



ADVANTAGE

DECEMBER 8, 2009

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 08/2009

Provincial Notices

Free State:

A reminder to all Free State players that the Mini Series 1 will take place in Bloemfontein from 29 - 31 Jan 2010. This event will be used as FS trials and to determine the FS ranking list. Further play offs will be organized if necessary.

Gauteng Central:

GC wishes all their members Seasons Greetings and a prosperous New Year filled with joy, health, happiness and lots of tennis.

Congrats to the 2009 Player of the Year award winners:

Seniors: Lauren Beukes and Sean van der Vyver

Juniors: Tyra Timm and Tabu Ngema

2010 will kick off with the GC Junior Open from 5 - 8 Jan.

Squad will restart at Ellis Park on 16 Jan 2010 at 08h30. This will be a playing session for the juniors as well as an information session for all parents.

Greetings - There are only a few days left of 2009 and this will be our final newsletter for the year. There have been a number of rule amendments which were announced recently and we thank you for your feedback. As with anything new it will take a while to get used to the changes and we urge you to move into the new tennis year with optimism and feel sure that once the 'dust has settled' the positives will be clearly evident.

The FIFA World Cup will turn 2010 into a very different and special year for all South Africans. Obviously it will impact on our tennis calendar and we are making every effort to minimize unnecessary changes. With that said, we have to admit that it is no easy task finding venues that wont clash with football fixtures whilst remaining cognizant of the fact that all local travel will triple in price. As soon as we have finalized details the full calendar will be published.

The Chairman of the Board, CEO and staff of The South African Tennis Association would like to wish you all a blessed and safe holiday season. We thank you for your continued support and wish you a joyous New Year.

Best of luck for the December and January tennis tournaments and most of all - have fun!



CLARIFICATION OF 2009/2010 AGE GROUP CHANGES

Further to our initial release on the rule changes, we encountered various queries on the Age Group change and decided to formulate the following explanation.

Under the previous rules, a player turning 12, 14 or 16 in 2010 would have been entitled to stay in the under 12, 14 or age group for the entire duration of the 2010 calendar year.

The effect of the new age group rules causes those players turning 12, 14 or 16 in 2010 to move to their next age group on their birthday. It is important to remember that we are still referring to age group as UNDER 12 etc and 12 & UNDER.

For example:

1. Johnnie is turning 12 on 27 March 2010, he will be entitled to enter the under 12 age group for any tournament that **ends before 27 March 2010** (this means he is currently 11). Any tournaments ending on or after 27 March 2010, Johnnie will have to enter in the under 14 age group as he is now 12 years old.
2. Leon is turning 14 on 20 December 2009; he will be entitled to enter the Boland KeyHealth Series (13 - 17 Dec) event in under 14. However Leon will

Kwa Zulu Natal:

Congratulations to the winners of The Dunlop Masters Final played at Westridge Park on 8th November.

Girls:

Nicole Schwulst - u12
Jenna Davidson - u14
Jodi Davidson - u16

Boys:

William Thatcher - u12
Yaseen Ibrahim - u14
Ronnie Myburgh - u16
Stefan Fortmann - u18

The Head Masters Final organized by the Coaches Committee in KZN is an event run during the year culminating in the final 16 boys & girls who play off to become 2009 Champion. Congrats 2 winners
Gavin Morris & Kirsten Higgs

KZN Squad practices will recommence Weds - 27 Jan 2010 at Westridge Park from 3.30 to 5.30

Gauteng East:

GE Tennis Association is deeply saddened by the untimely death of their Development Coach - Spiwe Green on 18 November 2009. Condolences to his family.

Squad will reopen on 16 January 2010 for registration.

GE wishes all their players participating in the KeyHealth super 7's the best of luck.

have to enter under 16 for the Western Province KeyHealth event (18 – 22 Dec) because the end date is on or after his 14th birthday.

Any birthday can be 'plugged into' the above scenarios to determine your age eligibility and group. The following table might make things easier for you:

	Under 12	Under 14	Under 16	Under 18
Under the old system you had to be	12 years old and younger	13 or 14 yrs	15 or 16 yrs	17 or 18 yrs
Under the new system you have to be	11 years old and younger	12 or 13 yrs	14 or 15 yrs	16, 17 or 18 yrs If you turn 18 during the year you may continue to play in under 18 for the remainder of the year
From now on your age group will change on your birthday based on the blue example				

There will be a follow-on document explaining the impact and procedures relating to Nike, Mini Series Masters, Junior Interprovincial and the new ranking points structure.

SA AIRWAYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This tournament will take place from 23 – 29 January 2010 at the German Club. Closing date for entries is Monday 18 January. The men's singles winner will receive a Wild Card into the main draw of The SA Open at Montecasino from 1 – 7 February 2010 and the men's singles finalist will receive a Wild Card into the Qualifying section which will be played 30 – 31 January 2010.

For more details please see the fact sheet on the SATA blog.

2010 SATA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

The updated calendar is posted on both the website and the blog. Please note that it only reflects tournaments up to and including April 2010. As mentioned above the full calendar will be published shortly. Please keep checking as minor changes are still being made.

AFRICAN 14 & UNDER MASTERS

This event took place in Egypt from 11 – 14 November 2009 and South Africa was represented by Wayne Montgomery, Matthew Rossouw and Kay-Leigh Nicholas. Players from countries like Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan and Mauritius took part. All three junior players made us exceptionally proud and have ended the year on the Masters Final Rankings in the following positions:

Wayne Montgomery – 1st; Kay-Leigh Nicholas – 3rd; Matthew Rossouw – 4th

DUNLOP ORANGE BOWL

Hernus Pieters is the number 1 seed in the main draw (Boys' 16) of the 2009 Dunlop Orange Bowl in Florida, USA. The tournament commences on 6 December and his progress will be updated on the blog.

Western Province:

All Western Province players who attend school on a full-time basis are invited to enter into the WP High Schools Tennis trials at end of Jan/Feb 2010.

Call Kallie Cromhout
082 295 5733

Gauteng North:

Holiday Clinics in Pretoria for Adv & Intermediate players
Call Theuns 082 881 9094

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

SATA BLOG

Items featured on the blog this month included:

- David Ferrer returns to for the SA Open
- GC Vets Open results
- Coaches Alpha & Provincial listings
- Barclays ATP World Tour Finals
- 2010 SA Airways National Championships fact sheet
- Malibu Boland Open Tournament
- SA Open at Montecasino
- African 14 & under Masters
- Profile David Jacquire

Visit the blog for updated local news and results - www.satablog.com

COACHES

Coaches' details have now been uploaded to the SATA Blog (www.satablog.com) and include Provincial and Alphabetical listings; registration form and useful links. This is still a work in progress and more will be added shortly.

A new exciting feature on the Provincial listings is a link from a Coach's name to his/her personal tennis website offering the viewer more insight and information to that particular Coach. This addition will hopefully offer more exposure and easier access to our registered members. An email has been sent requesting the information that we require to proceed with this feature.

THE SA OPEN

The SA Open will once again be hosted by Montecasino. Qualifying rounds will be played on 30 - 31 January and the main event from 1 - 7 February 2010. Frenchman Gael Monfils has already confirmed his entry and we look forward to welcoming this flamboyant star to South Africa. Returning for his second visit is the popular (and ever so good looking!) David Ferrer from Spain.

Tickets are already on sale at Computicket offices nationwide and Montecasino Box Office and prices range from R25 to R200.

On Monday 1st, Tues 2nd and Fri 5th matches will be played on two courts - Centre Court and Court 1. For the first 2 days of the SA Open there will be two sessions on Centre Court, the first starting at noon followed by the second at 7pm. There will, however, be just one session on Court 1 starting in the early afternoon and play on that court will be on Mon, Tues and Fri.

All seats on Centre Court will be reserved while Court 1 will be unreserved. Ticket prices include both sessions of the day. Make sure you secure yours early!

TENNIS WORLD MAGAZINE

The next edition of Tennis World will be a combined November and December issue and promises to be a good read.

We are aware that some members did not receive their first edition. Being an international magazine that has just been introduced to South Africa a few teething problems were bound to happen and we hope that they have been ironed out in sufficient time to ensure a smoother run for the 2nd edition.

To clarify matters we would like to emphasize that SATA is in no way involved in the publication or actual distribution of the magazine. Tennis World SA is published in collaboration with Matchpoint Tennis Magazine in Italy, and they have generously included SATA as their liaison for local news. The distribution of the magazines is done by an outside company of their choice based on the list of postal addresses that we supply from our members database.

Should you not receive the next issue by the **end** of December please send us an email (info@satennis.co.za) with the words "Magazine not received" in the header and detail your postal address and SATA number in the body. But please do give it some time bearing in mind the increase in postal volumes over the Festive Season.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

We once again appeal to you to please update your personal details on the SA Tennis website.

To receive your free magazines in December, January, February and March it is vitally important that your postal address is 100% correct. One magazine per family will be distributed and we therefore ask that you ensure that the postal address for each family member is identical (I checked the last list and found a family of 3 who all had the same postal address with a different postal code each!) Please also check cell phone numbers.

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OPTUS AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2009 Optus Australian Championships is taking place between 5 – 10 December at Melbourne Park, Victoria. Brothers Ryan and Brandon Laubser received International Wildcards in the 14s and 12s sections. Ryan seeded 16th in the boys 14 category unfortunately went out in the first round of both his singles and doubles matches. The 12 year olds have not yet played so we have no scores for Brandon yet. Watch the blog for updates.

SATENNIS WEBSITE

Unfortunately the launch of the new website has proven to be more of a complex and lengthy project than originally anticipated. We are aware of your frustrations and appreciate your patience, feedback and advice. We offer you our assurance that every effort and resource has been directed towards the completion of this integral part of our day-to-day operations.

NEW RANKINGS

These will be uploaded by the end of today (Tuesday) and will be available on both the website and blog. Any queries must please be directed in writing to ephraim@satennis.co.za, Please ensure that you quote your SATA number on all correspondence.

SATA BLOG

Anyone interested in subscribing to the blog to receive notification of new posts by email may now do so. Go to the blog and click the "sign up" button on the left menu and follow the prompts to set up.

If you have any thoughts and/or opinions that you would like to share, please email us.

Blessings and joy to you and your loved ones.

Wendy