



THIS WEEK

The News Bulletin of the International Tennis Federation
www.itftennis.com

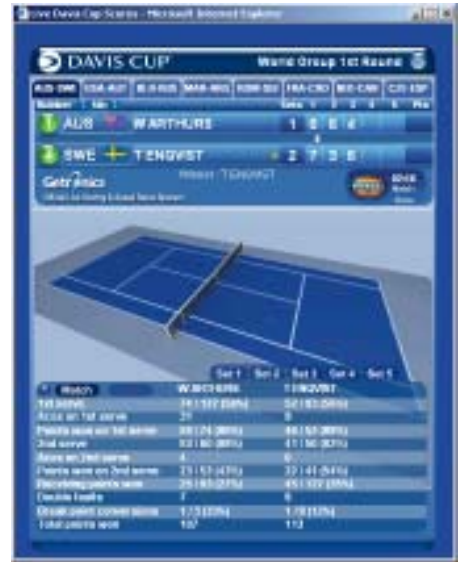
Davis Cup website enjoys record popularity

Daviscup.com, the Official Website of the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas, registered a record number of hits over the World Group first round weekend of 6-8 February, continuing the strong start to the year enjoyed by all the ITF's websites.

Daviscup.com hosted 533,261 visitor sessions over the weekend, which represented an increase of over 50% on the previous record for a Davis Cup weekend, set in September last year on the World Group Semifinals and Play-offs weekend. There were also nearly 2.8 million page views over the recent weekend, another record since the website was taken in-house at the start of 2003. In total, there were over 10.5 million page views and over 2.5 million visits to Daviscup.com last year.

"We are very pleased with the continued growth that the Davis Cup website is showing," said Mat Pemble, the ITF's Manager of Information and Communications Technology.

"We will be continuing to add new features to the site in the coming months, as we did for the first round with the launch of the new and improved Live Scoreboard, sponsored by Getronics."



The new live-scoring module on www.daviscup.com

Daviscup.tv, the Official Broadband Service of the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas, also enjoyed a huge increase in registered users with over 1,340 people registering during the week of 3-9 February alone, bringing the current total to over 3,500. Highlights of this year's World Group ties can be seen throughout 2004 on the site by purchasing a season ticket for the year for only US\$10, while 2003 highlights are available free of charge.

Getronics to make donation

The ITF is pleased to announce that the \$1,700 donation it is to receive from Getronics, as a result of Andy Roddick breaking the speed serve record and 700 aces being served in the Davis Cup World Group first round, will be given to the ITF Equipment Distribution Programme. This provides basic ITF branded tennis equipment free of charge to assist National Associations with their development programmes (via a US\$ credit system).

During 2003, the Programme distributed equipment to over 100 countries. The \$1,700 could provide an extra 188 aluminium rackets or mini-tennis nets to the programme (at \$9 each), or an extra 850 mini-tennis bats at \$2 each. As part of their Speed Serve Competition, which will reward the player with the fastest serve in Davis Cup World Group play this year, Getronics (the official ICT Sponsor of Davis Cup) has agreed to donate \$1,000 each time the world record is broken in 2004, and \$1 for every ace served in the World Group in 2004.

Meanwhile the ITF's family of websites that operate under the www.itftennis.com portal has also been enjoying high visitor numbers in 2004. The sites received over 4 million page views in January alone, with numbers peaking during the Australian Open, when www.itftennis.com and the Juniors site (www.itftennis.com/juniors) carried daily reports from Melbourne Park. The Juniors site received over 9,000 visits on one day alone during the fortnight.

New weblets have been launched for several of the ITF's divisions, including the Men's, Women's, Juniors and Vets, giving them a consistent look and feel and adding to their content. Next to join this list will be the Olympics and Development weblets, so look out for these in the coming weeks.

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activities

ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti travels to Lausanne, Switzerland, on 18 February to attend various meetings at the International Olympic Committee.

ATP announces new title sponsor

The ATP has announced a three-year premier global partnership agreement with INDESIT by Merloni Elettrodomestici, one of the largest household appliance producers in Europe. Under the partnership INDESIT becomes the title sponsor of the ATP Entry Ranking and the ATP Champions Race, which has been renamed the INDESIT ATP Race.



In a week in which the ATP announced a three-year sponsorship agreement with INDESIT by Merloni Elettrodomestici, the 2003 year-end ATP World No. 1 Andy Roddick closed the gap on the INDESIT ATP 2003 Race leaders after winning his first title of the year in San Jose. Roddick is now just one point behind Juan Carlos Ferrero in fourth place. A player's ATP Champions Race position is based on points received from the four Grand Slams, nine Tennis Masters Series tournaments, and his best five results from International Series events. The top seven players in the Race automatically qualify for the eight-player 2004 Tennis Masters Cup in Houston, which is co-owned by the ITF, Grand Slams and ATP.



LEADER BOARD

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	FEDERER, Roger (SUI)	200
2nd	SAFIN, Marat (RUS)	140
3rd	AGASSI, Andre (USA)	105
4th	FERRERO, Juan Carlos (ESP)	91
5th	RODDICK, Andy (USA)	90
6th	HRBATY, Dominik (SVK)	88
7th	ESCUDE, Nicolas (FRA)	68
8th	HEWITT, Lleyton (AUS)	65
9th	GROSJEAN, Sebastien (FRA)	62
10th	MOYA, Carlos (ESP)	59



PORSCHE
RACE TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The WTA rankings are a 52-week cumulative system in which the number of tournament results that comprise a player's ranking is capped at 17 tournament results for singles and 11 tournament results for doubles. The WTA season culminates each year at the season-ending Porsche Race to the Championships.

LEADER BOARD

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	HENIN-HARDENNE, Justine (BEL)	1286
2nd	CLIJSTERS, Kim (BEL)	910
3rd	DAVENPORT, Lindsay (USA)	799
4th	SCHNYDER, Patty (SUI)	468
5th	MAURESMO, Amelie (FRA)	442
6th	MALEEVA, Magdalena (BUL)	385
7th	MYSKINA, Anastasia (RUS)	381
8th	ZULUAGA, Fabiola (COL)	360
9th	SAFINA, Dinara (RUS)	357
10th	RUBIN, Chanda (USA)	347

ITF Technical Centre holds media briefing day

The ITF Technical department held a media briefing day on Thursday 12 February to inform members of the media about the ongoing research and product-testing projects undertaken by the ITF Technical Centre, and to address some of the technical issues that have attracted media attention in recent months.

The ITF's Technical Manager Dr. Stuart Miller opened the day with presentations on the Technical Centre's core responsibilities - ball approval, court surface classification, and racket and string testing.

All tennis balls used in tournament play must be approved by the ITF, and are subjected to a number of tests in the ITF's in-house technical laboratory. In 2003, 195 brands submitted by manufacturers were approved, and a total of 6,000 balls were tested.

The Technical Centre is also monitoring racket performance using a purpose-built test device, which simulates a serve at speeds up to 155mph. Strings and stringing systems are also being tested, to establish how they influence the spin generated on the ball. Software that determines the combined effects of equipment on the nature of tennis was also presented.



Media on a guided tour of the ITF Technical Laboratory
(Photo: ITF)

Following the opening presentations, there was the opportunity for members of the media to go on a guided tour of the technical laboratory and see some of the ITF's testing machinery in action.



The ITF Sports Shoe Tester
(Photo: ITF)

As part of a research project into the 'dynamic' characteristics of tennis balls, a wind tunnel was recently relocated from Sheffield University to the ITF's technical laboratory. Dr Miller and Project Technologist Jamie Capel-Davies demonstrated the use of the wind tunnel and its role in understanding how different tennis balls move through the air at varying speeds and spins. The racket power machine - used to understand the performance characteristics of tennis rackets - was also demonstrated, as was the equipment used for ball testing, court surface classification and tennis shoe testing.

Following the tour of the laboratory, the briefing was concluded with presentations and discussions on line-calling systems, performance standards for court surfaces, shoe/surface interaction as well as the recent ITF Tennis Science and Technology Congress and the ITF Sports Medical Commission.

Following the success of this inaugural media briefing day, the ITF plans to invite similar seminar-sized media groups to Roehampton in coming months to address other relevant issues facing the game.

For further information on the work of the ITF Technical Centre please contact the ITF Technical Department on +44 20 8878 6464 or email: technical@itftennis.com.



Davis Cup by BNP Paribas first round ties enjoy promising TV figures

The eight first round ties of the 2004 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas World Group competition that took place on 7-9 February attracted impressive television audience figures from around the world.

The ITF television department secured coverage of the competition in 15 of the 16 World Group nations, and the selected "feature" tie - Czech Republic v Spain - was distributed across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

The Spanish public service broadcaster, TVE, registered some 1.5 million viewers during the fifth and deciding rubber between Radek Stepanek and Rafael Nadal in the Spain v Czech Republic tie, and averaged over one million viewers for the three days.

Australian broadcaster Channel 7 attracted particularly impressive audience figures during its coverage of the Australia v Sweden tie in Adelaide. The crucial doubles rubber on Saturday between Wayne Arthurs/Todd Woodbridge and Jonas Bjorkman/Joachim Johansson attracted a 64% market share in Melbourne and 56% in Sydney.

Netherlands host broadcaster NOS also gained a very healthy 59.7% market share during its highlights transmission of the Netherlands v Canada tie on the Sunday.

Viewership of this round of the competition was not solely restricted to World Group action, with the ITF also securing promising coverage for the Zonal groups. TVN in Chile welcomed a 30% market share average during its coverage of the Peru v Chile Americas Zone Group I tie, and commanded as much as 47.7% of the market during Saturday's doubles rubber.

A Davis Cup highlights programme, produced by TWI for the first time, was also sold to 16 broadcasters, and sports magazine programmes TransWorld Sport and Gillette World Sports Special included Davis Cup material in their programming.

2004 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas World Group First Round Broadcasters

Australia v Sweden	Channel 7	SVT, Tennis Channel
USA v Austria	ESPN	ORF (highlights), BSKyB
Belarus v Russia	ONT	NTV Plus, Tennis Channel
Morocco v Argentina	RTM	TyC Sports
Romania v Switzerland	RTV	SRG SSR, Tennis Channel
France v Croatia	France TV	HRT
Netherlands v Canada	NOS	n/a
Czech Republic v Spain	Czech TV	TVE, TTC, Solar, Starhub, ART, Sport TV

Venues for Davis Cup Quarterfinals

The venues for the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas World Group quarterfinals will be announced by the ITF the week commencing 23 February.

The four quarterfinal ties are USA v Sweden, Belarus v Argentina, Switzerland v France and Netherlands v Spain.

Wheelchair Tennis

Hall and Vergeer clean up at Melbourne Park

The Australian Wheelchair Tennis Open, the first Super Series event of the 2004 NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, came to a memorable conclusion at Melbourne Park on Sunday with current ITF World Champions David Hall (AUS) and Esther Vergeer (NED) scooping the men's and women's titles. Peter Norfolk (GBR) continued his dominance at the top of the world Quad rankings to win the quad singles title.

For eight of the world's top ranked men's and women's players, the 2004 NEC Tour began at Melbourne Park two weeks earlier in the Wheelchair Classic 8's at the Australian Open, the only wheelchair tournament to run alongside a mainstream Grand Slam. Hall and Vergeer began the year by winning the men's and women's Singles before the NEC Tour moved on to the Sydney International Open, the first Championship Series 1 event of the year.

With many players seeking to improve their rankings before April to meet qualification criteria for the 2004 Athens Paralympics, the Sydney tournament received huge entries. However, the world's top two ranked players still won through to the respective men's and women's singles finals. In the women's final World No. 1 Vergeer avenged her only defeat in three and a half years, inflicted by Daniela Di Toro (AUS) during the 2003 Sydney International, to beat the Australian 62 63. After a titanic three-set battle, Ammerlaan secured a 36 75 75 win over Hall to not only reclaim the Sydney men's title, but also displace Hall as World No. 1 in the rankings. Norfolk won the first quad title of the year to reinforce his World No. 1 ranking.

At this year's Australian Open, expectations of another Ammerlaan-Hall men's final and another Vergeer-Di Toro women's final were ruined in the semifinals. Fourth seed Martin Legner (AUT) upset the script in the men's event, coming from behind to overhaul Ammerlaan in the semifinals and go on to meet Hall in the final for the third time in six years. In the women's singles, third seed Sonja Peters (NED) defeated Di Toro 76(10) 36 60 in the semifinals to book a final against Vergeer.

In the finals neither Legner nor Peters could find the answers to the top seeds as Hall defeated Legner 61 61 to take the men's title and Vergeer eased past Peters 61 63 in the women's singles final. Norfolk defeated second seed David Wagner (USA) 62 62 in the final of the quad dingles to complete a hat-trick of Super Series titles after winning the British and US Opens, the last two Super Series events of 2003.

ITF Junior Rankings

Boys' Combined Rollover Ranking

1.	Gael Monfils (FRA)	985.00
2.	Sebastian Rieschick (GER)	810.00
3.	Brendan Evans (USA)	722.50
4.	Mihail Zverev (GER)	707.50
5.	Karan Rastogi (IND)	678.75
6.	Andrew Murray (GBR)	670.00
7.	Alex Kuznetsov (USA)	630.00
8.	Scott Oudsema (USA)	592.75
9.	Kamil Capkovic (SVK)	588.75
10=	Jamie Baker (GBR)	586.25
10=	Guillermo Alcaide-Justell (ESP)	586.25

Girls' Combined Rollover Ranking

1.	Kirsten Flipkens (BEL)	1430.00
2.	Michaella Krajicek (NED)	1072.75
3.	Shahar Peer (ISR)	995.00
4.	Alisa Kleybanova (RUS)	970.00
5.	Nicole Vaidisova (CZE)	852.50
6.	Emma Laine (FIN)	822.50
7.	Katerina Bondarenko (UKR)	791.25
8.	Veronika Chvojkova (CZE)	786.25
9.	Andrea Hlavackova (CZE)	775.00
10.	Yung-Jan Chan (TPE)	747.50

development events

9-21 February

OS Senegal Level II Coaches Course,
Dakar

9 February - 21 March

Central American and Caribbean team to
COSAT Circuit

28 February - 8 March

OS Cambodia Level I Coaches Course,
Phnom-Penh

Results w/c 9 February 2004

ITF Men's Circuit

SPAIN F2 FUTURES, ALGUEZARES (MURCIA) (ESP) (\$10,000)

Singles

Nico Almagro-Sanchez (ESP) d. Gabriel Moraru (ROM) 36 64 63

Doubles

Nico Almagro-Sanchez/Roberto Menendez-Ferre (ESP) d. Marc Fornell-Mestres/Marcel Granollers-Pujol (ESP) 75 64

GREAT BRITAIN 1 (WEEK 1) (GBR) (\$50,000)

Singles

Marcus Sarstrand (SWE) d. Tom Burn (GBR) 64 64

Doubles

Mark Hilton/Jonathan Marray (GBR) d. James Auckland (GBR)/W.P. Meyer (RSA) 76(4) 75

SWITZERLAND 1 (WEEK 1), OBERENTFELDEN (SUI) (\$25,000)

Singles

Tobias Summerer (GER) d. Dieter Kindlmann (GER) 62 22 ret

Doubles

Alexander Flock (GER)/Frederik Nielsen (DEN) d. David Novak/Martin Vacek (CZE) 76(6) 46 76(5)

ITF Women's Circuit

\$10,000 ALBUFEIRA (POR)

Singles

Monica Niculescu (ROM) d. Irina Kotkina (RUS) 61 36 60

Doubles

Zuzana Cerna/Vladmira Uhlirova (CZE) d. Kildine Chevalier (FRA)/Frederica Piedade (POR) 67(4) 64 75

\$10,000 MALLORCA (ESP)

Singles

Laura Pous-Tio (ESP) d. Ana Timotic (SCG) 46 63 60

Doubles

Rosa-Maria Andres-Rodriguez (ESP)/Ana Timotic (SCG) d. Lourdes Dominguez-Lino/Laura Pous-Tio (ESP) 36 64 64

\$25,000 SUNDERLAND (GBR)

Singles

Kaia Kanepi (EST) d. Anna Chakvetadze (RUS) 76(5) 60

ITF Women's Circuit continued

Doubles

Claire Curran (IRL)/Kim Kilsdonk (NED) d. Helen Crook (GBR)/Martina Muller (GER) 64 36 63

\$25,000 WARSAW (POL)

Singles

Marta Domachowska (POL) d. Angelique Kerber (GER) 76(5) 36 63

Doubles

Klaudia Jans/Alicia Rosolska (POL) d. Zsafia Gubacsi/Kyra Nagy (HUN) 64 63

\$75,000 MIDLAND, MI (USA)

Singles

Jill Craybas (USA) d. Nicole Vaidisova (CZE) 62 64

Doubles

Sofia Arvidsson/Asa Svensson (SWE) d. Allison Baker/Tara Snyder (USA) 76(5) 62

ITF Junior Circuit

LAPAZ, BOLIVIA, GRADE 2

Boys Singles

Franco Skugor (CRO) d. Mykyta Kryvonos (USA) 64 62

Girls Singles

Florencia Molinero (ARG) d. Teodora Mircic (SCG) 61 76(1)

Boys Doubles

Celso Ribeiro/Rodrigo Starling (BRA) d. Ante Nakic-Alfirevic/Franco Skugor (CRO) w/o

Girls Doubles

Maria-Fernanda Alvarez (BOL)/Elizabeth Brito (ESA) d. Florencia Molinero (ARG)/Agnese Szatmari (ROM) 61 62

CHANDIGARH, INDIA, GRADE 3

Boys Singles

Navdeep Singh (IND) d. Jeevan Nedunchezhiya (IND) 62 06 64

Girls Singles

Pichitra Thongdach (THA) d. I-Hsuan Hwang (TPE) 63 61

Boys Doubles

Jeevan Nedunchezhiya/Navdeep Singh (IND) d. Sumit Prakash Gupta/Rupesh Roy (IND) 61 46 64

Girls Doubles

Pichitra Thongdach (THA)/Yanina Wickmayer (BEL) d. Iana Nemerovski (ISR)/Jung-Yoon Shin (KOR) 63 61

ITF Junior Circuit continued

FRYDLANT NAD OSTRAVICI, CZECH REPUBLIC, GRADE 4

Boys Singles

Jan Marek (CZE) d. Mateusz Kowalczyk (POL) 64 62

Girls Singles

Jana Juricova (SVK) d. Hannah Grady (GBR) 63 63

Boys Doubles

David Klier (GER)/Jiri Pechr (CZE) d. Mateusz Kowalczyk/Dawid Piatkowski (POL) 26 75 63

Girls Doubles

Hana Birnerova/Veronika Dostalova (CZE) d. Paulina Glosova/Lenka Svobodova (CZE) 60 76(2)

RUNGSTED KYST, DENMARK, GRADE 4

Boys Singles

Leander Van Der Vaart (NED) d. Martin Pedersen (DEN) 62 76

Girls Singles

Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) d. Gluay Kampookaew (DEN) 75 64

Boys Doubles

Martin Pedersen/Joakim-Bay Simonsen (DEN) d. Christian Bergh/Fredrik Sletting Johnsen (NOR) 75 64

Girls Doubles

Hanne Skak Jensen/Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) d. Nadja Laas Hansen/Gluay Kampookaew (DEN) 64 61

ITF Wheelchair Circuit

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, SUPER SERIES

Men Singles

David Hall (AUS) d. Martin Legner (AUT) 61 61

Women Singles

Esther Vergeer (NED) d. Sonja Peters (NED) 61 63

Quad Singles

Peter Norfolk (GBR) d. David Wagner (USA) 62 62

Women Doubles

Maaikje Smit/Esther Vergeer (NED) d. Sharon Clark (USA)/Sonja Peters (NED) 63 62

Quad Doubles

Mark Eccleston (GBR)/David Wagner (USA) d. Roy Humphreys/Peter Norfolk (GBR) 75 76(4)

This Week Next Week

Events week commencing 16 February 2004

MENS	Spain F3 Futures	San Javier (Murica)	\$10,000	+34 968 57 31 05
	Great Britain 1 (Week 2)	Redbridge	\$12,500	+44 (0) 208 498 1000
	Canada F1 Futures	Calgary	\$15,000	+1 403 289 5511
	Croatia F1 Futures	Zagreb	\$15,000	+385 1 65 24 299
	USA F4 Futures	Brownsville, TX	\$15,000	+1 956 547 8326
	Switzerland 1 (Week 2)	Leuggern	\$6,250	+41 56 269 10 40
	Australia 1 (Week 3)	Gosford	\$6,250+H	+61 2 43 25 29 21
WOMENS	Italy	Capriolo	\$10,000	
	Portugal	Portimao	\$10,000	
	Spain	Mallorca	\$10,000	
	Great Britain	Redbridge	\$25,000	
	USA	Columbus, OH	\$25,000	
VETS	Mexico	Mexico City	Category 4	+52 55 5663 2995
JUNIORS	Chile	Santiago	Grade 2	+56-2 212 9451
	Chinese Taipei	Kaohsiung	Grade 4	+886-7 397 7367
	Finland	Helsinki	Grade 4	+358-9 3417130
	Netherlands	Almere	Grade 4	+31-36 5336736
	New Zealand	Christchurch	Grade 4	+64-3 389 6484
	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Grade 5	+94 75 334 062

Events week commencing 23 February 2004

MENS	Spain F4 Futures	Cartagena (Murcia)	\$10,000	+34 968 50 17 67
	India F1A Futures	New Delhi	\$10,000+H	+91 11 261 761 40
	Great Britain 1 (Week 3)	Southampton	\$12,500	+44 2380 747 160
	Canada F2 Futures	Edmonton	\$15,000	+1 780 492 2222
	Croatia F2 Futures	Zagreb	\$15,000	+385 1 34 90 430
	Nigeria F1 Futures	Benin City	\$15,000	+234 803 309 1982
	USA F5 Futures	Harlingen, TX	\$15,000	+1 956 412 4120
	Israel 1 (Week 1)	Ramat Hasharon	\$6,250	+972 3 645 66 13
	Switzerland 1 (Week 3)	Wilten	\$6,250	+41 71 923 45 90
	Australia 1 (Week 4)	Cessnock	\$6,250+H	+61 2 49 90 15 97
	WOMENS	Nigeria	Benin City	\$10,000
Spain		Gran Canaria	\$10,000	
Australia		Bendigo	\$25,000	+61 3 5442 5744
USA		St Paul, MN	\$50,000	
VETS	South Africa	Johannesburg	Category 2	+27 11 616 0308/9
JUNIORS	Germany	Nurnberg	Grade 2	+49-911 618 404
	Uruguay	Montevideo	Grade 2	+598 2 600 4312
	Malaysia	Sarawak	Grade 3	+60-82 427 118
	Australia	South Australia	Grade 4	+61-3 9286 1177
	Norway	Oslo	Grade 4	+47-2 3379090
WHEELCHAIR	Switzerland	Sion	Champ. Series 4	+41 27 346 1929
	Chinese Taipei	Taipei	CS4	+ 886 2 2308 9183