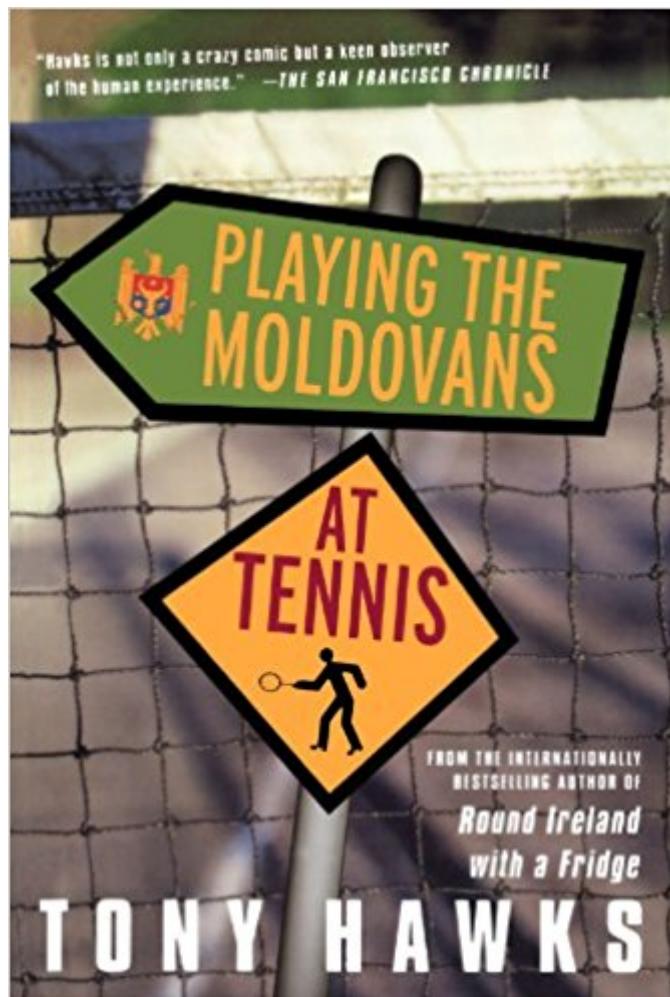


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# Playing The Moldovans At Tennis



## Synopsis

It doesn't take much - "Â£100 is usually sufficient" - to persuade Tony Hawks to take off on notoriously bizarre and hilarious adventures in response to a bet. And so it is, a pointless argument with a friend concludes in a bet - that Tony can't beat all eleven members of the Moldovan soccer team at tennis. And with the loser of the bet agreeing to strip naked on Balham High Road and sing the Moldovan national anthem, this one was just too good to resist. The ensuing unpredictable and often hilarious adventure sees him being taken in by Moldovan gypsies and narrowly avoid kidnap in Transnistria. It sees him smuggle his way on to the Moldovan National Team coach in Coleraine and witness (almost) divine intervention in the Holy Land. In this inspiring and exceptionally funny book, Tony Hawks has done it again, proving against all odds that there is no reason in the world why you can't do something a bit stupid and prove all of your doubters wrong. Or at least that was the idea....

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The follow-up to British comedian Hawks's *Round Ireland with a Fridge* (a chronicle of his efforts to make good on a liquor-sodden wager to hitchhike Ireland with a refrigerator in tow) employs a similarly ridiculous premise. While watching a football game between Moldova and England, Hawks, an ex-junior-tennis-champion, and his friend argue the importance of technique in sportsmanship. The conversation culminates in a ridiculous bet; Hawks must beat the Moldovan football team at tennis, or else strip naked in a London street and sing the Moldovan anthem. What follows is an oddball travelogue spanning Moldova, Northern Ireland and Israel as Hawks tracks down and plays

each team member. Hawks, who admits to knowing nothing about Moldova, offers few insights about the country; his socioeconomic and cultural observations lean toward the superficial. However, Hawks offers plenty of easy laughs (mostly at his own expense) as he brazenly and good-naturedly takes on local bureaucrats, would-be capitalists and seemingly insurmountable language barriers in pursuit of an admittedly pointless goal. "Things can be done," Hawks notes as he gears up for the journey. "The people in life who get them done are the ones who know that, and the ones who don't are the rest." Noting his reliance on the kindness of others, Hawks engages in a social experiment, demonstrating the willingness of strangers to help another achieve even the most whimsical of goals. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In *Round Ireland with a Fridge*, Hawks, England's answer to Dave Barry, bet his friend that he could carry a small refrigerator around Ireland while hitchhiking. And he won. Now it seems that he drank too much again and made another outrageous bet with his buddy. This time he wagered that he could play and beat each member of the Moldovan soccer team at tennis. The loser must sing the Moldovan national anthem naked, of course. In order to win this bet, he first had to establish the location of Moldova (formerly a member state of the USSR), contact the Moldovan football team, and be invited into the country by a native on special official letterhead. Oddly enough, his adventure begins at the International Beatles Week in Liverpool, to which he finagles an invitation from inside Moldova. Soon thereafter, Hawks travels the remote country trying to find the team, with a side trip to deliver a round table to King Arthur (the newest King of the Gypsies). But I'm not telling who sings nude! This is a hilarious, quirky book. As long as you don't allow yourself to get hung up by a few obscure British references, it may be one of the funniest books you have ever read. Highly recommended. Sandy Knowles, Henderson Cty. P.L., NC Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A great read that will leave you laughing and confused. Somehow, this book, as ridiculous as the premise is, manages to capture a glimpse of life in Moldova as it was shortly after the country gained independence. Much has changed in Moldova since this book was written and anyone visiting the country today may not recognize it as the same country as described in the book. Nevertheless, if you are looking for a light-hearted and interesting read then look no further. Whether you know a lot about Moldova or you've never heard of it, this book will leave you smiling.

Tony Hawks is an odd person and a very funny writer. This book is kind of like if Dave Barry authored a Fodor's Guide on Moldova. I loved his earlier 'Round Ireland With a Fridge,' and consequently bought this volume. I prefer the Ireland book, as it is a little less dark, and a little more travelogue, but I am quite fond of this one as well. The plot basically concerns a bet about his being able to defeat the entire Moldovan National soccer team at tennis. His quests take him to Moldova, naturally enough, Northern Ireland, and Israel to play all the team members. Travel to Moldova is very difficult, and will definitely be off your list of potential vacation destinations after reading this book. I found the book funny and warm, and especially enjoyed the relationships formed with the family members he stayed with in Moldova. The last thirty or so pages are absolutely exquisite, and I won't ruin the surprise ending, other than to say it is wonderful, and I didn't see it coming. I anxiously await a new book from Tony at the earliest possible moment!

Hilarious! Having been to Moldova over five times this made the reading experience even funnier. The book had it's funny and also sad moments which made it worth my time to read! 100% recommended. As well as Hawk's other books! Book includes several black and white photos of the football players and people Hawk's met on the way.

I liked this book. Tony was not trying to change the world, but he does try to complete a very difficult task. It is funny, but also interesting. A good read.

Being a Romanian, the sister country of Moldova it was enlightening how a foreigner view the problema of the Moldovan Republic, problems which my country faced in the day. Also the satirical way in which Hawks narrates his adventure makes it a pleasurable read, always making you want to know more.

Awesome book, couldn't put it down. Great view into Moldova during early 1990's after their independence.

Refreshing and interesting. It was a fun, touching way to experience another culture while reminding to appreciate the blessings of western society.

Laughing out loud moments, great read.

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