

RUSSIA WIN FIRST EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY



Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev (centre) with the winning Fed Cup team. Photo courtesy Corinne Dubreuil

Capping an inexorable rise in recent years, Russia reigns supreme at the top of European tennis in 2005, walking away with three of the five European Tennis Trophies. The Russian grip on the title for Overall Tennis Performance was impressively strong, with their points total - over 5000 – a record for any nation.

Russia also finally claimed the Professional Tennis Trophy, having finished third in the previous two editions, and after a year in which Russian players excelled in all aspects of the professional game, highlighted by a second Fed Cup win, Marat Safin's Australian Open title, and the domination of the WTA rankings.

Russia's margin of victory in taking the Junior Tennis Trophy category was especially impressive, scoring almost twice as many points as second-placed France. The win, Russia's fourth Junior Trophy (second consecutive), can largely be attributed to a stunning year on the European Junior Tour, in which Russian players accounted for three of the four Junior Masters winners, as well as being a dominant force in team competitions, taking home five of nine available championships, including a sweep of girls events at the European Winter Cups by Prince. Progress was also made in the Senior's Tennis category, as Russia leap to joint tenth, having been unranked in 2004.

In response to the news, Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev commented: "We are extremely pleased and highly honoured to be the recipient of the 2005 European Tennis Trophy. We are also very proud of the fact that the Russian players have managed to win this year's professional and junior trophies, the most prestigious of the sub-categories. With these achievements, we look optimistically to the future, and hope that Russian players will continue to help to grow the sport all across Europe."

For the remaining nations, the overall tale was one of consolidation, as nine of the top ten >> continues

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our tennis year in Europe finished on a very historic note, the final of the Davis Cup in Bratislava. I was able to witness two new finalists who competed so well, with Croatia eventually winning in dramatic style. Congratulations to Croatia. I also congratulate the Slovak Tennis Association for organising an outstanding final in their excellent national tennis centre. Both nations can be very proud of what they have achieved.

European players have once again won many titles in Europe and around the world. The tournament scene from junior to senior level is very healthy and has been well supported, something that is reflected in the results of the European Tennis Trophy, announced in this issue.

The Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince, our first main competition in 2006, have the biggest entry from member nations in their history. This shows a positive increase in participation and is greatly encouraging for an ambitious new year of junior tennis in Europe.

I'd like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our readers and my best wishes for the New Year .

RUSSIA CAPTURES FIRST EUROPEAN TENNIS TROPHY

<< continued >> ranked nations finished with a higher points tally than in 2005. Aside from the return of Belgium - thanks in no small part to Grand Slam wins from their two top players, both forced to sit out much of 2004 - there were no new entries to the top 10 nations in 2005, although there were some marked changes in fortune. Three-time overall winner Spain suffered the only reversal, dropping from first to third in the professional tennis category, and from second to tenth in junior tennis. Other major nations to experience a downturn include Sweden (falling from 15th to 18th) and Great Britain (12th to 19th).

A number of the biggest climbers can attribute their fortune to vintage years in Junior Tennis: Moldova rocket to 26th, having finished without a point last year, whilst Hungary and Ukraine jump to 16th and 17th from 25th and 24th respectively.

Senior Tennis Trophy winners Germany climb from fourth to third. A testament to the strength and organisation of the Senior game there, the Trophy has resided with the German Tennis Federation since its inception.

With a fifth consecutive **Wheelchair Tennis Trophy**, the Netherlands maintains its position as the best-ranked B-Nation. Meanwhile, Davis Cup winners Croatia are the

highest ranked C-Nation once again, a spot held every year since 2001.

2005 marks the fifteenth edition of the awards, which are presented annually by Tennis Europe in order to recognise the performances of its 48 member nations across all areas of the game. The prizes will be formally presented at the Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, next March.

Tennis Europe President John James remarked, "My warmest congratulations go to the Russian Tennis Federation for the latest in an increasingly long line of accolades. The success of Russian tennis in recent years should be an inspiration to all nations and is a shining example of what can be achieved with planning, ambition and the dedication of the Federation staff, and also of their many talented players and supporters."

For full results, and a detailed explanation of how the points are calculated, please visit TennisEurope.org.

	OVERALL PERFORMANCE	PROFESSIONAL TENNIS	JUNIOR TENNIS	SENIORS TENNIS	WHEELCHAIR TENNIS
1	RUSSIA	RUSSIA	RUSSIA	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS
2	FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	FRANCE
3	GERMANY	SPAIN	CZECH REPUBLIC	FRANCE	GREAT BRITAIN
4	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	GREAT BRITAIN	BELGIUM
5	SPAIN	CROATIA	NETHERLANDS	HUNGARY	ITALY
6	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	ITALY	DENMARK	POLAND (5=)
7	ITALY	ITALY	GERMANY	ITALY	SWITZERLAND
8	BELGIUM	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	CROATIA	SWEDEN	SWEDEN
9	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	GERMANY	ROMANIA	NETHERLANDS	ISRAEL
10	CROATIA	SWITZERLAND	SPAIN	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC

CROATIA EDGES SLOVAK REPUBLIC FOR HISTORIC DAVIS CUP WIN

After a thrilling final in the Slovak capital Bratislava, Croatia emerged victorious to claim their first Davis Cup victory.

The final was a marked contrast to the previous year, where two of the most successful teams in world tennis, Spain and the United States fought it out in front of the biggest crowd ever assembled to watch a tennis event. Just 4,100 were crammed inside the National Tennis Centre in Bratislava for the final, which pitted the two smallest nations ever to reach a Davis Cup final against each other. It had been a year of remarkable firsts for the teams, both of whom were making their final debuts. The Slovak Republic, in fact, had won just two World Group matches previous to 2005, but hoped to add the Davis Cup title to the Fed Cup won in 2001.

Croatia meanwhile, were chasing their own records. Ivan Ljubicic had not lost a match in the competition during the entire year, and having played singles and doubles in each tie, and was poised to break John McEnroe's 23-year 11-0 win/loss record. With a win, Croat captain Niki Pilic would become the first man ever to participate on two different winning teams, having captained Germany in the 1980's and '90s, whilst Croatia's most enduring tennis hero, Goran Ivanisevic, even emerged from retirement to sit on the bench for the final tie.

As befits such evenly matched teams, the final went to the wire, thanks to Slovak #1 Dominik Hrbaty's monumental win over Ljubicic in the fourth rubber. Ultimately though, the comparative lack of depth of the Slovak

squad proved to be their achilles heel: with #2 Karol Beck ruled out of the tie after sustaining a knee injury on the eve of the event, tour stalwart Karol Kucera was called upon to play his first live rubber of the season, in his last event as a professional player. A straight sets defeat at the hands of Ljubicic put the Croats firmly in the driving seat before Hrbaty gave a preview of what was to come by taking out Mario Ancic in four sets. After Ancic and Ljubicic – bronze medal winners at the Athens Olympics last year – combined to complete the season without a doubles loss, the Croats needed just one

match win on the final day to take the title. While Ljubicic, in red-hot form during the preceding indoor season, was disappointed not to have scored the decisive point, Ancic's straight sets win over late replacement Michal Mertinak more than compensated.

With the win, Croatia climbs from fourth to first in the Davis Cup national rankings, where - provided both Ancic and Ljubicic stay healthy – they look set to stay for some time. The draw for

the 2006 event has already been made, with this years finalists both travelling to play away matches. Croatia will take on Austria in Graz, while the Slovaks face the daunting trip to Chile, who are unbeaten at home in a decade.



L-R: Captain Niki Pilic, Mario Ancic, Ivo Karlovic, Goran Ivanisevic, Ivan Ljubicic, International Tennis Federation President Francesco Ricci Bitti.

2005 JUNIOR GENERAL MEETING

The 29th edition of the Tennis Europe Junior General Meeting took place on 25-26 November in Antalya, Turkey. Hosted and coordinated by the Turkish Tennis Federation, the conference was attended by 23 of Tennis Europe's member nations, as well as a number of tournament directors from the European Junior Tour.

The Meeting was chaired by Tennis Europe Junior Committee Chairman Ayda Uluc, and saw a wide variety of

topics discussed. Focusing on internal issues, Tennis Europe's Managing Director of Administration, Charlotte Ferrari, looked at the current situation on the European Junior Tour, presenting the 2006 calendar and also informed the delegates of forthcoming changes to organ-

isational requirements and rules. Olli Mäenpää then took the stand and presented a plan for the upgrade of Tennis Europe's Junior tennis activities; more on this can be found later in this edition.

Four external speakers followed. Peter Rochsmann, the tournament director of two junior events in Germany at Renningen/Rutesheim in 2006, posed the question "Can success be planned?" Marc Verbeek of the Belgian Tennis Federation, then presented on the topic of "The ideal format for a 12 & Under tournament", and was followed



by Igor Martynov of the Russian Tennis Federation, speaking about the Russian success story. Finally Mauro Meneghini, of the Italian Tennis Federation, spoke about the organisation of international events in Italy.

The second day also featured a mixture of internal and external matters as Tennis Europe President John James addressed the meeting, followed by Junior De-

partment Coordinator Stephanie Kamberi, who presented the 2006 Tennis Europe Team Competitions (Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince and European Summer Cups) and the 2006 European Junior Individual Championships.

Luca Santilli, Manager of Junior and Senior Tennis at the ITF, took the stand twice, to inform about ITF Junior activities. Birol Vural of the Turkish Tennis Federation informed the delegates about the junior game in Turkey and also about the Federation Development Project, before the conference was brought to a close by ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic, with an update on current European development projects.

TAKING TURKISH TENNIS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

During the Junior General Meeting in Antalya, Tennis Europe News spoke to Turkish tennis Federation President Azmi Kumova about the challenges the organisation faces, and their plans to overcome them.

Since the beginning of this year, the Turkish Tennis Federation has been an independent organisation. Can you explain to us the benefits of this?

Until now, the TTF was a part of the government sports structure, but this can be quite restrictive, and it was not always so easy to make long term development

projects as well as the realization of current ones. We now have the advantage of an independent structure to implement short and long term development programmes. I hope this will give Turkish Tennis the opportunity to rise up rapidly.

What do you see as your biggest achievements during your time as Turkish Tennis Federation President?

I was a board member in Turkish Tennis Federation and
>> continues

TAKING TURKISH TENNIS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

<< continued >>

responsible for junior tennis, before being elected as President 5 years ago. As a president of the TTF, together with my colleagues, we have realised a number of improvements in Turkish Tennis during this period. While doing this we were in close contact with the ITF and Tennis Europe and had a lot of support from them, which is highly appreciated. Some specific examples are the project to increase participation, and also to retain existing players - the launch of the STI programme of ITF in Ankara two years ago, introduced more than 10000 kids to the sport.

Secondly, we have made great strides in the area of player development, with a number of projects in operation – the improvement of our Coaches Education System, the development of Micro-Mini-Midi & Maxi tennis programs for kids aged 10&Under, and also a Multi Disciplined Tournament system for them. In combination with a revision of the tournament structure for our 12&U, 14&U, 16&U, 18&U players, this has greatly helped with their development. We've also increased the number of national and international tournaments, and have founded a National Training Centre to organize training camps for our best players.

One of your focus areas for development is that of Coaches Education. Could you explain to us what you are doing with respect to this?

Yes, as I mentioned, coaches' education is an important area for a country in developing their tennis. Without having good coaches you cannot have good players. Until recently, we didn't have a coaches education system that included the modern way of teaching tennis to the players. With the help of ITF/Tennis Europe, we started a project to develop our new system. We got the main material from ITF, and also used the sources of leading tennis nations and adapted those for our situation. Our coaches' education tutors and Piotr

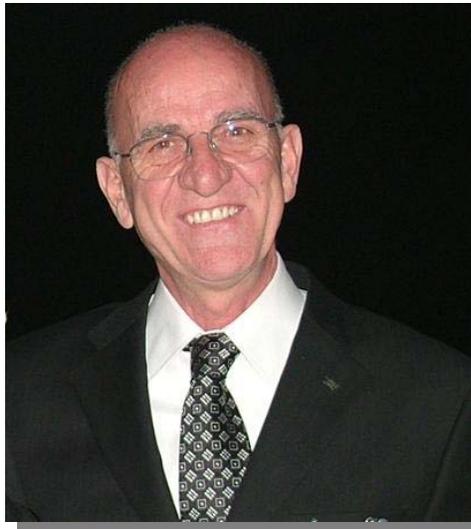
Unierzyzski, who is our foreign expert from Poland, did the studies and prepared material for our Level I, II and Level III Coaches Education Courses. They did a great job and organized some courses with the new materials, and their study is set to continue 1-2 years more.

At the moment you organise two Under 14 tournaments, two Under 16 tournaments, and one Under 12 tournament (with another to follow) on the European Junior Tour. How do you benefit from organising these international events?

The Junior Tour events are very important events in terms of players' development and the early steps of being high performance player in future. By organizing those tournaments, our junior players in those related ages are finding the opportunity to gain international experience without going abroad. As a result of increased playing opportunities at home, many of our players are also starting to go abroad to play in more of these types of tournaments.

What is your objective for the Turkish Tennis Federation?

We are working as a team and planning to run new projects targeting to strengthen the current structure of the association and to speed up positive improvements in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation and International Olympic Committee. Our objective is to combine all parts of tennis life into one body and build up a Common Integrated Tennis System, which comprehensively addresses the needs of tennis development in Turkey. We will give our best efforts to enable tennis to become among the most favoured sports among Turkish people.



Azmi Kumova, Turkish Federation President.

PROMOTING THE EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR

During the recent Junior General Meeting, Tennis Europe Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää took the opportunity to inform delegates of the organisation's long-term plans to renew its focus on Junior tennis activities. The plans consist of two separate parts - firstly promotion, and secondly enhancements to the flagship tour events - the European Winter Cups by Prince and the Summer Cups, European Junior Championships and European Junior Masters.

The tour will undergo a new look in 2006, with the aim of raising the profile of what is the continent's leading forum for junior talent in any major sport, and also to enhance the experience for the close to 10,000 players who participate each year.

As part of the project, Tennis Europe has hired a Junior Tour Promotions Officer, David Albareda (pictured), whose challenge it is to travel to events, liaise with tournament organisers, players and other representatives, and to oversee the implementation of the changes. Having already served 18 months with Tennis Europe's Operations and Projects Department, David will now be based in Barcelona, Spain, from where he will travel for around 20 weeks of the year, covering European Junior Tour events in all four corners of the continent, and also across all age and tournament categories. We spoke to David to find out about what lies in store:

Why is a promotional officer needed for the tour?

The Tour has grown dramatically in recent years. To ensure its consistent development, Tennis Europe focused in a first phase on reinforcing technical aspects of the events that form part of the Tour. The goal was to improve the rules and regulations and to make sure that the organisers felt confident while working on the preparation and during their respective events. Now that this has been achieved, we consider that the time has come to raise public awareness of the Tour. We had noticed that despite the great amount of tournaments, organising countries, participants, volunteers, spectators involved with the tour, many people did not associate the European Junior Tour as one of our core activi-

ties. Also, while many of the Tour's tournaments have a very well established image, the Tour itself was not obtaining the desired exposure. So my role will be to work closely with the Operations & Projects Manager Magnus Grönvold, and the other staff involved with the administration of the Tour at the Tennis Europe headquarters in Basel.

What qualities do you bring to the role?



I have a history of sales and marketing in the international market, love the sport of tennis and pride myself of being aware of the latest trends in advertising, internet, mobile and game technologies. Those interests keep me in touch with teenagers, who are the most numerous and important Tour clients. Regarding tournaments' organisers, I see mine more as a public relations-type role than as some kind of supervisor. I would like to

work with them as part of their team to help them promote their event at the same time as we promote the Tour image. Also, I am lucky to speak some of the most widely spoken European languages: Spanish, English, French and Italian - and Catalan, of course!

What changes can we expect to see over the next year or two?

The changes related to the image of the Tour will be announced at the beginning of the year, but I can confirm that in the months to come we will be introducing net banners with a new Tour logo as well as posters, brochures and other promotional materials to help us convey a more consistent image of the Tour. Our intention is to get to know better those involved in the European Junior Tour and to generate interest through the introduction of new services. We are studying, for instance, a number of online features for players and tournaments at the Tennis Europe website. As I will be visiting many of our events during 2006 and 2007, I hope to use the feedback from players, coaches, organisers and spectators to help us to build a better Tour.



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EUROPEAN SPECIFIC THEME CONFERENCE

The fourth edition of Tennis Europe's biannual European Specific Theme Conference was held in Cologne Germany from 1–4 December, hosted by the German Tennis Federation. During the two-day conference, twenty-eight delegates from 17 countries discussed issues related to coaches' education in tennis.

The Conference opened with reports about a variety of activities regarding Coaches' Education at a European level. Karen Petry (GER) informed the participants about the AEHESIS project (Alignment of European High Education Structure in Sport Science), whilst Sebastian Dietz and Robert Keiner (GER) made a presentation about sociological studies related to the role of the tennis coaches under the EUROSEEN (European Observatory for Sport Education and Employers Network) project. This was followed with a review of the European 5-level Structure of Coaches Training, conducted by Hrvoje Zmajic.

The working sessions were opened by ITF Research Officer Miguel Crespo, presenting on the topic of the future Framework for Coaches' Education in tennis. After a constructive discussion, the participants agreed on the necessity of the international Framework, which should serve as a point of reference for further discussions on coaches' education programmes.

The bulk of the conference was aimed at mapping Coaches' Activities and Coaches' Competencies. Presented by Bernard Pestre (FRA), the goal is to help align the various national coaches' education systems in the future. Closing the event, Frank Van Fraayenhoven (NED) and Rudiger Bornemman (GER) provided additional information on Learning outcomes and Curriculum.

ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic commented: "Tennis Europe, the ITF and national federations consider Coaches' Education as one of the most important elements as we work to develop the game. European integration processes are an additional factor that motivates the national federations to work together in order to provide better mobility and higher quality of coaches around Europe. I would like to emphasize that the discussed framework should serve as a reference point to compare the national programmes, and that is not aimed to standardise the programmes around Europe. Agreement reached during the Conference on Standard occupations and Coaches' activities is essential for future work on international Frameworks for Coaches' Education in tennis. I'd like to extend our special thanks to Professor Joachim Mester, from the German University in Cologne, whose institute hosted the event."

The conference brought to a close a year full of activity in the area of coaches education. In March 2005, under the umbrella of the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme, the first edition of the East European Coaches' workshop was organised in Poznan, Poland. Over 165 coaches from 12 countries attended the two-day event, which included presentations from Richard Schonborn (GER), Frantisek Zlesak (CZE), Kenneth Bastiaens (BEL), Torsten Salm (GER) and Piotr Unierzyski (POL). The ITF experts also presented in the National Coaches Workshops that took place in Georgia, Latvia, Estonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Hungary. In addition, three Regional Level II Coaches Courses were held with support from Olympic Solidarity. The Course in Tallinn, Estonia from 3 – 14 August was organised predominantly for coaches from Baltic region. A second course was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia from 7 – 18 September for Balkan coaches, followed by a third in Tbilisi, Georgia from 3 – 14 October for the Caucasus region.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Stuart Smith has been elected as President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain.

The Finnish Tennis Association also has a new President; Veli-Matti Ropponen will take over from January 1st.

Confirmation of the Moldova Republic Tennis Federation's contact details:

Address: 72 Decebal b-d, Chisinau, MD-2038.

Tel/Fax: +373 22 568 312 - E-mail: ftm2@mail.md

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TENNIS

Special Olympics Georgia assistant coach Ekaterina Vepkhvadze, 23, was presented with a certificate of participation after successfully completing an International Tennis Federation (ITF) coach training seminar 2-14 October 2005 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Ekaterina was among 14 professional coaches who took part in the seminar and is the first Special Olympics athlete to participate in an ITF seminar. Ekaterina has been an assistant coach for several years and is involved with training sessions involving younger Special Olympics athletes. She has been instrumental in recruiting new athletes from local special schools.



Photo courtesy of Special Olympics Georgia

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2005 European University Tennis Championship took place at the University of Rouen, France during the week of 28th November-3rd December. Eleven teams from seven countries participated in the men's championship, while six teams from four countries took part in the women's event, a total of 45 players.

The field was particularly strong this year, and amongst the participants were eight male players holding ATP Rankings (the highest being #598), along with two WTA-ranked players.

Moscow University won the men's title, defeating Cologne 2-1. London Metropolitan A, who overcame the

host university B-team 2-1, took third place.

The women's event was won by the team from Paris, who whitewashed Warsaw 3-0. Another French team, Grenoble, came third, with a 3-0 win over Cologne.

Full details from the event can be found here: www.sportu-hnormandie.com/coutenu/index.php?dContenu=57

The 2006 Unioversity Championships will be held in Eindhoven, the Netherlands from July 2nd – July 9th. For more information, please visit www.tue.nl/euc2006

2006 EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Age
10-12 Feb	Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince - Qualifying Rounds	14/16&U
24-26 Feb	Tennis Europe Winter Cups by Prince - Final Rounds	14/16&U
tbc	ITF/Tennis Europe Development Championships	14&U
2-4 Jul	European Summer Cups: Copa del Sol/Europa Cup - Qualifying	14&U
7-9 Jul	European Summer Cups: Copa del Sol/Europa Cup - Finals	14&U
24-30 Jul	European Junior Championships	14/16/18
1-3 Aug	European Summer Cups: Qualifying Rounds	16&U
6-8 Aug	European Summer Cups: Final Rounds	G16/18&U
7-9 Aug	European Summer Cups: Final Rounds	B16&U
13-15 Oct	European Junior Masters	14/16&U

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RANKINGS - 14 & UNDER

There are few changes at the top of the Junior rankings this month, as most players charge their batteries in preparation for the season ahead.

The boy's list is the only one to feature significant movement, with Ruslav Myroschnyschenko (UKR), a winner of two events in Israel, and Gothenburg champion Daniel Schulz (GER, pictured) the newest entries to the top 10.

Players and coaches are reminded that the full 2006 calendars for 12, 14 and 16 & Under tours have been published and are available at TennisEurope.org.

Rankings as of Thursday 15th December 2005.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Yulia GOLOBORODKO	UKR	455
2	▶	Albina KHABIBULINA	UZB	415
3	▶	Kristyna PLISKOVA	CZE	410
4	▶	Nadegda KICHENOK	UKR	360
5	▶	Ludmila KICHENOK	UKR	345
6	▶	Anastasiya VASYLYEVA	UKR	330
7	▶	Karolina PLISKOVA	CZE	325
8	▶	Anna-Arina MARENKO	RUS	320
9	▲	Lorena GEORGHE	ROM	305
10	▼	Marina LUSHCHINA	RUS	292
14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Mikhail BIRYUKOV	RUS	455
2	▶	Miguel ALMEIDA	POR	300
3	▶	Jose PEREIRA	BRA	295
4	▶	Ryan HARRISON	USA	290
5	▶	Giacomo MICCINI	ITA	290
6	▶	Robert GASPARETZ	SVK	250
7	▶	Arthurs KAZIJEVS	LAT	245
8	NEW	Ruslav MYROSHNYCHENKO	UKR	237
9	▼	Ashot KHACHARYAN	RUS	230
10	NEW	Dominik Schulz	GER	210

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RANKINGS - 16 & UNDER

There are no significant changes to the top of the rankings this month, as just a few small events take place between the Junior Masters in October and the official beginning of the 2006 season. Thanks to his win in both singles and doubles at the Ramat Hasharon event, Ivan Kobzar (BLR) is the only player to make a move, entering the boys top 10 at #10.

Expect to see some big changes in the next edition of Tennis Europe News, with big points to defend for the boy's top five in the first events of the season, plus the points from the European Winter Cups by Prince. #2 Jerome Inzerillo of France (pictured), a defending champion at the team event, and finalist in Marcq-en-Baroeuil, has most on the line.



16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Ksenia LYKINA	RUS	510
2	▶	Ioana IVAN	ROM	435
3	▶	Euvgeniya VERTESHEVA	RUS	415
4	▶	Elena CHERNYAKOVA	RUS	400
5	▶	Leticia COSTAS	ESP	395
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	▶	Alin Mihai CONSTANTIN	ROM	395
2	▶	Jerome INZERILLO	FRA	390
3	▶	Alexei GRIGOROV	RUS	380
4	▶	Alexander LOBKOV	RUS	355
5	▶	Daniel COX	GBR	290
6	▶	Jaan BRUNKEN	GER	280
7	▶	Gastao ELIAS	POR	275
8	▶	Vladimir ZINYAKOV	RUS	275
9	▶	Daniel EVANS	GBR	270
10	NEW	Ivan KOBZAR	BLR	240

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS DEPARTMENT NEWS

The newly formed Tennis Europe Professional Committee had their first meeting in Paris-Bercy on 02 November. The Committee discussed the objectives, organization of activities and the responsibilities. Olli Mäenpää, Martina Lutkova and Anders Wennberg submitted reports about matters related to professional tennis in Europe, including ITF Pro Circuits administration and the role of Tennis Europe. The Committee comprises: Michele Brunetti (ITA, Chairman), Jose Antonio Senz de Broto (ESP, Vice-Chairman), Yves Freson (BEL), Patrick Hughesman (GBR), Lubomir Palenik (SVK), Barbro Raabe (NOR), Aleksei Selivanenko (RUS), Stefan Tzvetkov (BUL), Marc Verbeek (BEL), Anders Wennberg (SWE, Ex-Officio).

Rule Changes

The main rule changes on the 2006 ITF Pro circuits are as follows - (Both circuits)

- New defaults/withdrawals rule in doubles
- Amended officiating requirements

(Men's Circuit)

- Entry/Withdrawal deadline changed to 14:00 GMT 14 days prior to Monday of the tournament week.
- Doubles qualifying eliminated at Futures events

(Women's Circuit)

- Players may apply for entry into 1, but not more than 6 tournaments in a given week
- Entry deadline changed to 14:00 GMT 21 days prior to Monday of the tournament week.
- Withdrawal deadline for main draw and qualifying changed to 14:00 GMT 14 days prior to Monday of the tournament week.

The full text of the changes can be found at the professional tennis section of the Tennis Europe website, along with detailed January-March and One page January-December calendars for 2006.

EUROPEAN OFFICIATING MEETING

In November the Tennis Europe Officiating Task Force, representatives of five major tennis countries in Europe met for 1 1/2 day with ITF and Tennis Europe administrators to discuss a wide scope of pro level officiating matters. The meeting - held for the first time at Tennis Europe's new headquarters in Basel - was a new approach to combine specialists in the officiating field with members of the newly instituted Officiating Task Force, which is connected to the Pro Circuit Committee.

The presentations and discussions included the recently approved Electronic Line Review Systems and its impact on match procedures and officiating. The major changes in the Rules and Regulations for 2006 were discussed, together with the updated Officiating Requirements at the ITF Pro Circuit events in 2006-07 and how to practically approach assignments in the years to come.

Further discussions dealt with the plans for Level 2 and 3 Schools in Europe and how countries can best prepare their candidates for the schools. There is a concern that, while the success rate at Level 2 Schools has been very good, far too many officials fail the Level 3 Schools because of lack of higher-level match experience and lack

of preparations.

Mike Morrissey, ITF Administrator of Officiating, introduced a new approach from 2006 where the International Officials working at the ITF Pro Circuit, in addition to their own officiating, will take on a role as coaches of White Badge Officials, who in turn should coach any National Officials at the event.

Many countries experience problems in keeping young officials motivated once they have been recruited and received the initial training. Few countries have major event to offer as a "carrot" in return for their service around the year and have to approach the issue differently. National and Club organisers must be convinced to use Chair Umpires at their events to help a new generation of officials get the experience required. Special emphasis must be on recruiting female officials. Good national evaluation systems are essential to fairly monitor and support officials to higher levels.

The group shared to concerns about Doubles teams withdrawing or retiring after the players have lost in singles and the different approaches to the "doubles problem" were discussed and need further monitoring.

ITF PRO CIRCUITS IN EUROPE 2005

Tournaments last week in Bergamo and Valasske Mezrici brought the ITF Pro Circuits to a close for another year. The circuits comprise almost 500 events across the continent, with a total of almost \$7,000,000 in prize money.

Below is an extract from the 2005 circuit statistics, updated weekly at TennisEurope.org, where results can also be found, updated seven days a week.

	ITF Men's Circuit	ITF Women's Circuit
Tournaments	260	221
Nations to win titles	39	35
Nations with most titles	Spain - 34 Italy - 25 Germany - 19 Great Britain - 18 France - 17	Czech Republic - 20 Romania - 19 Germany/Spain - 17 Italy/Russia - 16 France - 14
Players with most singles titles	(7) Victor Crivoi (ROM) (6) Gorka Fraile Etxeberria (ESP)	(7) Kristina Barrois (GER) (5) Romina Oprandi (ITA)
Unranked winners	4	2
Wild Card winners	14	6
Qualifier winners	18	27
Lucky Loser winners	2	1
Youngest winner	16 years, 10 months Marin Cilic (CRO)	14 years, 9 months Tamira Paszek (AUT)
Oldest winner	32 years, 9 months Bartolomiej Dabrowski (POL)	32 years, 10 months Ana Salas Lozano (ESP)

ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT EVENTS IN EUROPE - RESULTS

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Nov 14	Las Palmas (ESP)	\$15,000	(6) I Klec (GER)	(4) R Machado (POR)	63 63
Nov 14	Sheffield (GBR)	\$6,250	(2) M Lee (GBR)	(1) M Smith (GBR)	46 64 64
Nov 21	Maspalomas (ESP)	\$15,000	(3) R Machado (POR)	(5) I Klec (GER)	26 63 63
Nov 21	Ashkelon (ISR)	\$10,000	(Q) R Haase (NED)	(4) D Valtzer (ISR)	61 36 62
Nov 28	Pontevedra (ESP)	\$10,000	(1) G Fraile Etxeberria (ESP)	(2) R Machado (POR)	61 67(1)76(3)
Nov 28	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(5) L Magdincev (MKD)	O Nedovyesov (UKR)	76(3) 76(2)
Dec 5	Raanana (ISR)	\$10,000	(5) S Rieschick (GER)	(2) A Hadad (ISR)	64 67(1) 63

ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT EVENTS IN EUROPE - RESULTS

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Nov 14	Deauville (FRA)	\$50,000	(7) V Kutuzova (UKR)	(2) T Pironkova (BLR)	64 76(2)
Nov 14	Pruhonice (CZE)	\$25,000	L Hradecka (CZE)	(Q) A Radwanska (POL)	46 61 76(8)
Nov 14	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	(WC) J Parasyuk (RUS)	(8) S Martinovic (BIH)	67(4) 64 60
Nov 21	Poitiers (FRA)	\$75,000	V Kutuzova (UKR)	(8) M Ani (EST)	63 36 64
Nov 21	Opole (POL)	\$25,000	(LL) O Lyubtsova (UKR)	J Sacowicz (POL)	61 36 61
Nov 21	Sunderland (GBR)	\$10,000	(1) M Ruutel (EST)	P Suomalainen (FIN)	75 60
Nov 21	Ashkelon (ISR)	\$10,000	(Q) S Fichman (CAN)	(3) P Ozgen (TUR)	61 61
Nov 28	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(1) M Chakhnashvili (GEO)	S Fichman (CAN)	63 76(4)
Dec 5	Prerov (CZE)	\$25,000	J Sacowicz (POL)	(3) L Hradecka (CZE)	64 64
Dec 5	Raanana (ISR)	\$10,000	(2) M Chakhnaskvili (GEO)	(1) T Obziler (ISR)	63 75
Dec 12	Bergamo (ITA)	\$50,000	(1) E Bychkova (RUS)	M Jugic-Salkic (BIH)	63 60
Dec 12	Valasske Mezirici (CZE)	\$25,000	M Ruutel (EST)	(6) E Hrdinova (CZE)	60 62

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RESULTS - 14 & UNDER

Venue/Category	U14	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
RAMAT HASHARON (ISR)	Boys	Ruslan Myroschnyschenko (UKR)	Eran Hecht (ISR)	62 62
	(3) Girls	Anna Rapoport (RUS)	Nadezda Guskova (RUS)	46 61 64
GOTHENBURG (SWE) (3)	Boys	Dominik Schulz (GER)	Tim Nekic (GER)	63 64
	Girls	Karen Barbat (DEN)	Greta Veinberga (LAT)	w/o
OSTRAVA (CZE) (2)	Boys	Jan Hradsky (CZE)	Lukas Vrnak (CZE)	64 60
	Girls	Natalia Pintusava (BLR)	Katerina Hrubá (CZE)	63 62

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RESULTS - 16 & UNDER

RAMAT HASHARON (ISR)	Boys	Robert Raguz (CRO)	Gilad Ben Zvi (ISR)	76(4) 62
	(3) Girls	Angelika Aliev (ISR)	Olga Blank (ISR)	64 64
GOTHENBURG (SWE) (3)	Boys	Patrick Pradella (GER)	Malte Christensen (GER)	63 60
	Girls	Martina Di Giuseppe (ITA)	Sally Thomas (GER)	67 60 61

Full results from the 2005 European Junior Tour can be found at TennisEurope.org

EUROPEAN RANKINGS

There are no changes at the top of the European rankings this month, as only one ranking event (the ATP Tour Championships in Shanghai) has taken place since our last update.

Roger Federer's undisputed position at the top was, of course, under no threat in China, and Rafael Nadal's late withdrawal and subsequent doubts for the start of next season due to a foot injury give the Swiss #1 some extra breathing space for the Australian summer season, arguably Nadal's best opportunity to gain points before the task of defending his nine 2005 clay court titles begins.

In women's news, the WTA's decision to abolish quality points from the beginning of the 2006 season is likely to have a significant effect on the rankings, particularly once the points from the Australian Open are deducted. All of this is good news for Kim Clijsters. Inactive during the Australian circuit last year, the former finalist at Flinders Park looks sure to ascend to the world's top spot with a good performance at the first Grand Slam of 2006.

Rankings as of Dec 19, 2005

WOMEN	Player	Country	WTA TOUR RANK	Points Total
1	▶ Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	2	4829
2	▶ Amelie MAURESMO	FRA	3	4030
3	▶ Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	4	3958
4	▶ Mary PIERCE	FRA	5	3797
5	▶ Justine HENIN-HARDENNE	BEL	6	2936
6	▶ Patty SCHNYDER	SUI	7	2774
7	▶ Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	8	2748
8	▶ Nadia PETROVA	RUS	9	2638
9	▶ Nathalie DECHY	FRA	12	1773
10	▶ Francesca SCHIAVONE	ITA	13	1699
MEN	Player	Country	ATP ENTRY RANK	Points Total
1	▶ Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	6725
2	▶ Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4765
3	▶ Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	5	2390
4	▶ Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	9	2180
5	▶ Marat SAFIN	RUS	12	1730
6	▶ Thomas JOHANSSON	SWE	14	1645
7	▶ David FERRER	ESP	15	1620
8	▶ Richard GASQUET	FRA	17	1506
9	▶ Juan Carlos FERRERO	ESP	18	1500
10	▶ Dominik HRBATY	SVK	19	1490

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
from all the staff of Tennis Europe!**



(L-R: Magnus Grönvold, Carola Loeffler, John James, Olli Mäenpää, Charlotte Ferrari, Jonathan Jobson, Stephanie Kamberi, David Albareda, Nadja Koran - not pictured: Martina Lutkova)

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