

# London Met dominate in tennis individual championships

AFTER FIVE days of competition between December 14-18, the Barclays BUSA Individual Tennis Championships 2007 saw London Metropolitan University taking all four titles on a day of four high quality finals. Both Anna Koumantou and Matjaz Jurman took home the individual and doubles titles for the women and men respectively.

Friday saw the Men's and Women's qualification rounds start with all eight tennis courts at the University of Bath's Sports Training Village in use. With Barclays, BUSA's Tennis Sponsor, offering prizes of up to £800 to Championship winners it was clear that the competition would be fierce.

In the men's competition the two top seeds progressed into the semi finals with relative ease. Top seed Matjaz Jurman (London Met) defeated James Mott (Bath) 6-2, 6-0, Barry Fulcher (Brighton) 6-1, 6-3 and Bartosz Terczynski (London Met) 6-2, 6-3 to progress into the last four. Radoslaw Nijaki (London Met) showed why he was second seed, only losing 3 games in the first and second round matches before defeating Marc Baghdadadi (Oxford) 6-2, 6-3 in the quarter final.

The big clash in the second round was between third seed Alexander Miotto (Bath) and Gaspar Pavli (London Met), with Pavli upsetting the odds to take the match over three sets 5-7, 6-2, 6-4. Pavli then went onto quarter final success, defeating David Culshaw (Loughborough) 6-3, 6-4.

The semi finals saw favourite Matjaz Jurman defeat the unseeded Pavli in two love-sets winning 6-0, 6-0; fourth seed Scott Dickson (Loughborough) had a tougher time in the other semi, eventually

overcoming Radoslaw Nijaki 4-6 7-6(7) 6-2.

The men's final saw Dickson put up a brave fight in the first set but it was just one London Met player too far as he lost out to the impressive top seed in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0.

In the women's competition the top seed Anna Koumantou (London Met) eased through the first round with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Suzanna Dyrbus (Loughborough) but she faced a tougher test in the quarter final as she met Krushmi Chheda (Exeter) who had overcome Ester Curtis (Gloucestershire) 7-5, 7-5 in the first round. Koumantou took the match 6-4, 6-3 after some great tennis, which set up a semi final clash with World University Games competitor Katharine Baker (Bath). Baker secured her passage to the semi finals with a great performance against Alice Mackenzie (Leeds Met) in the quarter finals 6-0, 6-4.

Second seed Julia Bone (Loughborough) didn't drop a game in the first round, beating Amelia Frendo (Bath) in straight sets, and third seed Claire Ricketts (Brunel) hardly broke into a sweat as she lost just one game in a straight sets victory against Gabriella Hay (Exeter). Ricketts then breezed into the semis with a comfortable 6-1, 6-1 victory over Ewelina Skaza (London Met).

The first semi final saw Anna Koumantou overpower Katharine Baker with a 6-4, 6-3 score line in a thrilling encounter. Koumantou rushed into an early lead and never looked back, overpowering the host institutions number one player.

The second semi final saw third seed Claire Ricketts overcome second seed Julia Bone



Matjaz Jurman and Anna Koumantou

(Loughborough) 6-4, 6-0. Bone may have been suffering during the match as she was later forced to withdraw from the doubles semi finals due to sickness.

The final saw the number one and three seeds meet as Anna Koumantou came back from a disastrous second set to take the Barclays BUSA Women's Singles final, and an £800 winners cheque, back to London with a 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 score line against Claire Ricketts.

It was as expected in the Men's doubles competition as all eight top seeds made it through to the quarter finals. London Met dominated the quarters with three pairs making it through to the semis, accompanied by Gill and Lott from Stirling.

Top seed Jurman and Pavli (London Met) took the title, first defeating the Stirling pairing 6-3, 6-4 and then winning the final against an injured Balog and Balog (London Met), who withdrew after losing the first set 4-6

In the Women's doubles top seeds Anna Koumantou & Alexandra Kujawska (London Met) made it through a tough quarter final verses Helen Almond and Elena Shumay (Bath) 6-4, 6-3. The London Met pairing were then handed a walkover into the finals with the Loughborough pair of Bone and Dyrbus withdrawing.

In the other semi final Katharine Baker & Amelia Frendo (Bath) were favourites as they faced Kujawska and Skaza (London Met) and breezed past the pair 6-0, 6-2. The final offered a nerve racking first set as Koumantou and Kujawska took the tie break which swung the final in their favour eventually taking the title in a 7-6 (4), 6-4 score line.

London Met asserted their utter superiority in university tennis over the five days in Bath and in addition to proving themselves to have the best players in the country, they walked away with £3,900 of Barclays prize money.

## English Universities football squad announced



A TWO day training camp held at Warwick University on January 6-7 was the final part of a four-month programme which saw 36 of the most talented university footballers compete for 28 places in this years English Universities squad. The players now have the opportunity to play in The World University Games in Belgrade in July 2009 and will also compete in friendlies against Premiership and Championship opposition in the shape of Reading and Colchester.

Remarkably there were no Team Bath players included in the squad, despite competing at a high level in the football pyramid and making it through to the national final last year against UWE Hartpur. Richard Howell, VP Sport at Bath, stated that due to a busy schedule not all of the players were able to make the trials and he explained, "The priorities for the University and the players are promotion from the Southern League and winning as many BUSA points as possible, now that the FA Cup run has come to an end".

Hartpur on the other hand asserted their status as the best university football team in the land following last year's BUSA national title with the inclusion of seven players in the 28 man squad.

For full squad visit:

[national-student.co.uk/sport](http://national-student.co.uk/sport)

**Sport reporters wanted**

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## Legend Powell awarded MBE

91-YEAR-OLD Ivor Powell was awarded an MBE for services to sport in the 2008 New Year Honours list.

The former Welsh international footballer, who played for Aston Villa, Queen's Park Rangers and Blackpool, has worked as a football coach at the University of Bath for more than 30 years.

Last year his role as the world's oldest working football coach was officially recognised as a Guinness World Record.

Ivor, who is a member of the coaching team at BGB Premier Division club TeamBath FC, said, "This is a real honour and a privilege. It was a big surprise when I got the letter."

"I've been in football for more than 70 years and I've thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

"I'm 91 and I've still got something left in me to give. I'll stay in the game as long as I'm enjoying it, and I'm really enjoying working with the lads at TeamBath," he added.

Ivor was born the seventh son of a seventh son on July 5 1916 in Gilfach Bargoed, South Wales, and his middle name, Verdun, reflects the First World War battle that was raging at the time of his birth.

He started his working life down the mines in South Wales until being spotted playing for South Wales League side Bargoed aged 17, and joining Queen's Park Rangers.

He worked as an RAF physical trainer during the Second World War, when he struck up a lasting friendship with Sir Stanley Matthews, who went on to be Ivor's best man at his wedding to Joan Browell in 1943. Ivor and Stanley played in the same Blackpool team during the war, but found themselves on opposing sides during England versus Wales international fixtures.

A tough tackler, in 1948 Ivor was transferred to Aston Villa, for £17,500, then a record fee for a half-back.

He played 14 times for Wales and also had stints as player/coach of

Port Vale and Bradford City. He was one of Bill Shankly's successors as manager at Carlisle and was trainer/coach at Don Revie's famous Leeds United side, where he worked with the likes of Billy Bremner, Jackie Charlton and Norman Hunter.

Coaching spells followed at Bath City and at PAOK in Greece, before joining the University of Bath as football coach in the early 1970s.

In 2004 Ivor was inducted into the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame, joining other Welsh sporting greats like Gareth Edwards, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and Ian Rush.

In 2006, on the day he celebrated his 90th birthday, he learned his role as the world's oldest working football coach had been recognised as a Guinness World Record.

Ivor is still actively involved in the football programme at the University of Bath as an assistant coach and President of TeamBath FC.

He is part of a coaching team that includes manager Ged Roddy, head



Ivor Powell

coach Andy Tillson, whose former clubs include QPR and Bristol Rovers, and academy director Brian Parker, a goalkeeper whose clubs included Crystal Palace, Wimbledon and Bristol Rovers.

"The word legend is often over-used, but that's exactly what Ivor is to us," said Ged Roddy, Director of Sport at the University of Bath. "Ivor has been a dedicated servant to football for all of his life, and we've been lucky enough to have him working at the University of

Bath for more than 30 years."

"He's one of the true characters in sport and he still has a real passion and enthusiasm for football," Roddy added.

"Successive generations of footballers at the University of Bath have benefited from Ivor's experience and advice, and the current crop of young TeamBath players are no different."

"Ivor is a real inspiration and this award is well and truly deserved," he added.