



## Media Release

### **What a racket at \$10,000 Exmouth tennis tournament!**

April 7 2008

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There was a racket on and off court on Saturday (April 5) as future tennis stars did battle on Finals Day in Exmouth for a major share of \$10,000 in prize money.

Great support from local fans made the day a memorable occasion, with local band Withycombe Stomp performing their own smash hits to keep the bumper crowd entertained at Exmouth Tennis and Leisure Centre.

The culmination of a week of top-class tennis during the Men's \$10,000 ITF Futures Tournament was capped by British player Joshua Goodall winning the singles title, while Finnish duo Harri Heliovaara and Henri Kontinen scooped the doubles championship.

Hugo Swire MP for East Devon and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, lent his support to the event and presented the doubles finalists with their prize.

“It was an extremely enjoyable event,” said Hugo Swire. “The standard of tennis was very high and the tournament showed what a fantastic facility we have in Exmouth and how we are capable of staging events of this quality. I hope we will continue to host this tournament and that it encourages more local people to take up tennis.”

Tournament director Jo Louis, a noted player who once beat former women's champion Steffi Graf, said: “Finals Day was a fantastic occasion and really rounded off a great

week of world-class tennis in Exmouth. Local people have shown excellent support for the tournament and we are already looking forward to next year's championships."

The Leisure East Devon-run centre hosted 64 world-ranked players as they gained valuable experience in a big tournament environment, while also holding tennis clinics, competitions and mini tennis for kids.

In its third year at Exmouth, the East Devon International Tennis Tournament has established itself as a testing ground for stars of the future, including Wimbledon mixed-doubles winner Jamie Murray who won at Exmouth two years ago.

David Pagett, chief executive of Leisure East Devon, said: "Following the resounding success of this tournament, we urge tennis fans of all levels, and people who just want to get fitter, to come and experience the excellent facilities at Exmouth Tennis and Leisure Centre. There is a great resource for the people of East Devon, which has proved it can host a world-class event."

Exmouth Tennis and Leisure Centre is at Withycombe Village Road in Exmouth. For more information about the centre or getting involved in next year's tournament, please telephone 01395 223355 or visit [www.ledleisure.co.uk](http://www.ledleisure.co.uk).

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**Notes to Editors:**

Singles final: Joshua Goodall (GB) beat Conor Niland (Ireland) 6-4, 7-6  
Doubles final: Harri Heliövaara and Henri Kontinen (Finland) beat Ralph Grambow (German) and Ken Skupski (GB) 6-2 6-3.

The Men's \$10,000 ITF Futures Tournament is an international event that forms part of the professional tour. These tournaments are held throughout the world and are co-ordinated by the ITF (International Tennis Federation). Sixty-four players with a world ranking from 250 down to 800 took part.

The venue for the tournament is owned by East Devon District Council and managed by Leisure East Devon.

For more information visit [www.ledleisure.co.uk](http://www.ledleisure.co.uk)

Picture captions:

Singles tournament:

t2 pic cap - Kevin Moran, East Devon Schools Sports Partnership Manager, and Hugo Swire MP (right) present children and staff from Beacon Primary School with a certificate providing the school with five free tennis coaching sessions @ Exmouth Tennis and Leisure Centre.

Beacon Primary School won the schools competition of 'keep it going' which eight local primary schools participated in throughout the week of the Men's \$10,000 ITF Futures Tournament.

1. t23 - (L-R) Conor Niland (singles runner-up), Jo Louis (Tournament Director), Jackie Clarke (Presenter of awards and Leisure East Devon trustee), Mike Hooper (Head of Marketing at Leisure East Devon) and Joshua Goodall (winner)

Doubles tournament:

2. t7 - (L-R) Ken Skupski, Ralph Grambow (doubles runners-up), Hugo Swire (MP East Devon), Jo Louis (Tournament Director), Andy Reay (Head of Operations Leisure East Devon), Harri Heliovaara and Henri Kontinen (doubles winners)