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## **2010 SVG ITF Junior Tennis Championships Concludes**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tennis Association played host to nineteen countries in the fourth annual International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Tournament which concluded on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> August at the National Tennis Center in Villa. Platinum Sponsor for the event, the National Lotteries Authority, made this, the largest Tennis event in SVG for the calendar year an overwhelming success.

The competition served off on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> August and, amid much rain, featured over a hundred and fifteen players from the Caribbean, Italy, Canada, India, Russia, Germany, USA, Nicaragua, Curacao, and Guyana in Under 18 and Under 14 contests.

With ten players in the Boys Under 18 Singles draw and three in the Girls Under 18 Singles draw, Vincentians were well represented but did not advance to the later rounds. The Boys Under 18 champion was Stefano Napolitano of Italy and the Girls Under 18 Champion was Katrine Steffensen of the USA.

In the Boys Under 14 Singles Main Draw, Jymaun DeRoche advanced to the semifinals and Imani King advanced to the quarterfinals. The Under 14 Boys champion was Shakir Elvin from Antigua. In the Boys Under 14 Consolation draw, Alex Harry and Zachary Williams advanced to the quarterfinals. In the Girls Under 14 Main draw, Chelsea Haslam was a quarterfinalist and Kiana Marshall of Barbados was champion. In the Girls Under 14 Consolation draw, Roberta Haslam defeated fellow Vincentian Denee Lyttle to win the category.

President of the SVG Tennis Association, Anthony McKenzie, on Wednesday noted the SVG ITF tournament forms part of the ITF's Junior Tennis circuit of which only a few countries in the southern Caribbean host such events. This year's tournament has received a favorable report and recognition from visiting ITF Officials who handled the supervision and administration of the tournament. It is imperative this event remains in SVG to provide an opportunity for Vincentian players to participate and attempt to gain international ranking.

The National Lotteries Authority sponsored event continues to highlight the importance of Sports Tourism to St. Vincent and the Grenadines as the tournament has consistently grown in its diversity of international competitors over the past four years. The SVGTA also wishes to thank C.K. Greaves and Company Ltd. (annual sponsor of the SVGTA Christmas Junior Nationals), Grassroot Tennis Club, Digicel and Karib Cable for their kind sponsorship and contributions to the event.

The SVGTA congratulates all participating Vincentian junior Tennis players, visiting Tennis players, coaches, parents and ITF officials who continue to make this event memorable each year. The SVGTA would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many spectators at the National Tennis Centre who were treated to the highest levels of international Junior Tennis each day.

Tournament information for the 2010 SVG ITF Tournament, including Draws, Results and Photo Gallery are available at [www.svgtennis.org](http://www.svgtennis.org).