



ADVANTAGE

QUARTER 1 (JAN – MARCH)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 01/2011



Getting to know Kevin Anderson -

He was born on May 18, 1986 in Johannesburg.

In 2003 at age 17, Anderson entered his first professional tournament, a Satellite in South Africa, winning 4 main draw matches in the 4 week tournament to earn a world ranking of #1178 from his only tournament of the year. He also finished the year with a doubles ranking of #902.

He became the top-ranked South African player on March 10, 2008 after making the final at the 2008 Tennis Channel Open in Las Vegas.

Anderson has represented South Africa in both Davis Cup play and in the 2008 Summer

We are only in the first quarter, but 2011 has started with tennis splendor in South Africa. Apart from a triumphant SA Open which saw local player Kevin Anderson win his first ever ATP title in front of his home crowd we also hosted four junior ITF tournaments that attracted players from all over the world. More is still to come when we host the 27th edition of the ITF Wheelchair World Team Cup and the popular Soweto Challengers in April. A regular feast for our South African tennis fans!

SA OPEN 2011

The SA Open which was held at the Montecasino for the third consecutive year was a resounding success with the cherry on the top being Kevin Anderson! Seeded fourth in the tournament Kevin captured his maiden ATP World Tour title as he came from a set down to defeat India's Somdev Devvarman 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Kevin Anderson became the first South African since Christo van Rensburg in 1989 to win the South African Open.

The Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve in the Cradle of Humankind also celebrated this event as after joining forces with SATA, received additional funds to help in the fight against rhino poaching. SA Open spectators were encouraged to drop their ticket stubs in designated boxes and were then re-sold for R20 each to people arriving later in the day. The re-sale of tickets brought in the amazing sum of R18,650, which means that more than 9000 people made use of the unique offer.

To celebrate his win and to demonstrate his support for the fight against rhino poachers, Anderson donated R5,000 to the Rhino and Lion Reserve.

The SA Open is not on the ATP 2012 calendar as the three year contract with South African Airways and the ATP is now over. Furthermore the ATP reduced the number of weeks of competing on an international level as the players felt the tennis year was too long.

However we give you our assurance that discussions to keep the event on the calendar are currently under way between SATA and the ATP.

Olympics in Beijing.

He played three seasons of college tennis in the United States at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was a three-time All-American in singles and two-times All-American in doubles. During his sophomore year (2005-06), he won the national doubles championship with his partner, Ryan Rowe.

The following season (2006-07), he led the Illini team to a national runner-up finish before again reaching the national championship match in doubles with Ryan Rowe and reaching the semi-finals in singles.

During the summer of 2007, Anderson decided to forgo his senior season at Illinois to pursue his professional tennis career full-time

In 2010, at Wimbledon, he was narrowly defeated by No. 7 seed Nikolay Davydenko after winning the first two sets, 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-7(3), 5-7, 7-9 in the first round.

In the same year Kevin won his first Grand Slam match at the US Open over Somdev Devvarman in straight sets, and backed it up with a five set win over the 26th seed Thomaz Bellucci

Kevin is sponsored by the new high performance tennis line Athletic DNA

He achieved a career-high ranking of #40 on February 7, 2011 after his win at the SA Open.

SOWETO CHALLENGERS

The Soweto Open Men's ATP \$100,000 Challenger and Women's ITF Pro Circuit \$100,000 will take place at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in Soweto from 11 – 16 April.

Fact sheets and entry details may be viewed at:

http://www.satennis.co.za/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=104&Itemid=241

DAVIS CUP

The South African team is just one Davis Cup win away playing for a place in the World Group of the Competition.

All they will have to do is set aside a Dutch team in a Euro/Africa Zone Group 1 encounter from July 8 to 10. South Africa had a bye in the first round and was drawn to play the winners of Ukraine and The Netherlands. The Netherlands defeated Ukraine 3-2 in Kharkiv, sneaking home when Robin Haase won a five-set thriller against Illya Marchenko.

A victory against Holland will put the SA Davis team into the World Group Playoffs from September 16 to 18 where they will face one of the losing teams from the first round of the World Group.

The current Dutch team is headed up by Theo de Bakker and Robin Haase, ranked 53 and 56 respectively. They are backed up by Jesse Huta Galung (113), Igor Sijsling (156) and Thomas Schoorel (167).

Captain John-Laffnie de Jager's team is spearheaded up by recent SA Open champion Kevin Anderson, now ranked 40 in the world, Izak van der Merwe (150) and Rik de Voest (162).

Announcement on the venue for this important tie will be made soon.

2011 ABSA ITF VETS NATIONALS

From an entry of 405 players entered into the 2011 ABSA ITF Veterans Nationals 386 came out of the starting blocks. The tournament got under way in Pretoria on Thursday 10th March at the Groenkloof Tennis Stadium (30-50+ age groups) and the Rietondale Tennis Club (55 to 80+ age groups). The weather was hot, but perfect. The schedules were hectic but manageable. The new ITF tournament programme was a little confusing for the players, but Pieter Hoeksma our White Badge Referee and Andrew Comrie were able to advise and help where necessary.

Friday afternoon from 15:00 Annette du Plooy, former Springbok, and Solly Ngwenze conducted a Development Clinic on courts 1 and 2 at the Groenkloof Tennis Stadium. 20 Children from Atteridgeville, Mamalodi and Thabo Tshwane were privileged to partake in the clinic after which they were given an ABSA

Congratulations



South African pro tennis and Davis Cup star, Jeff Coetzee got married on 18 March to his long-time sweetheart Mauricia Leukes in Stellenbosch

Important Dates

Inter-Pro Vets 60-75+ :
03 - 09 April

Soweto Challengers :
11 - 16 April

Junior Inter-Pro u18 :
25 April - 01 May

Wheelchair World Team Cup :
25 April - 01 May

Inter-Pro Vets 50-55+ :
01 - 07 May

Davis Cup :
South Africa vs Netherlands
08 - 10 July

CAPITAL goodie bag containing a t-shirt and a cap as well as a lunch box.

100 players attended the Braai/Disco on Saturday evening. The Gauteng North Committee ladies did an excellent job of setting up the venue with all tables set outside on the lawns. The food and music was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to all the workers and to Mike and Terry for the music.

The early hours of Monday saw the heavens open and rain continued to fall over the Gauteng area until 11:00. Once stopped the courts were dried and play got under way at 12:30 and all but a few matches were carried over to Tuesday.

Needless to say we cannot expect any tournament to run from start to finish without a few moans and groans from players. In most cases these can be dealt with, but sometimes workers are seriously hurt by uncalled for remarks. Let us as veterans understand that all work done at tournaments is done by volunteers who give up a huge amount of their time in order to make things work. Our sincere thanks go out to their families who have to do without them for a period of time.

Our grateful thanks to our sponsors ABSA, Wilson and Nashua without whom we would not be able to run our tournaments quite as efficiently. It was wonderful having ABSA back on board. Thank you one and all for your support and may it continue well into the future.

SA TENNIS NEW IT SYSTEM

SATA is pleased to announce the launch of our new IT system. It is a reputable system that is used by the International Tennis Federation, Tennis Europe, various European National Associations, Tennis Australia and United States.

The system comprises of all four essential aspects namely; registration system, entry system, tournament management system and ranking system. All components are linked and SATA tournament officials are now in a position to load tournament results more effectively and at a much steadier pace, which means that tournaments and results are now run in a live environment.

The benefits of the IT system is that with all the National Federations involved, the base for sharing information is so vast, that the system has already been developed with basic principals in place that are tried and tested with the added benefit that if SATA require unique features, it will be developed for specifically for SATA.

Members are requested to note the following when logging in for the first time:

1. The username now requires the word SATA to be included before using your SATA number e.g. sata970604 and not only 970604

National Champions

The country's top players were decided at the Open Nationals Tournament held at the German Club in January. Congratulations to the winners:

Ladies singles:

Natasha Fourouclas

Men's singles:

Nikala Scholtz

Ladies doubles:

Janine Erasmus & Janet Koch

Men's doubles:

Ruan Roelofse & Nikala Scholtz

Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup

There will be another sporting first for South Africa in April when the country will become the first African nation to host the wheelchair tennis World Team Cup. The 27th edition of the illustrious competition, which falls under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), will be played at the University of Pretoria from 25 April - 1 May.

The events to be contested are the Men's World Group I and World Group II, Women's

2. All existing passwords have been imported and will remain
3. Members that have on previous occasion not completed various fields on the registration forms will be prompted to completed certain mandatory information before being permitted to log on or continue

The ranking display currently only reflects the one (1) ranking position. However, the system generates head to head results as soon as rankings are updated on a weekly basis. A graph is also generated to show the general progress of a players ranking during the year. The ranking also indicates how a players ranking has improved/dropped from the previous week by means of orange or blue arrows alongside ranking and shows movement either up or down.

Unique features still to be launched in the near future are:

1. Filter/sort function for players to sort rankings in age groups
2. Filter/sort function for Provinces to generate a Provincial ranking
3. Separate race tables for tournaments that lead up to a Masters event e.g. Nike Junior Tour, Mini Series events that have a Masters, Keyhealth Open series, etc.

Each individual tournament will receive its own page on the website which is generated by the Tournament Programme. The basic programme used to run the tournaments. Tournaments will be linked to Google Maps which will enable users to obtain directions to the main tournament venue, along with other exciting functions e.g. match summaries etc.

SATA trusts that our members will enjoy their new tournament experience. SATA's goal is to make tournament management more professional and streamlined, thereby enabling our members to enjoy regular updates and at a far greater pace.

Members will notice that the SATA website will have the same look and feel on the homepage and all other content areas (news etc) as previously. Once a member has clicked on a desired tournament to view/enter you will be directed to the new IT system. Once all tournament entries have been phased to enter on the new IT system the tournament calendar links will always point to the new IT system. Other links that will point directly to the new IT system will be the Register button and Ranking button. Once all tournaments are to be entered on the new IT system the Sign in button will be linked. Please note that tournaments that have already opened for entries will be entered on the old IT system and will phase over to the new IT system once a withdrawal date passes. To enter a tournament on the old IT system you will need to sign in with your OLD SATA number and password, but to enter a tournament on the new IT system you will sign in with your NEW SATA username e.g. sata980001 and password.

World Group, plus Quad and Junior categories. There will be 16 countries participating in each of the World Groups, and eight countries in the Quad and Junior events.

South Africa will take part in all four events, having qualified for Men's World Group II and received a wild card into the other three categories.

Wheelchair tennis is currently receiving widespread international coverage, with women's world No. 1 Esther Vergeer twice the recipient of the prestigious Laureas Award for Sportsperson with a Disability.

The Bidvest Wanderers
Cricket Stadium
Corlett Drive
Illovo
Tel: +27 (0)11 442-0500

Groenkloof Tennis Stadium
Groenkloof
Pretoria
Tel/Fax: +27 (0)12
3460691
Fax2email: +27
0866365332

E-mail info@satennis.co.za
www.satennis.co.za
www.saschoolstennis.com

JUNIOR ITF TOURNAMENTS

Four junior ITF tournaments were played this quarter with mixed results from our South African players. The Grade 5 events held in Port Elizabeth and East London saw great success for our local boys and girls whilst the more difficult Grade 2 tournaments held in Potchefstroom saw our visiting international players take home the silverware. Final results were: (SA players where no country is specified)

PORT ELIZABETH JUNIOR ITF GRADE 5:

Boys singles: Wayne Montgomery bt E Samaai 6-3 6-3

Boys doubles: E Samaai/MC Visser bt W Montgomery/C van der Burgh 6-4 6-3

Girls singles: Sarah Ive bt C Icardi(ITA) 6-2 1-6 6-3

Girls doubles: J Erasmus/J Koch bt J Grace/D Joubert 6-1 6-3

EAST LONDON JUNIOR ITF GRADE 5:

Boys singles: Wayne Montgomery bt Dion Roos 6-2 6-2

Boys doubles: R Ashforth/MC Visser bt W Montgomery/J Kleynhans 7-5 6-2

Girls singles: Mikayla Morkel-Brink bt C Icardi (ITA) 6-4 6-4

Girls doubles: J Erasmus/ J Koch bt J Grace/D Joubert 6-2 6-1

RIAAN VENTER POTCHEFSTROOM JUNIOR ITF GRADE 2:

Boys singles: Filip Horansky (SVK) bt Kimmer Coppejans (BEL) 4-6 6-0 6-0

Boys doubles: M Sporken (NED)/R Stanek (CZE) bt B Botzer (ISR)/B Lock (ZIM) 6-4 7-6(2)

Girls singles: Donna Vekic (CRO) bt Hannah King (USA) 7-5 6-4

Girls doubles: B Megane (SUI)/D Bogoliy (UKR) bt K Fabikova (CZE)/J Ren (GBR) 6-4 7-6(1)

RIAAN VENTER POTCHEFSTROOM JUNIOR ITF GRADE 2:

Boys Singles: Haadin Bava (IND) bt Jeroen Vanneste (BEL) 6-4 4-6 6-3

Boys doubles: K Coppejans (BEL)/J Vanneste (BEL) bt B Lock (ZIM)/W Montgomery (RSA) 6-4 7-6(7)

Girls singles: Donna Vekic (CRO) bt Zarah Razafimahatratra (MAD) 6-3 6-4

Girls doubles: K Fabrikova (CZE)/J Ren (GBR) bt O Korashvili (UKR)/D Vekic (CRO) w/o

Seize the advantage

Wendy