

## Tennis Europe Junior Tour & Pro Tennis Conference

The Hungarian Tennis Association hosted a combined Tennis Europe Junior Tour and Pro Tennis Conference in Budapest from 26-28 November.

A total of 85 delegates representing 30 of Tennis Europe's member nations were in attendance for the two-day event, which saw speakers from Tennis Europe joined by five International Tennis Federation heads of department in addition to contributions from several national associations and external speakers.

The meeting was opened by Tennis Europe President Jacques Dupré and chaired by ITF Officiating Executive for Europe, Anders Wennberg, alongside Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää.

A comprehensive agenda was prepared with topics covered including event management, tennis integrity, player welfare, anti-doping, officiating, and tennis technology. Wednesday afternoon saw the group splinter for presentations and subsequent working group sessions that were specifically tailored to junior or professional tennis administrators and moderated by the chairpersons of the respective commit-



Delegates on the final day of the conference in Budapest.

tees, Karin van Bijsterveld and Stefan Tzvetkov.

Budapest was also the scene of meetings of the Tennis Europe Board of Management, the Junior Tennis Committee, Pro Tennis Committee and the Officiating Task Force.

The official dinner was held at the hosting Expo Hotel, where the parents of Hungarian Tennis Europe 16 & Under Player of the Year, Mate Valkusz, were on hand to collect the award on his behalf. >>

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## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year

The winners of the 2013 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar accolade have been revealed. Turn to Page 4 to find out more about the best-performing 14 and 16 & Under players on the Tour.



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour & Pro Tennis Conference

<< Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää said, "We have had a very productive few days in Budapest. It has been a positive experience to combine the Tennis Europe Junior Tour and Pro Tennis Conferences, which have been held as separate events in the past. Tournament organisers and administrators face many common challenges, whether they are organising junior or entry-level pro-

fessional events and by combining the conferences we have been able to create a wider platform for the sharing of experiences and best practices. I'd like to thank the Hungarian Tennis Association for their hard work and hospitality in helping us to organise the event, as well as all of the speakers and delegates for their contributions to the programme and working groups."

## Youth in Action seminar in Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Tennis Federation (BTF) organised a two-day 'Youth in Action' seminar in Sofia recently, with the aim of educating 'tomorrow's directors' of the sport.

'Youth in Action' is a Tennis Europe project initiated by the organisation's president, Jacques Dupré and is held with the support of EPAS (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport).

Sixteen delegates were in attendance for this first seminar, and came from all six of Bulgaria's regions to take part. Many of them were former players and are currently working as coaches or studying at the National Sport Academy or at other universities.

The delegates, EPAS representative Marko Begovic and Tennis Europe President Jacques Dupré were met by BTF President Stefan Tzvetkov at a welcome dinner at the Bulgarian National Tennis Centre prior to the main event.

The meeting itself was divided into six sessions, each of which looked at a distinct matter relating to the administration of the sport.

Mr. Dupré opened the meeting's first session, outlin-

ing the objectives of the project before giving the floor to the international speakers.

The first day looked at club projects with speaker Jean Wallach before Melanie Maillard turned to the topic of ethics in sport and corruption.

Day two saw Camille Mauduit focus on the successful administration and organisation of sporting events before Ms. Maillard returned to the floor to advise on continuous training and resistance to changes.

Mr. Dupré explained the reasons for his close personal involvement with the project, "As administrators, we spend a great deal of time providing opportunities for young people to participate in our sport. Some of these players will never be champions, but Tennis Europe believes that that sports administration can provide an opportunity for people to put their passion for sport into practice, and to remain in their chosen world throughout their professional careers. I'd like to thank the Bulgarian Tennis Federation for being so proactive in this area, and I have no doubt that they will see long term benefits from this project. I very much encourage other federations to follow suit."



## Czech Republic defends Davis Cup title

The Czech Republic successfully defended its Davis Cup by BNP Paribas title by beating hosts Serbia 3-2 in Belgrade in a repeat of last year's final.

Despite the close final score, the tie featured a series of straight-forward matches. Serbian #1 Novak Djokovic improved his lifetime record in the competition's singles matches to 26/7 by winning his opening match against Radek Stepanek 7-5 6-1 6-4 and then keeping the hosts in the tie to beat Tomas Berdych 6-4 7-6(5) 6-2 on Sunday to level the teams at two matches apiece.

Serbia's second singles player Dusan Lajovic had a baptism of fire, being in the unusual position of playing his first ever live Davis Cup match in the final. Ranked #116, he put in a creditable performance against Berdych in his opening match despite having little experience against Top Ten players.

Lajovic had been called upon to play when Janko Tipsarevic was forced to miss the tie through injury. With Viktor Troicki already ruled out while he serves a suspension from the tour, the hosts were forced to field a much weaker team than hoped.

Many observers felt that the tie hinged on Saturday's doubles match, where Ilija Bozoljac teamed up with Nenad Zimonjic for Serbia against Berdych & Stepanek. The Czechs have forged one of the most successful Davis Cup doubles partnerships of recent years, and repeated their wins over the Serbs from 2010 and 2012 to extend their unbeaten streak



together in the competition to three years.

Sunday's reverse singles once again saw Radek Stepanek become the hero of the tie. To the dismay of the partisan crowd, he dominated Lajovic from the outset, playing flawless tennis to concede just five games and thereby becoming the first man ever to win a live fifth singles rubber in consecutive years. Stepanek acknowledged the importance of his win, saying "We made history today. To defend this trophy means the world for us right now. For our country, waiting 32 years for a second title, now we are one of the five countries who have been able to defend a title."

As a result of the win, the Czech Republic has ascended to the #1 position in the Davis Cup rankings for the first time, ending Spain's four-year reign at the top. Serbia remains in second position.

## Officiating success in Europe

A Level 2 School (White Badge) was recently held in Heraklion, Greece from 16-20 October and saw an impressive 96% pass rate.

The students benefited from the expertise of the ITF/GS Officials Louise Azemar Engzell, Jake Garner and Wayne McKewen that taught the school. It followed another successful Level 3 school in Paris

from 7-10 October where 15 students were certified as International Chair Umpire, Chief Umpire and Referee.

Both schools were organised to a very high level by the French Tennis Federation and the Hellenic Tennis Federation, and ITF Officiating is pleased to welcome 41 new certified officials from 22 European countries.



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar



The Player of the Year powered by Polar award is given to three best-performing European players in the 14 and 16 & Under age categories of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour according to the final Race to Junior Masters ranking of the season. The #1 player in each group receives a state of the art [Polar RC3 GPS](#) computerised training wrist watch, and all winners receive a diploma.

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.

### Boys 16 & Under

#### 1. Mate Valkusz (HUN)

A 14 & under Player of the Year in 2012, Valkusz progressed successfully to the 16 & Under age group by notching up five titles during the season, including the Tennis Europe Junior Masters. He is the first Hungarian boy ever to win two Player of the Year titles.

#### 2. Daniel Orlita (CZE)

Orlita ended the 2013 season exactly as he had in 2012, with a runner-up spot at the Junior Masters and by claiming a 16 & Under Player of the Year title for a second time. Surprisingly Orlita is the only Czech boy to be named as a 16 & Under Player of the Year in the last 20 years.

#### 3. Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)

Tsitsipas finished the season strongly with tournament wins in Munich and Rennigen/Rutesheim to qualify for the Junior Masters and become the first Greek boy to claim a Player of the Year accolade in 10 years.

### Girls 16 & Under

#### 1. Michaela Bayerlova (CZE)

A 25-match mid-summer unbeaten streak saw Bayerlova claim four consecutive titles and become one of the most feared opponents on the Tour. She also reached the semi-finals of the Junior Masters and won two doubles titles, and is the first Czech winner of the 16 & Under girls' Player of the Year title since 1992.

#### 2. Ioana Minca (ROU)

Junior Masters champion Minca won her last four



Above: 16 & Under Players of the Year Mate Valkusz and Michaela Bayerlova.

events of the season, establishing an 18-match unbeaten streak and bringing her season's tally to five singles and two doubles titles. She ended the season just 10 points behind #1 Bayerlova.

#### 3. Hanna Kryvatulava (BLR)

A consistent performer throughout the season, Kryvatulava lost just once before the quarterfinals and won three singles titles, finishing the year with a runner-up spot at the Junior Masters.

### Boys 14 & Under

#### 1. Corentin Moutet (FRA)

The first French boy to be named as a Player of the Year since 2004, Moutet had a stellar, holding the #1 spot for the second half of the season despite playing fewer events than any other member of the Top 10. His biggest victory was at the European Junior Championships, but he also won Category 1 titles in Bolton, Paris and Ste Genevieve des Bois as well as competing on the French teams that reached the final of the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD and the semifinals of the Summer Cups.

## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year powered by Polar

### 2. Samuele Ramazzotti (ITA)

Junior Masters champion Ramazzotti also won category 1 titles in Tarbes and Renningen/Rutesheim and finished the season just a whisker behind Moutet - his conqueror in the European Junior Championships final in July - to claim the #2 spot.

### 3. Artem Dubrivnyy (RUS)

A busy first half of the season saw Dubrivnyy rack up three singles titles including Category 1 wins in Stockholm and Rome and the Russian #1 also anchored his national side to victory at both the Winter and Summer Cups.

### Girls 14 & Under

#### 1. Evgeniya Levashova (RUS)

Levashova had one of the most impressive seasons of any player on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, winning 43 of 47 matches and winning six 14 & Under titles, including the European Junior Championships and Junior Masters.

#### 2. Amina Anshba (RUS)

Anshba was one of the busier players on the Tour, splitting her time between the 14 and 16 & Under circuits and securing three singles and three doubles titles during the season as well as appearing on her national Winter Cups team.

#### 3. Marketa Vondrousova (CZE)

Vondrousova lost just 4 of her 37 singles matches during 2013 and claimed an impressive 10 titles overall (5 singles, and 5 doubles) including the European Junior Championship in doubles, where she was also runner-up in singles.



Above: 14 & Under Players of the Year Corentin Moutet and Evgeniya Levashova.

The awards and diplomas for the winners will be handed out at the Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Sofia in March.

A full list of all of the Players of the Year since 1990 can be found [here](#).

## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Notes

A reminder that the first installment of the 2014 Tennis Europe Junior Tour calendar for is now [online](#), containing information on all events scheduled between January and July. Also online is the 2014 [Official Championships Calendar](#).

### IPIN Renewal

Players can already renew their IPINs for the 2014 season. Simply log into your IPIN account and follow the renewal instructions.

### Tournament Upgrade

The 2014 O1Properties Christmas Cup has been upgraded to Category 1 status. The 14 & under Tennis Europe Junior Tour event will be held on indoor acrylic courts at the Alexander Ostrovsky Academy in Khimki,

Russia from 06-13 January, and is preceded by a two-day qualifying competition taking place from 4-5 January.

The O1Properties Christmas Cup thus becomes Russia's second Category 1 14 & Under tournament, alongside December's Kremlin Cup.

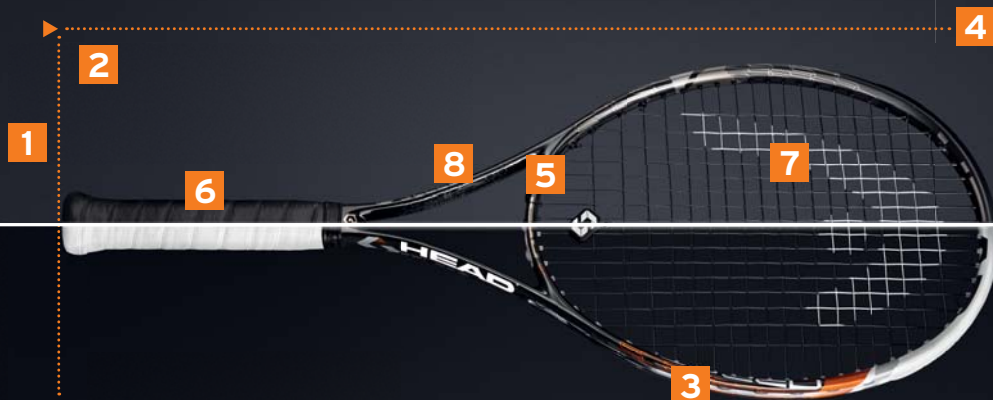


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## Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD 2014 Preview

The 2014 edition of Europe's biggest indoor junior tennis competition, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD, is now just weeks away.

A total of 175 national teams are due to take part in the event over four consecutive weekends in January and February. Teams are divided into qualifying groups of 6-8 countries, from which the winner and runner-up will advance to the final rounds a fortnight later. Each tie consists of two singles and one doubles match.

The curtain will raise with the 12 & Under competition where Russia's girls will be hoping to maintain their unbeaten status in the age category and Britain's boys aim to defend their 2013 title.

Russian teams dominated the Winter Cups this year, winning three of the six available titles (also claiming the Boys' 14 and 16 & Under crowns), while the Czech Republic (Girls 14 & Under) and Switzerland (Girls 16 & Under) also emerged victorious.

With the exception of the Girls 16 & Under group in Minsk (BLR), all of the 14 and 16 & Under qualifying will take place during the weekend of 31 January-2 February.



Switzerland outlasted Russia in the final of this year's Girls' 16 & Under event in Vendryne (CZE).

The dedicated [tournament page](#) contains full entry lists, qualifying group allocations, fact sheets and further information.

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 and Victoria Azarenka represent their countries for the first time in team competitions. A 12 & Under category was introduced in 2012 in response to popular demand from member nations.

### Boys 12&U - Qualifying (24-26 January)

|               |                               |  |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Zone A</b> | <b>Hradek nad Nisou (CZE)</b> | Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia |
| <b>Zone B</b> | <b>Tallinn (EST)</b>          | Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Latvia          |
| <b>Zone C</b> | <b>Craiova (ROU)</b>          | Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland                     |
| <b>Zone D</b> | <b>Ankara (TUR)</b>           | Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine                         |
| <b>Finals</b> | <b>Vendryne (CZE)</b>         | 7-9 February   |

### Girls 12&U - Qualifying (24-26 January)

|               |                           |  |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Zone A</b> | <b>Ebreichsdorf (AUT)</b> | Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland        |
| <b>Zone B</b> | <b>Rakovnik (CZE)</b>     | Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia |
| <b>Zone C</b> | <b>Bucharest (ROU)</b>    | Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Great Britain, Romania, Ukraine    |
| <b>Zone D</b> | <b>Trabzon (TUR)</b>      | Estonia, Georgia, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Turkey         |
| <b>Finals</b> | <b>Sheffield (GBR)</b>    | 7-9 February   |



## Dates & Qualifying Zones



### Boys 14&U - Qualifying (31 January-2 February)

|               |                         |   |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Zone A</b> | <b>Cholet (FRA)</b>     | Austria, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania    |
| <b>Zone B</b> | <b>Kazan (RUS)</b>      | Belarus, Croatia, Israel, Latvia, Russia, Spain, Ukraine                    |
| <b>Zone C</b> | <b>Karlskrona (SWE)</b> | Czech Rep, Denmark, Estonia, Gt Britain, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden |
| <b>Zone D</b> | <b>Istanbul (TUR)</b>   | Belgium, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey    |
| <b>Finals</b> | <b>Correggio (ITA)</b>  | 14-16 February  |

### Girls 14 & Under: Qualifying (31 January-2 February)

|               |                       |   |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Zone A</b> | <b>Rakovnik (CZE)</b> | Belgium, Croatia, Czech Rep, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Spain                 |
| <b>Zone B</b> | <b>Brest (FRA)</b>    | Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovenia          |
| <b>Zone C</b> | <b>Kazan (RUS)</b>    | Finland, Hungary, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland                 |
| <b>Zone D</b> | <b>Istanbul (TUR)</b> | Belarus, Denmark, Georgia, Gt Britain, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, Ukraine |
| <b>Finals</b> | <b>Vestec (CZE)</b>   | 14-16 February  |

### Boys 16 & Under: Qualifying (31 January-2 February)

|               |                       |  |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Zone A</b> | <b>Budapest (HUN)</b> | Andorra, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Israel, Romania, Spain, Sweden           |
| <b>Zone B</b> | <b>Bergen (NOR)</b>   | Austria, Belarus, Finland, Germany, Gt Britain, Latvia, Norway, Serbia       |
| <b>Zone C</b> | <b>Kazan (RUS)</b>    | Denmark, France, Georgia, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine     |
| <b>Zone D</b> | <b>Mersin (TUR)</b>   | Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Rep, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey |
| <b>Finals</b> | <b>Ronchin (FRA)</b>  | 14-16 February   |

### Girls 16 & Under: Qualifying (31 January-2 February and \*7-9 February)

|               |                       |  |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Zone A</b> | <b>Minsk (BLR)*</b>   | Belarus, Croatia, Germany, Moldova, Romania, Sweden                    |
| <b>Zone B</b> | <b>Maniago (ITA)</b>  | Georgia, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland |
| <b>Zone C</b> | <b>Zutphen (NED)</b>  | Austria, Denmark, Gt Britain, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Russia     |
| <b>Zone D</b> | <b>Istanbul (TUR)</b> | Bulgaria, Czech Rep, France, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine         |
| <b>Finals</b> | <b>Ricany (CZE)</b>   | 14-16 February   |



## In the Spotlight: Enric Molina

Enric Molina is a familiar name for many tennis fans. Having presided over many Grand Slam finals as a Gold Badge Chair Umpire, the Barcelona native (also a Gold Badge Referee) additionally now serves as Head of Officiating at the International Tennis Federation. We caught up with him recently to find out more about these roles, and life on tour as a chair umpire...

### **Tennis fans recognise you as one of the world's leading umpires, but your role with the ITF Officiating Department is less well known. What does this entail?**

Our department is responsible for a number of tasks, such as the administration of the joint certification program on behalf of the ATP, WTA and Grand Slams. Another big area for us is the running of the Level 1-3 officiating school courses. Our objectives are to improve the numbers and standards of officials worldwide through the education program, helping the game to grow. We focus on the development of officials at a grass roots level, but also administer the top events, making the selection of officials for Davis and Fed Cup and the Olympics. A lot of my job involves liaising with the different ITF departments, each of whom has its own officiating needs, and also to ensure that they are informed about the latest rules and so on.

### **Your department is working on online officiating courses at the moment. Who are these intended to be for?**

The first stage will be for current officials, of which there are currently around 1,400 certified by the ITF. We will also invite national officials who are working with national associations and are interested in learning, with the hope that they will eventually become ITF-certified.

### **How important do you think it is for the levels of officiating to be standardised, from the Tennis Europe Junior Tour through to professional events?**

It's very important, at least to have a logical pathway. Obviously you cannot expect the lower level tournaments to have the best officials, for financial reasons. But we are raising the standards and this reaches all the way to the Tennis Europe 12s and 14s, which now have white badge referees who receive specific training. At our Level 2 schools we have a dedicated referee's module, with an extra day of classroom time to look at regulations for non-professional events.

### **How did you get started as an official? Did you always want to be a chair umpire?**

No! I was a pretty decent junior player, one of the best Under 12s in Spain. I played a lot of national events - there were no Tennis Europe Under 12 tour-



Molina at the recent Davis Cup final in Belgrade.

naments in Spain at that time. I was pretty certain I wanted to become a pro player, but it became clear that I wasn't good enough. Later I focused on my studies and began working, but in my spare time I started to get into officiating; first as a line judge at the Godó [Barcelona's ATP Tour event] when I was 14. There was a program for line judges in the run-up to the Olympics, so I decided to give it a go and that was how it all started. It was never a dream to become an official, but I'm thankful that there was a way of staying around once I realised I was not going to become a player.

### **Is this a common route for officials? Is there a concerted effort made to reach out to former players?**

It's a message that we try to send out to the national associations, who do the work at a grassroots level. But yes, it is fairly normal; I only know of one top umpire that I've met during my career that has no previous tennis background as a player. This experience gives you a lot of the skills that are required from a top umpire; understanding the game, putting yourself in the shoes of the player, applying the psychology that they are going through during the match, knowing how and when to talk to them...this empathy is invaluable and it's very difficult to learn that if you haven't played, at some level.

### **What are the keys to becoming a good umpire?**

Well, experience is a big factor. I remember my first match in the chair was a nightmare and I wanted to quit! There are always some challenges, and if you are not sure of the rules you are immediately threatened. And if you don't know how to communicate it's even worse. It can be a very uncomfortable place to be - in that chair, being shouted at or booed. So experience, communication and good concentration skills are big factors.

### **How do you manage to remain focused for such long periods? >>**

## In the Spotlight: Enric Molina

<< Well, everybody has their own routine to get in the zone and to stay concentrated. It's quite a personal thing. We stress the importance of preparing well, just like a player would. You don't see Roger or Rafa going on court without being prepared, and for us it should be the same. A lot of the authority that an umpire has depends on their credibility. If you are not concentrating, it can quickly become apparent to the players, and your job will end up being even harder. Equally, with Hawk-Eye and replays, sometimes you will know you have made a mistake – and so will everybody else - and it feels pretty bad. But you can't dwell on it because your concentration will be ruined. We have a leitmotif in officiating that the most important call is always the next call. Learning to live with mistakes is important.

**Do you get nervous before matches? You must be conscious that you're going to be on television in front of tens of millions of people, many of them debating your decisions...**

Absolutely! If I didn't feel the nerves, then I would start to worry. That's not a good sign. You feel the pressure and the adrenaline – you get used to it, but it's also a driving force. If I am nervous, I use the warm-up to focus on seeing the ball and get used to the conditions on the court. Focusing on one thing at a time helps you not to be overwhelmed by the occasion.

**You recently presided over your fourth Davis Cup final. How was it?**

In Davis & Fed Cup we [together with Pascal Maria, the other chair umpire, and Stefan Fransson, the referee] work very much as a team, particularly with regards to the crowd, which is the biggest challenge. The home Serbians were very loud, as you would expect in a Davis Cup final. In one way we were fortunate, because none of the matches ended up being particularly close, and so the role of the crowd was reduced a little bit. So from an officiating point of view there were no issues.

**Do you like the challenge of controlling a partisan crowd?**

Sure, it's part of the game and it's one of the reasons why we all love the Davis Cup.

**Have you ever had abuse from tennis fans after a match?**

Yes, again it's more likely to happen at the Davis Cup. You just have to try to ignore it. When it happens during the match you have some tools - you can eject somebody if they go too far. But it's just another part of the game.

**On the flip side, the top officials must have some fans. Do you get recognised often?**

Yes of course, the hard core tennis fans recognise you

and you get asked often for autographs and photos. It's very nice. It's not something that we're looking for, but it's a pleasure.

**Lately there seems to be a degree of 'celebrification' of umpires, some of whom appear to be injecting a little bit more of their personality into their role. Is this a conscious move by governing bodies, or does it reflect a new generation of media-savvy officials?**

I hate to agree with you there, but I think you're right that there are some umpires that seek attention more than others. Personally I don't agree with that. We know that we will be in the spotlight and that people will be dissecting our decisions and so on, so I don't think that there is a need to attract any further attention. For me, the perfect match is one where there is no controversy. The less I appear on the screen, the better I'm doing my job. So yes, maybe there is a trend as you suggest, but it's not a result of any policy.

**Is there a danger that technology one day makes your job obsolete? The net-cord monitor has gone. Hawk-Eye can make your calls for you...**

I think that all of the stakeholders in tennis - the tournaments, players, federations - they all recognise that there is a need for the human element. We should see technology as an aid to improve officiating, but it's not a replacement. If tennis lost the human element it would become boring.

**Is it possible for players and officials to be friends?**

Yes, but you have to apply common sense. We travel together; we meet them on the planes. We stay at the same hotels. Can we be friendly with them? Yes, but one has to be professional and to know where to draw a line. Being overfriendly will not earn you the respect of the players. We put a lot of emphasis on this in the code of conduct for officials, but the best rule is to apply common sense.

**What would be your favourite match that you have ever umpired?**

I have a few, for different reasons. Of course, you always remember your first Grand Slam final or Davis Cup final. But if I had to pick one for the quality of play, it would probably be the Federer-Safin Australian Open final in 2005, which was phenomenal. I was conscious that I was witnessing something really exceptional. For emotional reasons, I'll always remember Agassi's last match at the US Open, when he retired. Growing up he was one of my idols, so I was fortunate to share the court with him as an umpire on many occasions in big matches, and I knew that that match was something special. After he lost he gave a very emotional speech and everyone around the court had tears in their eyes, even me!

## Special Olympics 'Euro Tennis 2013'

More than 80 Special Olympics athletes from across Europe travelled to Luxembourg recently to compete at Euro Tennis 2013, which was held at the National Tennis Centre (CNT) in Esch/Alzette. Euro Tennis 2013 is Europe's largest tennis Tournament for players with intellectual disabilities and was hosted by Special Olympics Luxembourg in association with Luxembourg's National Tennis Federation 'Fédération Luxembourgeoise de Tennis' (FLT) and Tennis Club TC Esch.

Team Luxembourg and 18 additional teams from across the Special Olympics Europe Eurasia region took part in what was one of the highlights of the Special Olympics sporting calendar for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The three day competition took the form of singles, doubles and mixed doubles events.

The Euro Tennis 2013 Tournament was well supported by a host of respected sports personalities and dignitaries including members of Luxembourg's Royal family. The patron of Euro Tennis 2013 is HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg and HRH Prince Felix of Luxembourg and his wife Princess Claire showed their support by attending the spectacular Opening Ceremony.

Jacques Radoux, Captain of the Luxembourg Davis Cup Team and Hungarian tennis champion Agnes Szavay conducted a number of tennis skill clinics for the athletes over the three days while Olympic Tennis stars Anne Kremer, Claudine Schaul, Mandy Minella and Gilles Muller also attended and shared their tips on how to hit the perfect lob and serve that flawless ace.

"I am really looking forward to meeting and sharing some tips with the Special Olympics athletes competing and I can't wait to watch them on court playing the beautiful game of tennis. They are an inspiration to me and I am proud to support Special Olympics and Euro Tennis 2013," said Szavay prior to the event.

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities serving more than four million athletes in 175 countries. As Special Olympics is also the world's



A Special Olympics player in action.

largest public health organization for people with intellectual disabilities – a population that can face severe health issues – there was also a Healthy Athlete Screening Village at Euro Tennis 2013. Dozens of volunteer healthcare professionals provided free health screenings to athletes and referrals for follow-up medical care.

In addition to the healthcare volunteers more than 120 volunteers worked tirelessly to support Euro Tennis 2013 across all areas to ensure the three days ran smoothly for the athletes, their families, coaches and thousands of supporters.

Under the theme of the 'Big 4 M – Merci, Muscles, Magic and Music' – the Closing Ceremony took place on November 18th and was just as spectacular as the Opening Ceremony. Supported by the Luxembourg National Olympic Committee, The Luxembourg Ministry of Sports and the Mayors of Esch/Alzette and Pétange Euro Tennis 2013 was successful in its goal of promoting the inclusion and respect of all people with intellectual disabilities while providing intense competition opportunities for the athletes.

For more information: [www.specialolympics.lu](http://www.specialolympics.lu)



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





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## Behind the Baseline...

The ITF has announced that it has renewed its sponsorship agreement with **NEC Corporation** as title sponsor of the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters and as an Official Partner of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour for 2014. The organisation has also confirmed that next year's NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters will be held in London from 24-30, at the Paralympic venue, Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre.

Serbia's **Nenad Zimonjic** has been presented with the 2013 Davis Cup Award of Excellence in recognition of his commitment to the spirit of the competition.

The ATP World Tour has confirmed that **Chris Kermode** will be the organisation's new Chief Executive Officer, commencing his new role on January 1st.

The **ATP** has announced plans to increase prize money at 500-series events by 75% over the next five years. Events at Queen's Club in London and Halle in Germany will be upgraded from 250-series to join the 500 circuit in 2014.

The **British Lawn Tennis Association** has announced a four-year extension to its partnership with mineral water brand Highland Spring.

Organisers have confirmed that the **WTA Tour** event in Brussels will not return next year. Nottingham (GBR) will host a grass court WTA event from 2015 onwards as the calendar shifts to include a three-week gap between Roland Garros and Wimbledon. 2014 will see the first WTA \$125,000 events to be held in Europe at Raanana (ISR) and Limoges (FRA).

The 2014 **Fed Cup by BNP Paribas** final will be held a week later than this year, and is scheduled for the weekend of 8-9 November.

The WTA Tour has announced its annual player award winners; **Serena Williams** (Player of the Year), **Alisa Kleybanova** (Comeback Player of the Year) and **Simona Halep** (Most Improved Player).

The coaching carousel continues to turn in preparation for the New Year, with some high profile changes. **Maria Sharapova** has hired Sven Groeneveld as her new coach, while **Daniela**

**Hantuchova** has teamed up with Ricardo Sanchez. **Sloane Stephens** is working with Paul Annacone on a trial basis. **Laura Robson** will travel with Jesse Witten whilst using Nick Saviano as a consultant. **Angelique Kerber** has begun working with Benjamin Ebrahimzadeh. **Richard Gasquet** has hired former Roland Garros champion Sergi Bruguera as new coach.

**Steffi Graf's** father and former coach Peter passed away from pancreatic cancer on November 30th. He was 75.

Former world #2 **Vera Zvonareva**, who last played at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, is preparing to return to the sport in early in 2014.

**Juan Carlos Ferrero** will open a 24-court tennis academy in Shenzhen, China in September of 2014. Currently under construction, the complex will have a 5,000-capacity centre court, a school and a 200-bedroom 4-star hotel.

Three of Britain's leading female players of the last ten years have retired in recent weeks, with **Elena Baltacha** and **Melanie South** following **Anne Keothavong** in hanging up their racquets. Baltacha and South are both expected to focus on coaching.

**Rafael Nadal** has confirmed that he will play the Miami Masters next March, having skipped the event this year. The world #1 is reported to have earned \$10 million for a week-long series of exhibitions in South America last month.

**Andy Murray's** Wimbledon victory was the most talked-about topic on Facebook in Great Britain in 2013, according to a study made by the site. The Wimbledon champion also won the BBC's prestigious Sports Personality of the Year Award, with 56% of the total public vote.

The **German Tennis Federation** has entered into a three-year partnership with Tennis Warehouse Europe.

**Belinda Bencic** has been named as 'Newcomer of the Year' at the Swiss Sports Awards. **Stanislas Wawrinka** came second in the vote for Sportsman of the Year.

### FAST FACT

The 52,000 balls used at this year's Wimbledon Championships measure 3.5km when laid end-to-end. That's enough to go twice around the Wimbledon grounds!

Source: *SPORTS MARKETING SURVEYS INC.*  
Wimbledon Census 2013.



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## Centenary Tennis Clubs round-up

The Centenary Tennis Clubs Association (CTC) had its busiest ever year in 2013, with the organisation continuing to expand in terms of both its membership and tournament activities that now extend around the world.

A total of 12 international competitions were held in 2013, including friendly events that took place at member clubs as far afield as India, South Africa and Japan.

### Senior Competitions

18 European clubs took part in the CTC Senior Competitions, divided into three groups and one Winners' Group. The Winners' Group was hosted by defending champions TC Parioli in Rome, who invited the winning teams from three other groups to be played in 2012: Kungl LTK (SWE), TC Padova (ITA) and ICLTK Prague (CZE).

With some distinguished players taking to the courts, including ATP and WTA Tour veterans Omar Camporese and Sandrine Testud, the group once again saw some high quality matches and the host club successfully defended their title in an all-Italian final against TC Padova. The social programme was excellently organised and saw Nicola Pietrangeli take the role of Master of Ceremonies.

French club Le Tir hosted one of the senior groups for the first time and was visited by RC Polo (ESP), Carrickmines (IRL) and Fitzwilliam LTC (IRL), with the Spanish team progressing to next year's Winners' Group.

Also in France, Villa Primrose hosted teams from La Magdalena (ESP), TC Genève (SUI) and Royal Leopold (BEL) during the first weekend of September. The final match went to the wire, with the Swiss team eventually outlasting their hosts by the slimmest of margins to claim the trophy with a 5-4 win.

The final group, hosted by HLTC Leimonias in Belgium, suffered from two last-minute withdrawals but the host and guests RCT Barcelona (ESP) were therefore able to enjoy an expanded format of the competition that gave them plenty of match practice. RCT Barcelona was the eventual champion and thus became the second Spanish team to qualify for next year's Winners' Group.

### Friendlies

A third annual UK and Ireland CTC Challenge took



Photos (from top): Players at the Seniors competition at HLTC Leimonias, Sandrine Testud during the final of the Winners' Group at TC Parioli in Rome.

place at the end of August at the Roehampton Club, where the Cumberland LTC won both men's' and ladies' first team sections. The crowning glory went to Carrickmines, who claimed the overall competition by a difference of just one game to take home the Trophy.

### Junior Competitions

The summer's junior events kicked off with the Under 12s Carrickmines Cup at the end of August. Six clubs took part in the event, which saw the hosts narrowly defeated by ICLTK (CZE) in the tightest ever final. Both teams finished 4-4 all in matches and were level on the set count back. In the end, just two games from the four matches gave the Czechs their 7th successive victory in Dublin.

During the same weekend, Under 14 teams from teams from Carrickmines and ICLTK were joined by CE Laietá in visiting RCT Barcelona in Spain for a round robin competition played on the club's famous clay courts. It turned out to be a doubly successful weekend for the Czechs, who successfully defended their title from their last year.

## Centenary Tennis Clubs round-up

ICLTK in turn hosted an Under 14 event two months later with six teams eager to claim the title in the absence of defending champions Kungliga LTK (SWE). The eventual winners were Cumberland LTC, with the Londoners beating the hosts 'B' team in the final.

The Under 16 Fitzwilliam Cup returned to the club of the same name and saw the hosts welcome clubs from Great Britain, Sweden and Spain. TC Cumberland recorded its second junior competition win of the summer by beating Fitzwilliam by margin of sets won in a close final.

In addition to the regular competitions, a special junior exchange was once again organised between the RCT Barcelona and Carrickmines LTC, during which players from each club spent two weeks with local families, training and playing matches as well as improving their language skills and forming friendships. A special seminar was also organised at the Under 14 event in Prague, where coaches were informed about the program for future editions.

Affiliated to Tennis Europe, and recognised by the International Tennis Federation, the Association of Centenary Tennis Clubs was founded in 1996 by eight European clubs who shared the aim of creating an international organisation to support the traditions of the sport. Each of the founder clubs counted on over a hundred years of history, with significant



Players from Carrickmines meeting Tommy Robredo during their exchange with RCT-Barcelona.

tennis and sporting traditions, as well as an important social role in their communities. Member clubs include some of the most recognisable clubs in the world, including Queen's Club (GBR), Kooyong (AUS) and Westside Club (USA).

The organisation celebrated its Annual General Meeting at the home of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne on 29th November in the presence of ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti. Six new clubs were admitted, bringing the total to 71 member clubs from 28 countries on five continents .

The CTC has a long-term partnership with EFG International private bank. For further information about the CTC, visit [www.centenarytennisclubs.com](http://www.centenarytennisclubs.com).





## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – Overall

Tennis Europe's junior ranking system is 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 professional tournaments, all of which are weighted

according to their relative strengths.

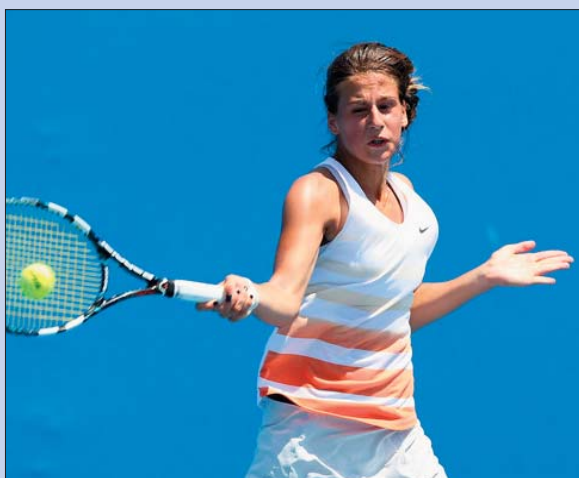
The 14 & Under ranking is still available separately containing points earned exclusively at Tennis Europe Junior Tour events (see next page), as well as being integrated to these overall rankings.

For more information on the ranking system, visit [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).

Rankings below are as of December 17th, 2013.

### Overall Girls' Ranking

| Rank |     | Name                        | Nat. | Points |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|------|--------|
| 01   | ▶   | <b>Belinda BENCIC</b>       | SUI  | 4713   |
| 02   | ▶   | <b>Ana KONJUH</b>           | CRO  | 3590   |
| 03   | ▶   | <b>Darya KASATKINA</b>      | RUS  | 2409   |
| 04   | NEW | <b>Ivana JOROVIC</b>        | SRB  | 1667   |
| 05   | ▲   | <b>Anhelina KALININA</b>    | UKR  | 1650   |
| 06   | ▶   | <b>Tornado Alicia BLACK</b> | USA  | 1627   |
| 07   | ▼   | <b>Veronika KUDERMETOVA</b> | RUS  | 1590   |
| 08   | ▼   | <b>Iryna SHYMANOVICH</b>    | BLR  | 1552   |
| 09   | ▼   | <b>Jil Belen TEICHMANN</b>  | SUI  | 1502   |
| 10   | NEW | <b>Evgeniya LEVASHOVA</b>   | RUS  | 1415   |



Ivana Jorovic (SRB)

### Overall Boys' Ranking

| Rank |     | Name                      | Nat. | Points |
|------|-----|---------------------------|------|--------|
| 01   | ▶   | <b>Alexander ZVEREV</b>   | GER  | 2657   |
| 02   | ▶   | <b>Andrey RUBLEV</b>      | RUS  | 1994   |
| 03   | ▶   | <b>Roman SAFIULLIN</b>    | RUS  | 1887   |
| 04   | ▶   | <b>Stefan KOZLOV</b>      | USA  | 1544   |
| 05   | ▲   | <b>Yunseong CHUNG</b>     | KOR  | 1528   |
| 06   | ▼   | <b>Stefanos TSITSIPAS</b> | GRE  | 1345   |
| 07   | NEW | <b>Michael MMOH</b>       | USA  | 1340   |
| 08   | ▼   | <b>Mate VALKUSZ</b>       | HUN  | 1300   |
| 09   | NEW | <b>Jumpei YAMASAKI</b>    | JPN  | 1231   |
| 10   | NEW | <b>Chan-Yeong OH</b>      | KOR  | 1210   |



Jumpei Yamasaki (JPN)



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – 14 & Under

With very few tournaments taking place at this time of the year, there is little movement at the top of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour ranking lists this month, especially for the boys', which remains almost unchanged.

The biggest splash in recent weeks has been made by Russia's Ekaterina Antropova, who won the biggest title of her junior career so far last month when she claimed the Category 1 Kremlin Cup title in Moscow. The win was her second 14 & under title

of the season, and was her first appearance back on the Tour since reaching the semi finals of the Tennis Europe Junior Masters. Now at a best-ever ranking of #4, Antropova is one of five Russian girls to feature amongst the Top 6 14 & Under players in Europe.

Expect changes in next month's lists, as players born in 1999 and 1997 are removed from the 14 and 16 & Under rankings respectively.

Rankings below are as of December 17th, 2013.

### 14 & Under Girls

| Rank | Name                          | Nat. | Points |
|------|-------------------------------|------|--------|
| 01   | ▶ <b>Evgeniya LEVASHOVA</b>   | RUS  | 1040   |
| 02   | ▶ <b>Amina ANSHBA</b>         | RUS  | 985    |
| 03   | ▶ <b>Marketa VONDROUSOVA</b>  | CZE  | 910    |
| 04   | ▲ <b>Ekaterina ANTROPOVA</b>  | RUS  | 790    |
| 05   | ▼ <b>Sofya ZHUK</b>           | RUS  | 780    |
| 06   | ▼ <b>Valeriya YUSHCHENKO</b>  | RUS  | 775    |
| 07   | ▶ <b>Ioana GUNA</b>           | ROU  | 730    |
| 07   | ▼ <b>Polina GOLUBOVSKAYA</b>  | RUS  | 710    |
| 09   | ▶ <b>Dayana YASTREMSKA</b>    | UKR  | 675    |
| 10   | ▶ <b>Magdalena PANTUCKOVA</b> | CZE  | 645    |



Ekaterina Antropova (RUS)

### 14 & Under Boys

| Rank | Name                            | Nat. | Points |
|------|---------------------------------|------|--------|
| 01   | ▶ <b>Samuele RAMAZZOTTI</b>     | ITA  | 930    |
| 02   | ▶ <b>Corentin MOUTET</b>        | FRA  | 910    |
| 03   | ▶ <b>Artem DUBRIVNYY</b>        | RUS  | 725    |
| 04   | ▶ <b>Miomir KECMANOVIC</b>      | SRB  | 705    |
| 05   | ▶ <b>Ergi KIRKIN</b>            | TUR  | 690    |
| 06   | ▶ <b>Kacper ZUK</b>             | POL  | 660    |
| 07   | ▶ <b>Philipp KLIMOV</b>         | RUS  | 640    |
| 07   | ▶ <b>Mikhail SOKOLOVSKIY</b>    | RUS  | 640    |
| 09   | ▶ <b>Kaya GORE</b>              | TUR  | 618    |
| 10   | <b>NEW</b> ▶ <b>Duarte VALE</b> | POR  | 575    |



Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB)



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

### 12 & Under

| Date   | Tournament      | Winner                     | Runner-Up              | Score       | Doubles Winner                    |
|--------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct 28 | Gradignan (FRA) | A Andreev (BUL)            | N Alvarez Varona (ESP) | 76(4) 16 61 | Grundtvig (DEN)/Onclin (BEL)      |
|        |                 | C Mayorova Bakhitina (ESP) | M Rakotomalala (FRA)   | 61 67(6) 64 | Garceraan/Pavlicic (ESP)          |
| Oct 28 | Telde (ESP)     | J Cueto Ramos (ESP)        | R Martin (SUI)         | 64 76(5)    | Martin (SUI)/Vasa (FIN)           |
|        |                 | C Ruette (BEL)             | M Cusic Braut (ESP)    | 76(2) 76(5) | Braga (ROU)/Viller Moller (DEN)   |
| Nov 11 | Antalya (TUR)   | R Raad (SWE)               | H Regner (SWE)         | 61 60       | Hoeyeraal (NOR)/Olsson Mork (SWE) |
|        |                 | M Furaji (TZN)             | V Stamat (MDA)         | 63 63       | Dalakishvili/Shanidze (GEO)       |
| Dec 9  | Coimbra (POR)   | D Salazar (ESP)            | A Helali (TUN)         | 63 76(4)    | Arcos del Valle/Mantijano (ESP)   |
|        |                 | K Rakhimova (RUS)          | T Pachkaleva (RUS)     | 62 63       | Garceraan/Pavlicic (ESP)          |

### 16 & Under

| Date   | Tournament     | Category / Winner  | Runner-Up           | Score    | Doubles Winner                |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Oct 28 | Sanxenxo (ESP) | 3 D Vale (POR)     | J Amantegui (ESP)   | 61 75    | Amantegui/Tapiador (ESP)      |
|        |                | M Gonzalez (ESP)   | B Bento (POR)       | 75 61    | Bento/Mesquita (POR)          |
| Nov 18 | Dmitrov (RUS)  | 3 A Ovcharov (RUS) | N Mishin (RUS)      | 75 64    | Mishin/Ovcharov (RUS)         |
|        |                | T Nikolaeva (RUS)  | U Shirokova (RUS)   | 61 63    | Makarova/Shirokova (RUS)      |
| Dec 9  | Marsa (MLT)    | 3 A Roglan (ESP)   | A Parker (GBR)      | 63 63    | Efstathiou (GRE)/Roglan (ESP) |
|        |                | K Miletic (SRB)    | N Boltinskaya (RUS) | 76(2) 63 | Kuczer/Kulik (POL)            |



Recent photos from the Tennis Europe Junior Tour (from left): Limassol (CYP) runner-up Hugo Gaston (FRA) and winner Eleftherios Neos (CYP), Kremlin Cup Moscow (RUS) champions Alen Avidzba and Ekaterina Antropova (RUS) (Photo courtesy of [www.juniortennis.ru](http://www.juniortennis.ru)), Tennis Pro Project Cup (Jurmala, LAT) girls' champion Katsiaryna Yemelyanenko (BLR).

More photos from the Tennis Europe Junior Tour can be found at <http://www.tenniseurope.org/photobooks.aspx?id=719>.



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

### 14 & Under

| Date   | Tournament      | Category / Winner      | Runner-Up                | Score       | Doubles Winner                     |
|--------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Sep 23 | Kiev (UKR)      | 3 V Vronskiy (RUS)     | M Sekamov (RUS)          | 63 26 108   | Baklanov/Degoduk (UKR)             |
|        |                 | A Potapova (RUS)       | M Borodiy (UKR)          | 62 61       | Borodiy/Petrova (UKR)              |
| Sep 23 | Umag (CRO)      | 3 A Arh (SLO)          | R Savin (CRO)            | 63 61       | Lenoch/Verbensky (CZE)             |
|        |                 | A Kynclova (CZE)       | P Pupic (CRO)            | 62 64       | Novak (SLO)/Solovyeva (RUS)        |
| Oct 21 | Jurmala (LAT)   | 3 M Sekamov (RUS)      | A Zakharov (RUS)         | 76(6) 62    | Kravchenko (UKR)/Zgirovsky (BLR)   |
|        |                 | K Yemelyanenko (BLR)   | M Galiv (RUS)            | 61 63       | Alexandrova/Yemelyanenko (BLR)     |
| Oct 28 | Davos (SUI)     | 2 J Paul (SUI)         | D Wenger (SUI)           | 64 62       | Gatev/Vontobel (SUI)               |
|        |                 | N Boltinskaya (RUS)    | S Drabkova (CZE)         | 64 62       | Drummy (IRL)/Kokeladze (RUS)       |
| Oct 28 | Telde (ESP)     | 3 S Ingles Garre (ESP) | T Soares (POR)           | 63 62       | Ingles Garre (ESP)/Lingxi (CHN)    |
|        |                 | C Molina Megias (ESP)  | D Stoica (ROU)           | 64 64       | Girbau Romero (ESP)/Stoica (ROU)   |
| Oct 28 | Larnaca (CYP)   | 3 H Gaston (FRA)       | E Neos (CYP)             | 63 76(3)    | Campbell/Neos (CYP)                |
|        |                 | A Collins (GBR)        | P Krupchenko (RUS)       | 61 61       | Nazarkina/Stepanova (RUS)          |
| Nov 4  | Limassol (CYP)  | 3 E Neos (CYP)         | H Gaston (FRA)           | 16 64 75    | Efstathiou/Neos (CYP)              |
|        |                 | S Cadar (ROU)          | A Collins (GBR)          | 61 75       | Collins/Hunter (GBR)               |
| Nov 4  | Moscow (RUS)    | 1 A Avidzba (RUS)      | D Voronin (RUS)          | 63 61       | Hruncak (SVK)/Zahraj (GER)         |
|        |                 | E Antropova (RUS)      | A Potapova (RUS)         | 76(3) 46 63 | Shytouskaya/Yemelyanenko (BLR)     |
| Nov 11 | Edgbaston (GBR) | 3 J Hersey (GBR)       | T Leblanc Claverie (FRA) | 63 62       | Eckert/von der Schulenburg (SUI)   |
|        |                 | C Froget (FRA)         | E Maloney (GBR)          | 36 76(4) 63 | Hunter (GBR)/Jansen Figueras (ESP) |
| Nov 18 | Stavanger (NOR) | 3 M Sulen (NOR)        | A Bovy (BEL)             | 60 63       | Nygaard/Schou (DEN)                |
|        |                 | M Helgo (NOR)          | A Brune Olsen (NOR)      | 63 61       | Halvorsen/Storhaug (NOR)           |
| Nov 25 | Göteborg (SWE)  | 3 P Stenfors (FIN)     | I Vesanen (FIN)          | 63 67(3) 61 | Akerlund/Hallin (SWE)              |
|        |                 | E Alexandrova (BLR)    | S Drabkova (CZE)         | 57 63 62    | Drabkova (CZE)/Zykute (LTU)        |
| Dec 2  | Milovice (CZE)  | 3 M Vrbensky (CZE)     | A Stepanek (CZE)         | 64 62       | Jirousek/Velek (CZE)               |
|        |                 | L Kankova (CZE)        | S Drabkova (CZE)         | 63 63       | Kankova/Kynclova (CZE)             |
| Dec 2  | Nastola (FIN)   | 3 A Zakharov (RUS)     | V Vronskiy (RUS)         | 64 60       | Schouten (NED)/Wenger (SUI)        |
|        |                 | M Galiy (RUS)          | A Kharitonova (RUS)      | 36 61 63    | Denisenko/Galiy (RUS)              |

PARTNERS OF THE  
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RECOMMENDED BALL



RECOMMENDED  
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## ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



### ITF Men's Circuit

| Week   | Venue                   | Cat.     | Winner                | Runner-Up             | Score       | Doubles                           |
|--------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct 28 | Madrid (ESP)            | \$10,000 | J Kubler (AUS)        | J Werner (GER)        | 76(5) 60    | Arenas Gualda/Pulgar Garcia (ESP) |
| Oct 28 | Edgbaston (GBR)         | \$10,000 | L Grigelis (LTU)      | J de Loore (BEL)      | 63 16 60    | Bambridge/Morgan (GBR)            |
| Oct 28 | Heraklion (GRE)         | \$10,000 | D Novak (AUT)         | F Gaio (ITA)          | 64 62       | Jankovic (SRB)/Kocevar (SLO)      |
| Oct 28 | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | M Dubarenco (MDA)     | A Ciumac (MDA)        | 41 ret.     | Ciumac (MDA)/Smirnov (UKR)        |
| Oct 28 | Umag (CRO)              | \$10,000 | J Semrajc (SLO)       | D Kekez (CRO)         | 64 62       | Sancic (CRO)/Semrajc (SLO)        |
| Nov 4  | Puerto de la Cruz (ESP) | \$10,000 | Y Mertens (BEL)       | R Ortega-Olmedo (ESP) | 62 63       | Checa-Calvo/Ortega (ESP)          |
| Nov 4  | Heraklion (GRE)         | \$10,000 | J Tatlot (FRA)        | Y Marti (SUI)         | 57 64 76(5) | Djokovic (SRB)/Gomez (ESP)        |
| Nov 4  | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | R Kern (GER)          | N Basilashvili (GEO)  | 46 63 63    | Haenle/Kern (GER)                 |
| Nov 4  | Umag (CRO)              | \$10,000 | N Razborsek (SLO)     | T Androic (CRO)       | 46 62 61    | Marcan/Sancic (CRO)               |
| Nov 11 | Bol (CRO)               | \$10,000 | T Androic (CRO)       | I Mijic (GER)         | 62 60       | Razborsek/Urbaniija (CRO)         |
| Nov 11 | Nicosia (CYP)           | \$10,000 | B Trinker (AUT)       | L Djere (SRB)         | 62 63       | Borgo/Bortolotti (ITA)            |
| Nov 11 | Puerto de la Cruz (ESP) | \$10,000 | J Checa Calvo (ESP)   | J Pulgar-Garcia (ESP) | 63 67(7) 63 | Boluda/Ortega (ESP)               |
| Nov 11 | Heraklion (GRE)         | \$10,000 | O Golding (GBR)       | L Bambridge (GBR)     | 16 62 63    | Bambridge/Golding (GBR)           |
| Nov 11 | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | M Rath (AUT)          | N Basilashvili (GEO)  | 61 63       | Schonenberg/Wunner (GER)          |
| Nov 18 | Bol (CRO)               | \$10,000 | T Brkic (BIH)         | S Caruso (ITA)        | 46 75 75    | Abandoned                         |
| Nov 18 | Nicosia (CYP)           | \$10,000 | M Schmid (CZE)        | L Djere (SRB)         | 64 62       | Gille (BEL)/Roy (FRA)             |
| Nov 18 | Puerto de la Cruz (ESP) | \$10,000 | R Ortega-Olmedo (ESP) | J Checa-Calvo (ESP)   | 75 75       | Arauzo-Martinez/Vega (ESP)        |
| Nov 18 | Rethymno (GRE)          | \$10,000 | O Golding (GBR)       | N Cacic (SRB)         | 64 76(4)    | Burton/Willis (GBR)               |
| Nov 18 | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | A Zaitsev             | J De Loore            | 63 30 ret.  | Chepelev/Zaitsev (RUS)            |
| Nov 18 | Jablonec (CZE)          | \$15,000 | U Ignatik (BLR)       | K Beck (SVK)          | 62 63       | Koniusz/Smola (POL)               |
| Nov 25 | Bol (CRO)               | \$10,000 | T Androic (CRO)       | M Sabanov ((CRO)      | 61 61       | Ciric/Tosic (SRB)                 |
| Nov 25 | Larnaca (CYP)           | \$10,000 | E Crepaldi (ITA)      | A Lazov (BUL)         | 63 63       | Carpen (ROU)/Panfil (POL)         |
| Nov 25 | Puerto del Carmen (ESP) | \$10,000 | A Vatutin (RUS)       | F Silva (POR)         | 64 64       | Conde-Jackson/Marrero (ESP)       |
| Nov 25 | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | J Obyr (FRA)          | J Lizariturry (ESP)   | 60 62       | Koolhof(NED)/Motti (ITA)          |
| Nov 25 | Opava (CZE)             | \$15,000 | L Grigelis (LTU)      | U Ignatik (BLR)       | 46 63 76(2) | Koniusz/Smola (POL)               |
| Dec 2  | Puerto del Carmen (ESP) | \$10,000 | J Checa-Calvo (ESP)   | A Basso (ITA)         | 64 61       | Arenas-Gualda (ESP)/Sikora (SVK)  |
| Dec 2  | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | M Basic (BIH)         | E Corrie (GBR)        | 75 64       | Barth (GER)/Yevseyev (KAZ)        |
| Dec 9  | Antalya (TUR)           | \$10,000 | A Smirnov (UKR)       | J Obyr (FRA)          | 57 63 62    | Plotniy (RUS)/Smirnov (UKR)       |

Updated seven days a week, all the latest draws, results, schedules, tournament fact sheets and entry lists from ITF Men's & Women's Circuit events in Europe can be found on the [European Tennis Calendar](#).

## ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



### ITF Women's Circuit

| Week   | Venue                | Cat.       | Winner                  | Runner-Up               | Score          | Doubles                         |
|--------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Oct 28 | Umag (CRO)           | \$10,000   | B Krejcikova (CZE)      | A Bukta (HUN)           | 61 64          | Juhaszova (SVK)/Malikova (CZE)  |
| Oct 28 | Benicarlo (ESP)      | \$10,000   | A Gamiz (VEN)           | J Suvrijn (FRA)         | 62 60          | Bua (ARG)/Cervera Vazquez (ESP) |
| Oct 28 | Heraklion (GRE)      | \$10,000   | L Sarrazin (FRA)        | N Siedliska (POL)       | 75 62          | Kolarova/Schweinrova (CZE)      |
| Oct 28 | Stockholm (SWE)      | \$10,000   | R Peterson (SWE)        | Z Luknarova (SVK)       | 67(4) 62 64    | Bashota/Celik (SWE)             |
| Oct 28 | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | P Tig (ROU)             | R Platon (ROU)          | 62 42 ret.     | Buzean/Platon (ROU)             |
| Oct 28 | Istanbul (TUR)       | \$25,000   | K Pervak (RUS)          | A Kalinina (UKR)        | 60 75          | Buyukakcay/Ozgen (TUR)          |
| Oct 28 | Nantes (FRA)         | \$50,000+H | A Sasnovich (BLR)       | M Linette (POL)         | 46 64 62       | Hradecka (CZE)/Krajicek (NED)   |
| Oct 28 | Barnstaple (GBR)     | \$75,000   | M Sirotkina (RUS)       | K Pliskova (CZE)        | 67(5) 63 76(6) | Broady (GBR)/Pliskova (CZE)     |
| Nov 4  | Umag (CRO)           | \$10,000   | A Bukta (HUN)           | A Lekaj (CRO)           | 60 61          | Bukta (HUN)/Juhaszova (SVK)     |
| Nov 4  | Vinaroz (ESP)        | \$10,000   | O Saez Larra (ESP)      | M Sherif (EGY)          | 46 75 64       | Bua (ARG)/Cervera Vazquez (ESP) |
| Nov 4  | Loughborough (GBR)   | \$10,000   | A Smith (GBR)           | K Liebens (BEL)         | 63 75          | Rae/Smith (GBR)                 |
| Nov 4  | Heraklion (GRE)      | \$10,000   | N Siedliska (POL)       | V Zovincova (CZE)       | 61 64          | Borsanyi (HUN)/Csoregi (ROU)    |
| Nov 4  | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | P Tig (ROU)             | M Kubickova (CZE)       | 67(5) 62 62    | Buzean/Platon (ROU)             |
| Nov 4  | Eqzardreville (FRA)  | \$25,000   | A Hesse (FRA)           | T Bacsinszky (SUI)      | 76(5) 36 64    | Bacsinszky (SUI)/Barrois (GER)  |
| Nov 4  | Istanbul (TUR)       | \$50,000   | K Pervak (RUS)          | E Birnerova (CZE)       | 64 76(4)       | Abduraimova (UZB)/Camerin (ITA) |
| Nov 11 | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | A Bogdan (ROU)          | E Gorgodze (GEO)        | 76(5) 76(5)    | Gjorcheska (MKD)/Vdovenco (MDA) |
| Nov 11 | Helsinki (FIN)       | \$10,000   | J Ostapenko (LAT)       | S Celik (SWE)           | 75 46 75       | Ostapenko (LAT)/Paalma (EST)    |
| Nov 11 | Bol (CRO)            | \$10,000   | E Mikulcic (CRO)        | G Pantuckova (CZE)      | 62 63          | Krejcikova (CZE)/Schuurs (NED)  |
| Nov 11 | Sant Jordi (ESP)     | \$10,000   | P Badosa (ESP)          | L Cervera Vazquez (ESP) | 75 60          | Luz (POR)/Parrizas-Diaz (ESP)   |
| Nov 11 | Manchester (GBR)     | \$10,000   | K Liebens (BEL)         | N Vajdova (CZE)         | 75 61          | Rae/Smith (GBR)                 |
| Nov 11 | Heraklion (GRE)      | \$10,000   | A Kushkhova (RUS)       | V Zovincova (CZE)       | 62 62          | Borsanyi (HUN)/Csoregi (ROU)    |
| Nov 11 | Minsk (BLR)          | \$25,000   | M Gasparyan (RUS)       | A Vasylyeva (GEO)       | 64 64          | Kremem/Sasnovich (BLR)          |
| Nov 11 | Zawada (POL)         | \$25,000   | K Siniakova (CZE)       | N Zander (GER)          | 61 63          | Frankova/Smitkova (CZE)         |
| Nov 18 | Bol (CRO)            | \$10,000   | I Mekovec (CRO)         | M Spremo (SRB)          | 67(9) 60 63    | Not played                      |
| Nov 18 | Castellon (ESP)      | \$10,000   | L Cervera-Vazquez (ESP) | O Saez Larra            | 61 60          | Colmegna (ITA)/Klasen (GER)     |
| Nov 18 | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | E Gorgodze (GEO)        | D Buzean (ROU)          | 46 61 64       | Gjorcheska (MKD)/Vdovenco (MDA) |
| Nov 18 | Bucha (UKR)          | \$25,000   | P Vinogradova (RUS)     | A Kalinina (UKR)        | 46 63 64       | Shapatava (GEO)/Vasylyeva (UKR) |
| Nov 25 | Bol (CRO)            | \$10,000   | B Krejcikova (CZE)      | E Mikulcic (CRO)        | 36 60 63       | Krejcikova (CZE)/Mihaila (ROU)  |
| Nov 25 | Nules (ESP)          | \$10,000   | O Saez Larra (ESP)      | L Sabino (SUI)          | 63 62          | Bouzo Zanotti (ESP)/Ibbou (ALG) |
| Nov 25 | Rethymno (GRE)       | \$10,000   | K Dunne (GBR)           | L van Riet (NED)        | 63 64          | Askew/Dunne (GBR)               |
| Nov 25 | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | A Sotnikova (UKR)       | A Vdovenco (MDA)        | 60 76(2)       | Kostic (SRB)/Morgosova (SVK)    |
| Dec 2  | Borriol (ESP)        | \$10,000   | M Marfutina (RUS)       | L Jeanjean (FRA)        | 16 75 63       | Jeanjean/Partaud (FRA)          |
| Dec 2  | Duino Aurisina (ITA) | \$10,000   | A Grymalska (ITA)       | M Chakhnashvili (GEO)   | 63 64          | Giovine/Matteucci (ITA)         |
| Dec 2  | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | N Dzalimidze (RUS)      | A Sotnikova (RUS)       | 26 76(5) 63    | Dzalimidze/Kazimova (RUS)       |
| Dec 2  | Vendryne (CZE)       | \$15,000   | E Alexandrova (RUS)     | K Vankova (CZE)         | 57 76(0) 61    | Kubickova/Malikova (CZE)        |
| Dec 9  | Antalya (TUR)        | \$10,000   | I Bara (ROU)            | H Yamamoto (JPN)        | 64 61          | Buzean/Platon (ROU)             |
| Dec 9  | Madrid (ESP)         | \$25,000   | A Hesse (FRA)           | E Birnerova (CZE)       | 46 60 62       | Schuurs/Waccano (NED)           |

## European Tennis Rankings – Men & Women

### European Women

| Rank (WTA) | Name                          | Nat. | Points |
|------------|-------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1 (2)      | ▶ <b>Victoria AZARENKA</b>    | BLR  | 8046   |
| 2 (4)      | ▶ <b>Maria SHARAPOVA</b>      | RUS  | 5891   |
| 3 (5)      | ▶ <b>Agnieszka RADWANKSA</b>  | POL  | 5875   |
| 4 (6)      | ▶ <b>Petra KVITOVA</b>        | CZE  | 4775   |
| 5 (7)      | ▶ <b>Sara ERRANI</b>          | ITA  | 4435   |
| 6 (8)      | ▶ <b>Jelena JANKOVIC</b>      | SRB  | 4170   |
| 7 (9)      | ▶ <b>Angelique KERBER</b>     | GER  | 3965   |
| 8 (10)     | ▶ <b>Caroline WOZNIACKI</b>   | DEN  | 3520   |
| 9 (11)     | ▲ <b>Simona HALEP</b>         | ROU  | 3335   |
| 10 (13)    | ▼ <b>Marion BARTOLI</b>       | FRA  | 3172   |
| 11 (14)    | ▼ <b>Roberta VINCI</b>        | ITA  | 3170   |
| 12 (15)    | ▶ <b>Sabine LISICKI</b>       | GER  | 2920   |
| 13 (16)    | ▶ <b>Ana IVANOVIC</b>         | SRB  | 2850   |
| 14 (17)    | ▶ <b>Carla SUAREZ NAVARRO</b> | ESP  | 2735   |
| 15 (19)    | ▶ <b>Maria KIRILENKO</b>      | RUS  | 2640   |
| 16 (20)    | ▶ <b>Kirsten FLIPKENS</b>     | BEL  | 2495   |
| 17 (21)    | ▶ <b>Svetlana KUZNETSOVA</b>  | RUS  | 2341   |
| 18 (22)    | ▶ <b>Sorana CIRSTEA</b>       | ROU  | 2170   |
| 19 (23)    | ▶ <b>Dominika CIBULKOVA</b>   | SVK  | 2076   |
| 20 (24)    | ▶ <b>Ekaterina MAKAROVA</b>   | RUS  | 2066   |

### European Men

| Rank (ATP) | Name                           | Nat. | Points |
|------------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1 (1)      | ▶ <b>Rafael NADAL</b>          | ESP  | 13030  |
| 2 (2)      | ▶ <b>Novak DJOKOVIC</b>        | SRB  | 12260  |
| 3 (3)      | ▶ <b>David FERRER</b>          | ESP  | 5800   |
| 4 (4)      | ▶ <b>Andy MURRAY</b>           | GBR  | 5790   |
| 5 (6)      | ▶ <b>Roger FEDERER</b>         | SUI  | 4205   |
| 6 (7)      | ▶ <b>Tomas BERDYCH</b>         | CZE  | 4180   |
| 7 (8)      | ▶ <b>Stanislas WAWRINKA</b>    | SUI  | 3730   |
| 8 (9)      | ▲ <b>Richard GASQUET</b>       | FRA  | 3300   |
| 9 (10)     | ▼ <b>Jo-Wilfried TSONGA</b>    | FRA  | 3065   |
| 10 (12)    | ▶ <b>Tommy HAAS</b>            | GER  | 2435   |
| 11 (13)    | ▲ <b>Nicolas ALMAGRO</b>       | ESP  | 2290   |
| 12 (15)    | ▲ <b>Mikhail YOUZHNY</b>       | RUS  | 2145   |
| 13 (16)    | ▲ <b>Fabio FOGNINI</b>         | ITA  | 1930   |
| 14 (18)    | ▲ <b>Tommy ROBREDO</b>         | ESP  | 1810   |
| 15 (19)    | ▼ <b>Gilles SIMON</b>          | FRA  | 1790   |
| 16 (21)    | ▼ <b>Jerzy JANOWICZ</b>        | POL  | 1615   |
| 17 (22)    | ▲ <b>Philipp KOHLSCHRIEBER</b> | GER  | 1525   |
| 18 (23)    | ▼ <b>Grigor DIMITROV</b>       | BUL  | 1520   |
| 19 (24)    | ▶ <b>Ernests GULBIS</b>        | LAT  | 1393   |
| 20 (25)    | ▶ <b>Andreas SEPPI</b>         | ITA  | 1360   |



Victoria Azarenka (BLR)



Rafael Nadal (ESP)



Simona Halep (ROU)

## Notes from Tennis Europe

### Season's greetings from the staff of Tennis Europe!

Please note that our offices will be closed for the Christmas break from 24 December-1 January (inclusive).

### National Associations

Cathie Sabin is the new President of the British Lawn Tennis Association.

Sergiy Lagur is the new President of the Ukrainian Tennis Federation. Evgeniy Zukin is the new General Secretary.

The Ukrainian Federation's contact details have also changed:  
P.O.Box 377, Kyiv 03150, Ukraine. Tel/Fax: +380 44 287 4171.

### European Racquet Stringers' Association

The latest edition of ERSA's Racquet Tech online magazine is now available to download or read online [here](#).

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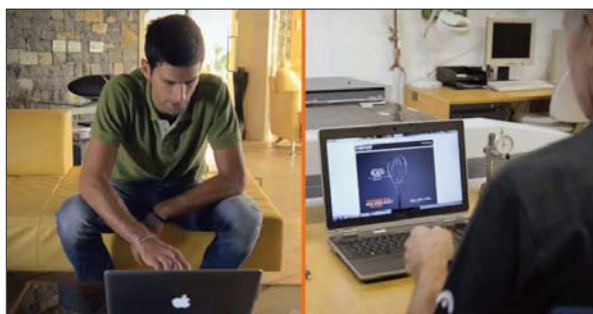
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