail as well as the shiny

brilliant coated surfaces on stylized floral themes.

Joaquín Cabot was a great man in the city of Barcelona. He presided over key entities in the modernization of the city such as the Commercial Bank of Barcelona, the Transversal Metro, the Barcelona Exhibition Center, the Official Chamber of Commerce and Navigation, the Excursionist Center of Catalonia and the Catalan Orpheus, which, during his tenure, built the famous Palau de la Música.

He was a regular in Quatre Gats gatherings and in the modernist parties organized by Santiago Rusiñol in Sitges; Joaquín Cabot was also a writer, cultural and political promoter. He was secretary of the Floral Games, President of the Diputación de Barcelona and sponsor of the 100,000-copy edition of the complete works of Verdaguer on behalf of the same institution. From 1912 to 1920 he was a provincial representative and cooperated in the constitution of the Commonwealth of Catalonia. He was also a member of the board of the Artistic and Archaeological Associa-





tion of Barcelona, of the Promotion of Decorative Arts, of the Catalan Concert Society and founding director of the Voice of Catalonia and member of the Regionalist League. Ramón Casas immortalized him in one of his paintings that can be seen in the Catalan National Art Gallery, and Jacinto Verdaguer dedicated a poem to him, which was published in 'Juventud' along with a drawing by Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

But jewelry was his passion, and the company grew with great international prestige, receiving the Grand Diploma of honour and the gold medal of the liturgical art of the exhibitions held in Rome during the pontificates of Pius XI and León XII. In 1931, with the transfer of the jewelry to Gran Vía with Paseo de Gracia, Joaquín Cabot left the company in the hands of his son-in-law Alejandro Soler Damians, although he was still connected to the management. At that time the jewelry designs and manufactures the crown of the Virgin of Queralt, and the crown, the scepter, the chandeliers and other pieces for the trousseau of the altar of the Virgin of Montserrat. In 1946 he left the business once and for all, and in 1950, a year before his death, his grandson, Jorge Soler Cabot, became associated with the jeweler Enric Domenech, creating the firm Domenech and Soler Cabot at number 11 of Paseo de Gracia.

When he received the commission to create the Conde de Godó Trophy, the first step was a detailed study of the cups and trophies that were given at that time in the main tennis tournaments. Jorge Soler Cabot, along with Miguel Lerín and Jaime Bartrolí, the sports managers of the entity, studied how to deal with the design of the trophy.



Prize giving Trofeo Conde de Godo 1953.



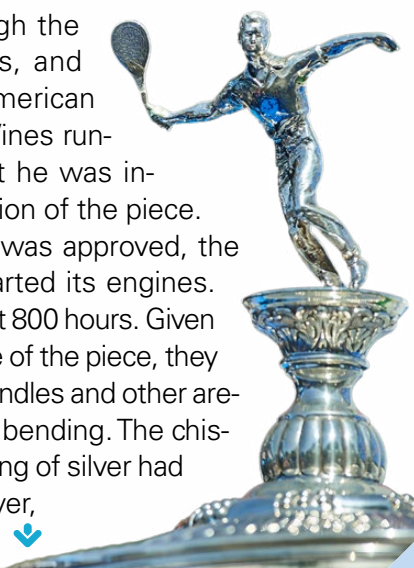
At Roland Garros the current Cup of the Musketeers was not yet awarded; it was the small 'Pierre Giloux Cup', in honor of the captain of 1920s French Davis Cup team. The US Open trophies now designed by Tiffany were yet not in service, and the cup varied in its design, sometimes in the shape of a jug. The golden cup crowned with a pineapple that symbolizes Wimbledon already existed, but it was not the one that was delivered to the champion on

the center court of the All England

Club, but a silver cup called the President's Cup. The cup of Sir Norman Brookes, the first great Australian tennis figure who later became president of his federation, was already the symbol of the Australian Internationals. The other great trophy, the oldest still existing today, was the silver salad bowl, made after melting a punch bowl from the home of Dwight Davis and symbol of the Davis Cup. At Queen's of London, another of the world references, a two-handed 'orejuda' similar to the popular Champions football trophy was (and still is) awarded.

Jorge Soler Cabot realised that none of those trophies had the figure of a tennis player, and he worked with the idea of incorporating it to the design he proposed to Carlos Godó Valls. He presented two drawings of a silver trophy, composed of two parts: a base and handles for maneuvering a large central salad bowl, and a lid with the figure of the tennis player in motion. Given the large volume of the proposal, the figure of the tennis player required an amplitude in its form. He rummaged through the club's photo archives, and found a picture of American champion Ellsworth Vines running for a volley. In it he was inspired for the coronation of the piece.

Once his proposal was approved, the jewelry workshop started its engines. The process took about 800 hours. Given the weight and volume of the piece, they had to reinforce the handles and other areas of contact to avoid bending. The chiseling and the embossing of silver had a special role. The player,





the big and small handles, as well as the eagles that surround him were worked in the foundry. The base of American oak weighed about three kilos, and the letters that mention in capital letters 'TROFEO CONDE DE GODÓ', as well as the year of its creation and the crown were made one by one and superimposed onto the silver plate.

The complex piece of jewelry was placed in exhibition in the jewelry store before taking it to the new club, where the American Vic Seixas was the first player to raise the trophy to the heavens. Barcelona and the RCT Barcelona-1899 had found their great trophy. 🏆

## CTC welcomes E. Gutzwiller & Cie

Centenary Tennis Clubs is delighted to welcome as a new partner, E. Gutzwiller & Cie, Banquiers. As a centenary bank, there is a natural fit with CTC. Founded in 1886 by Carl Gutzwiller, the Bank is today owned and managed by the fourth generation of the Gutzwiller family and their partners. They are proud to be Banquiers - as owners, partners invest their own capital and are ultimately liable for their bank's obligations. This ensures risks are carefully controlled and interests are aligned with clients. In Switzerland, only banquiers are permitted to call themselves 'private bankers'.

Gutzwiller's focus is private banking and portfolio management. Its head office is in Basel (in the same building since 1928), with additional offices in Geneva and Zurich, and it looks after clients from around the world. It was a founding member of the Swiss Private Bankers Association.

As well as CTC, Gutzwiller partners a number of prestigious rally events, including London to Lisbon, Classic Marathon, and Rallye des Caprices. It is a longstanding supporter of LISTE, one of the world's leading emerging art fairs, and is also a partner of the Gramophone Classical Music Awards as well as Baroque ensemble, La Cetra.

More information can be found at [www.gutzwiller.ch](http://www.gutzwiller.ch).



## 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](mailto: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.



[www.twitter.com/centenarytennis](https://www.twitter.com/centenarytennis)



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