



Editorial

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Welcome to issue 90 of the ITF Coaching and Sport Science Review. This issue is the second one of 2023. It is available in the [ITF Academy](#) as well as in the new page of the journal, which can be accessed [here](#).

This issue is dedicated to tennis management at national association or federation levels. These non-for-profit organisations are the governing bodies of tennis in their respective nations and play a crucial role in the context of promoting tennis participation and performance at all levels of the game. Articles in this issue cover topics related to their governance and leadership, their relationships with their National Olympic Committees, their culture and development models, their approach to high-performance, gender inclusion, player development, or mental health programmes, etc. This content will be supporting a National Association Management Course that will be launched in the ITF Academy in due course.

The following sections of this editorial will share the financial results of the ITF in 2022 as well as the programs that implement the ITF 2024 strategy for the development of tennis in the world.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is the world governing body of tennis. Founded in 1913, its purpose is to ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the sport, delivering tennis for future generations in association with its 213-member National Associations. The ITF oversees the rules and regulations that govern international and national competition.

The ITF is responsible for the worldwide development of tennis through its highly regarded global Development Programme, its Science and Technical department which monitors equipment and technology, and its Officiating department which oversees the education and advancement of officials. The ITF organises up to 1850 men's, women's, and junior tournaments on the ITF World Tennis Tour, and manages the ITF junior team competitions, ITF Beach Tennis World Tour, UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour and the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour.

The ITF is the owner and rightsholder of the men's and women's World Cups of Tennis, Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge respectively, the two largest annual international team competitions in tennis. The ITF manages the Olympic Tennis Event on behalf of the IOC and the Paralympic Tennis Event on behalf of the IPC and the Qualification Pathways for both events at the Games. For further information please visit www.itftennis.com.

ITF'S 2022 FINANCIAL RESULTS

In a press release published on 19th July 2023, the ITF reported a robust financial health as the tennis governing body and a major increase in funding for international development of the game. The main aspects of this report are included in the following table:

Table 1

ITF's financial health and increase in funding.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis global guardian reveals strong recovery from pandemic with 2022 revenues surpassing pre-Covid levels by double digits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This enabled a 30.2% year-on-year increase in its investment in the global game, including a 44.9% increase in funding international tennis development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95.4% increase in ITF's investment in tennis since introduction of ITF2024 long-term growth strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITF Annual Review highlights much progress in 2022, including its Junior Tennis Initiative introducing 18% more children to tennis than previous year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITF President David Haggerty predicted positive pipeline of commercial developments ahead.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced its 2022 financial results, reporting that it increased revenues by 47.6% year-on-year to \$98.3 million [2021: \$66.6 million] – exceeding pre-Covid revenues by 10.8% [2019: \$88.7 million].

The world governing body of tennis was able to convert the majority of this income into \$85.0 million of contribution to the global game last year, up by 30.2% from \$65.3 million in Covid-impacted 2021. The ITF's mission is to deliver tennis for future generations, and this includes reinvesting significantly in the sport around the world.

The ITF spent \$12.0 million on international tennis development, marking a substantial 44.9% increase from the previous year [2021: \$8.3 million]. This increased funding supported the work of the ITF's member nations in increasing participation and developing talent from the grassroots up.

The ITF increased post-tax profits from its operating activities by \$13.9 million to \$5.6 million in 2022 from a pandemic-impacted deficit of \$8.3 million in 2021. The ITF Board chose to invest \$3.0 million after tax into strategic projects (including the World Tennis Number and Balanced Calendar Project) and its investment portfolio produced a negative \$5.0 million return in 2022, reflecting global financial market performance.

The ITF maintains significant reserves as part of underpinning its financial sustainability and for use on strategic projects and investments where necessary. As of 31st December 2022, these totalled \$40.2 million.

ITF2024 STRATEGY DELIVERING TANGIBLE GROWTH

The introduction of 'ITF2024', the ITF's long-term plan for sustainable growth announced in mid-2016, has driven a significant upturn in the ITF's financial performance and enabled record levels of funding for the global game. The ITF's reinvestment in tennis has grown by 95.4% or \$41.5 million since ITF2024 was launched [2015: \$43.5 million -> 2022: \$85.0 million].

ITF2024 has focused on eight priorities, which it has framed as Opportunity (including the World Tennis Tour for men, women and juniors, the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour, the World Tennis Masters Tour and Beach Tennis World Tour), Development, Davis Cup & Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge, Olympics & Paralympics, Integrity, Investment, Partnerships and Communications.

The ITF Annual Review also reported that in 2022 the progress of the different programmes of its strategy were as follows:

- **Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI)** – The ITF's Junior Tennis Initiative, aimed at introducing tennis to children worldwide, saw impressive results. A total of 251,737 children (51% boys, 49% girls) were introduced to tennis, representing an 18% increase from the previous year. With 142 active JTI nations, matching the record set in 2021, the initiative provided playing opportunities at 2,994 primary schools and tennis clubs, fostering grassroots development.
- **ITF World Tennis Number and Participation** – The ITF has assigned 1.5 million players with an ITF World Tennis Number, facilitating tracking, and ranking of players globally. The association shared 23 million match records with 159 National Associations, providing a potential reach of 90% of players worldwide. This data-driven approach enables the ITF and member nations to assess player performance and enhance engagement.
- **ITF Academy** – The ITF Academy experienced substantial growth, with more than 260,000 total users, a 16% increase from the previous year. Offering 200 online courses and material in 11 languages, the academy served as a central learning hub for 100 National Associations, a notable 43% increase from the previous year. India and Argentina saw the most registered users of the platform in 2022.
- **ITF World Tennis Tour** – which is the main artery to the highest level of the game: The 2022 ITF World Tennis Tour showcased impressive figures, with 10,216 players participating in 1,059 tournaments, split evenly across the men's and women's game (526 and 533 tournaments respectively) and held in 65 countries. They played for a record \$25 million in total prize money in 2022. The tour provided crucial opportunities for players to compete, develop, and progress in their careers.

- **Records set in Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup competitions** – The ITF's World Cup of Tennis events both enjoyed record participation, with 145 nations competing in Davis Cup and 110 nations in Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge. The revamped Finals of both events continued to settle into their new formats and attract strong TV viewership and good fan engagement in stadiums and online, thanks in part to inspirational first-time triumphs for Canada and Switzerland respectively. For Davis Cup, the ITF and the ATP forged an unprecedented alliance which means that the Davis Cup Finals and Qualifier ties are now an official part of the men's calendar. For Billie Jean King Cup, the ITF achieved its ambition of offering women competing in the Finals equivalent prize money to that available in Davis Cup. The ITF's goals for equity in Billie Jean King Cup are fully supported by its commercial partners Gainbridge, who joined as the event's new title sponsor in 2022, and Tory Burch, who came on board as official outfitter.
- **Tennis for everyone** – Through its Advantage All gender equality programme the ITF is committed to levelling the playing field for women and girls across all areas of tennis. In addition to investing to support a balanced calendar for the ITF World Tennis Tour in 2022 and equivalent prize money between the men and women's World Cup of Tennis competitions, the 2022 ITF Annual General Meeting voted for the ITF Board to consist of a minimum of five women and five men from 2027 onwards as a further important step towards gender balance in the global leadership of tennis.

We hope that you have found this editorial article useful. Its intention has been to present some details regarding the financial results of the ITF in 2022, as well as the tangible aspects that the ITF strategy has carried out to deliver in the development and growth of tennis around the world.

We would also like to encourage new submissions to the ITF CSSR through the new platform. Finally, we would like to thank all the authors for their **contributions**, as well as all of those who sent in proposals. Full guidelines for acceptance and publication of articles can be found in the most recent issue page on the ITF Academy. We hope that you enjoy reading the 90th edition of the ITF Coaching and Sport Science Review.

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