

WSC PITCH&PUTT ITALY 2017

30 March – 2 April

After the success of the World Cup in St Andrews last September, this year's Pitch&Putt "World Strokeplay Championship" was held at Le Robinie Golf Club, near Milan, an exceptional setting for an event that was attended by 120 players from 14 nations from all over the world.

- Austria
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Cuba
- Denmark
- England
- France
- Netherlands
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Portugal
- San Marino
- Spain

On March 30th, the first day, a charity tournament was held dedicated to "**April 6 - World International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**". IPPA is a partner of **Peace and Sport** and the World Strokeplay Championship 2017 has been included as the main Italian event on the official calendar.



Peace and Sport trophy, IDSDP, 2017

The tournament, attended by 72 players, was won by Giulio Caramaschi from San Marino, with an excellent 5 under par. The participation of Matilde Padoan, athlete of **Special Olympics Italia**, deserves special mention.

The delegation from Cuba represented the Ministry of Sports, whereas the others were from a Golf or Pitch & Putt Federation.



Cuban delegation

On March 31st, 120 players were on the greens for the first 18 holes of the tournament. Under a summer sun for the first round, the Spanish player Marroquin Javier excelled with 5 shots under par, followed by the Irishman Ian Farrelly and the Cuban Mendez Diaz Idolio just one shot behind. The first Italian was Panza Leonardo who, up to hole 17, was in the lead at 6 under par until he dropped 3 shots and closed with a score of 51 or -3. The first lady was the French player Ghislaine Roux with a score of 54 (or level par), while the best Junior was Thomas Artigas from Spain, with a stunning round of 52.

On April 1st, the competition was intense over 2 rounds of 18 holes and 7 hours of play. The 3rd round ranking determined the 72 finalists for the fourth and last day of the tournament.

Luis Montero from Spanish was now in the lead with a score of 154, 8 under par, followed by the Dutchman Rolf Kwant one shot behind.

Young Thomas Artigas was still the leading Junior, in 5th place overall on a score of 159, 3 under par. Annia Blanco Flores from Cuba headed the ladies' ranking list.

World Strokeplay Championship 2017

On April 2nd, after three days of competition the winner of the World Strokeplay Championship was **ROLF KWANT** from the Netherlands, with a final outstanding round of 47 shots, the tournament record, and a total score of 202 (or - 14 overall).

In the ladies' section, the winner is the Cuban player **Annia Blanco Flores**, who also took part in last year's Olympic Games in Rio.



Rolf KWANT, winner of the World StrokePlay Championship 2017

Blanco Flores Annia Yoannis

He was followed by three Spanish players: **Luis Montero** (209), **Augustin Martin** (210) and **Thomas Artigas** (210) new Junior World Champion with strong regular play on all 4 rounds.

The players received their prizes from the three times gold medalist and Minister of Sport and Youth of the Lombardy Region, Mr. Antonio Rossi, the Olympic gold medalist Valerio Aspromonte and the World fencing Champion Carolina Erba.

IPPA wishes to thank all the players, and is grateful to all the judges and Le Robinie's staff for their special help in the success of the event.

See you next year for the **World Team Championship**.



Thomas Artigas

In the Seniors' category, the winner was also **Rolf Kwant**, and the best Super Senior was the Italian **Fernando Proietti**.