“From Stuttgart with Love”

20/04/2020 Due to the coronavirus crisis, the 43rd Porsche Tennis Grand Prix can unfortunately not take place as planned in the Porsche Arena from 18 to 26 April. Therefore, this week we will remember the events and persons belonging to the history of the long-established tournament.

Sad confirmation came on 16 March 2020 – the 43rd Porsche Tennis Grand Prix scheduled for Stuttgart’s Porsche Arena from 18 to 26 April had to be reluctantly cancelled due to the corona crisis.

“We would have liked to have presented world class tennis once again this year in the Porsche Arena. The special circumstances unfortunately do not allow this to happen,” announced Markus Günthardt, the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix’s tournament director since 2005.

Cancellation does not mean the end of the 43rd edition of Germany’s biggest and most prestigious women’s tournament as it is now scheduled for 17 to 25 April 2021. The motto: “From Stuttgart with Love”.

The success story of the tournament with the “world’s favourite winner’s trophy” – a Porsche sports car – began in sleepy Filderstadt, an approximately 20-minute drive from Stuttgart, began in 1978. The dominant face in the early years was “wunderkind” Tracy Austin. Aged 15, the American won both the singles and doubles at the event’s premiere. Austin went on to win four titles in succession.

In 1982, she was also the first opponent for the then 13-year old Steffi Graf, who made her professional debut in Filderstadt. It marked the start of the German’s unique career.

In the same year, Martina Navratilova finally dethroned serial winner Austin in the final and then advanced to become the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix’s record champion with six victories. “Filderstadt was like a second home. You just felt so good from the moment you arrived at the tournament,” said Navratilova.

The first German titleholder was Anke Huber, the Operating Tournament Director since 2002. In 1991, the then 16-year old defeated her opponent Navratilova in a dramatic final lasting 3 hours 28 minutes. The German ended up a 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (4) winner.

“The win is something I had dreamt of, but I never thought it would actually happen,” said Huber who had to decide between 70,000 dollars prize money or a brand-new Porsche for the tournament win. Huber chose the Porsche even though she was not allowed to drive at the time. She simply made up for it three years later when winning her second title.

2006 marked the year of the move from Filderstadt to Stuttgart and the Porsche Arena. A new era began. Since then, the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix has been voted as the tournament of the year in its category on ten occasions. Since 2009, it has been played on clay as a warm-up tournament for the

French Open.

The last decade featured the three-peat of superstar Maria Sharapova from 2012 until 2014 as well as four wins for German players.

Julia Görges sensationally won the title in 2011 – as well as a Porsche 911 Carrera GTS Cabriolet. "I walked past the car every day on my way to practising. But I never imagined actually driving it," said a beaming Görges.

The list of German titleholders in Stuttgart was complemented by the then new Porsche Brand Ambassador, Angelique Kerber in 2015 and 2016, and Laura Siegemund in 2017.

For the local hero Siegemund in particular, the tournament win at the 40th edition of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix was special. "It really was mega. It is the most beautiful moment, the most beautiful tennis moment for me," said the overjoyed Filderstadt-born player. Other special moments will follow when the tournament is staged once again in April 2021.

Porsche in Tennis

Porsche has been sponsoring the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix ever since 1978 and has also been the organiser since 2002. The tournament in Stuttgart's Porsche Arena was voted by the players as their favourite event in its category once again in 2019. Within the scope of its global partnership with the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), Porsche is also the title partner of the "Porsche Race to Shenzhen", the official qualifying ranking for the Shiseido WTA Finals. The Stuttgart-based sports car manufacturer is also the exclusive automotive partner of the WTA as well as the WTA Finals. As a premium partner of the "Deutsche Tennis Bund" (DTB – German Tennis Association), the company supports Porsche Team Germany in the Fed Cup and fosters up-and-coming players in the Porsche Talent Team and the Porsche Junior Team. Angelique Kerber, Julia Görges and Maria Sharapova give Porsche a face in tennis as Brand Ambassadors.

Consumption data

718 Boxster S (WLTP)*: Fuel consumption combined: 10.4 – 9.6 l/100 km; CO_2 emissions combined: 235 – 218 g/km; CO_2 class: G

*Further information on the official fuel consumption and the official specific CO_2 emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Leitfaden über den Kraftstoffverbrauch, die CO_2-Emissionen und den Stromverbrauch neuer Personenkraftwagen" (Fuel Consumption, CO_2Emissions and Electricity Consumption Guide for New Passenger Cars), which is available free of charge at all sales outlets and from DAT (Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Helmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, www.dat.de).

Image Sublines

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_1.jpg
Title: Markus Günthard, Anke Huber, l-r, Tournament management of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Porsche 356, 2020, Porsche AG
Subline: The event management of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix – Markus Günthardt, Tournament Director, and Anke Huber, Operating Tournament Director

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_2.jpg
Title: Tracy Austin, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Filderstadt, 1978, Porsche AG
Subline: American Tracy Austin won the first Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in 1978

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_3.jpg
Title: Tracy Austin, Steffi Graf, l-r, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Filderstadt, 1982, Porsche AG
Subline: In 1982, Tracy Austin and Steffi Graf (l-r) faced each other at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_4.jpg
Title: Maria Sharapova, 911 Targa 4S, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Porsche Arena, Stuttgart, 2014, Porsche AG
Subline: Maria Sharapova won a hat-trick of titles from 2012 to 2014

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_5.jpg
Title: Julia Görges, 911 Carrera GTS Cabriolet, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Porsche Arena, Stuttgart, 2011, Porsche AG
Subline: When Julia Görges won in 2011, she was the second German winner of the tournament

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_6.jpg
Title: Angelique Kerber, 718 Boxster S, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Porsche Arena, Stuttgart, 2016, Porsche AG
Subline: Angelique Kerber won the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in 2015 and 2016

Path: History of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix/Images/img_7.jpg
Title: Laura Siegemund, 911 Carrera GTS Cabriolet, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, Porsche Arena, Stuttgart, 2017, Porsche AG
Subline: The 40th Porsche Tennis Grand Prix was won by Laura Siegemund

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