



Grand Slam Development Fund

ITF and Development in 2004 / 2005

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INTRODUCTION

The ITF Development Programme is funded by the ITF and the Grand Slam Development Fund. In 2004, US\$3,470,136 was spent on tennis development, with US\$2,195,679 being provided by the ITF and US\$1,274,457 by the Grand Slam nations, bringing the total funding to date since 1986 to just under US\$53million.

The following is a written report on the tennis development projects supported in 2004 and 2005. For further information on current activities please visit the new ITF Development Programme weblet on www.itftennis.com/development.

ITF FUNDED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Development Officers

There are currently 9 full-time Development Officers:

Amine Ben Makhlouf	Development Officer for West & Central Africa
Prince Madema	Development Officer for East Africa
Sami Sidia	Development Officer for Southern Africa
Suresh Menon	Development Officer for Central, South & East Asia
Karim Saadallah	Development Officer for West Asia
Dan O'Connell	Development Officer for Pacific Oceania
Miguel Miranda	Development Officer for South America
Gustavo Granitto	Development Officer for Central America & Caribbean
Hrvoje Zmajic	Development Officer for Europe

Their role is to advise and assist national associations on their tennis activities, conduct coaches courses and player training camps, coordinate regional competitions as well as talent scout and provide vital assessments of ITF funded initiatives across the globe. In 2004, the 9 Development Officers visited over 120 different countries and each spent on average 25 weeks on the road.



Coaches Education

One of their main areas of activity is coaches' education and it is encouraging to see an increasing number of ITF member nations working with the ITF to put in place their own certification programme. In 2004, 44 courses were held including 12 x Level 1 and 19 x Level 2 courses. One of the most memorable courses was the course that took place in Amman, Jordan in September 2004. Being unable to run a course in either Iraq or Palestine in the current political climate, the ITF with the help of the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) ran a Level I Course at the JTF national tennis centre in Amman and coaches from Palestine and Iraq travelled by road to attend the 9-day course which was conducted in Arabic by Moustapha Naim (Egypt).

In 2004, Regional Workshops were also held in each continent. Many of the coaches attending these events have already undertaken the Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches Courses and the Regional Workshops provide the chance for them to update their knowledge with presentations from top international speakers on the latest tennis coaching and sports science findings. One of the highlights was the 10th ITF South American Coaches Workshop organised in conjunction with COSAT and the Asociacion Paraguaya de Tenis, which saw more than 160 coaches from all over South America gather in Asunción for five days of presentations. Other Regional Workshops took place in the Dominican Republic, Malta, India and South Africa.

In addition to courses, coaches worldwide are now able to keep themselves informed by visiting the new ITF coaching weblet (www.itftennis.com/coaching), which was launched in July 2004. The weblet contains information on the ITF Coach Education programme, upcoming courses, access to the latest issue of Coaching & Sport Science Review and ITF publications as well as a resource centre with information on injury prevention, ethics, tennis academies etc.

ITF Equipment Distribution Programme (EDP)

Lack of access to basic tennis equipment is still a limiting factor in many ITF member nations trying to develop tennis. The ITF through its Equipment Distribution Programme provides ITF branded equipment (rackets, balls, strings), free of charge, for use by national associations. During 2004, 110 national associations benefited from the ITF Equipment Distribution Programme with the following quantities being distributed throughout the year:

- Rackets: 8497
- Mini-tennis bats: 12850
- Balls: 242,435 or 20,203 dozen
- Mini-tennis nets: 983
- Strings: 1427 x 200m reels
- Coaching books: 16,102



ITF Facility Grants

Like equipment, many national associations do not have their own national tennis centre and instead have to rent private facilities in order to conduct player training or competitions. Facility grants are available to help these national associations build their own centre. While being only a small percentage of the overall building cost, the ITF grant often acts as an endorsement and catalyst to enable associations to attract other funding whether from the government or private sector. In 2004, five national associations (Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Peru and the Seychelles) were awarded facility grants and started the important process of building their own headquarters. In May 2004, with the help of an ITF facility grant awarded in late 2003, the Oman Tennis Association completed a 4-court facility at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. Following the success of this facility, the Oman Tennis Association secured additional funding from the ministry to build a further 3 courts giving them a venue large enough to then go on and host for the first time the ITF Asian 13 & U Championships – Zone 4 (West Asia) in December 2004.

ITF Training Centres

The ITF continued to operate two Training Centres in 2004. Players from less developed tennis nations may attend on a full or part-time basis. Those attending on a full-time basis continue their schooling at local schools. Many of the players attending the ITF Centres are benefiting from ITF or Olympic Solidarity scholarships as a result of their performance at regional competitions.

The ITF / SATA African Training Centre is based in Pretoria, South Africa with players training at the High Performance Centre at the University of Pretoria while continuing their education at local schools. In 2004, 21 players attended the ITF Centre on a full-time basis with 37 players and 4 coaches attending on a part-time basis.

The ITF / OTF Pacific Oceania Regional Training Centre is based in Lautoka, Fiji. In 2004 there were 16 players from the region on full-time scholarships residing at the Centre.

The ITF Spanish Training Centre also continued to operate in 2004 with 25 players and coaches from 17 different nations attended the Centre on a short-term basis. The Centre is a high-level player training centre which has been open since July 2000 and which operates in Barcelona in conjunction with the Spanish and Catalan Tennis Federations.

Training Camps

Four ITF Junior Training Camps took place in 2004 as follows:

- 3 –12 January: North-East European Regional Training Camp - Estonia
- 22 – 30 March: East African Training Camp - Bujumbura, Burundi
- 22 – 23 June: Red Clay Camp for Central America & Caribbean region – Florida, USA
- 2 – 13 August: South East European Training Camp – Turkey



The camps are designed not only to provide the opportunity for some of the best players in the region to practice together, but also to educate and update the coaches from the region in high-level player training methods.

ITF School Tennis Initiative

Now operating in more than 80 countries, the ITF School Tennis Initiative gives children their first taste of tennis and since its inception in 1996 more than 3 million children have benefited from regular mini-tennis lessons and have taken part in local mini-tennis competitions through the STI programme.

A large proportion of competitors now taking part in ITF funded regional competitions and training camps have come through ITF funded School Tennis Initiative (STI) and Performance Tennis Initiative (PTI) programmes. PM Thar of Myanmar and B Munkhbaatar of Mongolia (winner and runner up respectively in the Asian Zone 2 event in Myanmar) are cases in point, highlighting that ITF grassroots programmes are starting to show results.

In the Pacific Oceania Region, the STI and PTI programmes are supported by ANZ Bank. In 1993 the original goal of the ANZ Bank mini-tennis programme was to give children a taste of tennis and at the same time to help coaches turn their hobby of teaching tennis into a career. Today the programme operates in 14 Pacific countries with 110 schools and 30,000 children taking part. Andrew Mailtorok of Vanuatu and Samuel Tesimu of Solomon Islands both started out playing in ANZ mini-tennis programmes and, having progressed through the ITF Training Centre in Fiji, are now studying in the USA on tennis scholarships.

African Junior Championships

The 28th ITF/CAT African Junior Championships took place on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius from 21st – 26th March 2005.

The Championships offers competition in 3 age groups – at the 14 & Under, 16 & Under and 18 & Under levels. In addition, two regional qualifying events, one for West/Central Africa and one for East/Southern Africa, took place earlier in the year. From these events, the best players were selected to join an ITF team, which also took part in the Championships. In total, there were 151 players from 27 different African countries.

The singles results were as follows:

	Winner	Finalist
Boys 18 & Under	Anas Fattar (MAR)	Kevin Kerr (RSA)
Boys 16 & Under	Rikus De Villiers (RSA)	Slah Mbarek (TUN)
Boys 14 & Under	James Munro (RSA)	Ramy Kamal Etah (EGY)
Girls 18 & Under	Ola Abu Zekri (EGY)	Magy Nader Aziz (EGY)



Girls 16 & Under	Fatim Zahra El Allami (MAR)	Chane Hines (RSA)
Girls 14 & Under	Yasmine Alkema (ALG)	Menna El Nagdy (EGY)

Players gained points for their country according to their placing, and the team with the highest aggregate won the Team Trophy. This was won by South Africa with Egypt and Morocco coming 2nd and 3rd respectively.

GRAND SLAM DEVELOPMENT FUND ACTIVITIES

Junior Circuits

In 2004, 25 regional junior events (18, 16 and 14 & U) took place across 5 continents with ITF or GSDF financial assistance as well as technical assistance from the ITF Development Officers. The competitions provide the opportunity for the players from each country to test themselves against the best in their region. The full list of circuits funding in 2004 is as follows:

- 3 – 13 January: West African 18 & U JWR Circuit – Ghana and Togo
- 5 – 13 January: Southern / East African Qualifying for African Junior Championships (14's & 16's) – Pretoria, South Africa
- 9 – 20 January: Asian Zone 2 14 & U Championships – Yangon, Myanmar
- 6 – 14 March: Small States 14 & U Championships 2004 – Luxembourg
- 21 Mar – 4 April: Asian Zone 1 14 & U Championships – Jakarta, Indonesia
- 6 – 10 April: ITF 18 & U JWR event (+ 16 and 14 & U events) / AJC Warm-up event Cairo, Egypt
- 12 – 17 April: 27th ITF / CAT African Junior Championship – Cairo, Egypt
- 28 Apr-8 May: ITF/Tennis Europe East European Development Champs, 16 & U Novisad, Serbia & Montenegro
- 5 – 15 May: ITF/Tennis Europe East European Development Champs, 14 & U Yerevan, Armenia
- 10 – 14 May: West Pacific Qualifying for POJC (14 and 18 & U) – Fiji
- 14 – 18 June: North Pacific Qualifying for POJC (14 and 18 & U) Northern Mariana Islands
- 17 – 30 June: ITF/CAT Southern Africa 13 & U circuit – South Africa
- 12 – 16 July: East Pacific Qualifying for POJC (14 and 18 & U) – American Samoa
- 3 – 19 August: South/Central Africa 18 & U JWR circuit – Lesotho, Botswana & Namibia
- 9 – 31 July: ITF/CAT West/Central Africa 13 & U circuit – Nigeria
- 9 – 15 August: JITIC Championships – Costa Rica
- 9 – 18 August: ITF/CAT East Africa 13 & U circuit – Burundi
- 17 – 21 August: Pacific Oceania Junior Championships (14 and 18 & U) – Fiji
- 22 – 26 August: Oceania Closed Junior Championships – Fiji
- 11 – 21 Sept: Asian Zone 3 (Central Asia) 13 & U Championships – Turkmenistan
- 18 – 23 October: Caribbean 14 & U Development Champs – Netherlands Antilles
- 2 – 6 November: Central American 14 & U Development Championships – Panama



- 30 Nov – 4 Dec: East African 18 & U JWR event – Kenya and Ethiopia
- 11 – 22 Dec: Asia Zone 4 (West Asia) 13 & U Championships – Oman
- 16 – 21 Dec: West African 14 and 16 & U qualifying event for AJC - Ghana

In Asia, 2004 started with the ITF 14 & Under Asian Championships (Zone 2) which was hosted by the Myanmar Tennis Federation (TFM) in January. The two-week event was not only the first ITF event to be organised by the TFM but also the first international tennis event to be held in the country for 30 years. The Championships attracted a great deal of support from the government and teams from Bhutan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated.

In Africa, events are organised at the 13 & Under level in Southern, East, West and Central Africa. Three-day training camps are followed by 2 tournaments using feed-in consolation, giving competitors the maximum possible matches and the chance for accompanying national coaches to work together and exchange ideas. The events also give the chance for ITF Development Officers to gauge the level of play and talented players are often offered the chance to attend an ITF Training Camp, awarded a scholarship to attend an ITF Training Centre or receive a GSDF travel grant to go on and play more events outside their region.

ITF / GSDF Touring Teams

Based on performances at regional junior circuits, players have the opportunity to win a place on an ITF Touring Team to play higher-level events outside their region, with the ITF coach and expenses during the tour financed by the Development Programme.

The ITF Touring Team programme is probably the ITF's most well known development initiative. Paradorn Srichaphan (Thailand), Gustavo Kuerten (Brazil), MarcoS Baghdatis (Cyprus), Cara Black (Zimbabwe), Eleni Daniilidou (Greece) and Olympic Gold medallist Nicolas Massu (Chile) have all been ITF Touring Team members in the past. In 2004 there were 17 x ITF Touring Teams involving 151 players from 71 different countries.

The flagship Team is undoubtedly the ITF 18 & Under Team which plays an 8-week series of Grade 1 and Grade A events including junior Roland Garros and junior Wimbledon. In 2004, the team consisted of 18 players from 15 different countries but despite the diversity of nations, the Team was to be dominated by the performances of one region – the girls from Eastern Europe. Madalina Gojnea of Romania was a finalist at Roland Garros while at Wimbledon, Katerina Bondarenko of Ukraine won the singles title with the Belarussian duo of Viktoria Azarenka and Volha Havartsova winning the doubles event, making it an impressive four doubles titles during their 8-week tour.

In 2005, Raluca Olaru of Romania was the star of the ITF 18 & Under Team winning the girl's singles title at the Astrid Bowl and reaching two other singles finals at Milan and Roland Garros. On the boys' side, Ryan Sweeting of Bahamas had some good results reaching the singles semi-finals in Santa Croce, Milan and Roehampton. He then went



on to win the US Open Juniors event as a member of the ITF 18 & Under Team to North America, bringing the Bahamas their first ever Junior Grand Slam title.

Travel Grants

GSDF Grants are awarded based on applications received from developing nations, which are considered by the Grand Slam Development Fund Committee, with input from the relevant ITF Departments (Professional Tennis or Juniors) as well as feedback from the ITF Development Officers. Grant are also awarded as a form of follow-up assistance to players that have performed well at ITF junior circuits. In 2004 travel grants were provided to 57 players from 27 countries to play a specific programme of tournaments.

Professional Tournaments

The Fund continues to provide prize-money grants to assist less developed tennis nations with the hosting of entry-level professional events for men and women, to help provide competitive opportunities throughout the world. In 2004, the Fund provided grants for 49 weeks of men's professional events (ITF Satellites and Futures) and 31 weeks of ITF Women's circuit events.

In addition to international professional events, 9 weeks of ITF / CAT Prize money Circuit events were funded in Africa. GSDF prize money grants of \$2,500 were awarded to each host nation, which had to contribute a minimum of \$2,000 to the total prize-money. These events are open solely to African players (juniors and seniors alike) and aim to provide additional competitive opportunities to the continent. In 2004, the following events took place as part of the ITF / CAT African Prize-Money Circuit:

ITF / CAT African Prize-Money Circuit 2004		
Date	Region	Event
12 – 15 February	West Africa 1	Senegal
16 – 23 February	West Africa 1	Mali
11 – 14 March	East Africa 1	Sudan
18 – 21 March	East Africa 1	Ethiopia
25 – 28 March	East Africa 1	Kenya
21 – 25 July	East Africa 2	Burundi
28 July – 1 August	East Africa 2	Rwanda
4 – 8 August	East Africa 2	Uganda
15 – 18 Dec	West Africa 2	Benin

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

Finally it is important to acknowledge the continued support the ITF and its member nations receive from Olympic Solidarity (OS). OS is the part of the International Olympic Committee that distributes television income from the Olympic Games to National Olympic Committees and since the reintroduction of tennis into the Olympic family at



Seoul in 1988, the ITF, through the Development Department, has collaborated closely with OS on a variety of programmes designed to grow tennis around the world.

Over the last four years, a total of 22 players from 20 countries have benefited from OS Training Scholarships in preparation for the Athens and Beijing Games, including former ITF Team-member and 2003 ITF Junior World Champion Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus.

Athens Scholarships Holders:

- 1 Kaia KANEPI (EST)
- 2 Neyssa ETIENNE (HAI)
- 3 Angelique WIDJAJA (INA)
- 4 Gilles MULLER (LUX)
- 5 Sekou DRAME (MLI)
- 6 Yen-Hsun LU (TPE)
- 7 Martin VILLARUBI (URU)
- 8 Marcel FELDER (URU)

Elite Young Athletes Programme (Beijing):

- 1 Arnaud SEGODO (BEN) *
- 2 Todor ENEV (BUL) *
- 3 GAO Quan (CHN) *
- 4 CHEN Yan Chong (CHN) *
- 5 Marcos BAGDATIS (CYP)
- 6 Michael PRZYSIEZNY (POL)
- 7 Adrian CRUCIAT (ROM) *
- 8 Komlavi LOGLO (TOG) *
- 9 José Roberto MONCADA (HON)
- 10 Andri JONSSON (ISL)
- 11 Jelena JANKOVIC (SCG)
- 12 Jean-Max KEZZA (CAF)
- 13 Heithem ABID (TUN)
- 14 Aziza BUTOYI (BDI)

* These players attended the ITF Spanish Training Centre in Barcelona, Spain.

Coaches' education (via technical course grants) is also a key area of activity and during the period 2001 – 2004, 50% of the 200 coaches' courses organised by the ITF have been funded through Olympic Solidarity.

In 2005, in addition to technical course grants, OS has provided Olympic Scholarships to the following 6 coaches (nominated by their National Association and approved by the NOC and the ITF) to enable them to undergo in Spain a 3-month intensive course of high-level training, practical experience and theoretical study:



- Kevin Yarde (Barbados)
- Elena Mitrofanova (Uzbekistan)
- George Oyoo (Kenya)
- Noah Bukari (Ghana)
- Juan Antonio Pino Perez (Cuba)
- Rodrigo Vallejo (Dominican Republic)

For further information on opportunities available through Olympic Solidarity, please refer to the ITF Coaches Education brochure or contact your National Olympic Committee.