

8-16/10/2016

VICTORIA PARK TENNIS STADIUM
 維多利亞公園網球主場

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER SEP 2016

COUNTDOWN
TIMER

2
DAYS
TO GO

With barely days before the opening spectacle of the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open (PHKTO), I'm delighted to update you with all the latest news to help our supporters get the most of the tournament week.

A dramatic turn of events in the USA has pushed our marquee player Angelique Kerber to number one in women's tennis globally. It's a long time since a World Number One has played tennis in Hong Kong, making PHKTO 2016 even more historic and thrilling than we expected! Kerber is one of the 11 star players who will be gracing Victoria Park's Centre Court from October 10. In brief, they are:

- 1) **Angelique Kerber** - World number one, Australian Open 2016 and US Open 2016 Singles Champion
- 2) **Venus Williams** - Seven-time Grand Slam winner
- 3) **Jelena Janković** - Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2015 defending champion
- 4) **Caroline Wozniacki** - Former world number one
- 5) **Samantha Stosur** - Eight-time WTA singles titles winner
- 6) **Alizé Cornet** - Five-time WTA singles titles winner
- 7) **Johanna Konta** - British number one
- 8) **Kristina Mladenovic** - French Open 2016 Doubles Champion
- 9) **Caroline Garcia** - French Open 2016 Doubles Champion
- 10) **Wang Qiang** - Asian Games 2014 Singles Champion
- 11) **Zheng Saisai** - Chinese number three

With such a line-up, I must remind you to book your tickets as soon as possible! Sales are now in the final stretch and fans who wait too much longer will be disappointed... all Gold seats are already sold out for the final weekend, while all Gold and Diamond VIP packages have also been sold. Please contact Zoie on **2504 8272** to snap up the last boxes on offer or visit Cityline or Tom Lee outlets for regular tickets.

Tournament Week Run-Down

For the first time in its three-year history, PHKTO will kick off with a spectacular Opening Ceremony on People's Monday, treating guests to a Hong Kong-themed extravaganza unlike anything seen before.

Our CSR programmes will be in full swing throughout the week, tying together activities, charity events and community engagement under our theme "Tennis For All". Here are the highlights:

- People's Monday (October 10) and Students' Tuesday (October 11) offer free tickets to the excitement of the opening rounds.
- Continuing to inspire the next generation, youngsters from our "Let's Serve" campaign will be attending special Kids' Day and spending some time with marquee players.
- For both kids and grown-ups, CAN Challenge, held on People's Monday, will be one of our most anticipated community events. Working with Friends of Asia Hong Kong, who are supporting with matching funds, the event brings the community and celebrities together to raise money for Hong Kong's most needy.
- "Bounce for Tennis", another charity activity, is a collaboration between the Hong Kong Tennis Association and our "Official Mall Partner", LEE GARDENS. Fans can customize their own tennis balls for just HK\$50 for a good cause. "Air Tennis", an interactive VR game, is available at Hysan Place.
- From October 15-16, organisers will also set up a "Fan Zone" on Pak Sha Road, Causeway Bay, a designated pedestrian-only area on the weekends where fans can participate further.

For great deals on dining and refreshment during the tournament week, our partners from Hysan Place are the best place to stop, with must-try deals and tennis-themed catering for ticket holders.

And of course, as last year, our Tournament Village will be full of fun and laughter, with a wide variety of sponsor booths, Hong Kong-themed entertainment, photo opportunities, tennis speed game, giant TV wall and charity booths.

With a world number one joining the championship this year, commemorative souvenirs will be offered at our merchandise booth and souvenir stocks will be limited, so snap up your piece of history quickly!

Members of the public can also watch the practice courts and join autograph sessions, completely free of charge!

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None of these programmes, events or community engagements would be possible without the tireless support of our partners, sponsors and volunteers, and in this final week before the tournament begins I would like to thank you all for your support. In particular I would like to thank the government for its faith in the event since 2014 and for helping us put Hong Kong on the world tennis map.

One final special mention: while our global stars are a big draw, we're delighted to announce the approval of a Wild Card for Hong Kong star junior player Cody Wong. Cody is a member of Hong Kong's 2016 Asia/Oceania World Junior Tennis winning team and an inspiration to Hong Kongers everywhere. Cody joins PHKTO for the first time, and we wish our home-grown talent the very best!

With that, look forward to seeing you soon, and hope to catch you in the Tournament Village, Fan Zone or courtside during the tournament week.

Best wishes



Christopher Lai

Tournament Director

Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2016



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Alizé Cornet

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