

# Taking Tennis to the World

Development Programme  
Annual Report 2012



Grand Slam®  
Development Fund

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Cover image features Grand Slam champion Victoria Azarenka, who received support from the ITF/GSDF at the beginning of her career



# Message from ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti

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I am delighted to be able to introduce *Taking Tennis to the World*, the ITF's 2012 report on the Development Programme funded jointly by the ITF and the Grand Slam® Development Fund.

The Development Programme remains as important to us as ever and is at the core of what we do. As the international governing body of tennis, we want to see the game grow around the world, and the programme helps the ITF's member nations, particularly those from developing tennis regions, to increase the number of people playing tennis in their countries and to improve the standard of the best players in those countries. Put simply, the objective of the programme is more, and better, players.

***“In 2012, more than \$4.6 million has been used to fund a variety of development projects.”***

Many players who benefit from the programme go on to represent their countries in Davis Cup and Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, as well as at the Olympic Games and Grand Slam tournaments. Our cover star Victoria Azarenka is the perfect example of this: a former beneficiary of the Development Programme, the Belarusian won her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in 2012, rose to No. 1 in the rankings, then won gold and bronze medals at the London Olympics.

Through the Development Programme the ITF and the Grand Slam tournaments have shown their commitment to those ITF member nations with fewer resources at their disposal. In 2012, more than \$4.6 million was used to fund a variety of development projects from grassroots to the professional level.

I would like to thank the Grand Slam nations for their continued commitment to the Grand Slam Development Fund, the mission of which is to increase competitive opportunities worldwide. This report looks at many of the competitive projects that the Fund supports, including the junior touring team programme, the junior circuits and the entry-level professional tournaments. It also covers other areas supported by the Development Programme, including coaches education, training centres, the Junior Tennis Initiative and the ten Development Officers who work on our behalf around the world.

One of the most exciting development projects is Tennis10s, and in 2012 an important, and historic, change was made to the Rules of Tennis to ensure that ten-and-under competition can only be played with slower red, orange or green balls and on an appropriately sized court in accordance with the initiative. The ITF's Play and Stay Seminar at the end of 2012 saw the launch of a corresponding programme for starter adult players, Tennis Xpress, which also uses slower balls. Our mission is to ensure that tennis around the world is seen as easy, fun and healthy and we look forward to seeing how both programmes develop in the future.

I also want to recognise the financial contribution made by Olympic Solidarity in 2012 to various projects related to player training and coaches' education, which this report also covers.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the guidance given by the ITF Development Advisors, and the hard work of our Development Officers in the field and our development team in London. They have put in place a programme which is highly regarded internationally both within tennis and the wider sporting world. It is an important legacy for the ITF in its 100th year.



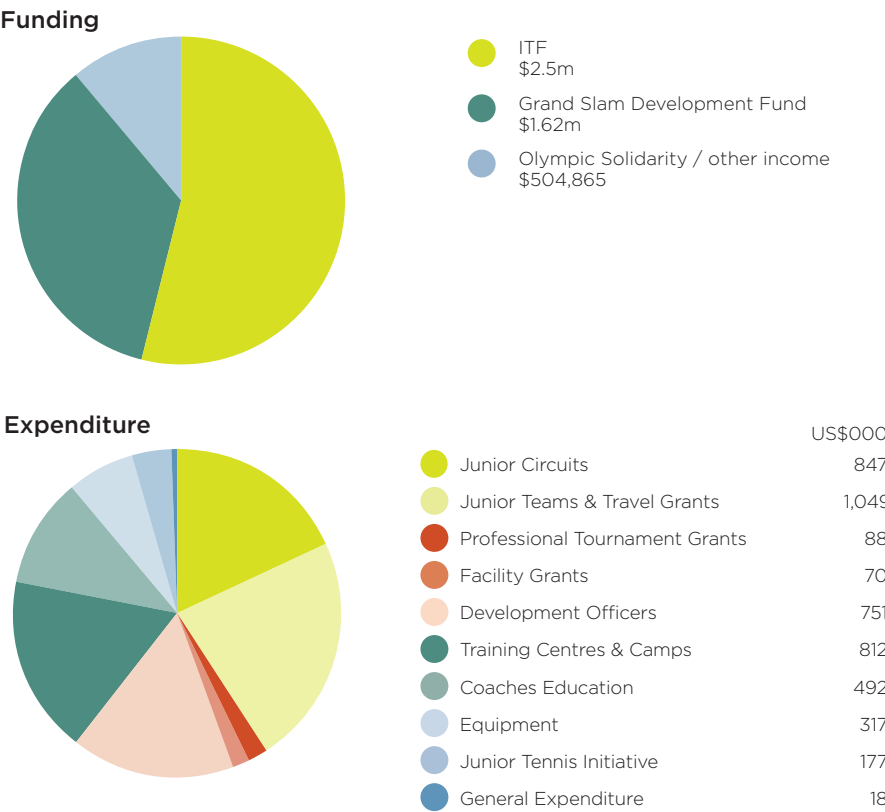
# Funding Breakdown

The Development Programme is jointly funded by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Grand Slam® tournaments (via the Grand Slam® Development Fund). The Grand Slam Development Fund (GSDF) was originally established in 1986 after The Championships at Wimbledon donated funds from their event to development and shortly afterwards the other three Grand Slams joined in donating to the Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to encourage and increase competitive opportunities in less developed tennis regions.

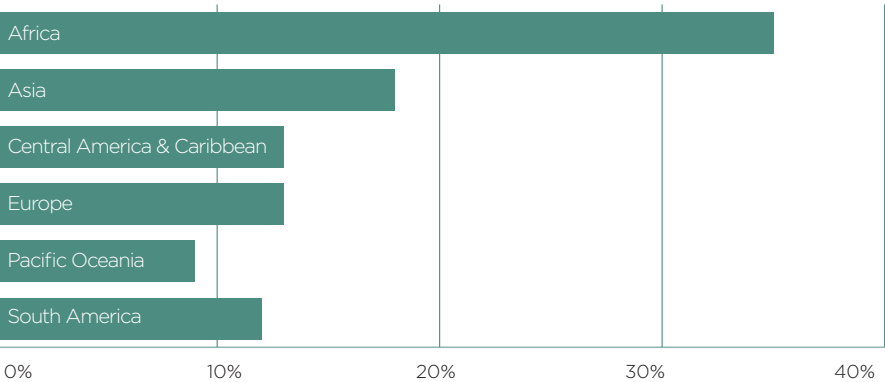
In 2012, \$4.62 million was spent on development projects throughout the world, with \$2.5 million being provided by the ITF and \$1.62 million by the Grand Slam nations. In addition, income of \$504,865 was also provided by Olympic Solidarity and other sources for development projects.

Olympic Solidarity (OS) is the part of the International Olympic Committee that distributes television income from the Olympic Games to National Olympic Committees and since the reintroduction of tennis into the Olympic family in Seoul in 1988, the ITF, through the development department, has collaborated closely with OS on a variety of programmes designed to help tennis grow around the world.

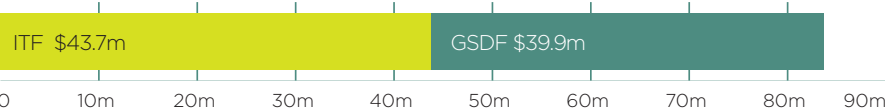
## 2012 Development Programme



## 2012 Development Programme expenditure by region



## ITF and GSDF spending 1986–2012 total US\$83.6m



# Grand Slam® Development Fund



“At the 2012 Australian Open 47 countries were represented amongst the 256 singles players. A large part of the reason why so many countries are now competitive in tennis is the great work of the Grand Slam Development Fund around the world. Tennis Australia, through its financial contributions to the Fund for more than 25 years, is proud to have played a part in this development of the game in emerging countries and assisting individual athletes with their development.”

**Steve Healy**  
Chairman,  
Australian Open





“As a Grand Slam nation, the French Tennis Federation is more than ever convinced of its mission towards the development of the game worldwide. We are happy and proud of our commitment to the Grand Slam Development Fund which contributes to the efforts made by the International Tennis Federation through its long-term Development Programme.”

**Jean Gachassin**  
Chairman,  
Roland Garros





“Wimbledon is very proud of its long association with the Grand Slam Development Fund and remains committed to its future development. Talented young people from many emerging economies have been given opportunities to compete internationally through the Grand Slam Development Fund and we are delighted to have been able to play our part in this important work.”

**Philip Brook**  
Chairman,  
Wimbledon

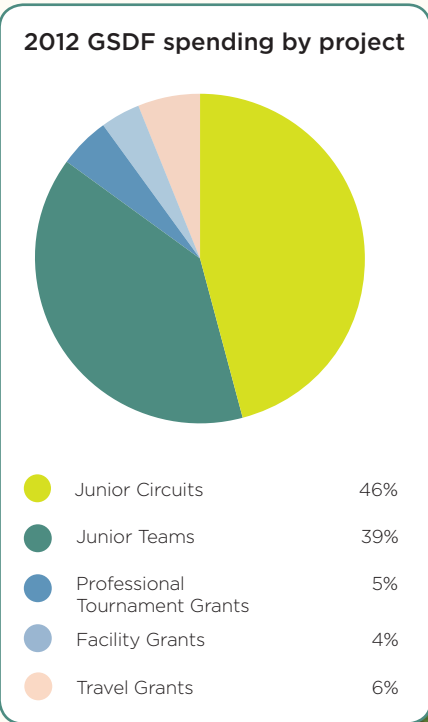




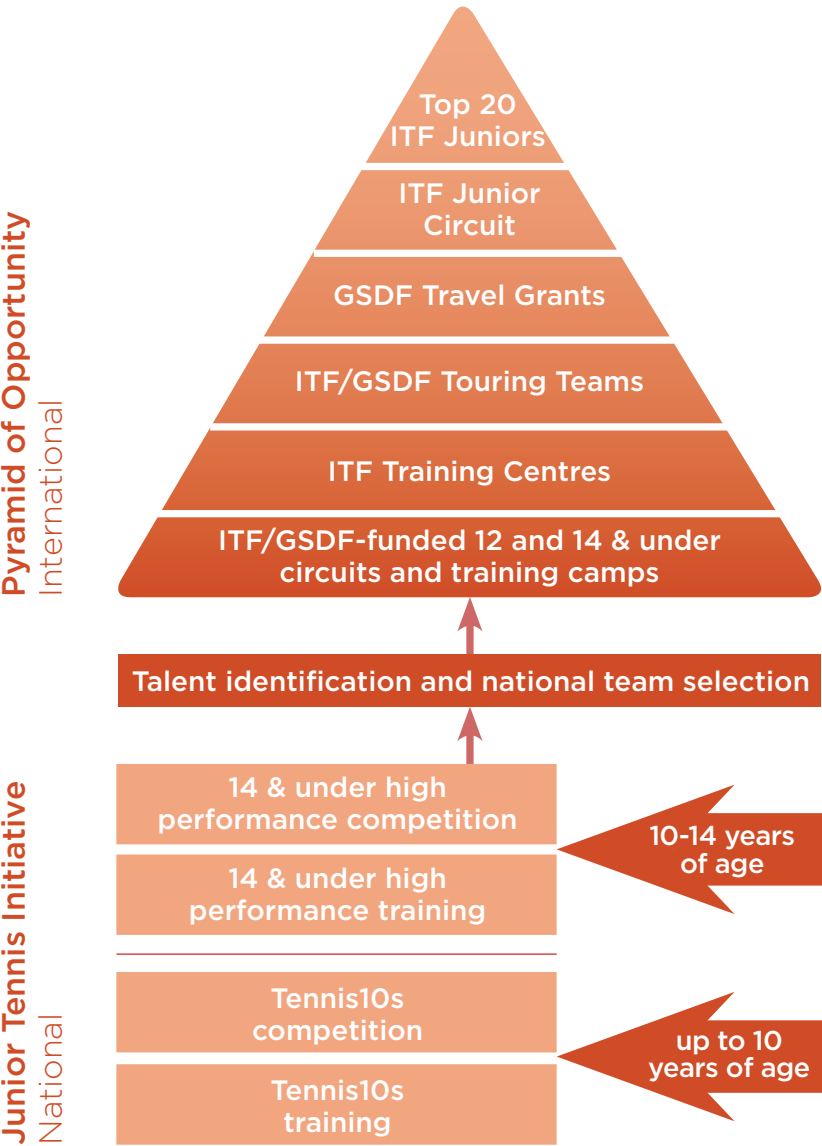
“The United States Tennis Association mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis. We are proud to continue this important longstanding commitment for almost 30 years contributing to the Grand Slam Development Fund. We support its worldwide efforts to increase competitive opportunities and create more and better players, especially in developing tennis regions.”

**Dave Haggerty**  
Chairman,  
US Open





# ITF/GSDF Player Development Pathway



The ITF/GSDF Player Development Pathway shown on the left illustrates, from the bottom to the top, how initiatives from the Development Programme can move a talented player from their first experience playing at school or in a club, through to the top levels of junior tennis, and on to the professional game and representing their countries in Davis Cup or Fed Cup by BNP Paribas.

The model aims to ensure that tennis at the highest level involves as many nations as possible so that the top of the sport continues to be truly international.

The Pathway operates at both national and international level. The national level helps nations to establish a 14 & under junior development programme through the Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI). Nations are first helped to set up training and competition for 10 & under players, using smaller courts and slower balls following the ITF Tennis10s programme in schools and clubs. The most talented 14 & under players from their respective age category are selected to receive performance-based training and access to national 12 and 14 & under competition.

At the international level, the Pyramid of Opportunity offers players progressing from their national programmes the chance to gain valuable training and competitive opportunities. The Pyramid includes ITF/GSDF-funded junior circuits, ITF/GSDF junior touring teams, ITF training centres and GSDF travel grants.

All the initiatives in the ITF/GSDF Player Development Pathway are covered in more detail in the pages that follow.





*Bottom Left: Azarenka after winning the 2005 Wimbledon girls' doubles title (pictured with International 18 & Under ITF/GSDF team); Below Middle: En route to her first Grand Slam title at 2011 Australian Open; Below Right: 2005 ITF Junior World Champion.*

## Pathway to the Top: Victoria Azarenka

Date of birth: 31 July 1989  
Place of birth: Minsk, Belarus

### 2001

- Attends ITF North East European Regional Training Camp for 14 & Under players

### 2002

- Competes in the ITF East European 14 & Under Development Championships

### 2004

- Selected for International 18 & Under ITF/GSDF teams to Europe and North America under the guidance of ITF/GSDF coach Bettina Fulco
- Reaches semifinals of Wimbledon and US Open junior tournaments

### 2005

- Wins Australian Open and US Open junior titles
- Wins three junior Grand Slam doubles titles
- Makes her Fed Cup by BNP Paribas debut for Belarus
- Wins first ITF Pro Circuit title, a \$50,000 event in Petange, Luxembourg
- Makes WTA Tour debut
- Rises to No. 1 in the ITF Junior Rankings and named 2005 ITF Junior World Champion

### 2006

- Makes professional Grand Slam debut at the Australian Open as a qualifier
- Wins first Grand Slam match at the US Open, advancing to third round

### 2008

- Makes Olympic debut in Beijing

### 2009

- Captures first WTA title in Brisbane; ends year with three titles
- Reaches first Grand Slam quarterfinal at Roland Garros

### 2010

- Wins two titles

### 2011

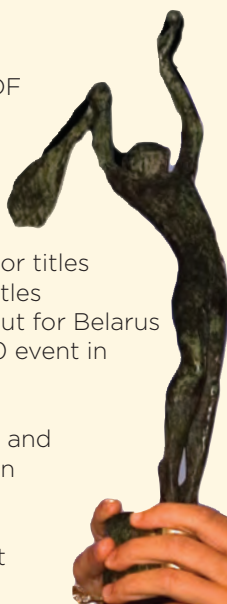
- Reaches first Grand Slam semifinal at Wimbledon
- Wins three titles

### 2012

- Wins first Grand Slam title at Australian Open; has 26-match winning streak in first three months of season
- Olympic bronze medallist in singles at London 2012; gold medallist in mixed doubles
- Reaches first US Open final
- Wins six titles

### 2013

- Successfully defends Australian Open title





# ITF Junior Tennis Initiative



Above: JTI in Cambodia and Haiti,  
Below: Tennis10s in Argentina,  
Right: Tennis10s Clinic in Poland

The Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) is a 14 & under junior development programme funded by the ITF, which forms a key part of a National Association's player development pathway. The JTI incorporates three key elements:

1. Tennis10s (10 & under tennis) within schools and clubs
2. Junior Performance Tennis for the most talented 10, 12 and 14 & under players
3. Effective use of equipment provided by the ITF

ITF assistance for the national JTI programme can include a subsidy to help a National Association hire a national coordinator, free equipment, educational resources, regular visits from the ITF Development Officers who work with the national JTI coordinator to ensure that the programme is successful.

In 2012 the JTI programme operated in 63 countries and the ITF invested US\$488,644 in their national programmes. The JTI provides opportunities for increased

participation in tennis, as well as identifying the most talented players for focused player development in that nation. Competition is an integral part of the programme, with 26,330 children entering 1,333 Tennis10s competitions and 14,164 children entering 1,116 14 & under competitions in schools and clubs across the 63 countries in 2012.

## Tennis10s

Tennis10s is tennis for players aged 10 & under, played on smaller courts with slower red, orange and green balls. It is a fun way to start tennis and makes it easy for children to play the game, develop good technique and tactics and a love for the sport. Tennis10s is a supporting programme of the Tennis Play and Stay campaign that continues to provide National Associations with programmes and resources to increase the number of players introduced to tennis worldwide.

## Junior Performance Tennis

Junior Performance Tennis focuses on players training in a performance environment. The programme provides a link from Tennis10s to the ITF/GSDF





regional circuits, encouraging National Associations to focus on the training and competitive needs of the most talented players within the 14 & under age group.

### Equipment

The ITF's Equipment Distribution Programme helps National Associations by providing ITF branded equipment (rackets, balls and strings) free of charge. In 2012 more than 111 National Associations benefited from the Programme, with 4,040 rackets, 3,700 mini-tennis bats and 127,968 balls being distributed throughout the year.

### 10 & under competition rule change

Following unanimous support at the 2010 ITF AGM, a new rule for 10 & under competition came into effect on 1 January 2012, marking only the fifth time in history that the ITF Rules of Tennis have been

changed. The new rule states that 10 & under competitions can no longer be played using a regular yellow tennis ball, with the use of slower red, orange or green balls on the appropriate sized court becoming mandatory instead. This was an important milestone in the development of the ITF's Tennis10s programme, which promotes the use of slower and lower bouncing balls, shorter and lighter rackets, and smaller courts to make it easier for children to take up the game. In November 2012 a corresponding programme for starter adults, Tennis Xpress, was launched which aims to help starter adults to serve, rally and score (play the game) from the first session.

***“The rule change marked only the fifth time in history that the ITF Rules of Tennis have been changed.”***



# Junior Circuits and Professional Tournaments

## Junior circuits

A core aim of the Development Programme is to increase competitive opportunities in developing tennis regions. These competitions provide opportunities for players from each country to test themselves against the best in their region, and give them the chance to win selection for further assistance through travel grants or junior touring teams. In 2012, 25 regional junior events (12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 & under) across five continents took place with financial assistance from the ITF and Grand Slam Development Fund, as well as technical assistance from the ITF Development Officers.

*Below: Komola Umarova (UZB), winner of both tournaments at the Central Asian 13 & Under Development Championships*



## Calendar of junior tournaments funded in 2012

### Vietnam

6–15 January  
Asian 14 & Under Development Championships, Division 2

### Namibia

8–14 January  
Southern African Junior Championships (12, 14 and 16 & under)

### Burundi

8–14 January  
East African Junior Championships (12, 14 and 16 & under)

### Kenya

30 January – 4 February  
East African 18 & Under Circuit

### Togo

6–12 February  
West & Central African Junior Championships (12, 14 and 16 & under)

### Philippines

4–17 March  
Asian 14 & Under Development Championships, Division 1

### Turkey

13–24 March  
European 14 & Under Development Championships

### South Africa

19–24 March  
African 18 & Under Closed Junior Championships

### Egypt

4–8 April  
African Junior Championships Warm-up event (14 and 16 & under)

### Egypt

10–14 April  
35th African Junior Championships (14 and 16 & under)

### Mexico

30 April – 5 May  
JITIC, Central America & Caribbean Closed Championships (18 & under)

### Fiji

30 April – 11 May  
West Pacific Qualifying event (12 and 15 & under)

### Guam

11–15 June  
North Pacific Qualifying event (12, 15 and 18 & under)

### Czech Republic

27 June – 1 July  
European 12 & Under Development Championships

### El Salvador

2–8 July  
Central American 13 & Under Development Championships

### American Samoa

9–14 July  
East Pacific Qualifying event (12, 15 and 18 & under)

## Professional tournaments

The Development Programme also provides grants to assist developing tennis nations in hosting entry-level professional events for men and women. This gives players looking to make the transition from juniors to professional tennis the chance to gain their first ranking points in their own country or region. In 2012 the GSDF provided grants for eight weeks of men's events

and 11 weeks of women's events on the ITF Pro Circuit.

In addition to international world ranking professional events, there were also six ITF/CAT Prize Money Circuit events funded in Africa in 2012. These events have proved to be very important for African players, who are no longer juniors but are often playing Davis Cup and Fed Cup for their respective nations, to be able to play competitively.



## Spotlight on... European 14 & Under Development Championships

### El Salvador

30 July – 4 August  
JITIC, Central America  
& Caribbean Closed  
Championships  
(14 and 16 & Under)

### Zimbabwe

30 July – 11 August  
South/Central African  
18 & Under Circuit

### Fiji

6–10 August  
Pacific Oceania  
Junior Championships  
(12, 15 and 18 & under)

### Tobago

27 August – 1 September  
Caribbean 13 & Under  
Development  
Championships

### Benin & Togo

4–15 September  
West/Central African  
18 & Under Circuit

### Oman

23 September – 4 October  
West Asian 13 & Under  
Development Championships

### Kyrgyzstan

27 September – 8 October  
Central Asian 13 & Under  
Development Championships

### Namibia

29 October – 3 November  
South/Central African  
18 & Under Circuit

### Kenya

19 November – 8 December  
East African 18 & Under Circuit

Nations receiving grants  
to host Prize Money  
Circuit events included:

- Mauritania:  
29 April – 2 May
- Senegal: 4–7 May
- Gabon: 25–27 June
- Rwanda:  
24–28 September
- Mali: 14–17 November
- Togo: 12–15 December



*Denys Klok (UKR),  
winner both boys titles  
at the European 14  
& Under Development  
Championships 2012*

The European 14 & Under Development Championships were first introduced in 1995, following the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, to give more competitive opportunities to juniors from Eastern Europe in the 14 & under category. The Championships are now open to players from Armenia, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine.

The Championships comprise a two-day training camp, followed by two tournaments. The tournaments use a compass draw format, which ensures that each player has at least one singles match each day. The top performing players are then invited to join European ITF/GSDF junior touring teams.

A number of today's top professionals, including Victoria Azarenka and Marcos Baghdatis, have benefitted from playing the event in the past.

## Regional junior circuits

The GSDF also supported the following circuits that are organised and administered by the regional tennis associations concerned:

- Asian 14 & Under Series – Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)
- COSAT 14 and 16 & Under Circuit – Confederacion Sudamericana de Tenis (COSAT)
- African 12 and 14 & Under Circuit – Confederation of African Tennis (CAT)

These circuits provide invaluable competitive opportunities for the best young players.



*Top to bottom: Players and coaches at 2012 European 12 & Under Development Championships; South Africa, winners of the AJC team trophy (14 and 16 & under)*

# ITF Training Camps and Centres

## Training camps

While competition drives the sport, the training of the best players is also vital. The ITF also funds and organises training camps on a regional basis, which enable the best players in the region to practice together. It also helps to educate and update coaches from the region in high-level training methods. Three ITF junior training camps took place in 2012:

### ITF/ATF 13 & Under Central Asia Training Camp

16–29 June  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

### ITF/COTECC 13 & Under Regional Training Camp

6–14 October  
Trinidad & Tobago

### ITF/ATF High Performance Training Camp for Asian Male Players

4–15 November  
Bangkok, Thailand



Above: Asian players training in Paris as part of the 14 & Under team in Europe; Right: Players at the South African training centre

## Training centres

The ITF continued to fund and operate four ITF training centres in 2012:

- Lautoka, Fiji
- Pretoria, South Africa
- Dakar, Senegal
- Bujumbura, Burundi

Forty-three players from 25 countries attended these four centres during the year.

Those attending train at them on a full-time basis whilst continuing their education at nearby schools. Many of the players who attend are benefiting from Olympic Solidarity scholarships as a result of their performances at regional competitions.

## Class of 2012

### ITF/SATA Training Centre in Pretoria, South Africa

Guy-Orly Iradukunda (BDI)  
Lesedi Jacobs (NAM)  
Elizabeth Kapari (GHA)  
Lynn Kiro (RSA)  
Courtney Lock (ZIM)  
Chisomo Lumeta (MAW)  
Hassan Ndayishimiye (BDI)  
Andriatokiana Ratsimandresy (MAD)  
Zarah Razafimahatratra (MAD)  
Tendai Tapfuma (ZIM)  
Innocent Tidimane (BOT)  
Joseph Ubon (NGR)  
Theresa Van Zyl (RSA)

### ITF/CAT Francophone Training Centre in Dakar, Senegal

Amadou Balde (SEN)  
Abissoubie Batazi (TOG)  
William Bushamuka (COD)  
Seydou Diallo (NIG)  
Seynabou Diop (SEN)  
Antoine Gbadoe (TOG)  
Abdul Karim Ouattara (CIV)  
Yacouba Maiga (MLI)  
Hafed Said (MTN)  
Tunde Segodo (BEN)  
Connor Yao (CIV)

### ITF/OTF Training Centre in Lautoka, Fiji

Tammy Ackerman (NMI)  
Lorraine Banimataku (VAN)  
Junior Benjamin (SOL)  
Christopher Hargrove (FIJ)  
Tarani Kamoe (FIJ)  
Lorish Puluspene (PNG)  
Terry Rush (FSM)  
Annie Shannon (FIJ)  
Vinda Teally (SOL)  
Marcia Tere-Apisah (PNG)  
Tebatibunga Tito (KIR)

### ITF/FTB Training Centre in Bujumbura, Burundi

Ernest Habiyaambere (RWA)  
Omary Hamisi Sulle (TAN)  
Mariam Mujawimana (BDI)  
Jules Ndibwami (RWA)  
Emmanuel Nicodemas (TAN)  
Radjabu Ntamba (BDI)  
Kassalo Omari (BDI)  
Abigail Tate-Harte (KEN)





# ITF/GSDF Touring Teams

The middle stage of the Pyramid of Opportunity detailed on page 6 is the junior touring team programme, jointly funded by the ITF/GSDF, where the best players from their region are invited to join the touring teams that compete in other parts of the world. The touring team programme is probably the ITF's most well-known development initiative and is an effective one, with at least one junior Grand Slam title being won every year by a member of an ITF/GSDF touring team during the period 1999–2005.

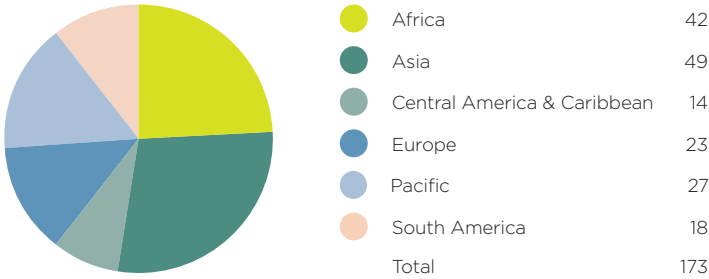
In 2012 there were 25 touring teams involving 173 players. All of these players received the chance to travel to tournaments with an experienced ITF/GSDF touring team coach.

The flagship team is the International 18 & Under ITF/GSDF team to Europe, which plays a series of Grade 1 and Grade A events every year including junior Roland Garros and junior Wimbledon. The team had a successful tour in 2012 with two singles and two doubles titles being won in Belgium and Germany. Other members of the team reached the semifinals or better in singles or doubles at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and in Italy.

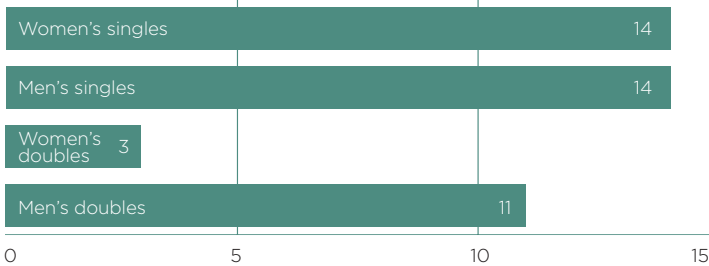
Above, left to right: Denys Klok (UKR), member of the European 14 & Under team to Europe; Hyeon Chung (KOR), member of the International 18 & Under team to Europe and winner of the 20th International Junior Tournament of Offenbach; Yun Seong Chung (KOR), member of the Asian 14 & Under team to Europe; Below: Members of the International 18 & Under team to Europe



25 teams toured in 2012 with 173 players, whose regional breakdown was as follows:



Former ITF/GSDF touring team members as direct entries into the 2012 Wimbledon main draw:



# GSDF Travel and Facility Grants

## Facility grants

As many National Associations do not have their own national tennis centre at which to conduct player training or competitions, the Grand Slam Development Fund helps National Associations to build or refurbish their own centre. In 2012, the following National Associations received GSDF funding:

Barbados  
Cape Verde  
Costa Rica  
Gambia  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Paraguay  
Senegal  
Syria  
Zimbabwe

Paraguay was awarded a GSDF facility grant to help towards the cost of constructing three clay tennis courts with lighting at their national tennis centre. In June 2012 the work was completed and the facility is now being used to host national and international events.



## Travel grants

In 2012, more than \$100,000 was awarded by the GSDF to 38 players from 26 countries. Two players who benefitted from GSDF travel grants in 2012 were:

Name: **Darian King**

Date of birth: 1992

Country: Barbados

Grant awarded: February, August and October 2012

King was awarded three grants in 2012 to play ITF Pro Circuit Futures and ATP Challenger events in Canada, Mexico and USA. Between April and November he showed impressive results, winning two Futures singles titles and four doubles titles in Mexico and USA. In February 2012 King's ATP ranking was 728 and he ended the year at 490.



Name: **Jelena Ostapenko**

Date of birth: 1997

Country: Latvia

Grant awarded: August 2012

In April 2012, Ostapenko was selected to be a member of the International 18 & Under ITF/GSDF team to Europe. She won the girls' singles title at the 48th Astrid Bowl Charleroi, having secured her place in the main draw through qualifying, and also reached the girls' doubles final of the 20th International Junior Tournament of Offenbach.

Ostapenko was then awarded a GSDF travel grant to play the Canadian Open Junior Championships and the US Open Junior Championships, where she reached the quarterfinals. She finished 2012 with an ITF junior ranking of 47 and a WTA ranking of 725.





# ITF Coaches Education and Tennis Play & Stay Seminar

## Coaches education

Since its inception in 1976, the Development Programme has continued to grow in order to meet the changing face of tennis and the area of coaches education is a good example of this.

Many National Associations do not have a coaches education programme of their own and the ITF tries to help them develop their programme and also to improve the level of tennis coaching throughout the world.

In 2012, 78 coaches courses were organised by the ITF including 12 Level 1 courses, 11 Level 2 courses and 14 Play Tennis courses. Thirty-two of the 78 courses were funded by Olympic Solidarity.

## Regional Coaches Conferences

Five successful BNP Paribas Regional Coaches Conferences and the European Coaches Symposium took place in 2012 across five continents. These showcased the latest advances in tennis coaching, teaching methodology and tennis-specific sports science research, and were held in Bangkok (Thailand), Leon (Mexico), Santa Cruz (Bolivia), Sun City (South Africa), Hammamet (Tunisia) and Helsinki (Finland). They were conducted in partnership with Olympic Solidarity and the ITF's Regional Associations (Asian Tennis Federation, Confederacion Sudamericana de Tenis, Confederacion de Tenis de Centroamerica Caribe, Confederation of African Tennis and Tennis Europe).

Keynote speakers included Mark Kovacs (USA), Max de Vylder (BEL), Andre de Beer (RSA), Jeff Coetzee (RSA), Gabriel Jaramillo (USA), Elizma Nortje (NAM), Bernard Pestre (FRA), Kirsty Querl (RSA), Alex Cuellar (ESP), Paul Dent (GBR), Marta Dominguez (CUB), Tom Gullikson (USA), Larry Jurovich (CAN), Beni Linder (SUI), Louis Cayer (CAN), Mike Barrell (GBR), Diego Garcia (ARG), Richard Gonzalez (URU), Cesar Kist (BRA) and David Sanz (ESP).

### ITF Central American & Caribbean Regional Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas

Leon, Mexico. 19–22 September  
*222 coaches attended from 8 Central American countries.*

### ITF Southern African Regional Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas

Sun City Resort, South Africa. 20–23 September  
*88 coaches from 10 countries in the region participated in the event.*

### ITF North African Regional Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas

Hammamet, Tunisia. 10–13 October  
*83 coaches attended from a total of 9 countries.*

### ITF South American Regional Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas

Santa Cruz, Bolivia. 16–19 October  
*150 coaches from 10 countries across the region participated in the event.*

### European Coaches Symposium

Helsinki, Finland. 24–28 October  
*115 delegates from 34 European countries participated in the biennial conference.*

### ITF Asian Regional Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas

Bangkok, Thailand. 7–10 November  
*165 coaches from 23 countries participated in the four-day conference.*



Right: Paul Dent presenting in Mexico; Far right: Mike Barrell presenting on court in Bolivia



## Tennis Play and Stay Seminar

The 3rd Tennis Play and Stay Seminar took place on 27–30 November 2012. 150 delegates attended, representing over 50 National Associations, the four Grand Slam nations, the tennis industry and the ATP and WTA. The seminar was held in London and hosted by Britain's LTA at their National Tennis Centre. It served as a platform for the sharing of best practice relating to all aspects of increasing tennis participation.

A total of 39 speakers presented throughout the three-and-a-half day seminar and during the event the ITF officially launched Tennis Xpress, a new supporting programme aimed at starter adults and recommended by the ITF as the best way to learn the game.

The Tennis Play and Stay campaign is a global initiative aimed at increasing tennis participation worldwide. Tennis Play and Stay centres around the slogan 'Serve, Rally and Score' and seeks to promote tennis as an easy, fun and healthy sport. The campaign is funded by the ITF Marketing the Game initiative which contributed US\$157,000 in 2012.



Left: Kirk Anderson, Director, Coaches Education USTA  
Above: Peter Bretherton, LTA President



### Coaches Commission

The ITF Coaches Commission met once in 2012, at Roland Garros on Sunday 3 June. The meeting was chaired by Ismail El Shafei (Egypt/ITF Board of Directors). During the meeting, the Commission covered a selection of issues, including the 2013 Worldwide Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas, a discussion of plans for regional conferences in 2012, and developments within the ITF Approval of Coach Education Systems. They also discussed a range of other issues including publications, online education, and junior and professional tennis matters.

## Recognition of Coach Education Systems

In 2012, Tennis Ireland became the latest National Association to have its coach education system recognised by the ITF. Recognition is based on the criteria and minimum standards for coaches education that were agreed by the ITF taskforce on coaches education and endorsed by the ITF Coaches Commission and ITF Board of Directors.

Since the launch of the programme in 2011, 13 National Associations have had their Coach Education systems recognised by the ITF, and nine National Associations are currently in the process of being assessed.

## Coaching publications

With more than 80 countries using the ITF's recommended Level 1 and Level 2 syllabi as part of their own coaches education programme, the production and translation of ITF recommended books is a vital resource provided by Development. The three bestselling books in 2012 were *Biomechanics of Advanced Tennis*, *Technique Development in Tennis Stroke Production* and the *Advanced Coaches Manual*.





## Olympic scholarships

In addition to providing grants for coaches courses and athletes, Olympic Solidarity also provided Olympic scholarships for 11 coaches in 2012 to undergo an intensive course of high-level training, practical experience and theoretical study in Valencia, Spain.



Country	Coach	Course undertaken
Uzbekistan	Igor Shelyakin	Level 2 Coaches Course
Vietnam	Phong Quoc Tran	Level 2 Coaches Course
Pakistan	Kamran Khalil	Level 3 Coaches Course
Egypt	Hani Nasser	Level 3 Coaches Course
Iran	Akbar Taheri	Level 3 Coaches Course
Dominican Republic	Alberto Martinez	Level 2 Coaches Course
Panama	Maria Elena Gittens	Level 2 Coaches Course
Puerto Rico	Oderaiza Soto	Level 2 Coaches Course
Botswana	Kagiso M Kelebele	Level 2 Coaches Course
Paraguay	Guillermo Guerreno	Level 2 Coaches Course
Cuba	Jose Giraldo Martinez	Level 3 Coaches Course



## Tennis iCoach

Tennis iCoach 2.0 is the official video-based coaching website from the ITF which provides high quality educational resources for coaches, players and parents. In 2012 following a strategic review of the existing site, work began on developing Tennis iCoach 3.0 which is set to be launched in 2013 and will include enhanced features including HD quality educational resources.

Tennis iCoach provides exclusive access to presentations from ITF Worldwide and Regional Coaches Conferences where members can learn about cutting-edge developments in the game from the world's top coaches and coaches education experts.

In 2012, seven conferences were recorded across four continents, including the ITF Regional Coaches Conferences in Asia, South America and Central America. In addition, the Tennis Europe Symposium in Finland and two Spanish national coaching events were also recorded by the iCoach team. The presentations from these conferences were released throughout the latter part of 2012, and new content will continue to be added to the site in 2013.



## Development of a national coaching structure



This Olympic Solidarity-funded programme is designed to allow National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to develop their national sports structures by implementing a medium to long-term action plan (three to six months) for a specific Olympic sport under the guidance of an international expert.

The stay of the foreign expert can be divided into several clearly defined periods and the expert focuses primarily on helping the National Association to develop a structure for coaches education and player development that can remain in place with national coaches once the expert leaves.

In 2012 Mali benefitted from this programme with Michel Rissani (GAB) as the expert.

# ITF Development Officers

The implementation of the ITF development initiatives would not be possible without the ongoing efforts of the ten full-time ITF Development Officers who advise and assist National Associations in every corner of the globe. In 2012 the ITF Development Officers each spent an average of 30 weeks on the road working with National Associations, players and coaches, and monitoring development projects in their respective regions.



**Anthony Jeremiah**  
Caribbean



**Cecilia Ancalmo**  
Central America



**Miguel Miranda**  
South America



**Amine Ben Makhoul**  
West/North/  
Central Africa



**Farah Dayoub**  
West Asia



**Thierry Ntwali**  
East Africa



**Riaan Kruger**  
Southern Africa



**Hrovje Zmajic**  
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**Suresh Menon**  
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