

The News Bulletin of the  
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## Special Edition

### Federer, Henin-Hardenne named 2006 ITF World Champions

The ITF announced that **Roger Federer (SUI)** and **Justine Henin-Hardenne (BEL)** are the 2006 ITF World Champions.

Federer becomes only the fourth player to be named Men's World Champion for three consecutive years, following Bjorn Borg, Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras. The 25-year-old reached all four Grand Slam finals in 2006, winning three titles, the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open. He posted an overall 92-5 win-loss record, and became the first player to earn over \$8 million in annual prize money. Federer also helped Switzerland retain its place in the World Group of Davis Cup by BNP Paribas.

Federer said: "I am honoured to be ITF World Champion for the third year in a row. It was a great year for me, finishing again as the world No. 1, winning 12 titles including three Grand Slams and reaching my first final at Roland Garros. The ITF Dinner in Paris is always a good evening and will give me another chance to celebrate my successful 2006 with the other World Champions and my friends in the tennis family."



Roger Federer (SUI)  
(Photo: Paul Zimmer)

Henin-Hardenne narrowly edges out Amelie Mauresmo to become Women's World Champion for the second time, having previously received the honour in 2003. In a season interrupted by illness and injury, the 24-year old reached all four Grand Slam finals, capturing the title at Roland Garros, and went on to win the season-ending championships. She captured a tour-high six titles for the year and also helped Belgium reach the final of the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas.



Justine Henin-Hardenne (BEL)  
(Photo: Paul Zimmer)

Henin-Hardenne said: "I would like to thank the ITF for this recognition, which is a great honour. Tennis is played throughout the year, and to finish number one demonstrates a consistency and the ability to perform at high levels for the whole season. This is an accomplishment that I am extremely proud of."

The ITF's selection of its World Champions is based on an objective system that considers not only performances at the Grand Slams, on the respective tours and at the season-ending events, but also gives weight to performances in the two ITF international team competitions, Davis Cup by BNP Paribas and Fed Cup by BNP Paribas.

ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti said: "Roger Federer was again the clear choice for ITF World Champion after another extraordinary season. In an extremely close women's contest, Justine Henin-Hardenne's overall consistency at the year's major events saw her emerge as champion."

The ITF also announced that **Bob and Mike Bryan (USA)**, and **Lisa Raymond (USA)** and **Samantha Stosur (AUS)** are the 2006 ITF Doubles World Champions.

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## ITF World Champions (cont. from page 1)

The Bryans are Men's Doubles World Champions for a record fourth successive year. The pairing won the Australian Open and Wimbledon for the first time to complete a career Grand Slam, and were also runners-up at Roland Garros. They won seven titles overall during the year, and were unbeaten for USA in Davis Cup by BNP Paribas.

Raymond and Stosur are Women's Doubles World Champions for the second successive year having only teamed up for the first time in July 2005. The duo won ten events during the year, including their second Grand Slam title at Roland Garros and the season-ending championships. They were also runners-up at the Australian Open.

**Thiemo de Bakker (NED)** and **Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)** are the 2006 ITF Junior World Champions.

De Bakker, 18, is the first ever Dutch player to be named Boys' World Champion. Despite only playing only nine events during the first half of the year, he captured six singles titles, including his first Grand Slam success at Wimbledon and the Grade A Casablanca Cup. He was also a semifinalist at Roland Garros and had an overall win-loss record of 42-3.

Pavlyuchenkova dominated the ITF Junior Circuit to become Girls' World Champion. The 15-year-old captured Grand Slam singles titles at the Australian Open and US Open, and was a finalist at Roland Garros. She also reached the doubles final at all four Slams, winning titles at the Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon. She won a total of six singles and four doubles titles during the year.

The ITF Wheelchair World Champions are **Robin Ammerlaan (NED)** and **Esther Vergeer (NED)**. This is the fourth time that both wheelchair honours have gone to the Netherlands.

Ammerlaan becomes Men's Wheelchair World Champion for the first time after finishing as world No. 2 for three straight years from 2002-2004. The 38-year-old edged out Shingo Kunieda for the year-end No. 1 ranking after defeating the Japanese player in the final of the year-end NEC Masters. He captured nine singles and eight doubles titles overall.

Twenty-five-year-old Vergeer finishes 2006 as Women's Wheelchair World Champion for a remarkable seventh consecutive year. She extended her singles winning streak to 236 straight matches, having remained unbeaten since January 2003. During the year she collected 18 singles titles, posting a 64-0 win-loss record, and 16 doubles titles.

ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti said: "I want to extend my congratulations to all the ITF World Champions. The year has seen some memorable performances by some of the game's leading athletes, and we are proud to name them as our world champions.

The ITF World Champions will receive their awards at the annual ITF World Champions Dinner on Tuesday 5 June 2007, in Paris, during Roland Garros.

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