

Jacques Dupré Elected President of Tennis Europe



Tennis Europe held its 34th Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen during the weekend of March 27th-30th, with the event highlighted by the election of Jacques Dupré as President.

mark to hear Committee and progress reports from internal and external speakers, as well as to participate in the election of a new Board.

Mr Dupré, who also serves as the General Secretary of the French Tennis Federation, becomes the first Frenchman to lead the organisation and will combine the role with his current position. Mr. Dupré replaces John James of Great Britain, who stood down from the role after two terms in office, and defeated fellow candidate Jarl Whist of Norway by 58 votes to 12.

“I am truly honoured to become the first representative of the French Tennis Federation to serve as President of Tennis Europe”, said Mr. Dupré, “I’d like to thank my predecessor John James for his hard work and dedication over the last six years and I look for-

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The Meeting was the most successful ever in terms of attendance, with around 100 delegates from 41 of Tennis Europe’s 49 member nations travelling to Den-

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Tennis Europe and HEAD Sign Beach Tennis Partnership



Tennis Europe has announced a deal with leading racquet manufacturer HEAD, under which the Austrian-based company will be recognised as the Official Beach Tennis Partner of the European Tennis Federation for a two year period.

Under the terms of the agreement, HEAD also gains exclusivity as the Official Ball and Racquet Sponsor of the European Beach Tennis Championships, due to be held in Riccione, Italy in early August.

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Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting

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ward to continuing his work together with the new Board of Management, Chief Executive Officer and staff of Tennis Europe."

The Board of Management welcomed four new faces to the team. Peter Bretherton (GBR), Günther Lang (GER), Aleksei Selivanenko (RUS) and Stefan Tzvetkov (BUL) will join the Board for the period until the 2011 AGM. They will join Michele Brunetti (ITA), Philios Christodoulou (CYP), José Antonio Senz de Broto (ESP) and Ayda Uluç (TUR) who successfully sought re-election.

In recognition of his six highly successful years in office, Mr. James was awarded the role of Honorary Life President of the organisation to a standing ovation from the gathered delegates.

Two Board members to stand down in 2008 were also given honorary titles by the organization. The Meeting voted unanimously to award Pierre-Paul de Keghel of Belgium the Honorary Life Vice Presidency, while Christine Ungricht of Switzerland became an Honorary Life Counsellor, alongside Franz Feldbausch of Germany.

Awards Ceremonies

Tennis Europe awards were presented to Trevor Adamson (GBR), Shamil Tarpishev (RUS), Fredi Reicher (SLO), Larisa Presorazhenskaya (RUS), Pablo Llorens Renega (ESP) and Owen Casey (IRL) for their outstanding contributions to European tennis. Tennis Europe's Managing Director, Administration, Charlotte Ferrari was also given the award in recognition of her work for the organization. Currently serving in her final year with Tennis Europe, Ms. Ferrari was given an affectionate farewell from the gathered delegates at the official dinner.

The dinner was also the setting of the 2007 European Tennis Trophy by Lindström prize giving ceremony. Jukka Roiha, Lindström CEO, presented awards to Aleksei Selivanenko, who accepted Russia's Junior Tennis, Professional Tennis and Overall Trophies, Karin van Bijsterveld, for the Netherlands' Wheelchair Tennis Trophy and Günther Lang of Germany, who accepted their Senior Tennis Trophy.

The Meeting

The two-day event was launched with a lunch at the



Tennis Europe's new Board of Management. Left to right, Back row Philios Christodoulou, Stefan Tzvetkov, José Antonio Senz de Broto, Peter Bretherton, Michele Brunetti, Günther Lang, Aleksei Selivanenko, Seated, Ayda Uluç, Olli Mäenpää, Jacques Dupré, Charlotte Ferrari

Town Hall, hosted by the City of Copenhagen. ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti and Executive Vice-President Juan Margets headed the speakers on day one, giving an update on ITF activities with a particular focus on Davis Cup, before participating in a question and answer session with delegates.

Other speakers included Robert Summer, HEAD's Advertising and Communication Manager, who informed the congress about the strengthening partnership between HEAD and Tennis Europe. Mia Monster provided some background to the Danish Tennis Association before passing the stand to Mogens Skov, CEO of Kobstaedernes Forikring, who explained his company's commitment to Danish Tennis.

John James and Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää jointly presented the Tennis Europe Strategy for 2008-2010, providing the assembly with a detailed insight into the organisation's business plan and revamped structure, before the Presidential candidates were given the opportunity to make a short presentation.

Danish Minister of Culture Brian Mikkelsen officially opened Saturday's Plenary Session, and the Meeting continued with the traditional Committee reports before the Presidential election results were revealed. The as-

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Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting

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sembly then approved Honorary Treasurer Jarl Whist's Budget and Financial report before voting in the Board elections.

Summing up the meeting, outgoing President John James said, "I'd like to thank the Danish Tennis Association for their excellent organisation of the event, and all the delegates for their contributions. Tennis Europe now embarks upon a new era and I'm sure all our member nations would like to join me in congratulating Jacques Dupré and the Board members on their election wins. They will work closely with the Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää, and newly-promoted Magnus Grönvold as Head of Operations and Administration, in readiness for the forthcoming retirement of Charlotte Ferrari, who has made an immense contribution to Tennis Europe since its earliest days."



Left to right, Tennis Europe President John James, Danish tennis Association President Henrik Klitvad, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, International Tennis Federation President Francesco Ricci Bitti.

John James Interview

After six years as President, John James bid farewell to Tennis Europe after chairing his last AGM in Copenhagen. We caught up with him to ask for some final thoughts on his years in charge, and his visions for the future of the organisation.

What do you think are your finest achievements at the helm of Tennis Europe?

One of my aims when elected six years ago was to provide a strategy for Tennis Europe for the future. This I was pleased to present to the Annual General Meeting and pass on to the new President, Jacques Dupre.

Another achievement of which I am pleased is the unification of the very diverse nations of Europe. I think this was facilitated by my having been able to travel around the continent, visiting member nations, particularly in Eastern Europe, and attending our championships and tournaments at tennis clubs and centres throughout Europe.

In addition, I think that by supporting Olli Mäenpää, our CEO, in his endeavours, we now have very sound marketing and sponsorship back-up and there has been a very important move forward in this realm; it's been a very difficult area to promote, but you can see from the accounts presented at this AGM that we are

a very solvent and financially sound organisation.

What are the main challenges facing the incoming President?

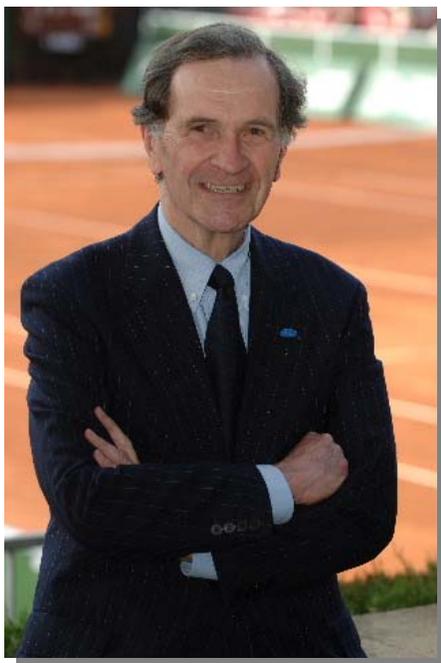
Obviously his main task is to continue the upward curve of European tennis. There's no question that Europe will continue to produce great champions and future players, that treadmill will keep on going, but we must continue to support the weaker or less-developed nations. Jacques Dupre, while Chairman of the Development Committee has been a great advocate of this policy. I've seen over the six years the development of tennis in so many countries, and to be able to visit places like Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Bulgaria, which are growing in tennis, has been most rewarding. It's very fulfilling to see them moving forward and I'll be encouraging Jacques to follow in my footsteps and to travel as much as possible to witness this first hand.

Continued co-operation with the ITF is also essential, so I am sure that Jacques will work to build on the already strong working relationship with them.

How do you see the new Board?

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John James Interview



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It's always good to have some new people on a Board, and I think it's great that the positions were so keenly contested. It's fantastic for European tennis that we now have a Russian Board member [Aleksandr Selivanenko, Vice-President of

Russian Tennis], the return of a German [Günther Lang, who has served on the Development Committee over the last few years], and a newcomer from Bulgaria [Stefan Tzvetkov, Vice-President of Bulgarian Tennis], and I am pleased that a colleague from Great Britain [Peter Bretherton, LTA Board Member] was also elected. All of this reflects the diversity of European tennis and helps to give a well-balanced representation.

I understand that the LTA have a rule that once you attain the age of 70 you cannot be appointed or nominated as a representative of the association. Would you have liked to have served another term if it had been possible?

I don't mind admitting that I would have liked to, yes. Having appointed Olli as Chief Executive Officer, it would have been wonderful to be President with him through his first years in the role, though it would certainly have been my last time, because I do not believe in Presidents staying too long in their positions.

"I will always be there for Tennis Europe."

The six years have been hugely enjoyable and a wonderful personal challenge, and thanks go to the Board and staff for their support. In particular we owe a debt of gratitude to Charlotte Ferrari, who retires at the end of this year, for her devoted service to Tennis Europe since 1975.

You'll be leaving Tennis Europe, but not retiring from many of your other commitments. How will you be keeping occupied in the future?

I have been elected Honorary Life President today, so I do not intend to walk away from Tennis Europe completely. I will continue to give my advice, if requested. I will always be there for Tennis Europe. I shall be following the organisation's progress with great interest.

Then the Olympic Games in Beijing is the next objective as I am one of the Technical Delegates for tennis. I'm also very involved in the charitable side of the Olympic movement in Great Britain too as Chairman of the British Olympic Foundation. I will be continuing as a Director of the Tennis Foundation in Great Britain. I'm also involved locally in tennis, as President of Middlesex Tennis. Of course I'll have some more time for things, but I won't be putting my feet up just yet!

You referred to your role as Technical Delegate at the forthcoming Beijing Olympics. What does the role entail exactly and are you looking forward to it?

The duties of Technical Director are to act on behalf of the ITF and maintain control of the technical direction of tennis in the Games and to report to the ITF Board of Directors and/or the Olympic Committee on all matters relating to the staging and operation of the Olympic tennis event.

Fast Facts



In Spain, 1 in 8 people have played tennis in the last year; in the UK and France it is 1 in 10, and in Germany it is 1 in 12.

Source: Sports Marketing Surveys European Player & Fan Study 2007.

Tennis Europe and HEAD Sign Beach Tennis Partnership

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Played on beach volleyball courts, Beach Tennis is enjoyed as a doubles game, with players using paddle bats and a slightly depressurised tennis ball. With Beach Tennis currently enjoying a rise in popularity throughout Europe and an expansion from its traditional Mediterranean strongholds, the inaugural ITF Beach Tennis Tour is expected to call in on several Tennis Europe member nations during the summer months of 2008.

Announcing the deal, Tennis Europe's Chief Executive Officer, Olli Mäenpää remarked, "We are delighted to have HEAD on board as Tennis Europe continues its work with the International Tennis Federation to spread the popularity of the sport in all its formats. HEAD offers a comprehensive range of equipment for Beach Tennis players of all abilities and is instantly recognisable as one of the best-known brands in the sporting world."

The new deal further enhances the already strong relationship between the two organisations. HEAD is currently recognised as the Official Racquet, Ball, String, Bag, Accessory, Apparel and Footwear Partner of Tennis Europe and also is the Recommended Ball of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, as well as title sponsor of two of Europe's largest junior team tennis competitions, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD and the Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD.



(left to right) HEAD's Robert Summer and Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää seal the agreement.

"The contract with the European Beach Tennis Championships will strengthen our existing partnership with Tennis Europe," said Robert Marte, Executive Vice President of the Racquetsports Division. "We value the opportunity to create a relationship between HEAD and beach tennis as the sport gains popularity in Europe."

European Lifetime Senior Champion Award Introduced

Tennis Europe has announced the introduction of a new award recognising the longevity and performances of Europe's best Senior Tennis players. The European Lifetime Senior Champion Award will be given to an elite band of players to win at least five World Championship *and* ten European Championship titles during their time on the Senior Circuit.

In addition to a Trophy, which will be presented at an official ceremony during Roland Garros with a gala lunch or dinner, the players will receive Roland Garros tickets, hotel accommodation and flights.

The first prize winners were announced at the Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen, and are as follows:

- Marie Pinterova (HUN)

- Heide Orth (GER)
- Peter Pokorny (AUT)
- Istvan Gulyas (HUN)

Senior Tennis Survey

Tennis Europe has published the results of a survey conducted into senior tennis in various member nations. Responses from a total of 24 countries are collated at the Senior Tennis section of the Tennis Europe website.

European Seniors Club Championships

Tennis Europe can now confirm that the Men's 45 event will be staged in Rome, from September 16th-19th.

ITF Play and Stay Courses in Hungary and Belarus



The International Tennis Federation's Play & Stay initiative was introduced to Hungary for the first time recently, and received an enthusiastic response from the 60 plus participants attending the country's first Play and Stay course. The 'Play Tennis' course was held at the Europe Tennis Center in Budapest from 8th March and was sponsored by HEAD Hungary. All of the participants were coaches working either with the Hungarian Tennis Association school tennis development program or at various clubs. Among the participants were former WTA top 100 player Zsófia Gubacsy and former ATP top 100 player Attila Sávolt.

ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic, helped by national coach Miklós Hornlok, introduced the participants to the modified equipment designed to help teach starter players to serve, play and score from the very beginning of their first tennis session. The coaches were impressed by the way in which modified equipment could be used to rapidly develop tennis skills in starter players and also allow coaches to work with larger groups more effectively.

Course Coordinator and HTA Technical Director Sandor Papp commented, "We would like to increase the popularity of tennis in Hungary, and also to update the teaching system. We can help to do this by giving our coaches more information and new perspectives, so having them learn about the Play and Stay program is an important step. We hope that Play Tennis teaching methodology will be the new direction of tennis development in Hungary. I'm happy to say that I think it was an excellent course."

The Hungarian course was quickly followed up with a two day Play and Stay Coaches Workshop in Minsk, Belarus, from 14th-15th March, conducted by the ITF and Tennis Europe in association with the Belarus Tennis Association.

ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic was this time assisted by Irena Chichmariva BTA's national mini-tennis coordinator and person responsible for coaches education, as he led the group of 25 coaches from six regions of Belarus through the introductory session. Ms. Chichmarova commented, "This was the very first introduction of the Play and Stay concept in Belarus. Mini-tennis competitions will be



Top: Hrvoje Zmajic (left) and Mikos Hornlok (right) at the Course in Budapest; Bottom, the assembled course participants.

the next step for supporting this programme, made possible thanks to a special project by ITF and Tennis Europe in which mini-tennis equipment (red, orange, green balls, mini-tennis nets etc) will be sent to the National Association, under the umbrella of the "Tennis Competitions for All" programme.

EUROPEAN TENNIS CALENDAR
ALL EUROPEAN EVENTS ONLINE *CLICK HERE*

Centre Internacional de Tennis News



Tennis New Zealand and Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner, the Centre Internacional de Tennis will shortly embark on their previously reported quest to prepare New Zealand's top junior players for life and conditions on European clay courts.

In the month of May, the tennis federation of New Zealand will send twelve Under 16's (six boys and six girls) to prepare for a tour of African ITF clay court events, commencing in Morocco.

In June, another twelve players, this time Under 14's will repeat the trip to CIT, working on site to improve their clay court games.

Female Residency at CIT

CIT recently opened its new female residence which can accommodate up to 13 players. The residence, which is separate from the male residence, is located within the centre facilities and two minutes from the tennis courts and 300m2 gym and swimming pool.

All rooms are equipped with all modern conveniences: heating, air conditioning, telephone, en-suite bathrooms, cleaning and laundry service.

Within the residence there is also a comfortable living room with WiFi internet access where players can relax, surf the internet or watch TV and DVDs.

The academy also has two tutors in charge of the residence who also live on the premises. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to attend to any problem our players may have. At night and during the weekends, the centre is patrolled by a security guard. All residents are subject to CIT's internal regulations



and timetables.

The cafeteria/restaurant, where residents have their daily meals, is also located on the premises. For added security, the centre has a safe in which players can leave their valuables.

Owned and managed by the Catalan Tennis Federation and situated close to Barcelona airport in Spain, the Centre is home to some of Europe's finest training facilities, including 14 Greenset, 13 clay and 4 indoor tennis courts.

For further information about the CIT and its services, visit <http://www.centreinternacional.fctennis.org/eng/>

ITF/Tennis Europe Wheelchair Tennis Grants

Following on from a successful first year of cooperation, the ITF and Tennis Europe have announced that they intend to provide funding for a further seven special Wheelchair Tennis projects in 2008.

The projects and nations to benefit are as follows:

Austria: Beginners' Training Camp and visits to

rehabilitation centres,

Czech Republic: Junior Camp

Finland: Nordic Championships (including inviting Estonia to participate)

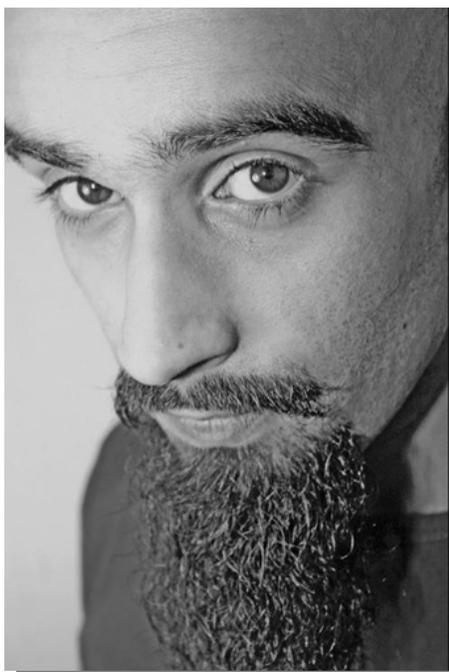
Great Britain: Junior Camp

Portugal: Clinics in rehabilitation centres

Romania: New tournament

Spain: National competitive opportunities and coaches' workshops.

Tennis & Music in the Spotlight: Arv



German-speaking artist Arv is not the first rapper to reference tennis in his work. House of Pain's John McEnroe name-check on their seminal single 'Jump Around' and Faithless' Maxi Jazz's mention of Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario on 'If Loving You Is Wrong' forged

unlikely early links between the worlds of tennis and rap music, years before Snoop Doggy Dogg referenced Wimbledon and the Williams sisters in his smash hit 'Signs'. Arv has taken things several steps further than his better-known contemporaries by releasing an entire album of songs about tennis. We spoke to him to talk about his motivation for such a project:

You're becoming known as the 'tennis rapper' within tennis circles, but that's only a small fraction of what you do...how would you introduce yourself?

I was born in Salzburg, Austria; just like Mozart, and that's where I still live and compose my music and write my lyrics, which are in German language. I used to work for an Austrian Tennis Magazine called "Happy Tennis". Right now I'm really focused on my music; just working on my third album. Once a month I do my own radio show and there are some clubs in which I appear as a DJ from time to time.

Tennis is an unusual subject for rap music: what made you decide to record a whole album on the theme?

It's a weird thing! First of all I wanted to show that you can write a song about anything - not only about these two or three topics we hear over and over again - and still put a subtle message between the lines. But also I simply love tennis. Writing the songs

"I wanted to show that you can write a song about anything, and still put a subtle message between the lines."

was like travelling back to my childhood, when there was nothing else but tennis. I made this thing not only for tennis fans though, but also for people who like to go deep into the absurd from time to time. It's a pretty ironic collection of songs.

So this is not your first album?

I'm working on my third album at the moment. My first one was never recorded; That's what I'm about to do next. So ironically "40:30" was my first self-produced album. I just finished another album and it's called "LiebeSexMagieKrieg". You can hear it on myspace.com/arvportal. I generally like songs about topics nobody would ever think to rap about. But it's never as random as on the Tennis-Album "40:30". That was a once-in-a-lifetime-idea. Mostly I like to keep it magical lyrically, songs that create images and ideas in one's brain. Especially in music one needs to choose his words very carefully.

Can you guide us through the tracks? What subjects do you discuss, and how are they approached?

Well, the first track is a hardcore tennis track. That's where I explain the rules of the game. The next one is musically the strangest; here I'm talking about mental skills and what it takes to get on top. It could be about anything, but it's strictly about tennis. The next one shows that this should still be a real serious work of art. It's a sad song about a lonely girl who dreams of becoming a tennis champ, but she fails because of a lack of talent. There is a moral in it. After that I wanted a really fresh song and that's the one called "Tennism". It was the last track I wrote for this album. There was something missing that says that life is just like a tennis match. You never know when the last point is played and you got to be true to your game. Then again two hardcore tennis songs about what happened at the four Grand Slams. I plan to change these two songs every year to keep it current. So after five years there will be another album just about the Slams. Then there is the one and only song that has

Tennis & Music in the Spotlight: Arv

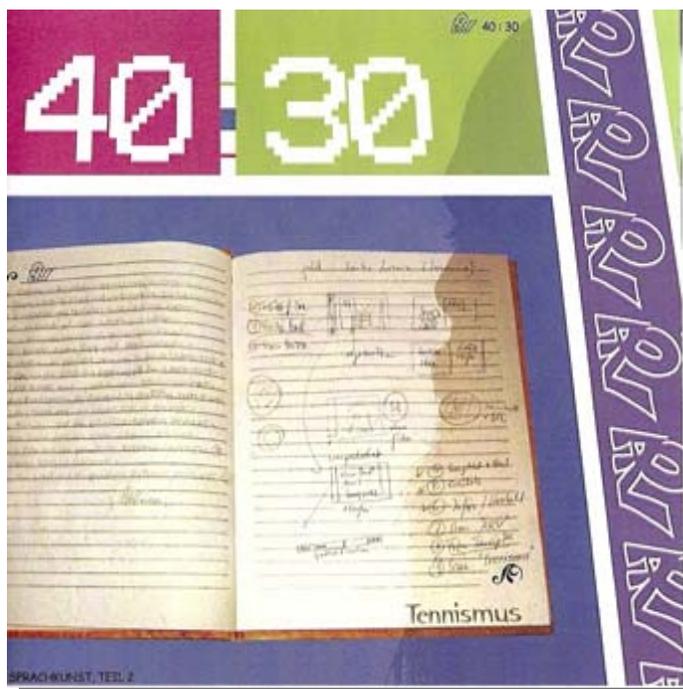
nothing to do with tennis, it's about education but I thought that for some reason it fitted on that album. Musically it does. The next track called "Talent" somehow lyrically completes the second one. It's about improving - no matter what you're in to - explained in terms of a talented tennis player. Then there's that short song - you can hear me rhyme using only the names of former and active tennis champs. The next one is somewhat biographical. I go back to when I was eight years old and the whole world was the beauty of a racquet and a ball and what you can do with it. The album closes with a laid-back instrumental track but before there is a song where I explain the whole idea of the album. It's a funny track that also contains some critics pointing on modern music industry and the lack of new ideas.

You've performed tracks from the album at a number of tournaments now. What has been the reaction?

They started calling me the "tennis-rapper" and some say I somehow look like Andre Agassi. But yeah, they really get a lot of fun out of it. I think everybody likes new ideas and they show it. That's a great thing to get back. I have fun performing on court between two matches or in the evening at the player's party. I do what I love to do and even smell that tennis atmosphere. I would appreciate it if somebody copied my idea and does the same thing in English to reach an even bigger audience worldwide. I'm not talking about party tennis songs, just repeating a hook, and singing about Roddick and Sharapova, like some did. Listeners should really get some detailed insider information while listening to the rap - that's the fun-factor as well. It's sort of like doing a song just about cooking, but really tell the listeners about every little thing needed to cook a fine dish. The whole dish gets even tastier by using only these 'hard-to-find-rhymes', "Arthur Ashe / Rafter, Cash"

You are also a DJ and artist. What are some of your other projects?

I put my focus more on my own music so DJ-ing is



something I do on the side. Right now I'm in Vienna, for some business concerning my brand new album and doing some live shows. My program is a one-man-show including 20 songs out of all of my works, a tennis-song is also part of it. No song is similar to another one, still the whole show tells something like a story. Back in Salzburg I'm gonna do some workshops with kids as well, telling them something about how to keep a rap verse smart and how to play with those words; an ability I lack expressing myself in English!

"40:30" is available to buy in some Austrian and German record stores, or can be listened to and ordered online at www.arv.spookz.com. For further information contact Arv on arvmusique@yahoo.com.

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Rock-solid performance

Beyond the Baseline...

European Junior Doubles Champion **Stephanie Vogt** of Liechtenstein has been awarded a wild card into the tennis event at the forthcoming Olympic Games. Vogt, currently the world's 6th ranked junior, will be the first representative of her country to compete in the tennis event, and is joined by fellow wild cards Cara Black (Zimbabwe), Rafael Arevalo of El Salvador and Komlavi Loglo of Togo.

The ITF, ATP, Sony Ericsson WTA Tour and Grand Slams have reached an agreement to adopt a unified challenge system at all professional tennis events using the **HawkEye** system. Players (or teams) will be allowed 3 unsuccessful challenges per set, plus 1 more in the event of a tie break. In events with advantage sets, players will start again with 3 challenges every 12 games after 6-6. Players will continue to receive an unlimited number of successful challenges.

The **ATP** has announced an official partnership with **Enel**, Europe's second largest energy company. The agreement will include Enel's sponsorship of several European men's tournaments; Masters Series Monte Carlo, BNL Internazionali d'Italia in Rome, BCR Open in Bucharest, Kremlin Cup in Moscow and the Mutua Madrileña Masters Madrid. In addition, Enel will also sponsor the ATP Challenger Tatra Banca Open in Bratislava and, from 2009, will become an official sponsor of the ATP World Tour Finals in London.

The **Sony Ericsson WTA Tour's** European Headquarters has now moved to:

1 Palliser House, Palliser Road
Barons Court, West Kensington
London W14 9EQ.
United Kingdom.

Meanwhile **Ben Wyatt**, a former Red Bull Executive has joined the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour as Director of Communications, Europe.

Former world #1 Lindsay Davenport will make her return to Europe's clay courts for the first time since returning to the circuit following the birth of her first child, with an appearance at the **Warsaw Suzuki Masters**, an exhibition event scheduled to be held

from 30th April to 4th May. Also participating at the event will be Svetlana Kuznetsova, Elena Dementieva, Maria Kirilenko, Agnieszka Radwanska and Marta Domachowska.

Paul Annacone, currently the **Lawn Tennis Association's** Head Coach of Men's tennis, will take over from Peter Lundgren as the British Davis Cup Coach.

After consulting with doctors, **Tommy Haas** has decided not to represent Germany in this month's Davis Cup quarterfinal against Spain or at the Beijing Summer Olympic Games in August, due to his ongoing recovery from a chronic shoulder injury.

2008 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Player Awards, voted for by the world's media, went to **Justine Henin** (Player of the Year), **Ana Ivanovic** (Most Improved Player & Kim Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award), **Lindsay Davenport** (Comeback Player of the Year), **Agnes Szavay** (Newcomer of the Year) and **Cara Black & Leisel Huber** (Doubles Team of the Year).

Meanwhile, **Roger Federer** and **Bob & Mike Bryan** dominated the ATP Player awards. Federer took home the Player of the Year, Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award, and ATPTennis.com Fans' Favourite Award. The Bryan brothers won Doubles Team of the Year and ATPTennis.com Fans' Favourite Doubles Team, taking both titles for the third consecutive year. Novak Djokovic became the first player to win the Most Improved Player title in two consecutive years. **Jo-Wilfried Tsonga** won Newcomer of the Year, while **Igor Andrejev** won Comeback Player of the Year. Finally, **Ivan Ljubicic** won the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian of the Year.

Rafael Nadal will return to Davis Cup action for Spain at the quarterfinals of the competition, set to be held during the weekend of April 11-13th. The world #2 will be joined by David Ferrer, Fernando Verdasco and Feliciano Lopez as Spain travels to Bremen to take on Germany. Other ties feature Russia vs. Czech Republic, Argentina vs. Sweden and USA vs. France.

Fast Facts



In 2006, 10 million more tennis Balls were sold in Europe than in 2002.

Source: Sports Marketing Surveys Tennis Shipment Reports.

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 14 & Under

Leolia Jeanjean of France is the highest new entry to the Girls 14 & Under ranking list this month, thanks to back-to-back tournament wins in Angra do Heroismo and Maia, Portugal in March. At the latter event, Jeanjean beat top seed Irina Khromacheva on the road to her biggest Tour win so far in her young career. The 12-year old now holds four Tennis Europe Junior Tour singles titles.

Jeanjean's compatriot Lucas Pouille won the other Category 1 event to be held in March, in Livorno, Italy, breaking into the boys' top ten for the first time.

The rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org, and can be found in both alphabetical and numerical formats, as well as in printable versions.

Rankings below as of 3rd April 2008.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Daria GAVRILOVA	RUS	675
2	▲	Irina KHROMACHEVA	RUS	590
3	▼	Polina LEIKINA	RUS	580
4	▶	Nastja KOLAR	SLO	570
5	▲	Yulia PUTINTSEVA	RUS	500
6	▼	Laura ROBSON	GBR	480
7	▼	Tamara CUROVIC	SRB	435
8	NEW	Leolia JEANJEAN	FRA	430
9	▼	Natalija KOSTIC	SRB	390
10	▼	An Sophie MESTACH	BEL	390

14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Evgeni KARLOVSKI	RUS	580
2	▲	Liam BROADY	GBR	530
3	▼	Konstantin GERLAKH	RUS	455
4	▶	Maxim LUNKIN	RUS	430
5	NEW	Lucas POUILLE	FRA	425
6	▼	Julien CAGNINA	BEL	410
7	NEW	Moos SPORKEN	NED	400
8	▼	Jeroen VANNESTE	BEL	395
9	▼	Jannis KAHLKE	GER	375
10	NEW	Miki JANKOVIC	SRB	370

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 16 & Under



Ema Burgic of Bosnia & Herzegovina has reached the Girls 16 & Under #1 spot for the first time. A European Junior Championships semi finalist, Ema also holds the Category 1 singles title at Le Pontet.

The five best singles results, plus the two best doubles results and the best (one) team competition result count towards a players' ranking. The top eight European players at the end of each season qualify to compete at the season-ending Tennis Europe Junior Masters.

This year's event will be held during the weekend of 3-5th October in Orbetello, Italy. Rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org. Rankings below as of 3rd April 2008.

16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▲	Ema BURGIC	BIH	480
2	▼	Sviatlana PIRAZHENKA	BLR	475
3	▶	Camila SILVA	CHI	470
4	▶	Xin WEN	CHN	390
5	▶	Dorothea ERIC	BLR	370
6	▶	Natalia PINTUSAVA	SRB	355
7	▶	Despoina PAPAMICHAIL	GRE	335
8	NEW	Cristina DINU	ROU	330
9	▶	Aleksandra MITROVSKA	BUL	325
10	NEW	Johanna HYÖTY	FIN	310

16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Carlos BOLUDA	ESP	570
2	▶	Mate ZSIGA	HUN	485
3	▶	Dominik SCHULZ	GER	380
4	▶	Javier MARTÍ	ESP	375
5	▶	Pavel FILIN	BLR	370
6	▶	Filip KRAJINOVIC	SRB	365
7	▶	Damir DZUMHUR	BIH	330
8	▶	Laszlo SENDROI	HUN	320
9	▶	Marko KRICKOVIC	GER	320
10	▶	Aleksandre KONDULUKOV	RUS	320

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

12 & UNDER

DATE	TOURNAMENT	CAT.	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORE	DOUBLES WINNERS
Feb-25	Auray (FRA)		G Quinzi (ITA)	P Ashley (GBR)	61 61	Quinzi/Chessari (ITA)
			V Boyanovska (UKR)	B Bencic (SUI)	61 62	Abanda/Silva (CAN)
Mar-17	Funchal (POR)		A Tallarico (ITA)	A Giuliato (ITA)	62 62	Tallarico/Giuliato (ITA)
			K Sharifova (RUS)	G Rossetto (ITA)	61 60	Sharifova/Alai (RUS)
Mar-24	Sergiev Posad (RUS)		B Bobrov (RUS)	D Popko (RUS)	61 61	Bobrov/Alshin (RUS)
			O Shkundina (RUS)	A Rychagova (RUS)	61 61	Bizhukova/Ayzatulina (RUS)
Mar-24	Ponta Delgada (POR)		P Alonzo (ESP)	I Rodrigues (POR)	60 60	Dominguez/Lopez (ESP)
			K Sharifova (RUS)	A Lottner (GER)	62 61	Usinger/Lottner (GER)

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Mar-10	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	3	G Faraone (ITA)	S Kyrtzis (CYP)	62 63	Faraone/Napolitano (ITA)
			C Rosatello (ITA)	D Khazaniuk (ISR)	62 63	Khazaniuk (ISR)/Rosatello (ITA)
Mar-17	Livorno (ITA)	1	L Pouille (FRA)	L Saville (AUS)	62 62	Cagnina/Vanneste (BEL)
			I Khromacheva (RUS)	Y Putintseva (RUS)	64 62	Aleksandrova/Khromacheva (RUS)
Mar-17	Minsk (BLR)	3	E Akhmadeev (UKR)	I Zubov (RUS)	63 62	Mugevicius (LTU)/Akhmadeev (UKR)
			D Lebeshava (BLR)	K Khatsey (RUS)	64 61	Grigoryan (RUS)/Bogoliy (UKR)
Mar-17	Angra Do Heroismo (POR)	2	J Kahlke (GER)	M Sporken (NED)	63 61	Kahlke (GER)/Sporken (NED)
			L Jeanjean (FRA)	L Broulou (FRA)	62 75	Bonaventure (BEL)/Van der Hoek (NED)
Mar-17	Kosice (SVK)	3	P Fabian (SVK)	K Skvorc (CRO)	75 61	Cabela (CZE)/Fabian (SVK)
			M Ostrozlikova (SVK)	K Schmiedlova (SVK)	w/o	Bubelova/Brestovicova (SVK)
Mar-24	Minsk (BLR)	3	K Coppejans (BEL)	A Desyatnik (RUS)	62 76(3)	Storme/Coppejans (BEL)
			D Lebeshava (BLR)	K Khatsey (RUS)	63 60	Grigoryan (RUS)/Bogoliy (UKR)
Mar-24	Maia (POR)	1	M Sporken (NED)	L Broady (GBR)	62 63	Broady (GBR)/Van Dooren (BEL)
			L Jeanjean (FRA)	Y Bonaventure (BEL)	64 67(5) 62	Jeanjean (FRA)/Martins (POR)
Mar-24	Messina (ITA)	2	L Saville (AUS)	M Podzus (LAT)	63 60	Saville/Schipanski (AUS)
			Y Putintseva (RUS)	G Van de Graaf (NED)	76(1) 60	Kozlova (UKR)/Putintseva (RUS)

16 & UNDER

Mar-10	Pribram (CZE)	2	V Ghilea (ROU)	M Zsiga (HUN)	63 57 63	Godry/Molnar (HUN)
			C Dinu (ROU)	B Chantraine (BEL)	61 62	Hercikova/Matouskova (CZE)
Mar-24	Tencianske Teplice (SVK)	3	A Partl (SVK)	K Sziklai (HUN)	60 61	Sziklai/Nagy (HUN)
			V Malova (SVK)	D Milinkovicova (SVK)	75 64	Malova/Parajova (SVK)

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Feb-25	Castel Gandolfo	\$10,000	J Semrajc (SLO)	T Tenconi (ITA)	62 61	Karol (CZE)/Vasiliev (RUS)
Feb-25	Faro (POR)	\$10,000	R Machado (POR)	F Jeanclaude (FRA)	62 26 64	Hemmes/Koning (NED)
Feb-25	Terrasa (ESP)	\$10,000	P Riba Madrid (ESP)	H Ruiz Cadenas	60 20 ret	Riba/Trujillo (ESP)
Feb-25	Leuggern (SUI)	\$10,000	A Stoppini (ITA)	M Steger (FRA)	76(3) 76	Brown (JAM)/Sandbichler (SUI)
Mar-03	Bassersdorf	\$10,000	R Bemelmans (BEL)	L Chramosta (CZE)	36 63 62	Bergman/Norfeldt (SWE)
Mar-03	Sabadell (ESP)	\$10,000	G Fraile (ESP)	C Poch Gradin (ESP)	63 64	Perez Puigdomench/Perez Perez
Mar-03	Roma Eur (ITA)	\$10,000	L Azzaro (ITA)	M Marrai (ITA)	61 46 76	Nasoni (ITA)/Prpic (SWE)
Mar-03	Lagos (POR)	\$10,000	R Machado (POR)	T De Bakker (NED)	64 63	Ball (AUS)/Eaton (GBR)
Mar-10	Lille (FRA)	\$15,000	C Reix (FRA)	A Mannarino (FRA)	26 76(3)	Oger/Tourte (FRA)
Mar-10	Badalona (ESP)	\$10,000	B Salva Vidal (ESP)	A Jakupovic (GRE)	62 60	Demoliner (BRA)/Rice (GBR)
Mar-10	Caltanissetta	\$10,000	G Naso (ITA)	E Burzi (ITA)	64 62	Aranguren/Spina (ARG)
Mar-10	Albufeira (POR)	\$10,000	R Machado (POR)	C Ball (AUS)	62 62	Bamford/Goodall (GBR)
Mar-10	Vaduz (LIE)	\$10,000	J Janowicz (POL)	A Stoppini (ITA)	76(4) 64	Paukku (FIN)/Pavlovs (LAT)
Mar-10	Porec (CRO)	\$10,000	G Zemlja (SLO)	A Arnaboldi (ITA)	76(4) 61	Savic (SRB)/Visak (CRO)
Mar-17	Rovinj (CRO)	\$10,000	JR Lisnard (MON)	C Magg (AUT)	63 16 62	Lammer (SUI)/Pedrini (ITA)
Mar-17	Poitiers (FRA)	\$10,000	A Stoppini (ITA)	J Faurel (FRA)	63 60	Bemelmans/Wauters (BEL)
Mar-17	Bath (GBR)	\$10,000	J Goodall (GBR)	R Bloomfield (GBR)	46 76(4)	Bamford/Goodall (GBR)
Mar-17	Castelldefels	\$10,000	Y El Aynaoui (MAR)	A Chadaj (POL)	63 76(5)	Olivier Baquero/Raxach (ESP)
Mar-17	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	J Marse-Vidri (ESP)	A Vejmelka (CZE)	75 61	Karol (CZE)/Masson (BEL)
Mar-24	Vrsar (CRO)	\$10,000	JR Lisnard (MON)	M Lammer (SUI)	46 61 61	Fabbiano/Pedrini (ITA)
Mar-24	Jersey (GBR)	\$10,000	D Olejniczak (POL)	M Pedersen (DEN)	62 63	Grambow (GER)/Skupski (GBR)
Mar-24	Monterotondo	\$10,000	T Tenconi (ITA)	M Marrai (ITA)	75 75	Magdincev/Rusevski (MKD)
Mar-24	Zaragoza (ESP)	\$10,000	P Riba Madrid (ESP)	A Flock (GER)	63 57 64	Olaso/Ramos (ESP)
Mar-24	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	J Masson (BEL)	G Moraru (ROU)	60 76(2)	Mlendea/Moraru (ROU)

The latest draws, results and playing schedules from ITF Pro Circuit events are updated seven days a week at www.TennisEurope.org.

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Women's Circuit						
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	
Feb-25	Buchen (GER)	\$10,000	K Flipkens (BEL)	S Zahlavova (CZE)	61 36 64	Haberkorn/Matic (GER)
Feb-25	Sant Boi (ESP)	\$10,000	S Del Barrio (ESP)	M Auroux (ARG)	75 75	Auroux (ARG)/Craciun (URU)
Mar-03	Minsk (BLR)	\$25,000	A Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)	N Frankova (CZE)	60 61	Beygelzimer (UKR)/Lapushchenkova (RUS)
Mar-03	Sabadell (ESP)	\$10,000	E Balsamo (ITA)	E Craciun (URU)	63 75	Gatto Monticone/Quercia (ITA)
Mar-10	Las Palmas (ESP)	\$25,000	C Ewijk (NED)	K Flipkens (BEL)	46 76(4) 76(4)	Marrero/Martinez Sanchez (ESP)
Mar-10	Dijon (FRA)	\$10,000	O Brozda (POL)	S Borwell (GBR)	75 46 64	Babakova (SVK)/Gerlova (CZE)
Mar-10	Roma Real (ITA)	\$10,000	A Besser (ITA)	A Korzeniak (POL)	62 63	Ivan (ROU)/Milekskaya (BLR)
Mar-10	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	L Jurikova (SVK)	I Georgatou (GRE)	64 63	Clerico (ITA)/Litvak (USA)
Mar-17	Amiens (FRA)	\$10,000	K Mraz (FRA)	S Gronert (BLR)	64 57 61	Brozda (POL)/Duko (BLR)
Mar-17	Bath (GBR)	\$10,000	S Borwell (GBR)	S Vongsouth (FRA)	64 76(5)	Babakova (SVK)/Gerlova (CZE)
Mar-17	Porto Rafti (GRE)	\$10,000	L Jurikova (SVK)	J Jandova (CZE)	61 76(5)	Glushko (ISR)/Ripoll (GER)
Mar-17	Rome (ITA)	\$10,000	A Korzeniak (POL)	L Ungur (ROU)	63 63	Kiszczyńska (POL)/Milevskaya
Mar-17	St. Petersburg (RUS)	\$25,000	M Rybarikova (SVK)	A Lupushchenkova (RUS)	64 62	Frankova (CZE)/Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)
Mar-17	Tenerife (ESP)	\$25,000	T Obziler (ISR)	C Suarez Navarro (ESP)	62 63	Coin/Huck (FRA)
Mar-24	Athens Goudi	\$10,000	A Moroni (ITA)	T Arefyeva (UKR)	63 64	Hofmanova (AUT)/Vierin (ITA)
Mar-24	Jersey (GBR)	\$25,000	E Baltacha (GBR)	A Vrljic (CRO)	61 63	Nagle/Stephenson (USA)
Mar-24	La Palma (ESP)	\$25,000	K Barrois (GER)	M Jugic-Salkic (BIH)	51 ret	Beygelzimer (UKR)/Voegele (SUI)
Mar-24	Moscow (RUS)	\$25,000	A Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)	E Dzehelovich (RUS)	60 62	Frankova (CZE)/Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)
Mar-24	Tessenderlo	\$25,000	K Flipkens (BEL)	C Maes (BEL)	75 61	Harmesen/Meddens (NED)
Mar-24	Latina (ITA)	\$50,000	I Benesova (CZE)	S Karatantcheva	60 62	Balsamo/Sulpizio (ITA)

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European Rankings

There are very few changes at the top of the European Rankings this month, as inconsistent performances affect the points tallies of many of the top players.

Ana Ivanovic sealed the biggest title of her career so far in Indian Wells to strengthen her grip on the #2 ranking. The win included morale-boosting wins over her closest rivals Jelena Jankovic and Svetlana Kuznetsova in the final two rounds. Defending Indian Wells champion Daniela Hantuchova was beaten in the semi finals by Maria Sharapova but retains her position in the top ten.

In the men's list, Indian Wells champion Novak Djokovic

made further inroads into Rafael Nadal's lead with his title win. The Serbian now stands just 415 points from Nadal's #2 position and has won the two biggest events of the season so far.

Roger Federer will be disappointed to have let slip the rare opportunity to build on his points lead at the top, suffering a shock semi final defeat in the Californian desert to world #92 Mardy Fish.

Meanwhile, former Tennis Europe Junior Tour #1 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga enters the European top 10 for the first time, hot on the heels of his first Grand Slam final.

Rankings as of March 31st, 2008.

WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	▶	Justine HENIN	BEL	1	6330
2	▶	Ana IVANOVIC	SRB	2	4296
3	▲	Jelena JANKOVIC	RUS	3	3790
4	▼	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	SRB	4	3750
5	▶	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	5	3671
6	▶	Anna CHAKVETADZE	RUS	6	2845
7	▶	Daniela HANTUCHOVA	SVK	9	2267
8	▶	Marion BARTOLI	FRA	10	2198
9	▶	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	11	2180
10	▶	Patty SCHNYDER	SUI	12	1871

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	▶	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	6550
2	▶	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	5705
3	▶	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	3	5280
4	▲	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	4	2710
5	▼	David FERRER	ESP	5	2640
6	▶	Richard GASQUET	FRA	8	1885
7	▶	Thomas BERDYCH	CZE	10	1685
8	▶	Mikhail YOUZHNY	RUS	11	1545
9	NEW	Jo-Wilfried TSONGA	FRA	12	1534
10	▼	Andy MURRAY	GBR	13	1525

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS

Recently published on the Tennis Europe website is an interesting document outlining draw and cut-off information for all ITF Women's Circuit events. It can be found at the [Professional Tennis Results and Statistical Archive Page](#).

EUROPEAN SENIORS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Please note that the entry deadline for the above competition is April 15th, 2008.

TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR TOUR EVENT CANCELLATION

Please note that the Eilat Under 12 event due to take place in Israel during the week of April 14th has been cancelled.

2008 TENNIS EUROPE CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Top Executives' Meeting - 24th-26th September (Venue TBC)

European Coaches' Symposium - 22nd-26th October, London (GBR)

Tennis Europe Tournament Conference - 5th-7th November, Krakow (POL)

Further information on all events to follow in due course.

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HEAD Footwear Steps Ahead of the Competition

Participating in its first shoe test since the line debuted in January 2008, HEAD's new line of footwear earned high ratings in a shoe test conducted by French Magazine *Grandchelem*. Players and footwear experts tested HEAD footwear for *Grandchelem* along with other big brands, including Nike, Adidas Asics, Lotto, Babolat, Reebok and Lacoste.

Judged on stability, comfort, softness, grip, dampening and the materials of the shoe, the HEAD Prestige Men model ranked fifth and the HEAD Extreme Men ranked seventh out of 16 pairs of men's shoes tested. The women's models also scored extremely well with the HEAD Prestige Women ranking second and the HEAD Fire Women ranking third out of 12 pairs of women's shoes tested.



Testers praised HEAD footwear, dubbing the line a "very successful comeback from HEAD in performance shoes." The magazine also went on to rave about the "great performance, high resistance and great comfort" of the different models tested.

HEAD's new footwear line incorporates HEAD CXG™ technology which provides comfort, shock absorption, decreased foot fatigue, stability and motion control, the HEAD Cooling System® which creates "climate control" within the shoe by absorbing and releasing excess heat build-up, HEAD Radial Contact™ which ensures constant traction with maximum flexibility, and Hybrasion outsole technology, developed to enhance resistance for the high stress areas of the tennis shoes.

Further information: <http://www2.head.com/tennis/footwear.php?region=eu>

HEAD MicroGel Technology a Hit among Media and Players



The HEAD MicroGel Radical Team racquet earned top ratings in the latest edition of the German *Tennismagazin*. Magazine editors tested racquets that would fit tournament and club players.

The MicroGel Radical Team racquet came out above the rest earning praise from the magazine's editors for its fantastic control and great power. Dubbed "the most precise racquet in the test", the MicroGel Radical Team was also praised for the crisp playability, fantastic control and great power compared to other racquets of the same construction.

Editors also reviewed the HEAD MicroGel Extreme Team racquet and praised the racquet for its extreme spin, saying it would be a great fit for younger players. The magazine raved, "the arm protection is impressive. The big head size also enables a big sweet spot."

Both racquets incorporate HEAD's MicroGel technology, a revolutionary silicone-based material that offers aggressive players maximum control. The technology has quickly become a player favorite on the ATP Tour, as 25 percent of players in the Top 100 play with a HEAD MicroGel racquet. The technology maximizes the responsive qualities of the racquet to create a rock solid feel and explosive spin, catering to today's modern tennis player. On ball impact, HEAD MicroGel material deforms and compresses, absorbing and dispersing the impact to the entire frame, then returning quickly to its original shape.

Further information: <http://www2.head.com/tennis/racquets.php?region=eu>

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