TENNIS EUROPE NEWS

THE INTERNET NEWSLETTER

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ETA RENEWS TRETORN AGREEMENT



Björn Alven

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Since January 2000 Tretorn Sport Ltd. has had the exclusive rights regarding the make of ball used in all ETA Official Junior Events. They have been providing almost 180'000 balls per year to all our 14 & under and 16& under tournaments. During Wimbledon, Tennis Europe News interviewed Björn Alven, the Director of Marketing of Tretorn Sport Ltd.

Tretorn Sport Ltd is one of the main ball manufacturers in the World of Tennis. You have been providing the balls also at different Top Tennis Tournaments as well as for the Fed Cup Final last year in Las Vegas. Could you introduce Tretorn Sport Ltd to our readers?

Tretorn was founded in Helsingborg (SWE), in 1891 as a producer of rubber galoshes. Tennis ball production started in 1902, so we will celebrate 100 years of tennis ball production next year!

Today we have two plants making tennis balls for over 80 countries worldwide. Our main factory is situated in Portlaoise, Ireland, where our research and development centre is located as well. We also have a smaller plant in Guadalajara, Mexico, to service the South American market.

Our corporate headquarters are still located in Helsingborg. As of last month we are now a fully owned subsidiary of PUMA AG.

The Tretorn Micro X is a new generation of balls. Could you explain our readers in a few words what the differences are compared to other balls?

Micro X is a completely unique product with a technology patented worldwide. Contrary to conventional pressurised balls, which are just filled with air and start to lose pressure and power from the moment you open the can, each Micro X ball is powered by 700 million micro cells, which will never lose their power or go dead.

Each micro cell is a little elastic polymer balloon, which has been inflated to 60 times its original size inside the tennis ball. (continued page 2)

ETA RENEWS TRETORN AGREEMENT

This gives Micro X the power, speed, spin and touch that the tour player prefer.

After 1 ½ years cooperation between Tretorn Sport Ltd and the European Tennis Association the contract was renewed some weeks ago. What was the key reason to renew the contract with the European Tennis Association?

The great response from the ETA Tour players and the good co-operation and support from the ETA manage-

ment, tournament directors and staff.

Our philosophy from the start was first of all that we wanted to give something back to support the game of tennis in Europe. Secondly we wanted to give the future stars of tennis the opportunity, at an early age, to experience the unique properties of Micro X – by many considered to be the super ball for the new millennium.

It was also very gratifying for us to hear that the ETA

wanted to renew the agreement with us based primarily on the unique technical merits of Micro X.

We are both proud and grateful to have been chosen to be the exclusive official ball of the ETA Tour and look forward to a continued good cooperation to support junior tennis in Europe. Thank you!

The ETA thanks Björn Alven for the interview and looks forward to future cooperation with Tretorn Ltd..

(M. Grönvold)

EUROPEAN VETS INDIVIDUAL OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2001 European Veteran Individual Championships were yet again greatly contested and some extremely competitive tennis across the different age categories was played.

This year Cuxhaven, Germany staged for the first time the 35+ event. From July 26th to 29th participants from 13 different European countries battled hard for the title of European 35+ Men's and Women's Champion.

Baden Baden (18th-24th June) was once again the venue for the 40-55 age categories. The players and spectators appreciated the great organisation of the event and the friendly atmosphere around the pretty tennis club.

For the remaining age categories (60-90), Pörtschach, as in previous years, was again the venue from June 11th-17th. Despite the odd downpour the week went ahead very smoothly and the

competition welcomed a record 301 participants from 23 different countries.

Overall the 2001 European Veterans Individual Outdoor Championships were a great success and both players, organisers and spectators alike are already looking forward to next year's event.

For complete results of the 2001 events, please click here.

(Alex Nicholas)

HALL OF FAME AWARD FOR GIL DE KERMADEC

Our warmest congratulations go to Gil de Kermadec, who received the International Tennis Hall of Fame's 2000 Golden Achievement Award.

Gil de Kermadec is a for-

mer French top player, photographer and journalist. He also was the first National Tennis Training Director of the French Tennis Federation and founding member of the ITF Training Committee and

Development Committee. He is famous for his wonderful Tennis-Videos.

He attended many European Coaches Symposia where his knowledge was very appreciated.

DRIVING BUSINESS THROUGH SPORT

The 468-page report *Driving* Business Through Sport is one of the first management report to examine the European sports sponsorship industry. Its aim is to aid professionals in the sponsorship business and this is achieved through a combination of industry analysis and practical guidance. There are, for example, 299 charts and tables, which cover television viewing analysis, spectator attendance records, internet visits, TV rights costs, attitudinal research and the evaluation of sponsorship programmes.

Key to the success of the report, however, is the examination of best practice, which features 40 of the most successful and in depth case studies yet produced and expert comment from 70 of the industry's leading authorities.

The case studies examine a wide range of sponsorship types such as team, individual, venue and broadcast sponsorship and an analysis of how technology companies exploit their rights. Another major section looks at implementation techniques

such as sales promotion, public relations, corporate hospitality, merchandising and the use of signage.

A separate, 54-page section features six of Europe's most successful sponsorship programmes, including Mercedes Benz and the ATP Tour, all of which are examined in unprecedented depth.

The case studies are not intended to cover every single sport, but to look at the principles of best practice and examine new techniques that have delivered the best results, although a deliberate effort has been made to cover a variety of both sports and industry sector sponsors.

Other major sections include a comprehensive analysis of strategy, research, risk management, special events and the changes to sport coverage on television and the new media.

Tennis is well served in the report through case studies and a large amount of analysis in the research section uses tennis data, including its popularity, the profile of tennis fans, and the image profile of the sport to demonstrate how such data can be used.

The report, which has already sold in over 25 countries, has been bought by sponsors. sports clubs/ federations, agencies, media organisations and academic institutions. It has been widely acclaimed by the sponsorship industry and has, for example, been described by the European Sponsorship Consultants Association as 'without a shadow of a doubt, the best source book or management report on sponsorship ever'.

The price of the report is usually £495 but the book is offered for £ 250 to ETA affiliated non-profit organisations.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Rines, International Marketing Reports Ltd (Tel. +44 20 73 72 65 61) or visit the website www.imreports.com. (Simon Rines)

JOINT COMMITTEES MEETING

The Men's, Women's, Team Championships and Officiating Committees will meet in Zürich on Saturday 17th November 2001.

They will meet in order to discuss and also get some input from each other regarding common subjects, focusing

especially on Entry level tournaments and official ETA events: Services to tournaments regarding improvement of organization, promotion etc; the meeting will also prepare the next European Tournament Conference which will take place in 2002.

This is the first time that such a joint meeting will be held and the main aim will be to discuss a good strategy for the European Tennis Association in respect of Professional Tennis to be submitted to the Committee of Management. (Charlotte Ferrari)

COACHES EDUCATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

National Associations in Eastern Europe seem committed this year more than ever before to provide their coaches with the possibility of furthering their knowledge and obtaining a coaches certification.

In co-operation with the ITF / ETA, Lithuania, Latvia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia and Yugoslavia have all launched Coaches Certification Programmes, adopting the ITF's Level I and Level II syllabus and with the ultimate

goal of creating their own national certification programme and educating future generations of coaches themselves.

IOC and National The Olympic Committees also play an important role in the whole process and recognising the importance of coaches education in the area of tennis development, Olympic Solidarity has awarded special grants to National Olympic Committees to cover some of the costs related to the implementation of these courses. For example, two ITF / OS Regional Level II Coaches Courses (using the Advanced Coaches Manual) are planned this year in Lithuania and Georgia. These two projects will involve not only coaches from Lithuania and Georgia but also coaches from Estonia, Latvia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan that have already passed the Level I Course. (Luca Santilli)

LEVEL I COACHES COURSE IN LATVIA

Having already hosted a Regional Level II Coaches course last year, the Latvian Tennis Union decided to hold, with the assistance of the ITF / ETA, a Level I Coaches course as the first step to creating their own Education Pro-Coach The course was gramme. conducted by Luca Santilli, ITF/ETA Development Officer for Eastern Europe, with 20 coaches in attendance from

28 May – 6 June at their national tennis centre in the beautiful resort of Jurmala.

The Level I Course is nine days long and is designed to train coaches working with beginner / intermediate level players. The next stage will be for selected Latvian experts to revise and study the content of the ITF Level I Syllabus and to adapt it to the necessities of the Latvian

Tennis Union, with the next Level I Coaches course being conducted by local tutors later in the year. It is hoped then that, in three years time, the Latvian Tennis Union will be self-sufficient with their own national certification programme and will be able to educate the future generations of tennis coaches themselves.

NATIONAL LEVEL I COACHES COURSE IN LITHUANIA

Similarly the Lithuanian Tennis Union recently held their first National Level I Coaches Course. The nine day course was conducted by 2 national tutors Victor Ivancov and Rymuydas Mugevicius with 23 coaches in attendance from 29 May - 7 June at the School Tennis Centre in Siauliai. Luca Santilli also attended the last two days of the course to assist the new tutors during the assessment

procedure.

Just ten days after this course, the Lithuania Tennis Union will host the ITF / OS Regional Level II Coaches Course. Ivancov and Rymuydas will assist the ITF experts Miguel Crespo (ITF Research Development Officer) and Luca Santilli at the course to be held next week in Palanga, Lithuania. This will be an opportunity not only to train some of the most

active coaches in the region, but also for the Lithuanian experts to study the Level II Syllabus and determine how best to adapt it to suit the needs of their coaches and the Lithuanian Tennis Union for the future.

For more information on the ITF Coaches Education Programme in Eastern Europe, please contact Luca Santilli: lucas@etatennis.com

LEVEL II COACHES COURSE IN YUGOSLAVIA

An ITF/ETA Level II Coaches course is currently taking place in Belgrade, at the Tennis Club Partizan, the biggest and most traditional tennis clubs in the country. The 12 days course attended by 22 high level Yugoslavian coaches is conducted by Luca Santilli, the ITF/ETA Development Officer for Europe and Frank Zlesak the very experienced coach from Czech Republic. The ITF Tutors are also assisted by the local tutors Goran Bubani, Davis Cup Captain and Biljana Veselinovic, Federation Cup Captain.

The project is part of the Coaches Education programme in Europe and the purpose of the course is to train the local coaches in

coaching advanced level players by using the ITF recommended coaching syllabus and to assist the Yugoslavian Tennis Federation and the local top coaches with the Coaches Education programmes in their own nation.

This Level II Coaches course is one of several projects throughout this intense year of activity in Europe which has seen the ITF/ETA liasing with more than twelve Na-



The tutors incl. the participants

tional Associations in the coaches education area.

This project concludes successfully the co-operation started more than two years ago between the Yugoslavian Tennis Federation and the ITF/ETA during which two Level I coaches courses were organised and conducted both by ITF and local tutors, with the ultimate goal to set up a coaches certification programme in the country. As a matter of fact the YTF with its group of local experts has now put the basis to launch a full certification programme in order to be able to educate the future generations of tennis coaches.

2001 ETA 2ND EUROPEAN SPECIFIC THEME CONFERENCE

The technical specific theme conference of the European Tennis Association is to be held from 4 - 7 October at Otocec organised by the ETA in conjunction with the Slovene Tennis Association. Each of the 48 member nations of the European Tennis Association have been invited to attend the Conference.

The two-day conference will concentrate mainly on the planning and periodisation for high performance junior players with some presentations dedicated to professional players as well. The specific theme will be covered from

the mental, physical, technical and tactical aspects and relevant updates on the latest research in the coaching field will be provided.

The programme will include on and off court presentations on topics such as "Periodisation in sport & tennis", "Planning of the technical/tactical/physical development for junior players", "Tournament calendars for different age groups", "Mental skill development from a young age", "Planning for professional tennis players" and many others.

Speakers will include top

level coaches and tennis experts including: Richard Schönborn (GER), Helmut Hauer (AUT), Ivo Van Aken (BEL), Frank van Fraayenhoven (NED), Anne Marie Rouchon (FRA), Dave Miley (ITF, Executive Director, Tennis Development), Miguel Crespo (ITF Research Officer), Anne Pankhurst (GBR) and Ana Skorudumova (RUS).

For more information on the ETA European Specific Theme Conference in Otocec, Slovenia, please contact Luca Santilli, ITF/ ETA Dev. Officer: lucas@etatennis.com

2001 EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR MEN

The 2001 European Club Championships for Men are taking place at the wonderful Real Club de Tenis Barcelona – 1899 during the third week of September.

Eight teams are entered for this year's Championships. The Pre-Nomination of players let the organisers expect a high profile Championships. Top 100 Players like, Galo Blanco, Albert Costa, Andrei Cherkassov, Mikael Llodra, Felix Mantilla, Albert Portas, Tommy Robredo, Fernando Vicente and John Van Lottum are nominated for the competition. The two top favourites for the title are the RCTBarcelona-1899 and the C.T. Barcino from Spain. But also the teams from Dynamo Moscow (RUS) and AS Patton Rennes (FRA) which have several Top 200 players in their squads will do their best to avoid a Spanish victory. (M. Grönvold)

2001 EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR WOMEN

The Women's Club Championships, which were supposed to take place in Rennes (FRA), were cancelled due to a lack of participants.

After three successful years in Luxembourg, at the TC Bonnevoie, where top players like Rita Grande, Anna Smashnova, Denisa Chladkova, Anne Kremer etc. were participating it is a

shame that this year's edition had to be cancelled.

It is surprising that this years competition had to be cancelled as the communication between the Clubs and the European Tennis Association improved enormously during the last two years. The reasons for the cancellations of the Clubs were in most cases a lack of financial resources

but also the over packed tennis calendar which makes it very difficult for ETA to find an appropriate date for the Championships.

The ETA is analysing the current situation and further information will we available before the end of the year.

(M. Grönvold)

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Individual Junior Championships took place from 23rd to 29th July 2001. This year was the 25th anniversary of the championships and they were strongly contested with some outstanding tennis played.

For more information of the championships, please see the European Junior Championships Press Release of 31st July on our website: www.etatennis.com/sites/pressrelease.htm. (*A. Nicholas*)

Finals: 18&U (Klosters) Söderling (SWE) Boys singles d. Bohli (SUI) 64 63 Girls singles Mikaelian (ARM) d. Bartoli (FRA) 75 76(4) 16&U (Hatfield) d. Baghdatis (CYP) 46 76(4) 60 Boys singles Tsonga (FRA) Cetkovska (CZE) d. Nemeth (HUN) 61 64 Girls singles 14&U (San Remo) Boys singles Djokovic (YUG) d. Lacko (SVK) 62 67(4) 63 Golovin (FRA) Girls singles d. Niculescu (ROM) 63 62

TENNIS EUROPE NEWS

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nations Ranking:

The Nations Ranking highlights the countries with the best **overall** performances at the European Individual Junior Championships. The 2001 top 5 standings are listed below. For complete listings please visit our website: www.etatennis.com/sites/junior/indichamp.htm

France 315
 Yugoslavia 311
 Czech Republic 311
 Slovak Republic 292
 Switzerland 205

SUMMER CUPS

The 2001 European Summer Cups, the qualifying event for the ITF World Junior Tennis Competitions, have now been completed. Please find below the final standings for the different age categories. For more information please contact the ETA Junior Department.

	Boys 14&U	Boys 16&U	Boys 18&U
1.	Yugoslavia	Germany	Germany
2.	Slovenia	Spain	Czech Republic
3.	Russia	Austria	Russia
4.	Belarus	Portugal	Slovak Republic
5.	Germany	Belarus	France
6.	Great Britain	Israel	Croatia
7.	Netherlands	Great Britain	Italy
8.	Italy	Hungary	Sweden

	Girls 14&U	Girls 16&U	Girls 18&U
1.	Russia	Czech Republic	Czech Republic
2.	Czech Republic	Russia	Russia
3.	Bulgaria	Croatia	Estonia
4.	Slovak Republic	Germany	Sweden
5.	Croatia	Poland	Croatia
6.	Spain	Hungary	Slovak Republic
7.	Poland	Italy	Hungary
8.	Great Britain	Belarus	Germany

Highlighted nations qualify for ITF World Junior Tennis (14&U), World Youth Cup (16&U) and Sunshine and Conolly Cups (18&U). (A. Nicholas)

RACE TO PRATO - ETA JUNIOR MASTERS

The ETA Junior Masters was started in 1996 to reward the players who compete in the ETA Junior Circuit. It is the end of season highlight for the eight best-ranked European boys and girls of the 14 and 16 & under age categories. The competition came to life thanks to the initiative of the Italian Tennis Federation and the Tennis Club Prato, where it has been played since its creation. This years Masters is taking place in Prato from 5 - 7 October.

BOYS 14 & UNDER

GIRLS 14 & UNDER

	Name	Surname	Nation		Name	Surname	Nation
1	DJOKOVIC	NOVAK	YUG	1	LUKIC	VOJISLAVA	YUG
2	KRASNOROUTSKI	ALEXANDRE	RUS	2	EVTIMOVA	DIA	BUL
3	MURRAY	ANDREW	GBR	3	GAJDOSOVA	JARMILLA	SVK
4	LACKO	LUKAS	SVK	4	KAVLASHVILI	TINATIN	GEO
5	THRON	ALJOSCH	GER	5	NICULESCU	MONICA	ROM
6	NAKIC-ALFIREVIC	ANTE	CRO	6	SAFAROVA	LUCIE	CZE
7	NATALI	YARI	ITA	7	SAVCHUK	OLGA	UKR
8	SCHOETTLER	JOCHEN	GER	8	KIRIANOVA	EKATERINA	RUS

Ranking as per 16/08/2001

Ranking as per 16/08/2001

GIRLS 16 & UNDER

BOYS 16 & UNDER

1 WOELFLER PATRICK AUT 1 OZEGOVIC NIKA 2 TSONGA JO WILFRIED FRA 2 PAVIC NADJA 3 GEIGER MARKUS AUT 3 SCHMASSMANN TINA 4 UNGUR ADRIAN ROM 4 SOURKOVA ANASTAS 5 NIJAKI JAKUB POL 5 TORRE MARGOT 6 SKRYPKO ALIAKSANDR BLR 6 STOIANOVA ELENA							
2 TSONGA JO WILFRIED FRA 2 PAVIC NADJA 3 GEIGER MARKUS AUT 3 SCHMASSMANN TINA 4 UNGUR ADRIAN ROM 4 SOURKOVA ANASTAS 5 NIJAKI JAKUB POL 5 TORRE MARGOT 6 SKRYPKO ALIAKSANDR BLR 6 STOIANOVA ELENA 7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA YUG 7 KIPRITIDOU NIKOLET		Name	Surname	Nation		Name	Surname
3 GEIGER MARKUS AUT 3 SCHMASSMANN TINA 4 UNGUR ADRIAN ROM 4 SOURKOVA ANASTAS 5 NIJAKI JAKUB POL 5 TORRE MARGOT 6 SKRYPKO ALIAKSANDR BLR 6 STOIANOVA ELENA 7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA YUG 7 KIPRITIDOU NIKOLET	1	WOELFLER	PATRICK	AUT	1	OZEGOVIC	NIKA
4 UNGUR ADRIAN ROM 4 SOURKOVA ANASTAS 5 NIJAKI JAKUB POL 5 TORRE MARGOT 6 SKRYPKO ALIAKSANDR BLR 6 STOIANOVA ELENA 7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA YUG 7 KIPRITIDOU NIKOLET	2	TSONGA	JO WILFRIED	FRA	2	PAVIC	NADJA
5 NIJAKI JAKUB POL 5 TORRE MARGOT 6 SKRYPKO ALIAKSANDR BLR 6 STOIANOVA ELENA 7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA YUG 7 KIPRITIDOU NIKOLET	3	GEIGER	MARKUS	AUT	3	SCHMASSMANN	TINA
6 SKRYPKO ALIAKSANDR BLR 6 STOIANOVA ELENA 7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA YUG 7 KIPRITIDOU NIKOLET	4	UNGUR	ADRIAN	ROM	4	SOURKOVA	ANASTASIA
7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA YUG 7 KIPRITIDOU NIKOLET	5	NIJAKI	JAKUB	POL	5	TORRE	MARGOT
7 BOZOLJAC ILIJA 10G · ·································	6	SKRYPKO	ALIAKSANDR	BLR	6	STOIANOVA	ELENA
8 NIKOLENKO VOLODYMYR UKR 8 EVTIMOVA DIA	7	BOZOLJAC	ILIJA	YUG	7	KIPRITIDOU	NIKOLETA
	8	NIKOLENKO	VOLODYMYR	UKR	8	EVTIMOVA	DIA

Ranking as per 16/08/2001

Ranking as per 16/08/2001

Nation CRO CRO

SUI

RUS

ITA BUL

GRE BUL

A RISING STAR

Straight from the red clay of Roland Garros to the beautiful Tennis Center Kadriorg of her native Estonia - Kaia Kanepi secured two impressive back to back tournament victories.

She succeeded in the singles final of the junior competition at the French Open on her sixteenth birthday and entered the ITF/ETA Women's Circuit \$ 25.000 event in Tallinn the week after with the ITF/ETA Development Wild

Card. She made the most by going all the way and winning the tournament.

Still concentrating on the Junior Game, Kanepi proved that she would be a strong contender in the Women's Game before long.

Being still unranked, she beat players ranked around three hundred on her way to the finals, only dropping one set. It is great to see that a small nation like Estonia can foster great athletes, and not only one; there was another Estonian in the quarterfinals, Margit Ruutel who was ranked 383. In doubles, Kanepi and Ruutel reached the semi finals. There are many indications that we will be hearing more from Estonian Women in the years to come.

Also, the organizers of the tournament in Tallinn plan to upgrade the event next year into a \$50'000. (B. Raabe)

2001 ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT - STATISTICS

These figures are based on the 2001 ITF Women's Circuit events held in Europe from 1 January to 5th August 2001. You will find more specific statistics from the Women's section on our Website.

YOUNGEST WINNER

Kuznetsova, Svetlana (RUS) 15 years 2 months Casgliari Casanova, Myriam (SUI) 15 years 10 months Kanepi, Kaia (EST) 16 years Tallinn Cetkovska, Petra (CZE) 16 years, 2 months Gallovits, Edina (ROM) 16 years 4 months Cavtat Bartoli, Marion (FRA) 16 years 6 months Dulko, Gisela (ARG) 16 years 6 months Dulko, Gisela (ARG) 16 years 6 months Dulko, Gisela (ARG) 16 years 8 months Dulko, Gisela (ARG) 16 years 8 months Dulko, Gisela (ARG) 16 years 8 months Dulko, Gisela (ARG) 16 years 11 months Sofia 1

OLDEST WINNER

Bes, Eva (ESP)	28 years 5 months	Gorizia
Vanc, Andrea (ROM)	27 years 6 months	Quartu S'Elena
Vanc, Andrea (ROM)	27 years 8 months	Casale
Doyle, Yvonne (IRL)	26 years 8 months	Dublin
Beigbeder, Celine (FRA)	26 years 5 months	Saint Gaudens
Beigbeder, Celine (FRA)	26 years 4 months	Lenzerheide

TITLES BY COUNTRY

(players from 32 different countries won 96 titles in 2001)

Czech Republic	14
France	11
Russia	10
Germany	7
Italy	5
Argentina	4
Hungary	4
Netherlands	4
Romania	4
Spain	4
Yugoslavia	4
Slovenia	3
Estonia	2
Japan	2

The following have all one title: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Great Britain, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Poland, Switzerland, Slovakia, Ukraine

'MORE THAN TENNIS'-THE FIRST 25 YEARS OF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

'More Than Tennis', a glossy hardback book available on general release, has been published to commemorate the first 25 years of wheel-chair tennis.

Author Sarah Bunting, with the assistance of numerous people, has captured the feelings and passion of the sport in this historical record of wheelchair tennis to date.

MORE THAN TENNIS charts the growth of the sport from its beginnings in 1976 in California, USA where Brad Parks first started playing in a wheelchair, to the current day where wheelchair tennis is played in over 100 nations and is one of the most popular disabled sports in the world. Much of this growth has been due to the support of sponsors as NEC and Invacare Corporation who have ensured that wheelchair tennis could reach the levels of professionalism that are seen today. In 1998, wheelchair tennis made history when the International Wheelchair Tennis Federation was fully integrated within the ITF, making it the first sport for the disabled to achieve such a union at international level. This book is a celebration of the

first 25 years of this incredible sport.

"Thinking back to the beginning years of wheelchair tennis it is hard to imagine that the sport would be where it is today. In the late 1970's we - a handful of guys in wheelchairs - wondered if what we were doing was really tennis. We wanted to be recognised for what we were - people who loved the game of tennis but who needed a wheelchair to participate and in doing that, be recognised as a legitimate sport by wheelchair athletes and tennis organisations.

Today, it is so highly organised! It is run by professional tennis organisations internationally and is played in many countries around the world including the United States. This scenario, which is reality today, was a farfetched dream of those first few wheelchair tennis players. Who would have thought this is where the sport would be 25 years later! This development has taken the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of not only a few people, but many from many different nations and many different walks of

life. We can be so proud of what we have achieved and how many lives we have enriched!"

Brad Parks, USA

"We can only speculate as to whether Brad Parks had any conception of what he was starting when he first hit a tennis ball from a wheelchair in 1976. Wheelchair tennis has not only touched the lives but also changed the lives of many individuals and it is hoped that this publication will bring back some fond memories whilst also providing inspiration for the future."

Francesco Ricci Bitti, ITF

Francesco Ricci Bitti, ITF President

'More Than Tennis' will be available on general release from August 2001 and can be ordered by completing the Merchandise Order Form. which can also be found on www.itfwheelchairtennis. com . The book will also be available on selected tournaments. For more information on the book, please contact the Wheelchair Tennis Department of the International Tennis Federation, Email: wheelchairtennis@itftennis. (ITF)

NETHERLANDS DOMINATED INVACARE WORLD TEAM CUP

The 2001 Invacare World Team Cup was played at the Valere Tennis Club in the Swiss town of Sion.

The Invacare World Team

Cup is the official ITF wheelchair tennis team event for men, women and quads.

The Championships were dominated by the Nether-

lands, which proves to be the strongest Wheelchair Tennis Nation at the moment. To read more about this year's competition please visit the ITF Wheelchair website.

THE EUROPEAN TOP 10

WOMEN

	Player	Country	WTA TOUR Ranking
1	Hingis Martina	SUI	1
2	Clijsters Kim	BEL	5
3	Henin Justine	BEL	6
4	Mauresmo Amelie	FRA	8
5	Tauziat Nathalie	FRA	9
6	Dementieva Elena	RUS	11
7	Dokic Jelena	YUG	14
8	Maleeva Magdalena	BUL	15
9	Farina-Elia Silvia	ITA	16
10	Huber Anke	GER	17

The European Women's Ranking is based on the WTA Ranking of 20 August 2001.

MEN

	Player	Country	ATP CHAMPIONS RACE
1	Ferrero Juan Carlos	ESP	3
2	Grosjean Sébastien	FRA	6
3	Henman Tim	GBR	7
4	Kafelnikov Yevgeny	RUS	8
5	Federer Roger	SUI	9
6	Corretja Alex	ESP	10
7	Ivanisevic Goran	CRO	11
8	Clement Arnaud	FRA	12
9	Moya Carlos	ESP	14
10	Santoro Fabrice	FRA	16

The European Men's Ranking is based on the ATP Tour Champions Race Ranking of 20 August 2001.

THE LATEST FROM TENNIS EUROPE



The Top Executives Meeting is going to take place in Prague, Czech Republic.

The programme has been made according to the three most wanted topics and will be divided into the three following key sessions:

- a) Update on National Associations activities
- b) Sharing the best practices Marketing/Promotion/Communication
- c) Delivering important information including ITF and ETA update (Plenary Session)

The information has been sent out to all the Member Nations at the beginning of August and the entry deadline is 7 September 2001.

Congratulations to Jaana & Olli Mäenpää for the birth of their little daughter Vivian.

Victor Barreira started in June as a new General Manager of the Real Federacion Espanola de Tenis in repracement of Marco Fuste.

As announced in issue 8 of the Tennis Europe News the European Junior General Meeting is going to take place in Portugal on 23-25 Novmeber 2001.

The venue for the meeting will be Vilamoura (Algarve).

The information has been sent out to all the Member Nations and the entry deadline is 21 September 2001.

OBITUARY

OLLE BERGSTRÖM

Former President of the Swedish Tennis Association (1988 to 1993), Olle Bergström passed away on June 4 aged 68.

He was a member of the ITF Committee of Management from 1989 to 1993 and was very appreciated within the ETA family.

HANSJÖRG LEDER

Hansjörg Leder passed away on July 17 after a short illness. After having organised an international junior tournament for many years in Klosters (Switzerland) he took over together with his wife Frieda the organisation of the European Junior Individual Championships 18 & under from 1993 to 1999.

He will be missed by many people of the tennis family in Europe.

