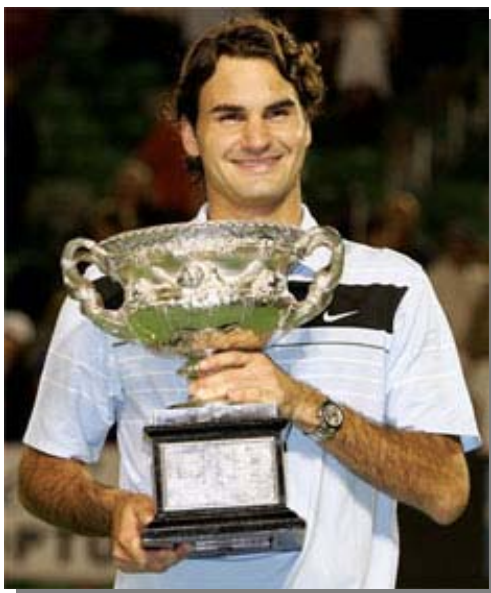


Federer Wins Tenth Grand Slam Title



Roger Federer has won his tenth Grand Slam singles title with one of the most impressive displays of his dazzling career. That the Swiss world #1 left Australia as champion will have surprised few, but the manner in which he swept the title was nothing if not astonishing. By winning the event in straight sets, Federer became the first man since Bjorn Borg at Wimbledon in 1980 to win a Grand Slam title without the loss of a set (a feat that hadn't been achieved in Australia since 1972).

The most impressive of Federer's virtuoso performances came in the semi finals against **Andy Roddick**. Buoyed by the presence of new coach Jimmy Connors, The American former world #1 had seen a return to top form in recent months, and was in confident mood ahead of his match with the defending champion, having performed well in their recent matches (Roddick held a match point against Federer at the ATP Championships in Shanghai at the end of last year, and scored a rare win over him prior to the Australian Open at the Kooyong Classic exhibition event). But from 3-4 down in the first set Federer won 11 straight games (conceding just six points in a >>

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European Tennis Trophy to be Presented by Lindström



Tennis Europe has announced the start of a three-year partnership deal with Finnish-based textile service company Lindström, under which the company will take on the presenting sponsor role of the EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY.

Established in 1991, the EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY *presented by Lindström* is an annual competition to recognise and reward Tennis Europe's member nations for their achievements throughout the year. Points are accumulated during the season according to performance in the various aspects of the sport, with the winners announced each December.

(continued on Page 4)

Federer Wins Tenth Grand Slam Title

<< remarkable second set) to firmly settle any debate about who was in better form, eventually crushing Roddick 64 60 62.

Meanwhile in the bottom half of the draw, **Fernando Gonzalez** managed a semi final scoreline that was equally impressive. Having already battled past **Lleyton Hewitt**, **James Blake** and **Rafael Nadal** for the loss of just one set (to Hewitt), the world #10 out-classed **Tommy Haas** (GER) with a stunning performance that featured 42 winners and just three unforced errors. Gonzalez conceded just five games in a 61 63 61 victory, a performance of remarkable poise for a man who could reasonably have been expected to show some nerves in his first Grand Slam semi-final at the relatively late age of 26.

There is little question that Gonzalez has been one of the worlds top three or four players since last autumn, but keep winning and you'll keep facing Federer, as the Chilean discovered in final round losses in Basel and Madrid late last year. As his Australian Open form suggested, Gonzalez seems to be closing the gap, and gave the world #1 his closest match of the tournament in a 76 64 64 loss.

Federer's tenth Slam once again leaves tennis writers grasping for superlatives and digging through the record books. He becomes the first man to win three consecutive Grand Slam titles twice in his career, moves up to joint fifth on the all-time Grand Slam winners list, just four shy of Pete Sampras' record, and extends his current winning streak to 36 matches. Gonzalez, meanwhile, reaches a career high of #5 and if he continues his current rate of progress could well prove to be Federer's main rival in 2007.

In the women's event, the major story was the resurgence of **Serena Williams**, whose march to the title was as impressive as it was unexpected. Having played just four tournaments in 2006, the former world #1 had slipped to a lowly #81 in the rankings prior to the event, and arrived at Flinders Park having suffered a morale-sapping early loss to Austrian

Sybilie Bammer at a warm-up event in Hobart.

Upsetting higher ranked opposition in all seven of her matches, Serena stuttered at times, coming from a set and 5-3 down in the third round to defeat sixth seed **Nadia Petrova** and score her first win over a top ten player in two years. **Shahar Peer** also served for the match against the American in the quarterfinals, before Serena fought back to clinch an mammoth 8-6 final set which silenced the critics who had questioned her fitness.



The final had been billed as a clash between two of the WTA's biggest stars, with an enthusiastic crowd eager for a repeat of their classic semi final in Melbourne in 2005 when Serena won a titanic third set 8-6 to defeat **Maria Sharapova**. But the American had saved her best tennis of the tournament – indeed, her best tennis for some years – for the final match in which she steamrolled the world #2 for the loss of just three games, with what Sharapova accurately described as an “absolutely flawless” display of power tennis.

Serena's win marks the first time since Wimbledon 2005 that a non-European player has won the

women's singles title at a Grand Slam. With sister Venus still struggling to rehabilitate a wrist injury and Lindsay Davenport unlikely to return to the Tour after the birth of her first child later this year, the younger Williams sister looks likely to have to carry the torch a while longer.

The women's doubles just as notable in terms of upsets, with **Yung-Jan Chan** and **Chia-Jung Chuang** of Chinese Taipei stunning the field by fighting through to the final, where they hoped to become the first wild cards to win a Grand Slam title since Martina Hingis teamed with Mirjana Lucic to win Wimbledon in 1998. The pair scored some memorable wins during the event, initially struggling through three tough opening matches before blitzing **Ashley Harkleroad** (USA) and **Galina Voskoboeva** (RUS) 60 60 (the only such score in the entire doubles competition) to

Federer Wins Tenth Grand Slam Title

reach the semi finals, where they upset defending champions **Zi Yan** and **Jie Zheng** (CHN) to earn a measure of revenge for their defeat in the final of the Asian Games in December. The greater experience of **Cara Black** (ZIM) and **Liesel Huber** (RSA) served them well in the final, however, as the third seeds overcame a spirited fight-back to win 64 67 61.

The world's top two teams met in the men's doubles final, where **Bob and Mike Bryan** (USA) edged **Jonas Bjorkman** (SWE) and **Max Mirnyi** (BLR) 75 75 to successfully defend their title, the fifth Grand Slam win of their careers.

Mirnyi would also finish as runner-up in the mixed doubles championship, where he partnered compatriot **Victoria Azarenka**. Despite scoring a crushing win over top seeds Bob Bryan and **Lisa Raymond** (USA) in the quarterfinals, they eventually fell to a more experienced team. The Canadian-Russian pair of **Daniel Nestor** and **Elena Likhovtseva** improved on their runner-up spot in 2006 with a comfortable 64 64 win.

Some of the best home performances came in the junior events. **Brydan Klein** became the only Australian to leave victorious, with a win in the boy's singles. Unseeded, the 16-year old beat a host of the world's top juniors, including top seed **Martin Klizan** (SVK) and tenth seed **Ricardas Berankis** (LTU) on the way to the final, where he faced current European Junior Champion **Jonathan Eysseric**, who had beaten him in straight sets just a week earlier at the Grade 1 warm up tournament in Nottingham. This time the big-serving Australian came out on top, emerging the stronger after a second set fight back from his French opponent to win 62 46 61 and become the first home winner of the boys event in thirteen years.

The boy's doubles title went to Britain's **Graeme Dyce** and **Harri Heliovaara** of Finland. The unseeded pair came from the brink of defeat to score a 26 76 63 win over **Stephen Donald** (AUS) and **Rupesh Roy** (IND).

World #1 **Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova** (pictured) of Russia added to her increasingly impressive resume, earning her third junior Slam title with a 76 76 win



over home favourite **Madison Brengle**. Having also won the title in 2006, the 15-year old looks capable of dominating the junior rankings for some time to come.

There was further Russian success in the doubles competition, as unseeded **Evgeniya Rodina** and **Arina Rodionova** teamed to upset top seeds **Julia Cohen** (USA) and **Urzsula Radwanska** (POL) in three sets.

In the Wheelchair Tennis competition, Japan's **Shingo Kuneida** regained the world #1 ranking by capturing his first Australian Open title a day after wrapping up the doubles title with partner **Robin Ammerlaan** (NED). Meanwhile, women's world #1 **Esther Vergeer** won her fifth Australian title, crushing #2 **Florence Gravelier** (FRA) in the final. Vergeer also added the doubles title, teaming with compatriot **Jiske Griffioen** to maintain their unbeaten record together.

As the tours make their way back to European soil in February, the conclusion of the year's first Grand Slam poses some interesting questions for the season ahead. Can Serena Williams remain unaffected by injury long enough to return to the top of the rankings? In what form will Justine Henin-Hardenne return to the tour after skipping the Australian Open for personal reasons? Can Kim Clijsters add to her solitary Gland Slam title in her last year on the women's circuit?

On the men's side, Roger Federer no doubt has his eye on the record books as he chases his goal of winning the calendar year Grand Slam. With main Roland Garros rival Rafael Nadal unable to win a title since the French Open last June, 2007 looks to be his best chance yet.

European Tennis Trophy to be Presented by Lindström

<< Trophies are awarded to the best-performing nations in Professional, Junior, Senior and Wheelchair tennis, while the main Trophy goes to the nation with the best overall performance

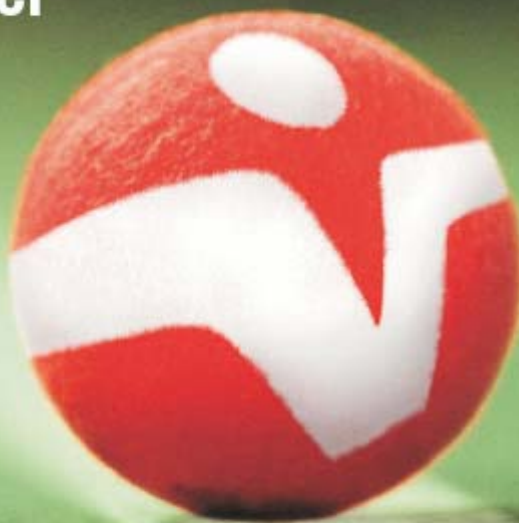
Lindström President & CEO Jukka Roiha remarked, "Lindström is proud to be able to sponsor these prestigious awards and we are particularly happy to partner with Tennis Europe, whose comprehensive involvement with the sport across the continent complements perfectly our commitment to the European marketplace."

Announcing the agreement, Tennis Europe President

John James said "I would like to thank Lindström for their commitment to the EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY, and to the sport in general. This is the first time we have had a presenting sponsor for the competition, and together with Lindström we hope to continue to raise the profile of the awards, which allow us each year to provide a reliable analysis of the strides taken by our 49 member nations in the various aspects of the sport."

Russia has dominated the EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY *presented by Lindström* for the past two years, and currently holds the trophies for Professional Tennis, Junior Tennis and Overall Performance.

A Clean Winner



EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY
presented by Lindström



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Hungarian Tennis Association Celebrates Centenary

A star-studded tennis exhibition was organised in Debrecen in December to celebrate the centenary of the Hungarian Tennis Association. The event was highlighted by a match between world #1 Justine Henin-Hardenne and Jelena Jankovic, but the 4,000 spectators were first treated to a team exhibition which saw a World Team comprised of Henin-Hardenne, Jankovic, Martina Navratilova and Ilie Nastase take on a Hungarian Team, which included Andrea Temesvari, Balázs Taroczy, József Krocskó and Sándor Nózszály). The World Team emerged victorious, with a 6-2 score, although the emphasis was on fun; Ilie Nastase opened the match with some impressive serving with his back to the net.

Henin-Hardenne and Jankovic then treated the fans to a competitive but light-hearted rematch of the US Open semi final, with Henin-Hardenne eventually winning in a final set. This was followed by Nastase taking on Taroczy and Noszaly, and finally by the 1986 Roland Garros winners Navratilova and Temesvari were reunited to take on Henin-Hardenne and Jankovic.

Martina Navratilova said after the match "I have to thank Andrea and the organisers of this event for having me here tonight. It's my second time in Hungary and this is a fabulous country. I'm very happy that I could play with Andrea again, and also for the opportunity to play against Justine."



(l-r) Navratilova, Jankovic and Henin-Hardenne meet the Hungarian press

Asked about how much she had wanted to beat the world #1 after losing at Flushing Meadows, Jankovic commented, "I don't care about the revenge. We had a lot of fun, I hope that the spectators also did and that's what's important."

Commenting on the surroundings, Ilie Nastase said "As the president of the Romanian Tennis Federation I have to admit that we are dreaming about a facility like this. I hope that we will also have something like this in the near future."

For further information on the history of the Hungarian Tennis Association, visit http://www.tenniseurope.org/MediaInfocentre/Media_Info_Archive_Hungary.aspx

Obituary: George Hendon

Tennis Europe is saddened to report that George Hendon passed away on December 29th. He was a major force in women's tennis through the late 70's and 80's. He first became involved in tennis in 1963 when as Sales Promotions Manager of Carreras Rothmans Tobacco Company he became responsible for Rothmans' sponsorship of the pre-Wimbledon Beckenham tournament. In 1975 George went into business with his wife and daughter, forming George Hendon Associates. In 1978 he instigated the Brighton Indoor women's tennis event, which ran for 18 years.

In conjunction with the Brighton event, he directed the Eastbourne women's tournament prior to Wimbledon, and held the record of directing more women's professional tournaments than any other promoter at

this time, a total of 40. He also chaired the Worldwide Women's Professional Tennis Council. George and his family were very influential in the rise of women's tennis throughout Europe.

On hearing of George's death, Billie Jean King said "George Hendon was such an integral part of the globalisation of the WTA Tour. When it was time for us to expand beyond the U.S. George was one of the first to step up and guide us. He gave so much to the players and he believed in the Tour. His actions inspired us to keep moving forward. George, his wife Eileen, and their daughter Nola, gave us a home and a European base that allowed the WTA Tour to expand into what it has become today."

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD - Preview

Europe's premier junior team tennis event, the **Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD** is due to take place throughout the month of February. The competition kicks off with the qualifying competition being staged at 16 venues across Europe during the weekends of 9th-11th and 16th-18th.

A total of 115 national teams from across Europe will take part in the four qualifying rounds for each age group, with eight final round places up for grabs. Each round takes the form of a straightforward elimination competition, with each tie consisting of two singles and a doubles match. The top two teams from each qualifying zone progress to the final rounds, whilst the remaining teams continue to benefit from match practice after their elimination by competing in consolation matches to determine the final placing.

The winners and finalists from each venue will qualify for the final rounds, which are set to be staged during the final weekend of February (23rd-25th) at the following venues:

Boys 14 & Under: Pruhonice (CZE)
 Girls 14 & Under: Leeuwarden (NED)
 Boys 16 & Under: Pruhonice (CZE)
 Girls 16 & Under: Ronchin (FRA)

In the Boys 14 & Under event, defending champions Italy field a new team for the qualifying rounds in Correggio, where they will face stiff opposition from strong teams from Croatia, France and Romania, amongst others.

Two-time defending Boys 16 & Under champions France kick off their 2007 campaign in Chloet, where they will face teams from Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Luxembourg and Slovak Republic.

2006 14 & Under Girls winners the Czech Republic also field a new team, and also have the luxury of starting at home as they host teams from Bulgaria, Great Britain, Romania, Serbia and Switzerland in Rakovnik.

Russia will be hot favourites to win the Girls 16 & Under title, having taken the title in seven of the past eight years. Expect them to field a strong team as they travel to Nastola, Finland.



The winning 2006 16 & Under French team in Pruhonice.

For full lists of qualifying venues, the repartition of nations and team nominations visit the junior tennis section of www.TennisEurope.org.

Many of Europe's current top players competed for their countries for the first time at the **Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD**. Amongst the past participants are Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Mario Ancic, Tommy Robredo, Marat Safin, Andrew Murray, Ivan Ljubicic, Justine Henin-Hardenne, Kim Clijsters, Amelie Mauresmo, Elena Dementieva, Dinara Safina, to name but a few.

Daily results from the **Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD** will be posted at the Tennis Europe website throughout the competition as soon as they are available.



Seniors Tennis Round-Up

European Seniors Indoors Championships

As usual the European Senior Circuit got off to a bang in January, with the 31st edition of the European Seniors Indoor Championships in Seefeld, Austria from January 12th-28th.

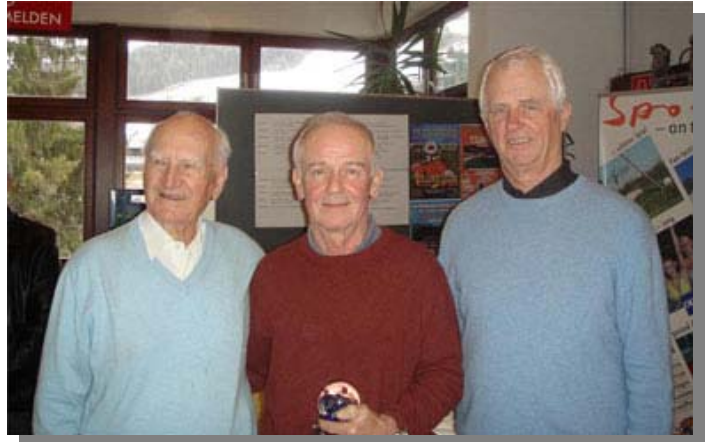
The event was a great success, with a total of 659 players taking part (a rise of 49 from 2006) from 28 countries, making the event one of the busiest in tennis. Full draws and results from Seefeld can be found at the Seniors results section of the Tennis Europe website.

Rankings

Reflecting the continued growth in popularity of the Seniors Circuit, The International Tennis Federation has announced that ITF Seniors Rankings updates will increase in frequency from quarterly to six times a year. New lists will be published in March, May, August, October, November and December.

As of January 1st, all players changing age category will carry their existing points into the new category. These players will see 'BIS' next to their name on the rankings lists until all points expire.

Rankings can be found at <http://www.itftennis.com/seniors/rankings/currentrankings/index.asp>



L-r Walter Spiess (Seefeld Organising Committee, also a participant in the mens 85+ category, world #1 and mens 65+ champion Peter Pokorny (AUT), Tennis Europe Senior Committee member Peter Nader.

Survey

A questionnaire on Seniors tennis in Europe will shortly be sent out to the National Associations. The results will be published in the newsletter once the information has been collated.

European Championships

Dates and venues for almost all categories of the European Individual and Club Championships have been announced and can be found below.

EUROPEAN SENIORS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women

40/50/60	Le Touquet (FRA)	18-22 June
Men 45	Vale do Lobo (POR)	24-28 September
Men 55	Arosa (SUI)	11-15 September
Men 60	Moenchenbladbach (GER)	13-17 August
Men 65	tbc	tbc
Men 70	Karlsruhe (GER)	11-14 September

EUROPEAN SENIORS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Outdoors)

60-85	Poertschach (AUT)	11-17 June
40-55	Baden-Baden (GER)	11-17 June
35+	Rottach-Weissach (GER)	26-29 July

Seniors Tennis Round-Up

EUROPEAN SENIOR PLAYERS OF THE YEAR 2006

Women

35+	Jo LOUIS (GBR)
40+	Ingrid VLACH (AUT)
45+	Barbara KOUTNA (CZE)
50+	Claudia THOMALLA-ADAM (GER)
55+	Heide EISTERLEHNER (GER)
60+	Heide ORTH (GER)
65+	Zsofia GARAGULY (AUT)
70+	Jacqueline LECAILLON (FRA)
75+	Magdalena JAUCH (GER)
80+	Ingeborg KNUTH (GER)
85+	N/A

Men

Juan-Luis RASCON-LOPE (ESP)
Manfred HUNDSTORFER (AUT)
Norbert HENN (GER)
Radovan CIZEK (CZE)
Jorge CAMINA-BORDA (ESP)
Peter ADRIGAN (GER)
Peter POKORNY (AUT)
Heinz LOEFFLER (GER)
Henri CRUTCHET (FRA)
Oscar JIRKOVSKY (AUT)
Gerald S. ELLS (GBR)

North-East Regional Training Camp for Players 14 & Under

The seventh edition of the ITF/Tennis Europe North East Regional Training Camp for players aged 14 & Under came to a conclusion in Siauliai, Lithuania recently. The camp, which ran from 11-17 January 2005, attracted 32 players and 12 coaches from the neighbouring countries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and the Ukraine. ITF expert Nicoals Kelaidis from Greece conducted the camp along with the visiting coaches at the Siauliai Tennis School, which, with four indoor courts, a fitness centre and a lecture room, was well equipped to host the event.

Players and coaches were involved in both on and off-court training sessions with the main objective of the camp being to improve tactical skills on hard courts.

Nicolas Kelaidis said, "The Siauliai Tennis School is a facility of very high standard. Together with the efficient organization of director Ramunas Grusas, the coaches in attendance were of a high level, with very motivated players. The camp provided a perfect opportunity for practice and competition in order to prepare for the upcoming indoor tournaments".



Ramunas Grusas, Director of Siauliai tennis school added, "These training camps are excellent projects for the participating countries, providing important experience for young players that have just begun their international careers. At the same time their coaches have the possibility to share their knowledge and learn from each other."

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CIT Welcomes World Players to Work on Clay Court Game

Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner, the Centre Internacional de Tennis (CIT) hosted players from 18 countries worldwide in January, as some of the most promising junior players sought to improve their clay court game following the successful Catalan and Spanish training methods at the Barcelona centre.

This month, four players were sent to the Centre by Tennis Europe on a grant. European 16 & Under #1 Mirza Basic from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Vasko Zdravkin from Macedonia, Filip Krajinovic from Serbia & Montenegro and Armenia's Ani Amiraghy, visited the academy in preparation for a series of tournaments that they are scheduled to play on clay this February in South America.

They coincided with three other players sent by their respective national associations: Tomislav Brkic from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia's Sendrid Deari and Vasko Zdravkin.

The CIT also hosts players coming from non-European countries, such as the three players from Togo, El Salvador and Madagascar who live on-site residence thanks to the agreement with the International Tennis Federation.

Two other resident players from Morocco, Lina Bennani (runner-up at the Tennis Europe Junior Tour U&16 event held at the CIT last November) and Saad Benkirane, have been followed by a Moroccan television crew, who visited the academy to report on their preparation at the CIT.

The players were filmed during on-court training and whilst following a physical preparation using the new high-training machines acquired recently by the CIT. The report also focuses on the sports psychology sessions and the academic classes at the centre.

All programmes at the CIT are supervised by former Davis Cup Spanish team captain, Jordi Arrese, who captained the team to victory in 2004 and was runner-up in 2003, and was also a silver medallist at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Arrese leads a team of first class professionals with a wide experience in coaching on the ATP and WTA Tour circuits.

The CIT boasts some of the best training facilities in Europe, with 31 tennis courts spread over an area of



CIT resident Lina Bennani was filmed for Moroccan TV

more than 31,000 m². It also has its own hall of residence for players and all kinds of services to cater for both trainee and professional players. It also has MAPFRE on site, a pioneering world sports medical centre, and one of the leaders in Europe as far as prevention; diagnosis, injury recovery and maximising performance are concerned.

The CIT is Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner, and the only centre in Europe to be recognised by the International Tennis Federation. It also hosts the Olympic Solidarity programme promoted by the IOC (International Olympic Committee), through which it welcomes players from all over the world.

The Academy can be contacted directly, through Tennis Europe or the ITF, but a high level is required as the academy is geared to the preparation of performance players. CIT is keen to establish links with National Federations.

For more information on the Centre, visit <http://centreinternacional.fctennis.org/eng>

Beyond the Baseline...

This month we launch a new column aimed at keeping you updated with other European tennis stories of interest that you may have missed during the past month.

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario will be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island (USA) in July. The Spanish former world #1 will join Pete Sampras as this year's recently retired inductees. Also being inducted at the ceremony will be Sweden's first Grand Slam champion, **Sven Davidson**.

The **ATP** and Tretorn have announced the establishment of the **Tretorn SERIE+**, a premier series of 22 ATP Challenger tournaments of over \$100,000 in prize money, including a number of European events. The first of these was last week's tournament in Heilbronn, Germany. The Series continues through Wrocław, Prague, Lugano, Córdoba, Scheveningen, Poznań, Istanbul, Hannover, Szczecin, Mons, Andrezieux and Bratislava, with further events yet to be announced. Tretorn also becomes the Official Ball of the Challenger Series on a worldwide basis.

Davis Cup by BNP Paribas World Group first round ties to be played 9-11 February: France vs. Romania (Grand Hall D'Auvergne - Clay, indoors) Germany vs. Croatia (Konig Palast, Krefeld – Hard indoors), Belgium vs. Australia (Country Hall, Liege, Hard indoors), Czech Republic vs. United States of America (Ostrava Arena, Hard indoors), Switzerland vs. Spain (Geneva Palexpo, Carpet), Belarus vs. Sweden (Minsk, Football Manage, Hard indoors), Austria vs. Argentina (Linz, Intersport Arena, Carpet), Chile vs. Russia (Universidad del Mar, La Serena, Clay).

Tim Henman has agreed to return to Davis Cup play for Great Britain, two years after announcing his retirement from the team. He is expected to join British #1 **Andy Murray** to take the singles slots for their home tie against the Netherlands in April. Murray, meanwhile, has reportedly signed a seven year endorsement deal with Highland Spring mineral water which will net the Scottish teenager £1,000,000.

Meanwhile, the LTA also confirmed that **Nigel Sears** has been appointed as Great Britain's Fed Cup captain. Nigel will combine the role with his current position as Head Coach of Women's Tennis.

HEAD has renewed their contract of collaboration with the ATP until 2009. **HEAD** is the official ball of the ATP since 1993, and has been used at all Masters Series events since 2001. Meanwhile, the company has signed world #5 **Ivan Ljubicic** until 2009.

The **German Tennis Federation** has announced that **Barbara Rittner** will continue to serve as Fed Cup team captain until 2008.

Justine Henin-Hardenne will return to action at the WTA Paris event in early February. The Belgian skipped her defence of the Australian Open title due to the break-up of her marriage. The former world #1 will be joined by defending champion Amélie Mauresmo and fellow top-10 players Kim Clijsters, Nadia Petrova, Elena Dementieva and Nicole Pietrangeli.

Max Mirnyi's runner-up performance at the Australian Open was enough to see the Belarus player return to the #1 doubles ranking, a position he first held in June 2003.

Eurosport has signed a four-year TV and internet deal with **Tennis Australia** to cover the Australian Open from 2008-2011. In addition to comprehensive television coverage, the arrangement will see matches from six telecast courts (Rod Laver Arena, Vodafone Arena, Margaret Court Arena, Show Courts 2 & 3 and Court 6) streamed live over the internet on Eurosport's websites.

The **WTA** will later this month trial a new doubles format designed to increase the appeal of the discipline. The system, introduced last year on the men's circuit, sees a deciding third set replaced by a super tie-break. 'Sudden death' points take the place of advantage points, meaning that the first pair to score a point after deuce wins the game. The WTA has also abolished doubles qualifying at all tour events.

Meanwhile, WTA Tour Chairman and CEO **Larry Scott** has had his contract renewed for five years, having overseen a growth program that has led women's professional tennis to record performances in the areas of sponsorship, television, marketing and media.

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Players of the Year 2006



Tennis Europe has announced the 2006 Junior Players of the Year. The top three-ranked European players of each age and gender are recognised, with medals and diplomas are handed over to a representative from the National Association of the player each year at a ceremony at Tennis Europe's Annual General Meeting.

Former recipients of the award include Martina Hingis, Justine Henin, Kim Clijsters, Tommy Robredo, Rafael Nadal and Richard Gasquet.

Boys 14 & Under: Carlos Boluda (ESP)

Winner of a tour-high 6 titles in 2006, including the European Championships and the season-ending Junior Masters, Carlos Boluda ended the year with a record points tally and also went undefeated in team play at the Tennis Europe Winter Cups and Copa del Sol competitions.

2. Ashot Khacharyan (RUS)
3. Mikhail Biryukov (RUS)

Girls 14 & Under: Hanna Orlik (BLR)

With Category 1 tournament wins in Livorno and Köln, three doubles titles and runner-up spots at the European Championships and Junior Masters, Hanna was a major factor in all the events she played in 2006, ending the season with 220 more ranking points than her closest rival.

2. Ajla Tomljanovic (CRO)
3. Timea Babos (HUN)

Boys 16 & Under: Alessandro Giannessi (ITA)

Finishing the year with a flourish, Alessandro won the Tennis Europe Junior Masters to take his second title of the year (he also won in Pribram and reached the finals at Montecatini and the semi finals of the European Championships) and earn the end of year top spot

2. Mirza Basic (BIH)
3. Davide Della Tommassina (ITA)



clockwise from top left, the 2006 winners Carlos Boluda (ESP), Hanna Orlik (BLR), Alessandro Giannessi (ITA) and Elena Chernyakova (RUS).

Girls 16 & Under: Elena Chernyakova (RUS)

With victories at three Category 1 events (Marcq-en-Baroeul, La Baule and Echting bei München), plus a title in Ulm and two doubles wins, Elena became the first Russian girl to take home the 16 & Under Player of the Year title.

2. Ekaterine Gorgodze (GEO)
3. Simona Halep (ROM)

Full lists of players of the year since 1991 can be found here: <http://www.tenniseurope.org/JuniorTennis/2006Players.aspx>

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Latest

Tennis Europe has published a new '**Frequently Asked Questions**' document to the website, aimed at helping players, parents and coaches with many of the common queries about the Tour, such as how to enter events, the rankings system and age restrictions. The document can be found here:

<http://www.tenniseurope.org/pdf/junior/FAQ.pdf>

Two new events in Prague (CZE) have been added to the 2007 Tennis Europe Junior Tour calendar: the 12 & Under **Zentiva Cup** during the week of April 24th, and the Category 2 14 & Under **Wilson Cup** which will be held in the week of May 2nd.

Meanwhile, Tennis Europe Junior Tour events in the Czech Republic have been among the first to benefit from a new real-time live scoring system, enabling people to follow events online (pictured). Live scoring was first introduced at the website for the **7th Tennisline Cup** Tour event in Píbram (<http://www.tennisline.cz/>) in early January.

Tournament Director Leos Fiala explained, "A lot of people were interested in actual results and schedules and we had to answer a lot of calls during the tournament for this. This system allowed people to watch livescores and updated schedules. It saves us a lot of time and the nerves of referees! It has also helped people who are not able to be on site to watch their children's matches."

"We have had a very positive response, mainly from Czech players and their parents and coaches. They all use the given information from the web site. We are going to update this system for team competitions, and it should be ready for this year's Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD."

As reported last month, Tennis Europe's new official team event for **Under 12s** will take place for the first time this summer.

The boys' event has attracted entries from 27 nations, with the final rounds set to be held in Alghero (ITA). Meanwhile the girls' event concluding in Ajaccio (FRA), and will see 26 nations take part.



7th Tennisline Cup
8.-14.1.2007, Píbram

www.tennisline.cz home scoreboard draws schedule players photography partners

Tip for winner (chlapci) 7th Tennisline Cup
1. Grigoris, Leonidas (394) site zde

Tip for winner (divky) 7th Tennisline Cup
1. Kapřivová, Klára (411) site zde

Ukončené zápasy | právě se hraje | příprava | přerušeno

Court 1

09:15
def. Hrubá, Kateřina CZE 6:2, 6:4

next
7 (5):4, 6:0
def. Lubomir, Wojciech POL

09:15
def. Hrubá, Kateřina CZE 6:2, 2-6, 6:4
def. Scholzeferová, Dominika CZE

double girls - 4:00:00
next
6:2, 2-6, 6:4
def. Hrubá, Kateřina CZE
def. Scholzeferová, Dominika CZE

The first Category 1 event of 2007, Teen Tennis in Bolton (GBR) took place in mid-January, and was a happy hunting ground for Russia's 14 & under players. Top seed and second-ranked **Anton Volkov** won his second title of the season. Having just edged past Czech ninth seed **Tomas Pitra** 63 36 76(5) in the quarter finals, Volkov went on to beat another Czech, second seed **Lukas Vrnak** in the final in straight sets.

In the girls event, thirteenth seed **Polina Vinogradova** of Russia (pictured) came through an upset-strewn draw to beat Switzerland's **Mateja Kraljevic** 64 63 for the second tour title of her junior career. The Russian pair of **Ekaterina Nikitina** and **Katerina Popova** added the doubles title, making it three out of four Russia. Britain's **Andrew Bettles** and **George Morgan** teamed up to take the boys doubles title.

The top under 14s from around the world are competing this week at the Category 1 event in Tarbes (FRA). More from there in the next issue.

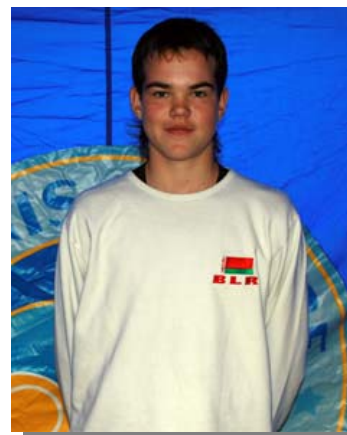


Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings—14 & Under



Tennis Europe Junior Tour rankings are updated each Thursday only at www.TennisEurope.org

Winner of the Category 3 event in Siauliai, Lithuania two weeks ago, Yaroslav Zubko of Belarus (right) is the newest addition to the top 10.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Hanna ORLIK	BLR	740
2	▶	Ajla TOMLJANOVIC	CRO	520
3	▶	Timea BABOS	HUN	510
4	▶	Vivien JUHASZOVA	SVK	500
5	▶	Ksenia KIRILLOVA	RUS	495
6	▶	Jennifer REN	GBR	465
7	▶	Alexandra KRUNICH	SRB	425
8	▶	Ingrid RADU	ROM	395
9	▶	Maryna ZANEVSKA	UKR	370
10	▶	Silvija NJIRIC	CRO	360
14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Carlos BOLUDA	ESP	820
2	▶	Anton VOLKOV	RUS	490
3	▶	Jiri VESELY	CZE	365
4	▲	Ciprian PORUMB	ROM	350
5	▶	Lukas VRNAK	CZE	315
6	▼	Filip HORANSKY	SVK	315
7	▶	Andrea DALL'ASTA	ITA	260
8	▲	Robert RUMLER	CZE	260
9	▼	Leonard STAKHOVSKY	UKR	255
10	NEW	Yaroslav ZUBKO	BLR	230

Rankings as of 25.01.07

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings—16 & Under



The rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org, and can be found in 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	ROM	480
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	355
9	▶ Camelia HRISTEA	ROM	345
10	▶ Isbella SHINIKOVA	BUL	330

16 & Under Boys	Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶ Mirza BASIC	BIH	470
2	▶ Marco SPERONELLO	ITA	340
3	▶ Henrik SILLANPÄÄ	FIN	290
4	▶ Piotr GADOMSKI	POL	285
5	▶ Tsuna-Hua YANG	TPE	255
6	▲ Sebastian CHYLINSKI	POL	230
7	▲ Grigor DIMITROV	BUL	230
8	▲ Patrick GRIGORIU	ROM	225
9	▼ Dominik WIRLEND	AUT	225
10	▶ Gleb PANOV	BLR	225

Rankings as of 25.01.07

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

14 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Jan-08	Moscow (RUS)	2	(1) A Volkov (RUS)	(3) A Krylchuk (UKR)	63 61
			E Yashina (RUS)	(6) P Leykina (RUS)	36 62 63
Jan-15	Milovice (CZE)	2	(4) R Rumler (CZE)	(5) A Partl (SVK)	64 61
			(8) Z Diyas (KAZ)	(1) M Meszarosova (SVK)	64 60
Jan-15	Siauliai (LTU)	3	(2) Y Zubko (BLR)	R Sesov (UKR)	63 61
			(2) K Alesha (BLR)	(1) I Dapkute (LTU)	10 ret
Jan-22	Bolton (GBR)	1	(1) A Volkov (RUS)	(2) L Vrnak (CZE)	64 63
			(13) P Vinogradova (RUS)	(15) M Kraljevic (SUI)	64 63
Jan-22	Narva (EST)	3	S Hart (NOR)	(2) E Eremin (ITA)	76(4) 75
			(2) D Mironova (RUS)	(2) E Kornilova (RUS)	75 57 61
Jan-22	Mogilov (RUS)	3	(2) Y Shyla (BLR)	(3) Y Zubko (BLR)	61 63
			(1) E Yashina (RUS)	(5) M Gasparyan (RUS)	75 64

16 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Jan-08	Pribram (CZE)	2	(7) L Grigelis (LTU)	W Lutkowski (POL)	76(5) 60
			(7) K Koprivvova (CZE)	K Hrubá (CZE)	62 64
Jan-15	Belgorod (RUS)	3	(3) A Rumantsyev (RUS)	A Galkin (RUS)	63 64
			(Q) E Kulikova (RUS)	(2) A Marienko (RUS)	63 62
Jan-22	Mosrentgen (RUS)	3	(1) A Rumantsyev (RUS)	(6) R Muzaev (RUS)	63 64
			(2) A Marienko (RUS)	(3) D Gavrilova (RUS)	61 75



ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Jan-08	Nussloch (GER)	\$15,000+ H	(8) F Mergea (ROM)	(Q) D Brown (JAM)	63 62
Jan-08	Sheffield (GBR)	\$15,000	(6) T Oger (FRA)	T Niemenen (FIN)	62 64
Jan-08	Menorca (ESP)	\$10,000	(6) A Menendez Maceiras (ESP)	(3) J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	76(1) 36 76(2)
Jan-15	Sunderland (GBR)	\$15,000	(2) S Robert (FRA)	T Oger (FRA)	62 75
Jan-15	Calvia (ESP)	\$10,000	JA Viloca Puig (ESP)	(5) J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	26 75 62
Jan-15	Bergheim by Salzburg (AUT)	\$10,000	(1) J Vacek (CZE)	(Q) A Van Der Duim (NED)	63 63
Jan-15	Stuttgart (GER)	\$10,000	(Q) D Lustig (CZE)	P Marx (GER)	76(2) 76(7)
Jan-22	Palma de Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	G Burniol Teixido (ESP)	(6) J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	64 10ret
Jan-22	Deauville (FRA)	\$10,000	(2) M Middelkoop (NED)	(6) R Chaki (MAR)	63 36 70(0)
Jan-22	Kaarst (GER)	\$10,000	(4) J Masson (BEL)	R Grambow (GER)	62 64
Jan-22	Bergheim by Salzburg (AUT)	\$10,000	(5) M Fischer (AUT)	(Q) P Schmolzer (AUT)	61 62
ITF Women's Circuit					
Jan-15	Stuttgart (GER)	\$10,000	P Kvitova (CZE)	(6) A Schaefer (GER)	61 60
Jan-15	Sunderland (GBR)	\$10,000	(5) K Paterson (GBR)	(2) C Suarez Navarro (ESP)	64 62
Jan-22	Capriolo (ITA)	\$25,000	(5) M Ani (EST)	(Q) C Klaschka (GER)	26 61 61
Jan-22	Grenoble (FRA)	\$10,000	(6) A Korzeniak (POL)	(2) F Haring (FRA)	76(3) 64
Jan-22	Hull (GBR)	\$10,000	(Q) K Kramperova (CZE)	(Q) A Poltoratskaya (RUS)	76(4) 63

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



European Rankings

The conclusion of the year's first Grand Slam naturally has some notable effects on the European rankings. Justine Henin Hardenne's decision to miss the event coupled with Maria Sharapova's runner-up spot allow the Russian to regain her top placing, with a comfortable lead over her nearest rivals, partly thanks to the allocation of inflated points for bigger events on the WTA Tour from 1st January.

Further down the list, Martina Hingis reaches the highest ranking of her comeback, while Serbia's Jelena Jankovic enters the top 10 for the first time thanks to strong early-season performances.

Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray inject some fresh air to the men's list, debuting at ninth and tenth respectively.

Meanwhile Tommy Haas climbs to sixth on the strength of his first Grand Slam semi final in Melbourne, whilst Tommy Robredo ascends to seventh following his quarter final loss to Roger Federer, who with over 8,000 points is certain to break Jimmy Connors' record for consecutive weeks as world #1 in mid-February.

Rankings as of January 28th, 2007.

WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	▲	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	1	3918
2	▼	Justine HENIN-HARDENNE	BEL	2	3311
3	►	Amélie MAURESMO	FRA	3	2900
4	▲	Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	4	2577
5	▼	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	5	2554
6	▲	Martina HINGIS	SUI	6	2139
7	▼	Nadia PETROVA	RUS	7	2057
8	►	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	8	2013
9	▲	Nicole VAIDISOVA	CZE	9	1782
10	NEW	Jelena JANKOVIC	SRB	10	1558

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	8120
2	►	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4775
3	►	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	3	2825
4	▲	Tommy ROBREDO	ESP	7	2555
5	▼	Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	8	2325
6	▲	Tommy HAAS	GER	9	2155
7	▼	Mario ANCIC	CRO	10	2075
8	▲	Tomas BERDYCH	CZE	12	1785
9	NEW	Novak DJOKOVIC	SRB	13	1675
10	NEW	Andy MURRAY	GBR	14	1650

NOTES FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The **Royal Dutch Lawn Tennis Association** (KNLTB) has a new President, Mrs. Karin van Bijsterveld.

The **Slovenian Tennis Association** has a new board consisting of President Marko Umbereger and Vice-presidents Boris Pisnik and Boris Zupancic.

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.

The entry deadline is March 2nd. The circular, programme and entry forms can be found at the Tennis Europe website: <http://www.tenniseurope.org/Development/ESTC.aspx>

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The dates and venues have been announced for the 2007 European Championships. The women's event will be hosted by defending champions AS Patton Rennes (FRA) during the week commencing 25th June. The men's Championships will once again be staged at TS Ritspop (BEL), during the week commencing 17th September.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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