Jean Robertson

REPORT

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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Since the successful meeting of the World Medical Tennis Association in June 1982 there have been two further meetings – in June 1983 we travelled to Helsinki, and in 1984 to Tel Aviv.

There were twelve of us in Helsinki, but on arrival it was discovered that our President's luggage preferred to visit Nice and stay there, for the temperature in Helsinki was over 100°F making it the hottest place in Europe at that time. In spite of this our eldest member Dr. George Stewart won the over 65 plate championship, and was the runner-up in the 70+ Mens Singles, and the 65+ Mens Doubles. Indeed, all three finals were played on the same day when he was already suffering the pains of an early frozen shoulder. Most trophies were won by the Americans or Swedes due to the better facilities provided for the sport in their countries.

The social events were well attended and enjoyable, particularly those which were associated with sightseeing on the Baltic under the midnight sun, or an evening supper beside an inland lake. Helsinki itself seemed rather austere, but the outskirts were delightful particularly when away from the gnats.

In the spring of 1984 a meeting of the BMTA was held in Bournemouth but attracted a very small entry. A further meeting at Queenswood, Hatfield, Herts. was much better attended and proved very successful in brilliant sunshine amongst picturesque surroundings. A further event at this venue will be held in August this year.

In October 1984 the World Medical Tennis Association held its annual meeting in Tel Aviv. Eight UK doctors attended including Professor Lowry from N. Ireland. The meeting was very enjoyable but the only trophy winner was Dr. Joan Fitt, a retired GP from St. Albans who was semi-finalist in the 40+ Ladies Singles, and who had only recently taken up tennis again after 25 years. The social events were efficiently organised, and Dr. Kin Wang of St. Albans proved to be an expert Clarinetist, and also gave an excellent paper on Eye Injuries which was much appreciated.

The next meeting of the BMTA was held at the National Sports Centre, Bisham Abbey on the weekend of 19th-12st April, 1985.

The 1985 world event will be held in the USA at San Diego in October. In view of the current value of the pound against the dollar the British Medical Team may not be large, but they will certainly be enthusiastic and eager to bring back trophies for their country.