

## Next Generation Report Published

The second edition of the Next Generation Report has been published by SPORTS MARKETING SURVEYS INC, in collaboration with Tennis Europe.

First carried out in 2008, the study is devised to provide an insight into the tastes, influences and opinions of Europe's top junior players. The first edition of the report proved to be an invaluable tool for manufacturers and the wider tennis industry and encompassed topics as diverse as their motives and ambitions in playing the sport to the roles of coaches, national federations, sponsors and professional players, as well consumer behaviour.

Four years on, the latest study has been conducted under considerably different market circumstances, and follows a period which has seen huge advances in fields such as mobile communications, smart phones and social media, areas in which junior players are early adopters and heavy users. Over 1,700 players aged between 12 and 18 years of age took part in the survey.

These players are of great interest to brands and manufacturers of tennis equipment; not only is the use of a brand's equipment a valuable marketing



endorsement from the most influential adult stars of the future, but popularity of particular brands or equipment types within this group can indicate wider trends among young tennis players of all levels. At a more general level, the report provides an excellent tool for existing and prospective sponsors to get know this important demographic on a deeper level.

Tennis Europe has facilitated this unique research by making a one-off contact with players registered to play on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. Several incentives were offered to participants, and the six lucky prize winners will be contacted later this week.

Tennis Europe's Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää commented, "Knowing the opinions of the next generation of players, their barriers and motivations for playing tennis, and the reasons for their choices of equipment are very important tools for the sport to continue to develop."

The research brings to a close a busy year of cooperation between Tennis Europe and SPORTS MARKETING SURVEYS INC, the Official Research Partner of the organisation. Earlier in the year, the second edition of the European Tennis Report was published by Tennis Europe, a result of six months of research and data collection which produced current figures and three-year trends relating to players, clubs, courts, coaches and international tournaments from all of the European federation's 49 member nations.

For further information, or to purchase the European Tennis Report or Next Generation Report, contact [Gabriela Köb](#) or [Andy Russell](#) respectively.

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## Tennis Xpress launched at Play and Stay Seminar

Delegates from 50 of the International Tennis Federation's member nations were joined by representatives from Tennis Europe and other regional associations, the ATP and WTA Tours, and the wider tennis industry in London from 27-30th November for the third edition of the ITF's Play and Stay Seminar.

The meeting saw almost 40 speakers take to the stand to present on topics ranging from Tennis 10s and tennis for teenagers and people with disabilities, to Cardio Tennis, good club practices and how harnessing social media can help to raise participation in sport.

Launched in 2007, Play and Stay is a global initiative intended to raise levels of tennis participation and to promote the sport as an easy, fun and healthy sporting activity.

One of the main focal points of the latest seminar was the official launch of the Tennis Xpress program. The challenge of attracting new adult players to tennis is one that has occupied governing bodies for some time. Independent studies carried out by leading European federations, including those of France, Great Britain and the Netherlands found common results when researching what novice adult players would want from tennis; that the activity should be fun, a way of meeting people, have positive consequences for health and fitness, and that the new players should feel welcome and not ostracized by their level of tennis.

In response to these universal findings, Tennis Xpress has been designed to attract adult players to the game. Mindful of the Play and Stay philosophy that tennis should be enjoyable from the first time a player steps on to court, Tennis Xpress is a 9-hour course to be conducted at clubs and tennis centres

over a six week period.

The objective is to give a fast, fun and dynamic introduction to the sport, whilst also providing enough learning and practice time in each class for players to achieve successful goals during the course.

A key component of the course is that the beginner players use depressurised red (50% slower) and green (25% slower) balls in order to accelerate the process of learning the basic rules, techniques and tactics of the sport. These skills should be evident by the end of the course, at which point players should be able to play competitive points using the green or yellow ball on a full court.

During the sessions games and drills are incorporated to ensure that players can serve, rally and score from the very first lesson, and a key task for the coaches delivering the course is to provide follow-up opportunities for new players, informing them where and how they can continue to play and train following the conclusion of the course.

Another advantage of the Tennis Xpress course is that it combines neatly with Tennis 10s, the ITF 10 & Under program, enabling parents and children to play together.

Pilot projects have been carried out in a number of nations worldwide (see the article on Denmark's successful experiences on the following page) with many more expected to implement the Tennis Xpress program during the coming year. For more information, visit [www.tennisplayandstay.com](http://www.tennisplayandstay.com).



Delegates at the Play and Stay Seminar in London. Photo: Tommy Hindley/ Professional Sport

## Tennis Xpress in Denmark

One of the key case studies that led the International Tennis Federation to adopt the Tennis Xpress program came from Denmark, where 50 of the world's 71 pilot courses were held during 2011.

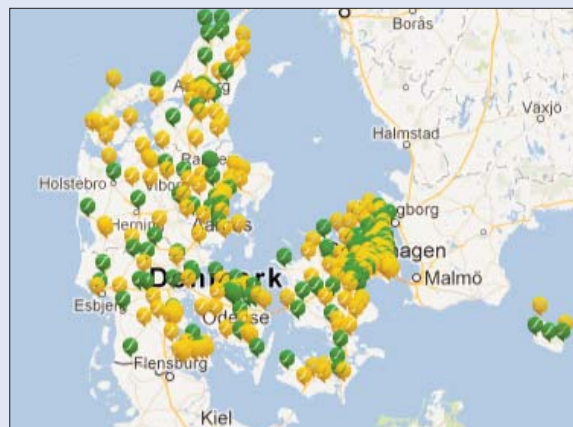
The Danish Tennis Association reports that it lost around 60,000 members during the period from 1992 to 2009, representing some 50% of its membership. An extensive study carried out by the organisation showed that a particular challenge was in the recruitment and retention of adult players (aged 20-55), many of whom cited the demands of work lives, families and other leisure activities as barriers to taking up, or continuing with, tennis.

This consultation also confirmed that adults would be more likely to try or to return to the sport if it were easier or more accessible, prompting the federation to pioneer the Tennis Xpress project.

As the initiative began to take shape, several distinct phases were identified. As a first step, the association approached clubs with an attractive offer; a commitment to pay €30 per person that completed the course. Simultaneously, a national advertising campaign swung into action to recruit clubs to the campaign. Tennis Xpress ambassadors were also appointed at the participating clubs. By giving responsibility to proactive people from clubs that wanted to make a difference to participation, a special link was created between the association and the club representative, who was given a gift pack, a contact hotline, and other personalised incentives including a special Tennis Xpress event where ambassadors were able to share experiences and best practices.

The next step saw the association face the challenge of preparing the clubs to manage the Tennis Xpress courses. This was achieved through both the provision of material goods (Tennis Xpress kits for those who needed it), and the re-education of coaches, emphasizing the importance and potential of recruitment and retention of club members.

As a third phase, the association had to monitor the many projects now in operation, providing support to those clubs implementing the program, and evaluating individual projects that were drawing to a conclusion. With most of this happening during the busy summer period, some clubs were organising more than one Tennis Xpress course per week, and with coaches busy teaching tennis it was important to remind clubs of the importance of having special offers available in order to attract and retain the new players once they had graduated from the Tennis Xpress course.



Above: the Spiltennis.nu site provides detailed information about where to play tennis in Denmark, including special offers from clubs.

The communications team was busy in parallel with supporting initiatives aimed at getting the Tennis Xpress message across to as many people as possible. A dedicated website ([spiltennis.nu](http://spiltennis.nu)) was created, giving newcomers access to offers at their local clubs in order to help them find the most suitable courses. Facebook also played a key role, as well as a national radio campaign and the National Tennis Day all helped to increase the visibility of the sport and to familiarise people with the Tennis Xpress message.

The success of the 2012 National Tennis Day, during which 117 clubs opened their gates to anybody who was interested in playing tennis, had led to even more ambitious plans for next year, when the federation hopes to have 200 clubs participating. The Danish Tennis Association created all of the marketing for the event, ensuring national coverage.

2011's pilot scheme saw approximately 650 new members sign up to Danish clubs following their participation in Tennis Xpress courses. Figures are not yet available for 2012, but with 103 clubs participating, the federation hopes to achieve a target of 1,100 new members (which would be an increase of 2% of the national total).

The Danish Tennis Association has concluded that Tennis Xpress has proven to be an unparalleled basis for clubs to recruit and retain adult players. Speaking at the ITF Play and Stay Seminar, their Chief Executive Officer Sune Alenkaer said, "We have seen for ourselves that Tennis Xpress works and are looking forward to even better results in the coming years. For any other federations looking to launch their own programs, we have created a [fact sheet](#) based on our experiences and are happy to share our advice."



## European Senior Championships

Tennis Europe has announced that the second edition of the European Seniors Championships will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, during the week of 27 April – 3 May 2013.

In response to popular demand, the event has been moved from the originally-planned date in early-July in order to avoid clashes with national individual and club championships in several European countries, some of which are also part of the ITF Senior Circuit, and are due to take place during this busy period. Tennis Europe hopes that this move will encourage greater participation in future editions of Europe's flagship senior tennis event. The tournament has

once again been granted B1 status by the ITF, making it the most prestigious in Europe in terms of points available.

The event will again cater for all age categories, from Over 35s to Over 85s, including a ladies' 85s category, which will be eligible for the new 85 and Over rankings, due to be introduced for ladies in 2013.

The tournament will be hosted for a second time by the Bulgarian Tennis Federation and will take place at the organisation's National Training Centre and the Dema Club.

## Icelandic player training camp in Norway

ITF and Tennis Europe in cooperation with the Norwegian Tennis Association initiated a training camp for the Icelandic Tennis Association (ITA) 13 and under team at the headquarters of the Norwegian Tennis Federation in Oslo Tennis Arena. The Icelandic players in the trip were five girls and one boy all 13 and under: Anna Soffía Grönholm, Sofia Sóley Jónasdóttir, Sigurjón Ágústsson, Hekla Maria Olivier, Melkorka Pálsdóttir, Sara Lind Þorkelsdóttir.

Along with them was their coach Jón Axel Jónsson and Jónas Páll Björnsson, the General Secretary of the Icelandic Association. Oivind Sörvald Sports Chief and Aslak Paulsen, Player Development Officer, were responsible for the program on behalf of the Norwegian Tennis Federation.

The players got a lot of practice with the Norwegian players and were delighted to get the opportunity to play and train against new players. Aslak and Oivind were also on the court with the team, where Oivind took the opportunity to conduct video analysis of all the players.

To finish off their trip, all of the visiting players took part in tournaments in Stabekk and at the Oslo Tennis Arena where they got to play a number of matches against Norwegian players, giving them important competitive match experience.

The Icelandic kids, Jón Axel and Jónas all agreed that all the coaching and the trip as a whole was both highly enjoyable as well as instructive, and that the video analysis had given them a new perspective on their games.

ITF/Tennis Europe Development Officer Hrvoje Zmajic said, "This is a great example of a bilateral

cooperation between two federations. Herewith, I would like to express special thanks to the Norwegian Federation for organising this training and competition for the promising Icelandic players. Due to their geographical position, players from Iceland can feel quite isolated from the rest of Europe and can greatly benefit from the opportunity to travel in a group and test themselves against new opposition. We hope that the two federations will extend their cooperation in the future."



## Turkish Tennis Federation invests in professional tennis events

In terms of hosting international events, Italy and Spain have traditionally led the way in Europe, blessed by a Mediterranean climate that allows tournaments to be held outdoors throughout the entire year. Over the last few years another nation has snatched their lead, offering more playing opportunities than ever before, and investing in tournaments as part of a long term plan to grow the sport.

In just four years, Turkey has gone from being ranked 15th in Europe in terms of the number of international events it stages, to first. This great leap forward is part of a concerted effort from the Turkish Tennis Federation to raise the standing of the sport, as President Ayda Uluç explained at the recent Top Executives Meeting. "We want Turkey to become an established tennis country, so this is the first step of a long-term plan to develop high performance players and establish ourselves internationally as a nation that is synonymous with the sport," she said.

It's not just the quantity of events that has increased, but also the range of professional tournaments on offer. By the end of the 2012 season, Turkey will have hosted a total of 104 weeks of ITF Pro Circuit events (51 for men and 53 for women), plus 3 ATP Challenger tournaments and the season-ending WTA Tour Championships, which has seen incredible success during its tenure in Istanbul.

Clearly the core of this activity is the ITF Pro Circuit, with over \$1 million in prize money (more than 10% of all prize money paid out on the entire European circuit) on offer during 2012. With the TTF providing some \$2,000 per event to the organisers to help with logistical expenses, the scheme is costly, but the federation reports that the benefits vastly outweigh the costs, especially in terms of how the tournaments positively affect Turkish players.

Aside from the obvious benefits of the opportunity to play in many events close to home and obtain a professional ranking without having to travel extensively, players also have the chance to practice with high quality opposition in a tournament environment, learn to better understand the mentality of touring pros, and also see first-hand that turning pro is a possible alternative to further education and scholarships.



The stars of this year's WTA Tour Championships in Istanbul.

There are benefits for players from other countries too; the Turkish events are mainly organised at some of the major coastal holiday resorts which have extraordinary facilities and are able to offer extremely attractive prices to competitors, often as low as €40 per night for all-inclusive stays. Several events played in succession at the same venue allow them to save on travel costs and permits them to spend more time preparing for each event.

As the organising culture takes hold, events are also increasingly held at clubs, which it is hoped will popularize the sport even further. However, simply increasing the availability of playing opportunities is just one facet of the federation's drive to make Turkey a tennis country. Much work is still to be done, and the Federation has enlisted the help of renowned coach Luis Bruguera, father of twice Roland Garros champion Sergi and founder of the Bruguera Tennis Academy, to head their technical team.

The flagship professional event in Turkey since 2011 has been the WTA Championships in Istanbul. There is no better illustration of how the sport has taken hold of the public imagination than to cite the attendance figures; with over 80,000 people in attendance during the week, the championships have been the best-attended in the history of the event, with an atmosphere that has been unanimously praised by the players.

A long-term goal for Turkey is its attempt to host the 2020 Olympic Games, a bid that will surely be boosted by the enthusiastic response to the country's hosting of the WTA Championships and its new position as European leader in terms of the number of international tennis events.

## Tennis for visually impaired people

One of the highlights of the recent Play and Stay Seminar in London was an on-court demonstration of tennis for visually impaired people. For many of the delegates, who had travelled from over 50 countries, it was the first time that they had witnessed the game being played in this way. In fact, with the involvement of the Tennis Foundation, tennis for visually impaired people is growing rapidly in Great Britain, with increasing numbers of clubs and facilities offering the sport spread across the country.

First developed in Japan over 20 years ago, specially modified audible balls are used which allow players with any level of visual impairment to identify their location. Other than a rule permitting extra bounces (up to two bounces for visually-impaired players and three for those who are totally blind) and obliging the server to say when they will commence the point, all of the rules are just as they are for regular tennis.

We had a chat with the two players in action, Min Ainsworth and Ramona Williams, to find out what attracted them to the sport:

### How did you find out about tennis for visually impaired?

*Min:* It's still quite new in the UK. It was first brought over by the Japanese in 2004 and has been spreading steadily. I found about it through a friend.

*Ramona:* I found out fairly recently, also through a friend. I have only been playing since January but when I was growing up I tried to play tennis in the way that a sighted person would play. This is much better because it has been adapted to our needs.

### There are many obvious challenges for a visually impaired person that wants to play the game. Is it a daunting prospect to get started?

*Min:* No not really. Like in sighted tennis, there is a lot of repetition involved. We start with one-on-one sessions with a coach and have to get used to the dimensions of the court and the behaviour of the ball.

*Ramona:* You start with some basic exercises, like rolling the ball along the floor, and the person has to hit it with the racquet. With time you come to understand where the ball is, and how long it will take before you can hit it. As you develop you get more confident, and then you can really start incorporating movement and working on technique, but you have to take it in stages. It depends very much on good coaching because it needs to be accessible for people to encourage them to keep coming back.

*Min:* People have to enjoy that first session; if they don't, you've lost them.

### Tell us about your training sessions

*Ramona:* We play weekly, on a Friday...



Visually impaired players in action in Roehampton.

*Min:* ...and we switch between the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton and Islington Tennis Centre. Sometimes we have had up to 20 people taking part, so we have to take turns. I almost preferred it when it wasn't so popular [laughs]. It gets busier when we get close to tournaments.

### Is there an established tournament calendar?

*Ramona:* Yes, in fact we've played a couple of tournaments this year already; there was a big one in Sunderland and also the Metro Blind Sport event, here in October.

*Min:* it's great to compete against other people from around the country and to find out what we have to do to improve.

### What are your goals in tennis?

*Min:* We just want to keep playing and improving.

*Ramona:* I'm still new to the sport, so I want to keep working and to do better in tournaments. Ultimately, we'd all like the sport to be included at the Paralympics.

Dan Absolon, Disability Development Manager at the Tennis Foundation, a charity that works closely with the Lawn Tennis Association said, "Tennis is a sport that is easy to adapt in order to include people with a variety of impairments and people of varied abilities. People with a visual impairment or who are totally blind are no different. Using adapted equipment and by varying the court size and number of bounces a player is allowed tennis is both possible and fun for visually impaired and blind players. We have seen a huge increase in the number of players participating in this form of the game recently and the Tennis Foundation will continue to support this growth across the country."

To see a video of visually-impaired tennis players in action, click [here](#).





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## Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD 12 & Under Preview

The 2013 edition of Europe's biggest indoor junior tennis competition, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD, is now just six weeks away. Following last year's successful introduction of a 12 & Under category, the event will once again be held over four weekends, with the youngest players opening the action during the weekend of 25-27 January, when the qualifying rounds will be held.

For a second consecutive year, a total of 55 national teams have entered the 12 & Under event. Qualifying rounds will once again be held in Austria, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia and Turkey, while Estonia will also host the competition for the first time. As last year, the boys finals will take place in Roznov pod Radhostem (CZE), while the girls travel to Sheffield (GBR) during the weekend of 8-10 February.

Russian teams will be hoping to defend both of the 12 & under titles, having made the perfect start to the new event last year by beating Switzerland for the boys' crown and Czech Republic for the girls'.

The 14 and 16 & Under categories retain their regular calendar slots, with the qualifying rounds taking place at eight European venues from 1-3 February,



Russian teams triumphed in both the boys' and girls' competitions at the inaugural 12 & Under Winter Cups earlier this year.

and the final rounds following two weeks later, from 15-17 February. A full preview of the 14 and 16 & Under events will feature in the next issue. Meanwhile, you can find full entry lists on the dedicated [tournament page](#). Qualifying group allocations, fact sheets and further information is also online.

Established in 1976, the Winter Cups are a highlight of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, and have seen players such as Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka represent their countries for the first time in team competitions.

### Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD Boys 12&U - Qualifying (25-27 January)

<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Hradek nad Nisou (CZE)</b>	Belgium, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Switzerland
<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Tallinn (EST)</b>	Austria, Estonia, Great Britain, Hungary, Slovenia, Ukraine
<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Kazan (RUS)</b>	Bulgaria, Finland, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden
<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Izmir (TUR)</b>	Belarus, Croatia, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Turkey
<b>Finals</b>	<b>Roznov pod Radhostem (CZE)</b>	8-10 February

### Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD Girls 12&U - Qualifying (25-27 January)

<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Neudorf (AUT)</b>	Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Russia
<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Rakovnik (CZE)</b>	Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia
<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Onesti (ROU)</b>	Belarus, Bulgaria, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine
<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Izmir (TUR)</b>	Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey
<b>Finals</b>	<b>Sheffield (GBR)</b>	8-10 February



## In the Spotlight: Petros Chrysochos

Tennis Europe News caught up with the 16 & Under #1 player Petros Chrysochos of Cyprus following his appearance at the recent Tennis Europe Junior Masters and coronation as Player of the Year.



Petros Chrysochos in action at the Junior Masters in October of this year.

### **Congratulations on being named Player of the Year. What does it mean to you?**

It means a lot, especially because last year I finished in second place as a 14 & Under. Also, it's the first time that Cypriot has won the award. I'm very proud of my country, and also the work that I have done – and my parents, my coach...so it's a great feeling.

### **You recently played at the Junior Masters. How do you feel about your performance there?**

It was a new experience for me because it's the first time I played at the Masters, so it was great. I felt good, my adrenaline was high. I played against some very good players from Spain and Ukraine. It was a tough draw. I didn't win, but third place overall was still good for me. Generally it was a great experience. I could have done better, but never mind...

### **Tell us about your training schedule when you're at home.**

Well, Cyprus is very small, not too many players come out of there. We are about 700,000 people and I train in Larnaca. We only have two or three very good players, so I can't always train at the highest level very day. It's more difficult for me because other players from bigger countries have better players to play against, so they get better every day. I have my school as well, so in the mornings I cannot practice. I try to play as much as I can in the afternoon. My coach is supporting me, my family...and I try to do my best.

### **Coming from a small country with one very well-**

### **known player, do you feel pressure to be the 'next Baghdatis'?**

At home many people tell me, "Oh, you will be the next Baghdatis", but no; I will be the next Petros. I want to be myself. Of course I would like to be like him; he's a great player, a Top 30 player for a long time. It's a challenge for him because he is alone – Spain has like 300 players, but Cyprus has only one. I would like to achieve what he has achieved, but that's not my goal; I want to do even better.

### **What has been the highlight of this season for you?**

I think Montecatini in Italy was my favourite tournament. It was the second Category 1 event that I played. I played against the guy who beat me in this tournament in the final [Jaume Munar Clar of Spain]; I beat him on that occasion. It was a great tournament and it boosted my confidence for the rest of the year, so that's why I have been playing so good.

### **What about your time on the ITF Touring Team?**

It was my second time, I also took part last year, but this year was an amazing experience. Four tournaments, one month, and we had a four-day practice session before the tournaments. It was great because it's very demanding. You play Category 1 tournaments every day, very difficult events. You have to be consistent all of the time. In some tournaments you may not have to face a really good opponent until the semi-finals, but at the Category 1s you can play very good players from the first round until the final.

### **Did you enjoy the team aspect?**

Absolutely. The coaches, Goran [Shevchenko] and Irina [Chichmarova], understand so much. They were telling me things that I didn't even know about tennis. There were ten of us players in total – 6 boys and 4 girls, and there was such a good team spirit. You have to be together all the time, it was like a family. That was a great experience for me.

### **What are your plans for next year?**

Well, at the beginning of the year I am hoping to go to the Australian Open, hopefully if I get a good ranking. At the moment I'm around #170, so I hope to go towards the Top 100. There is another Cypriot player, Sergis Kyratzis. He is a great player so I hope that we can go to Australia together. Then I hope to go with the ITF team again, hopefully they will choose me. The tour is for one month in South America, Category 1 and 2 ITF events, so that would be great. But next year no more Tennis Europe Junior Tour, it's time for the next step!

# EUROPEAN TENNIS REPORT

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AZERBAIJAN	GREECE	POLAND
BELARUS	HUNGARY	PORTUGAL
BELGIUM	ICELAND	ROMANIA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	IRELAND	RUSSIA
BULGARIA	ISRAEL	SAN MARINO
CROATIA	ITALY	SERBIA
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DENMARK	LITHUANIA	SPAIN
ESTONIA	LUXEMBOURG	SWEDEN
FINLAND	MALTA	SWITZERLAND
FRANCE	MOLDOVA	TURKEY
		UKRAINE

## The African 14 & Under Masters... in Switzerland

To participate in a continental Masters is a great experience in itself. But if the Masters takes place on another continent altogether, it is even more unique and will long be remembered by the 12 young African tennis talents who had qualified for the African 14 & Under Masters.

The event took place from 20 – 23 November at the Swiss Tennis National Tennis Center in Biel, Switzerland. The cross-continental collaboration was initiated by Swiss Tennis President René Stambach and Hichem Riani, Director of the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) during the ITF Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen this summer and serves as an example of the type of international solidarity project between federations that Tennis Europe has been encouraging its member nations to undertake for many years.

Mr. Stambach and Mr. Riani agreed that the national champions and finalists from Benin, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Mauritius and South Africa would travel to Switzerland, train for a few days at the Swiss Tennis Academy, play their Masters and then participate in a nearby local tournament in order to compete with Swiss talents their age as kind of a special training.

The intensive training certainly paid off for the young Africans: Zeineb El Houari (Morocco) and Calvin Jordaan (South Africa) not only claimed the titles as the African 14 & Under Champions but went also on to win the junior tournament in Switzerland, beating other players from their delegation in the finals.

Issem Essaïs, Head of Delegation at CAT, was more than pleased with the group's success and the visit to Switzerland in general, saying: "Our week here at Swiss Tennis was amazing. We were warmly welcomed and they made the stay in Roger Federer's home country for our players unforgettable – the academy and the organisation were impeccable, just like Switzerland itself."

The players were equally delighted with their stay, even though they had one complaint: "It is very beautiful here, but also very cold!" Asked about their goals the answers of the African players did not vary much from the Swiss ones: to travel the world, develop their game and one day reach the Top 10 in the world. René Stambach and Issem Essaïs agreed that "Swiss and African youngsters do not differ much when it comes to their sports attitude. More important than the country you are from is anyway the education and personality – and only if you work hard will you reach the top, regardless of whether you live in Africa or in Switzerland!"



Photos (from top): The African players arrive at Swiss Tennis, Girls' winner Zeineb El Houari (MAR), Finalist Randy Randrianasoloson (MAD) and third placed Zani Barnard (RSA), Boys runner-up Mohamed Aboulkacem (EGY), winner Calvin Jordaan (RSA) and third placed Isaac Nortey (GHA).



## Beyond the Baseline...

The International Tennis Federation has named its Players of the Year for 2012. Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams are recognised as **ITF World Champions** for the second and third time in their careers respectively. Bob & Mike Bryan are the Men's Doubles World Champions for the ninth time in ten years, while Sara Errani & Roberta Vinci claim the Women's Doubles World Champion title for the first time. The Junior World Champions are Flip Peliwo and Taylor Townsend, while Stephane Houdet and Esther Vergeer are the Wheelchair World Champions, with Vergeer taking the title for the thirteenth consecutive year.

Players from 21 different countries won ATP World Tour titles in 2012, compared to 23 on the WTA Tour.

**Roger Federer** is the new Brand ambassador for Moët & Chandon champagne.

**Flavia Pennetta** and **Svetlana Kuznetsova** have announced that they will play doubles together throughout 2013.

**Taylor Townsend** has become the first US girl in 30 years to end the year as the ITF Junior world #1.

David Gregson has been appointed as the Chairman of the **Lawn Tennis Association** Board.

**Kim Clijsters** officially hung up her racquet after a farewell exhibition event in Belgium. In her final match she scored a 6-3 6-3 win over Venus Williams.

The ITF has announced that the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre in London will host the **NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters** from 2014-2016. Then known as Eton Manor, The site's tennis facilities were specially built for the 2012 Paralympic event.

First round losers at the **Australian Open** will receive \$27,000 AUD, a 30% increase on last year. Total prize money for the first Grand Slam of the season will reach \$30 million.

**Madison Keys** and **Rhine Williams** have won the USTA play-offs for wild cards to the Australian Open.

Organisers are reportedly considering introducing third set tiebreaks and eliminating bronze medal matches in order to reduce the workload for players at future editions of the **Olympic Games**.

**Serena Williams** is reportedly planning to play for the USA in the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas first round tie in Rimini (ITA) in February.

Nigel Willerton has taken over as the Director of Integrity at the **Tennis Integrity Unit**.

Bulgaria's **Grigor Dimitrov** has joined the Good to Great Tennis Academy in Sweden, where he will be coached by former pros Magnus Norman, Niklas Kulti and Mikael Tillström.

**Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario** has resigned from her post as Spain's Fed Cup captain.

Teams for the **Hopman Cup**, which begins in Perth on 29th December are as follows - Group A; Bernard Tomic & Ashley Barty (AUS). Andreas Seppi & Francesca Schiavone (ITA), Tommy Haas & Andrea Petkovic (GER), Novak Djokovic & Ana Ivanovic (SRB), Group B; Fernando Verdasco & Anabel Medina Garrigues (ESP), Kevin Anderson & Chanelle Scheepers (RSA), Jo-Wilfried Tsonga & Mathilde Johansson (FRA) and John Isner & Venus Williams (USA).

Argentinean players **Juan Ignacio Chela** and **Gisela Dulko** have both announced their retirements.

Organisers of the ATP World Tour event in **Halle**, Germany, have announced that Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Janko Tipsarevic, Milos Raonic, Kei Nishikori and Philipp Kohlschreiber have already committed to the 2013 tournament.

**Roger Federer** has won the Swiss Sportsman of the Year Award for a fifth time.

Former British #1 **Elena Baltacha** will launch a comeback early next year after having six months off following foot surgery, and expects to play for two more years, having previously considered retirement.



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**Follow us on Facebook or Twitter for all the latest news from the organisation and special features from the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, such as our [gallery](#) of famous former players when they were young.**





## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – Overall

Tennis Europe's junior ranking system is devised to give a unified overall list that shows the relative strengths of all players, regardless of where they achieved their results or picked up points,

A player's overall total includes points from Tennis Europe Junior Tour 16 and 14 & Under events, plus points earned by players in these age categories who participate in ITF Junior Circuit and professional tournaments, all of which are weighted

according to their relative strengths.

The 14 & Under ranking is still available separately containing points earned exclusively at Tennis Europe Junior Tour events (see next page), as well as being integrated to these overall rankings.

For more information on the rankings system, visit [www.TennisEurope.org](http://www.TennisEurope.org).

Rankings below are as of December 18th, 2012.

### Overall Girls' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Taylor TOWNSEND</b>	USA	2982
02	▶	<b>Katerina SINIAKOVA</b>	CZE	2885
03	▲	<b>Ana KONJUH</b>	CRO	2080
04	▼	<b>Elizaveta KULICHOVA</b>	RUS	1875
05	▼	<b>Antonia LOTTNER</b>	GER	1828
06	▼	<b>Iryna SHYMANOVICH</b>	BLR	1810
07	▶	<b>Aliona BOLSOVA</b>	MDA	1721
08	▶	<b>Francoise ABANDA</b>	CAN	1695
09	▶	<b>Belinda BENCIC</b>	SUI	1591
10	▶	<b>Donna VEKIC</b>	CRO	1570



Ana Konjuh (CRO)

### Overall Boys' Ranking

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Gianluigi QUINZI</b>	ITA	2241
02	▶	<b>Elias YMER</b>	SWE	1920
03	▶	<b>Filippo BALDI</b>	ITA	1867
04	▶	<b>Petros CHRYSOCHOS</b>	CYP	1528
05	▶	<b>Lucas MIEDLER</b>	AUT	1362
06	NEW	<b>Christian GARIN</b>	CHI	1357
07	▼	<b>Noah RUBIN</b>	USA	1354
08	▼	<b>Johan Sebastien TATLOT</b>	FRA	1350
09	▼	<b>Jaume MUNAR CLAR</b>	ESP	1280
10	▼	<b>Hyeon CHUNG</b>	KOR	1278



Christian Garin (CHI)



## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings – 14 & Under

There are no changes to the top of the rankings this month, as none of the leading players have been in action during this relatively quiet time on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour.

Further down the rankings, the 12 & Under Starter Points have been added recently, with some of the best -performing players from that age group already knocking on the door of the Top 100.

We can expect great changes next month, as the

players born in 1998 are removed from the list as they become eligible for 16 & Under tournaments only.

The Race to the Junior Masters rankings are already being updated, with some less familiar names occupying the top spots at present, with just a few events having been held. You can follow the latest Race rankings [here](#).

Rankings below are as of December 18th, 2012.

### 14 & Under Girls

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Olga FRIDMAN</b>	UKR	1030
02	▶	<b>Dalma GALFI</b>	HUN	980
03	▶	<b>Anna KALINSKAYA</b>	RUS	835
04	▲	<b>Viktoria KUZMOVA</b>	SVK	770
05	▲	<b>Aleksandra POSPELOVA</b>	RUS	765
05	▲	<b>Anna BLINKOVA</b>	RUS	765
06	▲	<b>Tereza MIHALIKOVA</b>	SVK	750
08	▼	<b>Maia LUMSDEN</b>	GBR	735
09	▶	<b>Andreea Amalia ROSCA</b>	ROU	728
10	▶	<b>Tamara KUPKOVA</b>	SVK	670



#6 Tereza Mihailikova and #4 Viktoria Kuzmova (SVK)

### 14 & Under Boys

Rank		Name	Nat.	Points
01	▶	<b>Mikael YEMER</b>	SWE	850
02	▶	<b>Marko OSMACIC</b>	SUI	805
03	▶	<b>Jay CLARKE</b>	GBR	750
04	▶	<b>Eduard GUELL BARTRINA</b>	ESP	735
05	▶	<b>Mate VALKUSZ</b>	HUN	725
06	▶	<b>Samuel SIPPEL</b>	GER	715
07	▶	<b>Denys KLOK</b>	UKR	675
08	▶	<b>Kenneth RAISMA</b>	EST	620
08	▶	<b>Stefanos TSITSIPAS</b>	GRE	620
10	▶	<b>Akos KOTORMAN</b>	HUN	595



Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)



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## Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

### 12 & Under

Date	Tournament	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Dec 10	Coimbra (POR)	E Lumsden (GBR)	C Sanchez Jover (ESP)	64 64	Rodrigues/Soares (POR)
		D Said (EGY)	C Molina Megias (ESP)	64 62	Molina Megias (ESP)/Said (EGY)

### 14 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Nov 19	Stavenger (NOR)	3 L Daels (BEL)	M Sokolovskiy (RUS)	63 67(5) 75	Bergs/Daels (BEL)
		D Faa Hviding (NOR)	P Golubovskaya (RUS)	75 75	Golubovskaya/Kislyak (RUS)
Nov 26	Göteborg (SWE)	3 F Malbasic (SWE)	A Oljons (SWE)	61 61	Malbasic/Oljons (SWE)
		I Jarlskog (SWE)	M Bjorklund (SWE)	61 36 61	Gavrila (ROU)/Grib (BLR)
Dec 3	Milovice (CZE)	3 J Rodionov (BLR)	M Haliak (BLR)	60 06 62	Bolardt/Vrbensky (CZE)
		M Vondrousova (CZE)	A Slovakova (CZE)	w/o	Slovakova/Vondrousova (CZE)
Dec 3	Nastola (FIN)	3 P Klimov (RUS)	M Sokolovskiy (RUS)	w/o	Ruusuvuori/Sarpola (FIN)
		V Yushchenko (RUS)	P Bakhmutkina (RUS)	62 62	Bakhmutina/Denisenko (RUS)
Dec 10	Wrexham (GBR)	3 E Moore (GBR)	L Hammond (GBR)	75 62	Stewart/West (GBR)
		J Burrage (GBR)	E Lazic (GBR)	63 63	Burrage/Griffiths (GBR)

### 16 & Under

Date	Tournament	Category / Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles Winner
Nov 19	Dmitrov (RUS)	3 Y Prostakov (RUS)	A Guskov (RUS)	64 64	Kotov/Prostakov (RUS)
		E Levashova (RUS)	V Zeleva (RUS)	63 64	Bekker/Pogrebnyak (RUS)
Dec 3	Marsa (MLT)	3 S Ramazzotti (ITA)	A Aravis (CYP)	63 61	Not played
		E Levashova (RUS)	B Bento (POR)	61 61	Not played

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## ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results



### ITF Men's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Nov 19	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	A Setkic (BIH)	A de Greef (BEL)	62 1-0 ret	Olaso/Samper Montana (ESP)
Nov 26	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	M Lammer (SUI)	G Olaso (ESP)	61 16 75	Semjan/Simon (SVK)
Dec 3	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	N Basilashvili (GEO)	V Uzhlyovsky (UKR)	36 62 62	Brkic (BIH)/Marcan (CRO)
Dec 10	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	N Basilashvili (GEO)	G Olaso (ESP)	62 62	Ciumac (MDA)/Uzhlyovsky (UKR)

### ITF Women's Circuit

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score	Doubles
Nov 19	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	J Jaksic (SRB)	L Andrei (ROU)	62 60	Cadar (ROU)/Kostic (SRB)
Nov 19	Vallduxo (ESP)	\$10,000	S Sorribes Tormo (ESP)	O Saez Larra (ESP)	61 61	Sizikova (RUS)/Windley (GBR)
Nov 19	Vendryne (CZE)	\$15,000	S Zahlavova (CZE)	R Voracova (CZE)	76(1) 60	Maleckova/Vankova (CZE)
Nov 26	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	M Benoit (BEL)	L Andrei (ROU)	63 62	Pashkova (RUS)/Vasylyeva (UKR)
Dec 3	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	D Allertova (CZE)	N Kostic (SRB)	57 75 61	Kalabina (RUS)/Pirazhenka (BLR)
Dec 10	Antalya (TUR)	\$10,000	V Kan (RUS)	A Vasylyeva (UKR)	63 75	De Sutter (BEL)/Stewart (USA)



Updated seven days a week, all the latest draws, results, schedules, tournament fact sheets and entry lists from ITF Men's & Women's Circuit events in Europe can be found on the [European Tennis Calendar](#).



## European Tennis Rankings – Men & Women

### European Women

Rank (WTA)	Name	Nat.	Points
1 (1)	▶ <b>Victoria AZARENKA</b>	BLR	10595
2 (2)	▶ <b>Maria SHARAPOVA</b>	RUS	10045
3 (4)	▶ <b>Agnieszka RADWANKSA</b>	POL	7425
4 (5)	▶ <b>Angelique KERBER</b>	GER	5550
5 (6)	▶ <b>Sara ERRANI</b>	ITA	5100
6 (8)	▶ <b>Petra KVITOVA</b>	CZE	5085
7 (10)	▶ <b>Caroline WOZNIACKI</b>	DEN	3765
8 (11)	▶ <b>Marion BARTOLI</b>	FRA	3740
9 (12)	▶ <b>Nadia PETROVA</b>	RUS	3040
10 (13)	▶ <b>Ana IVANOVIC</b>	SRB	2900
11 (14)	▶ <b>Maria KIRILENKO</b>	RUS	2540
12 (15)	▶ <b>Dominka CIBULKOVA</b>	SVK	2495
13 (16)	▶ <b>Roberta VINCI</b>	ITA	2475
14 (17)	▶ <b>Lucie SAFAROVA</b>	CZE	2125
15 (18)	▶ <b>Julia GOERGES</b>	GER	1965
16 (19)	▶ <b>Kaia KANEPI</b>	EST	1905
17 (20)	▶ <b>Ekaterina MAKAROVA</b>	RUS	1841
18 (22)	▶ <b>Jelena JANKOVIC</b>	SRB	1751
19 (23)	▶ <b>Yanina WICKMAYER</b>	BEL	1680
20 (27)	▶ <b>Sorana CIRSTEA</b>	ROU	1565

### European Men

Rank (ATP)	Name	Nat.	Points
1 (1)	▶ <b>Novak DJOKOVIC</b>	SRB	12920
2 (2)	▶ <b>Roger FEDERER</b>	SUI	10265
3 (3)	▶ <b>Andy MURRAY</b>	GBR	8000
4 (4)	▶ <b>Rafael NADAL</b>	ESP	6795
5 (5)	▶ <b>David FERRER</b>	ESP	6505
6 (6)	▶ <b>Tomas BERDYCH</b>	CZE	4680
7 (8)	▶ <b>Jo-Wilfried TSONGA</b>	FRA	3490
8 (9)	▶ <b>Janko TIPSAREVIC</b>	SRB	2990
9 (10)	▶ <b>Richard GASQUET</b>	FRA	2515
10 (11)	▶ <b>Nicolas ALMAGRO</b>	ESP	2515
11 (15)	▶ <b>Marin CILIC</b>	CRO	2210
12 (16)	▶ <b>Gilles SIMON</b>	FRA	2165
13 (17)	▶ <b>Stanislas WAWRINKA</b>	SUI	1900
14 (18)	▶ <b>Alexandr DOLGOPOLOV</b>	UKR	1855
15 (20)	▶ <b>Philipp KOHLSCREIBER</b>	GER	1770
16 (21)	▶ <b>Tommy HAAS</b>	GER	1695
17 (23)	▶ <b>Andreas SEPPI</b>	ITA	1560
18 (24)	▶ <b>Fernando VERDASCO</b>	ESP	1490
19 (25)	▶ <b>Mikhail YOUZHNY</b>	RUS	1335
20 (26)	▶ <b>Jerzy JANOWICZ</b>	POL	1299



Jerzy Janowicz (POL)



Roberta Vinci (ITA)



Andy Murray (GBR)

## Notes and news from Tennis Europe

**The staff of Tennis Europe wish our readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!**

The Tennis Europe offices in Basel will be closed for the holiday season from Saturday 22nd December and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January.

### 2013 Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting

National associations are reminded that entry forms and hotel reservations for the 2013 Annual General Meeting must be sent by Monday 22nd January. The Meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia, from 21st-24th March. Please direct any queries to Nadja Koran: [nadjak@tenniseurope.org](mailto:nadjak@tenniseurope.org).

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## HEADlines

### Secret Testing with Novak Djokovic

The world's top-ranked tennis player Novak Djokovic has completed his secret testing to try out the next generation of his racquet – with some really spectacular results.

Guarded by security staff and fully draped with black clothes Djokovic arrives at the court with a black suitcase, which is handcuffed to his wrist and labelled with a mysterious 'G' logo.

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### Successful year for HEAD racquets

HEAD Racquet Rebels Novak Djokovic, Maria Sharapova and Andy Murray have helped pace HEAD racquets to the top of an unofficial ATP list for success during the just-concluded 2012 season.

According to numbers crunched by The Tennis Space, the Australian Open title of world No. 1 Djokovic, the breakthrough win by Murray at the US Open plus the French Open trophy from Maria Sharapova gave the marque a solid hat-trick of success at the majors.

Read more: <http://www.head.com/tennis/news/?region=eu>







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