



# ADVANTAGE

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## Good Luck WTSA

9 wheelchair tennis players, all remarkable athletes in their own right, through sheer guts & determination have qualified to compete in the 2010 World Team Cup tournament. This is the most prestigious event on the international tennis calendar and is often referred to as the Davis Cup of wheelchair tennis.

Approximately 300 of the most talented players from 33 nations gather from all corners of the globe to compete from the 3 - 9 May. The tournament includes 4 divisions: men's, women's, quad's and juniors. Bar juniors, SA will be represented in all divisions.

Managing the women's team is WTSA's Holger Losch and wheelchair bound coach Craig Fairall, a previous World Top 10 ranked player will accompany the men's team. Coach Marius Masencamp will manage the quads.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Bridget Visee who has been appointed as one of the ITF/CAT coaches of the African 16 and under team

*Hi everyone- it seems to me that South African tennis has all of a sudden returned to the international scene. The first few months of this year has seen us hosting a number of tournaments which attracted players from all over the world. Players of all nationalities; varying levels of ranking; young up and coming players to those who have 'been there - done that'; ladies and men, have come to our shores to participate in the SA Open, ITF Juniors held in Potchefstroom and Pretoria, The Soweto Challengers and now we look forward to welcoming more for the Durban ITF's and not to mention our opposition from Finland for the Davis Cup Tie. Exciting stuff indeed!*

*Talking about exciting things I hope that you have all got your flags flying high from your cars, bakkies and trucks; your favorite country's beanie and of course your very own vuvuzela! Hosting a mammoth event like the FIFA World Cup in South Africa is something each and every one of us should be proud and excited about.*



*SATA support our very own Bafana Bafana ....*

## THE SOWETO OPEN

The ATP Soweto Challenger for men and ITF Soweto Open for women were played simultaneously at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Stadium from 10 - 17 April 2010. Hosting both men and women together turned out to be an efficient arrangement and apart from certain players not being able to leave SA due to the airport closures from the volcanic ash, the tournament went smoothly and was hailed a success. Results are:

**Men's Singles:** Dustin Brown (Jamaica)

**Men's Doubles:** Nicolas Mahut (France) and Lovro Zovko (Croatia)

**Ladies Singles:** Nina Bratchikova (Russia)

**Ladies Doubles:** Vitalia Diatchenko (Russia) and Eirini Georgatou (Greece)

## ITF FUTURES IN DURBAN

Tennis is getting more exposure in our country and it is encouraging for our young players that Durban is hosting two international ITF Futures Events in May.

The first event - 'Durban International Futures' with prize money of \$15000 for the men and \$10000 for the women, will be played at the Westridge Tennis Stadium from 17 - 22 May. The qualifying event will take place on 15 and 16 May.

This event will be followed directly by the 'SATA Futures' with the same prize money value. This will be played from 24 - 29 May with qualifying being played from 22 - 23 May at Westridge Park Tennis Stadium, Jan Smuts Avenue Mayville.

## *Provincial Notices*

### *Gauteng North:*

Congratulations and welcome to Paresh Joshi who was elected Chairman of Gauteng North Junior Tennis at their recent Annual General Meeting

### *Gauteng Central:*

The players, parents, coaches, clubs and committee members of Gauteng Central Tennis Association wish a sad farewell to Mickey Styles who is leaving to pursue other interests. Mickey has been at the helm of GC tennis for over 15 years and his experience, sense of humor, knowledge and love for the game will be sorely missed

2010 squad members must please visit the GC website [www.gctennis.com](http://www.gctennis.com) for details regarding Mickey's farewell

### *Border Vets:*

Border Vets Tennis would like to remind players of the Eastern Cape Open to be played at Selborne Park from 5 - 7 June. Entries to be made via the SA Tennis website

### *Gauteng Central:*

GC congratulate their inter provincial teams for coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the A section of the under 14 and 18 categories in Bloemfontein recently. Congrats also go to the under 15 and 19 teams for coming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively at the SA High Schools Week held in Pretoria

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

## **JUNIOR FINALS AND JUNIOR DAVIS CUP**

After a disappointing African Junior Championships in Abuja, Nigeria the South African under 14 and 16 boys and girls teams bounced back to qualify for the boys and girls under 14 World Junior Finals and Junior Davis Cup.

The under 16 girls unfortunately did not make it through to the Junior Fed Cup, but can be proud of their effort push the result to the final set of the final doubles, a very courageous effort. The teams were made up of:

**Boys u16:** Marc van der Merwe and Wayne Montgomery

**Boys u14:** Lloyd Harris and Phillip Franken

**Girls u16:** Madrie le Roux and Lynn Kiro

**Girls u14:** Janet Koch and Ilse Hattingh

Well done to the players and team coaches – Bridget Visee and Tony Vermaak.

## **FED CUP**

South Africa was represented by Chanel Simmonds, Christi Potgieter, Natasha Fourouclas and Kelly Anderson with Greer Leo-Smith as captain in the 2010 Group 11, Europe/Africa Federation Cup. Results are:

### **Group A Round Robin:**

Luxembourg 2 – South Africa 1

Greece 2 – South Africa 0

South Africa 2 – Liechtenstein 1

### **Relegation Play Off:**

Armenia 2 – South Africa 1

## **DAVIS CUP**

The South African Tennis Association have announced that Rik de Voest, Wesley Moodie, Raven Klaasen and Izak van der Merwe will be the four players who will take on Finland in a second round tie at Groenkloof Tennis Stadium from 7 – 9 May with John-Laffnie de Jager as captain.

Admission for Groenkloof will be R50 for Friday 7 May and Sunday 9 May which involves singles and R40 for Saturday's 8 May doubles. Tickets are available from Computicket and are unreserved. From Thursday tickets will only be available from the venue.

## **VETS – ITF WORLD TEAM COMPETITIONS**

Nine teams representing South African veterans in the 35 – 55+ age groups flew to Mexico City via Paris to participate in the ITF World Team Competitions. Results as follows:

### **Men:**

35+ Italia Cup - Finished 12<sup>th</sup>

40+ Tony Trabert Cup - Finished 7<sup>th</sup>

45+ Dubler Cup - No team

## *Tennis World SA Magazine*

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Tennis World SA is now on sale at Exclusive Book Stores around the country. Due to financial constraints Matchball has regrettably had to make a decision that SATA members will not be receiving this issue free of charge.

From this edition onwards members will be required to purchase the magazine either at a book store or through their subscription.

Please support this great magazine as it is the only local tennis magazine we have!

*The Bidvest Wanderers*

*Cricket Stadium*

*Corlett Drive, Illovo*

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50+ Fred Perry Cup - Finished 10<sup>th</sup>

55+ Austria Cup - Finished 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Women:**

35+ Suzanne Lenglen Cup - Finished 6<sup>th</sup>

40+ Young Cup - Finished 7<sup>th</sup>

45+ Margaret Court Cup - Finished 11<sup>th</sup>

50+ Maria Bueno Cup - Finished 8<sup>th</sup>

55+ Maureen Connolly Cup - Finished 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Individual World Championships:**

Congratulations to Wayne Faver and Abdul Cassiem who won a Bronze medal at the individual world championships. Wayne also had a good run in the singles beating the third seed, Chris O'Mara, from Australia before losing to Tom Groen (seeded 8) in the quarter finals.

To date not all individual results received.

### **INTER PROVINCIAL - BLOEMFONTEIN**

SATA's premier junior event – Inter Provincial was played in Bloemfontein and the results are:

Under 14: 1<sup>st</sup> – Boland, 2<sup>nd</sup> – KZN, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Free State

Under 18: 1<sup>st</sup> – Western Province, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Boland, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Free State

### **SA HIGH SCHOOLS WEEK**

The SA High Schools week was played at the end of March with the Gauteng teams coming out tops. The winners for each age group are:

**Under 19:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Gauteng East, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gauteng Central, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gauteng North A

**Under 15:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Western Province, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gauteng North A, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gauteng Central

Full results and names of the players selected for the overseas tour later this year may be found on the blog.

### **UNDER 18 AGE GROUP RULE**

A number of people are under the impression that when a player turns 18 he/she will be allowed to continue playing in the under 18 age group until his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Please note that this is **not** correct – the rule allows players who turn 18 to continue playing under 18 for that calendar year (i.e. until 31 December) only. The rule book displayed on the website will be amended shortly.

*'Seize your advantage'*

*Wendy*

