

## Russia holds off France and Spain to extend historic European Tennis Trophy run of success



The European Tennis Trophy presented by Lindström award for Overall Tennis Performance will be presented to Russia for a record fifth consecutive year, Tennis Europe has announced.

Now in its 20th year, the award recognises the annual achievements of the European Tennis Federation's 49 member nations, providing a comprehensive overview of the performances of players and teams representing national tennis federations across four disciplines of the sport throughout the season.

Second-placed France reduced Russia's overall lead by almost 1,900 points to strengthen their runner-up spot, whilst third-placed Spain also retain their 2008 position. Amongst the nations to show the greatest improvements in overall tennis performance in 2009 are the Czech Republic (climbing from 8th to 5th), Serbia (12th to 8th) and Croatia (up from 19th to 11th).

Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev expressed his delight at the news of the repeat victory, commenting; "These results are the fruit of many years' work and the highly professional efforts of our federation, which have enabled us to establish new standards in tennis. We are extremely



Russia's 16 & Under girls, who swept the European Junior Championships last year, securing yet another Junior Tennis title.

proud that it has been demonstrated once again that Russian players are at the forefront as European tennis continues to lead the world across all levels and types of events."

Spain recaptured the Professional Tennis Trophy for the first time since 2004, ending Russia's four-year dominance of the category. The title – Spain's sixth in total – extends their position as the most successful nation in the history of the professional tennis trophy.

Russia's juniors contributed greatly to their overall win, wrapping up the Junior Tennis title for an >>



### Australian Open

Roger Federer won his sixteenth Grand Slam title while fellow #1 Serena Williams fought off a resurgent Justine Henin to capture the Australian Open for the fifth time in her career. Meanwhile, Europe's boys and girls dominated the junior competitions, accounting for three of the four titles on offer. Turn to page 7 for a full report from Melbourne.

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## Russia holds off France and Spain to extend historic European Tennis Trophy run of success



<< unprecedented sixth consecutive year, retaining a massive lead over second-placed France. The junior tennis category once again saw some of the most dramatic changes, with Czech Republic, Serbia, Ukraine, Spain, Sweden and Portugal all improving their 2008 results by huge margins.

Germany once again ran away with the Senior Tennis Trophy, earning almost three times as many points as nearest challenger Austria, who reclaimed a hotly disputed second place from Italy. Russia rose from #11 to fourth, its highest ever position in this category.

The Wheelchair Tennis Trophy goes to the Netherlands, where it has resided ever since its introduction in 2001. France remains in second place for a sixth consecutive year, while Great Britain's 493 points was the highest ever total for the third-ranked nation in this increasingly competitive category.

Tennis Europe President Jacques Dupré announced the results, remarking, "The 2009 European Tennis Trophy has been the most competitive for some years, and reflects a year of consolidation and growth for the sport. The continued



Spain's Davis Cup title went some way to securing the Professional Tennis Trophy.

success of Russia is an inspiration for all our member nations, and I'd like to thank the Russian Federation not just for these results, but also for the increasingly proactive role that they play within European tennis. I'd also like to congratulate the national federations of Spain, Germany and the Netherlands for their well-deserved wins in their respective categories."

The 2009 European Tennis Trophy prizes will be awarded during a special ceremony at the Annual General Meeting of Tennis Europe in Riga, Latvia in March.

### 2009 EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY presented by Lindström

	OVERALL PERFORMANCE	PROFESSIONAL TENNIS	JUNIOR TENNIS	SENIOR TENNIS	WHEELCHAIR TENNIS
01	<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>
02	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>
03	<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>
04	<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	<b>SERBIA</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>SWEDEN</b>
05	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>
06	<b>ITALY</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>
07	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>
08	<b>SERBIA</b>	<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>CZECH REP.</b>	<b>ISRAEL</b>
09	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>SERBIA</b>	<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>SPAIN</b>
10	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>	<b>FINLAND</b>	<b>POLAND</b>

## European Indoor Seniors Championships, Seefeld

The 34th annual European Indoors Senior Championships took place in Seefeld, Austria during the second and third weeks of January, kickstarting the senior circuit season into action with 18 coveted European singles titles on offer.

Long established as one of the biggest events in world tennis, a record total of 696 competitors from all over Europe travelled to the Alpine resort to battle it out for glory on the court while outside temperatures dipped to -15°C.

As usual, the 'super-seniors' got the event underway, with the majority of the events for Over 60s taking place during the first week. Peter Pokorny once again made headlines, further extending his record-breaking run of Seefeld wins in taking the Men's 70s event in his first year in the age group. The Austrian conceded just 14 games in his six matches on his way to victory, which included 'double-bagel' wins in the semifinals and in the championship decider against second seed Klaus Haas (GER), before going on to add the double s title with fellow Austrian Hans Gradischnig.

With the win, the Austrian moved ahead of compatriot Laci Legenstein to become the first player ever to win 21 singles titles at Seefeld, keeping alive a winning run that has seen him capture at least one singles title each year since 1998.

Not to be outdone, Germany's Heide Orth continued her role as to be the most successful woman in the history of the event, winning a 35th European title (18th indoors) in defending the women's 65s crown and keeping alive a win streak in Seefeld that dates back to 2000.

Elsewhere in the women's events, fifth seed Heidi Eisterlehner defended her women's 60s crown when compatriot Sylvia Bauwens was forced to retire after levelling their final encounter at one set all, 06 76. The win was Eisterlehner's fourth consecutive title at the event.

Further German success came as Siegrun Fuhrmann defended her Women's 70s title, while Ilse Michael overcame compatriot Brigitte Jung to wrap up the women's 75 event.

For a second consecutive year, the only non-German super seniors winner was Erzsebeth Szintirmay of Hungary, who defended her Over 80s title with a 62 67 (10-5) win over Ingeborg Haas (GER), a repeat of last year's final.

The men's 60s crown went to second seed Alfred Böckl of Germany, who overcame Denmark's Kaspar Rud 62 62.



Above: Men's Over 50s doubles finalists Juha Väänänen (FIN) and Joakim Berner (FIN) with champions Pierre Godfroid (BEL) and Peter Schreckenberger (GER). Below: 55s runner-up Thomas Emmerich (GER) and winner Alan Rasmussen (DEN).



Henrik Andren of Sweden captured the Men's 65s event, ousting Germany's Stephan Koudelka (GER) 64 76 in a match between two unseeded players, having earlier upset top seed Peter Adrigan (GER). Andren also teamed up with Henny De Bruyn (NED) to win the doubles title.

Another unseeded German, Hans Busch, beat defending champion Gabriel Ryzhevski of Russia on his way to the Mens 75 crown. Jean Desmet of Belgium swept to the men's 80 title without the loss of a set, improving on last year's runner-up spot with a 63 63 win over Russia's Mikhail Novik in the final.

The Men's 85s final was a closely contested affair, with Lazslo Lenart (HUN) eventually edging Sweden's Pehr Svenshammar 63 26 (11-9).

The second week saw the 40-55 age groups in action, with some new faces making their mark on the roll of honour alongside some of the tournament's most prolific players.

Jorgen Aberg of Sweden upset three higher seeds on his way to the Men's 40s title. His run to a first ever European title culminated in a 76 64 win over third seed Simone Vismara of Italy in the final. >>



## European Indoor Seniors Championships, Seefeld

<< After a series of upsets last year, order was restored to the Men's 45s event, which saw top seed Girts Dzelde storm to the title, troubled only by Gerald Kaiser of Austria, who snatched the second set from the Latvian on a tie break before capitulating 64 67 62 in the championship decider.

2009 finalist and world #1 Pierre Godfroid of Belgium went one better in the Men's 50s, capturing his first Seefeld title since 2006 with a win over Sweden's Per Larsson. Meanwhile, another world #1, Alan Rasmussen of Denmark defended his title in the hotly-contested Men's 55s, dropping the second set on a tie break before recovering for a 64 67 61 win over Germany's Thomas Emmrich, and the ninth European Indoor title of his senior tennis career.

Heide Orth again stole the show in the women's events, repeating her feat of last year to drop two age categories to add the Women's 55s title to the 65s event that she won the previous week.

Home favourite Lucia Schwab-Zelinka captured the Women's 40s crown without the loss of a set, while last year's 40s champion and world #1 Olga Shaposhnikova of Russia put in a dominant display to snatch the 45s event from defending champion Lisa Prechtel of Netherlands.

Briton Christina French defended the Women's 50s title, coming from a set down to outlast top seed Barbara Koutna (CZE) 67 75 62.



Women's Over 40s doubles final - left to right Isabelle Gemmel (GER), Lucia Schwab-Zelinka (AUT), Olga Shaposhnikova (RUS), Svetlana Sinitsyna (RUS)

Tennis Europe's representative at the event, Philios Christodoulou, thanked the organisers for their efforts. "These championships are one of the biggest and best senior tennis events in the world. This success is due to the excellent organisation and the warm hospitality in this beautiful former Olympic resort. I would like to congratulate the organisers, the city and the sponsors of this always impressive tournament, which saw record participation figures of almost 700 players."

Full draws and results from the event can be found at <http://www.tenniseurope.org/VeteransTennis/results/2010/Jan10.aspx>.

## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Ball Contest

HEAD is the Recommended Ball of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. Each year, Tennis Europe offers a prize draw for organisers of events which use HEAD balls.

Of the 2009 events, the following tournaments were drawn as winners, and will receive the prizes listed below:

HEAD Bag: U12 Trofeo Citta di Trieste (ITA)  
 HEAD Bag: U16 Cornellá de Llobregat (ESP)  
 HEAD Balls: U14 International Tournament of Livorno (ITA)  
 HEAD Polo Shirt: U12 Sporting Open, Sarajevo (BIH)  
 HEAD Pullovers: U14 Cukurova Cup, Adana (TUR)  
 HEAD Pullovers: U16 LBS Müller Junior Cup, Ulm (GER)  
 HEAD Racquet: U16 Tomaszewski Cup, Warsaw (POL)  
 2 x Tickets for Paris-Bercy: U14 LBS Cup Waiblingen (GER)  
 2 x Tickets for Roland Garros: U14 Lapperre Young Champions Cup, Hasselt (BEL)



## ITF Seniors Circuit European Players of the Year

Tennis Europe recently announced the 2009 European Senior Players of the Year.

Three women (Ana Salas Lozano, Barbara Koutna and Heide Orth) and four men (Luca Vigani, Manfred Hundstorfer, Pierre Godfroid and Klaus Haas) won repeat titles, having been also been given the honour in 2009. Koutna and Hundstorfer have, in fact, received Player of the Year awards each year since 2005, spanning two age categories in that time.

Heide Orth's award - her 11th in total - draws her level with Peter Pokorný as the player to have won most Player of the Year titles.

Medals and diplomas will be presented to a representative of each player's respective national tennis association at the Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in March.

### Women

Category	Name	Nat.
Over 35	<b>Ana SALAS-LOZANO</b>	ESP
Over 40	<b>Olga SHAPOSHNIKOVA</b>	RUS
Over 45	<b>Barbara KOUTNA</b>	CZE
Over 50	<b>Christine FRENCH</b>	GBR
Over 55	<b>Nora BLOM</b>	NED
Over 60	<b>Sylvia BAUWENS</b>	GER
Over 65	<b>Heide ORTH</b>	GER
Over 70	<b>Nanda FISCHER</b>	GER
Over 75	<b>Ilse MICHAEL</b>	GER
Over 80	<b>Erzsebet SZENTIRMAY</b>	HUN

### Men

Rank	Name	Nat.	Points
Over 35	<b>Benjamin BUDZIAK</b>	POL	
Over 40	<b>Luca VIGANI</b>	ITA	
Over 45	<b>Manfred HUNDSTORFER</b>	AUT	
Over 50	<b>Pierre GODFROID</b>	BEL	
Over 55	<b>Alan RASMUSSEN</b>	DEN	
Over 60	<b>Hans ADAMA VAN SCHELTMA</b>	NED	
Over 65	<b>Peter ADRIGAN</b>	GER	
Over 70	<b>Klaus HAAS</b>	GER	
Over 75	<b>Henri CRUTCHET</b>	FRA	
Over 80	<b>Jean DESMET</b>	BEL	
Over 85	<b>Laszlo LENART</b>	HUN	



Olga Shaposhnikova (RUS)



Luca Vigani (ITA)



Nora Blom (NED)



Peter Adrigan (GER)



Heide Orth (GER)



Jean Desmet (BEL)

## In the Spotlight: Philios Christodoulou

In addition to his role as Cyprus Tennis Federation President, Philios Christodoulou is a long-serving member of the Tennis Europe Board of Management, and Chairman of the Seniors Tennis Committee. We caught up with him in Seefeld to find out about the work of the committee.

### **You have served as Chairman of the Seniors Committee for 8 years now. What does this role entail?**

It is an honour but at the same time a great responsibility for me to be Chairman of the European Seniors Committee. Seniors today play an important role in the development of tennis in the whole world. We have two meetings per year, one in winter and one in summer. The winter one (normally in January) is to report from the last years events and activities and to discuss and approve the outstanding issues of the current year like venues and dates of the club championships, and so on. The summer one is more operational, for example to work on and approve the Rule changes proposals to the ITF Seniors Circuit Regulations for the next year, which is a very important part of the work of our Seniors Committee.

### **Since the merge of the European Seniors Circuit with the ITF Seniors Circuit in 2002, the number of events in Europe has risen from 52 to 158. Do you expect this growth to continue?**

Yes, because the growth is a response to demand, which initially came from the organisers and National Associations, but due to the limited allowed number of seniors' events per country not all the applications could be approved. Last year, the ITF decided to change this procedure and to increase the maximum number of permitted events. As a result, 18 new tournaments were added to the ITF Seniors Circuit calendar in 2009 followed by another 30 events in 2010. I am sure that this growth will continue thanks to the excellent cooperation between Tennis Europe's Board of Management, the ITF and the very important work that is done by my committee.

### **There were 30 new tournament applications this season, what new opportunities are there on the calendar for players in 2010?**

The additional 30 new tournaments of 2010 give the best opportunities to our senior players to choose the venues for their participation in order to have better results according to their level, taking into account the degree of the organisation and hospitality of a tournament. One good example is Hanko, Finland, which joins the circuit this year. It is a very important step forwards for seniors tennis in Scandinavia, as there have been no senior events in Finland and no "open" ones in the whole Scandinavia until now. Hanko is a very good venue with a big tradition, organising regu-

larly tennis events for over 100 years. Also this year, we will have an event in Bosnia, which has gone six years since its last senior tournament. On the whole, the calendar is quite stable, with many countries applying for additional events.



### **Germany has recently won the European Tennis Trophy for senior tennis for the 20th time. Why do you think Germany dominates the rest of Europe in this field?**

First of all, my congratulations to Germany for their 20th victory. Germany dominates in this field because its players are very serious, well organised and well disciplined and they try their best to reach their goals based on tradition and history in this country. Just to mention that 250,000 senior players participate every year in these tournaments.

### **What is being done to grow senior tennis in other nations?**

The Seniors Committee as well as the Tennis Europe Board of Management and the ITF are doing their best in order to achieve development in all nations without discrimination. To this end, the Seniors Committee is reviewing the regulations on a regular basis and takes a number of steps, such as assisting a number of players to take part in tournaments, advising organisers of possible improvements to their tournaments, etc. Another example is that in 2009, the ITF approved higher grades for selected tournaments that were unable to reach the required level in the tournament evaluation but taking into account other factors. In this way, a tournament can be honoured with a higher grade, making it possible for players from less developed countries to have the chance to participate in a higher ranked tournaments.

### **The European Senior Club Championships (ESCC) is another event to have expanded in recent years. What are the plans for this tournament in the future?**

The plans for the Championships are to succeed in attracting more participants and we have certain plans to achieve this goal, such as introducing new and revised regulations. The dates and venues for the 2010 will be announced soon.



## Australian Open 2010

The 74-year wait for a male British Grand Slam champion continues after Roger Federer extended his record-breaking tally of Grand Slam titles to 16 with a straight sets win over Andy Murray in the 2010 Australian Open final.

Federer was in control of the match from the very beginning, taking the first two sets by the comfortable margin of 6-3 6-4. Murray finally broke through in the third, establishing a 5-2 lead before the world #1 mounted a spirited comeback, forcing a monumental tie break which featured some high drama. Feeling the tension, Murray failed to capitalise on five set points, twice missing easy winners, while Federer missed his first match point with a passing shot that missed by millimetres, and his second when he inexplicably left a shot from his opponent that floated past him to land on the baseline. The 28-year old eventually converted his third championship point to secure the tiebreak 13-11 after two and three quarter hours of play.

The final result was a fitting conclusion to what Federer described as "two of the best weeks of tennis of my life." The only set conceded by the world #1 was in the quarterfinals against Nikolay Davydenko, winner of their recent encounters in London and Doha, after which the three-time champion embarked on a morale-crushing run of 13 consecutive games to wrest control of the match from the Russian, securing a semi final berth against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, which the Swiss star was to win in just 90 minutes. Murray had also been in fine form, advancing to the final without the loss of a set, and accounted for defending champion Rafael Nadal, who was forced to withdraw from a high quality quarterfinal match after losing the first two sets due to a knee tendon injury.

In the women's event, Serena Williams became the first player since Jennifer Capriati in 2002 to successfully defend her title in Melbourne, navigating a tricky path to secure her fifth Australian Open.

Having started the tournament with injury worries following an uncharacteristically meek loss to Elena Dementieva in the Sydney final the previous week, during which Williams sported a heavily-strapped knee, the world #1 was initially in imperious form, blasting her way to the last eight for the loss of just fifteen games. Quarter final opponent Victoria Azarenka looked on course to record an upset, as the seventh seed led 6-4 3-0 before Serena launched one of the finest comebacks of her career to clinch the second set on a tie break and finally gain control of the match in the decider. Serena then played well at the key moments in a tight semi final match with Na Li, edging past the Chinese #1 (and newest entry to the world's top ten) 7-6 7-6 to set up the hotly anticipated final with Justine Henin.



Roger Federer celebrates another historic win.

All eyes had been on former world #1 Henin for weeks, with the Belgian's long-awaited comeback gathering steam after a loss to compatriot Kim Clijsters in the final of her first event back in Brisbane had been followed by an impressive 7-5 7-6 win over the in-form Dementieva in the second round, confirming – if anyone had doubted – that the 2004 champion was a possible winner. Scrappy wins over Alisa Kleybanova, Yanina Wickmayer and Nadia Petrova contrasted sharply with a faultless semi final 6-1 6-0 thrashing of China's Jie Zheng which saw Henin advance to her first Grand Slam meeting with Williams in almost seven years.

As in many of their previous encounters, no quarter was given between the two players, with Williams striking first to earn a fairly comfortable first set, 6-4. From the mid-way point of the second set, Henin hit a purple patch, reeling off fifteen consecutive points to level the match at one set all. Both players had opportunities in the decider, but Henin was unable to break past the increasingly reliable Williams serve, squandering five break points as the American raced to a 6-2 win.

Williams was naturally delighted with her 12th Grand Slam title, which tied her with Billie Jean King on the all-time list, and came a day after defending the doubles title with sister Venus. The pair upset world #1s Cara Black (ZIM) and Liezel Huber (USA) in straight sets to seal the title, and has now won four of the last six Grand Slam titles together. Their total of 11 is the third most successful partnership in history, and the pair >>

## Australian Open 2010

<< later expressed regret at having neglected doubles earlier in their careers.

Cara Black gained some consolation later on, teaming with India's Leander Paes to take the mixed doubles event; thanks to a 7-5 6-3 win over Ekaterina Makarova (RUS) and Jaroslav Levincky (CZE) in the final. The win marked Paes' 11th Grand Slam doubles title, drawing him level with former partner Mahesh Bhupathi as the most successful Indian player ever.

The men's doubles was also won by American siblings, as Bob and Mike Bryan captured their fourth title in five years with a hard-fought three set win over second seeded rivals Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic. The Canadian/Serbian pair looked to be on course for a ninth win in twelve matches with the twins when they fought back to clinch a second set tie break, but the Bryans were dominant on serve in the decider and once they broke in the fourth game never looked back. The Bryan brothers move to second on the all-time Grand Slam winners list, but despite the loss Nestor & Zimonjic will reclaim the #1 ranking following the tournament.

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic won the first junior grand slam of her career, avenging her sister Kristyna's semi final loss to Laura Robson with a straight sets defeat of the Briton, who ended the event as runner-up for a second consecutive year. Pliskova, who had not played in a junior event since April 2007 until the week prior to the Australian Open, will receive a wild card into next year's qualifying event as a reward. In the doubles, Slovak pair Jana Cepelova & Chantal Skamlova capped a successful week with a win over top seeds Timea Babos (HUN) & Gabriela Dabrowski (CAN) to win their first junior title together.

In the boy's event, Tiago Fernandes of Brazil also claimed his first junior Slam, sweeping past home hope Sean Berman to earn himself a welcome 17th birthday present. The unseeded Dutch team of Justin Eleveld and Jannick Lupescu won the doubles, capitalising on a shock win over top seeds Daniel Berta (SWE) & Marton Fucsovics (HUN) in the first round to reach the final without the loss of a set, before summarily despatching Germany's former European Junior Champions Kevin Krawietz and Dominik Schulz 6-4 6-4.

With the leading men jostling to establish a pecking order behind Federer at the top of the rankings, and Belgium's comeback queens Henin and Clijsters having already demonstrated that they are key Grand Slam contenders, 2010 is already shaping up to be a memorable year for the sport.



Above: Serena Williams lifts the Daphne Akhurst trophy for the fifth time. Below: Karolina Pliskova celebrates her first junior Grand Slam win.



### Final Results

#### Men's Singles

(1) Roger Federer (SUI) d. (5) Andy Murray (GBR) 63 64 76(11)

#### Women's Singles

(1) Serena Williams (USA) d. (WC) Justine Henin (BEL) 64 36 62

#### Men's Doubles

(1) Bryan/Bryan (USA) d. (2) Nestor (CAN)/Zimonjic (SRB) 63 67(5) 63

#### Women's Doubles

(2) Williams/Williams (USA) d. (1) Black (ZIM)/Huber (USA) 64 63

#### Mixed Doubles

(1) Black (ZIM)/Paes (IND) d. Makarova (RUS)/Levincky (CZE) 75 63

#### Boys' Singles

Tiago Fernandes (BRA) d. Sean Berman (AUS) 75 63

#### Boys' Doubles

Eleveld/Lupescu (NED) d. Krawietz/Schulz (GER) 64 64

#### Girls' Singles

(6) Karolina Pliskova (CZE) d. Laura Robson (GBR) 61 76(5)

#### Girls' Doubles

Cepelova/Skamlova (SVK) d. (1) Babos (HUN)/Dabrowski (CAN) 76(1) 62

#### Wheelchair Mens Singles

(1) Shingo Kuneida (JPN) d. Stephane Houdet (FRA) 76(3) 26 75

#### Wheelchair Womens Singles

(1) Korie Homan (NED) d. Florence Gravelier (FRA) 62 62

#### Wheelchair Mens Doubles

(2) Houdet (FRA)/Kuneida (JPN) d. Scheffers/Ammerlaan (NED) 62 62

#### Wheelchair Women's Doubles

Gravelier (FRA)/Van Koot (NED) d. Shuker (GBR)/Di Toro (AUS) 63 76(2)

#### Quad Singles

Peter Norfolk (GBR) d. David Wagner (USA) 62 76(4)

#### Quad Doubles

Taylor/Wagner (USA) d. Norfolk (GBR)/Andersson (SWE) 62 76





## Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD 2010 Preview



The qualifying rounds of the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD are set to place over the next two weekends (5th - 7th and 12th - 14th February), with the top two teams from each qualifying zone advancing to the final rounds during the weekend of 20th - 22nd February.

With a 118 national teams entered, the tournament is the world's biggest junior indoor team event, and has a proud history of participation from top players, many of whom played for their countries for the first time at the event. Former participants include Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Justine Henin, Dinara Safina and Victoria Azarenka, to name but a few.

Great Britain won the Boys' 14 & Under event last year, capturing their first title since Andy Murray led the team to victory in 2001. With two members of that team moving up to the 16 & Under squad this year, the new team faces a tough qualifying group, where they could face a French team featuring Quentin Halys, winner of the Tarbes Category 1 event last week, often regarded as the toughest indoor 14 & Under event in the world.

The French have dominated the Boys' 16 & Under category during the history of the tournament, cap-

turing the title a record 11 times, including last year's win.

They once again field a relatively experienced team, led by Mathias Bourgue, who was also on the victorious French Summer Cups team last year, and can expect a tough qualifying group which also features strong teams from Russia, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Belgium will be hoping to defend their Girls' 14 & Under crown. Kim Clijsters was on hand last year to support the team at the qualifying rounds in her home town of Bree, spurring the Belgians on to their first win since Clijsters and Henin teamed up for the title in 1996. They can expect tough competition, especially from Britain, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Russia who look set to field strong teams in 2010.

Hungary won their first-ever Winter Cups title in 2009, triumphing in the Girls' 16 & Under event, but face a tall task this year, having been drawn in arguably the toughest qualifying group. Romania will be red hot favourites, fielding top ten players Elena Cadar and Simona Ionescu.

For more information about dates, venues, teams, and up-to-date draws, results and photos throughout the event, visit [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).





## Qualifying Zones & Repartition of Nations



### Boys 14&U - Qualifying (5-7th / 12-14th February)

<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Ebreichsdorf (AUT)</b>	Austria, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain
<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Minsk (BLR)</b>	Belarus, Czech Republic, Latvia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine
<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Correggio (ITA)</b>	Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia
<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Karlskrona (SWE)</b>	Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Switzerland
<b>Finals</b>	<b>Ascoli (ITA)</b>	19-21st February

### Girls 14 & Under: Qualifying 5-7th February

<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Bree (BEL)</b>	Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Rakovnik (CZE)</b>	Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia
<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Ascoli (ITA)</b>	France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia
<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Izmit (TUR)</b>	Bulgaria, Georgia, Great Britain, Hungary, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine
<b>Finals</b>	<b>Pruhonice (CZE)</b>	19-21st February

### Boys 16 & Under: Qualifying 5-7th February

<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Cholet (FRA)</b>	Belgium, France, Israel, Netherlands, Russia, Slovakia, Switzerland
<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Udine (ITA)</b>	Austria, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain
<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Bergen (NOR)</b>	Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Norway, Sweden
<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Bucharest (ROU)</b>	Bulgaria, Czech Rep, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine
<b>Finals</b>	<b>Ronchin (FRA)</b>	19-21st February

### Girls 16 & Under: Qualifying 5-7th February

<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Minsk (BLR)</b>	Belarus, Finland, Great Britain, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Turkey
<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Vendryne (CZE)</b>	Austria, Croatia, Czech Rep, Georgia, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine
<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Maniago (ITA)</b>	Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Zutphen (NED)</b>	Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden
<b>Finals</b>	<b>Pruhonice (CZE)</b>	19-21st February

## Beyond the Baseline...

The ITF recently announced Roger Federer and Serena Williams as the 2009 **ITF World Champions**. Serena also took the doubles title with sister Venus, while Bob & Mike Bryan were named as Men's Doubles World Champions for a record sixth time. Daniel Berta of Sweden and Kristina Mladenovic of France were named as Junior World Champions, while Shingo Kuneida of Japan and Holland's Esther Vergeer won the Wheelchair awards.

**Esther Vergeer** also recently celebrated 10 years as the women's world #1 tennis player, and was presented with a framed photograph of her 2009 Australian Open triumph from the ITF. Since July 2000, Vergeer has been defeated only once, with her current win streak standing at 383 matches.

**Fed Cup by BNP Paribas** World Group first round ties are set to take place next weekend (6-7 February). All ties will be held on indoor courts, with Ukraine hosting Italy in Kharkiv on clay, Czech Republic hosting Germany in Brno on hard courts, Russia visiting Serbia in Belgrade (also on hard courts) and France hosting the USA on clay in Lievin.

2010 **Davis Cup by BNP Paribas** first round venues have been announced. European teams are involved in all World Group ties. Defending champions Spain will host Switzerland on clay in Logrono, France host Germany on indoor hard courts in Toulon, Russia host India on the same surface in Moscow and Sweden host 2008 finalists Argentina under similar conditions in Stockholm. Croatia will play on Varazdin's indoor hard courts when they host Ecuador, while neighbours Serbia have opted for an indoor clay court against USA in Belgrade. Israel makes the long trip to Chile for a clay court tie in Coquimbo, and the draw is rounded off by Belgium's hosting of the Czech Republic on indoor clay in Bree.

Following the loss of the **ATP World Tour** event, tennis will return to the Austrian town of Kitzbuhel this summer in the form of a Challenger event during the first week of August.

**Rafael Nadal** is likely to be out of action up to a month following the knee injury that forced his withdrawal from the quarter finals of the Australian Open, missing the ATP event in Rotterdam and the Davis Cup first round. Meanwhile, **Lleyton Hewitt** will undergo a hip operation and is not expected to return to action until Roland Garros.

**Martina Hingis** beat **Lindsay Davenport** 64 64 in a recent exhibition between the two former world #1s in Berlin.

Just eight weeks after 'retiring' from competitive tennis, **Fabrice Santoro** returned to the courts to participate in the Australian Open, ensuring a curious record of having participated in Grand Slam events across four decades, the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s and 2010s.

The ITF has launched a Russian-language version of the **Junior Tennis School** e-learning website, [www.juniortennisschool.com](http://www.juniortennisschool.com).

**Mario Ancic** returned to the courts at the Heilbronn Challenger last week, losing in the first round of the singles, but reaching the doubles final. The 25 year old former world #7 has also accepted a wild card invitation to play at the Futures event in Nussloch this week, and is attempting a comeback after being restricted to just five months on the circuit last year due to mononucleosis.

**Swiss Tennis** recently re-launched its website at the new address of [www.swisstennis.ch](http://www.swisstennis.ch).

**Richard Gasquet** has signed former Argentine professional Gabriel Markus as his new coach.

**Gustavo Fernandez** of Argentina and **Yui Kamiji** of Japan won their first wheelchair singles titles at the Cruyff Foundation Junior Masters last week. The event was held concurrently with the 'Les Petits As' Tennis Europe Junior Tour event in Tarbes, France.

### Fast Facts



39% of people in Europe say that they watch tennis, making it the third most popular sport on television.

Source: IFM SMS International Sports Events Survey 2009.





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## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – Overall

With effect from January 2010, Tennis Europe has introduced a new junior ranking system, devised to give a unified overall list that shows the relative strengths of all players, regardless of where they achieved their results or picked up points,

A player's total includes points from Tennis Europe Junior Tour 16 and 14 & Under events, plus points earned by players in these age categories who participate in ITF Junior Circuit and professional tour-

naments, all of which are weighted according to their relative strengths.

The 14 & Under ranking will continue to be available separately (see next page), as well as being integrated to the overall rankings. For more information on the rankings system, including a full explanation of the changes for 2010, visit [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).

Rankings below are as of February 2nd, 2010.

### Overall Girls' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Daria GAVRILOVA</b>	RUS	1178
02	▲	<b>Aliaksandra SASNOVICH</b>	BLR	909
03	▼	<b>Yulia PUTINTSEVA</b>	RUS	863
04	▶	<b>Irina KHROMACHEVA</b>	RUS	807
05	▲	<b>Nastja KOLAR</b>	SLO	771
06	▲	<b>Ganna POZNIKHIRENKO</b>	UKR	758
07	▼	<b>Petra ROHANOVA</b>	CZE	750
08	▲	<b>Tamara CUROVIC</b>	SRB	717
09	▶	<b>Elena CADAR</b>	ROU	716
10	▼	<b>Victoriya TOMOVA</b>	BUL	710



Daria Gavrilova (RUS)

### Overall Boys' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Robin STANEK</b>	CZE	734
02	▶	<b>Miki JANKOVIC</b>	SRB	716
03	▲	<b>Enzo PY</b>	FRA	651
04	▲	<b>Marek ROUTA</b>	CZE	616
05	▲	<b>Frederico SILVA</b>	POR	605
06	▲	<b>Artem OGANESYAN</b>	RUS	594
07	▼	<b>Nikola MILOJEVIC</b>	SRB	585
08	▶	<b>Gianluigi QUINZI</b>	ITA	545
09	▶	<b>Igor SMILANSKY</b>	ISR	537
10	▶	<b>Mathias BOURGUE</b>	FRA	519



Robin Stanek (CZE)





## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – 14 & Under

There are lots of changes in the 14 & Under rankings this month, thanks in part to newly ineligible players leaving the rankings as the qualify for the 16 & Unders, and also due to points earned at the first two Category 1 events of the season, in Bolton and Tarbes. 'Les Petits As' champion Quentin Halys leapt 24 positions in the rankings to break into the top ten, and had a productive two weeks, also winning the doubles event in Bolton. Pribram champion Olivier

Nagy reaches his highest ranking of #2, just behind Kremlin Cup champion Gianluigi Quinzi.

In the girls' list, Valeria Patiuk ascends to a closely-contested top spot, with three other players within one bug tournament win of catching her up.

Rankings below are as of February 2nd 2010. Full ranking lists can be found at [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).

### 14 & Under Girls

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▲	<b>Valeria PATIUK</b>	ISR	571
02	▲	<b>Barbara HAAS</b>	AUT	545
03	▲	<b>Oleksandra KORASHVILI</b>	UKR	515
04	▲	<b>Ksenia SHARIFOVA</b>	RUS	485
05	▲	<b>Indy DE VROOME</b>	NED	475
06	NEW	<b>Ioana DUCU</b>	ROU	375
07	NEW	<b>Mariana ZAKARLYUK</b>	UKR	360
08	NEW	<b>Eleanor DEAN</b>	GBR	355
09	NEW	<b>Viktoriya LUSHKOVA</b>	UKR	350
10	NEW	<b>Katerina SINIAKOVA</b>	CZE	350



Indy De Vroome (NED)

### 14 & Under Boys

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▲	<b>Gianluigi QUINZI</b>	ITA	545
02	NEW	<b>Olivier NAGY</b>	SVK	365
03	NEW	<b>Borna CORIC</b>	CRO	330
04	NEW	<b>Clement GEENS</b>	BEL	325
05	NEW	<b>Andre BIRO</b>	HUN	315
06	NEW	<b>Danil MEDVEDEV</b>	RUS	305
07	NEW	<b>Xander VEYS</b>	BEL	305
08	NEW	<b>Alexander LEBEDYN</b>	UKR	305
09	NEW	<b>Quentin HALYS</b>	FRA	305
10	NEW	<b>Shakeel MANJI</b>	GBR	290



Andre Biro (HUN)





# Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

## 12 & Under

Date	Tournament	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Dec 29	Boulogne (FRA)	G Blancaneaux (FRA)	W Olivier (FRA)	64 76	Bedolo/Zanchi (ITA)
		I Ivascu (ROU)	Z El Houari (MAR)	76 06 63	Christian/Ivascu (ROU)

## 14 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Jan 04	Sergievs Posad (RUS)	2 A Chepelev (RUS)	R Nashatrykin (RUS)	46 63 60	Chepelev/Nashatrykin (RUS)
		A Rychagova (RUS)	O Shkundina (RUS)	64 63	Bokhua/Shkundina (RUS)
Jan 04	Beograd (SRB)	3 A Hebras (FRA)	A Marinescu (ROU)	60 75	Hebras (FRA)/Stefanini (ITA)
		M Markovic (SRB)	N Stojanovic (SRB)	62 46 63	Bekefi (HUN)/Stojanovic (SRB)
Jan 11	Pribram (CZE)	2 O Nagy (SVK)	B Bobrov (RUS)	61 64	Kellovsky (CZE)/Nagy (SVK)
		B Bencic (SUI)	R Van der Zwaan (NED)	63 63	Matekova/Siniakova (CZE)
Jan 11	Siauliai (LTU)	3 M Bugailiskis (LTU)	A Slobodkins (LAT)	64 63	Bugailiskis/Ozelis (LTU)
		A Parazinskaite (LAT)	Y Mogilnitskaya (RUS)	64 63	Parazinskaite (LAT)/Koonik (EST)
Jan 18	Bolton (GBR)	1 S Kozlov (USA)	T Brechemier (FRA)	64 46 64	Halys/Janvier (FRA)
		G Andrews (USA)	B Austin (USA)	26 60 63	Andrews/Austin (USA)
Jan 18	Narva (EST)	3 D Popko (RUS)	M Bugailiskis (LTU)	67(8) 62 61	Rublev/Tyurnev (RUS)
		Y Mogilnitskaya (RUS)	D Lodikova (RUS)	64 60	Sviripa (UKR)/Van Der Sypt (BEL)
Jan 25	Tarbes (FRA)	1 Q Halys (FRA)	N Rubin (USA)	61 62	Kokkinakis/Lu (AUS)
		K Tsuji (JPN)	I De Vroome (NED)	46 63 64	Andrews/Austin (USA)
Jan 25	Mogiliov (BLR)	3 A Dubinski (BLR)	D Mnushkin (RUS)	63 16 64	Andrukhov/Dubinski (BLR)
		P Dubavets (BLR)	V Kudermetova (RUS)	63 63	Shymanovich/Silkina (BLR)

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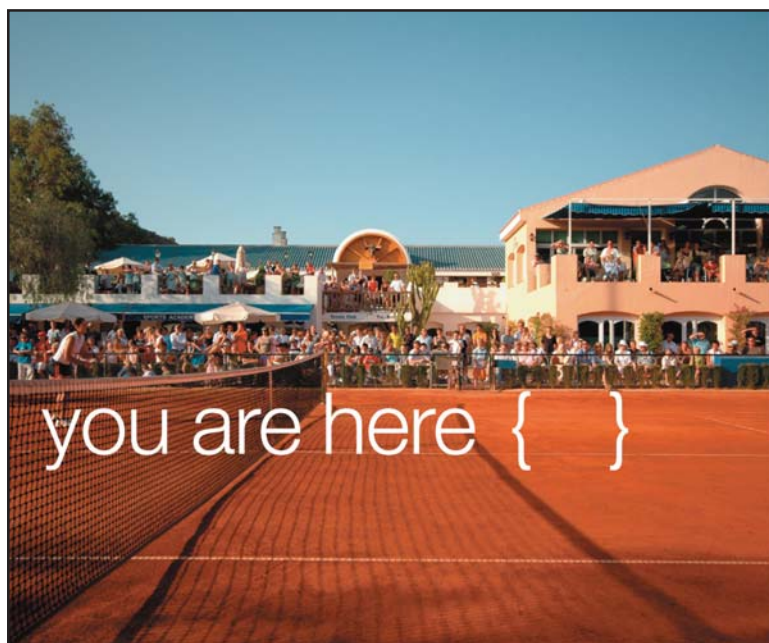
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## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

### 16 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Jan 04	Pribram (CZE)	2 R Stanek (CZE)	K Pajda (SRB)	76(4) 57 62	Routa/Stanek (CZE)
		D Kerfs (BEL)	K Pavelkova (CZE)	w/o	Jirsakova/Martinovska (CZE)
Jan 11	Belgorod (RUS)	3 E Elistratov (RUS)	M Galyamov (RUS)	62 75	Lunev/Spirin (RUS)
		V Kan (RUS)	A Tarasova (RUS)	64 60	Kan/Tarasova (RUS)
Jan 18	Vsevolozhsk (RUS)	3 A Desyatnik (RUS)	I Puzakov (RUS)	63 62	Mozgovoy/Vasilenko (RUS)
		S Saidova (RUS)	L Vasilyeva (RUS)	76(14) 26 63	Afanasyeva/Vasilyeva (RUS)



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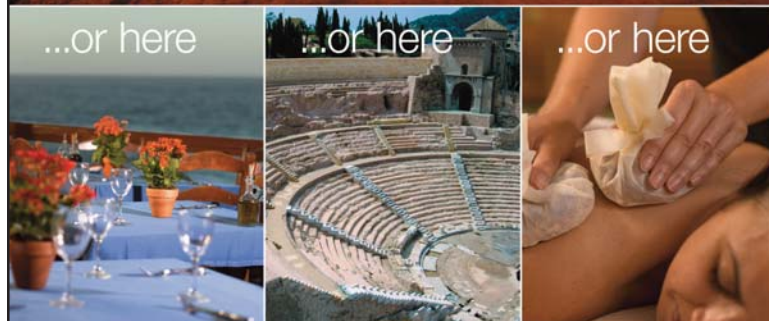
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## ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



### ITF Women's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Jan 11	Glasgow (GBR)	\$10,000	S Gronert (GER)	J Babilon (GER)	26 62 61	Larriere (FRA)/Smith (GBR)
Jan 18	Wrexham (GBR)	\$10,000	M Bartel (GER)	A Kremer (LUX)	61 61	Cecil/Moulton-Levy (USA)
Jan 25	Grenoble (FRA)	\$10,000	A Laurendon (FRA)	V Larriere (FRA)	63 62	Larriere/Ramialson (FRA)
Jan 25	Kaarst (GER)	\$10,000	A Beck (GER)	A Bergot (FRA)	62 75	Geuer/Hofmann (GER)

### ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Jan 11	Schwieberdingen (GER)	\$10,000	J Huta Gulang (NED)	G Muller (LUX)	62 67(4) 63	Huta Gulang/Niessen (NED)
Jan 11	Menorca (ESP)	\$10,000	F Aldi (ITA)	S Gutierrez (ESP)	63 75	Coll/Sanchez de Luna (ESP)
Jan 11	Glasgow (GBR)	\$15,000	C Eaton (GBR)	J Baker (GBR)	64 64	Eaton/Inglot (GBR)
Jan 18	Sheffield (GBR)	\$15,000	S Galvani (ITA)	U Ignatik (BLR)	64 46 60	Charroin (FRA)/Juska (LAT)
Jan 18	Stuttgart (GER)	\$10,000	B Knittel (GER)	G Panfil (POL)	76(5) 61	Deden/Knittel (GER)
Jan 18	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	A Balazs (HUN)	F Aldi (ITA)	67(3) 64 61	Coll/Sanchez de Luna (ESP)
Jan 25	Bagnoles (FRA)	\$10,000+H	G Burquier (FRA)	J Checa Calvo (ESP)	46 64 64	Mannarino/Maynet (FRA)
Jan 25	Eilat (ISR)	\$10,000	A Martin (SVK)	T Paul (USA)	62 62	Martin/Mecir (SVK)
Jan 25	Murcia (ESP)	\$10,000	R Bautista (ESP)	S Gutierrez (ESP)	75 62	Blandin/Martin (FRA)
Jan 25	Kaarst (GER)	\$10,000	S Bubka (UKR)	J Huta Gulang (NED)	61 64	Schweidweiler (LUX)/Walter (FRA)

Updated seven days a week, all the latest draws, results, schedules, tournament fact sheets and entry lists for ITF Men's and Women's Circuit events in Europe are available at [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).



## European Tennis Rankings – Men & Women

After just four weeks of the 2010 season, we have already seen considerable activity at the top of the European rankings. Rafael Nadal's failure to defend his Australian Open title sees the former #1 drop behind rivals Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray to his lowest position in four years. Federer strengthens his position at the top, a ranking he is likely to hold until Wimbledon as he has far fewer points to defend than his three challengers.

Marin Cilic is the newest entry to the top ten. The Croatian #1 started the season strongly, winning

the title in Chennai before reaching his first Grand Slam semi final in Australia.

Dinara Safina's ability to defend points in January was greatly impeded by her ongoing back injury, allowing the chasing pack to cut her lead at the top to just a few hundred points. Caroline Wozniacki rises to a personal best of #2, the first Dane ever to attain the ranking, leapfrogging Svetlana Kuznetsova. Australian quarter finalist Victoria Azarenka also rises to a career best of fourth in Europe. Rankings as of February 1st, 2010.

### European Women

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Dinara SAFINA</b>	RUS	6480
02	▲	<b>Caroline WOZNIACKI</b>	DEN	5995
03	▼	<b>Svetlana KUZNETSOVA</b>	RUS	5861
04	▲	<b>Victoria AZARENKA</b>	BLR	4960
05	▼	<b>Elena DEMENTIEVA</b>	RUS	4705
06	▶	<b>Jelena JANKOVIC</b>	SRB	3845
07	▲	<b>Agnieska RADWANSKA</b>	POL	3605
08	▲	<b>Flavia PENNETTA</b>	ITA	3160
09	▶	<b>Marion BARTOLI</b>	FRA	2985
10	▼	<b>Vera ZVONAREVA</b>	RUS	2940

### European Men

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Roger FEDERER</b>	SUI	11350
02	▲	<b>Novak DJOKOVIC</b>	SRB	8310
03	▲	<b>Andy MURRAY</b>	GBR	7800
04	▼	<b>Rafael NADAL</b>	ESP	7670
05	▶	<b>Nikolay DAVYDENKO</b>	RUS	5290
06	▶	<b>Robin SODERLING</b>	SWE	3375
07	▲	<b>Jo-Wilfried TSONGA</b>	FRA	3235
08	NEW	<b>Marin CILIC</b>	CRO	2970
09	▼	<b>Fernando VERDASCO</b>	ESP	2870
10	▶	<b>Gael MONFILS</b>	FRA	2520



Marin Cilic (CRO)



Victoria Azarenka (BLR)



Novak Djokovic (SRB)

## Notes and news from Tennis Europe

### European Coaches Symposium

The 2010 European Coaches Symposium will be held in Moscow, Russia, from October 14th - 18th. A full circular will be sent to member nations in the coming weeks.

### National Associations

Vadim Shulman was recently re-elected as President of the Ukrainian Tennis Federation.

### European Racquet Stringers Digest

The latest edition of ERSA's Racquet Tech magazine has been published and is available for download here: [www.tenniseurope.org/pdf/Issue/ERSART5-2009.pdf](http://www.tenniseurope.org/pdf/Issue/ERSART5-2009.pdf)

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## HEADlines

### HEAD launches new racquets for 2010

HEAD began the new year by launching a plethora of new racquets, including the next generation of the Extreme Series, and an update to the classic HEAD Prestige series, both of which now incorporate the groundbreaking YOUTEK technology.

HEAD originally introduced the Prestige in 1987, and it has been used to win every Grand Slam event. Gilles Simon and Stanislas Wawrinka are the current top players using YOUTEK™ Prestige racquets, which in the past were endorsed by all-time greats such as Henri Leconte, Thomas Muster, Goran Ivanisevic, Gustavo Kuerten and Marat Safin.

HEAD's YOUTEK™ Prestige series represents a new, reinvigorated design. The racquets incorporate d3o™ material, which allows the racquet to adapt to every shot, bringing the famous feel and touch of the Prestige to a completely new level.

Both lines offer three models; The Prestige range is comprised as follows:

**YOUTEK™ Prestige Pro** – The most aggressive Prestige comes with a leather grip and offers very superior handling. New smart d3o™ inside the classically designed frame pushes both power and control to the max.

**YOUTEK™ Prestige Mid** – The smallest but also heaviest version of the Prestige provides extra stability and swing to perfectly suit hard hitters, who are nonetheless looking for perfect touch and control.

**YOUTEK™ Prestige MP** – This racquet is the top choice of the touring pros. It combines maximum control with superior feel for excellent playability.

HEAD Extreme racquets are specially designed for aggressive, competitive topspin players with a long swing style. Now with smart d3o™ molecules and friction reducing Teflon® grommets inside the frame, the Extreme Series reaches the next level of power and control, while still providing extreme touch, extreme spin and a rock-solid feel. The YOUTEK™ Extreme range is comprised as follows:

**YOUTEK™ Extreme Pro** – This racquet cuts through the air like a blade and offers the perfect swing for topspin players. Its stiffer frame with Teflon® grommets and d3o™ technology delivers maximum power and great touch.

**YOUTEK™ Extreme MP** – This racquet combines weight and balance for a great feel and touch. New d3o™ technology and Teflon® grommets eliminate



almost any loss of impact energy for great power shots.

**YOUTEK™ Extreme Elite**– This newly shaped frame has a bigger head size and less weight for increased spin. With new HEAD YouTek™ technology, it provides maximum power.

“The updated Extreme and

Prestige racquets feature HEAD's YOUTEK™ technology, which will enhance performance and meet each player's individual needs,” said Johan Eliasch, CEO of the HEAD N.V. Group. “With the YOUTEK™ Extreme, players receive improved benefits of the previous racquet with an advanced technology to boost performance on the court.”

In addition to the two racquet lines, HEAD introduced accompanying bags. The new bag lines are designed with extreme abrasion and dirt resistant material on the bottom; longer, padded shoulder straps; metal buckles; and a detachable, adjustable, convertible shoulder strap system. The new Tour Package is available now in pro/specialty and sporting goods stores.

#### Four HEAD players in Top Ten

HEAD players began the year with a bang, with Andy Murray reaching the Australian Open final. In the semifinals, he beat fellow HEAD player Marin Cilic, who moved into the world's top ten for the first time as a result of his efforts. Alongside Murray (#3), Novak Djokovic (#2) and Robin Soderling (#9), that brings HEAD's total to four of the current top ten, and ten of the top 25 players: one of the best ever standings for HEAD players.





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