

Message from ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the International Tennis Federation, to welcome you to the Club Casablanca Satelite in Tlalnepantla for the XXX International Casablanca Tennis Junior Cup.


This competition is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and its fifth as a Grade A tournament on the ITF Junior Circuit. The Casablanca Cup provides the perfect platform for the world's best young players to pit their skills against competitors from across the globe. Held over the Christmas period, the tournament is also a great social occasion with events held for both players and coaches.

As the first tournament of the year on the ITF Junior Circuit, this prestigious competition often showcases the faces to watch for the upcoming year, both new and old. Donald Young and Thiemo de Bakker won the title here in 2005 and 2006 respectively, both going on to end the year as ITF Junior World Champion for the first time, while 2005 girls champion Aleksandra Wozniak continued her outstanding start to that year by going on to win the Coffee Bowl and reach the semifinals of the Australian Open. American Julia Cohen has dominated the competition in recent years, capturing her third Casablanca Cup title last year, the same time as Mexico hailed a new hero in the boys singles – Eduardo Peralta-Tello, who as a wildcard ranked 1637, defeated No. 6 seed Johnny Hamui in the final after returning from an 11-month absence on the ITF Junior Circuit.

Having started my ITF career on the Junior Competitions Committee, upon which I served for over 20 years, junior tennis remains close to my heart. While it is always good to follow the top players, personally, I derive an equal amount of pleasure from following the fortunes of the next generation. Suffice to say that the future of the sport looks secure with plenty of talented and motivated teenagers rising through the ranks.

Of course, an event as reputable as the Casablanca Cup would not run so smoothly without the help of many people behind the scenes. I would like to thank the Organizacion Casablanca founded by Mr Jaime Müller de la Lama, presided over by his son, Mr Norman Müller and run for twenty years by Mr Ricardo Sanchez, General Director. I would also like to thank the tournament director Mr Marco Osorio, the Federacion Mexicana de Tenis and all the staff, volunteers, players and coaches for making this competition such a success. My thanks also go to all of the sponsors without whose generous support this event would not be possible.

Finally it remains for me to wish everyone involved an enjoyable and successful week.



Francesco Ricci Bitti
ITF President