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Monaco: Prince Albert competes at private event for European network of sporting friends

Monaco is host for first time to A.S.Co.T. tennis tournament

The pleasures of sportsmanship often elude us once we leave those jolly camaraderie days of school behind us. However, a private club does exist to fill this void. Inviting those who are fond of sport, particularly tennis, to join, the ultimate aim is for members to enjoy similar athletic passions and form friendships with other people who grew up in an international, multilingual environment and who now lead active professional careers.



Members of A.S.Co.T. enjoy tennis with Prince Albert II who competed in the 2009 international tournament, which was held for the first time in the Principality. Chairman Baron Charles-Eric F. de Villeneuve, right, was Prince Albert's tennis partner

A.S.Co.T. (All Sports Country Team) founded in Hamburg in 1991 by like-minded chums over Christmas dinner, the club has gone from strength to strength. Really "a friendship society enjoying the spirit of sport" according to historical founder and Chairman Baron Charles Eric F. de Villeneuve, it organises an exclusive annual event in a different country each year. For the recently held 15th edition Monaco was, for the first time, host to the traditional tennis tournament. Prince Albert II was guest of honour and played at the prestigious event, which took place the weekend of September 11th 2009 at the Monte-Carlo Country Club (MCCC). Competing were cosmopolitan teams comprised of members, some coming from as far afield as Dubai, New York and the Bahamas. Members and guests from the Principality enjoyed a welcome cocktail at the Automobile Club de Monaco.

Anyone who wishes to join the society can contact the chairman through their website www.ascot-eu.eu

The society depends on the goodwill of members to organize the friendly sporting events and their motto is "What's essential is to participate".

Paula Farquharson