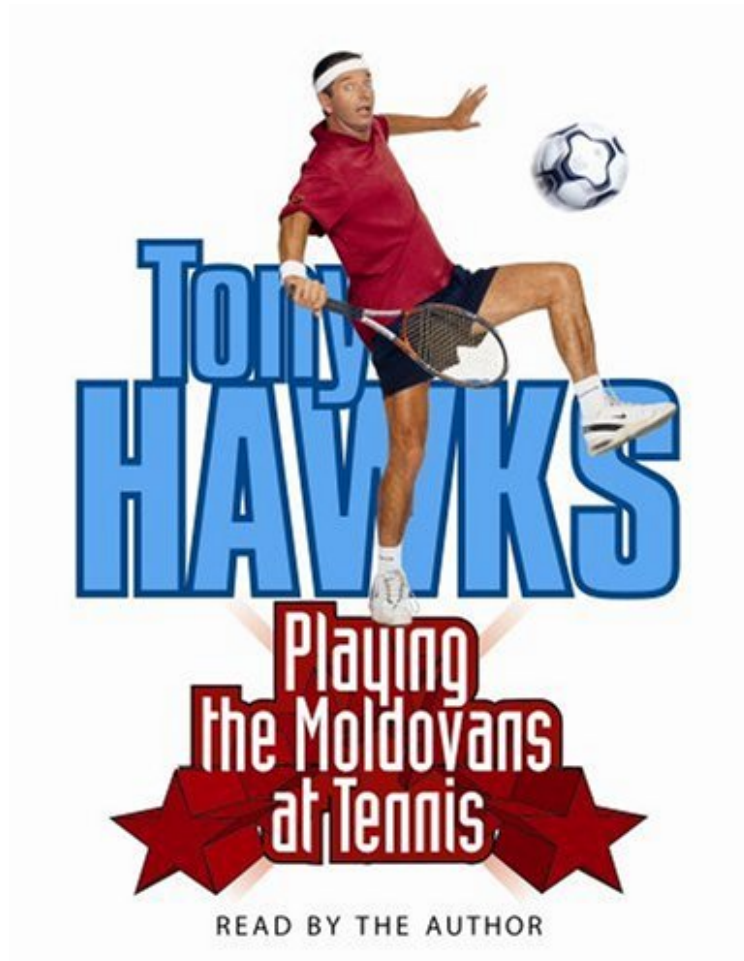


(Read and download) Playing the Moldovans at Tennis

## Playing the Moldovans at Tennis

*Tony Hawks*

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**Tony Hawks : Playing the Moldovans at Tennis** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Playing the Moldovans at Tennis*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Oddly True to Form By Jerad T. 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. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What Will He Possibly Think of Next? By Robert I. Hedges 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! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious, couldn't stop reading! By wes 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.

September 1997. Tony Hawks and Arthur Smith are watching the football round at Tony's house, England are playing Moldova in the World Cup qualifiers and winning easily. The conversation, oddly, turns to Tennis, which Arthur has always asserted is a 'crap game', especially after Tony beat him at it on holiday in Majorca, easily. A pedantic argument ensues, Tony believing that even a 'natural sportsman or sportswoman' couldn't be good at tennis without proper tuition. Arthur vowing that most natural sportsmen (like the footballers on the telly) could pick up a racket and, without too much bother, play a good game, in fact, they could beat Tony (ex Sussex Junior champion, former Equity Knockout winner). And so a childish bet was proffered that Tony couldn't play all of the Moldovan national football team at tennis (I believe a hundred pounds is sufficient to get you doing these kinds of things) and beat them all. I could, I could beat them all, said Tony. Not every single one of them, taunted his friend. Conspiratorially, one of them is bound to be very good. A further carrot was clearly needed: Look, if you beat them all then I'll stand naked on Balham High Street and sing the Moldovan national Anthem.

From Publishers Weekly The follow-up to British comedian Hawks's *Round Ireland with a Fridge* (a chronicle of his efforts to make good on a liquor-soaked 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. From Library Journal 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. From Booklist \*Starred\* This might be the all-time wackiest challenge: track down all 11 members of the Moldovan national soccer team, and beat them all at--Are you ready for this?--tennis. Why would anyone undertake such a thing? Well, for starters, the author seems to like strange adventures: witness his previous book, *Round Ireland with a Fridge* [BKL Mr 1 00], in which Hawks . . . well, traveled around Ireland with a refrigerator. Not only that, but this isn't just a challenge, it's a bet: if he doesn't accomplish his mission by beating 11 men he's never met at a game they may never have played, he'll have to take off all his clothes and sing the Moldovan national anthem (whatever that might be) in the middle of a public thoroughfare. This is an extremely entertaining book--almost as funny as Bill Bryson's wonderfully eccentric travel books (although Hawks still has a way to go to match Bryson's delightful use of language)--and it's a real treat for fans of the weird, the silly, and the out-of-left-field. As a bonus, there's lots of

information here about tiny Moldova, stuck in there between Romania and Ukraine, but odds are most readers will be laughing too hard to take much of it in. David Pitt Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved