



Record Attendance at Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference



The Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference was held during the weekend of 23-24th November in Amsterdam, Netherlands, hosted by the KNLTB. A record 64 delegates from 27 Tennis Europe member nations attended the biannual event, which is designed

to bring together junior tournament organisers, national federations and administrators of the junior game from around Europe to share opinions and ideas on issues relating to the Tour, its events and players.

A wide variety of topics were discussed at the conference, which began with an update on Tennis Europe Junior Tour matters from within the organisation.

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2008 European Tennis Calendar Now Online

Tennis Europe has announced the publication of the 2008 European Tennis Calendar. The unique consolidated calendar lists details of all international tennis tournaments set to take place within Tennis Europe's 49 constituent countries during the coming year.

The calendar includes information from all official circuits, ranging from the organisations own Tennis Europe Junior Tour Under 12, 14 and 16 circuits, to ITF Juniors, Seniors, Professional, Wheelchair and Beach Tennis Circuits, the ATP and Sony Ericsson WTA Tours, plus other events such as conferences, trade shows, coaching events and exhibitions.

Searchable by date, country or organising body, the printable calendar allows the user to view all international events in Europe in any given week, to view the

full annual calendar of a given discipline, or to view all events scheduled in any given country throughout the year. Also detailed are the event website, court surface, tournament category and draw information, making the calendar an essential tool for players, coaches, fans and those working within the tennis industry. >>



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION
Exclusive Signed ROGER FEDERER
Calendar up for grabs - see Page 14

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference



Images from Amsterdam (left to right). Tennis Europe President John James presents Czech Tennis Association General Secretary Josef Nechuty with a plaque recognising the Czech victory in the 2007 European Junior Championships Nations' Ranking, the delegates during a presentation, KNLTB President Karin van Bijsterveld.

<< The host country was heavily involved with many of the presentations. The KNLTB's Frank van Fraayenhoven and Hans Felius addressed the assembly on the themes of 'A Coaches View of Tournament Organisation' and 'the Importance of Playing international Tennis Events for the Development of Young Players' respectively.

Richard Kempers, Chairman of the Tournament Committee of the Category 1 Windmill Cup event in Leeuwarden discussed the success of the tournament, and also gave a separate presentation on the implementation of promotional requirements for Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD venues.

Other speakers included ITF Juniors Manager Luca Santilli who gave an update on matters concerning the ITF Junior Circuit and the ITF Age Eligibility Rule, and ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic.

Representatives of the French, Russian and Spanish Tennis Federations also took the stand, along with event organisers from Renningen/Rutesheim (GER), Sandefjörd (NOR) and special guest Christof Meyer, who discussed HEAD's involvement with junior tennis.

Tennis Europe President John James expressed his satisfaction with the event, commenting, "It is a great pleasure to see the conference so well attended. As the Tennis Europe Junior Tour continues to grow, opportunities for those involved to meet and exchange ideas are increasingly important. I would particularly like to thank our hosts, who have not only provided us with an excellent working environment, but have also contributed greatly to the event programme, allowing all the delegates to benefit from their experiences."

European Tennis Calendar

<< The calendar can be viewed at the homepage of www.TennisEurope.org, where the current week can be found under the present news stories. Searchable functions are accessed by clicking on 'More dates and events,' to launch the calendar as a stand-alone application.

Updated regularly throughout the year in order to accommodate the staggered release schedules of various organisers, the 2007 calendar featured full information from almost 1300 international events.



2008 Calendars Offer Unprecedented Playing Opportunities



2008 is set to be a record-breaking season on the **Tennis Europe Junior Tour**, following the official publication of the European Under-12, Under-14 and Under-16 circuit calendars by the European Tennis Federation.

All age groups will be offered extended playing opportunities in 2008, with a total of 316 events due to be held across the three age categories during a year in which the Tour will call in on 41 of Tennis Europe's member nations, providing international playing opportunities for around 10,000 aspiring youngsters.

Following the success of the inaugural European team championship for the age group, the Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD, the 12 & Under calendar shows the largest expansion in 2008, with a total of eleven new events set to take place, bringing the total number of tournaments to 52.

The well-established 14 and 16 & Under circuits continue their steady pattern of growth from their initial 50 events in 1990, consolidating their status at the sport's leading platform for junior talent worldwide by rising to 108 and 91 events respectively, of which fourteen are new tournaments.

For the first time, five national federations – Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Russia – have been sanctioned to stage the maximum number of five events for all three age categories.

All **Tennis Europe Junior Tour** events are held simultaneously for boys and girls and feature singles and doubles (and occasionally consolation) competitions. Players of the 14 and 16 & Under age groups are awarded ranking points according to performance in each events, with a maximum of eight events (five singles, two doubles and one team) contributing to a players' points total at any one time.

In addition to regular Tour events, the circuits are highlighted by the prestigious European Junior Championships, staged in the summer for individuals and

twice annually (the indoor Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD in February and the outdoor European Summer Cups in August) for teams. The 14 & Under European Junior Championships will remain in Czech Republic but switch to the city of Pilzen, while the 16 & under and 18 & Under events stay in Moscow, Russia and Gastein, Austria respectively for a second successive year.

Speaking at the biannual **Tennis Europe Junior Tour** Conference in Amsterdam recently, Tennis Europe President John James said "2008 represents another huge step forward for the Tour. We have worked hard in recent years to ensure that the Tennis Europe Junior Tour provides optimal playing conditions for the next generation of players, who now have more opportunities than ever to compete in international events across the continent. Coupled with a greater cooperation with tournament organisers and ambitious plans for the introduction of increased services, we look forward to continuing to nurture the future of the sport in the coming years."

Printable versions of the Tour calendars can be found here: [Under 12](#) | [Under 14](#) | [Under 16](#), while further information about the **Tennis Europe Junior Tour** can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document, or at the organisation's website, www.TennisEurope.org.

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USA Beats Russia to Reclaim Davis Cup Title

Russia fell just short of defending the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas title, losing a surprisingly one-sided final to the United States in Portland, in which the visitors won just one set in live play.

Andy Roddick set aside worries about a back injury that has been troubling him in recent months to overcome Dmitry Tursunov for the loss of just ten games. The two players had been involved in an epic encounter in the 2006 semi finals, which the Russian snatched 17-15 in the fifth set, but on this occasion the former world #1 Roddick was in control from the moment he broke to take the first set.

James Blake emerged victorious from a thrilling second match, getting the better of Mikhail Tursunov in two of three tie breaks to score a 63 76(4) 67(3) 76(3) win to put the Americans firmly in the driving seat.

The task of securing the final point to Bob and Mike Bryan, as the world's best doubles pair took on the relatively inexperienced partnership of Igor Andreev and Nikolay Davydenko. The Americans started nervously but grew in confidence after managing to win a first set tie break, breaking once in the second set and twice in a masterful third, in which they conceded just six points on their own serve. At match point the sold-out 12,000-capacity Memorial Coliseum crowd rose to its feet to honour the Bryan twins, who declared their



careers "complete" following the win.

In the dead rubbers, Igor Andreev salvaged a point for the visitors, beating Bob Bryan in a rare singles match for the world doubles #1 63 76(4), before James Blake completed a 4-1 win for the champions, coming back from a first set thumping to edge Tursunov 1-6 6-3 7-5.

The win marks the first US Davis Cup title for 12 years, and their record-breaking 31st in total. Despite the defeat, Russia retains their position at the top of the ITF Davis Cup Nations Ranking, published after the final.

Coaches' Workshop in Armenia

From 18th - 21st October, 15 Armenian coaches attended an ITF/Tennis Europe Workshop on Tactical and Technical Development of young tennis players in Yerevan, Armenia. The Workshop was held at the Master Class Club and led by ITF expert Rob Antoun from Great Britain, who guided the delegates - of whom 13 are full-time tennis coaches - through daily on-court sessions lasting up to six hours.

The first day's programme involved a tactical analysis

of the world game, differences between men's and women's tennis, and in depth study of serve and return tactics in the women game. During the second day, the coaches worked on detailed technical analyses, using video clips and practical coaching with a group of the most promising junior players. The final day saw a mini tennis workshop, with theoretical guidelines as well as on court drill progressions.

ITF/Tennis Europe Special Development Projects 2007

2007 has seen some intense activity in terms of tennis development with a variety of new schemes now underway across the continent. A number of projects were announced earlier in the year, thanks to a \$55,000 Special Project Fund granted by the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Fund. Five national associations have benefitted from this so far, with resources going to the organization of National Junior Development Programmes and to the establishment of National Coaches' Education Systems within those nations.

During the second part of the year, Cyprus, Ukraine and Bulgaria have all staged Level 1 Tutor's and/or Coaches' Courses, with a National Level 2 coaches' course being held in Cyprus in December, and a Performance Seminar also scheduled this month in Bulgaria. Level 1 Courses are designed for coaches who work with beginners and intermediate players, and cover topics such as tactics, technique, applied psychology for beginners and teaching methodology.

Meanwhile, the national federations of Macedonia and Turkey have focused on programmes for Junior Development, each hosting three junior training camps alongside coaches workshops for players aged 10 & Under (Macedonia) and 12 & Under (Turkey).

In addition, the production and/or translation of a variety of manuals and study materials have been funded throughout the year. Apart from publications produced for the aforementioned projects, these include an Albanian-language School Tennis Initiative Teacher's Manual, and the translation of 'Developing Young Tennis Players' for readers in Macedonia, Lithuania and Russian speaking countries.

Overseeing the projects, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic declared himself to be satisfied with the results of the various projects so far, "I think that it is fair to say that the available funds have been put to the best possible use. In allocating resources to junior development programmes, and to increasing the numbers of qualified coaches (as well as the knowledge of existing ones) in developing countries, we are able to help ensure that their junior players are able to get access to advanced training methods without having to look overseas, whilst simultaneously bringing tennis expertise and playing opportunities to greater numbers of potential participants."



Above (top), Players and coaches in Antalya pose during a training camp, (below) Coaches enjoy an on-court session at a Workshop in Cyprus.

"We would like to thank all of the ITF/Tennis Europe experts and those in charge of the Projects from National Federations for their initiative and enthusiasm as well as for their professional work throughout this year. We are looking forward to continuing to support these, and other nations, working to achieve their further development goals in the future. "

Going forward, 2008 will feature an equally ambitious set of projects. Whilst the five three-year projects mentioned earlier enter their second years, three further Junior Development Projects are expected to be launched, in Moldova (12 & Under), Latvia (14 & Under) and Estonia (15 & under), whilst Romania, Georgia and Belarus plan to undertake Mini Tennis Competition projects.

Swiss Sports Medicine for Tennis Congress in Basel

Endorsed by Tennis Europe, the 5th Swiss Sports Medicine for Tennis Congress was held at the St. Jakobhalle in Basel during the recent Swiss Indoors tournament. The annual event, which focuses on prevention and treatment of specific tennis injuries this year looked at the elbow and hand.

Over 130 delegates attended the event to hear a number of distinguished French, German and Swiss specialists discuss issues relating to the anatomy and biomechanics of the forearm, as well as injury prevention and treatment methods.



ECTA European University Tennis Event

The European Collegiate Tennis Association held its very first event during the weekend of Friday 18th – Sunday 20th November at the LTA's National Training Centre in Roehampton, London.

Supported by Tennis Europe, the Barclay's European University Men's Team Invitational Tournament saw participation from some of the top European university teams. Dmitri Sitak led the top seeded Moscow team. Second-seeded London Metropolitan had Matajaz Jurmann of Slovenia as their top player. The third and fourth seeds were Sporting University Cologne (GER) and University of Stirling (GBR). Rounding out the draw were teams from the universities of Montpellier

(FRA), Dublin City (IRL), Debrecen (HUN) and Bocconi University Milan (ITA).

Montpellier were the surprise team of the event, taking out the top seeded Russians in the first round before advancing to play the final against home team London Metropolitan. The final was a close affair, with the teams tied at 2-2 after singles play, but the French prevailed, sweeping the doubles to take a 4-2 win against the reigning EUSA European Champions. Many of the teams who competed at the ECTA event in Roehampton will also be participating in the EUSA European Championships in Moscow.



In the Spotlight: Michael Bogner of Hanseatic Sportswear



One year ago, Tennis Europe announced the most comprehensive partnership deal in the history of the organisation, a three-year agreement with leading racquet manufacturer HEAD. Tennis Europe News recently spoke to Michael Bogner, Managing Director of **Hanseatic Sportswear**, who design and sell **HEAD**

branded clothing across Europe, and whose contribution to the initial agreement has ensured that Tennis Europe has been able to maximise brand visibility with eye catching apparel at conferences and flagship junior events across the continent.

Can you tell us a little about the recent history of your company?

In 2003, the license for HEAD Sportswear was bought by our mother company Jebesen and Jessen. They are a multi-national trading company, which trades in a wide variety of materials and chemicals, and has bases in the cities of Hamburg, Singapore and Hong Kong. After the purchase of the license, Hanseatic Sportswear was founded, and started working in 2004 with the sporting apparel of HEAD.

You produce clothing under the HEAD brand for a variety of different sports. What are the main areas?

We create, develop and sell clothing for tennis and golf in summer, and alpine skiing in the winter. Over the next year we intend to focus on tennis and skiwear. Golf is a difficult and limited market. Here in Germany for example, there are around 500,000 golfers. Nike in particular has been very successful in that market, and there is not a great deal of space for all the other brands. So for now we intend to focus on our core market, tennis.

How successful is the HEAD Sportswear brand in Europe in terms of market share?

In skiwear we are very small, because there are a huge volume of competitors, some of whom have commanding market shares. In terms of tennis, we are fluctuating between third and fourth in the market.

The top two of course are Nike and Adidas, followed by us, and Lotto.

Do you then think of Nike and Adidas as your primary competitors? How does the clothing brand of an equipment manufacturer take on the world's most easily recognisable sportswear brands?

To be honest we don't really think of them as competitors. For me it is important to be able to settle the position of third place in the market. To compete against those brands you need so much money and marketing power. The turnover for a brand such as ours is not high enough to justify spending such amounts. Nike and Adidas can spend millions and millions of Euros each year contracting players, and between them have almost all top players. My vision would be to win some market share from these companies, but not to compete against them.

You've recently been deciding on your tennis-wear range for 2009. What is the decision-making process behind that? Do HEAD drive you in a certain direction or are you the innovators?

No, it's all on our part; we design the tennis line. In some cases we have a look at the latest colours from HEAD, but we design everything alone. We have several freelance designers, and we give them our vision of where we want to go, or a technique, and they start their designing process. Once we get the first drafts and sketches we decide where we want to go. They re-work it and we start the prototyping in Asia.

What have been your biggest selling products this season, in terms of tennis clothing?



In the Spotlight: Michael Bogner of Hanseatic Sportswear

Our 'Competition' line [see photos], which is both sporty and technical, has been really successful. I've noticed that over the past couple of seasons our menswear has outperformed the womenswear in terms of sales. I think that HEAD has in the past been seen as more or less a masculine brand, so we can take advantage of this, but also will work to power the sales of womenswear.

Is brand loyalty a major factor when players choose their tennis wear?

I think there is this brand awareness, but not in the top 100, because those players are just looking for money - it's not too important to them which clothes they wear. There is one player who stands out, and that is Roger Federer because he has consistently refused to change from Wilson and Nike over the years; all the others can be bought with money. That's the biggest problem for me at the moment because if you are looking to sponsor players you need a very large amount of money, and ideally you need to get the Nadals and Federers from the marketing side. If we speak about recreational players though, it's definitely true that people who buy HEAD racquets will tend to be the same people who buy and wear HEAD clothes.

In that sense I suppose that your success or failure is very much tied to the relative success of HEAD's racquet ranges?

For sure, there's no doubt of that.

What are your plans for the next seasons? What can we expect from the 2009 range?

We will follow the existing lines, but what we want to do is offer our customers a full range of choices of outfits. At the moment we have many different colours, but they depend on the lines...so for example our Competition line is green/white/black, and blue/white/black, and the Performance line is red, but for the future we want to integrate all colours into the various lines.

We are also changing our system a little bit and we will have a 'warm-up' line of track-suit jackets and pants... sales of suits in general have fallen dramatically in recent years, as people tend to want jackets and pants but not necessarily matching ones. So we are now implementing a warm-up line where you can purchase each colour separately. Then there are the polos, the t-shirts and the pants. For 2009 we want to offer a full range of colours, so that sales are not limited by people wanting a certain item but not liking the colour. Our vision is to implement this system into the market. Finally, we will also expand our 'basic' line, where the products are very simple in style, but high in function. These can be implemented anywhere because they are discreet and it's not a problem for a player to wear say Adidas pants and a HEAD polo. I think that with these aims in place we'll have a very rounded and good sellable line for 2009.

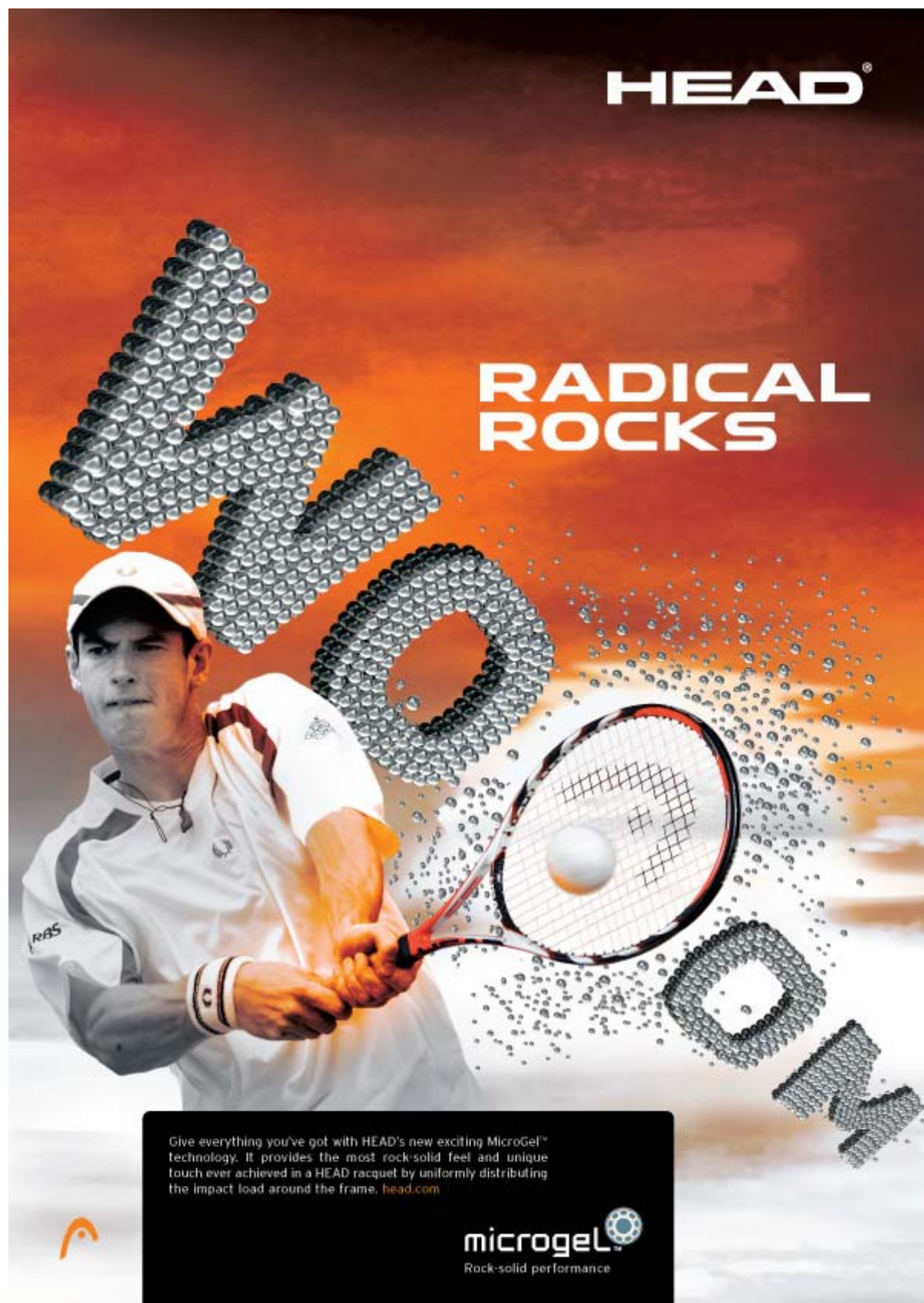
How would you summarise the first year of your partnership with Tennis Europe?

To be really honest, I was very sceptical at the first stage, and I thought it might be better to spend this investment in printed advertising or something like that. The HEAD hardware company told me they were coming on board with Tennis Europe and that it would be great if we could contribute to ensure that Tennis Europe is completely HEAD branded, so I agreed. After this first year I have been very surprised, firstly by how well Tennis Europe is organised, and also by the way in which it promotes the brand. So

we definitely are looking forward to continuing this collaboration in coming years. Also for us it's important to have the connection with Europe's young players, who are tomorrow's customers, so this is a great focus for us and is why we are very happy to be working with Tennis Europe.

Further information on HEAD Sportswear can be found at <http://www.headsportswear-europe.de/>





A tennis player in a white shirt and cap is shown in a dynamic pose, swinging a HEAD Radical Rocks tennis racket. The racket's head is covered in a dense pattern of small, reflective, rock-like particles. The background is a vibrant orange and red gradient. The HEAD logo is prominently displayed in the top right corner. The words 'RADICAL ROCKS' are written in large, bold, white capital letters across the center. A black rectangular box at the bottom contains text about the MicroGel technology and the HEAD logo with the tagline 'Rock-solid performance'.

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Tennis Europe Special Officiating Seminar

A Tennis Europe Special Officiating Seminar was held in London recently, hosted by the LTA at their Roehampton headquarters. The 18 delegates in attendance included members of the Tennis Europe Officiating Task Force, officiating executives from selected major European countries and the ITF.

Chaired by ITF/Tennis Europe Tournament Executive Anders Wennberg, the main points discussed at the meeting (a follow-up to a similar meeting held in Basel in 2005) included rules updates for 2008, officiating schools, national officiating structures and officiating requirements at various levels of ITF and Tennis Europe events.

Particular attention was also given to the topic of recruitment of new officials, with a debate on the ways of attracting specific target groups to the world of officiating. Such target groups include young club mem-



bers, junior players that were not quite able to make the transition to the professional game, tennis fans and high-school students.

Junior Players and the Age-Eligibility Rule

A recent study conducted by Tennis Europe Professional Tennis Committee and Women's Task Force members Barbro Raabe and Marc Verbeek has been published on the Tennis Europe website.

The study looks at playing opportunities for junior players and attempts to show that when youngsters combine entry-level professional events with junior circuits the opportunity exists to participate in an unreasonably large number of events within the rules. 16-year olds have the option of competing on the Tennis Europe Junior tour, ITF Junior Circuit or the ITF Women's Circuit, but it is feared that many players, to their detriment, are attempting too much, too soon.

The results of the study have been presented at recent ITF Women's Committee, Professional Tennis Committee and women's task force meetings, as well as at the Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference. The ITF is now looking into extending it into other regions.

Click [here](#) to read the report, available to download in .pdf format.

Senior Tennis Round-Up



This week sees the final event of the 2007 ITF Senior Circuit in Europe, in Arosa, Switzerland, which precedes the publication of the final **ITF Senior Rankings**, due out on December 21st.

In line with tradition, the 2008 season will begin in Seefeld, Austria with the **European Individual in-**

door Championships for Seniors and Super Seniors, set to take place from January 11th-26th.

The full 2008 ITF Circuit calendar has been published and is now available at the Tennis Europe website.

Wheelchair Tennis Camp in Slovenia

Tennis Europe became involved in Wheelchair Tennis for the first time in 2007, investing in a number of programmes in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation, whose Wheelchair Tennis department administer the schemes.

One of these was a long-awaited Wheelchair Tennis Camp in Slovenia, which was organized in Ljubljana from 8th to 10th November, under the supervision of Tjasa Filipcic from the Slovenian Association for Sport for the Disabled.

Wheelchair tennis was introduced in the Balkan region some ten years ago, especially in Slovenia and Croatia, with the first unofficial matches between the two countries were played in 1995. Since then, however the participation of Slovenian tennis players has been solely of recreational nature. There are numerous reasons for such an approach: lack of financial resources, of motivation for regular and planned training, and most of all a lack of knowledge – all issues which were addressed at the camp in Ljubljana.

The camp saw a wide variety of participants. 8 wheelchair tennis players (1 woman), 5 coaches, 20 students (future tennis coaches) of the Faculty for Sport, plus parents and sport officials took part in the event. Among the tennis players were three players attempting wheelchair tennis for the first time. Participants also came from several countries, a player and two coaches travelled from Croatia in addition to a Serbian Physical Education teacher.

Organising the camp was British tennis coach Geraint Richards, for whom the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to work with four specific target audiences. After educating two groups of trainee tennis coaches/physical education students about wheelchair tennis, Mr. Richards worked with four current Slovenian players and their individual coaches as well as a player from neighbouring Croatia and his two coaches. The group was able to undertake individualised video analysis work as well as several on-court drills and exercises. Finally, the Camp was able to focus on the three athletes who were experiencing wheelchair tennis for the very first time.

Commenting on the success of the Camp and hopes for Wheelchair Tennis in the region in the near future, Mr. Richards said, "I think that achieved our goal of exciting, educating and motivating the players and coaches.



This was epitomised by the long discussions held over dinner by the players, coaches and facilitators on how they could develop a regional 3-day camp in Croatia in 2008 for players and coaches from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. This would be followed by a three day regional tournament which would hopefully rotate on a yearly basis between the countries involved."

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Latest

In addition to the publication of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour calendars for 2008, some important other announcements have been made. The first of these is with regards to **ranking points at team events**. It has been confirmed that from 2008, all players participating on a team at the final rounds of Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD or European Summer Cups events will be awarded equal ranking points for their performance, regardless of their position within the team.

The fourteen players set to benefit from the **ITF 16 & Under Tournament Feed-Up System** in 2008 have been announced. The top seven male and female European Under 16s at the end of the season (Carlos Boluda (ESP), Mirza Basic (BIH), Leonard Ivic (CRO), Ivan Turudic (CRO), Vedran Ljubicic (CRO), Javier Martí (ESP), Andrea Stucchi (ITA), Sviatlana Pirazhenka (BLR), Ema Burgic (BIH), Natalia Pintusava

(BLR), Dorothea Eric (SRB), Aleksandra Josifoska (MKD), Simona Halep (ROU), Klara Koprivova (CZE)) will be awarded special exempt positions in the draws of ITF Under 18 events according to their year end ranking. The #1 player will receive entry to two Grade 1 events. The #2 receives entry to one Grade 1 and one Grade 2 event. The #3 enters two Grade 2 events, whilst players ranked #4-7 each gain entry to two Grade 3 events.

As excitement builds for the forthcoming **Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD**, you can now find the repartition of nations and updated entry lists at the relevant section of the Tennis Europe website. Qualifying rounds are set to take place during the weekend of February 8-10 with the exception of one Boys 14 & under tie in Bergen, Norway, which will be staged from 15th-17th. All final round ties will be held the following weekend.

2007 Players of the Year

The 2007 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year have been announced. The title recognises the three best-performing European players in each age category on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. Medals and diplomas are handed over to a representative from the National Association of the player each year at a ceremony at Tennis Europe's Annual General Meeting.

The players awarded the title in 2007 are as follows.

Girls 14 & Under: Vivian Juhaszova (SVK), Alexandra Krunich (SRB) and Timea Babos (HUN).

Girls 16 & Under: Sviatlana Pirazhenka (BLR), Ema Burgic (BIH), Natalia Pintusava (BLR).

Boys 14 & Under: Ciprian Porumb (ROU), Anton Volkov (RUS), Jiri Vesely (CZE).

Boys 16 & Under: Carlos Boluda (ESP), Mirza Basic (BIH), Leonard Ivic (CRO).

Babos, Boluda and Basic all recorded the rare feat of attaining the title for a second successive year. The title has historically been a reliable indicator of future success, with past recipients including Novak Djokovic, Andrew Murray, Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters.



2007 Players of the Year, clockwise, from top left, Vivian Juhaszova (SVK), Ciprian Porumb (ROU), Sviatlana Pirazhenka (BLR), Carlos Boluda (ESP).

Top Players Prepare for New Season at the CIT



Some of the top players of the professional circuits have been making use of the great facilities on offer at the Centre Internacional de Tennis (CIT)

as they prepare for the next season. The wave was led by Russian world #2 Svetlana Kuznetsova, who chose to prepare for the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Championships in Madrid, on the indoor courts of the CIT, which is situated in her adopted hometown, Barcelona.

Two other top-25 WTA Tour players, 17th-ranked Shahar Peer from Israel and Italian world #39 Flavia Pennetta are both preparing for the 2008 season at the CIT during an intensive training period from the beginning of November until late December. Both players are training with Spanish coach Gabriel Urpi, and former Wimbledon Champion Conchita Martinez.

One of the fastest improving Spanish players, Oscar Hernandez, is also currently training at the Centre in order to prepare for the Spanish Masters, due to be held in Caceres later this month. The CIT has been also chosen by top-100 newcomer Fabio Fognini of Italy, who is gearing up to make his mark on the ATP circuit with the goal of reaching the top 50, alongside coach Oscar Serrano.

Aside from the many off-season visitors, the CIT is the year-round training base of the group of female players trained by Karim Perona, which includes most of the best Spanish players of the moment, as Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Maria José Martínez Sánchez and Marta Marrero. Other improving players such as Rebeca Bou or Nuria Sanchez also train there throughout the whole season.

Managed by the Catalan Tennis Federation, the CIT has a privileged location (only a few minutes from Barcelona Airport) with a wonderful climate, and a geographical position which makes it the ideal centre in Europe for players aiming to train in Winter.

Tennis Europe's Academy Partner, the CIT is home to some of the best facilities in Europe, with 31 tennis courts, including greenset, indoors and clay, in grounds totalling some 31,000m². It also has a professional school with a world wide reputation that prepares players to make the transition to professional



Top, former world #2 Conchita Martinez practices with Italy's Flavia Pennetta (bottom left) and top Israeli Shahar Peer (bottom right)

competition on the ATP and WTA circuits, with an own residency hall for players and all kinds of services to cater for both trainee and professional players.

CIT is the only centre recognised by the International Tennis Federation and also hosts the Olympic Solidarity programme promoted by the International Olympic Committee, which welcomes players from all over the world.

For further information about the Centre and its facilities, visit <http://centreinternacional.fctennis.org/eng/>

Beyond the Baseline...

The ITF has extended its IPIN online services to players competing on the **ITF Junior Circuit**. The International Player Identification Number is mandatory for all players entering ITF Junior and Pro Circuit events, and enables a player to manage their own tournament entries and withdrawals online. More information can be found at <https://ipin.itftennis.com>

The **Olympic Tennis Centre** in Beijing has been officially opened, and successfully hosted two Olympic test events in October, a men's \$15,000 Futures and a \$25,000 women's tournament.

The ATP hosted a 4-day '**ATP University**' course at the Walt Disney World resort in Florida recently. Designed to give specialist training on matters ranging from communications, finance and medicine to the history of the ATP and the importance of promoting the sport. 19 European players were among this year's graduates, including Benjamin Becker (GER), Marin Cilic (CRO), Gael Monfils (FRA) and Jamie Murray (GBR),

Hugo Boss has renewed its partnership with the Davis Cup, the longest in the history of the competition. The latest renewal sees the company continue to provide clothing for Davis Cup referees, officials and ball kids until 2012.

29 of the 30 teenagers in the **Sony Ericsson WTA Tour** Year-End top 100 rankings are from Europe.

A second **Betfair Turbo Tennis** competition was held last month in Zaragoza, Spain. David Ferrer beat Rafael Nadal to take the \$100,000 first prize, emerging from a field that also featured Sergi Bruguera, Pat Cash, Goran Ivanisevic, Carlos Moya and Joachim Johansson after a series of rapid 30-minute matches.

Teams have been announced for **Hopman Cup**, the mixed season-opening competition due to be held from 29th December-4th January. European teams from Serbia (Novak Djokovic and Jelena Jankovic), Czech Republic (Thomas Berdych and Lucie Safarova) and France (Gael Monfils and Tatiana Golovin) will line up alongside USA, Argentina, India, Australia and the winner of an Asian qualifying play-off.

Guy Forget has renewed his contract as captain of the French Davis Cup team. The 42-year old was also runner up at the **BlackRock Masters** in London last week, falling at the final hurdle to Paul Haarhuis, who won the event for the third successive year.

Competition—Win a Signed 2008 Roger Federer Calendar!

We have an exclusive signed Roger Federer calendar to give away. The calendar features some of the most exciting moments of the past year of the world #1's career, as well as a selection of off-court shots.

All proceeds from sales of the calendar once again go to support the Roger Federer Foundation, which focuses on supporting children in the New Brighton Township in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, as well as the Sululta District of Ethiopia, enabling the children to go to school, receive social care, take part in leisure activities and receive warm meals.

The calendar can be ordered at www.rogfederershop.com/cms/index.php?id=19&L=0

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following question:

Which Spanish player beat Roger Federer in the quarterfinals of the European Junior Championships in 1997 and 1998, but has never beaten him as a professional?

1. Rafael Nadal
2. Feliciano Lopez
3. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

Send an email with your full name and mailing address to contactus@tenniseurope.org.

Closing date is December 31st.

Fast Facts...



So far in 2007, enough tennis string has been sold in Europe to travel two-thirds of the distance around the world, or to string over 2,000,000 racquets.

Source: Sports Marketing Surveys

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 14 & Under



As players born in 1993 become ineligible for the ranking, the 1994-born talents make their traditional year-end leap up the lists. One of the biggest beneficiaries is Belgium's Julien Cagnina (right). A winner in Leuggern and Kosice earlier in the year, the 13-year old becomes the first holder of the boy's top spot in the new season.

The rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org, and can be found in both alphabetical and numerical formats, as well as in printable versions. Rankings below as of 6th December 2007.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▲	Daria GAVRILOVA	RUS	595
2	▲	Nastja KOLAR	SLO	500
3	▲	Tamara CUROVIC	SRB	450
4	NEW	Polina LEIKINA	RUS	430
5	NEW	Yulia PUTINTSEVA	RUS	390
6	NEW	Irina KHROMACHEVA	RUS	385
7	NEW	Natalija KOSTIC	SRB	380
8	NEW	Sophia KOVALETS	UKR	370
9	NEW	Laura ROBSON	GBR	350
10	NEW	Margarita LEBEDEVA	RUS	350

14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	NEW	Julien CAGNINA	BEL	320
2	NEW	Engeni KARLOVSKI	RUS	290
3	NEW	Johan SKATTUM	NOR	280
4	NEW	Jannis KAHLKE	GER	275
5	NEW	Konstantin GERLAKH	RUS	270
6	NEW	Marat DEVIATAROV	UKR	250
7	NEW	Liam BROADY	GBR	245
8	NEW	Miki JANKOVIC	SRB	245
9	NEW	Kevin KACZYNSKI	GER	240
10	NEW	Moos SPORKEN	NED	230

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 16 & Under

Johanna Hyöty of Finland (pictured, right) is the highest new entry to the girls top ten, matching her previous highest ranking of eighth. A finalist in Echings earlier in the year, she also won her maiden Tour title in Nastola.

The five best singles results, plus the two best doubles results and the best (one) team competition result count towards a players' ranking. The top eight European players at the end of each season qualify to compete at the season-ending Tennis Europe Junior Masters. Rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org.

Rankings below as of 6th December 2007.



16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Sviatlana PIRAZHENKA	BLR	515
2	►	Ema BURGIC	BIH	480
3	►	Camila SILVA	CHI	470
4	►	Xin WEN	CHN	390
5	►	Natalia PINTUSAVA	BLR	375
6	►	Dorothea ERIC	SRB	370
7	▲	Klara KOPRIVOVA	CZE	330
8	▲	Zarina DIYAS	KAZ	325
9	NEW	Johanna HYÖTY	FIN	310
10	NEW	Katarzyna KALETA	POL	300

16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Carlos BOLUDA	ESP	570
2	▲	Javier MARTÍ	ESP	395
3	▲	Pavel FILIN	BLR	370
4	▲	Mate ZSIGA	HUN	370
5	▲	Filip KRAJINOVIC	SRB	365
6	NEW	Damir DZUMHUR	BIH	330
7	NEW	Dominik SCHULZ	GER	330
8	NEW	Bartosz SAWICKI	POL	300
9	NEW	Jan HRADSKY	CZE	280
10	NEW	Dovydas SAKINIS	LTU	280

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Oct-15	Rodez (FRA)	\$10,000+	A Mannarino (FRA)	B Dupuy (FRA)	61 62
Oct-15	Sant Cugat (ESP)	\$10,000	M Fornell Mestres (ESP)	J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	63 46 75
Oct-15	La Roche Sur Yon (FRA)	\$15,000+	L Rosol (CZE)	A Mannarino (FRA)	63 36 64
Oct-15	Isernhagen (GER)	\$10,000	A Wiesler (GER)	D Elsner (GER)	64 ret
Oct-15	Glasgow (GBR)	\$15,000	L Chramosta (CZE)	J Goodall (GBR)	36 63 62
Oct-22	Rodez (FRA)	\$10,000+	A Mannarino (FRA)	B Dupuy (FRA)	61 62
Oct-22	Sant Cugat (ESP)	\$10,000	M Fornell Mestres (ESP)	J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	63 46 75
Oct-29	Vilafranca (ESP)	\$10,000	M Fornell Mestres (ESP)	A Menendez Maceiras	64 64
Nov-05	Redbridge (GBR)	\$15,000	V Voltchkov (BLR)	F Neilsen (DEN)	61 46 64
Nov-05	Las Palmas (ESP)	\$15,000	J Pospisil (CZE)	M Rodriguez (FRA)	46 76(0) 62
Nov-12	Sunderland (GBR)	\$15,000	A Mannarino (FRA)	K Skupski (GBR)	64 63
Nov-12	Gran Canaria (ESP)	\$15,000	M Jorquera (ITA)	M Joachim (GER)	62 63
Nov-19	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$15,000	R Bemelmans (BEL)	N Desein (BEL)	63 63
Nov-19	Barcelona (ESP)	\$10,000	J Eysseric (FRA)	C Poch Grabin (ESP)	64 64
Nov-26	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$15,000	H Levy (ISR)	T Enev (BUL)	64 60
Dec-03	Frydland (CZE)	\$15,000	K Kravchuk (RUS)	M Mecir (SVK)	67(5) 64 76(3)

ITF Women's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Oct-15	Dubrovnik (CRO)	\$10,000	D Nakic (SLO)	M Adanko (SRB)	63 61
Oct-15	Settimo San Pietro (ITA)	\$10,000	A Floris (ITA)	V Sassi (ITA)	76(2) 63
Oct-15	Seville (ESP)	\$10,000	R Bou Nogueiro (ESP)	S Soler (ESP)	76(5) 75
Oct-15	Glasgow (GBR)	\$25,000	S Arvidsson (SWE)	K O'Brien (GBR)	63 61
Oct-15	Saint Raphael (FRA)	\$50,000	A Brianti (ITA)	S Foretz (FRA)	64 64
Oct-22	Dubrovnik (CRO)	\$10,000	N Zoric (SRB)	S Schoeffel (FRA)	06 76(5) 61
Oct-22	Augusta Siracusa (ITA)	\$10,000	V Sulpizio (ITA)	P Sprovieri (GER)	76(5) 60
Oct-22	Istanbul (TUR)	\$25,000	M Niculescu (ROU)	O Lyubtsova (UKR)	62 60
Oct-22	Podolsk (RUS)	\$25,000	E Rodina (RUS)	A Lapuschenkova (RUS)	61 63
Oct-22	Sant Cugat (ESP)	\$25,000	N Llagostera (ESP)	K Nagy (HUN)	62 64
Oct-22	Saint Denis Reunion	\$25,000	V Pichet (FRA)	T Mircic (SRB)	61 63
Oct-29	Stockholm (SWE)	\$10,000	J Larsson (SWE)	N Roma (SWE)	62 61
Nov-05	Le Havre (FRA)	\$10,000	S Schoeffel (FRA)	R Janshen (NED)	61 62
Nov-05	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	J Glushko (ISR)	D Enache (ROU)	60 60
Nov-05	Redbridge (GBR)	\$10,000	V Diatchenko (RUS)	I Gerlova (CZE)	64 60
Nov-05	Ismaning (GER)	\$25,000	M Sucha (SVK)	O Lyubtsova (UKR)	64 64
Nov-05	Minsk (BLR)	\$50,000	E Rodina (RUS)	S Cirstea (ROU)	61 61

The latest draws and results from ITF Pro Circuit events are updated seven days a week at www.TennisEurope.org.

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Women's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Nov-12	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	S Zagorska (POL)	D Enache (ROU)	61 76(2)
Nov-12	Sunderland (GBR)	\$10,000	I Kuryanovich (BLR)	C Wheeler (AUS)	61 60
Nov-12	Deauville (FRA)	\$50,000	A Rezai (FRA)	K Flipkens (BEL)	64 63
Nov-19	Barcelona (ESP)	\$10,000	V Sulpizio (ITA)	I Kuzmina (LAT)	60 20 ret
Nov-19	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	I Kuryanovich (BLR)	M Urbancic (SLO)	62 60
Nov-19	Beloura Sintra (POR)	\$25,000	S Soler (ESP)	R Janshen (NED)	76 76
Nov-19	Opole (POL)	\$25,000	O Lyubtsova (UKR)	O Savchuk (UKR)	26 64 64
Nov-26	Vallduxo (ESP)	\$10,000	M Gabarrus (ESP)	A Bona (ITA)	63 36 62
Nov-26	Beloura Sintra (POR)	\$25,000	K Woerle (GER)	K Nagy (HUN)	63 62
Dec-03	Prerov (CZE)	\$25,000	P Kvitova (CZE)	M Rybarikova (SVK)	75 63

The latest draws and results from ITF Pro Circuit events are updated seven days a week at www.TennisEurope.org.

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

12 & UNDER

Oct-29	Gradignan (FRA)		A Hoang (FRA)	C Hemery (FRA)	64 57 61
			C Chauvet (FRA)	A Kontaveit (EST)	63 64

14 & UNDER

Nov-05	Moscow (RUS)	1	E Karlovsky (RUS)	L Broady (GBR)	46 64 61
			Y Putinseva (RUS)	D Gavrilova (RUS)	36 76(3) 75
Nov-05	Leuggern (SUI)	2	J Cagnina (BEL)	J Vanneste (BEL)	63 36 62
			S Bendlova (CZE)	T Jankovska (CZE)	46 06 62
Nov-05	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	3	B Botzer (ISR)	C Compagnone (ISR)	57 75 60
			M Dandik (CAN)	E Cadar (ROU)	61 62
Nov-12	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	3	B Botzer (ISR)	C Compagnone (ISR)	76(4) 57 60
			A Sasnovich (BLR)	M Dandik (CAN)	61 62
Nov-26	Göteborg (SWE)	3	J Vanneste (BEL)	M Khomentoskiy (RUS)	64 62
			L Jeanjean (FRA)	K Rozenberg (RUS)	62 62

16 & UNDER

Oct-29	Biel (SUI)	2	D Schulz (GER)	C Porumb (ROU)	62 63
			C Dinu (ROU)	G Schmidt (GER)	63 61

European Rankings

The relatively few changes to the European rankings this month, with the only the elite players in action at the Tours' season ending championships since our last update.

European men can look back on a successful 2007, having accounted for all available Grand Slam titles for a third consecutive year. This dominance is reflected in the world rankings, which see an all-European year-end top five for the first time since 1986.

Two of the younger members continue their march to the top, with former Tennis Europe Junior Tour #1s

Richard Gasquet and Andy Murray reaching sixth and eighth positions respectively, thanks to some late-season heroics in the fight to qualify for Shanghai.

There is less action in the women's list, where Nicole Pietrangeli reclaims her place in the European top 10, largely thanks to the inability of Amélie Mauresmo and Martina Hingis to defend their Sony Ericsson Tour championships points from 2006. Hingis of course has now retired from the sport for a second time, while injury-hit Mauresmo will be hoping for a better year in 2008 after ending the season as the French #3, her lowest position in eight years.

Rankings as of December 10th, 2007.

WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Justine HENIN	BEL	1	6155
2	►	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	2	3725
3	►	Jelena JANKOVIC	SRB	3	3475
4	►	Ana IVANOVIC	SRB	4	3461
5	►	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	5	2956
6	►	Anna CHAKVETADZE	RUS	7	2935
7	▲	Daniela HANTUCHOVA	FRA	9	2367
8	▼	Marion BARTOLI	SVK	10	2191
9	►	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	11	1985
10	NEW	Nicole VAIDISOVA	CZE	12	1942

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	7180
2	►	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	5735
3	►	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	3	4470
4	►	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	4	2825
5	►	David FERRER	ESP	6	2750
6	▲	Richard GASQUET	FRA	8	1930
7	▼	Tommy ROBREDO	ESP	10	1765
8	NEW	Andy MURRAY	GBR	11	1755
9	▼	Tommy HAAS	GER	12	1720
10	▼	Thomas BERDYCH	CZE	14	1685

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT TENNIS EUROPE!

Season's greetings from Tennis Europe President John James and all the staff: Flurin Conrad, Charlotte Ferrari, Magnus Grönvold, Jonathan Jobson, Stephanie Kamberi, Nadja Koran, Carola Löffler, Martina Lutkova, Olli Mäenpää and Hrvoje Zmajic.

HOLIDAY OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Please note that the Tennis Europe main office will be closed from December 24th to January 1st inclusive.

TENNIS EUROPE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tennis Europe member nations are reminded that the entry deadline for delegates is 31st December 2007. The 34th annual meeting is set to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, from March 27th-30th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe to Tennis Europe News, simply send an email to contactus@tenniseurope.org with "Subscribe" as the message title.

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HEAD



HEADlines



HEAD Focuses on Scouting Program

HEAD has announced plans to focus on its scouting program and aggressively pursue young Pro and Junior players. The reinforcement includes an increased presence at worldwide and international Junior events and improved contact between scouts, players, distributors and Tour management.

With this focus, HEAD aims to start the conversation early in a Junior players career and expose them to playing with HEAD equipment. HEAD is investing incremental funds on scouts, contracts and equipment in order to accomplish this goal.

As a part of this strategy HEAD has added several key personnel to its staff to support Tour Manager **Thomas Bischof**. New HEAD staff members include:

- **Guillermo Vilas**, a former ATP #2, will serve as a Global Consultant by monitoring the HEAD international player program and international player strategy.
- **Hubert Freudenstein**, a former national coach in Germany, will act as a Consultant for Eastern Europe overseeing the Junior Future Team.
- **Thomas Högstedt** will serve as Consultant for China and handle the Chinese Girls Olympic Program.

Competition - Do You Know the HEAD MicroGel Radical MP?

The new HEAD MicroGel MP was introduced in May 2007. But what do you know about the racquet? Sign up now under the following link to have a chance to win your very own HEAD MicroGel Radical MP!

<https://www.news.head.com/u/register.php?CID=116373601&f=14352>



Further info on HEAD Racquets: <http://www.head.com/tennis/racquets.php?region=eu>

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