



I woke up early and excited on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> February '10. It was the day the school had given some of us students, passes to go and watch live matches of the Barclays Dubai Tennis Championship held at the Dubai Aviation Club.

The day was fine and bright, and by the time my sister and I arrived at the venue, we were excited to be able to watch professional tennis players compete against each other. However, we were very disappointed to learn earlier in the day that our favourite player, Roger Federer (the World No. 1) would be unable to compete due to an illness. It definitely put a damper on our spirits, and I am in no doubt that quite a few others too, who would have been anxiously waiting to see the super Fed Express, in action, felt the same.

We considered ourselves fortunate to be able to even see a couple of the matches on Centre Court – the first match was between Jurgen Melzer (a left handed Austrian) and Simone Bolelli (an Italian player). The match was won by Melzer in straight sets of 6-1, 7-5. After a break we watched the second match between the fiery Cypriot Marcus Baghdatis and the Frenchman Gilles Simone. Baghdatis won the match 7-6, 6-4. The match was more fun and it was closely contested and had a few theatrics thrown in too by Gilles Simone.

We were unfortunately unable to see some of the other top ranking players in action, or obtain any signed autographs; but were simply thrilled to be able to get the chance to see the live tennis matches being played.

I would like to thank BARCLAYS for their kind offer and support and to the management of our school for giving us kids the opportunity. Indeed, playing tennis would now be much more fun.

By Spenta Marolia, 6G1