



Status of Australian Players in Christchurch for the World Seniors Tennis Championships

23 February, 2011

All Australian players in New Zealand are fine this morning. Those in Christchurch are coping well; some are unable to get back to their accommodation in the inner city, but they had accommodation overnight at either private homes (3), the evacuation centre at Burnside High School (4) and the rest at other accommodation near the courts. Phone calls were made to a number of players this morning. There are twelve of our players in Christchurch; the rest are at Ashburton and Timaru.

The details of all players were lodged with DFAT last evening who promised to send them to the Australian High Commission in Wellington. The insurance company is fully updated with information and there is no need for our players to contact it unless a further emergency arise (its number is +61292514298) The advice from DFAT is that players who may have lost passports are able to travel without one providing they go through a special process with the airline helpers at the airport.

The following is an announcement from the ITF late last evening.

'The ITF has cancelled the four Seniors World Team Championship Cups scheduled to be played in Christchurch, New Zealand because of severe damage to the tennis facilities but, for the present time, the Cups scheduled for Timaru and Ashburton will continue.

A decision about the 2011 Seniors World Individual Championships, scheduled to be played next week in Christchurch, will be made tomorrow morning GMT. Any players competing in the Individual Championships who have not already arrived in New Zealand should delay their journey until tomorrow's announcement. The next announcement will be made by no later than 10:00 GMT tomorrow.

Please feel free to call the ITF office if you require any further information on +442083924652'

So we should know by 12 midnight, tonight, if the Individual Championships will be played elsewhere. There is a meeting of all captains (and any other players) at 3 pm (NZ) this afternoon at Burnside High School.

Tom Hancy

23 Feb 2011, 9:30 am