



Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD



Above, Britain's winning Boys 14 & Under team (left to right, Captain Iain Hughes, Evan Hoyt, Christopher Pearce, Luke Bambridge), and Hungary's victorious Girls 16 team (left to right, Timea Babos, Zsolt Miko, Agnes Bukta, Captain Miklos Hornok).

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Teams from Great Britain, Belgium, France and Hungary are celebrating success this week following the conclusion of the biggest ever edition of the sports' largest junior indoor team event, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD.

Now in their 33rd year, the event saw a record participation with 126 national teams from 35 European countries travelling to the qualifying rounds, staged during the first two weekends of February, from which 8 finalists in each category advanced to last weekend's finals.

In Pruhonice (CZE), the British boys' 14 & Under team scored the most dominant of all wins. Seeded #1 for the event, and with a squad that included three members of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour top ten – Luke Bambridge, Evan Hoyt and Christopher Pearce – Britain first topped their qualifying group in Correggio and went on to become the only team to win all nine matches in the final stages.

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Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD

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3-0 wins against Belarus and the Netherlands set the stage for a final showdown with France, who had upset defending champions Belgium and hotly-tipped Italy on route. In the day's first match, Christopher Pearce overcame a second set fightback to inflict opponent Enzo Couacaud's first Winter Cups defeat, eventually triumphing 76(2) 36 62.

The match between the top players of each team was to prove a titanic battle. France's Enzo Py edged a close first set tiebreak 7-5 forcing Luke Bambridge to raise his play in the second set, which he won 6-4. A memorable third set saw both players with chances to win but it was Bambridge who held his nerve after sixteen games to clinch the tie for the British and emerge a 67 64 97 winner. Pearce then returned to the court with Evan Hoyt to complete a 3-0 sweep, brushing past Couacaud and Florian Lakat 64 62 in the doubles match.

The title represents the third British win in this age category, and first since Andy Murray skippered the team to victory in 2001. Iain Hughes, the GB Captain later commented, "It was an outstanding effort by the boys. To show such competitive qualities and team spirit at the end of the indoor season, each having played over 30 competitive matches in 8 weeks, was a testament to themselves and their programmes. It is a fantastic start to the year."



Former world #1 Kim Clijsters was a lucky charm for Belgium's Girls 14 team.

It certainly has been a productive start to the season for Britain's boys, whose winning team members fortify their positions in the top ten, backed up by another five compatriots in the top 50.

By contrast, the Girls' 14 & under finals in Leeuwarden (NED) between Belgium and Russia had no shortage of drama. The second seeded Belgians had been in fine form throughout the weekend, sweeping aside the challenge of Great Britain and Belarus with ease, though they were not favoured to beat a Russian team that has dominated this competition in recent years,

(Continued on page 3)

TENNIS EUROPE WINTER CUPS BY HEAD FINAL STANDINGS

14 & UNDER BOYS

1	GREAT BRITAIN
2	FRANCE
3	ITALY
4	NETHERLANDS
5	RUSSIA
6	BELARUS
7	UKRAINE
8	BELGIUM

14 & UNDER GIRLS

BELGIUM
RUSSIA
BELARUS
GERMANY
CZECH REPUBLIC
GREAT BRITAIN
BULGARIA
SERBIA

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD

(Continued from page 2)

winning seven of the last nine titles and hoping to win a third in a row.

Klaartje Liebens gave the second seeded Belgians an early lead, recovering from a set down to upset Russian #2 (European #3) Irina Khromacheva 36 63 75. Tennis Europe Junior Tour #2 Yulia Putintseva then levelled the tie for Russia, overcoming a spirited second set challenge from Justine de Sutter to grind out a 62 75 win. De Sutter and Liebens then returned to the court to face Khromacheva and the rested Maria Aleksandrova, and overcame a punishing first set loss to eventually edge to a 16 64 (10-7) win.

The win represents Belgium's second Winter Cups title, reclaiming the European crown for the first time since 1996, when future world #1s Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin teamed for victory. Clijsters' affection for the event is still apparent, with the former US Open champion having attended this year's qualifying rounds in Bree, where she met the players from all teams and passed on tips to the eventual champions.

A first-time winner of the Girls 16 & Under title was guaranteed when Hungary and the Ukraine beat Belarus and Germany respectively to advance to the finals in Ronchin (FRA).

Unseeded Ukraine had caused the shock of the event on the first day, accounting for second seeds Slovenia, and looked set to better that as they took an early



lead against the heavily-favoured top seeds thanks to Elina Svitolina's 64 57 63 win over Hungarian #3 Zsolia Miko.

The top ranked-player in the tie, Timea Babos (currently in the top ten of both the Tennis Europe Junior Tour 16 & Under and the ITF Junior rankings) then drew on her experience to level the tie. Participating in the Winter Cups final rounds for a second consecutive year, Babos weathered a second set fight-back to outlast Valentina Ivakhnenko 61 46 61 and draw even. The four players then returned for the deciding doubles rubber, of which the Hungarian team was always in control, winning 64 64 to settle the tie and the championship.

With the win, Babos joins an elite group of players to

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TENNIS EUROPE WINTER CUPS BY HEAD FINAL STANDINGS

16 & UNDER BOYS

1	FRANCE
2	SPAIN
3	GERMANY
4	ROMANIA
5	SWITZERLAND
6	CROATIA
7	UKRAINE
8	SWEDEN

16 & UNDER GIRLS

HUNGARY
UKRAINE
BELARUS
GERANY
ROMANIA
SERBIA
SLOVENIA
BELGIUM

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD

have won European Junior titles as an individual and a team player. Commenting on the win, she said, "After winning the Junior Championships in Moscow last year it was fantastic to win the gold medal with the team as well. I played better and better each day and when I was in trouble, my teammates were there to help me emotionally. The organisation was fantastic, just like last year I enjoyed every day we spent in Ronchin - we arrived a bit earlier than the competition started so that we could practice enough. The crowd was also fantastic, all I regret is that my dad couldn't be there to see our triumph but I hope he will have the chance to see me win in the future."

France's Boys 16 & Under team in Vendryne (CZE) made up for their nation's disappointment in Pruhonice by extending their record winning tally in this age group to 11 Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD titles.

Having advanced to the final with 3-0 wins over Sweden and Romania, the French faced the surprise package of the tournament, Spain, who had battled through to the final for the first time since 2003 at the expense of seeded teams Switzerland and Germany, and were hoping to win their first title since Rafael Nadal led the team to victory in 2001.

Mick Lescure took an early lead for France with a 62 62 win over Oriol Roca. Cedrick Commin, who had beaten the Tennis Europe Junior Tour's #1 player Vasile Ghilea the previous day, then won a one-sided battle of the #1 players from each team, sweeping past Axel Alvarez 60 63.

The French team has been a dominant force in this age group in recent years, failing to reach the final match only one in the last six years, a period which has yielded three titles.

Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää expressed Tennis Europe's satisfaction with the tournament; "I'd especially like to thank our partner HEAD for the continued support of the event, which has gone from strength to strength as a result of our cooperation. Interest in the tournament is now so high that we may have to consider extending the available qualifying places in future years to enable as many European nations as possible to take part in the event. Thanks also to all our nineteen venues, and the organisers who worked so hard to make the event an enjoyable



Above (top) Timea Babos (left) celebrates with Agnes Bukta (Image courtesy of Stéphane Martinache). Below, France's winning Boys 16 team.

one for the hundreds of players and coaches who took part."

Division Manager of HEAD Racquetsports, Robert Marte, responded, "The 2009 Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD was once again a high quality competition and hugely successful both as an event and for us as sponsors. We are proud to be partners with Tennis Europe, one of the most respected organizations in the European tennis community, and we greatly value the opportunity of being presenting sponsors of the Winter Cups."

Further information, including full draws, results, team information and photo galleries can be found at www.TennisEurope.org.

North East Training Camp in Tallinn, Estonia

The ITF/Tennis Europe North East Regional Training Camp for players aged 14 & Under took place recently in Tallinn, Estonia. The camp, which ran from 12 – 18 January, attracted fifteen players and six coaches from the Baltic region (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) as well as from Belarus and the Ukraine. In addition to the camp, the players had the opportunity to take part in the international 14 & Under Tennis Europe tournament, which took place in Narva upon completion of the training period.

During the five days of the training camp, players had the opportunity to work on their technical and tactical skills, paying special attention to the development of their match game in order to prepare for the following tournament.

Redt Raimal, in charge of 12 & Under players at the Estonian Tennis Association and responsible for the North East Training Camp commented: "This training camp was a great opportunity for our promising players to practice together with their peers from neighbouring countries. At the same time we were sharing and discussing coaching knowledge and experi-



ences. The main focus of the camp was on an offensive all-court game. All the players and coaches seemed to enjoy it very much and felt that the camp was a great success."

The Estonian Tennis Association also expressed their thanks to the ITF and Tennis Europe for the opportunity to organize this development event in Estonia.

Level 2 Training Course in Plovdiv, Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Tennis Association hosted an ITF Level 2 Coaches Course in Plovdiv, Bulgaria from 2 - 14 February 2009. Under the supervision of ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajić and ITF expert Ales Filipčić (SLO), 17 experienced coaches from Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia had the opportunity to master the competencies important for coaching advanced players. At the same time Tzvetanka Zaharieva and Ivaylo Tsonev (BUL) were trained as the National Tutors who will deliver similar Courses for Bulgarian coaches in the future.

During the 12-day course, the coaches were able to improve their knowledge of coaching tournament players, focusing specifically on technique, tactics, psychology, fitness training, and communication. An important practical element of the course was the on-court practice sessions, which involved some of the most promising Bulgarian junior players.

Ales Filipčić commented: "Very good organization and advanced players enable coaches to take full advantage of this high level course. The newly acquired knowledge should help them to develop young players more effectively with the use of modern methodology.



I think the course prepared coaches to the new challenges that come."

Hrvoje Zmajić, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer added: "One of the priorities in our Development programmes is coaches' education and especially helping the National Federations to become independent in this area. We are happy to say that the Bulgarian Federation recognises the importance of quality education for tennis coaches and is ready to educate next generations of coaches by themselves."

In the Spotlight: Ari Heinilä

Ari Heinilä is a Finnish documentary film maker, whose company Motion Oy, has produced over 100 films and television programmes over the past twenty years. One of their most recent projects is a film called 'Star or Comet', which focuses on the contrasting pressures, rewards and conditions faced by two Finnish tennis players – Juho Paukku and Jarkko Nieminen – as they travel the world on very different strata of the professional circuits.

The film has had an enthusiastic reception from critics, and recently won an award (from multiple nominations) at the International Sport Film Festival in Palermo. We caught up with Ari to find out what drew him to the world of tennis.

You have previously made documentaries about extreme sports and adventurers. What attracted you to making a film about the tennis world?

I love tennis because of the mini-dramas that unfold within each match. The one in the film where Jarkko Nieminen played with Robby Ginepri is a good example. Ginepri led the final third set 5-1, got maybe a little bit uncomfortable, Nieminen took his chance and turned the whole match. On the other hand, one can win more points but still lose if his opponent takes the last point. It's not always "fair" but that's why it's so interesting for audience. Sometimes tennis can also give beautiful images, which you can capture with extreme slow motions. That was another challenge that attracted me.

What's the key message you hope to convey in the film?

That tennis is a lovely hobby but a very demanding job. Normally TV shows just the glorious tournaments with high prizes that convey a message of "easy living". It does not show the back yards of professional tennis, Futures and Challenger tournaments where young talents try to make their breakthrough to the bigger tournaments. Sometimes there's no money, no coaches, no honey. The contrast is huge. And in the end, only a couple of hundred players are able to earn their living from tournament tennis.

How did you convince the players to take part in the documentary?

It was a hard job. First I had to negotiate with the manager of Jarkko Nieminen. He suggested me to wait until Jarkko was ranked in the top 10. But when TV or-



"Tennis is a lovely hobby, but a very demanding job."

ders this kind of documentary, they are not willing to wait a long time. It was very difficult to convince the manager about this project and to finally get a meeting with Jarkko. Jarkko did not know me personally but after couple of meetings he said yes and after that there was no problems with co-operation with him. He is a very nice fellow.

The other main character, Juho Paukku was a different case, because he was the one who had to keep a diary camera throughout a whole year. It's a job and that's why I paid him for that. Money is always welcome for these young future players. It was risky, because I didn't know what kind of person Juho was. But I soon realised that he was a right one, open-minded and honest so that he was able to express his feelings to the camera and audience. And did his job despite the fact that sometimes after a first round loss he was more inclined to throw the camera against the wall.

Was it easy to get access to the tournaments, and the players you spoke to, such as Roger Federer?

It was unexpectedly difficult. The first challenge was accreditation to tournaments that have sold their TV rights to some big TV-companies. Some right holders allow you to take some footage outside the courts, like interviews. Some allow you to film on the courts where they don't have cameras. I was very lucky in Basel ATP, where Jarkko Nieminen was playing his first round match with Robby Ginepri. Although it was on the centre court, Eurosport cameramen had not yet arrived, and I have to thank the tournament president, who got me permission after several phone calls over Europe.

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In the Spotlight: Ari Heinilä

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I really wanted to interview Roger Federer but soon I heard that he has a line 2 months long for journalists. Jarkko is a friend of Roger, so one possibility was that Jarkko spoke to him if they meet during practice, but they did not. The last chance was the normal press conference. It's about 10 min long, and you have certain minutes for English, German and French questions. So my assistant Holger and I prepared questions in all those languages to get much material as possible. As you see, it's not easy to be an independent TV-documentary maker on the tennis circuit!

The film shows just how difficult life is for players who are not ranked high enough to benefit from all the luxuries of playing in the world's top events. Do you think players are fairly rewarded?

I don't think it's fair. I think that with a fairer division of prize money the ATP's top 500 could make their living from competitive tennis, not just the top 200.

Did you have any preconceptions about the tennis world that you found to be untrue?

Perhaps one was this: Future tournaments are played in such poor conditions sometimes, like in Egypt, where the lines were made with chalk. Of course athletes in also less-developed countries should have a chance to try getting ATP points. In contrast were the well-organized ATP-tournaments where competitors were taken care of, even during their 'leisure time', offering facilities for football, hairdressers, and so on.

Though you focus on a year in the life of two players from your country, the challenges they face in the tennis world are universal. Do you think that the film offers any lessons for young players who are considering becoming professionals?

Yes. You have to love this sport. You have to be a very talented athlete, ready for a lot of hard work and loneliness. And many times you have to sacrifice a "normal" childhood with games, friends and presence of your parents. Tennis is your life throughout the career.

From a director's perspective, what are you most happy about with the film?

I was lucky to capture contrasting emotional images of the depressions and highlights, and to get close enough to these athletes.

The film has been very well received, and has won awards. Have you had any feedback from the tennis community?

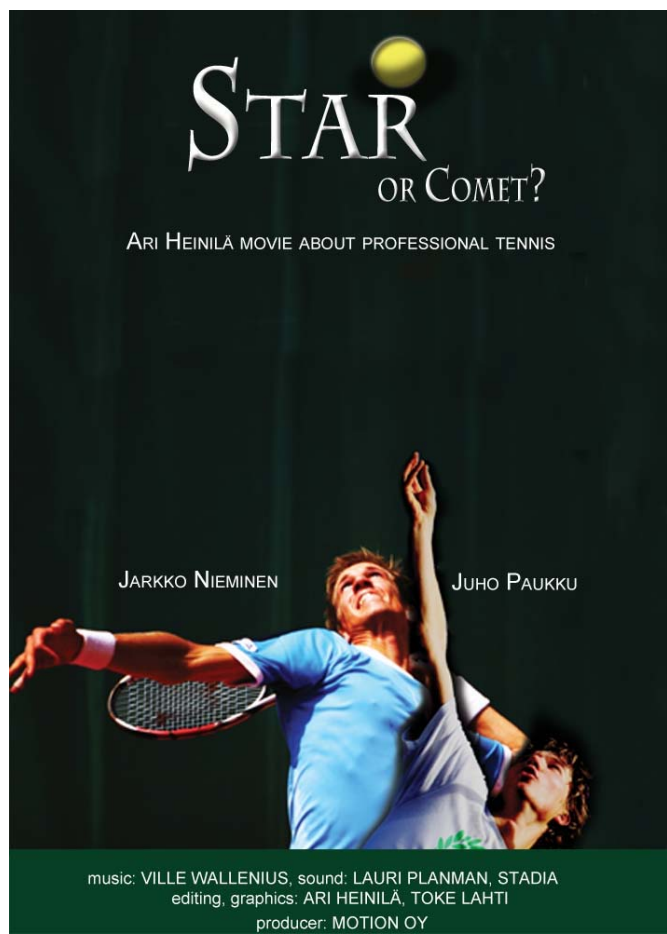
The feedback has been very positive. Some coaches have shown it from DVD several times to their students. One thing makes me happy, is that people have said it's a very different, and artistic sport documentary.

COMPETITION

We have five copies of the 'Star or Comet' DVD (below) to give away.

Simply click here to email us at contactus@tenniseurope.org and the winners will be picked at random and notified in the next issue of Tennis Europe News. Good luck!

The DVD is also available to purchase via mail order, simply click the picture below, or follow the banner on www.tenniseurope.org.



Beyond the Baseline...

The **International Tennis Federation** has announced the appointment of Kathy Martin in the role of ITF Player Welfare Officer, a post created in response to the recognition of the importance of clear guidelines for National and Regional Associations to prevent sexual harassment and abuse of athletes in the sport of tennis. Full details of the Player Welfare Programme will be posted on the appropriate ITF weblets shortly.

Organisers have confirmed that **Andre Agassi, Tim Henman, Steffi Graf** and **Kim Clijsters** will take part in an event designed to test the new retractable roof on Wimbledon's centre court. The four stars will play men's singles, women's singles and a mixed doubles exhibition on 17th May, under a pro set format (first to 8 games). 15,000 tickets, priced £35 will be on sale from March 12th.

Roger Federer has announced his withdrawal from the Swiss Davis Cup team due to face the USA next week, citing the need to recover from a back problem. Nikolay Davydenko has pulled out of the Russian team due to ongoing injury problems.

21-year old **Tatiana Golovin**, ranked #12 one year ago and #782 today due to an injury enforced absence from the tour due to a lower back inflammation has denied reports that she is planning to retire. Another French player, **Sebastien Grosjean**, has confirmed that he will be out of action until at least June after undergoing shoulder surgery.

The **International Tennis Hall of Fame** has announced that it is inviting nominations for Hall of Fame induction from members of the wheelchair tennis community. The Hall of Fame recognizes and honours both athletes and contributors connected to the sport of tennis and is currently accepting nominations for its Induction Class of 2010.

Record-breaking wheelchair tennis star **Esther Vergeer** recently played an exhibition with fellow world #1 **Rafael Nadal** at Rotterdam's ATP ABN AMRO tournament, where Vergeer also served as tournament director of the new wheelchair tennis event. Nadal was also recently voted Best European Sports-

man of 2008 by the continents news agencies, ahead of pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva and Formula One's Lewis Hamilton. In further Nadal news, the Mallorcan-born player has agreed to promote tourism to the Balearic Islands as part of a three-year deal with the island's tourist board.

The recent first round of the **Fed Cup by BNP Paribas** saw the introduction of a full-service Spanish language version of the website, at www.fedcup.com/es.

The forthcoming Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Europe/Africa Zone Group II event due to be played in Malta during the week of April 20th has been moved to Antalya, Turkey. The Maltese venue will still host the Europe/Africa Group III event in the same week.

The **Czech Tennis Association** has announced that Starobrnno Rondo Arena in Brno will host the Fed Cup semifinal tie against the United States in April. The venue of the second semi final between Italy and Russia has yet to be confirmed.

The ATP's Director of Corporate Communications, Kris Dent will be leaving the organization on February 27 to take up the position of Director of Communications for the English Football Association's 2018 World Cup bid team.

The ITF has been informed that, due to security concerns, the local government in Malmo has advised the **Swedish Tennis Association** that the upcoming Davis Cup by BNP Paribas first round tie between Sweden and Israel must be played behind closed doors. Protests are expected from campaigners demonstrating against Israel's military action in Gaza.

At a play-off competition designed to decide the remaining two spots on the UK Davis Cup team following the selection of Andy Murray and Ross Hutchins, **Chris Eaton** won a 6 hour 40 minute match which, had it been an ATP Tour sanctioned match, would have been the longest in history. Eaton eventually beat Jamie Ward 6-3 6-2 6-7 (3-7) 2-6 21-19.



If all the tennis balls sold in Europe in the first half of 2008 were laid next to each other, they could reach from London to Rome and back.

Source: Sports Marketing Surveys

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 14 & Under

Ukraine's Yuriy Kryvoy (pictured) led his team to the quarter finals of the Winter Cups this month, breaking into the 14 & Under top ten in the process, ahead of another new-entry, Russia's Alexander Vasilenko, who won the Ste. Genevieve Category 1 event last December.

The girls list sees advances from a trio of Czechs, most notably Oetwil winner Gabriela Pantuckova.

Visit www.TennisEurope.org, for the rankings in full. Rankings below as of 26th February 2009.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Petra UBERALOVA	SVK	760
2	►	Yulia PUTINTSEVA	RUS	740
3	►	Irina KHROMACHEVA	RUS	665
4	▲	Petra ROHANOVA	CZE	435
5	▲	Sonja LIASKOVA	CZE	430
6	►	Darya LEBESHEVA	BLR	425
7	NEW	Gabriela PANTUCKOVA	CZE	415
8	▼	Olga IANCHUK	UKR	405
9	►	Victoriya TOMOVA	BUL	390
10	NEW	Katy DUNNE	GBR	375

14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Nikola MILOJEVIC	SRB	510
2	▲	Evan HOYT	GBR	455
3	▲	Stefano NAPOLITANO	ITA	445
4	▼	Luke BAMBRIDGE	GBR	435
5	►	Borna CORIC	CRO	420
6	▲	Christopher PEARCE	GBR	385
7	▼	Gianluigi QUINZI	ITA	385
8	NEW	Yuriy KRYVOY	UKR	360
9	►	Matteo DONATI	ITA	350
10	NEW	Alexander VASILENKO	RUS	330

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 16 & Under

Agnes Bukta's (pictured) role in Hungary's winning run at the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD this month sees her join compatriot Timea Babos in the Tennis Europe Junior Tour top ten. She currently holds one other title, the Talentum Open in her native Budapest.

There are two new editions to the boy's top ten. Spain's Axel Alvarez makes his debut at #8, while Miki Jankovic or Serbia moves into the 16 & Under top ten just months after exiting the 14 & Under equivalent.

Rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org. Rankings below as of 26th February 2009.



16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Cristina DINU	ROU	635
2	►	Ingrid RADU	ROU	495
3	▲	Natalia VAVULINA	BLR	415
4	▲	Timea BABOS	HUN	380
5	▼	Luksika KUMKHUM	THA	380
6	▼	Jovana JAKSIC	SRB	370
7	▼	Irini PAPAGEORGIU	GRE	360
8	NEW	Agnes BUKTA	HUN	355
9	▼	Despoina PAPAMICHAIL	GRE	330
10	▼	Julia STAMATOVA	BUL	300

16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▲	Mate PAVIC	CRO	420
2	▼	Vasile Alexandru GHILEA	ROU	405
3	▼	Adrian PARTL	SVK	380
4	►	Ciprian PORUMB	ROU	355
5	►	Andrea DALL'ASTA	ITA	340
6	▲	Vullnet TASHI	SUI	320
7	NEW	Axel ALVAREZ	ESP	300
8	NEW	Miki JANKOVIC	SRB	282.5
9	▼	Dimitar KUZMANOV	BUL	280
10	▼	Alexander METREVELI	GEO	280

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

12 & UNDER

DATE	TOURNAMENT	CAT.	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORE	DOUBLES WINNERS
Feb-16	Auray (FRA)		B Bobrov (RUS)	B Borza (ROU)	61 62	Bobrov/Rublev (RUS)
			F Abanda (CAN)	A Rychagova (RUS)	60 63	Marfutina/Rychagova (RUS)

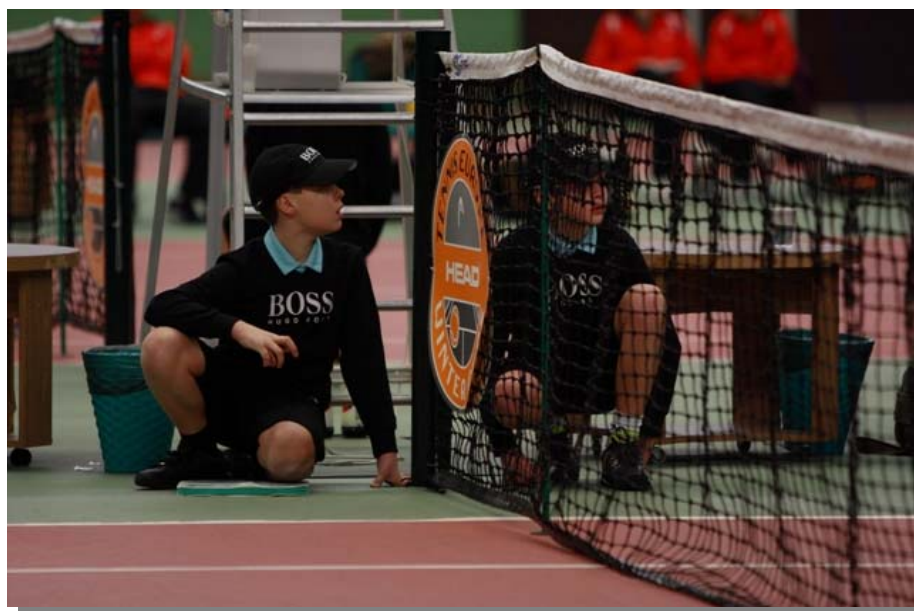
14 & UNDER

Feb-09	Oetwil (SUI)	2	J Platzer (AUT)	C Geens (BEL)	61 63	Geens (BEL)/ Smalyanyy (RUS)
			G Pantuckova (CZE)	B Bencic (SUI)	46 61 63	Bercaru (ROU)/ Werbrouck (BEL)
Feb-09	Farum (DEN)	3	G Hansson (SWE)	T Charlos (GER)	64 67(6) 64	Hannestad (DEN)/ Hansson (SWE)
			G Bertasuite (LTU)	C Drescher (GER)	62 61	Matysova (GER)/ Kulhankova (CZE)

16 & UNDER

Feb-09	Farum (DEN)	3	C Glennon (GBR)	G Cocco (GBR)	62 61	Servien (FRA)/Farin (BEL)
			E Lemmens (BEL)	L Akesson (SWE)	60 60	Devine/Hindmarsh (GBR)
Feb-16	Chambon sur Lignon (FRA)	2	L Baudy (FRA)	M Bourgue (FRA)	63 46 62	Bourgue/Lokoli (FRA)
			L Tholey (FRA)	S Guyomard (FRA)	63 60	Lollia (ITA)/Sedano (ITA)
Feb-16	Siauliai (LTU)	3	M Podzus (LAT)	A Barabashov (UKR)	64 62	Barabashov (UKR)/ Ivashka (BLR)
			A Korshundova (RUS)	D Shulzhanok (BLR)	64 62	Kulibaba/Runcha (LAT)

Full drawsheets from all Tennis Europe Junior Tour competitions can be found online.



Visit the Tennis Europe Junior Tour Gallery for all the latest images.

Individual galleries from more than fifty of 2008's European tour events, and over 5,000 images in total!

<http://gallery.tenniseurope.org/gallery.aspx>



ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Feb-02	Bergheim (AUT)	\$10,000	J Ager (AUT)	K Deden (GER)	36 62 63	Krkoska (CZE)/McGee (IRL)
Feb-02	Feucherolles	\$10,000	M Lammer (SUI)	D Guez (FRA)	64 61	Charroin/Tourte (FRA)
Feb-02	Nussloch (GER)	\$10,000	J Reister (GER)	J Marray (GBR)	62 76(3)	Copil/Luncanu (ROU)
Feb-02	Eilat (ISR)	\$10,000	H Levy (ISR)	N Okun (ISR)	w/o	Mark/Steele (ISR)
Feb-02	Murcia (ESP)	\$10,000	P Riba Madrid (ESP)	P Martin Adalia	60 64	Brown (JAM)/Steinberger (GER)
Feb-09	Zagreb (CRO)	\$15,000	M Fischer (AUT)	L Sorensen (IRL)	63 63	Cerovic/Topic (CRO)
Feb-09	Bressuire (FRA)	\$10,000	R Bemelmans (FRA)	V Millot (FRA)	64 63	Charroin/Tourte (FRA)
Feb-09	Bari (ITA)	\$15,000	W Trusendi (ITA)	L Azzaro (ITA)	63 63	Pavlovs (LAT)/Trusendi (ITA)
Feb-09	Cartagena (ESP)	\$10,000	A Arnaboldi (ITA)	J Genaro Martinez	62 16 62	Danilovic/Tosic (MNE)
Feb-16	Zagreb (CRO)	\$15,000	L Lacko (SVK)	A Sancic (CRO)	62 46 75	Ionita (ROU)/Matsukevitch (RUS)
Feb-16	Trento (ITA)	\$15,000	S Robert (FRA)	J Goodall (GBR)	64 63	Azzaro (ITA)/Prpic (SWE)
Feb-16	Cartagena (ESP)	\$10,000	A Renard (FRA)	R Frantzen (NED)	62 75	Danilovic/Tosic (MNE)

ITF Women's Circuit

Feb-02	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	E Compostizo de	M Caregaro (ITA)	60 67(5)	Bou Nogueiro (ESP)/El Allami
Feb-02	Vale do Lobo	\$10,000	N Geuer (GER)	A Melzani (BEL)	46 62 63	Not played
Feb-02	Belfort (FRA)	\$25,000	L Hradecka (CZE)	V Manasieva (RUS)	63 62	Kuzmina (LAT)/Lyubtsova (UKR)
Feb-02	Sutton (GBR)	\$25,000	K O'Brien (GBR)	J Konta (AUS)	36 62 64	Kops-Jones (USA)/Voracova
Feb-09	Albufeira (POR)	\$10,000	D Sedenkova (CZE)	L Sabino (ITA)	63 62	Kriegsmannova/Sedenkova (CZE)
Feb-09	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	T Schiechl (AUT)	L Thorpe (FRA)	57 64 75	Kozic (SRB)/Thorpe (FRA)
Feb-09	Stockholm	\$25,000	T Malek (GER)	A Kapros (HUN)	63 62	Huck (FRA)/Laine (FIN)
Feb-16	Portimao (POR)	\$10,000	S Soler Sola (ESP)	N Bratchikova (RUS)	36 62 63	Isaeva (RUS)/Nikoyan (ARM)

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 are available at www.TennisEurope.org.

European Rankings

Little change in the European rankings this month as the Tours return to normality after the season's first Grand Slam. Sony Ericsson WTA Tour stars Victoria Azarenka of Belarus (pictured) and Alize Cornet make their debuts in the top ten thanks to strong starts to the year in which Azarenka has won her first two career titles and Cornet leapfrogs Marion Bartoli to become the top-ranked Frenchwoman.

The men's list once again sees Andrew Murray consolidate his position at fourth with a win over Nadal in Rotterdam, whilst Jo-Wilfried Tsonga's titles in Johannesburg and Marseille sees his points tally quickly recover after failing to defend his Australian Open finalist points.

Rankings as of February 24th, 2009.



WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Dinara SAFINA	RUS	2	9021
2	►	Jelena JANKOVIC	SRB	3	8460
3	►	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	4	8266
4	►	Vera ZVONAREVA	RUS	6	6320
5	▲	Ana IVANOVIC	SRB	7	5562
6	▼	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	8	5381
7	▲	Nadia PETROVA	RUS	9	3882
8	▼	Agnieszka RADWANSKA	POL	10	3448
9	NEW	Victoria AZARENKA	BLR	11	3406
10	NEW	Alize CORNET	FRA	12	3256

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Rafael NADAL	ESP	1	14510
2	►	Roger FEDERER	SUI	2	11000
3	►	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	3	9010
4	►	Andy MURRAY	GBR	4	7460
5	►	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	5	4955
6	►	Gilles SIMON	FRA	8	3945
7	►	Fernando VERDASCO	ESP	9	3480
8	►	Gael MONFILS	FRA	10	3340
9	▲	Jo-Wilfried TSONGA	FRA	11	3300
10	▼	David FERRER	ESP	14	2875

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Katerina Dostalova is the new CEO/Managing Director of the **Czech Tennis Association**.

Following elections at the **French Tennis Federation**, Mr. Jean Gachassin has been elected President, and Mr. Daniel Hette will serve as General Secretary.

Mr. Santi Elia is the new General Secretary of the **San Marino Tennis Federation**.

The **Slovenian Tennis Association** recently appointed Mr Zoran Kofol as the new director of the STA. Mr Kofol took over on February 1st, and will be based at the STA headquarters in Ljubljana.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder to member nations that Tennis Europe's AGM will take place in Zurich from March 27th-28th.

EUROPEAN RACQUET STRINGERS ASSOCIATION

The latest issue of ERSA's Racquet Tech magazine has been published and is available to download [here](#).

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HEAD Players Reap Titles in February

Andy Murray claimed the title of Rotterdam with a win over World No. 1 Rafael Nadal and **Amelie Mauresmo** earned her 25th career title on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour after her victory in front of her home crowd at the Open Gaz de France Suez in Paris.

HEAD player Andy Murray continued his strong start to the season by defeating World No. 1 Rafael Nadal and securing his second ATP title of 2009 at the AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam. Murray, who plays with a **MicroGel Radical MP**, took care of his opponent in three sets 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 and continues the chase to the World Top 3.

"It is great to have two titles under my belt so early in the year," said Murray. "Even though Nadal was battling an injury out there, I had to give it everything I had because he is such a talented opponent."

In the doubles competition, HEAD player **Nenad Zimonjic** and his partner Daniel Nestor captured the title with a win against Lukas Dlouhy and Leander Paes 6-2, 7-6(4).

Playing with a MicroGel radical MP, Mauresmo's win came with a victory over Elena Dementieva 7-6 (7), 2-6, 6-4.

Also playing with a Radical MP, Croatia's **Marin Cilic** contributed to HEAD's great start to the year by winning his second title of 2009 the previous week at home in Zagreb, whilst another HEAD player, Belarusian **Viktoria Azarenka** also won her second title of the year at last weeks Memphis Sony Ericsson WTA Tour event.



Novak Djokovic's 'Speed Lessons'

As reported last month, tennis superstar and the worlds #3 ranked player, Novak Djokovic, has joined the HEAD Team! Novak worked closely with HEAD's R&D team to develop the SPEED, the most powerful tour racquet HEAD has ever created. With the SPEED in his arsenal, Novak is even closer to his goal of becoming the world's #1.

Novak has the only SPEED racquets currently in existence. Do you want to be the second player in the world to get your hands on this powerful weapon? All you have to do is step up to the challenge. Follow Novak's "SPEED Lessons" and prove that you can handle HEAD's new SPEED.

Visit speedlessons.com, take the Speed Test and you might even win one of ten SPEED racquets signed by Novak Djokovic himself.

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