

ITF Coaching Newsletter June 2010

International Tennis Federation Tennis Development Department

ITF Monthly E-Mail Newsletter for Coaches, Year 11, Issue 6, June 2010

The ITF Development / Coaching Department is pleased to welcome you to the June edition of its ITF Monthly E-mail Newsletter.

In an effort to keep you informed and updated on ITF coaching matters worldwide, in this issue of the newsletter you will find:

- **Development Events**
- **Coaching Courses in Europe**
- **News from other National Associations and Organisations**

DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

14 - 25 May: ITF Regional Level 2 Coaches Course - Brega City, Libya

29 May - 2 June: ITF Play Tennis and Play Tennis Tutors Course - Seoul, Korea

6 - 15 June ITF Level 1 Coaches Course: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

14 - 24 July ITF/OS Level 1 Coaches Course: Tblisi, Georgia

COACHING COURSES IN EUROPE

An amazing experience! - Carolina Vera Vera

Today I have the opportunity to share my amazing experience with all the people with which I share a passion for sports, especially for tennis. At the moment I am in Valencia, Spain for an ITF level 2 coaches course. Thanks to the ITF, the Olympic solidarity, the National Olympic Committee and my National Tennis Association the process of me coming and attending this course in Spain has been successful. Now it is my responsibility to learn and study as much as possible in order to complete this course with great success. I have been here three weeks, and starting from day one up until now, every day I feel that it has been a successful and an amazing day. An amazing experience that I would like to share with you:

The first day I arrived in Valencia I met Mr. Scott Over from the ITF. He gave me a nice overview of the program while enjoying a tour through the ITF Office. His warm welcome, his support and help throughout the course is truly appreciated. I also met my colleagues Coach Damien Applewhaite, from Barbados and Coach Curtis Gonzales from Trinidad and Tobago. We are all coaches representing the COTECC English speaking region. From the ITF office we also met Dr. Miguel Crespo. He is a respectful person and I am



very fortunate to be able to take in some of his incredible knowledge. The coaches and staff from the Tennis Academy Tennis Val, are all very professional and friendly individuals as well. These coaches are willing to help us out and are willing to share as much information as we want, in order for us to become better coaches and be a greater asset in the COTECC English speaking region.

The Tennis Academy Tennis Val, directed by Jose Altur and Pancho Alvarino, is a high performance academy that develops and trains young professional tennis players. This Academy has a well balanced program, with well trained coaches. The program consists both on court and off court training. There is a combination of match play, all kinds of variations of pattern drills and physical conditioning. The first week we were able to observe the training sessions which gave us the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the academy. Starting week two, we became more active by leading off court and on court training sessions. So just imagine how much we learn, the experience we gain from working with high level tennis players and the constructive feedback we receive from the tennis coaches. We get one on one attention and we also learn detailed tactical training from Coach Jose Altur.

Besides the knowledge we gain each day, there are some incredible high lights in our program as well.

We were able to go visit the Equelite J.C Ferrero Tennis Academy, another high performance tennis academy. We had an informative tour around the academy with the marketing/public relations representative. Which is another important aspect in the tennis industry, because it helps to get a better understanding on how to manage, administer and lead successful tennis programs. We were very lucky that day, because professional tennis players Juan Carlos Ferrero and Maria Sherapova were practicing in the academy. And not to forget we took a group picture with these professionals ;-). Speaking about professional tennis players, we also got the opportunity to see David Ferrer and Maria Kirilenko practice for a couple of days in the Tennis Val Tennis Academy.

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ITF/OS Level 3 Course in Valencia 2010 - Curtis Gonzales

Firstly, I would like to thank the ITF Development Officer for the English Speaking Caribbean, Mr. Anthony Jeremiah for giving me the opportunity to participate in a High Performance Coaching Course. I received a call from Mr. Jeremiah, asking if I would like to participate in a high performance course which would require being away for three months. After recently returning from the World Coaches Conference in Valencia, Spain in November 2009; to think that I would be returning to Spain to be part of this high performance experience wasn't even a thought and I must sincerely thank Olympic Solidarity and the International Tennis Federation for granting me this memorable opportunity.

I arrived in Valencia on the evening of the May 2nd 2010 and was greeted at the hotel by Mr. Scott Over (ITF) along with Mr. Damien Applewhaite (Barbados) whom is also participating in the course. We were warmly welcomed and the schedule for the first day was discussed.



The learning experience began immediately as I arrived at the Valencia Tennis Academy on a cold rainy Monday morning where I was introduced to the Directors of the facility, Mr. Jose Altur and Mr. Pancho Alvarino as well as coaches and players. The language barrier and my Trinidadian accent created some challenges with some of the coaches and players, but were eventually overcome. I was somewhat amazed at the reaction of many coaches and players when I told them I came from the island of Trinidad and Tobago. Like where is that?

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ITF/OS Level 3 Coaching Course - Damien Applewhaite

My name is Damien Applewhaite and I am from the beautiful island of Barbados. I am currently in Valencia, Spain on an Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for coaches' education in tennis. I would just like you to update you on my progress so far.

The theoretical component of the course is conducted at the ITF Coaching Headquarters in Valencia under the tutelage of Dr. Miguel Crespo and his assistant Scott Over. The quality of individualized tutoring that I have been exposed to over the past 3 weeks has been nothing like I have ever experienced. These 2 gentlemen have been instrumental in guiding me successfully through the first half of the course and I am sure that they will do everything in their capacity to ensure that I finish the course successfully.

There is also a very important practical component of the course. When we are not in the lecture room at the ITF office, we are at TennisVal. This is a high performance tennis academy called Centro de Tennis Altur/Alvarino which is headed by Jose Altur and Pancho Alvarino. At the academy we get the opportunity to witness top coaches working with high level juniors and also Top 30 ATP and WTA ranked professional players. In the very first week we were introduced to David Ferrer and his coach Javier Piles. Also players such as Maria Kirilenko and Sara Errani train at the same facility periodically. The opportunity to practise and apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the lecture room in this environment is, in my opinion, priceless. Working alongside, and gaining secrets from coaches such as Rafael Mensua (former coach of Safin) and Paco (Igor Adreev's coach) on a daily basis is more than I expected before I arrived here in Spain.



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ITF Coaches Commission meet in Paris

The ITF Coaches Commission met at Roland Garros on Sunday 30 May. Chaired by Ismail El Shafei (Egypt / ITF Board of Directors), the Commission firstly welcomed its new members: Ms Farah Dayoub (SYR), Mr Patrick McEnroe (USA), Mr Boris Sobkin (RUS), and Mr Hayato Sakurai (JPN).

During the meeting, the Commission reviewed the success of last year's Worldwide Coaches Conference as well as receiving information on the bids received for the 2011 edition of the Conference.

Also on the agenda was the issue of ITF approval of Coaching systems and professional tennis issues. Dave Miley gave an update on this year's ITF Regional Coaches Conferences, ITF Coaching websites and distance learning as well as on the ITF Play and Stay campaign and growth in the game projects.



Miguel Crespo reported back on tennis icoach, courses, publications and research projects and Luca Santilli gave an update on Junior tennis.

The Commission members were able to continue their discussions over dinner. On behalf of the ITF, we would like to extend

our thanks to Bernard Pestre and the Fédération Française de Tennis for hosting the meeting.

Curtis Gonzalez OS Level 3 Programme

The enthusiasm of a hectic schedule continued into the second half of the high performance training, with visits to tennis centres in Madrid and Barcelona. During our visit to Madrid we met with Mr. David Sanz Rivas, Director of Coaches Education and Research in Spain. After a day of inspecting his tennis facilities, Mr. Sanz explained the coaching structure and how coaches are certified.

During our tour we found time to enjoy the beauty and splendor of the historical sites in Madrid City and later traveled to Barcelona, where we stayed at the Spanish High Performance Academy for Olympic Athletes and also visited the tennis academies within Barcelona.

We met Albert Costa who is the Technical Director at the Catalana Tennis Academy and was also a former French Open Champion and now Davis Cup Captain for Spain. Afterwards we returned to Valencia to complete our final practical exams and later in the afternoon certificates and gifts were presented signaling the end of the course.



The knowledge I gained and also having the opportunity to interact with high performance coaches, players and visits to academies has been an overwhelming experience, which I will share with the National Olympic Committee and the Tennis Association on my return to Trinidad and Tobago.

I would like to thank Olympic Solidarity, ITF, Dr. Miguel Crespo and Mr. Scott Over, my fellow participants, the management, coaches and players of the Tennis Val Academy for making my stay in Valencia, Spain a truly rewarding experience.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The International Tennis Federation has a vacancy for a Southern African Development officer based in South Africa.

The job will involve the following;

1. Organizing ,implementing and monitoring development projects in Southern Africa that are funded by the ITF and the GSDF
2. Assisting nations with establishing their own Coaches Education systems and conducting courses for coaches and tutors whenever necessary.
3. Assisting nations with national player development programmes
4. Coordinating the ITF Junior circuits that take place in the region (e.g. 12 & U, 18 & U).
5. Tracking and advising the best juniors in the region to assist them to develop their level of play and recommending talented players for ITF/GSDF assistance

Applicants should be experienced tennis coaches with good administrative and people skills. In addition to English, ability to speak French and or Spanish would be an advantage. For more details on the job description, contact the ITF Development Department.

Applications together with CVs must be submitted by 12th July.

Contact: **ITF Development Department:** development@itftennis.com

LINKS

ITF Coaching: <http://www.itftennis.com/coaching>

ITN: <http://www.itftennis.com/itn>

ITF Development: <http://www.itftennis.com/development>

ITF Tennis...Play and Stay website: <http://www.tennisplayandstay.com>

ITF Tennis iCoach website: <http://www.tennisicoach.com>

ITF Store: <http://store.itftennis.com>

ITF Junior Tennis School: <http://www.itfjuniortennisschool.com>

If you wish other coaches to receive this ITF e-mail newsletter, please forward us their address for inclusion on our mailing list.

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