

tennis matters



Wheelchair Tennis
South Africa

Edition 2 2nd Quarter 2013

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To ensure informative and relevant information, we welcome your comments and contributions.

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Event Calendar

Airports Company South Africa Open
22 – 25 June 2013

ACSA Open 2013 – ITF Future Series
27 – 30 June 2013

Airports Company South Africa Eastern Cape Open – ITF 1 Series
23 -26 September 2013

Airports Company South Africa Strand Open – ITF 1 Series
Strand, Cape Town 5 – 8 December 2013

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Wheelie Success at W.T.S.A International events April 2013



Kg Montjane after winning the ACSA Gauteng Open 2013 with Mary Goby; Ekurhuleni ward Counsellor



Lucas Sithole SA's no.1 and world no.5 in the quads division, in action in his first Super Series final.

SA recently hosted the first Super Series event on the continent. With only 6 Super Series events globally, it was an honour and privilege to host a tournament of this magnitude. Our sponsors, Airports Company South Africa, together with the ITF and the NEC, have made this a dream come true.

Wheelchair Tennis South Africa (W.T.S.A) hosted two high grade international events in April this year; the ACSA Gauteng Open from 3-7 April and the ACSA SA Open from 9 – 13 April. The events attracted top players from across the globe including the World No 1's in both the men's and the quads divisions - Shingo Kunieda (JPN) and David Wagner (USA). The top ranked women's player was World no 3, Jiske Griffioen (NED).

At the ACSA Gauteng Open SA's golden girl, Kgothatso Montjane had a phenomenal tournament, where she met and defeated World No 3, Jiske Griffioen, in the singles finals 6-4,6-1. In the quad's draw, SA's Super Star and world no 5, Lucas Sithole reached the semi-finals where he was narrowly beaten by world no 2, Andrew Laphorne (GBR) 5-7,6-0,6-4. Laphorne proceeded to the final but it was world no.1 David Wagner (USA) who wheeled away with the title. In the men's final world no.1 Shingo Kunieda (JPN) took on 2nd seed and world no.4 Gustavo Fernandez (ARG). After a shaky start, Kunieda (JPN) raised the bar to win the match convincingly, 7-6(2), 6-1. The junior division was an all South African affair with top seed Gift Lekganyane paired up against the up and coming youngster and 2nd seed Thato Tsomole in the final. It was the sixteen year old Tsomole who caused an upset and wheeled away with the title, winning the match 6-4,6-2.

Wheelie Success at WTSA International events April 2013 Continued

At the 1st Super Series event in Africa - the ACSA SA Open, our own, Kgothatso Montjane faced Jiske Griffioen (NED) for the second time in two weeks, but this time in the semi-finals. KG Montjane, once again pulled out all the stops - after being one set and 4-1 down, came back to win 11 straight games and take the match 2-6, 7-5, 6-0. In the first Super Series finals of her career, KG faced world no.4 Marjolein Buis (NED) and lost 3-6, 3-6. In the quads division SA's Lucas Sithole caused the upset of the tournament by beating the World No 1, David Wagner (USA), in the semi-finals 6-4, 7-6 (5). Sithole made history by reaching the first Super Series final of his career where he faced Andrew Lapthorne (GBR) once more. Lapthorne, world no 2, had narrowly beaten Sithole in the semi's a week prior in the ACSA Gauteng Open, but Sithole had a score to settle. After taking the 1st set 6-3 Sithole lost focus and the 2nd set 6-0, however he was not beaten. He showed great strength of character, focus and determination to come back in the third and final set to narrowly lose this match in a nail biter of a 3rd set 7-6 (9). Although the score was not settled, Sithole showed the world he has a big heart, and Big Match Temperament.

WTSA Stars Soar To New Career Highs



The tremendous achievements of **Kgothatso Montjane**, winning the Airports Company Gauteng Open, and being a runner up at the Airports Company South Africa SA Open, has KG reaching a new career high ranking of **6 in the world**.

Likewise, **Lucas Sithole's** achievements of reaching the semi finals of the Airports Company Gauteng Open & the finals of the Airports Company South Africa SA Open have catapulted Sithole's ranking to **5 in the world**. It was not only the new career highs which are significant for the players, but the emotional victory, and self belief they have gained by beating the World no 3, and World No 1's respectively.

Other players who reached significant career highs after these events are:
Evans Maripa - now ranked No 25 in the World in the Open Men's Division, and in the Junior Division, SA has 5 of the 10 Juniors Boys & 2 of the top 10 Junior Girls in the World - **Giff Lekganyane** World No 2 -Junior Boys, **Thato Tsomole** - World No 3 - Junior Boys, **Xolelani Nyandeni** -World No 6 -Junior Boys, **Sean de Hilster** -World No 8 Junior Boys, **Bonga Mbhele**- World No 10 Junior Boys, **Mariska Venter** -World No 1 Junior Girls, **Thando Hlatshwayo** -World No 4 Junior Girls.

CONGRATULATIONS KG Montjane , Lucas Sithole and the rest of our rising stars on your new career high rankings, and significant victories. We wish you all success and will watch as you continue to move up the rankings, one spot and one match at a time

ITF Ranking

20 May 2013

ITF Name RSA

Mens Singles

27	Maripa, Evans	1
39	Mathonsi, Sydwell	2
63	Els, Leon	3
100	Marsh, Marshall	4
104	Ramokoatsi, Frank	5
109	Selepe, Patrick	6
111	Tshipuke, Ishmael	7
136	Makwela, Tsepo	8
148	Gwija, Mayenzeke	9
152	Nyandeni, Xolelani	10

Mens Doubles

23	Maripa, Evans	1
39	Els, Leon	2
69	Ramokoatsi, Frank	3
73	Mathonsi, Sydwell	4
78	Selepe, Patrick	5
93	Marsh, Marshall	6
95	Ramphadi, Donald	7
120	Anderson, Malcolm	8
151	Tshipuke, Ishmael	9
164	Gwija, Mayenzeke	10

Womens Singles

7	Montjane, Kgothatso	1
29	Mankgele, Mabel	2
31	Venter, Mariska	3
35	van der Meer, Rose	4
39	Hlatshwayo, Thando	5
83	Gxumisa, Noma-Afrika	6
106	Fuma, Sipokazi	7
119	Shai, Letaba	8
138	Dhlahdla, Thandeka	9
148	Platyi, Zintle	10

Womens Doubles

10	Montjane, Kgothatso	1
24	Mankgele, Mabel	2
29	van der Meer, Rose	3
52	Venter, Mariska	4
54	Hlatshwayo, Thando	5
59	Shai, Letaba	6
125	Fuma, Siphokazi	7
134	Molefe, Dipuo	8
136	Makaya, Thethiswa	9
141	Gxumisa, Noma-Afrika	10

Quads Singles

5	Sithole, Lucas	1
36	Dlamini, Bongani	2
52	Gallant, Fernando	3
53	Kekai, Steven	4
58	Mathebula, David	5

Quads Doubles

5	Sithole, Lucas	1
34	Dlamini, Bongani	2
35	Kekai, Steven	3
50	Gallant, Fernando	4

WTSA Regional Camps & Clinics

WTSA has several regular development clinics and camps country wide, introducing the wonderful sport of Wheelchair Tennis to new aspiring athletes. If you are interested in trying the game of wheelchair tennis please contact Siyabulela Nkachela WTSA Community Programmes and Media Manager, cell: 082 679 3772 or email Siya@tennis.co.za.

SA Coach Honoured



As is customary, the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Annual Award Ceremony took place at the recent BNP World Team Cup. It was at this ceremony that **Holger Losch**, one of SA's Wheelchair Tennis Coaches was honoured by the ITF as the **ITF Wheelchair Tennis Coach of the Year**.

Although both Holger Losch & Craig Fairall are on the International Wheelchair Tennis Coaches Commission, this is the first time a coach from Africa has been awarded this honour.

Congratulations Holger. We are proud of your achievement.

Reminder:

All players participating in the International Events we host here, are required to register as a member of WTSA, and register for an IPIN (International Player Identification Number).

For more information or forms, please contact **Karen 083 325 1169** or on karen@tennis.co.za

SA Sends 4 teams to the BNP World Team Cup 2013



SA recently sent 4 teams to Turkey to participate in the prestigious BNP World Team Cup which took place in Antalya, Turkey 20 – 26 May 2013. The tournament is played annually as is the wheelchair tennis equivalent of the Davis Cup and Fed Cup.

A total of 52 teams from 28 nations competed across the four categories: men, women, quads and juniors in this year's event.

The quad and junior events were contested by eight nations, the women's event by 12 nations and the men's event by 32 nations divided into World Group 1 and World Group II.

The teams representing South Africa at the World Team Cup in Turkey in 2013 were:

Men's Team:

Evans Maripa (IWR-28)
Leon Els (IWR-66)
Donald Ramphadi (IWR- 254)
Res: Marshall Marsh (IWR-101)

Coach: Gerald Stoffberg

Quad's Team:

Lucas Sithole (IWR-5)
Bongani Dlamini (IWR-37)
Steven Kekai (IWR-58)

Coach: Holger Losch (Team Manager)

Women's Team:

Kgothatso Montjane (IWR-6)
Rose vd Meer (IWR-35)
Mabel Mankgele (IWR- 29)
Res: Thando Hlatshwayo (IWR-48)

Coach: Lettica Venter

Junior's Team:

Gift Legganyane
Mariska Venter
Tatho Tsomole
Res: Thando Hlatshwayo

Coach: Khotso Matshego

Results

SA had mixed results at this year's event.

The Men's team was a young team, had a few close matches in World Group I, but ended the week by automatically qualifying for next years event where they will compete in World Group II.

The Women's team finished 8th, qualifying for an automatic entry into the 2014 event. They no longer need to play a regional qualification match.

The Quads team finished 6th, beating Great Brittain to secure their entry into next year's event.

The Juniors entered the event with a powerhouse team, but had a disappointing event, and finished 7th