

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



DAVIS CUP
by BNP PARIBAS

Spain begins title defence in Benidorm

Spain will begin the defence of its Davis Cup by BNP Paribas title in the coastal town of Benidorm when the first round of the 2009 World Group takes place on 6-8 March. USA has chosen Birmingham, Alabama as the venue for its eagerly anticipated clash with Switzerland, while 2008 runner-up Argentina returns to Parque Roca and a clay court in Buenos Aires for its first round contest against Netherlands.

Meanwhile Albert Costa and Modesto Vazquez have been confirmed as the new Spanish and Argentine Davis Cup captains respectively. Costa, a former Roland Garros champion, was a member of Spain's first-ever title winning team in 2000; while Vazquez, the Argentine Tennis Federation's development director, played two Davis Cup ties in 1968 and 1970.



Spain's 2008 winning team
(Photo: Sergio Llamera)

The list of proposed venues for the 2009 World Group first round ties are as follows. All venues are subject to a successful site visit and final confirmation by the ITF:

Argentina v Netherlands	Parque Roca, Buenos Aires	Clay (outdoors)
Czech Republic v France	CEZ Arena, Ostrava	Carpet (indoors)
USA v Switzerland	Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Arena, Birmingham, AL	Hard (indoors)
Croatia v Chile	Visenamjenska Sportska Dvorana Zatika, Porec	Surface tbc (indoors)
Sweden v Israel	The Baltic Hall, Malmo	Carpet (indoors)
Romania v Russia	Information due on Tuesday 23 December	
Germany v Austria	Olympia Eissportzentrum, Garmisch-Partenkirchen	Hard (indoors)
Spain v Serbia	Parque Tematico Tierra Mitica, Benidorm	Clay (outdoors)

France faces Chinese Taipei in Hopman Cup opener

France will take on Asian Hopman Cup winners Chinese Taipei in the opening match of the 2009 Hyundai Hopman Cup at the Burswood Dome in Perth on Saturday 3 January.

The eight teams are divided into two groups, with top seeds and defending champions USA, represented by James Blake and Meghann Shaughnessy, joining Australia, Germany and Slovak Republic in Group A. Second seeds Russia, featuring siblings Marat Safin and Dinara Safina, contest Group B alongside France, Italy and Chinese Taipei.

USA is the most successful nation in the 20-year history of the Hopman Cup having been victorious five times. Shaughnessy is a late replacement for world No. 2 Serena Williams who has not recovered from a recent injury.

The Hyundai Hopman Cup XXI takes place on 3-9 January, with the primetime final staged at 18:00 on Friday 9 January. For all the latest Hopman Cup information, visit www.hopmancup.com.au.

Please note that the next edition of This Week will appear on **MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2009**

Inside  Level 2 Officiating School

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Level 2 ITF Officiating School, Australia

ITF Officiating held a Level 2 School in Melbourne, Australia on 13-16 December for officials from Australia and New Zealand. The school was taught by Wayne McKewen (ITF/Grand Slam Supervisor) and Donna Kelso (WTA Tour Supervisor). Twenty-two officials attended the school, and the practical Chair Umpire exam was held together with the Australian Open Wild Card Play-Off event. The following 21 officials passed the combination of written examinations and practical officiating and gained their ITF White Badge Official certification:

BROSNAHAN, Tony (NZL)	JORGE, Jocelino (AUS)	WINDELEV, Paula (NZL)
BURRELL, Matthew (NZL)	KELLERT, Matthew (AUS)	GIBSON, Stephen (AUS)
CASWELL, Catherine (AUS)	KOIZUMI, Noriko (AUS)	KANE, Robert (AUS)
COOMBES, Adam (AUS)	KRUSIC, Kelly (AUS)	MARTIN, Warren (AUS)
DEVARAJAN, Bhuvanesh (AUS)	SWEENEY, Thomas (AUS)	ROBERTSON, Vince (AUS)
GLENTWORTH, Tony (NZL)	TUCKER, James (AUS)	SHERIDAN, Jill (AUS)
GOODMAN, Phillip (AUS)	WALTER, Emma (AUS)	TOLAND, Glenn (AUS)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Davis Cup venue move

Following a full security review, the ITF has reversed the choice of ground for the 2009 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas Asia/Oceania Zone Group II first round tie between Pakistan and Oman, which was originally due to take place in Pakistan. The tie, taking place on 6-8 March, will now be staged in Oman, due to security concerns. Visit www.daviscup.com.

USTA indoor tennis facility

The USTA announced that its state-of-the-art indoor tennis facility has been completed and is open to the public. The new \$60 million, 245,000 square foot facility was funded at no cost to taxpayers through USTA financing and tax-exempt bonds. The facility features 12 indoor courts and will allow the USTA to expand its existing tennis programmes at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, home of the US Open. Visit www.usta.com.

Obituary - Bob Cookson

The ITF was saddened to learn of the death of former USTA President **Bob Cookson**. Cookson was president of the USTA in 1991-92, and was a driving force in the renovation of the USTA National Tennis Center and construction of Arthur Ashe Stadium. A passionate advocate of the sport and a long-time volunteer, Cookson received the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Samuel Hardy Award in 1994.

Tennis Europe announcement

Tennis Europe and Tennis LMS, an innovative US-based company devoted to the provision of player development services, have announced a two-year partnership agreement recognising Tennis LMS as the 'Official Player Development Platform of Tennis Europe'. Visit www.tenniseurope.org.

Home success for Estrella

Home player Victor Estrella won the last two events of the five-week Futures circuit in the Dominican Republic. Click [here](#) for a full review of the circuit, which saw 28-year-old Estrella win 14 of 15 matches in his three tournaments played.

National Association update

Qatar - QAT

Qatar Tennis Federation

New President:

Mr Nasser Ghanim Al Khelaifi

ATP Race 2008 Final Standings

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	NADAL, Rafael (ESP)	1335
2nd	FEDERER, Roger (SUI)	1061
3rd	DJOKOVIC, Novak (SRB)	1059
4th	MURRAY, Andy (GBR)	744
5th	DAVYDENKO, Nikolay (RUS)	543
6th	TSONGA, Jo-Wilfried (FRA)	410
7th	SIMON, Gilles (FRA)	396
8th	RODDICK, Andy (USA)	394
9th	DEL POTRO, Juan Martin (ARG)	389
10th	BLAKE, James (USA)	355

ITF Wheelchair Rankings

22 December 2008

MEN'S SINGLES RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	KUNIEDA, Shingo (JPN)	4341
2nd	AMMERLAAN, Robin (NED)	3229
3rd	HOUDET, Stephane (FRA)	2358
4th	JEREMIASZ, Michael (FRA)	2256
5th	OLSSON, Stefan (SWE)	2240
6th	KRUSZELNICKI, Tadeusz (POL)	1904
7th	SCHEFFERS, Maikel (NED)	1847
8th	LEGNER, Martin (AUT)	1623
9th	SAIDA, Satoshi (JPN)	1622
10th	PEIFER, Nicolas (FRA)	1574

WOMEN'S SINGLES RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	VERGEER, Esther (NED)	3685
2nd	HOMAN, Korie (NED)	2663
3rd	GRIFFIOEN, Jiske (NED)	1933
4th	GRAVELLIER, Florence (FRA)	1766
5th	WALRAVEN, Sharon (NED)	1577
6th	VAN KOOT, Aniek (NED)	1007
7th	YAOSA, Mie (JPN)	998
8th	SEVENANS, Annick (BEL)	971
9th	FRIDMAN, Ilanit (ISR)	962
10th	HONG, Young-Suk (KOR)	875

QUAD SINGLES RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	NORFOLK, Peter (GBR)	3112
2nd	WAGNER, David (USA)	2888
3rd	ANDERSSON, Johan (SWE)	1496
4th	TAYLOR, Nicholas (USA)	1348
5th	VAN ERP, Bas (NED)	1121

Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Race 2008 Final Standings

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	JANKOVIC, Jelena (SRB)	4786
2nd	SAFINA, Dinara (RUS)	3823
3rd	WILLIAMS, Serena (USA)	3681
4th	DEMENTIEVA, Elena (RUS)	3400
5th	IVANOVIC, Ana (SRB)	3353
6th	ZVONAREVA, Vera (RUS)	2626
7th	KUZNETSOVA, Svetlana (RUS)	2623
8th	WILLIAMS, Venus (USA)	2522
9th	SHARAPOVA, Maria (RUS)	2515
10th	RADWANSKA, Agnieszka (POL)	2256

Year-End ITF Junior Rankings

JUNIOR BOYS RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	YANG, Tsung-Hua (TPE)	1173.75
2nd	BHAMBRI, Yuki (IND)	1110.00
2nd	DIMITROV, Grigor (BUL)	1087.50
4th	TOMIC, Bernard (AUS)	980.00
5th	KONTINEN, Henri (FIN)	875.00
6th	STEBE, Cedric-Marcel (GER)	792.50
7th	RUFIN, Guillaume (FRA)	785.00
8th	RAMIREZ, Cesar (MEX)	760.00
9th	PEREIRA, Jose (BRA)	725.00
10th	GOFFIN, David (BEL)	718.75

JUNIOR GIRLS RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	LERTCHEEWAKARN, Noppawan (THA)	1082.50
2nd	RUS, Arantxa (NED)	1010.00
3rd	HALEP, Simona (ROU)	987.50
4th	BOGDAN, Elena (ROU)	981.25
5th	ROBSON, Laura (GBR)	980.00
6th	BOGDAN, Ana (ROU)	965.00
7th	NARA, Kurumi (JPN)	790.00
8th	LOUDIN, Melanie (USA)	757.50
9th	JOVANOVSKI, Bojana (SRB)	747.50
10th	EMBREE, Lauren (USA)	706.25



ITF Juniors Top 10 Club

Sponsored by



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THIS WEEK IS PRODUCED BY:

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Results week commencing 15 December

ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT

BRAZIL F33 FUTURES, SAO PAULO (\$10,000)

Singles

Eric Gomes (BRA) d. Nikita Kryvonos (USA) 64 16 76(2)

Doubles

Nikita Kryvonos (USA)/Vasil Mladenov (BUL) d. Diogo Cruz/Rodrigo-Antonio Grilli (BRA) 46 61 [10-5]

CZECH REP. F6 FUTURES, OPAVA (\$15,000)

Singles

Jan Mertl (CZE) d. Andis Juska (LAT) 76(7) 75

Doubles

Colin Fleming/Jonathan Marray (GBR) d. Jaroslav Pospisil/Jiri Skoloudik (CZE) 64 62

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC F5 FUTURES, SANTO DOMINGO (\$10,000)

Singles

Victor Estrella (DOM) d. Jhonson Garcia (DOM) 76(3) 64

Doubles

Victor Estrella/Jhonson Garcia (DOM) d. Andrey Kumantsov (RUS)/Ryan Young (USA) 64 60

ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT

\$75,000 DUBAI (UAE)

Singles

Vitalia Diatchenko (RUS) d. Urszula Radwanska (POL) 75 26 75

Doubles

Irena Pavlovic (FRA)/Masa Zec-Peskircic (SLO) d. Elena Chalova/Valeria Savinykh (RUS) 76(6) 36 [10-3]

ITF JUNIOR CIRCUIT

MIAMI, FL, USA, GRADE 4

Boys Singles

James Marsalek (GBR) d. Pavel Krainik (CAN) 62 26 76(4)

Girls Singles

Nadejda Guskova (RUS) d. Indire Akiki (CRO) 64 64

Boys Doubles

Richard Hampel/Martin Prikryl (CZE) d. Dennis Novikov (USA)/Yaraslau Shyla (BLR) 64 76

Girls Doubles

Stephanie Cornish (GBR)/Nadejda Guskova (RUS) d. Anna Arina Marenko (RUS)/Demi Schuurs (NED) 46 63 64

This Week Next Week

Events - week commencing 22 December

MEN	Brazil F34 Futures	Sao Paulo	\$10,000
WOMEN	India	Delhi	\$50,000

Events - week commencing 29 December

MEN/WOMEN HYUNDAI HOPMAN CUP, PERTH, AUSTRALIA

MEN	Brazil F35 Futures	Sao Paulo	\$15,000+H
SENIORS	Canada	Markham	Grade 3
JUNIORS	Mexico	Tlalnepantla	Grade A

Events - week commencing 5 January

MEN/WOMEN HYUNDAI HOPMAN CUP, PERTH, AUSTRALIA

MEN	Germany F1 Futures	Schwieberdingen	\$10,000
	China F1 Futures	Guangzhou	\$15,000
SENIORS	Austria	Seefeld	Grade 1
JUNIORS	Costa Rica	San Jose	Grade 1
	India	Chandigarh	Grade 3
	Japan	Kawaguchi	Grade 4
	Sweden	Vasteras	Grade 4



Visit www.itftennis.com for full contact details for all forthcoming events