



## Tennis Europe Play and Stay Conference

Tennis Europe's biannual European Specific Theme Conference for coaches was held recently, this year focusing on the International Tennis Federation's Play and Stay campaign.

Around two hundred coaches and national and regional association staff from 23 nations were informed about the campaign, which aims to increase tennis participation by improving the ways in which starter players, both children and adults, experience the game, and facilitating their transition from absolute beginners to regular players.

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## Tennis Europe and Sports Marketing Surveys Announce Partnership

Tennis Europe has signed a partnership agreement recognising leading sports research agency Sports Marketing Surveys as the Official Research Partner of the organisation.

Based in the United Kingdom, with offices in many European countries as part of its extensive international network, Sports Marketing Surveys specialises in both media and market research in the sponsorship and sports sectors.

Sports Marketing Surveys' knowledge of the tennis market is unrivalled as they already work with the International Tennis Federation, Wimbledon Championships, the equipment manufacturers and a number of European national tennis federations, and is the research partner of the Tennis Industry Association in the United States.

The two organisations have begun collaborating  
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## Tennis Europe and Sports Marketing Surveys Team Up

<< on a series of projects aimed at increasing the available data and knowledge of the European tennis industry. The first of these is already underway, and comes in the form of an analysis of the consumer habits and opinions of users of the popular Tennis Europe website, [www.tenniseurope.org](http://www.tenniseurope.org). Users can take part by visiting the following link, and can respond anonymously or enter a draw to win a variety of prizes. <http://www.sportinginsights.com/tennis%20europe/tenniseurope.htm>

Similar studies will then be carried out at national level involving volunteer member nations of Tennis Europe, which is comprised of 49 European national tennis federations. The surveys will enable comparison across the participating countries as well as enabling each nation to tailor their studies to account for local interests. The aim is to build a coherent picture of trends in markets across the continent.

Tennis Europe President John James said, "Having al-

ready cooperated with Sports Marketing Surveys on a number of occasions, we look forward to working together formally and to be able to vastly improve our ability to provide information about various tennis markets in Europe directly to those nations, as well as to the wider industry."

Sports Marketing Surveys' Managing Director Stephen Proctor commented, "Sports Marketing Surveys are delighted to be working with Tennis Europe. We have known the organisation for a number of years, and believe it has a real role for developing tennis throughout its member nations. We can see there are significant opportunities to make a real impact for tennis in Europe through our planned research initiatives."

The three-year agreement between the two organisations was signed in Basel on May 1<sup>st</sup>, by Tennis Europe Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää and Sports Marketing Surveys' Director John Bushell.

## Tennis Europe Play and Stay Conference



three full sized courts. In less than 20 minutes, over 200 singles matches were played.

Commenting on the event, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic (pictured below) said: "Participation in tennis is crucial for the future of our sport. 'Play and Stay' uses best practices from different countries in promoting tennis and especially in working with starter players. The conference informed participants about the most successful promotion and modern teaching programmes for starter players."

<< The event was hosted by the Polish Tennis Federation in Poznan over the weekend of April 21-22, and began with an introduction by the ITF's Director of Development, Dave Miley. This was followed by presentations on a wide variety of related topics, including 'Developing and Promoting Participation Programmes', 'Tennis is Healthy', 'The Ball is the Key', 'Tennis is Competition' and 'Ten Steps to Rally'.

To illustrate how easy competition can be, the event finished with speakers running a team competition for over 120 coaches on 14 reduced-sized courts over



## Tennis Europe to Invest in Wheelchair Tennis Initiatives

Tennis Europe, in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation, is to become involved in wheelchair tennis for the first time, investing in a number of programmes across the continent. Administered and managed by the ITF Wheelchair Tennis department, the seven projects selected will take place in:

- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- France
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovenia

The majority of the programmes take the form of local development projects, being run by national tennis federations, sometimes involving neighbouring countries. The exception to this is the proposed Balkan region training camp and workshop in Slovenia later this year, a significant project in a region where there has, to date, been relatively little activity in wheelchair tennis.

Commenting on the announcement, Tennis Europe President John James said "We are delighted to be able to contribute to these projects, and also to become officially involved in the development of wheelchair tennis for the first time. The wheelchair tennis boom of recent years in certain countries has been a model for the development of any sport, and we hope to help to replicate that success across the continent."



## European Beach Tennis Championships



Tennis Europe and the Italian Tennis Federation have announced that the inaugural European Beach Tennis Championships will take place later this year.

This first staging of the event will be on an invitational basis, with teams from eight European countries currently involved in solid Beach Tennis activities – Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain – invited to take part.

The tournament will be played under Beach Tennis rules and regulations as defined by the International Tennis Federation. Teams will be mixed and each tie will consist of two men's doubles and one women's doubles match.

The event will be staged in Olbia, Italy, from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Full details will be sent shortly to the member nations involved. For further information, please contact Tennis Europe Operations and Projects Manager Magnus Grönvold at [magnusg@tenniseurope.org](mailto:magnusg@tenniseurope.org).



## Feature: Racquet Stringing for Beginners

Around this time each year, millions of recreational players across Europe dust down their racquets and venture onto court, inspired by ample TV coverage and a desire to get fit for the summer. But even at this level, ignoring the state of your strings can hold back your progress and affect your enjoyment of the game, as we found out speaking to Mark Maslowski of the European Racquet Stringer's Association.

### Can stringing make a significant difference for recreational players?

Stringing is probably more important and will make a larger difference in their game for recreational players than professional players. We have found most recreational players play with the wrong racquet and wrong strings and tensions for their game and level. Players should discuss which racquet and strings are best for them with a coach and qualified stringer, and then test them out.

I had a senior player ask advice on his racquet and strings. He was playing with a head heavy racquet with polyester strings strung very tight. After testing several racquets and strings, he chose a slightly heavier middle balanced racquet with elastic strings and 4 kilos less tension. He came back a couple of weeks later and said he is winning against all the players he regularly lost to in 2 sets. You have to look at where you can improve your game and what your weaknesses are. Here are a few tips you can use to improve your game by adjusting the string:

- If your balls are landing too short, try lowering the tension on your strings or using a more elastic string.
- If you need more control and your balls are flying out of the court, try increasing tension or choosing a less elastic string.
- Not enough spin, try a thinner string or a textured string.
- If you are looking for more feel, you can lower tension or try a more elastic string.
- Arm or shoulder problems, try lowering the tension or using a softer string.

### What if I do not have the latest or most expensive racquet technology?

The strings in the racquet are as important or more important than the racquet itself. Most professional

players do not use the newest technologies in their racquets. Most of them use a heavier, flexible racquet that is custom made to their specifications. If the racquet is the correct weight, balance, swingweight for a player, it does not have to be the latest model or with the latest technologies. More important is the string and tension.

### Is there a 'default' setting for racquets to be re-strung at, and how does a non-performance player know what they're looking for from a stringer?

Racquets have a recommended range of tension to be re-strung at. This is a middle range and most racquets can be strung slightly higher than this or much lower. At the Australian Open this year, we strung racquets from 13 to 34 kilos. A player has to find the tension where he can swing at the ball and it stays in the court. If the ball is too short, or too long, the strings are probably too tight or too loose. Then you have to start adjusting your strokes to get the ball longer or shorter, which is very difficult to do and reduces your performance. This is why several of the top players in the world have private stringers who travel on the tour with them and string their racquets the same on the same machine every week.

It is very difficult to find a good stringer. It is not hard to learn to string so many people buy a machine, read the instructions and start stringing in their club. The problem with this is most of the stringers do not have any consistency and can also distort or break the frame. The ERSA and USRSA in the United States offer the only industry recognized certification. Both offer workshops around the world to learn how to string correctly, then the stringers are tested with a practical and written test on stringing and technologies. We have even found in shops the quality varies greatly and is no guarantee that the rackets will be strung correctly. You can ask your stringer how he learned to string, if he is a member of a professional association and if he has passed a test on stringing. There are over 7000 stringers with ERSA and USRSA licences in the world today.

### If my strings never break, why should I re-string the racquet?

Strings start losing tension the moment they are clamped on the machine. Most of the tension loss oc-

## Feature: Racquet Stringing for Beginners

curs in the first 24 hours, then slows down except when the racquet is played, then the rate of loss increases during this time only.

Also, the elasticity of the strings go down with time. After the strings are tensioned, the molecules realign themselves to reduce this tension. This is an ongoing process and will reduce the playability of the strings. Typical problems with old strings are loss of power, loss of control and even arm and shoulder problems.

### How often should re-stringing occur?

There is a rule of thumb that you should restring as often as you play per week. If you play 2 times per week, you should restring at least 2 times per year. There are also machines to test the tension on the racquets, such as the Babolat RDC and the Beers ERT 300. They can measure how much tension was lost since the racquet was strung. If a racquet was strung at 25 kilos and 4 months later it was tested at 20 kilos, a 25% loss, the racquet should be restrung. This also depends on the weather. In very hot weather, the tension loss is much quicker. If you play daily in over 30°C temperature, your strings will probably be too soft in a few weeks.

### Should I consider using different tensions/types of string for different surfaces?

The court surface will change the speed of the ball after the bounce. I see many players going from fast indoor courts to soft clay courts in summer. The ball bounces slower and they need to go down in tension to get the depth on the slow bouncing ball. If the court is faster, you will need to increase tension if you use the same swing. I see some players go down in tension on grass or cement courts and shorten their swing. Many players use natural gut strings and switch when they go outside on clay courts to a synthetic string. This is not necessary if you play outside on a hard court. On wet clay, the sand sticks to the strings and starts cutting through the string, especially if using a lot of topspin. Each year at Wimbledon we see some players using gut or a hybrid when they are playing on grass, but only synthetics when playing on clay. Professional players also adjust their tensions on court surfaces and weather conditions, sometimes daily.

### What are the various types of strings on offer,

### and how do they differ?

I will answer this question using string constructions, while different materials can also be used with different constructions. Firstly, **Monofilaments** – these are single extruded filament strings usually made of polyester, or co-polymers, which are mixtures of two or more materials. The advantages of these strings are durability and control, and they're usually less expensive than strings composed of more filaments. Secondly, there are **Synthetic** strings – these are strings with a center core and one or more wraps of fibers or filaments around them. The center core can be a single filament, a multi-core or a multifilament core. Wraps can be single or multiple and with mixtures of different materials and thicknesses, offering a smooth or textured surface. The advantages of these strings are they are elastic, hold tension well and are less expensive than multifilaments and natural gut. The third option is **multifilament** strings – these are constructed with up to 1500 filaments, which are twisted in bundles and come closest to the playability of natural gut strings. The advantages of these strings are they are easy on the arm and offer power and touch because of the elasticity of the strings.

Finally, we have **natural gut** strings - made almost exclusively from cow intestines. It takes 2.5 cows intestines to get enough collagen bands to produce one set of gut strings. The process is very complicated which makes them the most expensive strings on the market. The advantages of these strings are low tension loss, ease on the arm, best touch of all strings and very powerful. These are the only strings that are not an oil product.





For more on the European Racquet Stringer's Association, visit [www.ersa-stringers.com](http://www.ersa-stringers.com).

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The advertisement features a male tennis player in a white shirt, captured in a dynamic pose as if hitting a backhand shot. The background is a dramatic, fiery orange and red sky. The headline 'LET IT ROCK!' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. The HEAD logo is in the top right corner. A black box at the bottom contains descriptive text about the MicroGEL technology and the HEAD website. The microgel logo and tagline 'Rock-solid performance.' are also in the bottom right of the black box.



## EUROPEAN JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL & TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



A complete list of dates, venues and the repartition of nations for the remaining 2007 junior team championships can be found below. This year, for the first time, events will be held for juniors aged 12, 14, 16 and 18 & Under.

The 12 & Under Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD celebrates its inaugural event with a total of 53 national teams taking part.

As usual, the 14 & Under Summer Cups serve as the European qualifying competition for the World Junior Tennis Competition, with the top five teams (plus the host nation) qualifying for the finals in Prostějov (CZE). A total of 56 teams have entered these events.

The 16 & Under boys' and girls' Summer Cups serve as European qualifying for the Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas respectively. Again, the top five teams plus the host nation will qualify, from a total of 59 entered nations.



The 18 & Under European Summer Cups feature 44 national teams. Performances at this event contribute towards the players ITF Junior Rankings.

In addition to the team events, the European Junior Championships look set to be as tough as ever, with an increase in participation across all age categories.

The 14 & Under event in Ostrava (CZE) will host players from 40 nations, whilst players from 38 nations travel to Moscow (RUS) for the 16 & Under event. Gastein in Austria will host the 18 & under event, and will also see players from 39 nations taking part.

All age categories will be played during the week of July 23-29.

### TENNIS EUROPE NATIONS CHALLENGE BY HEAD - BOYS 12&U - QUALIFYING (26-29 Jul)

Zone A - TBA (CZE)	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Netherlands
Zone B - BRESCIA (ITA)	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Portugal, Switzerland
Zone C - ISTANBUL (TUR)	Bulgaria, Finland, Great Britain, Latvia, Russia, Sweden, Turkey
Zone D - ODESSA (UKR)	Israel, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine
Finals - ALGHERO (ITA)	09-12 August

### TENNIS EUROPE NATIONS CHALLENGE BY HEAD - GIRLS 12&U - QUALIFYING (26-29 Jul)

Zone A - SLIVEN (BUL)	Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey
Zone B - TBA (CZE)	Czech Republic, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Portugal, Slovak Republic
Zone C - BRESCIA (ITA)	Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine
Zone D - HAREN (NED)	Austria, Denmark, Great Britain, Latvia, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden
Finals - AJACCIO (FRA)	09-12 August

## EUROPEAN SUMMER CUPS

### COPA DEL SOL - BOYS 14&U - QUALIFYING (01-03 Jul)

Zone A - SAINTES (FRA)	Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Czech Rep, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey
Zone B - SASSARI (ITA)	Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Russia, Serbia
Zone C - PORTOROZ (SLO)	Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia
Zone D - GRANADA (ESP)	Belgium, Great Britain, Israel, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine
Finals - GRANADA (ESP)	06-08 July                      Defending champions: Russia

### EUROPA CUP - GIRLS 14&U - QUALIFYING (01-03 Jul)

Zone A - SOFIA (BUL)	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Israel, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine
Zone B - HONFLEUR (FRA)	Belgium, Finland, France, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland
Zone C - TBA (GER)	Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, Slovak Rep, Sweden
Zone D - CATTOLICA (ITA)	Croatia, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey
Finals - SAN REMO (ITA)	06-08 July                      Defending champions: France

### BOROTRA CUP - BOYS 16&U - QUALIFYING (31 Jul-02 Aug or 02-04 Aug)

Zone A - HYVINKAA (FIN)	Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Netherlands, Russia
Zone B - MAGLIE (ITA)	Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovak Republic, Ukraine
Zone C - WROCLAW (POL)	Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey
Zone D - TAVERNES DE VALLDIGNA (ESP)	Czech Republic, Israel, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
Finals - LE TOUQUET (FRA)	06-08 August                      Defending champions: France

### HELVETIE CUP - GIRLS 16&U - QUALIFYING (31 Jul-02 Aug)

Zone A - TBA (CZE)	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Czech Rep, Latvia, Slovak Rep, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey
Zone B - QUEENSWOOD	Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Portugal, Russia
Zone C - LIVORNO (ITA)	Austria, Israel, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine
Zone D - GDYNIA (POL)	Belarus, Croatia, France, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden
Finals - LEYSIN (SUI)	05-07 August                      Defending champions: Romania

### GALEA/VALERIO CUP - BOYS 18&U - QUALIFYING (31 Jul-02 Aug)

Zone A - TBA (CZE)	Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia
Zone B - VERONA (ITA)	Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal, Turkey
Zone C - TBA (RUS)	Croatia, France, Greece, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine
Zone D - PIESTANY (SVK)	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Finland, Great Britain, Israel, Slovak Rep, Spain, Sweden.
Finals - LA ROCHELLE (FRA)	05-07 August                      Defending champions: France

### REINA/SOISBAULT CUP - GIRLS 18&U - QUALIFYING (31 Jul-02 Aug)

Zone A - PLOVDIV (BUL)	Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Great Britain, Turkey
Zone B - TBA (CZE)	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Portugal, Russia, Sweden
Zone C - SIENA (ITA)	Hungary, Israel, Italy, Slovak Republic, Spain
Zone D - PORTOROZ (SLO)	Greece, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine
Finals - LLEIDA (ESP)	26-28 September                      Defending champions: Russia



## CIT Player wins African 16&U Championships

Moroccan Lina Bennani was the winner of African 16 & Under Championships held last month in Botswana, after beating young Egyptian Menna El Nagdy, winner of the 14&U event the previous year, in a great final match. The title had been one of Bennani's goals since arriving at the **Centre Internacional de Tennis (CIT)**, the Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner in Barcelona, Spain.

Bennani came to the CIT, which is managed by the Catalan Tennis Federation, last season to improve her claycourt game, training with some of the best Spanish and European players of her age, and the results arrived soon. In November she reached the final of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour 16&U event held at the Centre, demonstrating her progresses not only on clay courts but also in other aspects of her game. Last month her hard work came to fruition when she won the African 16&U title - we caught up with her to find out how she felt about the win.

**What does this title mean for you?** I'm very proud to have won this championship, it was my aim from last year, so I was very focused trying not to lose this chance. It hasn't been easy, the truth is that some matches were very tough and my coaches helped me a lot to win them.

**What are your next aims?** Now my aim is to play as many ITF tournaments as I can in order to get a good ranking and to play in a higher level next year.

**How did you get to CIT in Barcelona?** I came to the CIT thanks to a few Moroccan companions who went to train there and spoke very highly of the Centre, and also through the Moroccan Federation.

**How would you evaluate your stay?** I am very satisfied with my results, and I realize that my stay in the CIT helped me very much, especially to prepare myself for these championships, for which I want to give many thanks to all coaches and trainers.



**What do you think you have most improved since coming to CIT?** I think that I have improved my mental game, thanks to a few classes of psychology, and it has helped me very much in my matches. I have also improved some tactical and technical topics and also my physical conditioning.

**How do you find living together with players of so many different countries?** For me it's very easy to live together with other players, it is not difficult for me to be with foreign people; on the contrary, I always learn new things from them.

**Is it hard to live far from your family?** Of course, to live far from home is the most difficult thing for me but, as my parents say, it is my work, and I am satisfied to be able to live alone and to train hard even if I'm far from my home.

**How do you see the level of African junior players?** I think that African players have a good level. Some people say our level is very low because usually the first two round of a tournament are very easy, but in the following ones I can assure that you have to do your best if you want to win. I think our level is rising year by year.

The CIT has some of the best facilities in Europe, with 31 tennis courts, including greenset, indoors and clay, and its own residency for players located on site. 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.

The academy can be contacted directly, or through the ITF or Tennis Europe, but a high standard of play is required, as the academy is geared to the preparation of professional players. The CIT is keen to establish links with National Federations.

## Beyond the Baseline...

**Roland Garros** organisers have announced some changes to the doubles competitions at this year's event. Final sets will now be decided by tie breaks, rather than traditional scoring, should the score reach 6-6. Additionally, all games will be decided by 'no-ad' scoring, meaning that the team to win the 'deuce' point win the game. Furthermore, the mixed and junior doubles, as well as the Legends Trophy (senior doubles) will feature 'super tie breaks' instead of third sets, if necessary. The winners must score 10 points with a 2-point advantage. Once again, the tournament will start a day earlier than tradition, on Sunday 27th May.

Top players with injury concerns going into the second Grand Slam of the year include Andy Murray, Dmitry Tursunov, Tommy Haas, Nicole Pietrangeli, Ana Ivanovic, Martina Hingis, Tatiana Golvin and Maria Sharapova.

**Kim Clijsters** has called a premature end to her career, aborting a final season of farewell appearances at her favourite events in order to concentrate on her upcoming wedding. Clijsters, who announced two years ago that this would be her final season, retires at just 23 years of age. Amongst the popular Belgian's many achievements were the simultaneous holding of the singles and doubles #1 ranking (the last woman to do so), 34 singles titles (including the 2005 US Open), and a career win/loss record of 427-104.

**Judy Murray**, mother of British singles and doubles #1s Andy and Jamie has been appointed as Talent and Performance Manager for Scotland, and will also serve as an advisor to the new Tennis Leadership Team at the Lawn Tennis Association.

Some of the venues have been confirmed for the forthcoming **Davis Cup by BNP Paribas** World Group Play-off ties. Great Britain will host Croatia at Wimbledon on grass, Czech Republic hosts Switzerland in Prague on indoor carpet, the Slovak Republic hosts South Korea on indoor clay and Romania travel to Osaka where they will face Japan on indoor carpet. Venues and surfaces for Serbia vs Australia, Austria vs Brazil, Peru vs Belarus and Israel vs Chile are yet to be confirmed. Ties take place during the weekend of 21-23 September.

In other Davis Cup news, San Marino's **Domenico Vicini** recently broke the long-standing record of Ita-

lian Nicola Pietrangeli for most ties played. Competing at the Europe/Africa Zone Group III event in Egypt, the 36-year old improved his tally to 70 ties. His combined win/loss record in singles and doubles of 52-54 is still some way off Pietrangeli's record 120-44 however.

In **Fed Cup by BNP Paribas** semi final play, Russia will travel to Stowe, Vermont to face the USA during the weekend of July 14-15, the USTA has announced. Italy hosts France for the other semifinal, at a venue yet to be confirmed.

**Maria Sharapova** has thrown her weight behind Sochi's campaign to host the Winter Olympics in 2014. The 20-year old, who first experienced tennis in the city as a child, said "[The Olympic and Paralympic Games] will leave an unprecedented social, sporting and environmental legacy for Russia and the Olympic Movement. The changes Sochi 2014 will bring to this region, including state-of-the-art, custom-built winter training facilities will mean that youngsters will not have to travel to the other side of the world to realize their potential."

The ITF has appointed Anders Wennberg and Massimo Morelli as Referee and Assistant Referee respectively at the forthcoming **Paralympic Games** in Beijing. Meanwhile, it has been announced that the ranking of May 19th 2008 will be used for acceptance into the Paralympic event.

The **ATP** Board of Directors recently approved the nomination of several new tournament directors, including those responsible for several European events - Gstaad (Jeff Collet) Paris (Jean François Ca-joulle) Stuttgart (Edwin Weindorfer) and Queen's (Chris Kermode, from 2008).

Current, former and rising German tennis professionals, coaches and managers have come together to create '**Tennis Germany**'. The organisation, launched at the recent Masters Series event in Hamburg, hopes to unite players in co-operation with the German Tennis Federation (DTB) and to facilitate communications between players of different generations. Players involved include Tommy Haas, Philip Kohlschrieber, Alexander Waske and Benjamin Becker.

## Senior Tour Round-Up

European teams excelled at the recent ITF World Team Championships in Antalya, Turkey, with both France and Spain winning three titles in total.

The Spanish Men's 35 team defended their title whilst their colleagues on the Women's 35 team ousted two-time defending champions France for the title (teams pictured). The third Spanish title came in the Men's 45 event, while France emerged victorious in the Women's 40, Women's 45 and Men's 50 categories. Italy added to the European tally, winning the Men's 40 event.

In other Seniors news, the latest rankings were published this week and can found at [www.itftennis.com/seniors](http://www.itftennis.com/seniors).

Team nominations for the Women's 60 European Seniors Club Championships are now available at [www.tenniseurope.org](http://www.tenniseurope.org).



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Latest

High climbers on the Tour in recent weeks include **Adrian Partl** of the Slovak Republic, who won singles and doubles at consecutive Category 2 events in Opalenica (POL) and Pecs (HUN) to shoot up to 14th in the rankings.

Partl is the twelfth Under 14 to sweep both titles at the same event do far in 2007, but the only boy to do it twice (**Ekaterina Yashina** (RUS) has also managed the feat on the girl's side).

Another Slovakian to have been busy is **Petra Uberalova**, a doubles winner in Opalenica. She followed this up by winning the 12 & Under Malenovsky Cup in Bratislava for the loss of just eight games in five matches.

The newest entry to the 16 & Under boys top ten is **Tamas Batyi** of Hungary (pictured). Since winning singles and doubles in Trencianske Teplice last month, Batyi also finished runner-up in Novi Sad singles and in the doubles at Budapest.

Several of the top 16 & Under girls have been starting to make their mark on the professional circuits. #2 **Simona Halep** of Romania recently won both singles and doubles at two consecutive \$10,000

events in Bucharest. For the second doubles title, she partnered with reigning European Junior Champion **Irina-Camelia Begu**. During the same week, Croatian Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD team member **Indire Akiki** reached the final of the Mostar Open \$10,000 event, before retiring with injury.





## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 14 & Under



Tamara Curovic of Serbia (left) has impressed on the 14 & Under circuit so far this season, reaching the finals of events in Tallinn, Zagreb and Pecs. She currently has four Category 3 singles and two doubles titles to her credit, and this week reaches the top ten for the first time.

Don't forget to check the latest rankings at [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org) each Thursday!

14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Hanna ORLIK	BLR	740
2	▶	Ksenia KIRILLOVA	RUS	605
3	▲	Alexandra KRUNICH	SRB	595
4	▼	Timea BABOS	HUN	575
5	▶	Vivien JUHASZOVA	SVK	530
6	▲	Silvija NJIRIC	CRO	470
7	▲	Daria GAVRILOVA	RUS	460
8	▼	Ajla TOMLJANOVIC	CRO	455
9	▶	Jennifer REN	GBR	395
10	NEW	Tamara CUROVIC	SRB	390

14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Carlos BOLUDA	ESP	760
2	▶	Anton VOLKOV	RUS	630
3	▶	Lukas VRNAK	CZE	515
4	▶	Jiri VESELY	CZE	490
5	▲	Ciprian PORUMB	ROU	450
6	▼	Yaroslav SHYLA	BLR	425
7	▶	Filip HORANSKY	SVK	375
8	▶	Yaroslav ZUBKO	BLR	365
9	▲	Vasile Alexandru GHILEA	ROU	355
10	▼	Nik RAZBORSEK	SLO	355

Rankings as of 10.05.07

## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 16 & Under



The rankings are published each Thursday at [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org), and can be found in both alphabetical and numerical formats, as well as in printable versions.

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.

16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Ekaterine GORGODZE	GEO	495
2	▶	Simona HALEP	ROU	415
3	▶	Linda ABU MUSHRAF	BRN	415
4	▶	Julia MAYR	ITA	400
5	▶	Martina GLEDACHEVA	BUL	375
6	▶	Kai Chen CHANG	TPE	370
7	▶	Monika TUMOVA	CZE	360
8	▲	Diana MARCU	ROU	335
9	NEW	Sandra ZANIEWSKA	POL	326
10	▼	Maria MELIUK	BLR	325
16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Mirza BASIC	BIH	440
2	▶	Piotr GADOMSKI	POL	365
3	▶	Marco SPERONELLO	ITA	320
4	▶	Vedran LJUBICIC	CRO	305
5	▶	Ivan TURUDIC	CRO	305
6	▶	Laurynas GRIGELIS	LTU	295
7	▶	Henrik SILLANPÄÄ	FIN	290
8	▶	Sebastian CHYLINSKI	POL	265
9	▶	Tsuna-Hua YANG	TPE	255
10	NEW	Tamas BATYI	HUN	255

Rankings as of 10.05.07

## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

### 12 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr-16	Bressuire (FRA)	S Stevens (BEL)	C Geens (BEL)	63 60
		B Bencic (SUI)	B Haas (AUT)	64 64
Apr-23	Antalya (TUR)	I Smilansky (ISR)	N Khrychev (RUS)	60 64
		V Patiuk (ISR)	V Boyanavskaya (UKR)	63 26 63
Apr-23	Rakovnik (CZE)	M Routa (CZE)	C Pearce (GBR)	63 61
		E Nachtigalova (CZE)	B Krejickova (CZE)	w/o
Apr-30	Maglie (ITA)	S Kiratzis (CYP)	F Mattiello (ITA)	57 64 64
		G Marchetti (ITA)	S Ciccone (ITA)	64 62
Apr-30	Cakovec (CRO)	B Coric (CRO)	K Skorc (CRO)	61 46 64
		H Odegaard (NOR)	T Lukas (CRO)	62 63
May-07	Protvino (RUS)	A Ognesyanyan (RUS)	A Bzarov (RUS)	62 61
		M Limanskaya (RUS)	V Vorontsova (RUS)	62 63
May-07	Bratislava (SVK)	M Maruscak (SVK)	M Selecky (SVK)	63 61
		P Uberalova (SVK)	N Vajdova (SVK)	61 61

### 14 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr-23	Zagreb (CRO)	2	(5) M Delic (CRO)	(1) M Pavic (CRO)	67(6) 75 60
			(5) N Kolar (SLO)	(2) T Curovic (SRB)	64 60
Apr-23	Iteuil (FRA)	2	(5) S Boltz (FRA)	(4) L Gaydon (FRA)	63 26 62
			(11) L Jeanjean (FRA)	(9) M Okhremchuk (UKR)	64 12 ret
Apr-23	Adana (TUR)	2	(2) O Ozgenç (TUR)	(5) G Tsivadze (GEO)	62 62
			(2) M Sezer (TUR)	(1) E Yashina (RUS)	76(5) 75
Apr-23	Bratislava (SVK)	2	(1) L Vrnak (CZE)	(2) J Vesely (CZE)	57 75 63
			(10) Y Putinseva (RUS)	(2) M Meszarosova (SVK)	63 61
Apr-30	Opalenica (POL)	2	(2) A Partl (SVK)	(6) T Prokop (CZE)	62 61
			(1) S Kovalets (UKR)	(5) J Nalborska (POL)	75 46 75
Apr-30	Prague (CZE)	2	(2) J Vesely (CZE)	(7) T Pitra (CZE)	63 63
			(5) Z Diyas (KAZ)	(10) D Allertova (CZE)	62 75
May-07	Pecs (HUN)	2	(3) A Partl (SVK)	(1) F Horansky (SVK)	76(5) 61
			(3) N Kolar (SLO)	(1) T Curovic (SRB)	w/o
May-07	Kiev (UKR)	2	(4) S Branzburg (ISR)	M Dubarenco (MDA)	61 61
			(7) L Dashchenko (UKR)	(5) I Glimakova (RUS)	62 75



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

### 16 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr-16	Novi Sad (SRB)	2	(7) J Martí (ESP)	(2) T Batyi (HUN)	75 62
			(Q) A Ludvig (SRB)	G Stevanovic (SRB)	64 61
Apr-23	Pancevo (SRB)	3	F Krajcinovic (SRB)	M Boskovic (SRB)	60 61
			WC A Filipovski (HUN)	(1) A Josifoska (MKD)	75 64
Apr-23	Brno (CZE)	2	(1) J Locatelli (ITA)	M Rastica (CZE)	62 76(6)
			(1) K Diyas (KAZ)	(2) K Hrubá (CZE)	62 61
Apr-30	Budapest (HUN)	2	K Krawietz (GER)	(3) J Martí (ESP)	63 62
			(2) R Jani (HUN)	C Dinu (ROU)	64 63
May-07	Kiev (UKR)	2	(5) A Yatsenko (UKR)	A Kostanov (RUS)	62 76(7)
			(5) A Naumova (UKR)	(8) A Savchuk (UKR)	64 64
May-07	Minsk (BLR)	2	(3) P Filin (BLR)	(2) V Kruk (BLR)	62 62
			I Kremen (BLR)	P Pekhava (BLR)	63 62
May-07	Zenica (BIH)	3	(8) M Rajski (POL)	(2) S Chylinksi (POL)	64 63
			(3) D Eric (SRB)	(8) D Pavlovic (SRB)	63 62

## ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

### ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr-16	Tyumen (RUS)		(4) M Fischer (AUT)	(7) D Matsukevitch (RUS)	62 63
Apr-16	Antalya Belek (TUR)	\$10,000	S Darcis (BEL)	D Karol (CZE)	63 63
Apr-16	Cremona (ITA)	\$10,000	G Trujillo Soler (ESP)	(6) I Sijssling (NED)	62 63
Apr-16	Melilla (ESP)	\$10,000	(8) G Alcaide (ESP)	(5) P Riba (ESP)	76(4) 63
Apr-23	Reus (ESP)	\$10,000	(4) M Lopez Jaen (ESP)	(3) A Gensse (FRA)	76(4) 61
Apr-23	Padova (ITA)	\$10,000	(4) S Decoud (ARG)	A Brizzi (ITA)	64 67(3) 75
Apr-30	Bournemouth (GBR)	\$15,000	(3) L Recouderc (FRA)	(5) J Minar (CZE)	76(3) 64
Apr-30	Vic (ESP)	\$10,000	Clar Rosselló (ESP)	(8) P Riba (ESP)	40-15 ret
Apr-30	Piacenza (ITA)	\$10,000	(4) A Da Col (ITA)	(6) A Pastorino (ARG)	36 75 61 ret
Apr-30	Bucharest (ROU)	\$10,000	(4) N Desein (BEL)	M Klizan (SVK)	76(3) 76(7)
May-07	Edinburgh (GBR)	\$15,000	E Prodon (FRA)	D Alvarez (ARG)	76(5) 63
May-07	Lleida (ESP)	\$10,000	(3) JA Viloca Puig (ESP)	R Jouan (FRA)	64 63
May-07	Kos (GRE)	\$10,000	(6) S Abdulkhalikov (KAZ)	M Kasiri (GBR)	64 62
May-07	Vicenza (ITA)	\$10,000	(1) A Brizzi (ITA)	(2) M Op der Heijde (NED)	62 64

## ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
May-07	Bucharest (ROU)	\$10,000	(3) F Mergea (ROU)	(2) G Moraru (ROU)	26 75 76(3)
May-07	Doboj (BIH)	\$10,000	D Pavlovs (LAT)	(Q) A Setkic (BIH)	64 63
May-07	Sofia (BUL)	\$10,000	(6) M Authom (BEL)	(4) I Kushev (BUL)	64 75
May-07	Teplice (CZE)	\$10,000	(1) L Rosol (CZE)	(4) M Vacek (CZE)	67(4) 64 64
ITF Women's Circuit					
Apr-16	Calvia (ESP)	\$25,000	(2) MJ Martinez Sanchez (ESP)	(1) C Dell'Acqua (ITA)	61 67(3) 75
Apr-16	Bari (ITA)	\$25,000	(Q) A Roesch (GER)	G Gabba (ITA)	64 67(3) 75
Apr-16	Hvar (CRO)	\$10,000	(6) K Jovanovic (SRB)	(Q) K Kucova (SVK)	61 64
Apr-23	Cagnes sur Mer (FRA)	\$100,000	T Bacsinszky (SUI)	T Malek (GER)	64 61
Apr-23	Torrent (ESP)	\$25,000	(7) R Olaru (ROM)	A Petkovic (GER)	64 57 64
Apr-23	Napoli (ITA)	\$10,000	(6) M Gerards (NED)	S Vongsouthi (FRA)	62 61
Apr-23	Bol (CRO)	\$10,000	(3) J Larsson (SWE)	(Q) T Mrdeza (CRO)	61 63
Apr-30	Antalya (TUR)	\$25,000	(1) A Kerber (GER)	(6) G Widmer (SUI)	36 64 61
Apr-30	Catania (ITA)	\$25,000	(7) D Kustava (BLR)	(3) R Olaru (ROU)	63 26 63
Apr-30	Makarska (CRO)	\$25,000	(4) M Zec-Paskiric (SLO)	(Q) A Poltoratskaya (RUS)	63 63
Apr-30	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	WC S Halep (ROU)	C Mitu (ROU)	76(5) 60
Apr-30	Vic (ESP)	\$10,000	(1) N Luangnam (THA)	L Tognetti (ITA)	46 63 63
Apr-30	Bournemouth (GBR)	\$10,000	(4) A Pivovarova (RUS)	(Q) A Elliott (GBR)	61 60
May-07	Roma Tiro A Volo (ITA)	\$100,000	C Maes (BEL)	M Marrero (ESP)	64 76(7)
May-07	Monzon (ESP)	\$75,000	(2) L Osterloh (USA)	(1) A Kerber (GER)	63 76(4)
May-07	Antalya (TUR)	\$25,000	(3) V Lukic (SRB)	A Sevastova (LAT)	63 76(3)
May-07	Warsaw (POL)	\$25,000	(7) V Huck (FRA)	(6) S Hrozenska (SVK)	36 64 75
May-07	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	S Halep (ROU)	(1) P Mayr (AUT)	63 36 62
May-07	Mostar (BIH)	\$10,000	(2) M Adanko (SRB)	I Akiki (CRO)	40 ret
May-07	Edinburgh (GBR)	\$10,000	S De Beer (RSA)	(5) A Balducci (ITA)	62 62



The latest draws and results from ITF Pro Circuit events are updated seven days a week at [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).

Full detailed calendars of Pro Circuit events until the end of September, plus tournament fact sheets and entry lists are also available.

## European Rankings

Serbian players are still very much on the rise, with both Novak Djokovic and Jelena Jankovic entering Europe's top five players for the first time this month. Ana Ivanovic also debuts on the list, thanks to her tournament win in Berlin last week. With three players, Serbia now has more players in the top tens than any other nation except Russia.

Many of the top women gain a spot in the rankings as a result of the removal of Kim Clijsters from the rankings lists. Anna Chakvetadze is the main beneficiary, entering the top ten for the first time.

his points from the 2006 clay court season, enabling him to gain some ground on leader Roger Federer, who has now gone four tournaments without a win for the first time since becoming world #1.

A final appearance in Estoril was enough for Richard Gasquet to return to the top ten, leapfrogging Mario Ancic who is now entering his third month off the tour due to mononucleosis. Expect to see some big changes in the next European rankings, taking into account performances at the year's second Grand Slam.

On the men's list, Rafael Nadal has so far defended all

Rankings as of May 14th, 2007.

WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Justine HENIN	BEL	1	4119
2	►	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	2	3388
3	▲	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	3	2867
4	▼	Amélie MAURESMO	FRA	4	2701
5	▲	Jelena JANKOVIC	SRB	5	2372
6	►	Martina HINGIS	SUI	6	2279
7	▲	Nicole VAIDISOVA	CZE	7	1957
8	NEW	Ana IVANOVIC	SRB	8	1906
9	▲	Dinara SAFINA	RUS	9	1898
10	NEW	Anna CHAKVETADZE	RUS	10	1822

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	7015
2	►	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4875
3	►	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	3	2955
4	▲	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	6	2735
5	▼	Tommy ROBREDO	ESP	7	2595
6	►	Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	8	2220
7	►	Andy MURRAY	GBR	10	2120
8	►	Tommy HAAS	GER	11	2100
9	▲	Thomas BERDYCH	CZE	12	1990
10	NEW	Richard GASQUET	FRA	13	1795



## NOTES FROM MEMBER NATIONS

The Malta Tennis Federation has a new email address: [admin@maltatennisfederation.com](mailto:admin@maltatennisfederation.com)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Tennis Wales is currently seeking a Performance Manager. For further information and a job description, visit [http://www.tenniseurope.org/MediaInfocentre/Med\\_Info\\_Job-Opportunities.aspx](http://www.tenniseurope.org/MediaInfocentre/Med_Info_Job-Opportunities.aspx)

## XII GAMES OF THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE

The XII Games of the Small States of Europe are set to take place in Monaco during the week of 4th-9th June, featuring a total of twelve sport, including tennis. Held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee, the Games are open to all European nations with a population of under one million, and this year sees participation from national teams from Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino.

The tennis event will be comprised of singles and doubles competitions for men and women, and will be held at the historic Monte Carlo Country Club, home of the ATP Masters Series event.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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## HEADlines



Welcome to the new monthly section dedicated to news from Tennis Europe's main partner, the world's leading tennis equipment manufacturer, HEAD. We'll keep you updated with the progress of their players, products, projects and offers each issue.

### HEAD Launches MicroGel Technology With The Introduction of Two New Tour Series Racquets



HEAD Racquetsports recently launched two new tour racquets - the **Extreme** (left) and the **Extreme Pro** (right). To offer aggressive, competitive players ultimate feel and unique touch through, the racquets incorporate the new patented technology called **MicroGel**.

The difference of the Extreme and Extreme Pro to traditional racquets is immediately visible: HEAD changed the geometrics of the racquet head size, making it wider and rounder. This increased width can allow the ball to slide across a wider stringbed, generating greater spin velocity and giving more power to all hits.

In addition, HEAD has also introduced the new Tour Package, including the new **Sonic Pro** string, **Tour Team** and **Extreme** bags.

For more information visit: <http://www.head.com/tennis/news.php?region=eu&id=341>



### HEAD Balls Receive Rave Reviews

Introduced last year, HEAD's new line of tournament tennis balls – which incorporate Encore™ technology, allowing 33% more durability, and SmartOptik™ felt to ensure up to 19% greater visibility - have received praise from consumers and professionals alike, with the ball already having been adopted by a number of the world's leading events.

Already in 2007, the ball has been used at 4 of the 8 Davis Cup world group opening round ties, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD, and at ATP events in Zagreb, Marseille, Valencia, Monte Carlo and Rome, amongst others, and HEAD is the official ball of the ATP, ATP Masters Series and Tennis Masters Cup.

Visit [HEAD.com](http://www.head.com) or subscribe directly for more HEAD news [http://www.head.com/microsites/newsletter/newsletter\\_en.html](http://www.head.com/microsites/newsletter/newsletter_en.html)

## HEADlines

HEAD®



## HEAD Players Make Their Mark

HEAD players have been quick to make an impact on the pro circuits this season, with five players - **Ivan Ljubicic, Mikhail Youzhny, Gilles Simon, Andy Murray** and **Ivo Karlovic** - already having won singles titles.

Russian Youzhny has arguably had the best start to the year, his 25-9 win/loss record so far includes a title in Rotterdam, and runner up spots in Dubai and Munich. He's also won two doubles events, in Doha and Munich and currently stands at a career high ranking of #15.



## One to Watch - Ernests Gulbis

Using HD video footage, HEAD takes an in-depth look at fast-rising ATP Tour player Ernests Gulbis of Latvia, giving a shot by shot analysis of why the 84<sup>th</sup>-ranked 19 year old looks set to become a name with which everyone will soon be familiar.

Follow the link below to view the videos and find out more.

[http://www.tennisgate.com/head/10/headnews\\_en.html](http://www.tennisgate.com/head/10/headnews_en.html)



## Interview: Rising Star Michelle Larcher de Brito

HEAD player **Michelle Larcher de Brito**, a Bollettieri Tennis Academy student, has entered her name in the record books as a result of her first round win over Meghann Shaughnessy at the 2007 Sony Ericsson Open. De Brito becomes the seventh youngest player of all time to win a main draw WTA Tour match.

*Q. What can you say about your first round match?*

Michelle: I just went out there and just tried my best. This is my first tournament here, so I knew it wasn't going to be a very easy match, but I played my best.

Click here to read the full interview:

<http://www.head.com/tennis/news.php?region=eu&id=499>



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