

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year



Anastasia Rychagova and Andrey Rublev (RUS) both won in Paris in July on their way to becoming Players of the Year.

The Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar for 2011 have been revealed. The accolade goes to the top three players aged 14 and 16 & Under at the end of the season, with the #1 receiving a computerised Polar training wrist watch. Turn to Page 8 for more information.

Tennis Europe & HEAD strengthen partnership

Tennis Europe has announced a renewal of its comprehensive partnership with leading tennis equipment manufacturer HEAD, due to last until the end of 2013.

HEAD will continue to be recognised as the Official Racquet, Tennis Ball and Tennis Bag partner of the European Tennis Federation and will once again place a strong focus on junior activities.

HEAD balls will continue to be promoted as the Recommended Ball of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, which consists of over 300 international events for players aged 12, 14 and 16 & Under in 46 countries. Finally, HEAD will retain its presence as an Official Partner of the Tour's most prestigious competitions, the European Junior Championships and Tennis Europe Junior Masters.

HEAD will also extend its tenure as presenting sponsor of the sport's largest indoor team competition, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups, which will expand >>

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Spain reclaims Davis Cup title

Spain has won the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas title for the fifth time in eleven years. Two singles wins for Rafael Nadal and one for David Ferrer were enough to clinch the tie, a repeat of the 2008 final against Argentina, staged in Seville's Olympic Stadium.

For the full story, turn to Page 3.



Tennis Europe & HEAD strengthen partnership

<< to include a 12 & Under category for the first time in 2012. The move follows the success of the pioneering European 12 & Under team event, the Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD, which the company will also continue to present.

Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää commented, "We are naturally delighted to renew the agreement between Tennis Europe and HEAD once again. Our organisations have been working in synergy since 2007, and continue to grow closer as further events are brought into the partnership portfolio. I'd like to thank HEAD for their continued commitment, which has been especially beneficial for the flagship events of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, and look forward to two more successful years together."

Ottmar Barbian, Director of Sales & Marketing HEAD Racquet Sports, underlined the importance of the partnership for the brand by saying, "The development of youth tennis and the support for the young players today, who will be the stars of tomorrow, is certainly one of our priorities as a brand. Since we kicked-off our partnership in 2007, Tennis Europe



Above (left to right), HEAD Racquet Sports Director of Sales & Marketing Ottmar Barbian and Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää.

has aided HEAD to get closer to young players, their coaches and families with our products, services and marketing communications. In light of Tennis Europe's favorable impact on our business we are very happy to prolong this partnership."

2012 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Tournament Upgrades



In the latest move to improve the overall quality and structure of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, and following a bidding process in which existing tournaments were invited to apply to upgrade from Category 2 to Category 1, Tennis Europe has announced that several events will be awarded the new Category in 2012.

A number of criteria were taken into account, including geographical considerations, successful previous editions of the tournaments, and good administration by the event organisers.

In addition to the existing Category 1s, the following tournaments due to be held in the months from January – July have been confirmed as Category 1 events for 2012:

14 & Under

Stockholm (SWE - Week 10)
Bucharest (ROU - Week 18)
Rome (ITA - Week 19)

16 & Under

Foligno (ITA - Week 23)
Sofia (BUL - Week 30)

Several other tournaments due to be held from August – December have also already been approved for upgrade to Category 1, though final confirmation is pending, subject to agreement on each event's position in the calendar. These events are:

14 & Under

Renningen (GER)
Barcelona (ESP)

16 & Under

Warsaw (POL)
Barcelona (ESP)

The Tennis Europe Junior Tour calendar for January – July is now available [online](#). The calendar for the remaining part of the year will be published after the tournament application deadline in February.

Also available is the 2012 [Official Championships Calendar](#), with dates for all European individual and team Championship events.

Spain reclaims Davis Cup title

A weary Rafael Nadal put a lacklustre end to the season behind him to lead the Spanish team to a fifth Davis Cup title in front of an ecstatic home crowd of 28,000 fans in Seville's Olympic Stadium.

Nadal had signalled his intentions on the opening day by thrashing Juan Monaco for the loss of just four games to give the home team a 1-0 lead. The second match, between David Ferrer and Juan Martín del Potro turned out to be a classic, with the world #5 coming from a two sets to one down to beat the former US Open champion in five sets in what Ferrer later described as the best match of his career.

Spain suffered a setback on the second day as Argentina kept their hopes alive with a convincing straight sets doubles win for David Nalbandian and Eduardo Schwank over Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco.

The final day started uneasily for Spain as a nervous-looking and erratic Nadal lost the first set 1-6 with Del Potro seemingly in complete control. The world #2 began to play more aggressively in the second set, cutting down on his errors to level the match and sweeping through the third set before sealing the victory after edging a tense and high quality fourth set, 7-6.

The win marked the first time that Nadal had clinched the trophy, despite having played in three previous finals, and extended his Davis Cup clay court win streak to 16 matches.



King Juan Carlos of Spain joins Captain Albert Costa and the victorious team on court to lift the trophy.

Spain has now won a record 21 consecutive home ties, and will be favoured to extend that to 22 when they face Kazakhstan in the first round in February. The nation retains its place at the top of the Davis Cup Nations Ranking with a massive 15,000 point lead over second-placed Serbia, and has won three of the last four editions of the sport's flagship team competition.

Following the final, Nadal announced that he would not play in the competition in 2012 in an attempt to focus on the #1 ranking and the Olympic Games, while captain Albert Costa also revealed that after three successful years he would not continue as captain, though he will remain with the Spanish Tennis Federation coordinating the national Davis Cup, Fed Cup and Olympic teams.

La Manga Club welcomes Senior Circuit stars

Several top players from the ITF Senior Circuit travelled to Spain recently to compete in the 9th Murcia Seniors Tennis Open, which was held at La Manga Club from 4-10 December.

Amongst the eventual winners were some of the best-known names on the circuit including third-ranked Men's 50s champion Pierre Godfroid (BEL) and Spanish world #1 Jose Camina Borda, who led the way as six home players won titles across the eight age categories in action.

The award-winning La Manga Club is Tennis Europe's Official Resort Partner and offers 28 courts across a variety of surfaces. For more information about the facilities on offer, click [here](#).



Left to right; James Rose (La Manga Club Director of Coaching), Pierre Godfroid (Men's 50s winner), Lorenzo Martinez (La Manga Club Director of Tennis & Leisure).



Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD 12 & Under Preview

The 2012 edition of Europe's biggest indoor junior tennis competition, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD, will feature a 12 & Under age category for the first time. The move comes in response to demand from member nations for an indoor team competition for the age group, and follows the runaway success of its summer equivalent, the Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD.

A total of 55 national teams have entered the inaugural 12 & Under event, with qualifying rounds set to be played in Austria, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia and Turkey.

The addition of the new age category means that the competition, usually played over three week-ends in February, will be extended by an extra week. The 12 & Under players will make their debut during the weekend of 27-29 January, with the boys' final rounds taking place in Roznov pod Radhostem (CZE) and the girls' final rounds in Sheffield (GBR) during the weekend of 10-12 February.

The 14 and 16 & Under categories retain their regular calendar slots, with the qualifying rounds taking place at eight European venues from 3-5 February, and the final rounds following two weeks later, from



Russia won the Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD boys' event this summer and will be amongst the favourites for the inaugural 12 & Under Winter Cups title.

17-19 February. A full preview of the 14 and 16 & Under events will feature in the next issue. Meanwhile, you can find full entry lists on the dedicated [tournament page](#). Qualifying group allocations, fact sheets and further information is also online.

Established in 1976, the Winter Cups are a highlight of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, and have seen players such as Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Kim Clijsters and Vera Zvonareva represent their countries for the first time in team competitions.

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD Boys 12&U - Qualifying (27-29 January)

Zone A	Pruhonice (CZE)	Austria, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, Portugal, Slovakia
Zone B	Bucharest (ROU)	Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Sweden
Zone C	Ufa (RUS)	Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland
Zone D	Trabzon (TUR)	Croatia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine
Finals	Roznov pod Radhostem (CZE)	10-12 February

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD Girls 12&U - Qualifying (27-29 January)

Zone A	Neudorf (AUT)	Austria, Germany, Ireland, Moldova, Sweden, Ukraine
Zone B	Pruhonice (CZE)	Belarus, Czech Rep, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Switzerland
Zone C	Ufa (RUS)	Belgium, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic
Zone D	Istanbul (TUR)	Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Great Britain, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey
Finals	Sheffield (GBR)	10-12 February

Finnish Tennis Association celebrates centenary

In 2011, the Finnish Tennis Association (FTA) became the latest of the Tennis Europe's member nations to celebrate its centenary.

The Association organised a number of activities during the year to mark the occasion, and the resulting high profile of the organisation also served as a useful tool to promote the sport. Official events to mark the anniversary were spread throughout the year, and included a 'Day for Tennis' at participating clubs, and events linked to the Davis Cup tie against Poland in September.

The formal celebrations took place on May 13-14, when a seminar was held to debate the future of tennis, along with an official reception and dinner banquet. The event was attended by guests from the Finnish tennis community, and also addressed by ITF Executive Vice-President Juan Margets and Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää. The evening coincided with the launch of an exhibition at the Finnish Sports Museum, which showcased the history of the Association with artefacts dating back as far as 1890.

The FTA's media profile was further boosted with the broadcast of a documentary focusing on the history and development of the sport in Finland. Lasting over an hour, the documentary was shown on national channel YLE TV2 and stressed the national and international successes of Finnish players.

The federation also cooperated with author Anna-Riika Carlson, who wrote a limited edition book chronicling the 100 years of the organisation.

Earlier this month, the Finnish Tennis Association and the Finnish Tennis Foundation hosted one of the most important official events of the year in December, a charity gala dinner honouring all the recipients of the Finnish Tennis Awards. The social event brings all the tennis community together, promotes the Finnish Tennis Awards, helps to raise funds for junior players by providing them with stipends for practicing and travelling. For the past 11 years, the Finnish Tennis Foundation has donated more than 350,000 Euros for juniors.

The 300-person guest list included male and female professional players, officials, federation staff and award winners. Businesses, tennis clubs and its members are invited to pay for their attendance, which raises more than 20,000 Euros for juniors through the table fee costs, lottery and auction.

A sport-loving nation, tennis is more popular than



Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää with compatriots Teemu Purho (Finnish Tennis Association General Secretary), Veli-Matti Ropponen (former FTA President) and Matti Virtanen (current President of the FTA).

ever in Finland, with over 670,000 expressing an interest in the sport. There are 110,000 recreational players, and the FTA reports almost 22,000 members, with tennis ranking as the twelfth most popular sport overall.

As they embark upon their second centenary, the Finnish Tennis Association recently unveiled a two year strategy which focuses on competitions, club service, high performance tennis and coaches' education.

Looking back on the year of celebrations, Finnish Tennis Association General Secretary Teemu Purho said, "The centenary celebrations provided an excellent opportunity not just to look back at our achievements, but also to get more people involved in tennis. One of the best examples of this was our Davis Cup Group 1 tie, where we had over 2,000 spectators on the Friday; a perfect way to start the next centenary."

More information about the Finnish Tennis Federation can be found [here](#).

The centenary book, 'History' is available to order [here](#).

Lawn Tennis Association 'allplay' campaign

The British Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) recently launched 'allplay'; a campaign to help more people play tennis.

The campaign caters for anyone interested in playing tennis, ranging from those who are considering picking up a racket for the first time to people who play regularly.

Visitors to www.allplaytennis.com can sign up for free and create a profile giving some basic details about their standard of play (choosing from beginner, improver, intermediate, and advanced), and entering a brief statement, in which you can express your expectations, suitable playing times and locations. You can also search for local courts and coaches by entering your postcode.

Part information centre, part social network, allplay also gives members the chance to track and share their match results, and earn 'allplay points', which chart the progress of each user on the leader board each time they play a match. Members can also receive exclusive special offers and rewards from the LTA and its partners.

Uniquely, allplay also serves to support people that work in tennis by helping them to promote the sport and their places to play by making available customisable templates of promotional material and examples of successful marketing tools from other existing venues.

The project was launched in the summer with a high profile social media-led campaign that followed four celebrity tennis beginners as they set out on a 6-month mission to learn to play tennis. The newcomers enlisted the help of friends, family, challenge mentors and weekly lessons with a coach and posted regular blog updates of their progress.

The journey ended with the four stars taking part in a mixed doubles match in front of a crowd of thou-



Former British #1 Greg Rusedski was joined by Olympic heptathlete Denise Lewis and TV personality Tim Lovejoy for the allplay launch before the tennis newcomers embarked on a 6-month mission to learn to play.

sands at the Royal Albert Hall in London, as part of the AEGON Masters event in December.

The scheme received nationwide press attention, with former world #4 Greg Rusedski amongst those to publicly pledge their support. Rusedski was among the LTA representatives to meet with 50 British MPs when the campaign was presented to the House of Commons in October.

In the five months since its launch, the site has seen over 7,000 people sign up, with 1,100 matches recorded and over 30,000 searches made by people looking for a local place to play.

Greg Rusedski has said of the campaign: "I'm backing allplay because it will help people of all abilities play more tennis, from those who have never held a racket, to players looking to get back into the sport and people who have been playing the game for years."

To sign up, or for further information, visit www.allplaytennis.com.



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Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar



The Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar have been revealed.

The Player of the Year title is given to three best-performing European players in the 14 and 16 & Under age categories of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. The #1 player in each group receives a state of the art Polar RS800 CX computerised training wrist watch.

Over the years, the award has proven to be a reliable indicator of future success, with former recipients including many of today's top players, including stars such as Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Marin Cilic, Gael Monfils, Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin.

The 2011 Players of the Year are as follows:

Boys 14 & Under

- 1. Bogdan Borza (ROU)**
- 2. Andrey Rublev (RUS)**
- 3. Nicolae Frunza (ROU)**

Bogdan Borza and Nicolae Frunza of Romania made most of the headlines on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour in 2011, spearheading a year of unprecedented success for Romanian boys. The pair met in the European Championships singles final in July (Borza won on that occasion, though Frunza had beaten him earlier in the year in Pecin) and teamed up to claim the doubles title. Earlier that month, they had played a part in Romania's first ever 14 & Under boys European Summer Cups win. Borza ended the season with five singles titles (including his first 16 & Under title), and Frunza with three.

Second-placed Andrey Rublev of Russia established a phenomenal record in big events, winning three Category 1 singles and two Category 1 doubles titles, as well as a first 16 & under title.

Boys 16 & Under

- 1. Matej Maruscak (SVK)**
- 2. Petros Chrysochos (CYP)**
- 3. Alexander Lebedyn (UKR)**

Slovakia's Matej Maruscak ended the year in some style, establishing a 21-match win streak to capture four successive tournament titles, including the elite Tennis Europe Junior Masters, and is the first Slovak boy in 6 years to be named as a Player of the Year.



Above; Romania's Bogdan Borza and Nicolae Frunza took two of the three 14 & Under Players of the Year spots, below; Matej Maruscak of Slovakia, Boys 16 & Under #1.



Second-placed Petros Chrysochos becomes the first Cypriot player ever to win the accolade, having accumulated four singles and five doubles titles during the season. Third-placed Alexander Lebedyn of Ukraine was almost as prolific, reaching the final of all but one of the individual events he participated in, taking titles in Zabrze, Pecin and Antalya, as well as finishing as runner-up to Maruscak at the Junior Masters.

Girls 14 & Under

- 1. Anastasiya Rychagova (RUS)**
- 2. Anastasiya Komardina (RUS)**
- 3. Ana Konjuh (CRO)**

Russian players Anastasiya Rychagova and Anastasiya Komardina enjoyed an incredible win streak as doubles partners early in the year, winning their opening event in Sergiev Posad before scooping back to back Category 1 titles in Bolton and Tarbes. Both players competed on the Russian teams that were victorious in the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD and Europa Cup summer competitions.

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar



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In their only 16 & Under event, Komardina beat Rychagova for the title in Brno, where the pair teamed up for yet another doubles title. Both players qualified for the Junior Masters, where Rychagova reached the final to clinch the top spot at season's end.

European Junior Champion Ana Konjuh (CRO) qualified for the Junior Masters for a second consecutive year, performing so strongly that she qualified in both the 14 and 16 & Under age categories, electing to play in the 16s.

Girls 16 & Under

1. Ioana Loredana Rosca (ROU)
2. Irina Shymanovich (BLR)
3. Ana Konjuh (CRO)

Ioana Loredana Rosca began her Tennis Europe Junior Tour season with a 17-match win streak that saw her rack up three titles and qualify for the Junior Masters. She kept alive the streak of Romanian dominance in the 16 & Under girls' category that has seen the nation claim the end of year #1 player each year since 2008.

Second-placed Irina Shymanovich of Belarus divided her time between the 14 and 16 & under circuits, winning four singles and four doubles titles, including the Category 1 event in Ulm. She ended the year in the Top Five in both age categories.

Rosca's victor at the Junior Masters, Ana Konjuh, becomes the first player ever to be awarded the Player of the Year title in more than one category in the same year, a fitting tribute to an incredible year in which she recorded a 50-7 win/loss record, winning



Anastasiya Rychagova & Anastasiya Komardina (above) teamed up to record the year's best unbeaten doubles streak on the road to claiming to two of the three Player of the Year spots. Below; Ioana Loredana Rosca became the third successive Romanian 16 & Under Player of the Year.



five singles and three doubles titles, and becoming the first Croatian girl ever to win the European Championships.

The full end of year rankings for 2011, plus those from each edition of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour dating back to 1990 can be found at the Tennis Europe website [here](#).



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Follow us on Facebook or Twitter for all the latest news from the organisation and special features from the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, such as our [gallery](#) of famous former players when they were young.



2011 ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Summary

With just one event remaining (a \$50,000 Women's Circuit tournament being staged in Ankara this week), we're taking our annual look back at the year on the ITF Pro Circuits in Europe. 2011 has been an exceptionally busy year for professional players in Europe, with a total of 570 ITF Pro Circuit events held (285 each for men and women), an increase of 68 tournaments compared with 2010. The total prize money on offer has shown a corresponding increase, with a total of \$9,390,000 paid out during the course of the year.

The men's tournament titles have been divided between players representing a total of 34 countries, while 50 different nationalities won Women's Circuit titles. Spain tops the list of countries with most men's titles (35), while the Top 10 countries account for 189 of the 284 titles. On the Women's Circuit, Germany leaps from 7th in 2010 to top this year, with a total of 24 Women's Circuit titles, 11 more than last year.

In terms of individual achievements, Arnau Brugues-Davi of Spain won more titles than any other player, with 6 in total. Five men – Radu Albot (MDA), Josh Goodall (GBR), Gerard Granollers Pujol (ESP), Axel Michon (FRA) and Phillip Oswald (AUT) - each won five. Reka-Luca Jani of Hungary stands alone on the Women's Circuit with five titles, while seven others - Nastassja Burnett (ITA), Diana Enache (ROU), Natalija Kostic (SRB), Victoria Larriere (FRA), Garbine Muguruza-Blaco (ESP), Dinah Pfizenmaier (GER) and Alison van Uytvanck (BEL) - accounted for four each.

41 women's events saw the same player triumph in singles and doubles. Four players achieved the feat on more than one occasion, most notably Anne Keothavong (GBR), who won \$75,000 and \$50,000 events in Barnstaple and Ismaning respectively to end her season, and Diana Enache (ROU), who was the only woman to do the double on three occasions (at \$10,000 events in Antalya, Arad and Iasi). Men's singles and doubles events were won by the same player on 32 occasions. Only Denis Molchanov (UKR) and Damir Dzumhur (BIH) managed the feat twice.

60th-ranked Irina Camelia Begu (ROU) was the highest ranked player to win an ITF Women's Circuit title in Europe, heading a total of 13 Top 100 players to do so.

8 unranked players won titles, including Tennis Europe Junior Tour stars Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, who scooped three titles aged just 15, and Eleanor Dean (GBR), who won in Alkmaar, also aged 15. Germany's Marvin Netuschil was the only unranked man to triumph, coming through the qualifying competition to win an event in Antalya last month.



Kimiko Date-Krumm (JPN, left) beat Elena Baltacha (GBR) for the title at the \$100,000 event in Poitiers, France.

Most Titles Won by Country

No.	Men's Circuit	Women's Circuit
35	SPAIN	24 GERMANY
30	FRANCE	23 ITALY
24	GERMANY	22 FRANCE
24	ITALY	21 RUSSIA
17	AUSTRIA	21 ROMANIA
14	CZECH REPUBLIC	15 SPAIN
14	GREAT BRITAIN	13 CROATIA, UKRAINE

Marked differences can be seen between the men's and women's circuits in terms of the ages of tournament winners. 43 women's events were won by players aged 18 & Under, while just three men's tournaments went to players of the same age.

Former world #6 Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan was once again the oldest winner on either circuit, taking the \$100,000 Poitiers title at the age of 41 years 1 month, as she began a late surge that ensured direct entry to the Australian Open after an injury-affected season saw her ranking drop to just below the Top 100. The former Wimbledon semi-finalist is a full 10 years older than the next oldest winner on the European circuits, Severine Beltrame (FRA), and one of just three tournament winners aged 30+. By contrast, 13 men's events were won by players aged 30 or over, with France's Marc Gicquel (a winner in Lille and Poitiers) being the oldest at 34.

All the latest draws, results, fact sheets and entry lists from ITF Pro Circuit tournaments can be found on the [European Tennis Calendar](http://tenniseurope.org).

Beyond the Baseline...

99 of the world's Top 100 men and women will feature in the main draw of the **Australian Open**, with only Robin Söderling and Alisa Kleybanova being the only absentees as they continue to battle mononucleosis and Hodgkin's lymphoma respectively. Wild card recipients include Jessie Levine and 16-year old Madison Keys, winners of the USTA play-off tournament, and Marinko Matosevic and 15-year old Ashleigh Barty, who won the Australian play-off competition.

The venues for the 2012 **Davis Cup by BNP Paribas** World Group first rounds ties have been announced. All ties will be played in indoor arenas, are as follows; defending champions Spain host Kazakhstan on clay in Oviedo, Austria hosts Russia in Wiener Neustadt (hard), France travels to Vancouver to face Canada (hard), Switzerland hosts USA in Fribourg (clay), Czech Republic hosts Italy in Ostrava (hard), Serbia hosts Sweden in Nis (hard), Croatia travels to Hyogo to meet Japan (hard), and Germany hosts Argentina in Bamberg (clay).

Goran Ivanisevic will be the Croatian captain for the tie in Japan, while **Iva Majoli** will captain the national Fed Cup team in 2012.

The eight players at the **Barclays ATP World Tour Finals** in London raised \$57,261 for several charities via an online auction of their memorabilia.

BNP Paribas Fortis has been confirmed as the new title sponsor of the **Brussels Open**, which will be held during the week before Roland Garros.

Wimbledon's Chief Executive **Ian Ritchie** has announced that he will leave the post to take up the same role at England's Rugby Football Union.

18 of the world's top 30 most Googled female athletes in 2011 were tennis players, with **Maria Sharapova** leading the list.

Bob & Mike Bryan have overtaken John McEnroe's record for weeks at the top of the world doubles rankings.

Judy Murray has been appointed as Great Britain's Fed Cup captain.

Novak Djokovic will make his Hollywood debut with

a cameo appearance in the Sylvester Stallone-directed 'The Expendables 2' movie, currently being filmed in Bulgaria.

Ricardo Sanchez has been confirmed as the new coach of **Caroline Wozniacki**.

The International Tennis Federation has announced that Novak Djokovic (SRB) and Petra Kvitová (CZE) are the 2011 **ITF World Champions**. The World Doubles Champions titles went to Bob & Mike Bryan (USA, the only non-European winners) for an eighth time, while Kveta Peschke (CZE) & Katarina Srebotnik (SLO) were named as Women's Doubles Champions. Jiri Vesely is the third Czech player to be honoured, taking the ITF Junior World Champion accolade alongside Russia's Irina Khromacheva. Dutch pair Esther Vergeer and Maikel Scheffers took the Wheelchair World Champions honours.

Meanwhile, the **Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award** nominations have been revealed, with Novak Djokovic, Petra Kvitová (twice), Li Na and Esther Vergeer all nominated in their respective categories.

Andrea Petkovic and **Sabine Lisicki** came second and fourth respectively in Germany's Sportswoman of the Year Awards, while **Kim Clijsters** won the Belgian title for a record-equalling eighth time. Clijsters also signalled her return to the game by beating Caroline Wozniacki 6-2 7-6 at an exhibition in Belgium last week.

Mikhail Youzhny has graduated from the University of Moscow with a PhD in Philosophy.

Spain's **Nuria Llagostera Vives** has announced that she focus exclusively on doubles competition in the future.

A new social network for tennis fans has been launched. www.tennisconnexion.com aims to connect friends and fans from all over the world. Users can discuss the sport, share content on photo and video galleries, contact coaches and find potential playing partners, and much more.

Venus Williams has withdrawn from the first event of her planned 2012 schedule, the ASB Classic in New Zealand, as she continues to recover from Sjogren's syndrome, which affects the immune system.

FAST FACTS

The total length of all branded tennis string sold in Europe in 2010 is almost 40,000 kilometres: this would reach almost once around the equator, or one-tenth of the way to the moon, and is enough to string over 3 million racquets.
Source: SPORTS MARKETING SURVEYS INC. Tennis Shipment Survey 2010.


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Novak Djokovic plays the HEAD YouTek™ IG Speed racquet.



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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 profes-

sional 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, visit www.TennisEurope.org.

Rankings below are as of December 20th, 2011.

Overall Girls' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Irina KHROMACHEVA	RUS	2970
02	▶	Ashleigh BARTY	AUS	2274
03	▶	Yulia PUTINTSEVA	RUS	2047
04	▲	Anett KONTAVEIT	EST	1839
05	▼	Ioana ROSCA	ROU	1540
06	▼	Indy DE VROOME	NED	1507
07	▲	Victoria KAN	RUS	1491
08	▶	Petra ROHANOVA	CZE	1462
09	NEW	Zuzanna MACIEJEWSKA	POL	1343
10	▼	Donna VEKIC	CRO	1330



Zuzanna Maciejewska (POL)

Overall Boys' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Enzo COUACAUD	FRA	1640
02	▲	Kyle EDMUND	GBR	1340
03	▼	Alexander LEBEDYN	UKR	1256
04	▶	Matej MARUSCAK	SVK	1248
05	▲	Krittin KOAYKUL	THA	1170
06	▼	Nikola MILOJEVIC	SRB	1165
07	NEW	Yoshihito NISHIOKA	JPN	1102
08	▼	Stefano NAPOLITANO	ITA	1063
09	▼	Nicholas KYRGIOS	AUS	1055
10	▼	Petros CHRYSOCHOS	CYP	1050



Kyle Edmund (GBR)



Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – 14 & Under

There are no changes at the top of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour 14 & Under rankings this month, with only a select few tournaments taking place in recent weeks.

The biggest impact on the rankings recently has been made by Russia's Karine Sarkisova, who won singles and doubles at the Moscow 16 & Under tournament, and followed up by taking the Pajulahti Open in Finland last week to boost her ranking to #17.

Having established a 28-2 win/loss record on the Tour since August, she now stands just 100 points away from entering the Top Ten.

The full ranking lists, plus the final Race to the Junior Masters rankings of 2011 can be found at www.TennisEurope.org.

Rankings below are as of December 20th, 2011.

14 & Under Girls

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Ana KONJUH	CRO	1145
02	▶	Iryna SHYMANOVIC	BLR	920
03	▶	Jelena OSTAPENKO	LAT	805
04	▶	Anastasiya RYCHAGOVA	RUS	795
05	▶	Anastasiya KOMARDINA	RUS	790
06	▶	Darya KASATKINA	RUS	770
07	▶	Ivana JOROVIC	SRB	760
08	▶	Anastasia NEFEDOVA	RUS	740
09	▶	Miriam KOLODZIEJOVA	CZE	660
10	▶	Vendula ZOVINCOVA	CZE	650



Ana Konjuh (CRO)

14 & Under Boys

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Bogdan BORZA	ROU	1035
02	▶	Nicolae FRUNZA	ROU	850
03	▶	Andrey RUBLEV	RUS	780
04	▶	Roman SAFIULLIN	RUS	760
05	▶	Alexander ZVEREV	GER	715
06	▲	Domagoj BILJESKO	CRO	613
07	▼	Evgeny TYURNEV	RUS	605
08	▶	Dominik STARY	CZE	595
09	▶	Alex MOLCAN	SVK	585
10	▶	Michal DEMBEK	POL	560



Domagoj Biljesko (CRO)



Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

12 & Under

Date	Tournament	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Dec 12	Coimbra (POR)	A Regalado Pedrol (ESP)	J Antonio (POR)	64 61	Davidovich/Regalado Pedrol (ESP)
		N Bouo Zanotti (ESP)	T Andrieieva (UKR)	16 61 61	Bouzo Zanotti/Guerrero Alvarez (ESP)

14 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Nov 21	Stavanger (NOR)	3 M Yemer (SWE)	R Leck (GBR)	63 61	Leck/Owens-Maxwell (GBR)
		A Mikheeva (GBR)	W Palmer (SWE)	63 63	Mikheeva/Swan (GBR)
Nov 28	Gothenburg (SWE)	3 F Bonacia (ITA)	S Taylor (SWE)	62 60	Taylor/Yemer (SWE)
		F Ostlund (SWE)	S Victorsson (SWE)	75 61	Ferding/Ostlund (SWE)
Dec 5	Milovice (CZE)	3 A Ricci (CZE)	F Matejka (CZE)	36 63 1-0 ret	Holis/Matejka (CZE)
		V Kuzmova (RUS)	E Danailova (BUL)	61 62	Kuzmova/Mihailikova (RUS)
Dec 12	Wrexham (GBR)	3 J Clarke (GBR)	A Aravis (CYP)	64 64	Ferguson/Leck (GBR)
		G Axon (GBR)	A Mikheeva (GBR)	64 64	Haine/Herd (GBR)
Dec 12	Nastola (FIN)	3 A Pollanen (FIN)	H Inno (EST)	62 60	Nordby/Ruud (NOR)
		K Sarkisova (RUS)	D Kruzhkova (RUS)	63 63	Kalinskaya/Stashenkova (RUS)

16 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Nov 21	Moscow (RUS)	3 A Schepelev (RUS)	I Perunov (RUS)	76(7) 46 62	Bublik/Koshcheyev (RUS)
		K Sarkisova (RUS)	F Bizhukova (RUS)	76(1) 64	Sarkisova/Semashko (RUS)
Dec 5	Gothenburg (SWE)	3 F Bonacia (ITA)	S Freund (SWE)	61 63	Akerlund/Freund (SWE)
		D Galfi (HUN)	P Jahren (DEN)	76 62	Galfi (HUN)/Karst (DEN)
Dec 5	Marsa (MLT)	3 M Di Prima (ITA)	D Little (GBR)	62 76(5)	Eusebio/Sabugeiro (POR)
		M Marfutina (RUS)	M Lumsden (GBR)	63 61	Gissona/Napolitano (ITA)

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ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Nov 21	Opava (CZE)	\$15,000	A Kapas (POL)	M Konecny (CZE)	76(5) 67(7) 64	Betau/Bury (BLR)
Nov 21	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	D Dzumhur (BIH)	I Bjelica (SRB)	61 61	Dzumhur/Setkic (BIH)
Nov 28	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	L Walter (FRA)	A Setkic (BIH)	62 64	De Loore (BEL)/Golding (GBR)
Dec 5	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	L Walter (FRA)	B Westerhof (NED)	64 64	Comporto/Sinicropi (ITA)
Dec 12	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	T Fabbiano (ITA)	S Seifert (GER)	62 61	Golding (GBR)/Sakharov (FRA)

ITF Women's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Nov 21	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	D Harmsen (NED)	J Parasyuk (RUS)	61 62	Enache (ROU)/Harmsen (NED)
Nov 21	Vallduxo (ESP)	\$10,000	D Salnikova (RUS)	P Dominguez Lopez (ESP)	57 62 61	Golubic (SUI)/Kiszczyńska (POL)
Nov 21	Helsinki (FIN)	\$25,000	T Babos (HUN)	J Cepelova (SVK)	63 61	Husarova (SVK)/Laine (FIN)
Nov 28	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	I Kremen (BLR)	K Milevskaya (BLR)	76(6) 67(4) 61	Enache (ROU)/Harmsen (NED)
Nov 28	Vendryne (CZE)	\$25,000	A Sadikovic (SUI)	K Pliskova (CZE)	57 61 76(5)	Honcova/Luknarova (SVK)
Dec 5	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	V Kutuzova (UKR)	P Tig (ROU)	36 61 61	Esen/Esen (TUR)
Dec 12	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	D Salnikova (RUS)	J Kazkazovic (BIH)	63 61	Barbieri/Pasini (ITA)



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.

European Tennis Rankings – Men & Women

The ATP World Tour Finals in London are the only event to have affected the rankings this month, with eventual winner Roger Federer riding a wave of good form at the end of the season to pip an unfortunate Andy Murray to the end of year #3 spot. The Scot had merely to defend his 2010 points to end the season ranked ahead of Federer for the first time, but was forced to withdraw from the event to avoid aggravating a groin injury suffered during his first match.

Meanwhile, Federer won all five of his matches to

win a record-breaking sixth end of year championship title and remains unbeaten since his US Open semi-final loss to Novak Djokovic. Rafael Nadal's role at the Davis Cup final added slightly to his points total, but not nearly enough to usurp Djokovic, who ends the year as the #1 ranked European for the first time in his career. The presence of compatriot Janko Tipsarevic at #8 also marks the first time that two Serbian men have been ranked inside the Top Ten at the end of the season.

Rankings as of December 17th, 2011.

European Women

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Caroline WOZNIACKI	DEN	7485
02	▶	Petra KVITOVA	CZE	7370
03	▶	Victoria AZARENKA	BLR	6520
04	▶	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	6510
05	▶	Vera ZVONAREVA	RUS	5435
06	▶	Agnieszka RADWANKSA	POL	5250
07	▶	Marion BARTOLI	FRA	4710
08	▶	Andrea PETKOVIC	GER	4580
09	▶	Francesca SCHIAVONE	ITA	3900
10	▶	Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	3161

European Men

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	13630
02	▶	Rafael NADAL	ESP	9595
03	▲	Roger FEDERER	SUI	8170
04	▼	Andy MURRAY	GBR	7380
05	▶	David FERRER	ESP	4925
06	▶	Jo-Wilfried TSONGA	FRA	4335
07	▶	Tomas BERDYCH	CZE	3700
08	▶	Janko TIPSAREVIC	SRB	2595
09	▶	Nicolas ALMAGRO	ESP	2380
10	▶	Gilles SIMON	FRA	2165



Roger Federer (SUI)



Novak Djokovic



Maria Sharapova (RUS)

Notes and news from Tennis Europe

The staff of Tennis Europe wish our readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

The Tennis Europe office in Basel will be closed from December 24th and will reopen on January 2nd.
For urgent junior department enquiries, please send an email to juniors@tenniseurope.org.

Member Nations news

Jacek Muzolf is the new President of the Polish Tennis Association.

Vuk Jeremic is the new President of the Serbian Tennis Federation.

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HEADlines

Golden HEAD Ball Winner up-close at Barclays ATP World Tour Finals

Raquel Escudero Serrano from Almansa, Spain expanded her tennis experience after winning a trip to the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals in London in November as the winner of the 2011 Golden HEAD Ball competition.

The 21-year-old law student, who has been playing tennis several times a week since 2008, received roundtrip airfare, accommodation in the players' hotel for three nights, and VIP seats at the season-ending tournament where only the best 8 of the world's tennis players can compete. [Video](#)



HEAD ATP the ball of choice at Davis Cup Final



The HEAD ATP ball has again proved itself as the ball of choice in this year's Davis Cup competition. The ball was used in 7 out of 15 World Group ties contested this season in the prestigious international team competition and has also been used in the 2011 final between Spain and Argentina in Seville.

In the Davis Cup, each host nation is allowed to choose its preferred ball for home matches and therefore, the use of the HEAD ATP ball reflects the express desire of captains and players. Unlike in the football Champions League, the combination of ball and surface is critical and most important throughout the three-day weekend, with no second chances, no home-and-away fixtures and losing teams being eliminated immediately.

Click [here](#) for more information about HEAD ATP balls.

Sneak Preview: 2012 YouTek IG Prestige & Radical – coming soon!

The 2011 season is history and HEAD has developed new weapons for you over the past months. [Here](#) you can find a first preview of the brand new YouTek IG Prestige and Radical Series.

Stay tuned for the launch of the new HEAD Prestige and Radical Series in January 2012!

