

CZECH REPUBLIC REPEATS SWEEP AT EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams from the Czech Republic swept the European Team Championship titles for the second year running. The final rounds of both events featured some fiercely competed matches, with both ties going the full distance in front of a lively home crowd.

In the men's final, the top-seeded Czechs overcame Italy, despite the shock defeat of their #1 player Ivo Minar to Simone Bolelli, who defied a rankings gap of almost 200 places to record one of the best wins of his career.



Czech winners (l-r) Michaela Pastikova, coach Jan Havel, Lucie Hradecka and Barbora Strycova

The greater doubles experience of the Czech team of Jan Hajek and Tomas Cakl proved to be decisive though, as they brushed Bolelli and Alberto Brizzi aside 75 61 to take the title.

The women's final was even more competitive - Barbora Strycova had looked to be on the brink of victory for the Czechs to seal the tie before Ukraine's Olga Savchuk staged a stunning comeback, coming from a break down to save three match points, eventually winning 62 57 75.

The final match also went to the wire, but Strycova regrouped to team with the experienced Michaela Pastikova, eventually edging a final set tie break to record a 62 46 76(6) win.

Strycova explained: "I had never lost three match points in my entire career before, and so I left the court very affected. When the captain came to ask me if I wanted to play the doubles I thought: 'I have fun playing doubles with Michaela and the only thing that you can do to win is to keep fighting', so that's what I did: went back onto court and... it worked! >>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 European Team Championships
- 2 Tennis Europe Top Executives Meeting
- 3 Interview with Tennis Industry Association President Jim Baugh
- 7 European Junior Rankings - the new season commences
- 9 Professional Tennis
- 11 The Latest from Tennis Europe

CZECH REPUBLIC REPEATS SWEEP AT EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



The winning Czech team (l-r) Captain Josef Cihak, Jan Hajek, Ivo Minar, Tomas Cakl.

<< Victory in both championships reinforces the Czech Republic's position as the most successful nation in recent years, and they become the first nation in the thirty year history of the event to win both championships in two successive years.

Played on indoor courts at the Tenis Centrum Cesky Krumlov, the 2005 event marked the first time that both the men's and women's championships had been held at the same venue simultaneously.

EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

	MEN	WOMEN
WINNER	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC
FINALIST	ITALY	UKRAINE
3rd PLACE	POLAND / SLOVENIA	SPAIN / POLAND

TENNIS EUROPE TOP EXECUTIVES MEETING

The Portuguese Tennis Federation hosted the 2005 Tennis Europe Top Executives Meeting in Lisbon last weekend. Key executive staff from many member nations gathered for the 29th annual meeting, which provides an important opportunity for networking and discussion of current issues at a pan-European level.

Guest speakers included US Tennis Industry Association President Jim Baugh, speaking about the organisation and its programs to grow the game in the United States, Rebecca Miskin of the Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain (presenting the LTA's 'Raw Tennis' program) and Christopher Stokes of NetResult, with the latest on the management of intellectual property.

ITF Technical Manager Stuart Miller was also on hand to address the delegates on a number of ITF-related issues, including news on the recent ITF Global Survey>>



Tennis Europe President John James (centre) with Portuguese Tennis Federation President José Corrêa de Sampaio (left) and General Secretary José Costa (right).

TENNIS EUROPE TOP EXECUTIVES MEETING

<< and the latest developments in tennis and technology.

Tennis Europe Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää also took to the speaker's stand along with delegates from a variety of member nations in order to share best practices and update on recent developments within their organizations.

Tennis Europe President John James, who chaired the meeting commented, "I am very pleased with both the attendance and the content of this year's meeting. A wide variety of topics have been discussed, and I'm



The 2005 Top Executives Meeting Delegates gather for the official dinner.

sure that all representatives will be able to draw upon this discourse to positive effect in their daily roles managing Europe's many national tennis federations. I'd like to thank the Portuguese Tennis Federation once again for their kind invitation and excellent organisation of the event."

JIM BAUGH: PROMOTING THE BRAND OF 'TENNIS'

The star speaker at last weekend's Top Executives Meeting was undoubtedly Jim Baugh, the President of the United States Tennis Industry Association. Also a board member of the United States Tennis Association and a former President of Wilson Sporting Goods, Baugh's knowledge of the tennis industry is second to none. He took time out after making some passionate and entertaining presentations in Lisbon to talk to Tennis Europe News.

Tell us about the latest trends in the States. How do you see the current situation with regards to the market and to player participation rates?

Well, our 2005 player participation numbers are due to be published at the end of the year, so we don't know exactly yet, but the early indicators are that we're going to see a positive trend in terms of participation. This is being driven a number of factors; racquet sales are very strong – especially beginner racquet sales, which is important. Ball sales are up slightly, and there is optimism at a local level, whether you speak to pros or re-

tailers, people are feeling good about the present and bullish about the future, which means that there is good business out there.

So would you say that this current optimism is a direct result of the programs you have been putting into place?

I definitely think that what we started two years ago has had an impact. There is never one decisive thing, but a combination of factors has caused some positive momentum; the tennis industry has pulled together to promote the sport, the USTA is also on board promoting the TENNIS brand and their programs have been received very well. The right people being in the right positions is also a key to helping with this, so yes – the programs are doing great but there's a number of other factors influencing the growth.

Addressing the delegates at the Top Executives Meeting, you gave some very interesting statistics on the problem of player retention. >>

JIM BAUGH: PROMOTING THE BRAND OF 'TENNIS'

<< *What's being done in the States to combat this perennial problem?*

Retention is probably the biggest issue that the sport has and will continue to have. We have something like 90 million Americans who have tried the game at some point, but no not continue to play. Tennis is a great, appealing activity, and many people will try it by themselves, but if their first experience of the game is not an enjoyable one, they're not as likely to come back and play for a second or third time. We have to make greater efforts to retain the people who attempt to play, and the way to do that is to make sure that a greater percentage of the people who try tennis do so through a program taught by a professional. Pros are very important to making sure that that first experience for new players is a good one, so this is how we hit upon the idea of the Tennis Welcome Centre.

What's the concept behind the Tennis Welcome Centres?

It's a basically a way of welcoming people to the sport and helping them to get over the initial 'hump'. Tennis is a skill sport. In order to play the game and enjoy it, you need certain skills, and you can get those through the programs offered at the Tennis Welcome Centres.

It's perhaps not surprising that many people turn away from the sport after one attempt; it's daunting to go to a public court and try to play for the first time...

Yes, it's very discouraging. Eight out of ten people who try tennis end up leaving it in the first year. That's simply because they've had a bad experience. In today's world of instant gratification, it's no wonder they don't come back – where's the incentive to stay if you're not enjoying yourself? So we now have 3,000 facilities in America who are committed to having new player programs, and will enrol you to get you started.

You only have to contrast participation rates today with those of twenty years ago to see that tennis has to compete with an ever-increasing range of other sport and leisure activities. Do you think that the exponential growth of exercise-based fitness programs is intrinsically linked to the decline of more traditional sports?

Yes. I can only speak about America, but twenty years ago when the average American wanted to get fit, they would go to play tennis, softball or volleyball and so on.

But in the period since then things have changed a great deal. Firstly running became hugely popular, and then it evolved to running and cycling. People began going to gyms to do their cycling, where they would discover other activities, like aerobics classes and spinning. That in turn has exposed a whole new market, which is the fitness industry. Unfortunately for established sports, the fitness industry has replaced in the mindset of Americans the way that people get active and fit these days. Fitness activities and

sports have come to be seen separately by most Americans.

So the other major current program of the TIA, 'Cardio Tennis', evolved in response to this?

Exactly. The fitness industry is dominating right now. I don't see this trend stopping. In fact, if you add up all of the people who are participating in traditional sports on a regular basis in the States, it works out at half the number of those involved in fitness activities. It's very impressive when you consider that it's not a 'visible' industry, in that it's not televised and has small, if any, audiences.

With Cardio Tennis, we have now introduced a new form of our sport that allows us to compete directly >>



Jim Baugh updates the European delegates on the latest Stateside initiatives.

JIM BAUGH: PROMOTING THE BRAND OF 'TENNIS'

<< with the fitness industry. Because tennis is such a traditional sport, most people don't think of it as a 'fitness' sport, but it is; you get a great workout, attain skills, and have fun. Cardio Tennis incorporates all of these factors, along with music and other elements.

What's been the initial response?

The early response has been fabulous. The people who get into the programs are having a great time. They feel it's a better work out than simply playing tennis, and find it a lot more fun than a typical fitness workout. What's important is that many people are also trying tennis for the first time through the Cardio Tennis program, and are staying with the sport.

What about the teachers? How do you persuade coaches to embrace this very new form of tennis?

What we're doing is simply educating them, and giving them the evidence that they need to make this transition. Simple economics can be very persuasive. We also give out a lot of information gleaned from the latest research, and we host seminars and workshops. We've had 24 workshops across the country educating the coaches about what they can do.

What has been the response from the European nations that you have spoken to here in Lisbon?

The interest I've had, and the number of questions – 'how can we get involved?' has been just excellent. I'm sure that we'll start to see pilot programs in countries and communities starting to crop up, and I hope that we'll start to see the growth of Cardio Tennis in Europe too.

Can you talk a bit about the TIA itself? Many of our readers here in Europe may not be so familiar with the organisation.

The TIA has been in existence for almost forty years now. It became a much more visible organisation when everybody decided to come and work together. We work together on numerous tennis research projects. We also put into place a variety of programs for the growth of the sport, such as Tennis Welcome Centres and Cardio Tennis. It's almost like a place where you can try programs in an entrepreneurial way.

An important thing about the TIA though is that we have been able to speak our minds, as we are not a consumer brand, we're the brand of 'TENNIS', and unfortunately most people in our sport worry about their own brands. Under the guise of the TIA we work together for the whole sport, not just individual interests. It's also quite unique to our sport, as whilst there are a few comparable organisations, no other sport has successfully come together in such a way to produce such a variety of programs.

What do you think are the prospects for the creation of a comparable European association?

I'm very pleased that there are discussions going on right now, and that Tennis Europe is taking an active role in the matter. If there were such a body on a European basis, working to the principles we have come up with, which are to be a research source, a collective voice for our industry and to have a menu of programs that people could pick from to grow the game, I think this would be a great thing for tennis. I think that it's the right time to do it in Europe. The industry in Europe has been through some tough times, and nobody is doing particularly well at the expense of anybody else, so it's time for everybody to pull together and realise that the brand we work for is 'TENNIS'.



Jim Baugh (left), and Tennis Europe Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää

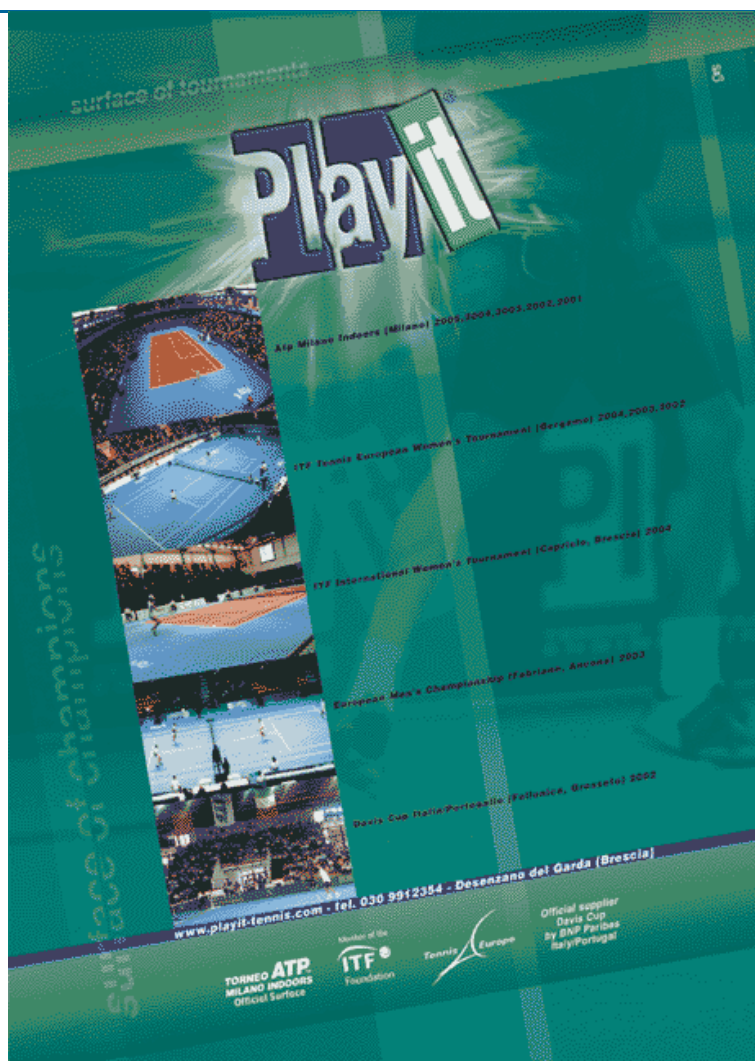
EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RESULTS - 14 & UNDER

Venue/Category	U14	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
MOSCOW (RUS) (2)	Boys	Ashot Khacharyan (RUS)	Richard Muzaev (RUS)	62 64
	Girls	Yana Buchina (RUS)	Marina Lushchina (RUS)	62 62
WILEN (SUI) (3)	Boys	Dominik Schulz (GER)	Yannick Offermans (GER)	46 62 62
	Girls	Sarah Moundir (SUI)	Anastasia Kirilova (UKR)	62 16 63
RAMAT HASHARON (ISR) (3)	Boys	Ruslan Myroschnyschenko (UKR)	Tim Nekić (GER)	63 36 64
	Girls	Oksana Pavlova (UKR)	Lorena Gheorghe (ROM)	61 62

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RESULTS - 16 & UNDER

BIEL (SUI) (3)	Boys	Luca Roshardt (SUI)	Ary Porat (SUI)	76 75
	Girls	Muriel Wacker (SUI)	Conny Perrin (SUI)	64 64
RAMAT HASHARON (ISR) (3)	Boys	Ivan Kobzar (BLR)	Vladimir Kruk (BLR)	61 62
	Girls	Viktorya Yemialyanova (BLR)	Lise Marbach (FRA)	64 36 75

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

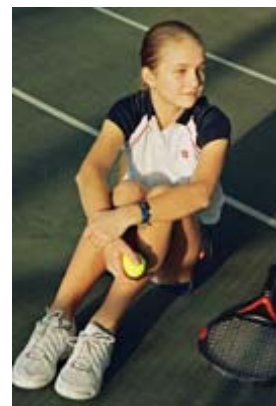


EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RANKINGS - 14 & UNDER

It's all-change in the rankings as the race to the 2006 European Junior Masters is already underway. Following the end of season removal from the lists of the players who reach their fifteenth birthdays in 2005, there are some radical changes at the top. Yulia Goloborodko (right) rises to the summit, the first of four Ukrainians in the girls list.

Junior Masters semifinalist Mikhail Biryukov is the only one of the top ten boys at the end of the 2005 season to remain, and rises to #1 accordingly. For the first time in the history of the Under 14 rankings, players from four continents feature in the top 10.

The full ranking lists are updated each Thursday at TennisEurope.org.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▲	Yulia GOLOBORODKO	UKR	455
2	▲	Albina KHABIBULINA	UZB	415
3	RE	Kristyna PLISKOVA	CZE	410
4	NEW	Nadegda KICHENOK	UKR	360
5	NEW	Ludmila KICHENOK	UKR	345
6	NEW	Anastasiya VASYLYEVA	UKR	330
7	NEW	Karolina PLISKOVA	CZE	325
8	NEW	Anna-Arina MARENKO	RUS	320
9	NEW	Marina LUSHCHINA	RUS	292
10	NEW	Lorena GEORGHE	ROM	282
14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▲	Mikhail BIRYUKOV	RUS	455
2	NEW	Miguel ALMEIDA	POR	300
3	NEW	Jose PEREIRA	BRA	295
4	NEW	Ryan HARRISON	USA	290
5	NEW	Giacomo MICCINI	ITA	290
6	NEW	Robert GASPARETZ	SVK	252
7	NEW	Arthurs KAZIJEVS	LAT	245
8	NEW	Ashot KHACHARYAN	RUS	230
9	NEW	Bernard TOMIC	AUS	205
10	NEW	Mikelis LIBIETIS	LAT	200

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RANKINGS - 16 & UNDER

Following the removal of the players who reached 16 years of age in 2005 from the rankings after the season-ending Junior Masters tournament, there are a number of significant changes.

Ksenia Lykina, arguably the dominant player in 2005 ascends to the girls' top spot followed by five of the other Junior Masters qualifiers. European Junior Champion Alize Cornet enters the list at six, followed by Simona Halep, who also finished the year in the Under 14 top 10.

Alin Constantin of Romania (pictured) is the first boys #1 of the new season, followed closely by former Under 14 #1 Jerome Inzerillo (FRA).



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	NEW	Alize CORNET	FRA	330
7	RE	Simona HALEP	ROM	308
8	NEW	Ekaterina BELCHEVA	UKR	295
9	RE	Camelia Irina BEGU	ROM	290
10	NEW	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	NEW	Alexander LOBKOV	RUS	355
5	NEW	Daniel COX	GBR	290
6	NEW	Jaan BRUNKEN	GER	280
7	NEW	Gastao ELIAS	POR	275
8	NEW	Vladimir ZINYAKOV	RUS	275
9	NEW	Daniel EVANS	GBR	270
10	NEW	Nikoloz KURDADZE	GEO	237

ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT EVENTS IN EUROPE - RESULTS

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Oct 24	Rodez (FRA)	\$10,000	(2) M Montcourt (FRA)	(Q) T Clemens (GER)	63 62
Oct 24	Sant Cugat (ESP)	\$10,000	(1) G Fraile Etxebarria (ESP)	X Pujo (FRA)	75 63
Oct 24	Opava (CZE)	\$10,000	(1) J Vacek (CZE)	(4) V Crivoi (ROM)	63 63
Oct 24	Heilbronn (GER)	\$6,250	(2) E Gulbis (LAT)	(8) L Chikhladze (GEO)	61 26 63
Oct 24	Nottingham (GBR)	\$6,250	(7) M Lee (GBR)	(4) J Baker (GBR)	46 64 62
Oct 31	St Katelijne-Waver(BEL)	\$15,000	(3) R Bloomfield (GBR)	G Lugassy (FRA)	63 63
Oct 31	Frydlandt (CZE)	\$10,000	(3) J Hajek (CZE)	(4) L Lacko (SVK)	16 75 64
Oct 31	Vilafranca (ESP)	\$10,000	(7) P Andujar Alba (ESP)	N Van Der Meer (NED)	26 63 75
Oct 31	Sutton (GBR)	\$6,250	(3) M Smith (GBR)	(Q) B Stronk (GER)	63 64
Nov 07	Waterloo (BEL)	\$15,000	S Bohli (SUI)	(7) A Golubev (RUS)	63 64
Nov 07	Wrexham (GBR)	\$6,250	(6) A Slabinsky (GBR)	S Bubka (UKR)	76(5) 26 64

ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT EVENTS IN EUROPE - RESULTS

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Oct 24	Sant Cugat (ESP)	\$25,000	(1) L Dominguez Lino (ESP)	R Kuti Kis (HUN)	46 60 62
Oct 24	Istanbul (TUR)	\$25,000	O Lyubtsova (UKR)	(1) M Koryttseva (UKR)	26 61 61
Oct 24	Quartu St.Elena (ITA)	\$10,000	(6) E Fernandez Brugues (ESP)	(4) R Kucerkova (CZE)	61 61
Oct 24	Porto Santo (POR)	\$10,000	S Cirstea (ROM)	P Wong (NED)	62 76(3)
Oct 31	Minsk (BLR)	\$25,000	(3) Y Beygelzimer (UKR)	(Q) A Radwanska (POL)	76(1) 61
Oct 31	Stockholm (SWE)	\$10,000	C Klaschka (GER)	(4) J Larsson (SWE)	63 63
Nov 07	Le Havre (FRA)	\$10,000	L Butkiewicz (BEL)	(5) E Bacquet (FRA)	75 63
Nov 07	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	N Roig (ESP)	(7) E Cabeza Candela (ESP)	63 63

TennisEurope.org

Tennis Europe Professional Tennis Junior Tennis European Championships Senior Tennis Media & Infocentre Development

- Professional Department
- Calendar
- Fact Sheets/Acceptance Lists
- Results
- Reference Documents
- Rules and Regulations

All the latest ITF Pro Circuit Information including

Draws and Results updated seven days a week

Calendars

Tournament Fact Sheets

Entry information and Acceptance Lists

and much more, only at...

TennisEurope.org

prince

THE TENNIS ACADEMY

- 26 COURTS
- INDOOR
- 4 RECYCLED CLAY COURTS
- FITNESS SUITE
- SPORTS ALUMNI CLUB

Official online tennisshop

protennis@tenniseurope.org

EUROPEAN RANKINGS

With the ATP Championships currently underway in Shanghai, we now know who the top 10 European men will be at the end of the season, if not their precise order. Following a late season surge in which he reached the final of four of his last five events, Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic can climb to third if he outlasts Russian Nikolay Davydenko at the final event of the year.

Roger Federer's undisputed position as the top player in Europe is highlighted by the fact that he spent every single week of 2005 at the top of both the European and world rankings.

triot Mary Pierce ensures that she ends the year as top ranked French player for the fifth year in succession.

As in 2002, Kim Clijsters finished as the top European, and was a hairbreadth away from displacing Lindsay Davenport at the top of the world rankings, a feat she is likely to achieve during the Australian hardcourt season in early 2006.

Following a strong indoor season in which she reached her first Tier 1 final, Italy's Francesca Schiavone enters the list for the first time at #10.

Amelie Mauresmo's WTA Championships win over compa-

Rankings as of Nov 14, 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	NEW	Francesca SCHIAVONE	ITA	13	1704
MEN		Player	Country	ATP ENTRY RANK	Points Total
1	▶	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	6225
2	▶	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4765
3	▲	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	7	2090
4	▲	Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	8	2080
5	▼	Marat SAFIN	RUS	11	1730
6	▲	Thomas JOHANSSON	SWE	14	1645
7	▼	David FERRER	ESP	15	1620
8	▼	Richard GASQUET	FRA	16	1529
9	▲	Juan Carlos FERRERO	ESP	18	1500
10	NEW	Dominik HRBATY	SVK	19	1490

Subscriptions

To subscribe to Tennis Europe News, simply send an email [here](mailto:contactus@tenniseurope.org), (contactus@tenniseurope.org) with "Subscribe" in the message title space.

Notes From National Associations

The **Belarus Tennis Association** has a new mailing address: Pobjitelei Avenue 63, Minsk 220035.

The **Bulgarian Tennis Federation** has new contact numbers: Tel: +359 2 951 5696, and Fax: +359 2 951 5691.

The **Hungarian Tennis Association** has a new website, at www.mtsztenisz.hu

The **Italian Tennis Federation** also has a new address: Stadio Olimpico, Curva Nord, Scala G, Primo Piano 00194 Roma.

Macedonia Tennis Federation has new contact numbers: Tel: + 389 2 3118 530

Fax: + 389 2 3118 530 or + 389 2 2735 745

There is a new email address for the **Ukraine Tennis Federation**: ftu@inbox.ru

Tennis Canada currently have two high-profile job vacancies; Vice President of High Performance Athlete Development and National Fed Cup coach. See the [Job Opportunities](#) section of the Tennis Europe website for job descriptions and further information.

European Racquet Stringers Association

The latest edition of ERSA's newsletter has been published. Just click the logo on the left to access the document, or visit the ERSA website at www.ersa-stringers.com. Also available is the latest issue of Racquet Tech Europe [\[click here\]](#).



Tennis Europe
Zur Gempenfluh 36
CH-4059
Basel
Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 335 9040
Fax: +41 61 331 7253

contactus@tenniseurope.org

TennisEurope.org





HIT YOUR BEST SHOTS. MORE OFTEN.



O3
ENGINEERED SWEET ZONE
54% LARGER

CONVENTIONAL SWEET SPOT

ENGINEERED FOR THE ZONE

INTRODUCING AN ENGINEERING BREAKTHROUGH FROM PRINCE.

By replacing traditional pin-sized string holes with giant O-ports, our driven and never-satisfied engineers reinvented the tennis racquet again — creating a super aerodynamic frame with a more responsive stringbed. This increases the sweet spot by 54% which means you hit your best shots more often. What's truly impressive is that we did it all without enlarging the racquet head, increasing its length, or adding weight. So it's easy to manoeuvre and quicker through the air. Available in Silver for extra power, Blue and Red for all-around playability and the O³ Tour for ultimate Tour control. Stop trying to hit a Sweet Spot. Start hitting a Sweet Zone. princetennis.com/O3.



O³ Tour played by Galo Blanco Costa

prince