

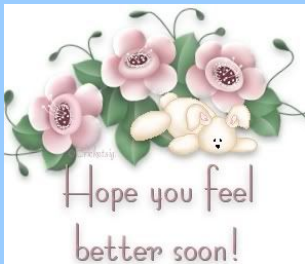


ADVANTAGE

OCTOBER 8, 2010

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 01/2010



Our thoughts are with Delva Schafer from KZN Tennis Association and we wish her a speedy recovery

Good Luck to our Veterans

We wish our Vets players a safe and successful trip to Mexico where they will be representing South Africa in the ITF Seniors Team Competitions from 29 March to 03 April 2010

Good luck, have fun in the sun and bring back that silverware!

Hello Members and Parents - this is the first newsletter of what has already turned out to be a very busy year.

As much as our planning for a huge event like The SA Open starts well ahead of time there always seems to be so much to do at the last minute. Many people ask me what it is like to be involved in such an event and I can only say that it is an honour. Everyone behind the scenes will attest to the extremely long but ever so exhilarating hours, the rather frazzled nerves and the intensity of the moment. However, we all agree that it is a pleasure when dealing with wonderful people like the international and local players, coaches, umpires, line umpires, sponsors, spectators the list simply goes on. Naturally our best reward is offering our own South African tennis fans the rare opportunity to watch live high-level tennis.

South Africa will be hosting two Grade 2 ITF tournaments in March; one in Potchefstroom and the second in Pretoria, and the Soweto Open Challenger is scheduled for April, all of which will attract more international players to our shores.

THE SA OPEN

The SA Open ATP 250 was once again held at the Montecasino in Johannesburg and was hailed a triumph by players and spectators alike. The finals landed up being quite different to what everyone had imagined without Gael Monfils and David Ferrer but Feliciano Lopez (Spain) and Stephane Robert (France) made up for it in every way. Not only was it great tennis but I have no doubt that all the female spectators will agree that Lopez provided quite a bit of eye-candy and hearts-went-a-fluttering every time he changed shirts!

The doubles final was nail bitingly entertaining with Rohan Bophanna of India and Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi of Pakistan beating the Slovakian/Israeli duo of Karol Beck and Harel Levy 2-6 6-4 10-5 (champions tiebreaker).

We thank all the Ball Kids from Gauteng Central, Gauteng North and Arthur Ashe for their commitment and hard work, with some of them even having to miss school to fulfill their duties. Our appreciation is also extended to their parents/minders that transported them to and from the venue at all hours of the day and night.

Criticism and compliments are always welcome after an event of this magnitude and each and every one of them is noted and appreciated. However the following letter of thanks was especially well received as it bears testament to how our events rank

Provincial Notices

Border:

The 2010 East Cape Open championships will be held in East London on 5, 6, 7 June. Five-year age groups range from 30+ to 80+. In addition, there is a group for 16-29. Escape the soccer crowds.

Gauteng Central:

The Gauteng Central Tennis Association welcomes Marius Masencamp as their new Provincial Squad Coach.

Gauteng North:

The Smile Tennis Centre is holding a Wooden Racket Senior Tournament at Irene Club on 21 March 2010. Entry form may be found on the blog or please contact irenetennis@gmail.com or call Andri 082 479 4428

Gauteng North:

Intensive/Advanced Coaching Clinics to be held in Pretoria, Middelburg CP, De Aar, Elliot and Plettenberg Bay.

Only intermediate and advanced players - limited number of entries.

For more information please call 012 997-3503 or speak to Theuns van Rensburg on cell no 082 881 9094

Provincial Tennis Offices are invited to send their news items for publication

in the international arena. Here is an excerpt from a letter received from Scott McCain (USA) – ATP Professional Coach addressed to Mr Ian Smith CEO of SATA.

“Dear Ian

I wish to applaud you and your SA Tennis team for the outstanding job in running the South African Airways SA Open 2009 and 2010 as well as the outstanding effort in staging a top level ATP Challenger event in Soweto 2009. I understand the Soweto Challenger event is on again for April 2010 and I look forward to attending with the players under my tutelage, Rik de Voest of South Africa and Somdev Devvarman of India.

From a professional coach’s view, your attention to detail is first rate.....

However, it is your personal attention to our needs that truly stands out This is much appreciated.

Great job on the site preparation at Monte Casino once again! I look forward to two great events in South Africa and greater Johannesburg 2010.....”

THE SA OPEN NATIONALS

Congratulations to our Open National Champions.

Ladies: Chanel Simmonds

Mens: Raven Klaasen

Ladies Doubles: Welma Luus and Sarah du Plessis

Mens Doubles: Ruan Roelofse and Nikala Scholtz

PLAY-OFF SIGN-IN

There still seems to be a lot of people that either don't know about or don't understand the Play-Off Sign-In rule so I hope that the following explanation helps.

- Players that want to participate in the Play-Off section must sign-in immediately after losing their respective match (in any round) so as to be included in the remainder of the Play-Off competition. Players will no longer be “forced” to compete in the Play-Off section once they have lost. Players wishing not to continue with the play-off's will be awarded points up until the stage that they progressed within the draw
- In the event of a player being injured/retiring from a match/play-off match, but wanting to continue to participate in the play-off rounds, he/she will be permitted to do this with approval from the parent/coach. A doctors certificate will not be required
- In the event of a player having to retire from a singles match and wanting to participate in doubles, a doctors certificate will have to be produced due to a retirement from one event
- Doubles play-off matches will be on the same basis as the singles. Players losing their first match will be required to sign-in to be included in the playoff competition

Special Offer to our Members

The Official ATP World Tour Guide is *the* ultimate guide to men's tennis. In celebration of the ATP World Tour which encompasses 63 tennis tournaments across 32 countries around the Globe, in such glamorous destinations as Monte Carlo, Paris, Sydney, Rome, Shanghai and Acapulco, this quality 148-page publication is aimed at true tennis fans.



Packed full of information about the Tour, profiles of the top singles and doubles players such as Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, this Bookazine also contains a comprehensive calendar and profiles about each of the major tournaments. Produced by the ATP, the governing body of men's tennis, the content is delivered with real knowledge and insight and is being made available to our Members, before it is available in the shops, at a significant discount off the original price of R259.95

Call Bianca on 011-248-3586 for more information.

So it is important to remember that a player must sign on should he/she wish to progress further in the play-off section. Failure to do so may result in the Tournament Director not including the player in the next round of play.

2010 SATA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

The updated calendar is posted on the blog. Please keep checking as minor updates are still being made.

TENNIS WORLD MAGAZINE

The next edition of Tennis World will be out at the end of February and will have in-depth coverage of the SA Open including a free signed poster. Unfortunately due to the overall size of the magazine a large portion of the SATA content was randomly cut out at the last moment. Thank you and apologies to all of you that contributed to our input. This edition will be the second last free copy for members with the March edition being the last.

Free Copies Available: Please note that the SATA offices are holding a large supply of the January edition of the Tennis World SA magazine and should any schools, clubs or individuals wish to fetch free copies they must please call Annette on 011 442-0500.

Tennis World and SATA will soon be embarking on a Telephone Campaign to promote subscriptions of the magazine and also to update contact details of our members. So if you get a phone call ...be prepared.

SATA BLOG / WEBSITE

The SATA Blog has had a face lift and we hope that you like it. Whilst the SA Tennis website is being redone we will continue to use the Blog for all aspects other than the entry of tournaments. The upgrading of the website is currently underway and hopefully will be launched in the next few weeks.

'Seize your advantage'

Wendy

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