

**For Immediate Release**

**Kuala Lumpur, July 10, 2011**

## **AUSSIE HOT-SHOT HEADING TO KUALA LUMPUR WIMBLEDON STAR BERNARD TOMIC TO PLAY MALAYSIAN OPEN**

The tennis world is talking about him. He is one of the most exciting prospects in world tennis and he is coming to Kuala Lumpur. 18 year old Australian Bernard Tomic has told Tournament Director Nick Freyer that he will be playing the Malaysian Open Kuala Lumpur at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, 24 September to 2 October, 2011.

Nicknamed "A-Tomic", he thrilled the record crowds at Wimbledon by reaching the quarterfinals where it took the might of the eventual champion Novak Djokovic to stop him and even then the four set match was one of most hard fought encounters Djokovic played during the fortnight.

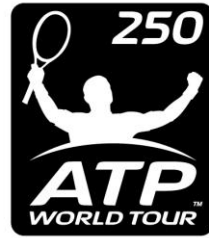
Tomic's run at the All England Club was one of THE stories of the Championships and he soon became tennis's hot property. The teenager went through the arduous qualifying rounds, accounted for No. 29 seed and 2009 Malaysian Open Kuala Lumpur winner Nikolay Davydenko in the first round, after that he rallied from two sets to love down to beat Igor Andreev, the No5 seed Robin Soderling followed in straight sets and then again in straight sets, he stopped Xavier Malisse.

"I am thrilled to have Bernard playing the Malaysian Open Kuala Lumpur once again and to be able to welcome him back as well as and his father and coach John. I know the tournament is touched that he enjoyed the Malaysian hospitality enough to make an early decision to come back and play here," Nick Freyer said.

"Malaysian tennis fans had a brief opportunity to see him last year in Kuala Lumpur when he accepted a Wild Card but when he arrives for this year's tournament we will see a different Bernard Tomic. I had the opportunity to watch a couple of his early matches at Wimbledon and he was fantastic. He is a more confident guy. He is hitting the ball beautifully and he is playing with such maturity.



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“Bernard has always had the talent and he has shown many glimpses of his promise but now he is genuinely showing the tennis world why he is considered the next big thing in world tennis. To have a youngster deliver so handsomely on his potential and do it with maturity that belies his age is very exciting. He promises to be a sensational addition to the player field for this year’s Malaysian Open Kuala Lumpur.”

Tomic, who won the 2009 US Open juniors and in 2008 at 15 was the youngest player ever to win the Australian Open juniors, says grass is his favourite surface and his run at Wimbledon has made him excited about what is coming up for him.

“When you (have results) like this, it tells you you're only a few matches away from winning a title and I know what my goals are now,” Tomic said. “I definitely think I have the game. I definitely think I belong with these guys.

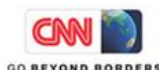
“This has just shown me what I'm capable of doing in the future. I am looking forward to coming to Kuala Lumpur again and continuing the type of tennis I played at Wimbledon. I enjoyed being in the city last year and hopefully the week there will be a great one.”

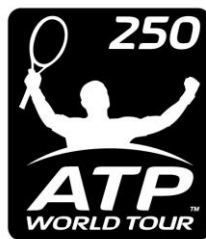
Goran Ivanisevic the 2001 Wimbledon champion and former World No. 2 has made it clear that it is only a matter of time before Tomic reaches the Top 10. Ivanisevic said: “From there it is up to him as to how far he goes.”

To prove that his rise up the rankings is firmly on the move, Tomic started Wimbledon ranked 158 and when he finished he was 72. He is now the highest ranked Australian on the tour, replacing Lleyton Hewitt who had held that spot since May, 2004.

Legends of the game, such as John Newcombe, say Tomic’s style of play is a throwback to a past era. He serves and volleys but he mixes up his returns. He doesn’t go for overwhelming returns on every shot he plays. Tomic will soft ball, move an opponent around and then come up with an explosive return. He also has the ability to comfortably change his game plan to suit the circumstance.

Tickets for the Malaysian Open Kuala Lumpur have been selling at an outstanding rate; in fact ticket sales have been moving at their fastest pace in the tournament’s three year history.





“The tournament team has been touched by the response from tennis fans as they have snapped up event tickets faster than at any time in the history of the tournament,” Freyer said. “It seems that the public know a great deal when they see one and the sporting public in KL and Malaysia have begun to appreciate and recognise the high quality of tennis, entertainment and fun the tournament has delivered to them.”

For more information and updates on the Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur 2011, please log on to [www.MalaysianOpenTennis.com](http://www.MalaysianOpenTennis.com).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Local Media Director, Malaysia, Mr. Ghaz Ramli at 60-16 243 0848 or email [ghaz@gridgossips.com](mailto:ghaz@gridgossips.com)

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### About the Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur 2011

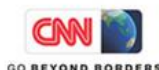
The tournament is an ATP World Tour 250 Series event in its second year. The singles main draw will have a field of 28 players while the doubles draw will have 16 teams. The tournament carries total prize money of USD 947,750 and will be played at the 7,000 seat configured Putra Stadium at Bukit Jalil Sports Complex, September 24 to October 2. The tournament is organised by IMG and is supported by the Government of Malaysia and commercial sponsors. For more information please visit: [www.MalaysianOpenTennis.com](http://www.MalaysianOpenTennis.com). You can also get the latest news updates and interact with the tournament at [www.facebook.com/MalaysianOpen.KualaLumpur](http://www.facebook.com/MalaysianOpen.KualaLumpur)

### About Malaysia

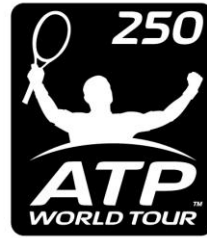
Malaysia is one of Southeast Asia’s top travel destinations, possessing an endless range of attractions and activities that cater for the cosmopolitan shopper, cultural enthusiast, historical buff and nature-lover. Divided into Peninsular Malaysia in the West and East Malaysia, part of the Borneo archipelago, the country will allure you with the shopping experience of its modern cities, the splendour of its cultural arts and natural heritage of rich flora and fauna! For more information please visit: [www.tourism.gov.my](http://www.tourism.gov.my)

### About IMG Tennis

IMG ([www.imgworld.com](http://www.imgworld.com)) is the leading management company in tennis. IMG represents some of the world's top male and female tennis players. The company's roster of top tennis clients includes many of today's superstars: Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Maria Sharapova, Venus Williams, Jelena Jankovic and Li Na.



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In addition, IMG owns, manages or represents many of the world's leading international tournaments including the Sony Ericsson Open, Australian Open, Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur and the Chennai Open. In the UK, alongside the BNP Paribas Tennis Classic Open, these include the AEGON Masters Tennis at the Royal Albert Hall, the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 and Wimbledon.

### **About IMG Sports & Entertainment**

Operating in 30 countries, IMG Sports & Entertainment's diverse businesses include: consulting services; event ownership and management; fashion events and models representation; licensing; golf course design; and client representation in golf, tennis, broadcasting, speakers, European football, rugby, cricket, motor sports, coaching, Olympic and action sports. IMG Academies are the world's largest, multi-sport training and educational facilities, delivering world-class training experiences to more than 12,000 junior, collegiate, adult, and professional athletes each year. For more information please visit: [www.imgworld.com](http://www.imgworld.com)

### **About the ATP World Tour**

The ATP is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits - the ATP World Tour, the ATP Challenger Tour and the ATP Champions Tour. With 62 tournaments in 32 countries, the ATP World Tour showcases the finest male athletes competing in the world's most exciting venues. From Australia to Europe and the Americas to Asia, the stars of the ATP World Tour battle for prestigious titles and South African Airways 2011 ATP Rankings points at Grand Slams (non ATP events), ATP World Tour Masters 1000, ATP World Tour 500 and ATP World Tour 250 events. At the end of the season only the world's top 8 ranked men's singles players and top 8 doubles teams, based on their performance throughout the year, will qualify to compete for the last title of the season at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals. Held at The O2 in London, the event will officially crown the 2011 ATP World Tour No.1 in singles and doubles. For more information, please visit [www.ATPWorldTour.com](http://www.ATPWorldTour.com)



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