

Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Vienna



Tennis Austria hosted an outstanding Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Vienna during the week-end of March 29-April 1, the 33rd such convention of the largest regional association of the sports governing body.

Chaired by Tennis Europe President John James (pictured, left) and officially opened by Tennis Austria President, Ernst Wolner, the meeting equalled previous record attendance levels, with delegates from 40 of Tennis Europe's 49 member nations on hand to hear presentations on a wide variety of topics.

A full report can found on the next page.

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In the Spotlight: ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti

ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti attended the Tennis Europe AGM in Vienna and granted us an exclusive interview in which he shared his thoughts on a number of issues facing the sport. More on Page 3...

European Junior Championship Dates and Venues Revealed

Tennis Europe has announced the dates and venues of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour's flagship individual competitions for 2007, the European Junior Championships and the season-ending Tennis Europe Junior Masters.

Full story on Page 6.



Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Vienna

>> Friday's Open Session was highlighted by speeches from International Tennis Federation President Francesco Ricci Bitti, who addressed the delegates with a summary of recent ITF activities; while Executive Vice-President Juan Margets was also on hand to present an overview of professional tennis before both men joined John James for an open-floor 'Question and Answer' session.

Robert Marte (*pictured*), Division Manager Racquetsports at HEAD, Tennis Europe's main partner, then gave the assembly an introduction to the company and demonstrated HEAD's support for the ITF's 'Play and Stay' programme, by generously donating an extensive 'T.I.P.' mini-tennis kit to all member nations, to be used for coaches' education and in the promotion of the programme, one of the chief aims of which is to make the game easier for beginner players.



During the plenary session of the meeting, applications from Croatia, Israel, Turkey and Ukraine to increase their membership status from C-Nation to B-Nation were approved unanimously by the delegates, as were the organisation's 2006 accounts and 2007 budget, presented by Honorary Treasurer Jarl Whist.

Annual reports were then made by the chairpersons of Tennis Europe's various Committees; Ayda Uluç (Juniors), Jose Antonio Senz de Broto (Professional), Philios Christodoulou (Seniors), Jacques Dupré (Development) and Pierre-Paul de Keghel (Team Championships/Regional Games), as well as an in-depth look at the organisations' marketing, communication and promotions from Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää.

Tennis Europe Awards were approved and awarded

from the Tennis Europe Board of Management for Malta Tennis Federation's Lino Farrugia Sacco and Mike Ballardie of Prince Sports Europe, whilst further awards proposed by member nations were endorsed for Aleksandr Tsaturyan (ARM), Peter Pokorny (AUT), Franz Lemaire (BEL), Henrik Klitvad (DEN), Raimo Karvalla (FIN) and Oleg Kornblit (RUS).

As is tradition for the Annual General Meeting, delegates from the relevant national tennis federations also collected medals and certificates on behalf of the 2006 Junior and Senior Players of the Year, whilst special guest Juha Laurio, Chief Operating Officer of Lind-

ström Oy, presented the 2006 European Tennis Trophy awards together with John James.



The Tennis Europe President then concluded the meeting by confirming that the Danish Tennis Federation would host next year's event in Copenhagen during

the weekend of 28th-29th March. He said "This has been an extraordinarily successful and productive AGM with enthusiastic attendance from our member nations. I would like to thank our hosts Tennis Austria once again for their hard work and warm hospitality, as well as all the delegates, guests and partners for their contributions."

Vienna Town Hall was the spectacular venue for the official closing dinner, where the local government speaker for sport Dr. Maer led the delegates in congratulating the Tennis Europe award winners in attendance, with a special mention for the incredible achievements of Austria's 50-time European Seniors Champion Peter Pokorny (*pictured, right, with John James. Photos: Gepa-Images. For more images from Vienna, see P18*).

In the Spotlight: Francesco Ricci Bitti

Francesco Ricci Bitti is a popular figure amongst the delegates at Tennis Europe's meetings, having served with the organisation (then known as the European Tennis Association) from 1981 until 1999. Elected President in 1993, Mr. Ricci Bitti led Tennis Europe through six years of expansion and progress before being elected to the sports' highest post; that of International Tennis Federation President.

Can you tell us about the relationship between Tennis Europe and the ITF, and also your personal one, having led both organisations?

Well, I think that Tennis Europe *is* the ITF. If you view the ITF as a tree, then the regional associations are the branches of this tree. But for me it's a special question because I come from Tennis Europe, where I started in 1981, and I left in 1999 only because I was elected President of the ITF, so I was there for many years, during much of the growth. Today, Tennis Europe is by far the most important regional association in terms of activities, and it is one to which the ITF is extremely confident to delegate tasks as the professionalism and performance are exactly how we expect them to be; it is a model for the other regional associations.

Here at the AGM you have updated the delegates on a number of ITF-related issues and I'd like to touch on some of those for the benefit of our readers. Firstly, in conjunction with WADA, the ITF now oversees the drug testing from all professional tennis competitions. Many commentators speculated that there would be a sudden wave of positive results once this was taken out of the hands of the main tours, but it hasn't been the case. Why do you think this is, and are you happy that enough is being done against doping in the sport?

Firstly I think that endurance sports are much more susceptible to the dangers of doping, as extra powers of endurance will enhance your performance. Tennis is a skill sport – whatever you do in terms of doping, you will not suddenly become a good player if you are not already. But of course we have to be vigilant, because players have to play and train every week, for almost the whole year, even sometimes playing when injured because the financial concerns are so great. I'm very happy with our program, which is considered one of the best in the sporting world, but of course we always



have to work to improve. Now I would like to see more cooperation with and greater effectiveness of various national anti-doping organisations.

One of the ITF's main projects for this year is the 'Play and Stay' scheme. Can you explain about that for people who don't know about the initiative?

'Play and Stay' is an attempt to address issues concerning participation in tennis. A survey that we did in 2006, using the same criteria as a previous one from 1988, showed that regular participation had gone from 15-20 million to 80-100 million. This is a great achievement and shows that the sport is universally successful and popular. Having said that, we are acutely aware that the first step is the hardest in tennis – not only do you need special equipment that is not always easy to obtain, but it also takes some time and work before you are able to play properly. So Play and Stay focuses on this, smoothing the transition from absolute beginner to regular player, thereby making the game more attractive to youngsters and adults in order to maintain this growth.

In the Spotlight: Francesco Ricci Bitti

One of the more interesting – but less publicised - realms of work for the ITF is its scientific research. What projects are ongoing at the moment?

Unfortunately that's right, for example 'Hawkeye' has become a great success and is well known, but many people don't realise the extensive work done by the ITF, in terms of the technical work, specifications, initial tournament testing and so on. Another project that we are now very busy with is the introduction of a Surface Pace Rating system, which is focused especially on hard courts with the aim of eliminating extreme surface conditions in Davis and Fed Cup. As you know, host nations can choose the surface, but we want to ensure that it is as fair as possible, and that courts cannot be extremely slow or fast, because the variation in speeds between different hard courts these days is very wide.

Let's explore 'Hawkeye' a little further; are you pleased with the reaction so far?

I think it has been a big success. The problem – for now – is one of cost and logistics, because it is only viable at large events who can invest in a big screen and who have the space to install it in a large arena. One of the most pleasing aspects for me was to the effect on Davis Cup, in a close final like the one between Russia and Argentina, and how well the crowd took to it. When a call was challenged, there would be some tension, but as the crowd watched the screen they saw the replay and accepted the result, which led to a happier audience, which obviously is a very positive outcome.

The Davis Cup and Fed Cup have gone from strength to strength in recent years. Is there a worry that these events will be affected by the proposed 'Roadmaps' of the professional tennis tours, which aim to significantly shorten their circuits within the coming few years? How can you safeguard the competition?

Yes, it is certainly a challenge. The tennis calendar is built upon three pillars: the Grand Slams, the team competitions, and the Tours. Normally when the tours



(l-r) ITF Executive Vice-President Juan Margets, Tennis Europe President John James and Francesco Ricci Bitti conduct a Question and Answer session in Vienna

look for more space, we cannot go to the Grand Slams first, because these are the sport's best-known events and have a great tradition. We are having constructive conversations with both tours and I am confident that we will find a solution. Over the years we have faced a variety of threats to the competitions in terms of timing, but it's important to note that nobody has ever argued about the value of the events, which are an essential part of the calendar.

So you wouldn't consider changing the format of the competitions?

No, I don't think that anyone is really suggesting that. People sometimes criticise the formats, but nobody comes forward with better alternatives. I think that the competitions have now found very successful formats and they will stay that way; to have all the teams in one place for example would no longer work in our sport – if the home team is not involved the crowds do not come. Plus, we have grown with the 'home and away' format and it is now a part of what I call our 'tennis DNA', the fans would surely reject anything else.

Looking at it that way, I imagine you were not too surprised by the reaction to the recent experiments with a new 'round robin' system for tournament play?

In the Spotlight: Francesco Ricci Bitti

No, I wasn't surprised; the 'round robin' format is also not a part of the DNA of tennis, and people are reluctant to change. In tennis, when somebody loses, he or she goes home, and it has always been that way.

What about the other recent innovations in professional tennis? What's the ITF's stance on issues such as the doubles rules changes and on-court coaching?

Well, first of all we are very open to such experimentation. Often we are described as a conservative organisation, but to defend what is good doesn't necessarily mean that you are conservative. All of the alternative scoring systems are contained within our Rules of Tennis and we encourage experimentation, indeed it was the ITF who a few years ago trialled the short set system throughout the season. This had some success, but was ultimately killed by the players, as if the players don't like something the chances of it working are much less...after all they are the most important part of the game. For this reason I was also not against experimenting with the round robin system, but I was sceptical of its success. I think that the ATP have shown they have had some success with the doubles innovations though, it seems to be doing better than before in terms of popularity, so we monitor it with interest.

As for on-court coaching, there are also pros and cons. Having been a player, I personally believe that the nature of an individual sport is that the players should find their own solution on the court. Again though, we have to watch and see what happens – there is no point being against something in advance. If there is added value for players and fans then that should be considered but personally I am not very confident that it brings a lot.

As an IOC member and also as ITF President, can you comment on the preparations for the next Olympics?

I think that China to some extent is in the opposite situation to Athens. In Athens, the preparations were very difficult, but in the end the games were very successful. In China, the preparation is going very well, with the total support of the people, the government and so on. What I believe will be more of a challenge will be the running of the games, as obviously the culture difference is great and it is the first time that China has to organise an event on such a grand scale, so it will be very interesting.

You are standing for your third term as President of the International Tennis Federation. What still appeals to you about this challenging role?

Well, I felt it was a moral obligation to remain, having been the first person in capacity of ITF President to be elected to the IOC. I want to continue to honour all that the Olympic movement has given to our sport, and to myself personally in electing me. It's true that the role of President is a tough one, with lots of travelling and so on, but I certainly do not complain because tennis has been an important part of my life, first as a player, then as an administrator at national and European level, so if I didn't have this passion for the job and for the sport, I would not still be here.

Having served as President of the ITF for eight years, Mr. Ricci Bitti is expected to be re-elected for a third term at the ITF's forthcoming AGM in Tunes, Tunisia from June 20-22.

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Tournament Director Competition

The winner of the 2006 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Tournament Director contest has been announced. Peter Rohsmann, Tournament Director of the Mercedes Jugend Cup in Renningen (GER) will receive a four-day trip to Roland Garros, including tickets and accommodation.

The Mercedes Jugend Cup was one the outstanding tournaments of the 2006 season both in terms of the implementation of Tennis Europe Junior Tour promo-

tion requirements and the successful running of the event. Winners of several runner-up prizes will be contacted shortly.

The 2007 competition is now underway and open to all Tennis Europe Junior Tour event organisers. Visit the organisers download page or contact Magnus Grönvold (magnusg@tenniseurope.org) for further information.

Dates and Venues for 2007 Junior Championships Revealed

Following a six-month bidding process under which aspiring organisers were given the chance to bid for the right to host some of Tennis Europe's main junior competitions for the first time, the organisation has announced the successful applicants.

The Tennis Europe Junior Masters, the season-ending event for the top eight players of the 14 and 16 & Under age categories will move to Orbetello, Italy. The venue, Circolo Tennis Orbetello has successfully organised the European Junior Championships for the last three years, whilst the Italian Tennis Federation have been the host national association of the Junior Masters since its creation in 1996.

The event will also be shifted two weeks earlier in order to bring the Tennis Europe Junior Tour season to a close sooner, and this year will be played over the weekend of September 14-16th. It is also hoped that the move will encourage more top players to compete at the event, which a few have been forced to miss in the past due to schooling or other tennis commitments.

The European Junior Championships will be held in their traditional late July calendar slot, and will be staged at three venues from July 23rd to 29th.

The Kentaur Nova Club in Ostrava (CZE) retain their hosts as hosts of the 14 & Under European Junior Championships in 2007, having successfully organised the competition for the previous two years.

The 16 & Under Championships will move to Moscow, where the application received the personal endorsement of the city's Mayor. The tournament has the privilege of being the inaugural event of the Russian Tennis Federation's new National Training Centre. It is the first time since 1990 that a Russian venue will have staged the Championships, and comes at a time when Russian players dominate the Tennis Europe Junior Tour rankings and team competitions.



Rounding off the new venues, the tennis-loving Austrian alpine town of Kitzbühel will be the new home of the 18 & Under Championships.

Announcing the decisions, Tennis Europe John James remarked "It is a great pleasure for Tennis Europe to be able to count on the support of three such esteemed nations for the European Junior Championships, and also to be able to continue to work with CT Orbetello and Kentaur Nova, who have been excellent hosts in recent years. I have no doubt that the profile of the competition will be enhanced and that the players will benefit greatly from the surroundings of the new venues in Moscow and Kitzbühel."



Tennis Europe Junior Committee Chairperson Ayda Uluç added "We'd like to thank all of the potential organisers and national federations who contacted us for their contributions to this process. Many of the applicants were of the highest calibre, and the decisions were not easy, but I am confident that the enthusiasm and commitment of the four hosts will ensure that our most important junior events to continue to thrive."

As part of an ongoing program of enhancements to the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, the successful bidders will benefit for the first time in 2007 from financial incentives designed to improve both the quality and quantity of promotional materials surrounding the event.


Following a major sponsorship deal under which HEAD recently became the Official Racquet, Ball, String, Bag, Accessory, Apparel and Footwear Partner of Tennis Europe, HEAD will be heavily involved with all the events and will also supply the official tournament balls.


In tandem with the drive, Tennis Europe launched new event logos for both competitions (pictured). The full range of Tennis Europe Junior Tour and competition logos can be downloaded in a variety of formats from: <http://www.tenniseurope.org/downloads/juniortourlogos.zip>

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The advertisement features a male tennis player in a white shirt, captured in a dynamic pose as if hitting a backhand shot. The background is a dramatic, fiery orange and red sky. The headline 'LET IT ROCK!' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. The HEAD logo is in the top right corner. A black box at the bottom contains descriptive text about the MicroGEL technology and the HEAD logo.

ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Development Championships

Belarus won three of the four titles on offer as players from 17 Eastern European countries took part in the ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Development Championships recently.

The championships were held for the third straight year at the Rocca al Mare Tennis Centre in Tallinn, Estonia, and once again featured two consecutive tournaments played between 9-18 March.

The event is designed to benefit the top players from some of Europe's less-developed tennis nations. Top performing players at the event receive travel grants to help towards the often prohibitive costs of travel to international junior tennis tournaments.

The first boys' tournament was won by Estonia's Marek Marksoo, with the No. 4 seed overcoming the No. 2 seed, Aleksey Krylchuk of Ukraine, 62 67(6) 62. There was an all-Belarusian final in the second boys' event, with current European #5 Yaroslav Shyla overcoming his third-seeded compatriot Aleksandr Bulitski 62 76(4).

Another Belarusian player, Karyna Alesha, won both girls' tournaments, contributing to her appearance in the 14 & Under European top ten for the first time this week.

Alesha defeated Lina Dapkute of Lithuania 36 62 76 (3) in a highly competitive final of the first event, but was fortunate to win the second title when top seeded

opponent Tamara Curovic of Serbia was forced to retire when leading the final 60 04.

Commenting on the event, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic said, "Because of the feed-in format the Development Championships is a great event especially for the players with fewer competitive opportunities. The 16 most promising players will be invited to take part in the ITF/Tennis Europe 14 & Under Touring Teams in Europe this summer."

A number of rising stars have benefited from participation in the event in recent years, including the likes of Marcos Baghdatis (CYP) and Alyona Bondarenko (UKR).

Full results from the event can be found at <http://www.tenniseurope.org/Development/news2.aspx>



CIT Clay Court Training Programmes

As the European summer approaches, coaches at the Centre Internacional de Tennis (CIT), the Official Academy Partner of Tennis Europe, are switching their focus to specific training for clay courts.

Players visiting the CIT from around the world relish the chance to improve their clay court game following the successful Catalan and Spanish training methods, with individual assessment and analysis of the players' ability through computerised and audio-visual systems. This complete preparation, through a personalised training schedule, includes technique, tactics and physical conditioning, and combines training with ample opportunities for competition.

All programmes are supervised by former Spanish Davis Cup team captain Jordi Arrese, who leads a team of first class professionals with a wide experience in coaching on the international ATP and WTA circuits. The primary goal of these personalised programmes is to enable players to become professionals. Other programmes are also in place oriented to preparation for Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and other international junior and professional team competitions.

A typical tailored programme offered to players includes the following:

Technical training Training takes place weekdays from 8:30am to 1pm and from 3:30pm to 6pm. It includes 3.5 hours on court and 2 hours of physical workout. Sessions are flexible according to the needs of the groups (e.g. training for competitions, study time, individual or group technique correction). Groups have a maximum of 4 players, and are formed taking into account player's level and individual needs.

Physical preparation Certified professionals from the National Institute for Physical Education, who also have wide experience on the ATP and WTA Tours, conduct the physical preparation of players. The personalised programmes include regular medical and computerised check ups in order to update the player's training programme throughout the season.

Psychological support and Medical controls CIT has 2 psychologists who monitor players individually in order to support them to professional competition. All players receive regular medical check ups. These focus on injury diagnosis, prevention, and recovery and

due to its periodicity they help to maximise performance in professional competition. Injury recovery takes place in partnership with the Catalan Tennis Federation Medical Services and the on-site Mapfre Sports Medical Clinic.



Competition 50 weeks of varied tournaments - ATP, WTA, ATP Challengers, ITF Futures, ITF women's, ITF Junior and Tennis Europe Junior Tour events as well as the National Opens and other competitions are held in Catalonia and Spain all year round, and easily accessible to CIT players.

New technologies The CIT is working to improve the physical and technical performance of each player with new machines acquired recently. These help to design individual training programs through different physical tests monitored by computer, such as endurance and effort, specific tests, bio-mechanical controls, and so on. The new pneumatic technology machines are specially designed to work the player's power to different speeds of training. They improve the combination of force and speed (power). A vibrator platform stimulates the muscular power and the inertial pulley focuses the work of return, which can be applied on court. The technical and tactical work is corrected thanks to pioneering software of video analysis and observation, which is in use on the court to correct the execution of the technical and tactical movements of each player.

The best facilities in Europe

Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner, the Centre Internacional de Tennis, has some of the best facilities in Europe, with 31 tennis courts, including greenset, indoors and clay, and its own residency for players located on site. CIT is the only centre recognised by the International Tennis Federation and also has the privilege to host the Olympic Solidarity programme promoted by the International Olympic Committee, which welcomes players from all over the world. The academy can be contacted directly, or through the ITF or Tennis Europe, but a high standard of play is required, as the academy is geared to the preparation of professional players. The CIT is keen to establish links with National Federations.

Beyond the Baseline...

Davis Cup by BNP Paribas quarterfinal results: Russia d. France 3-2, Germany d. Belgium 3-2, USA d. Spain 4-1, Sweden d. Argentina 4-1. The semifinals see Russia host Germany whilst USA hosts Sweden during the weekend of September 21-23.

Meanwhile, European teams are involved in all of the World Group Play-off ties during the same weekend.

Belarus, Romania and Slovak Republic travel to Peru, Japan and South Korea respectively, while Serbia will host Australia, Austria host Brazil, Israel host Chile, Great Britain host Croatia and Czech Republic host Switzerland.

Greg Rusedski announced his retirement from professional tennis after securing a victory for Great Britain in the Davis Cup against the Netherlands last week, partnering Jamie Murray in the doubles. Having struggled with injuries in recent seasons, the former world #4 - who won a title in all but three of his 16 seasons as a professional - expressed a desire to continue to work behind the scenes with British Davis Cup team.

The **ATP** recently announced a new partnership with string manufacturer **Pacific Entermark GmbH**, who will be the organisation's official string and grip provider until 2009.

Portuguese 14-year old **Michelle Larcher de Brito** recently became the seventh youngest player in history to win a Sony Ericsson WTA Tour main draw match, beating Meghann Shaughnessy in Miami.

The **French Tennis Federation** have announced that women will be awarded equal prize money at Roland Garros this year, which, following last month's announcement by the All-England Club, means that all four Grand Slams will award equal prize in 2007 for the first time. Furthermore, the **Roland Garros** champions can expect to receive a round €1,000,000 prize - the largest of the Grand Slams.

The WTA's Tier III event scheduled to be held in Tel Aviv, Israel later this year has been cancelled.

Tennis featured prominently amongst the winners at the **Laureus World Sports Awards**. **Roger Federer** was named World Sportsman of the Year for a record third time, whilst **Amélie Mauresmo** won the World Breakthrough of the Year Award in recognition of her first two Grand Slam titles.

Serena Williams was the third tennis winner; capturing the Comeback of the Year Award.

The **Fed Cup by BNP Paribas** Europe/Africa Zone Group 1 event scheduled for 18-21 April has been moved from Sofia to the Tennis Club Lokomotiv in Plovdiv, the Bulgarian Tennis Federation has announced.



European teams feature in all four World Group first round ties next weekend. A depleted Belgian team travels to the USA, Russia face Spain at home, France host Japan and defending champions Italy host China.

The British **Lawn Tennis Association's** new National Tennis Centre was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II recently. The Queen toured the Centre, meeting with staff and children training on-site (pictured) as well as members of the British Davis Cup team.

Romania's IOC country code has changed from ROM to ROU with immediate effect.

Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are set to play a unique exhibition match in Nadal's native Mallorca next month. Indisputably the world's best players on clay and grass respectively, the rivals will meet in a showdown which sees both playing simultaneously on their preferred surface - one side of the court will be constructed of red clay, while the other side will be grass.

Tennis Europe Nations Challenge by HEAD



HEAD have taken on the title sponsor role of Europe's brand new team championship event for the 12 & under age group, which will be staged for the first time this summer.

A total of 53 teams have already entered the boys' and girls' events, and will compete at four qualifying zones during a four-day period over the weekend of 26-29th July, with the top

two teams from each group progressing to the final rounds in Alghero (ITA, boys) and Ajaccio (FRA, girls) two weeks later (9-12th August). The repartition of nations is now available online.

Ties will be played in round-robin format, and will each consist of two singles and one doubles rubber. Placement ties will also be played.

Fact sheets and further information will be available on the competitions designated webpage: <http://www.tenniseurope.org/JuniorTennis/TennisEuropeNationsChallengebyHEAD.aspx>

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Latest

The repartition of nations for this year's **European Summer Cups** events has been announced. Full information can be found on the relevant pages at www.TennisEurope.org.

Slovenia's **Nik Razborsek** and **Alexandra Krunich** of Serbia proved themselves to be the players to beat by both achieving the rare feat of back-to-back Category 1 tournament wins with victories in Maia (POR) and Livorno (ITA).

Razborsek old upset a succession of higher ranked opponents in both boy's events, and teamed with **Mate Pavic** (CRO) to add the Maia doubles crown for good measure. The Slovenian #1 also climbs into the top 10 for the first time.

Krunich conceding just 20 games in six matches on the way to the Maia title, her third tournament win so far. She quickly followed that up by upsetting Tennis Europe Junior Masters champion **Vivian Juhaszova** (SVK) in a closely contested Livorno final.

14 & Under boys #1 **Carlos Boluda** of Spain continued his meteoric progress by playing and winning his first individual 16 & Under event recently, the Category 2 Realsport Open in Pribram (CZE). The European Junior Champion beat top seed **Ivan**

Turudic (CRO) on his way to the title, and now stands on the cusp of the top 30.

Hungarian players (pictured) excelled at the Tour's most recent 16 & under event, the 'School Lobik' in Trencianske Teplice in Slovak Republic, winning three of the four events. **Tamas Batyi** won both singles and doubles (with compatriot **Marton Fucsovics**), enabling him to break into the top 20, whilst top seeded **Reka Luka Jani** took home the girls singles title.



Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 14 & Under



Double-ITF/Tennis Europe Development Championships winner Karyna Alesha of Belarus (pictured, left) became the first player to win three Tour singles events in 2007, and is a new entry to the top 10 this month.

Don't forget to check the latest rankings at www.TennisEurope.org each Thursday!

14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Hanna ORLIK	BLR	740
2	▶	Ksenia KIRILLOVA	RUS	605
3	▶	Timea BABOS	HUN	600
4	▲	Alexandra KRUNICH	SRB	600
5	▶	Vivien JUHASZOVA	SVK	530
6	▼	Ajla TOMLJANOVIC	CRO	490
7	▼	Silvija NJIRIC	CRO	470
8	▶	Daria GAVRILOVA	RUS	460
9	▼	Jennifer REN	GBR	395
10	NEW	Karyna ALESHA	BLR	390

14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Carlos BOLUDA	ESP	760
2	▶	Anton VOLKOV	RUS	650
3	▶	Lukas VRNAK	CZE	500
4	▲	Jiri VESELY	CZE	425
5	▲	Yaroslav SHYLA	BLR	425
6	▼	Ciprian PORUMB	ROU	400
7	▼	Filip HORANSKY	SVK	395
8	▼	Yaroslav ZUBKO	BLR	355
9	NEW	Nik RAZBORSEK	SLO	355
10	NEW	Vasile Alexandru GHILEA	ROU	340

Rankings as of 12.04.07

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings - 16 & Under



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.

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.

16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Ekaterine GORGODZE	GEO	495
2	▶	Simona HALEP	ROU	415
3	▶	Linda ABU MUSHRAF	BRN	415
4	▶	Julia MAYR	ITA	400
5	▶	Martina GLEDACHEVA	BUL	375
6	▶	Kai Chen CHANG	TPE	370
7	▶	Monika TUMOVA	CZE	360
8	▶	Maria MELIUK	BLR	345
9	▶	Camelia HRISTEA	ROU	345
10	▶	Diana MARCU	ROU	335
16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Mirza BASIC	BIH	470
2	▶	Piotr GADOMSKI	POL	365
3	▶	Marco SPERONELLO	ITA	320
4	▶	Vedran LJUBICIC	CRO	310
5	▲	Ivan TURUDIC	CRO	305
6	▼	Laurynas GRIGELIS	LTU	295
7	▼	Henrik SILLANPÄÄ	FIN	290
8	▶	Sebastian CHYLINSKI	POL	265
9	▲	Tsuna-Hua YANG	TPE	255
10	NEW	Dino MARCAN	CRO	250

Rankings as of 12.04.07

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

12 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Mar-26	Funchal (POR)		S Sebastian (GER)	R Pereira (PO)	62 62
			M Makarova (RUS)	R Correia (POR)	62 63
Mar-26	Moscow (RUS)		A Mozgovoy (RUS)	F Smalyanyy (RUS)	63 60
			A Glasskih (RUS)	(Q) V Vorontsova (RUS)	46 64 61
Apr-09	Ponta Delgada (POR)		G Loureiro (POR)	F Silva (POR)	36 76(9) 76(5)
			M Civera Lima (ESP)	A Silva (POR)	60 61

14 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Mar-05	Development Champs	2	(4) M Marksoo (EST)	(2) A Krylchuk (UKR)	62 67(6) 62
	(EST)		(2) K Alesha (BLR)	(3) I Dapkute (LTU)	36 62 76(3)
Mar-12	Development Champs	2	(1) Y Shyla (BLR)	(3) A Bulitski (BLR)	61 76(4)
	(EST)		(2) K Alesha (BLR)	(1) T Curovic (SRB)	06 40 ret
Mar-26	Maia (POR)	1	(10) N Razborsek (SLO)	(3) A Dall'Asta (ITA)	64 62
			(2) A Krunic (SRB)	(3) S Njiric (CRO)	63 60
Mar-26	Messina (ITA)	2	(4) V Ghilea (ROU)	(1) Y Shyla (BLR)	63 64
			(7) E Gabb (GBR)	(2) V Zatekova (SVK)	64 63
Mar-26	Minsk (BLR)	3	(4) M Vaks (RUS)	(3) A Korchevskyy (UKR)	61 63
			(2) E Yashina (RUS)	(3) M Gasparyan (RUS)	63 76(5)
Apr-02	Livorno (ITA)	1	N Razborsek (SLO)	(Q) D Bretting (SUI)	64 76(4)
			(3) A Krunic (SRB)	(2) V Juhaszova (SVK)	16 61 62
Apr-02	Angra Do Heroismo	2	J Kahlke (GER)	J Burri (SUI)	36 61 75
	(POR)		WC B Luz (POR)	(2) M Sezer (TUR)	76(3) 63
Apr-09	Pavia (ITA)	2	(2) C Porumb (ROU)	M Pavic (CRO)	62 60
			(7) M Trevisan (ITA)	(2) I Stoica (ROU)	64 75

16 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Mar-12	Pribram (CZE)	2	(3) C Boluda (ESP)	(1) I Turudic (CRO)	64 60
			(1) K Koprivova (CZE)	(2) Z Diyas (KAZ)	64 63
Mar-19	Tallinn (EST)	3	(6) P Filin (BLR)	(1) G Panov (BLR)	76(3) 62
			(Q) A Walker (GBR)	(4) S Pirazhenka (BLR)	64 60
Mar-26	Trencianske Teplice	3	(3) T Batyi (HUN)	(Q) F Havaj (SVK)	61 62
	(SVK)		(1) R Jani (HUN)	R Horompoliova (SVK)	62 26 60

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Feb-26	Leuggern (SUI)	\$10,000	(7) L Chikhladze (GEO)	S Swinnen (SUI)	76(3) 76(6)
Feb-26	Terrasa (ESP)	\$10,000	(3) J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	(1) M Fornell Mestres (ESP)	76(4) 60
Feb-26	Faro (POR)	\$10,000	(8) L Sorensen (IRL)	P Duclos (CAN)	61 61
Feb-26	Castelgandolfo (ITA)	\$10,000	(1) D Koellerer (AUT)	M Jorquera (ITA)	61 61
Mar-05	Jersey (GBR)	\$15,000	(6) G Lugassy (FRA)	A Sandbichler (AUT)	76(3) 76(6)
Mar-05	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(4) A Van Der Duim (NED)	(2) A Satschko (GER)	64 61
Mar-05	Sabadell (ESP)	\$10,000	B Salva Vidal (ESP)	(8) D Marrero Sanchez (ESP)	62 62
Mar-05	Lagos (POR)	\$10,000	(3) P Wessels (NED)	C Morel (FRA)	63 62
Mar-05	Siracusa (ITA)	\$10,000	F Aldi (ITA)	(5) A Brizzi (ITA)	41 45(4) 41
Mar-05	Vaduz (LIE)	\$10,000	L Chikhladze (GEO)	S Swinnen (SUI)	46 76(1) 64
Mar-12	Lille (FRA)	\$15,000	A Juska (LAT)	WC T Dupre (FRA)	67(5) 62 60
Mar-12	Caltanissetta (ITA)	\$15,000	(5) G Petrazzuolo (ITA)	(1) F Cipolla (ITA)	63 64
Mar-12	Badalona (ESP)	\$10,000	(6) B Salva Vidal (ESP)	M Lopez Jaen (ESP)	63 64
Mar-12	Wilén (SUI)	\$10,000	(1) A Dupuis (FRA)	(Q) A Flock (GER)	62 63
Mar-12	Sunderland (GBR)	\$15,000	(2) S Robert (FRA)	T Oger (FRA)	62 75
Mar-12	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	J Stancik (SVK)	(7) D Lojda (CZE)	63 64
Mar-12	Albufeira (POR)	\$10,000	(Q) R Berankis (LTU)	(4) N Desein (BEL)	75 64
Mar-12	Porec (CRO)	\$10,000	(1) Skenderovic (CRO)	(3) S Ianni (ITA)	62 46 63
Mar-19	Poitiers (FRA)	\$15,000	(3) J Tsonga (FRA)	A Juska (LAT)	61 75
Mar-19	Catania (ITA)	\$10,000	J Villar (ARG)	(6) G Trujillo Soler (ESP)	63 62
Mar-19	Sabadell (ESP)	\$10,000	(7) A Baldellou Esteva (ESP)	(4) B Salva Vidal (ESP)	63 63
Mar-19	Raanana (ISR)	\$10,000	(1) H Levy (ISR)	(2) A Satschko (GER)	76(4) 61
Mar-19	Vrsar (CRO)	\$10,000	C Niland (IRL)	K Bardoczky (SVK)	64 64
Mar-26	Bath (GBR)	\$15,000	(1) R Bloomfield (GBR)	(7) T Oger (FRA)	75 76(4)
Mar-26	Rovinj (CRO)	\$10,000	(2) M Tkalec (SLO)	(8) C Niland (IRL)	64 75
Mar-26	Malmö (SWE)	\$10,000	(Q) P Figueroa (SWE)	(Q) R Bemelmans (BEL)	76(8) 75
Mar-26	Monterotondo (ITA)	\$10,000	(1) F Nielsen (DEN)	(4) F Piccari (ITA)	46 64 63
Mar-26	Zaragoza (ESP)	\$10,000	(5) D Marrero (ESP)	(6) G Trujillo Soler (ESP)	36 64 63
Apr-02	Angers (FRA)	\$15,000	S Darcis (BEL)	WC X Pujo (FRA)	36 64 64
Apr-02	Bath (GBR)	\$15,000	(4) A Beck (GER)	(2) T Oger (FRA)	75 64
Apr-02	Loja (ESP)	\$10,000	(6) M Lopez Jaen (ESP)	(4) G Trujillo Soler (ESP)	63 26 63
Apr-02	Linköping (SWE)	\$10,000	(2) D Elsner (GER)	WC M Ekman (SWE)	63 61
Apr-02	Antalya Manavgat (TUR)	\$10,000	(4) J Minar (CZE)	(3) M Zimmermann (GER)	67(2) 64 64
Apr-02	Roma Frascati (ITA)	\$10,000	(2) A Pastorino (ARG)	(1) F Piccari (ITA)	63 64
Apr-09	Grasse (FRA)	\$15,000	(5) A Dupuis (FRA)	X Pujo (FRA)	26 75 61

The latest draws and results from ITF Pro Circuit events in Europe are updated 7 days a week at TennisEurope.org.

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr-09	Moscow (RUS)	\$15,000	(3) A Juska (LAT)	(Q) D Vlasov (RUS)	76(5) 64
Apr-09	Livorno (ITA)	\$10,000	M Jorquera (ITA)	(3) F Piccari (ITA)	63 26 64
Apr-09	Antalya Manavgat (TUR)	\$10,000	J Minar (CZE)	(5) P Rusevski (MKD)	63 62
Apr-09	Norrkoping (SWE)	\$10,000	WC C Bergman (SWE)	P Marx (GER)	46 63 75
ITF Women's Circuit					
Feb-26	Sant Boi (ESP)	\$10,000	(2) K Kosinska (POL)	(5) A Poltoratskaya (RUS)	75 63
Feb-26	Buchen (GER)	\$10,000	(3) D Krstajic (MNE)	N Frankova (CZE)	63 36 76(4)
Mar-05	Minsk (BLR)	\$25,000	(5) O Govortsova (BLR)	E Hrdinova (CZE)	67(5) 62 63
Mar-05	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(2) A Gerasmimou (GRE)	N Vajdova (SVK)	62 46 64
Mar-05	Sabadell (ESP)	\$10,000	(Q) R Bou Nogueiro (ESP)	A Poltoratskaya (RUS)	63 62
Mar-05	Quartu (ITA)	\$10,000	(4) A Floris (ITA)	(Q) F Di Sarra (ITA)	61 64
Mar-05	Jersey (GBR)	\$10,000	(4) J O'Donoghue (GBR)	(1) G Widmer (SUI)	46 62 64
Mar-12	Las Palmas (ESP)	\$25,000	(3) A Kerber (GER)	P Cetkowska (CZE)	62 16 64
Mar-12	Roma Real (ITA)	\$10,000	(1) D Kustava (BLR)	(2) A Schaefer (GER)	61 64
Mar-12	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	WC E Linetskaya (RUS)	M Babakova (SVK)	63 76(0)
Mar-12	Athens (GRE)	\$10,000	(6) T Pereira (BRA)	(3) V Huck (FRA)	62 61
Mar-12	Sunderland (GBR)	\$10,000	(1) G Widmer (SUI)	(7) A Fitzpatrick (GBR)	64 61
Mar-19	Tenerife (ESP)	\$25,000	P Cetkowska (CZE)	(3) A Kerber (GER)	75 57 76(5)
Mar-19	Amiens (FRA)	\$10,000	(1) T Pereira (BRA)	A Bergot (FRA)	75 36 61
Mar-19	Athens (GRE)	\$10,000	(Q) A Jovanovic (SRB)	(7) N Silva (POR)	63 46 64
Mar-19	Raanana (ISR)	\$10,000	WC E Linetskaya (RUS)	(4) T Hladikova (CZE)	64 64
Mar-19	Roma Panda (ITA)	\$10,000	L Sabino (ITA)	E Fernandez (ESP)	63 61
Mar-26	Latina ((ITA)	\$50,000	(2) Y Meusberger (AUT)	(5) C Wozniacki (DEN)	75 46 63
Mar-26	Patras (GRE)	\$25,000	(3) M Ani (EST)	M Jugic Salkic (BIH)	54 ret
Mar-26	La Palma (ESP)	\$25,000	M Salerni (ARG)	G Stoop (GBR)	63 63
Mar-26	Moscow (RUS)	\$25,000	(6) E Makarova (RUS)	(2) E Rodina (RUS)	64 67(6) 63
Mar-26	Dubrovnik (CRO)	\$10,000	N Zoric (SRB)	B Morata (ESP)	61 36 61
Mar-26	Foggia (ITA)	\$10,000	T Pereira (BRA)	R Bou Nogueiro (ESP)	64 63
Mar-26	Bath (GBR)	\$10,000	(3) P Wong (NED)	J Bone (GBR)	63 60
Apr-02	Dinan (FRA)	\$75,000	(Q) M Zec-Paskiric (SLO)	K Knapp (ITA)	64 62
Apr-02	Putignano (ITA)	\$25,000	(6) M Ani (EST)	(Q) C Klaschka (GER)	76(8) 64
Apr-02	Cavtat (CRO)	\$10,000	C Dentoni (ITA)	(1) M Belen Corbalan (ARG)	62 62
Apr-02	Bath (GBR)	\$10,000	(8) C Feuerstein (FRA)	(3) K Vankova (CZE)	63 63
Apr-09	Biarritz (FRA)	\$25,000	(4) P Parmentier (FRA)	(8) S Sfar (TUN)	62 64
Apr-09	Civitavecchia (ITA)	\$25,000	(Q) D Kustava (BLR)	(1) K Knapp (ITA)	36 64 64
Apr-09	Split (CRO)	\$10,000	(6) O Brozda (POL)	(7) P Mayr (AUT)	76(3) 60
Apr-09	Torhout (BEL)	\$10,000	(7) C Feuerstein (FRA)	(1) Y Wickmayer (BEL)	64 64

European Rankings

The main news this month is that Justine Henin has reclaimed the top spot in European tennis, despite a nailbiting final loss to Serena Williams in Miami. She replaces Maria Sharapova at the summit, as the Russian takes time off to rest a recurring shoulder injury.

Several other top players see their rankings affected by illness and injury. Mario Ancic faces a two-month absence suffering from mononucleosis, whilst Amélie Mauresmo is recovering from an appendectomy.

Two early losses to Guillermo Cañas at Indian Wells and Miami significantly decrease Roger Federer's lead

at the top, though his position is cannot be threatened until the summer at the earliest.

Serbian players are on the rise, with Charleston winner Jelena Jankovic climbing to a career high of #7, and Miami champion Novak Djokovic soaring to fifth. The fast-improving 19-year old is just four points behind Federer in terms of points earned in 2007 following his title in Florida, coupled with a final round loss to Rafael Nadal in Indian Wells in the only other Masters Series event of the season so far.

Rankings as of April 16th, 2007.

WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	▲	Justine HENIN	BEL	1	3859
2	▼	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	2	3388
3	▶	Amélie MAURESMO	FRA	3	2776
4	▶	Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	4	2699
5	▶	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	5	2667
6	▶	Martina HINGIS	SUI	6	2294
7	▲	Jelena JANKOVIC	SRB	7	2257
8	▲	Nicole VAIDISOVA	CZE	8	1957
9	▼	Nadia PETROVA	RUS	9	1869
10	NEW	Dinara SAFINA	RUS	10	1863

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	▶	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	7290
2	▶	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4875
3	▶	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	4	2755
4	▶	Tommy ROBREDO	ESP	6	2645
5	▲	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	7	2540
6	▼	Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	8	2270
7	▲	Andy MURRAY	GBR	10	2125
8	▼	Tommy HAAS	GER	11	2100
9	▼	Mario ANCIC	CRO	13	1775
10	▼	Thomas BERDYCH	CZE	14	1715

TENNIS EUROPE...PLAY AND STAY CONFERENCE

National Associations are reminded that this year's European Specific Theme Conference will be hosted by the Polish Tennis Association and will take place in Poznan, Poland from April 20th-21st. Full information can be found at <http://www.tenniseurope.org/Development/ESTC.aspx>

TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR TOUR CONFERENCE

Tennis Europe has announced that the 2007 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference (formerly known as the Junior General Meeting) will take place in Amsterdam (NED), on 23-24 November.

EUROPEAN RACQUET STRINGER'S ASSOCIATION

ERSA have published the first 2007 issue of Racquet Tech magazine. [Click here](#) to download the magazine in .pdf format.

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Photo Special: Images from Vienna



Images from the 2007 Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Vienna. Top row: (l-r) President John James meets Austria's Sports Minister Reinhold Lopatka. Main picture: (l-r) John James presents Alexsei Selivanenko of the Russian Tennis Federation with the 2006 Overall European Tennis Trophy by Lindström in the company of Lindström C.O.O. Juha Laurio (far right) and ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti (left). Middle row: ITF Executive Vice-President Juan Margels addresses the delegates. Centre, John James with HEAD Division Manager, Racquetsports Robert Marte and Tennis Europe Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää. Right, Karin van Bijsterveld collects an award for the Netherlands, who topped the 2006 European Championships Nations Rankings. Bottom left, Tennis Austria President Ernst Wolner. Right, delegates at the official dinner. Photos: Gepa Pictures.

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