

NEWSLETTER!

INTERNET NEWSLETTER

TENNIS EUROPE NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER 1/2

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ivo Van Aken 1/3

DEVELOPMENT

2002 European Coaches Symposium 4

Level I Coaches course in Latvia 4

Level II Coaches course in Belarus 5

Level II in Coaches course
in Bosnia -Herzegovina 5

WHEELCHAIR

Invacare World Team Cup
by Camozzi 6

JUNIORS

2002 European Junior Masters 6

2003 Race to the Masters 7

A Raising Star - Marcos Baghdatis 8

Junior Tour Supervisor/ Quality Coor-
dinator Up-date 9

Fulltimetennis.com 9

MEETINGS

Club Tennis, Adult Programmes
And Guy Forget 10

WOMENS TENNIS

FED CUP 11

Swisscom Challenge 11

A vision of an ambitious 12

GENERAL

The European Top Ten 11

The latest from Tennis Europe 12

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Last month I attended the final days of the 25th European Coaches Symposium held in Vale do Lobo, Portugal. The venue was perfect for the four day event. Once again the Portuguese Tennis Federation were excellent hosts.

The symposium is one of our most important European Tennis events as it brings together our top coaches to debate tennis at a high level. Our European coaches are respected the world over for their presentations on different aspects of tennis.

Since our Annual General Meeting the Tennis Europe programme of activities has seen a very full summer of events and competitions. We can pride ourselves on the level of competition we provide



John James (Tennis Europe President), Pascal Boris (CEO, BNP UK), Francesco Ricci-Bitti (ITF President)

from 12 and under to the top veterans age groups in the game.

Our junior competitions at all age groups provide the first opportunity for many of our young players from our European member nations to take the first step on the tennis ladder to the world game.

(continued page 2)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT - IVO VAN AKEN

Ivo Van Aken is the Technical Director of the Flemish League of the Belgian Tennis Federation and from this position he is responsible for the education of coaches. He is also President of the Institute of Top Sport Flanders, a member of the Department of Top Sport of the Belgian Olympic Committee and a member of the Coaches Committee of the ITF. In addition, Ivo Van Aken has been a representative and speaker at many of the international conferences of the ITF and Tennis Europe as well as at the conferences of many national tennis federations.

He was the captain of the Belgian Fed Cup Champion Team in 2001 and coach for his country's team at the Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney Olympics.

(continued page 3)

Editorial

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The list of past champions of our junior competitions proves this point. Those countries who do not enter the junior age groups should seriously consider future entry as this is the best opportunity for your top up and coming players.

The veterans entries have again broken all records for our European competition. This area of our game has had huge growth and attracts players to continue their playing careers and to compete at a high level.

All our committees met during the summer, many during Roland Garros or Wimbledon. They have all considered their aims and their tasks for the future.

One disappointment was that we had to cancel the Men's Club Championships because of lack of entries. The Club Championships is an important, integral part of European tennis. The Committee responsible will seriously consider a future format so that it does attract clubs to enter from each member nation.

One of the most significant conferences held this year I believe was the Top Executives meeting in Biarritz, France, where the main topic was club tennis. Excellent

presentations were given by various member nations. Club tennis is the bedrock of the game in each country and must be evaluated at all times to make sure clubs have the facilities and the attraction to encourage people of all ages to take up our great sport.

Another important conference recently took place in Warsaw, Poland, when three of our committees, Men's, Women's and Officiating, joined together to discuss our tournament programme. The title of the conference was "Filling the Stands". The Grand Slams, World Davis Cup and Fed Cup and some of the Masters tournaments have great crowds (the Madrid Masters was a sell-out) and the Davis Cup Final in Bercy, Paris, was sold out as soon as the tickets were made available to the public, but below these events and tournaments there is concern at the lack of spectators. The results of the conference debate will I am sure be of interest to us all and will be relayed in a future newsletter. I am sure that this subject will continue to be discussed in 2003.

The Junior General Meeting was held last weekend in Malta and had a full programme covering all aspects of the junior game.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those member nations and their venues for hosting our events, competitions and conferences during the year. We do appreciate your generosity and support, which is invaluable to our organisation.

The highlight at the end of our tennis year is the Women's and Men's European Team Championships. The Women's event was held recently in Ostrava, Czech Republic and we congratulate Poland on winning the Championships, beating Great Britain in the final. The Men's event is to be held in Montecatini, Italy in early December.

We must also once again be proud that two European countries have reached the final of the Davis Cup, the I.T.F. flagship event. I am sure it will be one of the most successful Davis Cup ties and it will be held at an excellent venue at Bercy, Paris. We wish both France and Russia a great tie.

Four top women's European teams contested the semi-final and final rounds of this year's Fed Cup in Gran Canaria. We congratulate Slovak Republic who beat Spain in the final.

**2003
TENNIS EUROPE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2 - 4 MAY 2003
IN ANCONA/ITALY**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT - IVO VAN AKEN

The best known players on his teams have been: Sabine Appelmans, Dominique Van Roost, Justine Henin, Kim Clijsters, Laurence Courtois, Els Callens, Chris Goossens, Johan Van Herck, Christophe VanGarsse and Xavier Malisse.

Ivo Van Aken was nominated Sports Administrator of Belgium in 1998 and was the Laureate of Flemish Merit of Sport in 1999. In addition to all these time consuming activities he is author of the books entitled Top Tennis and Tennis Natuurlijk.

How do you feel about having represented your country three times as Olympic coach in Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney as well as being the captain of the Fed Cup Champion team in 2001?

I feel great that I was given the chance to represent my country at these very important events. Participation at these events gave me the chance to communicate and interact with many coaches and in the case of the Olympics with coaches from many sports not just tennis. I believe a lot in meeting and exchanging thoughts as well as ideas with other people. As for the Fed Cup I depended a lot on the girls who were very professional, had high spirits and the appropriate attitude. I'm sure that we can win again because of all these qualities displayed by our players.

Where do you find the time and energy to be the President of Top Sport Flanders, a member of the Department of Top Sport of the Belgian Olympic Committee as well as a member of the Coaches Committee of the ITF?

This is an interesting question but it is difficult to answer. It is true I work many hours but I draw energy through meeting and exchanging ideas with so many people. You learn a lot and this builds you up into a better coach. I would stop if I did not see improvements in myself or my country. Everything I learn is transferred to the coaches back home which is, in my opinion, the most important task of a technical director.

What made you decide to write

the books "Top Tennis" and "Tennis Natuurlijk"?

I wrote the books in order to improve the standard of coaches at home. The books fill a gap in the education of coaches and contain insights I get from all the conferences.

We understand that you are heavily involved in a number of projects across Europe. Which do you believe are the most important?

The most important project for me is education for coaches, because the better educated coaches are the better are the chances for developing good players. We should not forget the junior coaches because everything starts from them. Another very important project was the close work between our federation and the Institute Top Sport Flanders where scientific material was used extensively.

As a regular participant at the European Coaches Symposium what, in your opinion, are the benefits of attending this event?

The standard of the Symposium is very high. There are many good speakers who are very open minded and willing to exchange thoughts and ideas. With respect to this open minded environment, I want to mention the fact that Richard Schönborn, who is one of world's most knowledgeable tennis coaches, also made an important contribution to creating such an atmosphere. The information we get at this conference improves coaches education in Flanders.

Do you believe that there is scope for improving the Sympos-

ium and if so what suggestion would you make?

There is always scope for improvement. An improvement could be achieved, for instance, by inviting more speakers who are scientifically oriented and giving them the time to go into more detail. An example of a speaker whom you might wish to invite is Bruce Elliot, who if given sufficient time to be more specific, could contribute to raising the standard of the biomechanical part of the conference. Of course there are many more speakers around the world who could raise the standard; but Bruce is one of the good examples.

What is your vision for tennis in Europe?

Europe makes an important contribution to knowledge. There are high standards in Europe and more and more countries are making efforts to get better and better so that Europe will become even more important. The effort to raise standards further is helped by the fact that European coaches belong to a small family, which encourages interaction. Although substantial progress has been recorded since 1972, when the first European Coaches Symposium was organised in response to the fact that the USA had all the good players, I'm sure more progress will be observed in the near future. The Symposium, by bringing the large and small countries together, makes a contribution to the process of getting organised for the future.

(Stephanie Kamberi)

2002 EUROPEAN COACHES SYMPOSIUM

The 25th edition of the European Coaches Symposium took place in the renowned tourist resort of Vale de Lobo (Algarve), Portugal from 12-17 October. Organised by Tennis Europe in conjunction with the Portuguese Tennis Federation, it was the third time, following the 1982 and 1998 editions respectively held in Vilamoura and Madeira that this high level technical conference is held in Portugal.

The format of the four days long European tennis conference, funded by the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme, that deals with the development of high performance players and updates on the latest research in the coaching field, featured three distinctive parts (general/specific/scientific) with lectures and on-court presentations on different topics of general interest in tennis, on various areas of tennis sport science and on specific topics presented by top international experts mainly from Europe. More than eighty delegates representing 22 countries took part, and they heard

26 speakers. The speakers included top level coaches, and tennis experts such as Bernard Pestre (FRA) Richard Schönborn (GER), Ivo van Aken (BEL), Anne Pankhurst (GBR) and Hans-Peter Born (GER). The scientific part of the Symposium was supported with presentations from Dr Babette Pluim (NED), Dr Gilles Daubinet (FRA), Prof. Pedro Pezarat Correia (POR), Dr Antoni Girod (FRA) and Prof. Victor Cabral (POR).

Helmut Hauer, who is responsible for coaches education in Austria and is a member of the Tennis Europe Development Committee said: "we had a great programme in Vale do Lobo with excellent speakers as well as the opportunity for in-depth discussions about most of the presented topics".

John James, President of Tennis Europe attended the last day of the Conference and during the official closing dinner honoured Mr. Gil de Kermadec (FRA), Mr. Leif Dahlgren (SWE) and Mr. Svato-pluk Stojan (SUI) with the Euro-

pean Coaches Symposium Award for their long and outstanding contribution to the foundation and success of the European Symposium.

The dinner was also attended by Pedro Coehlo, President of the Portuguese Tennis Federation and the local authorities from the Algarve region.

The jointly funded ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme provided accommodation and travelling grants for a selected number of European member nations to attend the conference including Yugoslavia, Georgia, Andorra and Malta.

Tennis Europe is already planning the next edition of the European Coaches Symposium that will take place in 2004. Any application from European member nations to host the conference should be addressed to the Tennis Europe Headquarters in Basel (info@tenniseurope.com).

(Luca Santilli)

LEVEL I COACHES COURSE IN LATVIA

National Associations in Eastern Europe continue to be committed to provide their coaches with the possibility of furthering their knowledge and obtaining a coaches certification. In cooperation with ITF/Tennis Europe, the Latvian Tennis Union has launched a Coaches Certification Programme, adopting the ITF Level I and Level II syllabus and with the ultimate goal of creating their own national certification programme and educating future generations of coaches themselves.

Having already hosted a Regional Level II Coaches course in 2000 and two Level I Coaches courses in 2001, the Latvian Tennis Union decided to hold this year, with the assistance of ITF / Tennis Europe, a Level I Coaches course as part of the plan to creating their own

Coach Education Programme. The course conducted by Hrvoje Zmajic, an experienced coach from Croatia that has worked with ITF/Tennis Europe Touring Teams, with the assistance of national tutors was held at their national tennis centre in the beautiful resort of Jurmala with 20 coaches in attendance from 7 – 15 September.

Hrvoje Zmajic, who was assisted throughout the course by the national tutor Andrei Buckins, commented: "it was very interesting to work with some of the young Latvian coaches seeking to further their knowledge in tennis coaching and I felt that both the Latvian Tennis Union and Andrei Buckins were very committed to reach their final goal to create a national coaches education/certification programme."

The Level I Course is nine days long and is designed to train coaches working with beginner / intermediate level players. The Latvian experts have revised and studied the content of the ITF Level I Syllabus and have adapted it to the necessities of the Latvian Tennis Union. It is hoped then, that in a couple of years the Latvian Tennis Union will be self-sufficient with their own national certification programme and will be able to educate the future generations of tennis coaches themselves.

For more information on the ITF/Tennis Europe Coaches Education Programme in Eastern Europe, please contact Luca Santilli, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer: lucas@tenniseurope.org

ITF-TENNIS EUROPE / OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY REGIONAL LEVEL II COACHES COURSE IN BELARUS

Nineteen coaches from three countries, Belarus, Latvia and Moldova gathered in Minsk, Belarus to participate in an Olympic Solidarity funded Advanced Coaches course this autumn. The Level II course, which was held at the National Tennis Centre, was conducted by Frank Zlesak, an experienced coach from Czech Republic who has been involved in several coaches education initiatives in Europe and has worked with ITF Junior Touring Teams, Keith Reynolds of UK who has been involved in ITF projects world-wide and Viktor Ivancov, a level II coach from Lithuania who acted as translator. Simon Kagan, President of the Belarus Tennis Federation and his team assisted the ITF experts providing an excellent venue and fulfilling all the necessary conditions required for holding such a course.

ITF/Tennis Europe and the Belarus Tennis Federation successfully joined forces with the International Olympic Committee to organise this project which once again recognises the importance of coaches' education in the area of tennis development. For this purpose Olympic Solidarity awarded a special grant to the ITF to help cover some of the costs related to the implementation of the 12-day course designed to train coaches working with junior advanced level players using the ITF Advanced Coaches Manual.

Frank Zlesak, Director of the course said: "This course in Minsk was particularly motivating for us tutors as most of the coaches had a university degree in Physical Education as well as a good tennis background which put the course at a very high-standard.

The Regional Coaches course in Minsk was the second OS Regional Advanced Coaches Course held this year which together with some level I coaches courses concluded what has been a very busy season for coaches' education in Europe that has seen the ITF/Tennis Europe liaising with more than twelve National Associations in the coaches' education area to provide their coaches with the possibility of furthering their knowledge and obtaining a coaches certification.

For more information on the ITF/Tennis Europe Coaches Education Programme in Eastern Europe, please contact Luca Santilli, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer: lucas@tenniseurope.org

(Luca Santilli)

ITF-TENNIS EUROPE / OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY REGIONAL LEVEL II COACHES COURSE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Twenty-one coaches from three countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia and Hungary are currently participating in an Olympic Solidarity funded Advanced Coaches course in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The course is taking place at the Sarajevo Olympic Centre and is conducted by Frank Couraud, ITF Development Project Administrator together with Frank Zlesak, an experienced coach from the Czech Republic who has worked with ITF Junior Touring Teams, and Biljana Veselinovic, level II coach and Fed Cup Captain from Yugoslavia who is acting both as a tutor and as a translator.

ITF/Tennis Europe and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Tennis Federation successfully joined forces with the International Olympic Committee and the Bosnian National

Olympic Committee to organise this project which once again recognises the importance of coaches' education in the area of tennis development.

For this purpose Olympic Solidarity awarded a special grant to the Bosnian National Olympic Committee to help cover some of the costs related to the implementation of the 12-day course designed to train coaches working with junior advanced level players using the ITF Advanced Coaches Manual.

Following the organisation of a Level I Coaches course last year, we acknowledge the commitment of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Tennis Federation to provide their coaches with the possibility of furthering their knowledge and obtaining a coaches certification. The next step for this joint programme

between ITF/Tennis Europe and the local Federation will be the training of local tutors in order to become independent in this area and able to educate the next generation of coaches themselves.

Frank Couraud, Director of the course said: "It is great to be able to work for two weeks with these young talented coaches that have overcome a very difficult moment of their history having had their countries involved in a war. I am sure that they will contribute to the re-construction of their country educating and coaching talented tennis players."

For more information on the ITF/Tennis Europe Coaches Education Programme in Eastern Europe, please contact Luca Santilli, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer: lucas@tenniseurope.org

(Luca Santilli)

INVACARE WORLD TEAM CUP BY CAMOZZI

Great Britain Win Quad Event

Last year's champions Great Britain beat the United States 2-1 in a dramatic Quad final at the Invacare World Team Cup by Camozzi in Tremosine, Italy. The opening singles rubber between Peter Norfolk and Nick Taylor ended in heartbreak for Taylor and the rest of the American team when, at 34 down, Taylor's battery in his powerchair went flat. Under ITF rules any player is allowed 20 minutes in any one match for equipment repairs. After the American team had tried unsuccessfully for 40 minutes to change the dead battery in Taylor's chair, Team GB Quad Coach James Pankhurst and Norfolk finally accepted the win.

The second singles rubber pitched Britain's World No 1 ranked Quad Mark Eccleston against American World No 3 David Wagner. The match was equally dramatic as Eccleston had a chance to clinch the championship in a second set tie-break, but eventually went down

62, 67(6), 26 in what was his third singles defeat of the week.

The doubles saw Eccleston and Norfolk take the first set against the American pair of Wagner and Chris Studwell 75. A tense second set went to a tie-break and, after losing two match points, the British pair held on to secure their second Invacare World Team Cup title with a 75, 76(4) win. The 3rd/4th play-off between the Netherlands and Italy produced two close singles rubbers. Monique de Beer came from a set down to defeat Paolo Mazzacane 46, 61, 64 while Bas Van Erp sealed third place for the Dutch by beating Giuseppe Polidori 6-4, 6-4. Ben Weekes celebrated his 18th Birthday on Friday by leading the Australian challenge in the Junior final against defending champions the Netherlands. After Koen Meerwijk had got the Netherlands off to the perfect start with a 62, 64 win over Thomas Laing, Weekes levelled the tie with a hard-fought 75, 26, 63 win over Jiske Griffioen. The deciding doubles rubber saw some

exciting tennis, but Griffioen and Meerwijk ultimately had the upper hand to retain one of the three trophies won by the Dutch last year in Switzerland. Meanwhile, the United States, winners of the inaugural Junior World Team Cup in 2000, beat Germany 3-0 to earn third place.

Dutch Women reign supreme

The Netherlands won the Women's title for an unprecedented 15th time at the Invacare World Team Cup by Camozzi in Tremosine, Italy, beating the United States 2-0 in the final. Sonja Peters lost just two games on the way to beating Karin Korb 62, 60 in the opening singles rubber, while World No 1 Esther Vergeer was just as dominant against Sharon Clark, sweeping through the first set without losing a game before wrapping up a 60, 63 victory. With the Championship already decided, the doubles rubber did not take place.

(Mark Bullock)

2002 EUROPEAN JUNIOR MASTERS

The beautiful city of Jesi, close to Ancona and part of Le Marche Italian region, famous for being the place where Federico II di Svevia was born and for being the hometown of the most important Italian fencing school, has hosted the European Junior Masters U14 and U16, which took place from October 18th to 20th and has been played since 1996, being the end of the season highlight for the best ranked boys and girls of these age categories.

The four courts of the "Circolo Cittadino" Tennis Club, which, from time to time, receive the Williams sisters for a practice session, have been taken over by 32 players coming from 19 different countries, among the interest of a big crowd

and a beautiful autumn Italian weather.

Belarus triumphed in the Under 14 category, by winning both girls and boys competitions. Volha Havartsova conquered the gold medal defeating Marta Lesniak from Poland while Dmitry Novikov overtook Dusan Lajda from Czech Republic.

The Under 16 competition was split between Romania and Spain. Monica Niculescu defeated Adriana Gonzales but Marcel Granollers won over left-handed Greek Zacharias Katsigiannakis.

The atmosphere was very professional but relaxed at the same time. The organisation provided

full hospitality in a very beautiful four-star hotel and hosted an official dinner where all players and coaches were given a small gift as a memory of the competition.

An official ceremony with flags on court and all the 19 national anthems played ended on Sunday afternoon the competition.

Once again the European Junior Masters has proved to be the best conclusion of the European Junior Tour which, in 2002, was composed by more than 150 tournaments played in 40 different countries, and which promises to be even bigger next year.

(Massimo Morelli)

RACE TO THE MASTERS - 2003 EUROPEAN JUNIOR MASTERS

The Tennis Europe Junior Masters was started in 1996 to reward the players who compete in the European Junior Tour. It is the end of season highlight for the eight best-ranked boys and girls of the 14 and 16 & under age categories. The Masters took place in Iesi (Italy) from the 18th - 20 October 2002. The rankings below show the players which are currently (**ranking as per 21st November 2002**) qualified for the 2003 European Junior Masters. The European players which are on "at the end of September 2003 (exact date to be announced) still in the top eight of this ranking will be qualified for the 2003 European Junior Masters.

BOYS 14 & UNDER

	Name	Surname	Nation
1	Karatchenia	Andrei	BLR
2	Avramov	Plamen	BUL
3	De Fays	Frederic	BEL
4	Zarea	Eduard	MDA
5	Nikolaev	Alexey	RUS
6	Karpol	Mikhail	CRO
7	Dimov	Valentin	BUL
8	Kosler	Jiri	CZE

GIRLS 14 & UNDER

	Name	Surname	Nation
1	Krajicek	Michaela	NED
2	Bacsinszky	Timea	SUI
3	Rodina	Evguenia	RUS
4	Liscki	Sabine	GER
5	Olaru	Raluca	ROM
6	Mansieva	Vesna	RUS
7	Azaranka	Vika	BLR
8	Koulikova	Alexandra	RUS

BOYS 16 & UNDER

	Name	Surname	Nation
1	Djokovic	Novak	YUG
2	Fogini	Fabio	ITA
3	Nedovesov	Alexandr	UKR
4	Krasnoroutski	Alexandre	RUS
5	Moleanov	Denis	MDA
6	Tarasevich	Siarhei	BLR
7	Bjelica	Slavko	YUG
7	Kucera	Vaclav	CZE

GIRLS 16 & UNDER

	Name	Surname	Nation
1	Niculescu	Monica	ROM
2	Kleibanova	Alissa	RUS
3	Rebersak	Polona	SLO
4	Szatmari	Agnes	ROM
5	Krstajic	Danica	YUG
6	Buzarnescu	Mihaela	ROM
7	Gatto Monticone	Giulia	ITA
8	Velkovska	Iva	MKD

A RAISING STAR - MARCOS BAGHDATIS FROM CYPRUS

Marcos Baghdatis, who is currently ranked No. 5 on the world junior circuit and was No.2 in September of this year, is from Cyprus, which although being one of the smallest member countries of Tennis Europe has a very active tennis federation, the Cyprus Tennis Federation. After a relatively low point in his career in May and early June, 2002 he recently reached the finals at the US Open Junior Championships and semi-finals at the Osaka Major's Cup-World Super Junior Championships. Born in 1985 he started playing tennis when he was 5 and has continued playing since then with a break between the ages of 9 to 11 when he became more involved in football. Important stages in his career include his recognition as a talent by Tennis Europe when he was twelve and his move to a tennis academy in France when he became 14. Although he trains in France his family, who remained in Cyprus, and especially his father, continue to be a source of inspiration and support for him. His two brothers, who are older, were also tennis players.

How does it feel to have reached such a high position in the junior world ranking?

It feels great. I am very happy. At the beginning of this year things were not going so well but now the whole situation is getting better and better.

What made you start playing tennis?

My two older brothers, my father and I are totally in love with the game. Tennis has always been there for me.

Why did you decide to stop playing tennis for almost two years when you were nine and concentrate on football and why did you eventually return to tennis?

I did not stop tennis for football. What actually happened is that at that time my older brother had a very serious accident so that my father did not really have the time to take me to training and there was no coach available who could help me. Eventually my brother recovered and a new coach came to our club Mr. Jean Dobrescu who helped me a lot.

What have been the most important influences contributing

to your success as a tennis player?

The most important influences have been my family, the Cyprus Tennis Federation with its President Mr Philios Christodoulou, Mr. Yiannos Hadjigeorgiou the National tennis coach of Cyprus, in whose house I stayed for almost 8 months training morning and afternoon, and the Bob Brett Tennis Academy, Paris.

At the age of twelve you were discovered as a European Tennis talent and you began to receive financial assistance from the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme. How do you think this recognition helped your career?

Financially it helped me a lot because it gave me the opportunity to play at a higher level of tennis. I was able to travel abroad to play at tournaments of a higher standard than those in Cyprus.

Given the small size of Cyprus and its relatively limited international sports achievements do you think that your success could have an impact on tennis and other sports in your country.

Yes I think it will have an impact but

the problem in Cyprus is, that because of its small size, people do not believe in themselves and that they can do it. There are in fact a lot of talented people out there. Another major problem for athletes in Cyprus is the compulsory 26 months army service that all males who turn 18 years have to do. It's a lot of time. You lose 2 years of your career at the most crucial age.

Cyprus has compulsory military service for 26 months, which begins at eighteen years of age, from which you have applied for postponement in view of your tennis commitments. What has been the response of the authorities to your request?

Well I have heard they will give me a postponement of two years but this has not been confirmed officially yet. However I will be going home to Cyprus soon and will look into it further.

What are your goals for the future?

To be the best that I can be. I really want to reach the number one position in the world. It takes a lot of sacrifices but my goal is to be the best. However we have to wait and see what the future holds.

(Stephanie Kamberi)

JUNIOR TOUR SUPERVISOR/QUALITY COORDINATOR UP-DATE

August and September are very intensive months for the European Junior Tour.

This time I had a trip in Germany, Bulgaria and Turkey. In the middle of August I visited the LBS Muller Cup in Ulm, where more than 300 girls and boys from all over Europe came to play the Under 14 and Under 16 event. The tournament was played in a beautiful green area not far from the centre but in the middle of a sport complex, where some players and coaches

had the possibility to park their caravan and/or using their tents.

The following week I moved to the east for a combined trip to Svilengrad and Istanbul. The Bulgarian Svilengrad Club hosted for the first time an Under 14 tournament, named Allianz Cup, which was attended by players coming from all eastern countries and the Balkan area.

Finally my trip ended in Istanbul Turkey, where in the beautiful TED

Club, the under 14 Cevansir Cup took place.

Organisers of all three tournaments were very happy with the number and quality of participants and have already confirmed their interest for hosting the same competition in 2003.

As a Junior Tour Supervisor I was very satisfied with organising requirements and wish to these competitions good luck for a successful growth of their tournaments. *(Massimo Morelli)*

FULLTIMETENNIS.COM LINKING PLAYERS AND CLUBS WORLDWIDE

Fulltime players looking for club teams, and clubs looking for players now need go no further than fulltimetennis.com. This new site offers a powerful database that links players, clubs, squads etc all over the world. A simple search by standard, nationality etc means you can create a shortlist within seconds and then make immediate contact via e-mail. It's so simple and effective the only question is 'Why hasn't it been done before?'

The idea was the brainchild of Otto Buchholdt, the senior LTA 'Futures' coach for Surrey, England. "Working with top juniors and senior world ranked players meant I was constantly getting calls from team coaches in Europe and America asking if I could recommend players. They'd rely on my word because they had no other way of accessing and assessing players."

Otto discussed the idea of a web site devoted to fulltime tennis with his brother Hans Baernhoft, a London based film executive. "I knew it was a good idea from the first. It's obviously a great service to the industry and there was nothing else like it. The web is truly international and the ideal medium for a global sport like tennis. I agreed to put the site together and approached it much like a film. We

engaged a brilliant designer and site construction team and the result is clear and easy to use."

One early problem was resolving the different national rankings. Otto explains "Many fulltime players are no longer juniors and do not have a world ranking. So how does a coach in Germany assess a 19 year old from Russia?" As luck would have it" Hans adds, "I had approached the ITF for support and had a surprise phone call from Dave Miley their Executive Director of Tennis Development. He explained they were about to launch their International Tennis Numbers, which lines up all the various national ratings. The timing was perfect!"



With an international standard of ratings and an international database of players and teams, fulltimetennis.com could make a real difference to the game. Team tennis is all about competition. The team with the best players wins more matches, gets a higher profile and more money from spon-

sors. That money feeds back to the players and so it grows, everybody wins."

"I can see Team Tennis, particularly in Europe, going the way of Soccer" says Hans. "The Davis Cup ties, for instance, are just about the most exciting events in the game. The spectators really get involved. That's just what the game needs more of. Supporting a local tennis club is a lot more emotive than a top 200 player that spends most of their time abroad."

Their enthusiasm for the game doesn't stop there. Their site boasts future plans to combine tournament and team information so players can base themselves with a club whilst playing local money circuits. They are working on a standard team/player contract that can be downloaded for free and are inviting other suggestions. "They're all welcome" Otto says. "I was a fulltime player myself and I know how hard it is to make a living. We want to give every player the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential."

For more information and for a free registry visit www.fulltimetennis.com or email Hans Baernhoft at hans@baernhoft.com or mail@fulltimetennis.com

CLUB TENNIS, ADULT PROGRAMMES AND GUY FORGET

The Top Executives meeting is one of the most important gathering of the year in the Tennis Europe Calendar and it gives the opportunity to 48 Chief Executives Officers to meet colleagues and discuss issues of mutual interest, exchange views and share information on current projects.

The Meeting usually held in autumn over two days, consists in a workshop on Friday focusing on a topic, of interest to all Member Nations followed by a plenary session on Saturday.

Friday workshop

The subject of the workshop was "Tennis Clubs, the backbone of our activities". It was introduced first by two specialists dealing with this matter in their respective Federation: André Ambit presented the "Club Project" initialised in France and Mark Marshall the "Club Vision" introduced in Great Britain.

Based on this introduction, the delegates separated in two groups, examined the different aspects of these projects and considered their application on their own level. Friday's programme was completed by the following presentations: William Bothorel explaining the Tennis for Adults scheme in France, Anders Wetterberg presenting "The value of Tennis Clubs in Swedish Tennis" and finally

Walter Goethals with the topic Tennis Clubs and Federation in Belgium – Successful data transfer linked to the website".

The chosen topics "Tennis Clubs, the backbones of our activities" assured a good participation in this year's meeting and showed the importance of grassroot and Club programmes on International and National level. The Member Nations are aware that the Clubs take a very important role in national tennis and the Chief Executives Officers were also very open to learn and discuss more about the current development in their Clubs.

Plenary Session

The Plenary Session started with an update on Tennis Europe activities by Olli Mäenpää and was followed by the Development update presented by Luca Santilli.

The highlights of the Plenary Session were an ITF update from Juan Margets, ITF Executive Vice-President and a presentation by Jean Claude Blanc Managing Director of the French Tennis Federation including a preview of the huge expansion project of the Roland Garros stadium.

The organiser

Biarritz proved to be a perfect venue with a wonderful country-

side with its green landscapes but also with its closeness to the sea. Chairman Jacques Dupré and his Team from the CBBL Ligue ensured a smooth running of the event and made sure that everyone enjoyed French hospitality.

Official Dinner

The delegates were invited for the official dinner in the legendary Biarritz Palace Hotel and as a surprise former Top 10 player and



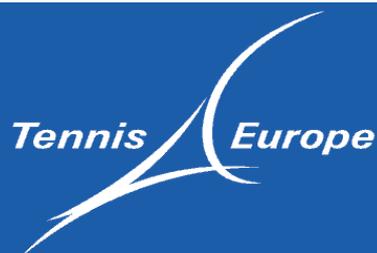
Olli Mäenpää, Guy Forget, Jacques Dupré

current French Davis/Fed Cup Captain Guy Forget showed up. After a short speech he greeted all the delegates personally giving them the chance to discuss with him.

2003 Meeting

For the 2003 Meeting, Tennis Europe has already received 8 applications to host the event. The decision will be taken at the beginning of the next year.

(Charlotte Ferrari/Magnus Grönvold)



www.tenniseurope.org



SLOVAKIA REIGNS IN SPAIN

The Fed Cup remains in Europe for a second consecutive year, with a maiden title for the much-improved Slovak team on the Spanish island of Gran Canaria. The final was a hotly contested and controversial affair, with nerves and tempers running high throughout.

Honours were even at the end of the first day, as Conchita Martinez summoned up her considerable Fed Cup experience to outwit the incredible shot selection of Jeanette Husarova in two close sets, 6-4 7-6(6). In the second match, local favourite Magui Serna was a last-minute stand-in for the injured Spanish number 2, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, but despite ear-splitting partisan support from her home town crowd, only managed to take three games from the top Slovak, Daniela Hantuchova.

Fans raised the roof on the second day, witnessing one of the matches of the year, as the top

player on each team (Martinez and Hantuchova) battled for almost three and a half hours for the vital third rubber. For the second year running, Martinez produced some of her finest tennis of the season in a crucial Fed Cup match, only to lose a tight third set. On this occasion Hantuchova's fitness was to prove the decisive factor, as she edged out the match 6-7(8) 7-5 6-4, having led 4-1 in the final set.

What had started as an historic day for Sanchez Vicario turned out to be a day she would rather forget. By setting foot on court, the veteran set two new longevity records; her 100th Fed Cup singles match in her 58th tie, embellishing her status as the most prolific player in Fed Cup history. But it was to be one match too many. Still hampered by the injury that had forced her out of the first rubber, Sanchez Vicario suffered her worst defeat in 17 years of Fed Cup play, and was reduced to tears on court by a heckling spec-

tator. Play was halted for ten minutes as the ever-vocal Spanish crowd demanded the ejection of the culprit and attempted to raise the player's spirits.

It was to be in vain though, as Husarova showed little sign of the nerves that had reduced her to tears on court of the previous day, and produced a series of stunning drop shots that only served to illustrate the immobility of the Spaniard. The end result was never in doubt, and she clocked up a 6-0 6-2 win in under an hour, delighting the 50 or so jubilant Slovaks who had travelled to see their team bring home a first Fed Cup title.

The Slovaks have a tough task ahead to defend their crown, having been drawn in the same half as the two previous winners, Belgium and the USA. The 2003 season is also the 40th anniversary of the competition, and looks to be the most competitive yet.

(Jonathan Jobson)

SCHNYDER SUPREME AT SWISSCOM CHALLENGE IN ASSOCIATION WITH TENNIS EUROPE

Patty Schnyder capped a career week with victory over Lindsay Davenport in an entertaining and hard fought final at the largest tournament in her native country; the Swisscom Challenge, presented for the eighteenth year in association with Tennis Europe.

The week produced a number of fascinating battles as the cream of the WTA fought for a first prize of \$182,000 and valuable qualification points for the Masters in Los Angeles. The week proved to be as competitive and memorable as the Swiss crowds have come to expect from this, the most prestigious of the European indoor tournaments. Despite the absence of Hingis, the home fans had much to cheer with Schnyders success and a repeat run to the quarter finals for rising star and 2001 European

Junior Champion Mikaelian. Davenport came into the title match as firm favourite, despite a 0-4 record in finals since her return to the tennis circuit after a nine-month absence, as her 18-1 record at the tournament included three titles (1997-1998, and 2001). Question marks remained over her fitness however, as she had been receiving treatment for an injury to her ankle which had deteriorated during her semi final victory over Belgian Justine Henin. Arguably, Schnyder faced the greater pressure, as she had lost to the American in all five of their previous encounters, and desperately wanted to please her home crowd. The final proved to be one of the most memorable matches of the year. Davenport started well, taking the first set on a tie break, having saved three set points. There was

to be a reversal of fortunes in the second, as Schnyder waited patiently for her opportunity to pounce, and she took it in a tense eighteen-point tie breaker, saving a match point in the process. The third set was a battle of wills, and Schnyder, the fresher player having won her semi final easily (returning the 6-0 6-3 drubbing on Conchita Martinez that the veteran Spaniard had surprisingly inflicted on top seeded Capriati in the second round), proved the stronger. She raised the roof by winning it 6-3, and commented afterwards, "This is the biggest win of my career. I had so many emotions throughout the week, playing in front of my home crowd. It feels great to be champion here."

(Jonathan Jobson)

VISIONS OF AN AMBITIOUS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR - THE UPGRADE OF A US\$ 25'00 ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT

While half of Europe was affected by unprecedented floods, the peaceful city of Innsbruck hosted an international \$25'000 women's tournament, the first ITF Women's Circuit event in Austria in 3 years. The success of this new event resulted in upgrading it to a \$50'000 event next year. We asked Kurt Hoch, the tournament director of Innsbruck Ladies Open, to share his vision of his brainchild.

"Sports institutions undergo a period of change. In the last couple of years, the number of club tennis players is going down, and the income follows the trend. International sports events are instrumental for promoting the image of the club, attracting the sponsors interest and making the club attractive for actual and potential club members."

As in many entry-level professional tournaments, the tournament director inspired his team with the belief in importance of sports for youth and transformed his passion for tennis into a big social event.

The event created positive feedback from all the parties involved. Players and coaches enjoyed excellent hospitality. The event sponsors were pleased with the way

they were acknowledged in the club and in the media. The press coverage helped to raise the profile of the club. The last, but not the least, the event stirred excitement in the club members that contributed 4500 hours of voluntary work.

Sybille Bammer, the 22 year old from Austria, captured the title in an exciting final against the 16-year-old Barbora Strycova from Czech Republic, who entered the main draw as a Junior Exempt player. This ITF programme secures three main draw slots a year

for top 10 juniors in professional events with a \$25'000- \$75'000 prize money. Barbora's performance in her three \$25'000 designated events secured her a place in top 300. The doubles title went to Russia's Gulnara Fattakhettidina and Maria Kondratieva.

The tournament director enjoyed full support of Tennis Europe from the start of preparatory work. It allowed avoiding organizational errors at an early stage. Martina Alterova's site visit provided instant cues for improvements for 2003. Why did Kurt decide to double the prize money in Innsbruck next year?

"Interest of the sponsors and motivation of the collaborators are the main factors. The facilities in TK IEV Tiroler Wasserkraft meet all the requirements. We hope to have chance to welcome players with even better ranking in Innsbruck and hence increase the attractiveness of the event. Tennis Europe is supporting the initiative to raise the number of \$50'000 Tournaments. Tennis Europe was very helpful in choosing the best date for the event."

Kurt's aim is to have an annual event with perfect organization.
(Martina Alterova)

What are the most important things in running a successful event?

- **The players shall be in the centre of interest of the event, the organizer shall give them the feeling that they are welcome;**
- **Hospitality, small gestures, help, information for the athletes during the tournament create a positive atmosphere;**
- **Taking care of the sponsors during the tournament;**
- **Tournament newspaper as daily information"**

**2003
TENNIS EUROPE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2 - 4 MAY 2003
IN ANCONA/ITALY**

THE EUROPEAN TOP 10
WOMEN

	Player	Country	WTA TOUR Ranking
1	Clijsters Kim	BEL	4
2	Hénin Justine	BEL	5
3	Mauresmo Amélie	FRA	6
4	Hantuchova Daniela	SVK	8
5	Dokic Jelena	YUG	9
6	Hingis Martina	SUI	10
7	Myskina Anastasia	RUS	11
8	Maleeva Magdalena	BUL	14
9	Schnyder Patty	SUI	15
9	Smashnova Anna	ISR	16

The European Women's Ranking is based on the WTA Ranking of 25th November 2002.

MEN

	Player	Country	ATP CHAMPIONS RACE
1	Safin Marat	RUS	3
2	Ferrero Juan Carlos	ESP	4
3	Moya Carlos	ESP	5
4	Federer Roger	SUI	6
5	Novak Jiri	CZE	7
6	Henman Tim	GBR	8
7	Costa Albert	ESP	9
8	Haas Thommy	GER	11
9	Johansson Thomas	SWE	14
10	Grosjean Sébastien	FRA	16

The European Men's Ranking is based on the ATP Champions Race Ranking of 25th November 2002.

THE LATEST FROM TENNIS EUROPE



After three years of activity as ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer, **Luca Santilli** will leave his position at the end of the year. He accepted the position of Manager, Juniors & Vets Tennis at the ITF.

We thank him very much for his dedication and wish him the best of luck for this new challenge.

The name of his successor will be announced soon.

The Lithuanian Tennis Union has elected a new President and General Secretary:

President: Mr. Andrius Augunas

General Secretary: Mr. Remigijus Balzekas

The **Slovene Tennis Association** has elected a new executive board:

President: Mr. Andrej POLENEC

Vice-presidents: Dr. Draško VESELINOVIČ

Mr. Matjaž KIRBIŠ

The Polish Tennis Association has appointed **Mr. Tomasz Polgrabski** as a new **Managing Director** of the Association.

The **Yugoslav Tennis Federation** has elected a new President

Mr. Slobodan Zivojinovic

FOR SALE:

The Finish Tennis Association is selling the official Davis Cup surface of the following tie:

Finland-Netherlands tie 20 - 22.9.2002

Name: GreenSet Grand Prix MTC (Mobile Tennis Court)

Size 20m x 40 m

Material: Hydro treated (protected) chipboard, thickness 22 mm, One piece is 1,2 m wide and 2,4 m long.

Total weight: Approx. 12 000 kg

Price: 15 000EUR

The court can be reinstalled 2-3 times, It can also be installed for permanent use.

For inquiries, please contact the Finish Tennis Association, General Secretary Mr. Mika Bono, Telephone +358 (9) 34171533 or Email mika.bono@tennis.fi

