

Jacques Dupré to serve second term as Tennis Europe President



Left to right: The newly-elected Tennis Europe Board of Management. (Back row) Philios Christodoulou, Stefan Tzvetkov, Peter Bretherton, Günther Lang, Aleksei Selivanenko, Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää, (Front) Karin van Bijsterveld, Michele Brunetti, President Jacques Dupré, Ayda Uluç.

Jacques Dupré will serve a second consecutive term in the role of Tennis Europe President after being unanimously returned to office at the organisations' Annual General Meeting, which was held in Amsterdam from 24th – 27th March. Mr. Dupré of France was the only candidate for the presidency, and received the full support of the delegates.

A new Board of Management was also elected at the Meeting. Seven of the eight previous Board members were re-elected, with Karin van Bijsterveld of the Netherlands being the only new face on the team for the 2011-2014 period. The re-elected Board members, in alphabetical order, are as follows: Peter Bretherton (GBR), Michele Brunetti (ITA), Philios Christodoulou (CYP), Günther Lang (GER), Aleksei Selivanenko (RUS), Stefan Tzvetkov (BUL) and Ayda Uluç (TUR). >>

Inside this issue

Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting	1
In the Spotlight: ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti.	4
ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Development Championships.	6
ITF/Tennis Europe 18 & Under Touring Teams in South America	7
Focus on the Netherlands	8
European Beach Tennis Championships	9
Tennis Europe Junior Tour Ball Comp.	9
Beyond the Baseline	11
Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings.	13
Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results.	15
European Rankings.	19
HEADlines.	21

ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Development Championships

Iryna Shymanovic of Belarus (pictured) and Estonia's Kenneth Raisma were the stars of the 14 & Under Development Championships, held in Antalya, Turkey recently.

The top seeds stormed through both draws of the back-to-back Category 2 events devised to give international playing opportunities to the leading players from nations that benefit from the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme. A full report can be found on Page 6.



Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting

<< Hosted for the first time by the Royal Netherlands Lawn Tennis Association (KNLTB), the 37th Annual General Meeting of Tennis Europe saw attendance from around 80 delegates representing 37 of the organizations' 49 member nations.

Aside from the elections, the Meeting had a busy agenda with several important decisions taken. These included the approval of key changes to the Tennis Europe constitution, bringing consistency with that of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The assembly also approved an increase in membership fees, the first such rise in over ten years. Tennis Europe's management agreed that this step was much needed after a decade in which tasks and services provided to member nations have grown considerably.

Another change to the membership structure saw the approval of an application from the Netherlands to rise from 'B' to 'A' nation status, effective from January 2012. Netherlands becomes the first nation in 10 years to be promoted to 'A' nation status.

Evaluating the meeting, Mr. Dupré said, "Obviously I am delighted to continue as President and I would like to thank all of the member nations for their support. This has been a particularly satisfying Meeting, as we were able to conclude several of the key tasks that have occupied the Board of Management during this term in office. We now look forward to building on those, and to continuing our steady course of growth and progress during the new mandate. Finally, I would like to thank Rolf Thung and all of his staff at the KNLTB for the excellent organisation of the event, and the warm hospitality that they have shown us. I congratulate the KNLTB on their achievements at reaching 'A'-Nation status, and fully endorse this."

Plans for several new European competitions were presented at the meeting, including a proposed European Indoor Beach Tennis Championship, a closed European Senior Championship event, and the extension of the successful Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD competition to include a 12 & Under category. >>



Photos: (clockwise, from top left) Tennis Europe President Jacques Dupré making a speech at the official dinner, delegates exercising their votes, KNLTB President Rolf Thung welcomes the delegates, Senior Tennis Committee Chairman Philios Christodoulou presents Günther Lang with 6 Player of the Year Awards for German players.

Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting

<< ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti, Executive Vice-President Juan Margets and Executive Director of Tennis Development Dave Miley were among the guest speakers to address the delegates during the two-day meeting. Mr. Ricci Bitti took the opportunity to formally announce his intention to stand for a further four-year term in charge of the sports governing body.

Meanwhile, the new Tennis Europe Board will begin its work immediately. Nominations for committee posts close on Friday 1st April, with an announcement of the composition of the organisations' new committees expected in the coming weeks.

The KNLTB organized a varied social programme during the meeting, which enabled guests to visit the Anne Frank and Hermitage Amsterdam museums, and enjoy a cruise of the city's canals. The official dinner was held at the historic Wintergarden of the NH Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky, and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of the City, Mr. Eric van der Burg.

During the dinner, Tennis Europe Awards, given in

recognition of outstanding contributions to the sport and its administration, were presented to Oqtay Asadov (AZE), Hans-Peter Born (GER), German Benyaminov (UKR), Yaroslav Kalagourskiy (RUS), George Stevenson (IRL), Juan Maria Tintoré Turull (ESP), Harry Westreicher (AUT) and Per Wright (NOR).

As usual, the Meeting was also the setting for the European Tennis Trophy Awards, which were to be presented to France (Overall Performance and Junior Tennis), Russia (Professional Tennis), Germany (Seniors Tennis) and the Netherlands (Wheelchair Tennis). The Tennis Europe Junior Tour 'Players of the Year powered by Polar' and European Senior Players of the Year awards for 2010 were presented to representatives from national tennis associations of the winning players.



Photos: (clockwise, from top left) Junior Committee Chairwoman Ayda Uluç presents FFT General Secretary Daniel Hette with the Nations' Trophy prize, Tennis Europe Award winners make acceptance speeches - Hans-Peter Born (GER), Juan Maria Tintoré Turull (ESP) and Per Wright (NOR).

In the Spotlight: Francesco Ricci Bitti

International Tennis Federation President Francesco Ricci Bitti was in attendance at the Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Amsterdam, where he took the opportunity to update the delegates on the activities of our parent organisation. We caught up with him to find out his views on some contemporary issues facing the sport.

At the Tennis Europe AGM you announced that you would be standing for the role of ITF President again. What are your reasons for this, and what do you still hope to achieve?

Well, I have been President for some time now, and I still enjoy it and am in good shape. But there are three main components to the decision; firstly, I wanted to complete the current Olympic task, especially as it is in London where there are some special circumstances. This is the first time that a tennis administrator has been on the IOC in this capacity and I feel it is important to honour this. Secondly, this is a challenging time for some of our top competitions, and we have to position ourselves very strongly, which I intend to continue to do. Finally, I hope to complete a transformation that the ITF, and its regional associations, have been undergoing over the last ten years or so, to become more service-oriented organisations. In the past we were required to be the governing body of tennis, but in order to defend the sport's integrity, you also have to provide first-class services.

You mentioned the Olympics, which are drawing ever closer. Are you satisfied with the progress?

Yes, in general terms, London is doing a great job despite a lot of pressure arising from the current economic circumstances. With regards to tennis, we have a unique situation this time. Usually the Olympic games are played in specially built new facilities, but this time we have to adapt ourselves to the reality of Wimbledon, which of course is the best possible venue in the tennis world, but doesn't completely fit to the usual Olympic specifications.

Do you anticipate a problem with the courts, coming so soon after Wimbledon?

No, the courts are not a big issue. They have all the knowledge of how best to care for them, and there are processes to ensure that the grass will be in good shape.

What about the post-Games legacy for tennis in London?



Mr. Ricci Bitti during the official dinner at the Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Amsterdam.

They are constructing a new venue especially for the Paralympics. It will not be a huge facility, but will be of an excellent standard, and is in a part of London where there is not much in the way of existing tennis facilities. So this is very good news for tennis in London and also for the Paralympics, because those athletes will be able to have the whole Olympic experience in the centre of everything, whilst the able-bodied players will have to compete at the other side of London.

Do you foresee any eligibility problems for these Olympics?

Unfortunately yes. There are internal and external issues. Internally, there will be players who have not fulfilled their commitments to the Davis Cup or Fed Cup competitions. Externally, there are still some National Olympic Committees that wish to adopt different criteria from the qualifying system proposed by the international federations and approved by the IOC. I feel very strongly that this is something we must continue fighting to respect the rights of the athletes.

Given their current poor health, one major talking point is likely to be the possible ineligibility of the Williams sisters.

Well, I really hope that doesn't happen. Venus and Serena have shown themselves to be great Olympians – possibly the most supportive tennis players at the Olympic games, so if they cannot play it would be very sad indeed. The event would miss them, but we will have to live with that. At least they already have many medals!

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In the Spotlight: Francesco Ricci Bitti

<< How do you feel about the current state of the Davis & Fed Cup competitions?

I think that both events are in exceptionally good health. The Davis Cup has more sponsors than ever, and player participation is excellent, with just a few one or two exceptions. The Fed Cup is also doing well. We've just had a wonderful regional qualifying competition, and many countries are lobbying for an expansion of the home-and-away tie structure in the qualifying events, which again shows a great interest.

What about the much-reported proposals for alternative Davis & Fed Cup formats?

Firstly I think it is important to stress that it is a good thing that there is a lot of debate, because it shows interest in the competition. However, the majority of these proposals are inspired by very clear vested interests. The ITF is always ready to listen to such proposals, but we believe that there are four principles to the competition that must be protected: that the events are held on an annual basis, with home-and-away ties, that national associations nominate the players, and that they are played under the official rules of tennis.

Moving on to anti-doping, it has been a while since we heard of any drug-related scandal in tennis. Is this a testament to the toughness of the testing procedures, or the contrary?

Well, I have never believed that doping is endemic in tennis, and many thousands of tests have produced just a handful of cases. But I think that we are now at a crossroads stage in terms of drug testing. We believe that we have to move more to a qualitative testing regime, instead of, or in addition to, a quantitative one. Intelligent testing is very important. For example, we can focus even more attention on testing for EPO and Human Growth Hormone, tests which are much more expensive and difficult, but increasingly necessary.

We hear more and more about the work of the Tennis integrity Unit. How big a problem are issues like betting and match fixing in tennis?

Honestly, I don't think there is a big problem, but we have to be vigilant. Betting should not be seen as a problem, it can even be beneficial. Betting and sport are inextricably linked - I read that people were betting at the first Olympic Games 2000 years ago. What has changed in recent years is the internet, which gives the possibility to bet on everything, not

just winner and loser, but who will win the set, the tie break or the next point. It's our job to take care of issues like match fixing, which gives rise to irregular and illegal betting. The Tennis Integrity Code is considered to be one of the best, and the IOC has recommended that all sports adopt something similar. We are one of the few sports who can currently sanction a player that fails to report an approach. People don't necessarily know, but we have done a lot already to improve these situations, such as greater controls of accreditation and access to player lounges at Grand Slams and so on.

Can betting also create some opportunities to benefit the sport?

What the IOC is doing - and I am part of the working group - is to investigate what we can do to improve the cooperation between the three big players, sport organisations, government and betting companies. The goal is to create a cycle that ensures that a small percentage of the money comes back to the sport, similar to the way that lottery revenues are often redistributed. The French already have an excellent and modern law which I believe is a model for other countries, whereby the authorised betting operator has to devolve money to the government, a part of which goes to grassroots sports, and part to the owner of the rights. This is an innovative principle and we would like to see this expanded at least to a European level.

A big item on the ITF agenda for next year is the rule change affecting 10 & Under tennis. Are all federations on board with this, and how do you coordinate such an ambitious change?

In terms of the starting time, we are very happy. But a general challenge with development projects is coordination. Different nations have different resources, varying levels of commitment and different priorities. Over 200 nations cannot always be expected to implement everything at the same time. The follow-up is critical, as is a clear communication. But we are very happy that the big federations are right behind us, and it is an exciting project, which I am sure will have great consequences for the sport.

ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Development Championships

The ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Development Championships were held in Antalya, Turkey from 16th – 27th March, where it was hosted by the Turkish Tennis Federation. This special Tennis Europe Junior Tour event takes the form of two consecutive Category 2 tournaments with consolation draws to ensure maximum playing opportunities, and is devised to offer a chance for players from some of Tennis Europe's less developed member nations to travel and train together, with the possibility of later selection for the 14 & Under Touring Teams in the summer.

A two-day training camp prior to the start of the Championships provided the players with the opportunity to adjust to the clay court conditions. A total of 17 countries were represented in the final draws, and the boys' event featured 12 Top 100 players, led by top seed Kenneth Raisma of Estonia. Raisma would prove to be the star of both events, by winning all of his matches in straight sets. In the final of the 1st tournament he beat Arturs Lazdins from Latvia 7-5 6-0 and in the second final he triumphed against compatriot Robin Klettenberg 6-4 7-6. Ranked #10 prior to the events, Raisma is expected to leap into the Top 5 for the first time next week when the rankings are updated.

Both doubles events featured marathon final matches. The first event saw Raisma and Klettenberg edged out by Aliaksandr Halinko and Aleksei Khomich of Belarus, who won 1-6 6-3 (11-9). The second final was even closer, as home hopes Efehan Bulbul and Berk Iliescu scored a welcome win for Turkey over their compatriot Sarp Agabigun and his Cypriot partner Andreas Aravis.

The girls' events saw 10 Top 100 players in action, with top seed Irina Shymanovich of Belarus living up to her billing as the only Top Ten player by recording victories in both events. In the final of the first tournament she beat Bulgaria's Dessislava Zlateva 6-0 6-3, but was pushed harder to win the second title, overcoming a tough first set challenge from Anastasia Fedoryshyn of Ukraine to win 7-6 6-3.

Shymanovich also took the doubles title in Week 1 teaming with compatriot Vera Sakalousskaya to beat Fedoryshyn and Kateryna Sliuisar. The Ukrainians bounced back for a victory in the second event, losing just four games against Zlateva and Vivian Zlatanova.

ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic commented, "Thanks to the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme, the Development Championships have once again helped a number of our smaller nations to come together and provide high quality tournament play for groups of their most talented youngsters. The facilities here in Antalya were first class, and with ten matches over ten days, all players and coaches were able to make the most of the opportunity to work on their games and gain international experience."

A number of today's top professionals, including Victoria Azarenka and Marcos Baghdatis have benefitted from playing the event in the past.

Full draws and results from both weeks of the competition can be found at the Tennis Europe website.



The opening ceremony in Antalya

ITF/Tennis Europe 18 & Under Team in South America

This year's ITF/Tennis Europe 18 & Under Team recently took part in a 6-week tour in five countries in South America. The tour began on 3rd February with a training camp that was held in Bolivia's Club de Tenis La Paz where the team of two girls; Irina Maria Bara (ROU) and Viktoriya Lushkova (UKR) and three boys, Lukas Mugevicius (LTU), Stefan Vinti (ROU) Durukan Durmus (TUR) practised together for five days. The training camp gave the opportunity for the players and their coach, Goran Shevchenko (MKD), to get to know each other before commencing a tour of five high level ITF Tournaments in South America.

The tour started with the Grade 2 Condor de Plata Tournament that was held in La Paz, Bolivia. Here the players faced some very unique and testing conditions, with the event played at an altitude of 3,600 meters. Viktoriya Lushkova began her tour by reaching the semi-finals of the girl's singles event, while Stefan Vinti, Durukan Durmus and Irina Maria Bara all reached the third round.

For the second event, the Team moved on to Chile for the Grade 2 Copa Milo tournament. Lushkova again led the way by reaching the quarterfinals, where she lost an extremely close match to Victoria Rodriguez from Mexico in 4-6 7-5 6-7(5). Irina Maria Bara and Stefan Vinti again reached the third round.

The third tournament of the series was the Grade 2 Argentina Cup, held in Mar del Plata, where promis-

ing Bulgarian Viktoriya Tomova joined the team. The former European Junior Champion made a great start to her Tour, reaching the quarterfinals, while Vinti and Bara also made the third round once again.

The penultimate event was a Grade 2 Tournament in Uruguay, and this was most successful for the ITF/Tennis Europe Team. Tomova reached the final in singles event and lost 6-4 4-6 6-2 to the in-form Montserrat Gonzalez of Paraguay, who began a 10-match win-streak, also scooping the next week's title. Irina Bara scored her best result by reaching the semi-finals of the singles event while Lushkova and Vinti made the quarterfinals finals in singles, with Vinti also reaching the doubles semis.

The final event in Paraguay saw Stefan Vinti record his best result in singles by reaching the quarterfinal while Tomova won the doubles tournament, partnering Daria Salnikova (RUS) to victory over Japanese team in a very up and down match, eventually triumphing 6-3 4-6 (10-6).

The team's coach Goran Shevchenko was delighted with the players' success, commenting, "This year we had a strong Team and they made some very good results on the Tour. All of the team members showed a good fighting spirit and took good advantage of the opportunity to play and practice every day with high level players, and also created friendships with players from around the world."



The team on court, with coach Goran Shevchenko (left)

Focus on the Netherlands



KNLTB

At the Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Amsterdam recently, the membership status of the Royal Netherlands Lawn Tennis Association (KNLTB) was raised from 'B' to 'A', affording the country of 16.5 million inhabitants the same recognition and rights as tennis giants France, Spain, Germany, Russia, Italy, Czech Republic, Sweden and Great Britain.

As national tennis federations go, the KNLTB is one of the best organised in Europe in terms of the provision of services to players. Of an estimated 1.1 million players to participate on more than 10 occasions per year (itself one of the highest rates in Europe), a full 700,000 play at KNLTB-affiliated clubs, making them also members of the KNLTB itself. This membership affords a number of special privileges: the membership card gives players discounts and special offers from sponsors and even allows users to book courts at certain clubs online from home.

The KNLTB has also developed an innovative ranking system that caters for nine categories of player. The DSS ('Dynamic Skill System') as it is known, enables players to track their progress on a day-to-day basis. Every subsequent league or tournament match result is reflected in the actual rating – if you beat someone with a higher rating you will rise up immediately on the rating, and if you lose to someone with a lower rating, you could fall. Each year, over 1.25 million match results go into this DSS system.

This club structure is what drives a strong tennis culture in the Netherlands, with over 50,000 people estimated to work as volunteers within the over 1,700 clubs across the country. A strong social aspect also influences the many types of events open to players in the Netherlands. One competition unique to the Netherlands is a mixed gender interclub team competition affording men and women the chance to play alongside each other for their club. A total of over 40,000 teams participate in this tournament, which has different types of competition for every day of the week. For example, many housewives play on Tuesdays and seniors on Fridays.

Disabled athletes in Netherlands are also well catered for, and the nations dominance of Wheelchair Tennis – as evidenced by their 11th consecutive Wheelchair Tennis Trophy, presented by Tennis Europe last week – is no accident. The association provides



Left to right: KNLTB's Vice-President Cees Varossieau, President Rolf Thung and Chief Executive Officer Evert-Jan Hulshof

financial support for training, tournaments and promotional events and supports a calendar of between 15 and 20 domestic wheelchair tennis events each year.

In terms of performance tennis, the Netherlands has enjoyed a boom period over the past 20 years, with six different men reaching the ATP Top 20, including 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek and 2003 Roland Garros runner-up Martin Verkerk. Given the social nature of tennis in the Netherlands, it is no surprise that team event have seen many of the countries' best performances, with three players – Paul Haarhuis, Jacco Eltingh and Manon Bollegraf reaching the doubles world #1 spot. Netherlands featured in the Davis Cup World Group for 15 consecutive years from 1992, also reaching the semi finals against France in 2001, and finished as runners-up at the Fed Cup in 1997. Bollegraf is in fact the present Fed Cup team captain, while former Top 20 star Jan Siemerink is the Davis Cup captain.

KNLTB Chief Executive Officer Evert-Jan Hulshof remarked, "The attaining of A-nation status is a special recognition and we are proud to be joining a very select group of major tennis countries. The appointment of Karin van Bijsterveld on the Board of Tennis Europe is another important step for us, and also for the Dutch Olympic ambition to acquire more international managerial positions."

European Beach Tennis Championships

Tennis Europe and the Bulgarian Tennis Federation have announced that the fourth edition of the European Beach Tennis Championships will be held in the Black Sea coastal resort of Albena (Varna), from September 16th – 18th, 2011.

The European Championships is a closed event at which teams from Tennis Europe's 49 member nations compete for men's, women's and mixed doubles titles.

Italian teams have dominated the event since its inception in 2007. The nation has accounted for all silverware so far, reflecting its dominance of the world Beach Tennis rankings. Last year's event in Antalya, Turkey, was attended by 100 players from 17 countries, and saw the world's top four players contest both men's and women's finals.

The official circular and entry forms will be sent to European national federations in early April.



Eve Malmquist

Tennis Europe is deeply saddened to report the death of Eve Malmquist, who passed away this week at the age of 95.

Mr. Malmquist had a long and active life in tennis administration in his native Sweden, both as an event organiser and in several leading roles at the

Swedish Tennis Federation. He was one of the founding members of the European Tennis Association, as Tennis Europe was then known, also serving on the first ever Board of Management in the late 1970s.

Last year, Mr. Malmquist was elected to the Swedish Tennis Hall of Fame.

2010 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Ball Offer Competition Winners



In 2010, Tennis Europe and HEAD brought a special ball offer to organisers of tournaments on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour.

All tournaments that used the official HEAD balls were entered into a prize draw, and the winners have now been announced.

First prize goes to Riccardo Margaroli, organiser of the Schröders Private Banking Cup, a Category 3 16 & Under event in Taverne, Switzerland, who wins two tickets for the Centre Court on the first day of play at Roland Garros 2011.

Second prize was a HEAD tennis racquet, and goes to Dusan Milojkovic, tournament director of the 16

& Under Raiffeisen Cup, a Category 2 event in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Third prize is awarded to Csaba Gödry, organiser of the 12 & Under IDOM Cup in Budapest, Hungary. He will receive a HEAD TIP mini tennis set.

Tennis Europe and HEAD would like to thank all of the tournament organisers that took advantage of the ball offer in 2010, and remind you that a similar offer exists for the current season.

The winner of Tennis Europe's Tournament Director competition for 2010 will be announced in the next issue of Tennis Europe News.

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Beyond the Baseline...

The ITF has announced the venues for the 2011 **Fed Cup by BNP Paribas** World Group and World Group II play-offs to be played on 16-17 April alongside the World Group semifinals:

Germany v USA at Porsche Arena, Stuttgart (Clay, indoors), Spain v France at Club de Tennis Lleida, (Clay, outdoors), Slovak Republic v Serbia at Sibamac Arena, Bratislava (Clay, indoors), Australia v Ukraine at Glen Iris Valley Recreation Club, Melbourne (Clay, outdoors). World Group II play-offs: Belarus v Estonia at Palace of Sport, Minsk (Hard indoors), Japan v Argentina at Ariake Coliseum, Tokyo (Hard indoors - tie postponed due to the Japanese earthquake), Slovenia v Canada at Koper (Clay, outdoors) and Switzerland v Sweden at TC Lido Lugano, Lugano (Clay outdoors).

The ITF has extended the use of the 'Hawk-Eye' electronic line call review system in official team competitions to include the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas semi finals and Davis Cup by BNP Paribas quarterfinals.

The **Davis Cup** 'dead rubber' policy has also been revised. If a tie is decided after the fourth rubber (one nation has a winning 3-1 lead after the first match on Sunday) and the fourth rubber lasts at least four sets, the fifth rubber will not be played unless both teams agree otherwise. This previously only applied to the final.

The **Swedish Tennis Association** has announced that its forthcoming Davis Cup by BNP Paribas tie with defending champions Serbia will be held on indoor hard courts in Halmstad.

Injury watch: **Carla Suarez** will miss the clay court season for the second consecutive year after ongoing surgery on her right elbow. **David Nalbándian** is expected to be out for up to two months following surgery for a hernia and torn abductor.

Coaching carousel: **Andy Murray** and Alex Corretja have ended their part-time collaboration, with Murray now working exclusively with long-term team member Dani Vallverdu. **Dinara Safina** has begun working with former Italian pro Davide Sanguinetti.

A host of tennis stars raised over \$300,000 to aid the Japanese relief effort at a gala evening at the **Sony Ericsson Open** in Miami.

Roger Federer overtook Pete Sampras in career wins during the Miami event, recording his 762nd match victory on the ATP Tour. **Kim Clijsters** recorded her 500th career match victory at the same event.

Sweden's **Joachim Johansson** has re-retired, saying he lacks the motivation to get back to the top of the game.

John McEnroe and **Bjorn Borg** have both confirmed their intention to play the ATP Champions Tour event in Knokke-Heist, Belgium in August.

Ivo Karlovic broke the world service speed record recently with a 251 kph (156 mph) serve at the Davis Cup tie between Croatia and Germany.

A day after contesting the final in Indian Wells, **Rafael Nadal** and **Novak Djokovic** flew to Bogotá, Colombia, for an exhibition match. Nadal quickly turned the tables, scoring a 7-6 6-3 win in front of 15,000 fans.

The British press has reported the UK Prime Minister David Cameron has challenged his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy to a tennis match.

The ITF has announced that USA will host next year's **ITF Seniors World Championships** while Croatia will host the Super-Seniors World Championships in 2012.

The Super-Seniors World Team Championships, set to be held in Turkey in October, will see a new prize on offer. The **Doris Hart Cup** is being introduced for women aged 80 & Over.

Roger Federer is running a competition on his Facebook page in which fans can win the chance to collaborate in a new commercial for Mercedes-Benz.

Mark Philippoussis beat **Tim Henman** 6-3 7-6(3) to win the ATP Champions Tour event in Zurich earlier this month to extend his lead at the top of the Champions Tour rankings to a massive 500 points.

Martina Hingis has confirmed her intention to play the legends doubles event at Roland Garros with **Lindsay Davenport**, and has also signed up for the pre-Wimbledon Liverpool International exhibition, where she will face **Martina Navratilova**. **Richard Krajicek** and **Greg Rusedski** are also expected to face off on the Liverpool grass.



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Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – Overall

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

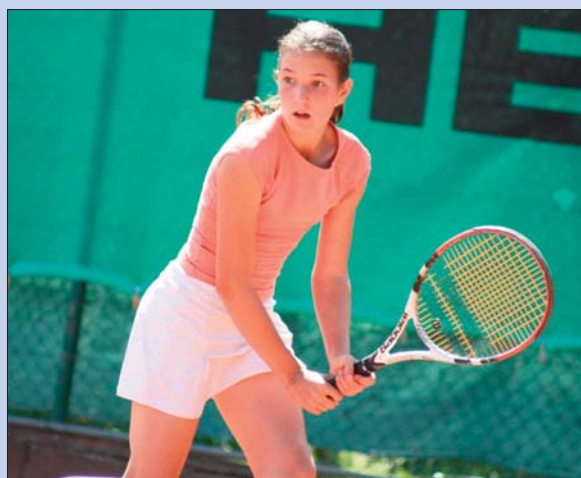
A player's overall total includes points from Tennis Europe Junior Tour 16 and 14 & Under events, plus points earned by players in these age categories who participate in ITF Junior Circuit and professio-

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

The 14 & Under ranking is still available separately (see next page), as well as being integrated to these overall rankings. In addition, a 'Race to the Junior Masters' is also published. For more information on the rankings system, including a full explanation of the new ranking system, visit www.TennisEurope.org. Rankings below are as of March 29th, 2011.

Overall Girls' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	►	Yulia PUTINTSEVA	RUS	1817
02	▲	Irina Maria BARA	ROU	1692
03	▼	Irina KHROMACHEVA	RUS	1661
04	NEW	Ilka CSOREGI	ROU	1355
05	►	Miho KOWASE	JPN	1248
06	►	Ksenija SHARIFOVA	RUS	1223
07	▲	Anastasiya ZABLOTSKAYA	BLR	1195
08	NEW	Ulyana AYZATULINA	RUS	1183
09	▼	Victoria KAN	RUS	1170
10	▼	Cristina ENE	ROU	1160



Ilka Csoregi (ROU)

Overall Boys' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▲	Gianluigi QUINZI	ITA	1478
02	▼	Maximilian MARTERER	GER	1305
03	▲	Or RAM-HAREL	ISR	1188
04	▼	Kyle EDMUND	GBR	1150
05	▼	Frederico SILVA	POR	1130
06	►	Laslo DJERE	SRB	1095
07	▲	Yuriy KRYVOY	UKR	1068
08	▼	Nikola MILOJEVIC	SRB	1060
09	NEW	Brian PANTA	PER	1058
10	NEW	Phillip GRESK	POL	893



Phillip Gresk (POL)



Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – 14 & Under

March has been a fairly quiet month on the 14 & Under circuit, with just one change to Europe's Top Ten girls in recent weeks. Ivana Jorovic enters the list at #10 thanks to her victory at the 16 & Under Trencianske Teplice event. The win marks her second Tennis Europe Junior Tour title, having also triumphed in Kufstein last summer.

There is also only one new entry to the boys' Top Ten. Canada's David Volfson has had a productive

few weeks on Tour, culminating in the title at the Category 2 event in Kosice, where he upset top seed Michal Dembek to win his third Tour title.

Expect to see more changes soon as the Tour springs into life in April with no fewer than fifteen 14 & Under tournaments on offer. Full ranking lists can be found at www.TennisEurope.org.

Rankings below are as March 29th, 2011.

14 & Under Girls

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Belinda BENCIC	SUI	805
02	▶	Anastasiya RYCHAGOVARUS		740
03	▶	Anastasiya KOMARDINARUS		735
04	▶	Jelena OSTAPENKO	LAT	700
05	▶	Veronika KUDERMETOVARUS		670
06	▶	Helen PLOSKINA	UKR	650
07	▶	Iryna SHYMANOVIC	BLR	615
08	▶	Vendula ZOVINCOVA	CZE	610
09	▶	Ana KONJUH	CRO	600
10	NEW	Ivana JOROVIC	SRB	565



Ivana Jorovic (SRB)

14 & Under Boys

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Andrey RUBLEV	RUS	530
02	▲	Bogdan BORZA	ROU	475
03	▲	Roman SAFIULLIN	RUS	470
04	▲	Michal DEMBEK	POL	465
05	▼	Alexander ZVEREV	GER	460
06	▶	Domagoj BILJESKO	CRO	435
06	▼	Dominik STARY	CZE	435
08	▲	Bogdan BOBROV	RUS	430
09	▼	Sergiu BUCUR	ROU	360
10	NEW	David VOLFSON	CAN	355



Andrey Rublev (RUS)



Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

12 & Under

Date	Tournament	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Mar 7	Auray (FRA)	A Dubrivnyy (RUS)	V Krustev (CAN)	62 62	Auger Aliassime/Galarneau (CAN)
		A Mikheeva (GBR)	A Slovakova (CZE)	62 75	Ureke/Zhuk (RUS)
Mar 21	Sergiev Posad (RUS)	A Dubrivnyy (RUS)	N Vylegzhanin (RUS)	61 61	Chelmodeev/Dubrivnyy (RUS)
		S Zhuk (RUS)	P Golubovskaya (RUS)	63 63	Golubovskaya/Kazionova (RUS)

14 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Feb 28	Stockholm (SWE)	3 C Soderlund (SWE)	K Raisma (EST)	64 60	Akerlund/Soderlund (SWE)
		J Asghar (GBR)	S Ferding (SWE)	63 60	Ponomar (GER)/Sviripa (UKR)
Mar 7	St. Genevieve (FRA)	1 A Rublev (RUS)	T Van Rijthoven (NED)	76(7) 63	Borza/Frunza (ROU)
		V Grammatikopoulou (GRE)	A Konjuh (CRO)	64 63	Kolodziejova/Zovincova (CZE)
Mar 7	Helsinki (FIN)	3 F Fallert (GER)	J Akerlund (SWE)	75 64	Fallert/Werner (GER)
		G Taylor (GBR)	V Kulesh (RUS)	63 75	Lysakova/Vornova (RUS)
Mar 14	Minsk (BLR)	2 R Safiullin (RUS)	N Khrustalev (RUS)	64 63	Khrustalev/Safiullin (RUS)
		A Kalinina (UKR)	A Nefedova (RUS)	63 61	Bizhukova/Nefedova (RUS)
Mar 14	Kosice (SVK)	2 D Volfson (CAN)	M Dembek (POL)	75 63	Taylor (GBR)/Volfson (CAN)
		H Ploskina (UKR)	K Schmiedlova (SVK)	60 36 61	Galfi/Stolmar (HUN)
Mar 14	Oulu (FIN)	3 D Little (GBR)	L Daels (BEL)	60 63	Niklas Salminen/Vasa (FIN)
		A Pospelova (RUS)	A Vostrikova (RUS)	63 63	Gumienny (BEL)/Vostrikova (RUS)
Mar 21	Dev. Champs 1 (TUR)	2 K Raisma (EST)	A Lazdins (LAT)	75 60	Halinko/Khornich (BLR)
		I Shymanovic (BLR)	D Zlateva (BUL)	60 63	Sakaloukaya/Shymanovich (BLR)
Mar 21	Minsk (BLR)	2 R Safiullin (RUS)	B Bobrov (RUS)	46 75 63	Andruxhou (BLR)/Bobrov (RUS)
		A Nefedova (RUS)	F Bizhukova (RUS)	63 63	Bizhukova/Nefedova (RUS)
Mar 28	Dev. Champs 2 (TUR)	2 K Raisma (EST)	C Klettenberg (EST)	76(2) 60	Bulbul/Iliescu (TUR)
		I Shymanovic (BLR)	A Fedoryshyn (UKR)	76(3) 63	Fedoryshyn/Sliusar (UKR)

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Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

16 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Feb 28	Tallinn (EST)	3 M Bugailiskis (LTU)	P Ciorcila (ROU)	62 76(7)	Stefanini/Turco (ITA)
		E Hendsel (EST)	T Vorobjova (EST)	61 61	Cepelyte/Parazinskaite (LTU)
Mar 7	Chambon s. Lignon (FRA)2	T Brechmier (FRA)	H Perrin (FRA)	62 63	Halys/Lakat (FRA)
		A Michaud (FRA)	B Guyot (FRA)	26 62 64	Gutierrez (ESP)/Kazanova (RUS)
Mar 7	Milovice (CZE)	2 M Maruscak (SVK)	M Voglgruber (AUT)	62 63	Staubert/Vondrasek (CZE)
		I Rosca (ROU)	M Stanikova (SVK)	64 63	Golovnyova (BLR)/Karczewska (POL)
Mar 7	Ashkelon (ISR)	2 P Chrysochos (CYP)	A Elia (ISR)	36 61 75	Kaufman/Mazor (ISR)
		A Zablotskaya (BLR)	A Shestakova (UKR)	63 63	Dascalu (ROU)/Ivanichenko (UKR)
Mar 7	Nastola (FIN)	3 A Spirin (RUS)	I Avdeev (RUS)	76(2) 61	Kurbatov/Spirin (RUS)
		M Tkachuk (RUS)	A Pribylova (RUS)	61 64	Pribylova/Pribylova (RUS)
Mar 7	Taverne (SUI)	3 F Baldi (ITA)	S Roncalli (ITA)	46 63 63	Baldi/Carli (ITA)
		S Ottomano (SUI)	D Spielmann (SUI)	61 3-3 ret	Stadler/Grimm (SUI)
Mar 14	Ashkelon (ISR)	2 O Ram-Harel (ISR)	T Goldengoren (ISR)	62 62	Chrysochos/loannides (CYP)
		A Zablotskaya (BLR)	N Dascalu (ROU)	75 64	Lodikova/Yakovleva (RUS)
Mar 14	Oulu (FIN)	3 A Spirin (RUS)	P Virtanen (FIN)	64 60	Spirin/Vasilyev (RUS)
		I Karamalak (RUS)	A Lysakova (RUS)	60 60	Lomanova/Voronova (RUS)
Mar 21	T. Teplice (SVK)	3 D Pilcher (AUT)	I Starke (SVK)	75 64	Selecky/Starke (SVK)
		I Jorovic (SRB)	D Jonas (HUN)	63 36 64	Ilavska/Jurakova (SVK)

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ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Feb 28	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	R Albot (MDA)	R Roelofse (RSA)	75 64	Jebavy (CZE)/Sikora (SVK)
Feb 28	Cherkasy (UKR)	\$10,000	A Smirnov (UKR)	A Rumyantsev (RUS)	63 64	Konecny/Schmid (CZE)
Feb 28	Faro (POR)	\$10,000	K Capkovic (SVK)	P Sousa (POR)	64 36 62	Diez (CAN)/Vicente (ESP)
Mar 7	Lille (FRA)	\$15,000	M Gicquel (FRA)	J Eysseric (FRA)	63 62	De Schepper/Penaud (FRA)
Mar 7	Tipton (GBR)	\$15,000	Y Mertens (BEL)	D Evans (GBR)	62 76(6)	Eaton/Goodall (GBR)
Mar 7	Trento (ITA)	\$15,000	S Galvani (ITA)	G Burquier (FRA)	64 36 63	Pavlovs (LAT)/Trusendi (ITA)
Mar 7	Loulé (POR)	\$10,000	G Granollers (ESP)	K Capkovic (SVK)	63 63	Moneke/Sieber (GER)
Mar 7	Sabadell (ESP)	\$10,000	E Donskoy (RUS)	S Vagnozzi (ITA)	75 75	Giorgini/Vagnozzi (ITA)
Mar 7	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	A Mlendea (ROU)	A Giannessi (ITA)	63 63	Albot (MDA)/Molchanov (UKR)
Mar 7	Cherkasy (UKR)	\$10,000	D Matsukevitch (RUS)	A Smirnov (UKR)	76(3) 46 63	Poplavskyy/Smirnov (UKR)
Mar 14	Poitiers (FRA)	\$15,000+H	M Gicquel (FRA)	K De Schepper (FRA)	76(4) 76(5)	Jouan/Martin (FRA)
Mar 14	Bath (GBR)	\$15,000	M Ryderstedt (SWE)	D Evans (GBR)	16 76(6) 63	Eaton/Goodall (GBR)
Mar 14	Cividino (ITA)	\$10,000	D Lajovic (SRB)	A Stoppini (ITA)	36 64 63	Fioravante (ITA)/Rodriguez (COL)
Mar 14	Albufeira (POR)	\$10,000	G Granollers (ESP)	A Chadaj (POL)	76(3) 46 75	Boje (ESP)/Phillips (GBR)
Mar 14	Moscow (RUS)	\$15,000+H	D Matsukevitch (RUS)	S Betau (BLR)	75 62	Juska/Pavlovs (LAT)
Mar 14	Badalona (ESP)	\$10,000	D Estruch (ESP)	P Clar Rossello (ESP)	64 67(5) 64	Lopez Jaen/Trujillo (ESP)
Mar 14	Fallanden (SUI)	\$10,000	H Fischer (GER)	S Ehrat (ISR)	76(7) 62	Langer (GER)/Rath (AUT)
Mar 14	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	D Koellerer (AUT)	A Gonzalez (COL)	61 60	Androic/Marcan (CRO)
Mar 14	Cherkasy (UKR)	\$10,000	A Smirnov (UKR)	K Lejnieks (LAT)	76(5) 67(2) 76(4)	Jarc/Kocevar-Desman (SLO)
Mar 21	Porec (CRO)	\$10,000	K Mesaros (CRO)	D Bloemke (GER)	64 62	Moneke/Sieber (GER)
Mar 21	Foggia (ITA)	\$15,000+H	D Lajovic (SRB)	W Trusendi (ITA)	62 67(7) 62	Gutierrez/Mazon (ESP)
Mar 21	Tyumen (RUS)	\$15,000	V Rudnev (RUS)	M Ledovskikh (RUS)	57 62 64	Rumyantsev (RUS)/Vasilevski (BLR)
Mar 21	Barcelona (ESP)	\$10,000	J Struff (GER)	P Clar Rossello (ESP)	64 63	Lopez Jaen/Trujillo (ESP)
Mar 21	Vaduz (SUI)	\$10,000	J Ager (AUT)	F Martin (FRA)	36 63 76(5)	Cluskey (IRL)/Martin (FRA)
Mar 21	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	M Zekic (SRB)	P Brydolf (SWE)	64 63	Androic/Marcan (CRO)

Updated seven days a week, all the latest draws, results, schedules, tournament fact sheets and entry lists for ITF Men's and Women's Circuit events in Europe can be found on the European Tennis Calendar at www.TennisEurope.org.

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



ITF Women's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Feb 28	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	C Dinu (ROU)	D Enache (ROU)	62 63	Liang/Tian (CHN)
Feb 28	Lyon (FRA)	\$10,000	A Remondina (ITA)	C Feuerstein (FRA)	76(6) 63	Abramovic (CRO)/Kvatsabaia (GEO)
Mar 7	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	B Schoofs (NED)	D Harmsen (NED)	60 46 63	Harmsen/Schoofs (NED)
Mar 7	Dijon (FRA)	\$10,000	A Van Uytvanck (BEL)	C Feuerstein (FRA)	62 63	Borecka/Krejsova (CZE)
Mar 7	Madrid (ESP)	\$10,000	L Arruabarreno (ESP)	L Costas (ESP)	64 62	Clerico (ITA)/Costas (ESP)
Mar 14	Amiens (FRA)	\$10,000	N Burnett (ITA)	P Kania (POL)	26 61 64	Kania/Sobaszkievicz (POL)
Mar 14	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	C Dinu (ROU)	R Jani (HUN)	63 64	Ozgen (TUR)/Zaniewska (POL)
Mar 14	Bath (GBR)	\$10,000	M Sirotkina (RUS)	G Gatto Monticone (ITA)	w/o	Gatto Monticone/Grymalska (ITA)
Mar 14	Fallanden (SUI)	\$10,000	M Casanova (SUI)	D Marcinkeva (LAT)	63 64	Knoll/Sadikovic (SUI)
Mar 14	Madrid (ESP)	\$10,000	J Mayr (ITA)	G Sussarello (ITA)	36 62 62	Mayr/Mayr (ITA)
Mar 21	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	R Jani (HUN)	G Muguruza Blanco (ESP)	62 61	Kremen (BLR)/Schuurs (NED)
Mar 21	Gonesse (FRA)	\$10,000	A Schaefer (GER)	A Grymalska (ITA)	75 61	Barbieri/Grymalska (ITA)
Mar 21	Madrid (ESP)	\$10,000	E Cabeza Candela (ESP)	L Andrei (ROU)	63 62	Cervera (ESP)/Davato (ITA)
Mar 21	Bath (GBR)	\$25,000	S Voegele (SUI)	M Domachowska (POL)	67(3) 75 62	Babos (HUN)/Kremer (LUX)
Mar 21	Moscow (RUS)	\$25,000	L Kichenok (UKR)	D Gavrilova (RUS)	62 60	Kichenok/Kichenok (UKR)

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European Tennis Rankings – Men & Women

There are no new entries to the Top 10 European men this month, though Novak Djokovic's flying start to 2011 sees him leapfrog Roger Federer into second position. The Serb has won all 21 of his matches this year at the time of publication, adding the Indian Wells Masters 1000 title to his second Grand Slam title in Australia and the Dubai title in February.

Depending on the performance of Mardy Fish in miami this week, there is a strong possibility that the world's Top Ten players will all be European next week for just the second time in history.

The women's list sees re-entries from two resurgent players. Marion Bartoli's run to the final in Indian Wells saw her shoot back up to seventh, while Maria Sharapova's improved form of late sees the Russian re-enter the Top Ten after an absence of seven months.

Caroline Wozniacki's early defeat in Miami opens the door for Kim Clijsters to regain the top spot during the coming clay court season, though neither players have significant points to defend during the next few months.
Rankings as of March 28th, 2011.

European Women

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Caroline WOZNIACKI	DEN	9850
02	▶	Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	8895
03	▶	Vera ZVONAREVA	RUS	7505
04	▶	Francesca SCHIAVONE	ITA	5111
05	▶	Jelena JANKOVIC	SRB	4045
06	▶	Victoria AZARENKA	BLR	3610
07	NEW	Marion BARTOLI	FRA	3235
08	▶	Shahar PEER	ISR	3105
09	NEW	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	3026
10	▼	Agnieska RADWANSKA	POL	2860

European Men

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Rafael NADAL	ESP	12630
02	▲	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	8710
03	▼	Roger FEDERER	SUI	8280
04	▶	Robin SÖDERLING	SWE	5735
05	▶	Andy MURRAY	GBR	5545
06	▶	David FERRER	ESP	4510
07	▶	Tomas BERDYCH	CZE	4320
08	▶	Fernando VERDASCO	ESP	3095
09	▶	Jurgen MELZER	AUT	2695
10	▶	Gael MONFILS	FRA	2600



Marion Bartoli (FRA)



Novak Djokovic (SRB)



Maria Sharapova (RUS)

Notes and news from Tennis Europe

News from National Associations

The Macedonian Tennis Federation has announced that Mr. Zarko Lukovski has been elected President for the period 2011-2015.

Tennis Europe Conferences

Tennis Europe can confirm the dates and venues of the remaining 2011 conferences:

Tennis Europe Coaches' Education Conference - 1-2 October, Vilamoura (POR)

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference - 11-13 October, La Manga Club (ESP)

Tennis Europe Top Executives' Meeting - 25-27 October, Vienna (AUT).

More information about each event will be sent to national federations and relevant parties closer to the time.

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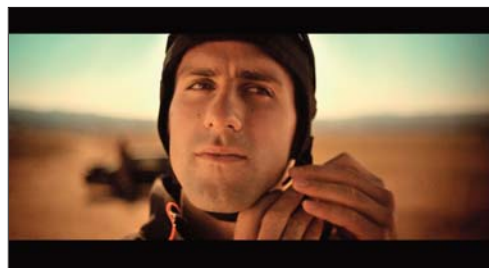
Novak Djokovic goes airborne with Ultimate SPEED

Currently in the form of his life, having racked up three consecutive titles and gone undefeated so far in 2011, Novak Djokovic set the tennis world talking even more with his latest stunt for www.facebook.com/headtennis, during which the world #2 played tennis strapped to the wings of a flying Antonov biplane!

The story began when a HEAD Facebook fan posted a vintage black and white picture of two men playing tennis on the wings of a bi-plane and asked "Has anybody ever tried this?" HEAD took up the dialogue with its facebook community and promised to try the experiment with one of its tennis pros, with Djokovic quick to agree to do it: "I asked myself: 'Is this really possible? Playing tennis on the wings of an air-plane?' And I decided to accept the challenge", he said.

HEAD published a series of videos following Djokovic as he prepared to take to the sky, all of which can be viewed on the Facebook page or at www.youtube.com/headtennis. The final short film brings to life the concept of 'Ultimate Speed' with some dramatic scenes.

Never one to shy from the spotlight, Djokovic has since taken to the court in Miami dressed in his aviator gear (pictured below).

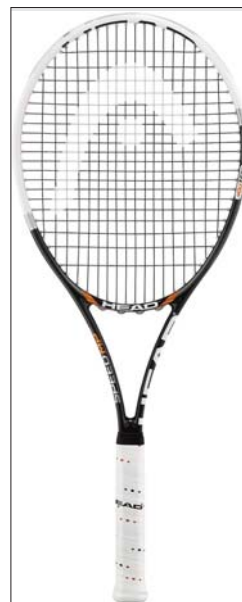


Novak's weapon of choice

The second generation of Speed racquets, designed in collaboration with Djokovic and used on tour by the world #2 are available now.

Engineered to provide a speed boost for players with an aggressive game, the racquet is available in six different models designed to cater for all abilities.

Click [here](#) to visit the HEAD website for more information on the Speed range.



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