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France and Russia Defend Under 16s Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince Titles

Russia, Czech Republic, Italy and France have emerged as the winners of the 2006 Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince after a frenetic weekend of final round activity across Europe.



New champions were crowned in the 14 & Under competitions. In the boy's event, second-seeded Italy came through to win their first ever 14 & Under title, in front an enthusiastic home crowd in Forte dei Marmi. Federico Gaio put the home team ahead after a marathon first match, defeating Sami Reinwein 64 26 86, before the Italian #1 Giacomo Miccini followed with a straight sets win over Dominik Schultz to seal the match. The home team overcame Spain in a tight semi final, while Germany easily disposed of the Czechs.

Following the surprise elimination of defending champions Russia in the qualifying rounds, a new Czech team anchored by twin sisters Kristyna and Karolina Pliskova went one better than the runner-up spot attained by their compatriots in 2005. Having overcome Belarus 2-1 in their first match, the Czech swept past France and Poland in the penultimate two rounds without the loss of a match. Karolina Pliskova later commented, "It feels great to have won. We hope to play as a team again in the Summer Cups later in the year, and also to qualify for the ITF World Junior Championships."

Another team of siblings to do well in Leeuwarden (NED), was the British team of Jennifer and Jessica Ren (at just 13 and 11 years of age respectively), who teamed with Sian Bayliss to reach the semi finals, and look to be strong contenders for the title in 2007.

Continued overleaf. See Page 18 for a photo special from the final rounds.

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince



der 16 title, with a seventh win in eight years in Ronchin (FRA). The top-seeded team, which featured Australian Open Junior champion Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, as well as Anastasia Pivovarova and European #2 Ksenia Lykina, recovered from a semi final scare against Poland which saw the squeeze into the final with a 12-10 final set doubles decider.

In the final they faced 2004 champions Belarus – the only team to have beaten them in that period, but put the tie out of the reach of their rivals with convincing single victories before the Belarussians scored a consolation doubles win.

Meanwhile France repeated their 2005 boy's title win, coming from behind to record a 2-1 victory over Russia in Pruhonice (CZE). Jonathan Eyseric, the only member of the squad to feature on last years winning team, upset Vladimir Zinyakov in straight sets before

The 16 & Under events followed the form book, as both the 2005 champions repeated their victories, albeit with different teams.

Russia's girls team continued their vice-like grip on the Un-

partnering Guillaume Rufin to a decisive doubles victory over Zinyakov and Mikhail Fufygin. He later commented "I am very happy that we won. Although I already won it last year, this year it was even better because of my new position in the team as a team leader."

The win is France's tenth in this category, a record in the competition. 2006 is a landmark year for what is Europe's largest indoor junior team competition, marking the 30th staging of the 16 & Under event and the 25th anniversary of the 14 & Under.

As part of the programme for the event, players at the final round ties were treated to racquet demonstrations from event sponsors Prince, who also organised player parties at the venues.

The Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince have traditionally featured Europe's top junior players, providing a rare and important opportunity for players to compete in a top level team competition during the winter months and on indoor courts. Current top European players such as Justine Henin-Hardenne, Amelie Mauresmo, Kim Clijsters, Marat Safin, Tommy Robredo, Rafael Nadal and Joachim Johansson have all represented their countries at the Tennis Europe Winter Cups in recent years.

Prince became the official sponsor of the event in 2004, and is the Official Racquet, Ball, Bag, Strings and Accessory Partner of Tennis Europe.

TENNIS EUROPE WINTER CUPS BY PRINCE—FINAL STANDINGS

	GIRLS 14	BOYS 14	GIRLS 16	BOYS 16
1	CZECH REPUBLIC	ITALY	RUSSIA	FRANCE
2	POLAND	GERMANY	BELARUS	RUSSIA
3	FRANCE	SPAIN	POLAND	GERMANY
4	GREAT BRITAIN	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC
5	NETERLANDS	RUSSIA	ITALY	ITALY
6	LATVIA	POLAND	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	NETHERLANDS
7	BELARUS	SWEDEN	GREAT BRITAIN	SLOVENIA
8	FINLAND	LATVIA	SLOVENIA	GREAT BRITAIN

Tennis Europe Announces Junior Tour Re-Launch

Tennis Europe has embarked upon a long-term plan for the continued growth and development of the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 circuits in Europe.

The European Junior Tour, as it was previously known, consists of some 240 international tournaments held across more than 40 of Tennis Europe's member nations each year. Each event consists of competitions for boys and girls in both singles and doubles.

With immediate effect, the circuits shall be known as the 'Tennis Europe Junior Tour', and media articles may be accompanied by the new official logo, available for download below.

A number of new promotional tools will also be introduced over the coming months in order to shape the new identity of the Tour. A key change for tournament organisers will be the introduction of net banners displaying the Tour logo, which will be present on the centre courts at all events.

As reported in the last issue of Tennis Europe News,

the organisation has also created the role of Tennis Europe Junior Tour Promotion Officer. David Albareda will be travelling to a broad range of events on the Tour in 2006, where he will host the Tour stand and also liaise with tournament organisers, players and staff with the aim of improving communication and to facilitate the provision of future services in order to strengthen the Tour experience, both for its participants and organisers.

To download the new Tennis Europe Junior Tour logo in multiple formats, please click here:
http://www.tenniseurope.org/downloads/logo/Tennis_Europe_Junior_Tour_logos.zip



Tennis Europe and Tennis Jean Becker Group Announce Partnership

Tennis Europe began the year by announcing a new two-year partnership with leading outdoor court surface manufacturer Tennis Jean Becker Group, who become the Official Outdoor Court Surface Provider of Tennis Europe.

The French-based company is a national leader in the regeneration, renovation and construction of tennis courts and sports floors. With over 50 years experience, and having laid over 15,000 courts in France and its overseas territories, the company now aims to expand its reach to the rest of Europe.

Commenting on the deal, Pascal Aucouturier, President and CEO of Tennis Jean Becker Group said, "It is a great pleasure for us to enter into this partnership with the sports' European authority. Our wide range of products and expertise are ideally suited to the

various conditions across Europe, and we look forward to being able to explore these new markets through this association."

John James, President, Tennis Europe commented, "We are delighted to be able to work with such a well established and respected company, whose brands are synonymous with quality and innovation. The excellent resources and organisation of the company places them in a great position to be able to service our 48 member national tennis federations."

The deal with Tennis Jean Becker Group, in conjunction with a recently renewed partnership with the Italian company Play-It® for indoor surfaces, completes Tennis Europe's court surface construction promotion portfolio.

Judy Murray: Keys to a Successful Junior Career

Tennis Europe News recently caught up with Judy Murray at the Category 1 Under 14 event in Tarbes (FRA), Les Petits As. A successful tennis coach in her own right, as well as mother and manager of ATP star Andy, she had some useful words of advice for aspiring players – and their parents.

What brings you to Tarbes?

I'm here with seventeen British coaches, working to raise their awareness of world standards. It's part of the Performance Coach Award, which is the LTA's highest level of coaching qualification, and I'm one of two tutors organising the trip and overseeing the projects that they have to do while they're here. It consists of seven different workshops – technical, tactical, physical, mental, effective coaching and so on...the work here at Tarbes fulfils part of the technical and tactical requirements.

You were the Scottish National Coach for some time, has your role now changed?

Yes, I was, for the best part of ten years, but I finished a year ago. Andy's career was taking off at the time and I didn't really want to commit to another four years while there was so much organisational work to do with him. But I'm still busy, doing some coaches education work for the LTA, and also some individual coaching of some little girls, and managing my two sons, Andy and Jamie.

The introduction of National Development Schools for 8-11 year olds had a great impact on tennis in Scotland; can you tell us a bit about the concept behind them?

Well, in Scotland tennis is very much a minority sport. The weather is very bad, and we don't have enough

indoor facilities. In order to bring the best talents together, we had to organise weekends at our indoor venues. At first we brought the kids in for the whole day on a Saturday. It went well and later we changed it so that they could come on a Saturday, stay overnight and work again on the Sunday morning, which allowed us to spend more time getting to know them and we could do better work with them. It also prepared them to be able to travel to tournaments and training camps with their coaches rather than their parents, learning a little bit of independence. We then started to travel with them a little, down to England, and the ones who really excelled we were able to take on overseas trips. It started off with quite a small group, about 16 players, but of those we had quite a lot of success – three of the players went on to reach the top 25 of the ITF Junior rankings in 2003 and two boys (Jamie Baker and Andy Murray) hit the top ten in 2004, and also the British #1 Elena Baltacha took part - so for a very small country in tennis terms,

we really achieved quite a lot by identifying the best players, focusing on their development and doing the best job that we could with the resources we had.

Is 8-11 too young to be 'developing' players?

I don't think so. If you look at the vast majority to go on to excel, their games are pretty well formed by the time they are twelve or thirteen, in terms of the game style that they will adopt, their big shots, and their technique. I have a tape of Nadal playing Gasquet here at Tarbes when they were both eleven, and the shape of their shots, their service actions and so on are very similar to what they have now. If you do a good job with the technical work and the coordination work at a young age, you can develop the player >>



Judy Murray: Keys to a Successful Junior Career

<< much quicker in the teenage years. If there are flaws in the technique going into the teenage years, it's much harder to eliminate, so it's very important to identify the talent at this age and work on their coordination: the priority isn't to spend hours and hours drilling balls. At the end of the day the challenge is to present the right opportunities at the right time.

As someone who is not just a tennis parent, but also a successful tennis coach and manager, what advice do you have for parents of children who may be just starting to compete on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour?

I know that I was very fortunate to be a former player, as well as a coach, in addition to being a parent. I think that it must be very difficult for those parents who do not have the tennis background, and have to learn as they go along. For parents who are in that situation, it's absolutely crucial that they find a good experienced coach who has a track record, has done it before and knows what they are doing, and can really plan the development of the player. The other thing is that it can depend very much on which country you are from, and whether the player is good enough to be selected for that country's program, because to do things individually can be incredibly expensive. It's very important to have a solid financial package behind you - whether its provided by the governing body or you have to find it through private sponsorship or your own funds – because you need be able to plan out and execute exactly what you think the player needs over a 3-5 year period from the age of 12, in order to get the ready to compete on the tours.

It can be especially hard in smaller countries, where they perhaps have one excellent player and cannot afford to send them abroad with a coach, or do not have enough players to make up a squad, so the onus falls on to the parents to make it all happen, so I think it's really important to back and educate the parents to help them to do the best job for their children.

How did you manage to combine the roles of mum and coach successfully?

I think that for me, a great advantage was that I was able to work with my own children as part of quite a large group, so I was never in the situation where it was just me travelling with my child, my time was al-

ways divided between all of them, and they were surrounded with other children. The great thing about that was that if you travel one-on-one with your child and they lose first round, there is only you – the parent – to deal with it. I was able to say "OK, so you lost, bad luck, now you can play football with the others and tonight we'll go to the cinema or for a pizza instead..." Also, the other kids then divert their attention from simply whether they won or lost that day, so I think a squad type environment is very useful in that respect, even in training. That's why often the big academies are more productive than if you were just struggling away on your own.

A couple of questions about Andy now. He really excelled on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. How did he benefit from his time there?

He was fortunate because he was often selected for a GB travelling squad, and was able to experience a lot of the events on the U12 and U14 tours, and because he was successful, I think that helped him a lot to believe that he could go out there and compete with the best within his age group, and therefore he came through never fearing anybody, and always believing that no matter where he went, he would be capable of doing well, and that continued right through his junior career.

How do you foresee his season ahead? It's an almost impossible task to maintain the rate of progression he showed last year.

Yes, I think this year will be very hard. What we have to remember is that he rose very, very quickly. In the space of seven months or so, he had an unbelievable spell, which led him to around 60 in the rankings, from 411 at the beginning of the year. He still had a lot of development to come physically, and also a lot to learn in terms of experiencing life at the higher levels of the Tour. He's only played a dozen ATP Tour level events, and has played very few of the players in the top 50. I think that a reasonable goal would be to maintain his ranking at around 50-60 by the end of the year. <Note: since the interview, Andy Murray has already broken into the top 40, after winning a first career title, in San Jose>

The level of media interest in Andy, especially in the

Judy Murray: Keys to a Successful Junior Career

<< UK, has been very intense – is it difficult to deal with?

I could understand it at the start, because Andy was new and young, and he first started to make a bit of a name for himself during the grass court season in the UK, when of course the media interest is at its peak. Now though, the publicity has reached a level where it doesn't matter what he says or what he does, of course it will be in the papers, and it can be a little disconcerting; sometimes you think "but, that wasn't even *interesting!*", but he's become a public figure, certainly in terms of the British press, but he understands that and will learn to deal with it.

You've recently made some incursions into the commentary box [with EuroSport]. Will it happen again?

(laughs). Yeah, I hope so. I did a little bit at the end of last year and also at the Australian Open. I need to get a bit better at it...Andy said I would be better suited to commenting on snooker, as he says I don't talk loudly enough. He was sending me texts saying "Keep the microphone closer to your mouth, Mum, we can't hear you – and don't talk so fast!". I really enjoyed it though, and what a great job that is...being paid to talk about tennis all day and to be able to watch it; that's perfect!

New Doubles Initiatives Launched

In order to encourage more players to enter the doubles events at ITF Pro Circuit tournaments, organisers and officials have been recommended to schedule the doubles final to be played on Fridays where possible. The change is intended to enable more doubles participants to sign-in for singles qualifying at the following week's events.

Although not a mandatory requirement, many tournaments have already begun to comply with the recommendation.

Players are advised to check the individual tournament fact sheets for confirmation of the competition finish date.

Meanwhile, the ATP has also implemented a number

of rule changes with effect from the beginning of the season, aimed at stimulating participation amongst top players and raising interest amongst fans. 'Match Tie-Breaks' (to 10 points) replace third sets, whilst the 'Advantage' system has been abolished, with the winner of the point at 40-40 taking the game.

It is hoped that the new format will enable more doubles matches to be scheduled on show courts, thus boosting television coverage, due to the more predictable match lengths.

One of the doubles game's most passionate proponents, John McEnroe returned to action in San Jose earlier this month, teaming with world #4 Jonas Bjorkman for a sensational title run – the 70th of his career, and first since 1992.

Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting

Member Nations are reminded that Tennis Europe's 32nd Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria during the weekend of March 30-April 2nd.

Thirty-seven nations have so far confirmed their attendance. The meeting will be opened by the Presi-

dent of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, Stefka Kstadinova and will also be addressed by Sports Minister Vesela Lecheva.

A full report on the meeting will follow in the next issue of Tennis Europe News.



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Mauresmo and Federer on Top 'Down Under'

No longer the greatest female player never to have won a Grand Slam title, Amelie Mauresmo (pictured) finally silenced her doubters by capturing the Australian Open title against 2004 champion Justine Henin-Hardenne. Fate seemed to have saved a few choice cards for the popular Frenchwoman in Melbourne, as no fewer than three of her seven opponents were unable to complete their matches, due to a litany of aches, sprains and illnesses.

The final match was one of the most controversial in recent history. Gulping for air after a spectacular 33-shot rally early in the second set, Henin-Hardenne asked for an injury time out and received medical advice. Although the former #1 had looked a step slow and was timing her shots erratically, the crowd was stunned by her decision to quit. Henin-Hardenne later tearfully explained that she had been ill during the night and that anti-inflammatory injections for her shoulder had affected her stomach and sapped her strength.

Having won her largest title yet by ending the 2005 season as WTA Champion, Mauresmo goes from strength to strength, and the disappointment of not being able to play the match to conclusion didn't dampen her spirits. She enthused: "I have now achieved everything I [wanted] in my career: Fed Cup, being No.1 and winning a Grand Slam. So I'm very proud of that, I have to say."

Though few would have betted against Roger Federer reaching a third consecutive Grand Slam final, his eventual opponent was somewhat of a surprise, even to himself. In reaching the Melbourne final, Cypriot Marcos Baghatis exceeded not just all expectations, but all his previous achievements, racking up more prize money and more ranking points in his fourteen days Down Under than in his entire 18-month professional career. Despite his comparatively little experience as a pro, Baghatis is no stranger to winning matches, nor to the Flinders Park courts. Having been a dominant player on both the ITF and Tennis Europe junior circuits (Baghatis was an early beneficiary of ITF/Tennis Europe development grants to help with



travel finances), he won the junior title in Melbourne in 2003 before reaching the fourth round in 2004.

Federer had reason to worry in the early stages of the final encounter. Not used to having to come from behind, the world #1 found himself a set and a break down after an hour of play, but as so often during the crucial matches of his career was able to respond by raising his level of play to a gear that other players struggle to find, let alone maintain for extended periods. A tense ending to the second set went Federer's way, and was followed by a demoralising run of nine consecutive games for the 2004 champion, which effectively put the match beyond the reach of Baghatis. His place at #1 secure for months to come, Federer will now look the only major prize he has yet to claim - Roland Garros - as a goal for the season, although he is careful not to put too much pressure on his performance there: "I know the importance of winning the French, what it would do to my career. But Wimbledon is the one for me. And if I keep on winning Wimbledon and not the French, I'm

very happy about that, too. So that's no problem."

Whilst Mauresmo's first Grand Slam title, seven years since her first final, caught the imagination of the critics, for most of tournament all eyes were on the woman who beat her in that first Slam final - Martina Hingis. After three years on the sidelines after retiring from the sport due to chronic foot injuries, the Swiss former world number one delighted the tennis world late last year by announcing she would return to the courts in 2006.

The actual heights Hingis would be able to scale were much debated in the early weeks of the season. Encouraging performances at the Gold Coast (a semi final three set loss to 22nd ranked Flavia Pennetta) and a first round loss at Sydney, where she had the misfortune to be drawn against eventual champion Henin Hardenne, suggested she could certainly be better than most, but how would she perform at what had hitherto been her most successful Slam? >>

Mauresmo and Federer on Top 'Down Under'

<< The answer was: excellently. Ranked 349 entering the event, Hingis reached the quarterfinals riding not so much a wave of nostalgia as a wave of fresh air. Having lost none of her speed or fitness, the varied game of the three time former champion proved too much for a succession of harder hitting youngsters, and took her to a quarterfinal match against [Kim Clijsters](#). For a short while Hingis looked out of her depth against the US Open champion, dropping behind by a set and a break before employing some canny shotmaking to break the rhythm of Clijsters, who suddenly found herself taken to a third set for the first time in the championships. Clijsters' eventual 6-4 win in the third set restored order to the proceedings, but there was little doubt left that Hingis looks set to return to the upper echelons of the game in 2006.

Hingis' comeback story didn't end there though. Despite having won 36 career doubles titles, in her few forays into mixed doubles she had so far been unsuccessful. Teaming with [Mahesh Bhupathi](#) proved to be the right combination though, as the Swiss star won her 15th Grand Slam title with a 63 63 win over sixth seeds [Elena Likhovtseva](#) and [Daniel Nestor](#). The win capped one of the most impressive comebacks in the history of the sport, and for Hingis ensures that whatever happens from this point on, the decision paid off.

Given the amount of surprise wins, Hingis probably wished she had entered the women's doubles too. China's [Zi Yan](#) and [Jie Zheng](#) defeated US Open champions [Lisa Raymond](#) and [Sam Stosur](#) after saving three match points in an agonisingly close final encounter. The men's doubles went closer to plan, as American brothers, [Bob](#) and [Mike Bryan](#), won their second consecutive Slam, having fallen in the finals of the previous three.

The boys singles was arguably the event to feature most surprises, as a succession of emerging talents outshone their more established rivals. The eventual champion, [Alexandre Sidorenko](#) of France posted a

string of shock wins on his way to the title. Ranked outside the ITF Junior top 100 at the start of the event, Sidorenko upset the odds in each of his six matches to record the best result of his young career so far.

Russia's [Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova](#) can claim to be the only player to have won two titles in 2006, sweeping the girls events. Her singles crown came with some ease, being taken to three sets only once, when top seed [Caroline Wozniacki](#) walked away with a 61 first set in the final. Despite feeling unwell in the heat, Pavlyuchenkova fought back and eventually turned the tide, outlasting the Dane 16 62 63. The Russian then teamed with Canada's [Sharon Fichman](#) to take the doubles crown, with a straight sets win over European Under 16 champion [Alize Cornet](#) of France and [Corinna Dentoni](#) of Italy.



Getty Images

A number of other Tennis Europe Junior Tour notables also made an impression, with 2005 16 & Under Junior Masters champion [Ksenia Lykina](#) and finalist [Evgeniya Vertesheva](#) both qualifying for the main draw where they were also joined by [Elena Chernyakova](#), a semi finalist at the same event.

Meanwhile Federer competes as much against history as with today's tour, it remains to be seen what achievements and records he can pull off in the new season. For Baghadtis (pictured, above), the challenge is now one of consolidation and adapting to life at the upper reaches of the game. Having captured the public imagination in his home country though, tennis in Cyprus will surely never be the same again. Likely to inspire a whole generation of budding players into action, Baghadtis' career aim of winning the Davis Cup suddenly sounds a lot more realistic than it did just a few weeks ago.

Seniors Round-Up

The dates and venues have been announced for this year's Senior's Club Championships, complete with a new age category— that of Women's 60 and Over, which will be held during the week of 12-16 June at Le Touquet, France, along with the other two women's categories. The other venues are as follows: Vale de Lobo, Portugal (Mens 45+, 25-29 September), Arosa, Switzerland (Mens 55+, 12-16 September), Salzburg, Austria (Mens 60+, 17-21 July) and Valencia, Spain (Men's 65, 11-14 September). Fact sheets and further information can be found at the Senior section of www.TennisEurope.org.

Teams are also reminded of a new competition rule. From this year, only players who played in one age category, for one club only, and did not play in another national club team championship in the same year, will be eligible to play in the European Seniors' Clubs Championships.

The 30th European Indoor Seniors Championships

were held at Seefeld in Austria in January. The event continues to prosper, this year boasting a total of 620 participants, across 18 age categories. For full results and reports from the event, visit www.itftennis.com/seniors.

With effect from 1st January, the IT has changed the amount of ranking points offered at its events. The first ranking update to be affected by the change will take place in April. For the remainder of the year, rankings will be based on the previous points allocation for tournaments played in 2005 and the new points allocation for tournaments taking place in 2006.

The 2005 European Senior Players of the Year have been announced, and can be seen below. Medals and diplomas will be presented to representatives of the respective member nations at Tennis Europe's Annual General Meeting in Sofia.

EUROPEAN SENIOR PLAYERS OF THE YEAR 2005

Women

35+	Jo LOUIS (GBR)
40+	Olga SHAPOSHNIKOVA (RUS)
45+	Barbara KOUTNA (CZE)
50+	Evgenia BIRUKOVA (RUS)
55+	Heide EISTERLEHNER (GER)
60+	Heide ORTH (GER)
65+	Elizabeth VAN BOEMMEL (GER)
70+	Bigitte JUNG (GER)
75+	Erzsebet SZENTIRMAY (HUN)
80+	Ingeborg KNUTH (GER)
85+	N/A

Men

Sander GROEN (NED)
Manfred HUNDSTORFER (AUT) / Alexey KARPENKO (RUS)
Norbert HENN (GER)
Alan RASMUSSEN (DEN)
Jorge CAMINA-BORDA (ESP)
Peter POKORNY (AUT) / Peter ADRIGAN (GER)
Peter POKORNY (AUT)
David William GARMAN (GBR)
Jean DESMET (BEL)
Oscar JIRKOVSKY (AUT)
Franz KORNFELD (AUT)

ITF/Tennis Europe North East Regional Training Camp

The sixth edition of the ITF/Tennis Europe North East Regional Training Camp for players aged 14 & Under was held in Siauliai, Lithuania recently. The camp, which ran from 12-17 January, attracted 32 players and 12 coaches from the neighbouring countries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and the Ukraine.

Hrvoje Zmajic, ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer, 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 perfectly suited to hosting such an event.

Players and coaches were involved in both on-court and off-court training sessions with the main objective of the camp being to improve tactical skills and develop a better understanding of tennis. The training camp also served to provide players and coaches from the region with a rare opportunity to not only work and train together, but to also exchange opinions and information. Hrvoje Zmajic said, "During the training camp we focused on combining high intensity with some fun games in the on-court and off-court practice sessions. The camp was a great success, due in part to the excellent quality of the visiting coaches."

Ramunas Grusas, Director of Siauliai Tennis School added, "These training camps are an excellent activity for participating countries. They provide important experience for young players that are just beginning their international careers. At the same time their coaches have the possibility to share their opinions and discuss good practices."



On the completion of the camp, players had the opportunity to test their newly acquired skills at the Tennis Europe Junior Tour 14 & Under event, also held at

the Siauliai Tennis School. Both boys and girls competitions were dominated by players that took part in the camp. In the girls event, three players - Iveta Dapkute (LTU), Maryna Zanevska (UKR) and Palina Pekhava (BLR) - reached the semifinals. In the final match, Zanevska dominated her compatriot Maryna Kozachenko (UKR) and won in straight sets 61 62.

The boys achieved even better results. Three players - Denys Mylokostov (UKR), Yahor Yatski (BLR) and Pavel Filin (BLR) - reached the semis. Filin's greater experience was crucial in the final, which he won 76 62 against Mylokostov.

2006 European Club Championships

Clubs AC Patton Rennes (FRA) and TC Ritspop, Eeklo (BEL) will again host the women's and men's European Club Championships this year.

The women's event is scheduled to be held during the first week of Wimbledon (week of 26th June), with the

men's event slated for the week of September 18th.

For entry details and further information, please check TennisEurope.org or contact Nadja Koran: nadjak@tennis-europe.org

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova - Winter Cups Queen

Currently the #1 ranked junior in the world, Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova has gone from strength to strength in recent months, capping her rise to the top with a first Junior Grand Slam title in Australia, all at just fourteen years of age.

Last weekend in Ronchin, France, she added another achievement to her increasingly impressive list; having played on the winning Russian 14 & Under Tennis Europe Winter Cup teams for the past two years, she became the first player ever to win Winter Cups titles in three consecutive years, with a first 16 & Under win. We caught up with her to find out how she feels about her recent successes.

Congratulations on your Australian open win! How do you feel to have won a junior Grand Slam at just 14?

It is very special, I was amazed as I did not expect to reach the final.

In addition to the Australian Open, you won two other events in Australia at the beginning of the year. Why do you think you played so well there?

I trained two months very hard with my brother in the Czech Republic and focused on the tournaments in Australia. I was very determined.

You won both singles and doubles in Melbourne. Is doubles important to you?

It was of course not so important as singles, but as I played well in singles there was less pressure for the doubles. Also it was thanks to my doubles partner (Canada's Sharon Fichman) that we had such a good result.

Over the past year, you have spent your time playing U16, U18 events, and even a couple of \$25,000 professional events. What are your scheduling plans for the rest of the year?

I will go home for training and the next tournament I

will play will be Milano Grade A ITF, then I will get ready for the French Open and Wimbledon.

You train in Ostrava in the Czech Republic. Why there and not in Russia?

It is too cold in Russia and the facilities at my Club were as good as they are in the Czech Republic. I went there to play tournaments at first, and my parents felt that it would be good to settle there. The conditions are very good there.



Of the many top Russian players, who are your favourites, and why?

I like very much Anastasia Myskina and Marat Safin. Also maybe because I know them personally.

Can you describe your style of play for someone who may not have seen you play before?

I play an aggressive game, similar to Kim Clijsters.

ing team competitions?

Yes, I like it very much. It's a lot of fun as we are all very good friends. Also, I feel I can relax a bit when working in a team.



European Junior Players of the Year 2005

The Player of the Year title rewards the three best-performing European players in each age category on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. The accolade has historically been a reliable indicator of future greatness, with a number of today's top players - including the likes of Henin-Hardenne, Clijsters, Hingis, Murray and Monfils - earning some of their earliest recognition with the award.

Medals and diplomas will be awarded to representatives from the National Association of the player each year at a ceremony at Tennis Europe's forthcoming Annual General Meeting in Sofia.



Left to right: Winners Ksenia Pervak, Grigor Dimitrov, Maite Gabarrus, Martin Klizan.

Girls 14 & Under - Ksenia Pervak (RUS)

Ksenia finished the season at #1 thanks to victory at the European Junior Championships, as well as the two major team competitions - the Tennis Europe Winter Cups and the Europa Cup.

2. Polona Hercog (SLO)
3. Viktoriya Kamenskaya (RUS)

Boys 14 & Under - Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)

Another European Junior Champion, Grigor won four singles titles and one doubles title during the season, including the Category 1 event in Prague.

2. Radim Urbanek (CZE)
3. Yannick Reuter (BEL)

Girls 16 & Under - Maite Gabarrus (ESP)

Maite became the fourth Spanish girl to finish the season in the top spot since the rankings were introduced in 1991.

A finalist at the European Championships and semi-finalist at the Junior Masters, she also won two Category 1 events.

2. Ksenia Lykina (RUS)
3. Ioana Ivan (ROM)

Boys 16 & Under - Martin Klizan (SVK)

Martin won two tour singles titles in 2005, including the European Championships, where he became the first player in over 20 years to win both single and doubles.

2. Radu Albot (MKD)
3. Gueorgui Roumenov (BUL)

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Jan 09	Moscow (RUS)	2	B14 G14 (1) Y Buchina (RUS)	A Kondulukov (RUS) A Erofeeva (RUS)	64 62 46 76(4) 62
Jan 16	Siauliai (LTU)	3	B14 (5) P Filin (BLR) G14 (3) M Zanevska (UKR)	(7) D Mylokostov (UKR) M Kozachenko (UKR)	76(3) 62 61 62
Jan 16	Pribram (CZE)	2	B14 (5) F Strnad (CZE) G14 (1) T Bartova (CZE)	W Lutkowski (POL) (Q) K Koprivova (CZE)	w/o 57 62 62
Jan 23	Bolton (GBR)	1	B14 G14 K Paliivets (CAN)	D Berta (SWE) (4) A Mukhametova (RUS)	46 76(7) 62 75 63
Jan 23	Mogilov (BLR)	2	B14 S Dzanaashia (RUS) G14 (4) V Kuzmenkova (BLR)	(3) A Rumyantsev (RUS)	w/o 61 64
Jan 30	Tarbes (FRA)	1	B14 (3) C Boluda (ESP) G14 G Dabrowski (CAN)	(9) R Sarmiento (USA) (9) A Marenko (RUS)	76(6) 63 63 64
Feb 13	Oetwil (SUI)	2	B14 (1) F Meinecke (GER) G14 (1) S Moundir (SUI)	N Jones (GBR) B Lukac (CRO)	62 61 61 62
Feb 13	Rugsted Kyst (DEN)	3	B14 (2) D Berta (SWE) G14 (1) N Guskova (RUS)	T Blomgren (SWE) K Baranova (SVK)	w/o 60 62
Feb 20	TENNIS EUROPE WINTER CUPS BY PRINCE	TEAM B14	(2) ITALY G14 (1) CZECH REPUBLIC	GERMANY (4) POLAND	2-1 3-0
Feb 20	Helsingborg (SWE)	3	B14 (4) H Laaksonen (FIN) G14 (6) S Njiric (CRO)	(Q) L Renard (SWE) (1) S Shumilina (RUS)	63 64 63 26 64

16 & UNDER

Jan 09	Pribram (CZE)	2	B16 (Q) A Gianessi (ITA) G16 M Pradova (CZE)	(Q) M Speronello (ITA) I Georgatu (GRE)	76 64 63 62
Jan 16	Belgorod (RUS)	3	B16 (6) A Golovachev (RUS) G16 Y Smimova (RUS)	(4) Ilia Starkov (RUS) E Zapadolova (RUS)	62 63 76(3) 62
Jan 30	Marcq-en-Baroeul (FRA)	1	B16 (1) D Evans (GBR) G16 (1) E Chernyakova (RUS)	(16) A Michon (FRA) J Herve (FRA)	76(2) 62 06 64 75
Feb 20	TENNIS EUROPE WINTER CUPS BY PRINCE	TEAM B16	(3) FRANCE G16 (1) RUSSIA	(4) RUSSIA (2) BELARUS	2-1 2-1
Feb 20	Siauliai (LTU)	2	B16 (2) O Zhorniyak (UKR) G16 M Meliuk (BLR)	(1) R Opmanis (LAT) (3) E Abaeva (RUS)	63 64 62 63

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings—14 & Under

There are many changes to the Under 14 rankings this month, as a new generation of players continue to add to their points tallies, many of whom recently competed in Tennis Europe team events for the first time at the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince. Uzbekistan's Albina Khabibulina has finally toppled long-time #1 Yulia Goloborodko from the Girls top spot, thanks to her semi final finish at the big event of the indoor season, Les Petits As in Tarbes. Two sets of sisters also feature in the top ten; the Winter Cup-winning Pliskovas (CZE) and Kichenoks of Ukraine.

Giacomo Miccini rockets to second in the boys list, having led his team to victory in the Winter Cups. He is joined by team-mate Federico Giao, a new entry at 4. Daniel Berta of Sweden also enters the list for the first time, having been a prolific winner in this early part of the season, winning Rungsted Kyst and reaching the finals in Bolton, before qualifying for the final rounds of the Winter Cups, where Sweden lost in the quarter finals.

14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▲	Albina KHABIBULINA	UZB	470
2	▼	Yulia GOLOBORODKO	UKR	455
3	►	Yana BUCHINA	RUS	445
4	▼	Kristyna PLISKOVA	CZE	440
5	▲	Karolina PLISKOVA	CZE	415
6	▲	Anna-Arina MARENKO	RUS	405
7	NEW	Tereza BARTOVA	CZE	370
8	▼	Nadegda KICHENOK	UKR	360
9	▼	Ludmila KICHENOK	UKR	345
10	NEW	Anastasia MUKHAMETOVA	RUS	320

14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Mikhail BIRYUKOV	RUS	555
2	▲	Giacomo MICCINI	ITA	420
3	▲	Ashot KHACHARYAN	RUS	395
4	NEW	Federico GIAO	ITA	310
5	▲	Dominik SCHULZ	GER	310
6	▲	Arthurs KAZIJEVS	LAT	305
7	▼	Miguel ALMEIDA	POR	300
8	▼	Jose PEREIRA	BRA	295
9	NEW	Jan HRADSKY	CZE	285
10	NEW	Daniel BERTA	SWE	275

Rankings as of 01.03.06

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings—16 & Under

Daniel Evans of Great Britain (pictured, right) caps a great start to the year by ascending to the #1 position in the European Under 16 rankings. A winner of the Category 1 event in Marcq-En-Baroeul, he also led the British team to the final rounds of the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince.

Thanks to her role on the winning Russian team, Ksenia Lykina remains comfortably atop the girls list.

The top eight European players in both age categories at the end of the year qualify to play at the Tennis Europe Junior Masters, scheduled to be held this year in Reggio Calabria, Italy during the weekend of October 6-8th.



16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Ksenia LYKINA	RUS	490
2	▲	Elena CHERNYAKOVA	RUS	455
3	►	Evgeniya VERTESHEVA	RUS	425
4	▼	Ioana IVAN	ROM	415
5	►	Leticia COSTAS	ESP	355
6	►	Alize CORNET	FRA	330
7	►	Simona HALEP	ROM	308
8	►	Ekaterina BELCHEVA	UKR	295
9	►	Camelia Irina BEGU	ROM	290
10	►	Vanja TOMIC	BIH	265

16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	►	Daniel EVANS	GBR	435
2	►	Alin Mihai CONSTANTIN	ROM	395
3	►	Jaan BRUNKEN	GER	360
4	►	Alexei GRIGOROV	RUS	350
5	►	Alexander LOBKOV	RUS	295
6	►	Jerome INZERILLO	FRA	290
7	►	Gastao ELIAS	POR	275
8	►	Tomislav TERNER	SLO	270
9	►	Emanuel REHOLA	CZE	265
10	NEW	Rcards OPMANIS	LAT	255

Rankings as of 01.03.06

ITF Professional Circuit (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Jan 02	Exmouth (GBR)	\$15,000	A Juska (LAT)	S Robert (FRA)	63 16 64
Jan 02	Nussloch (GER)	\$10,000	(5) A Beck (GER)	(3) T Summerer (GER)	76(6) 76(6)
Jan 09	Barnstaple (GBR)	\$15,000	S Robert (FRA)	J Chardy (FRA)	76(3) 61
Jan 09	Menorca (ESP)	\$10,000	P Santos Gonzalez (ESP)	(8) T Salva Vidal (ESP)	60 76(2)
Jan 09	Stuttgart (GER)	\$10,000	WC T Popp (GER)	(6) D Kindlmann (GER)	57 62 62
Jan 16	Bergheim (AUT)	\$15,000	E Gulbis (LAT)	(6) JC Scherrer (SUI)	76(2) 36 64
Jan 16	Calvia (ESP)	\$10,000	(Q) JM Such Perez (ESP)	T Salva Vidal (ESP)	60 16 62
Jan 16	Oberhaching (GER)	\$10,000	(1) T Summerer (GER)	(2) A Beck (GER)	64 63
Jan 23	Bergheim (AUT)	\$10,000	L Lacko (SVK)	(2) W Eschauer (AUT)	36 61 75
Jan 23	Deauville (FRA)	\$10,000	(Q) J Doble (FRA)	(Q) J Maes (FRA)	16 62 60
Jan 23	Llucmajor (ESP)	\$10,000	(7) A Piccari (ITA)	(3) S Vagnozzi (ITA)	76(3) 76(4)
Jan 23	Kaarst (GER)	\$10,000	J Hasek (CZE)	(4) M Abel (GER)	36 76(1) 64
Jan 30	Mettmann (GER)	\$15,000	(Q) M Zverev (GER)	P Petzschner (GER)	36 63 64
Jan 30	Jersey (GBR)	\$12,250	(7) P Marx (GER)	(Q) I Flanagan (GBR)	67(4) 75 64
Jan 30	Feucherolles (FRA)	\$15,000	(1) S Saoudi (ALG)	(2) M Jaziri (TUN)	57 76(6) 63
Jan 30	Yecla (ESP)	\$10,000	JM Such Perez (ESP)	(Q) G Burniol (ESP)	63 36 75
Feb 06	Sunderland (GBR)	\$12,250	(1) J Adaktusson (SWE)	WC I Flanagan	63 16 61
Feb 06	Bressuire (FRA)	\$10,000	(3) G Lugassy (FRA)	N Tourte (FRA)	16 76(6) 64
Feb 06	Murcia (ESP)	\$10,000	P Santos Gonzalez (ESP)	(2) D Marrero (ESP)	63 30r
Feb 13	Zagreb (CRO)	\$15,000	WC M Cilic (CRO)	D Kindlmann (GER)	64 62
Feb 13	Leeds (GBR)	\$12,250	(5) L Recouderc (FRA)	J Goodall (GBR)	63 67(7) 63
Feb 13	Bari (ITA)	\$10,000	D Giorgini (ITA)	(3) L Azzaro (ITA)	64 36 75
Feb 13	Murcia (ESP)	\$10,000	(3) V Crivoi (ROM)	JA Sanchez de Luna (ESP)	62 64
Feb 20	Zagreb (CRO)	\$15,000	(Q) M Zverev (GER)	M Cilic (CRO)	76(5) 36 76(9)
Feb 20	Trento (ITA)	\$15,000	(Q) A Giraudo (ITA)	(4) A Stoppini (ITA)	76(4) 64
Feb 20	Sheffield (GBR)	\$12,250	C Fleming (GBR)	(5) A Mackin (GBR)	36 75 63
Feb 20	Szczecin (GBR)	\$10,000	A Sandbichler (AUT)	(3) P Kralert (CZE)	76(4) 76(5)
Feb 20	Cartagena (ESP)	\$10,000	P Santos Gonzalez (ESP)	(Q) N Coutelot (FRA)	60 61
Feb 20	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(1) A Hadad (ISR)	(8) D Valtzer (ISR)	64 63

ITF Women's Circuit Results

Jan 09	Stuttgart (GER)	\$10,000	(1) R Voracova (CZE)	(Q) J Juricova (SVK)	62 64
Jan 16	Oberhaching (GER)	\$10,000	(1) S Klaschka (GER)	(5) J Coin (FRA)	76(0) 46 63
Jan 16	Tipton (GBR)	\$10,000	(1) V Pichet (FRA)	I Pavlovic (FRA)	64 61
Jan 23	Grenoble (FRA)	\$10,000	(2) V Pichet (FRA)	(Q) G Desperrier (FRA)	63 61
Jan 23	Hull (GBR)	\$10,000	(2) M South (GBR)	I Pavlovic (FRA)	64 61
Jan 30	Ortisei (ITA)	\$75,000	E Birnerova (CZE)	(2) M Domachowska (POL)	46 75 62
Jan 30	Belfort (FRA)	\$25,000	(4) K Barrois (GER)	(7) K Flipkens (BEL)	62 36 76(6)
Jan 30	Jersey (GBR)	\$25,000	(4) A Keothavong (GBR)	A Vrljic (CRO)	62 61

ITF Professional Circuit (Europe) Results

ITF Women's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Feb 06	Capriolo (ITA)	\$25,000	(6) L Hradecka (CZE)	(Q) D Jurak (CRO)	61 64
Feb 06	Sunderland (GBR)	\$25,000	(3) E Tamaela (NED)	(2) A Keothavong (GBR)	76(6) 63
Feb 06	Vale do Lobo (POR)	\$10,000	(1) C Suarez Navarro (ESP)	(Q) I Senoglu (TUR)	62 63
Feb 06	Cala Millor (ESP)	\$10,000	(1) T Schiechl (AUT)	(2) A Floris (ITA)	62 36 64
Feb 13	Stockholm (SWE)	\$25,000	(3) E Tamaela (NED)	V Pichet (FRA)	63 36 62
Feb 13	Albufeira (POR)	\$10,000	S Cirstea (ROM)	C Ewijk (NED)	60 75
Feb 13	Cala Millor (ESP)	\$10,000	(3) E Cabeza Candela (ESP)	S Menna (ITA)	64 61
Feb 13	Buchen (GER)	\$10,000	A Korzeniak (POL)	(Q) A Veselinovic (SCG)	26 75 76(6)
Feb 20	Biberach (GER)	\$25,000	(6) K Barrois (GER)	WC T Malek (GER)	64 57 76(5)
Feb 20	Portimao (POR)	\$10,000	P Rebersak (SLO)	(6) M De Lattre (POR)	75 64
Feb 20	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(6) I Gerlova (CZE)	(Q) K Tuohimaa (FIN)	76(7) 62
Feb 20	Melilla (ESP)	\$10,000	(4) A Sieveke (GER)	WC S Mendez Dominguez (ESP)	64 64

Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince - Photo Special



The winning teams (clockwise - players listed from left to right): **1 - Czech Republic Girls 14s** - Tereza Bartova, Karolina Pliskova, Kristyna Pliskova, captain Lubos Styatl joined by (front row, l-r) tournament organiser Rob Joling, Junior Committee representative Wil Hoppenbrouwers, organising committee chairman Richard Kempers. **2 - Italy Boys 14** - Giacomo Miccini, Federico Giao, Enrico Slomp (captain), Alessandro Colella and reserve Matteo Civarolo. **3 - Russia Girls 16** l-r, Oxana Rodina (Captain), Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Anastasia Pivovarova, Ksenia Lykina. **4 - France**, Boys 16 l-r, Alois Beust (Captain), Jonathan Eysseric, Guillaume Rufin, Axel Michon.

European Rankings

The women's list features the most changes this month, as the WTA's decision to eliminate quality points from the ranking affects the total, if not the position, of all the top players.

Amélie Mauresmo rich vein of form continues. Having now won five of her last six tournaments, including the WTA Championships and a first grand Slam in Australia, she recently became the fastest woman to earn a million dollars in prize money in one season, and edges ever closer to the world #1 spot. With current #1 Clijsters unable to defend her Indian Wells title in March, the Frenchwoman's rise is certain.

Elsewhere on the list, the only other woman to have

won more than one title this year, Justine Henin-Hardenne, also strengthens her position, climbing two places to third.

Nicolas Kiefer re-enters the men's list after a long absence, thanks to his semi final at the Australian Open. Radek Stepanek is the other new arrival, having won the first title of his career in Rotterdam last week.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal remain streets ahead of the opposition at the summit.

Rankings as of Feb 27, 2006

WOMEN	Player	Country	WTA TOUR RANK	Points Total
1	► Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	1	3566
2	► Amelie MAURESMO	FRA	2	3402
3	▲ Justine HENIN-HARDENNE	BEL	4	2798
4	▼ Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	5	2574
5	▼ Mary PIERCE	FRA	6	2517
6	▲ Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	7	2043
7	▲ Nadia PETROVA	RUS	8	2014
8	▼ Patty SCHNYDER	SUI	9	1946
9	▲ Francesca SCHIAVONE	ITA	11	1282
10	▲ Anastasia MYSKINA	RUS	12	1257

MEN	Player	Country	ATP ENTRY RANK	Points Total
1	► Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	6725
2	► Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4455
3	► Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	5	2390
4	► Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	9	2245
5	▲ David FERRER	ESP	11	1730
6	NEW Nicolas KIEFER	GER	12	1590
7	▼ Thomas JOHANSSON	SWE	13	1590
8	▲ Juan Carlos FERRERO	ESP	15	1535
9	NEW Radek STEPANEK	CZE	16	1530
10	▼ Richard GASQUET	FRA	17	1525

TENNIS EUROPE STAFF CHANGES

Tennis Europe recently welcomed two new members of staff to the team. Carola Löffler has taken up a new role as Marketing Coordinator and Assistant to the Managing Director, External Affairs, whilst Flurin Conrad will serve an internship assisting both the Professional and Junior Tennis Departments.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Serbia & Montenegro Tennis Federation has a new e mail address: scgtenis@sezampro.yu

The Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain has announced that Roger Draper will take on the role of Chief Executive with effect from April 2nd.

Ian Froman has been re-elected as President of the Israeli Tennis Federation. Joining him on the board are new Chairman Assaf Heffetz and General Manager Moshe Haviv.

OBITUARY

Tennis Europe is sad to report the passing last month of Paul Wesseling, an inspiring figure behind the team of the popular Windmill Cup event, and long serving enthusiastic member of Tennis Europe's Junior Committee. Mr. Wesseling was buried in his home town of Wolvega on 19th January.

EUROPEAN RACQUET STRINGERS ASSOCIATION

The latest issue of Ersa's newsletter is out now, accessible at the following link:
www.ersa-stringers.com/e-newsFEB06.pdf

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