

This month, the biography of an Australian Davis Cup legend who recovered from a bullet wound to his hand, and a fun-focused coaching manual for teaching 5 to 10-year-olds

COMEBACK HERO

Triumph And Disaster: The Real Story of John Bromwich



by John Leckey & Norman Marshall
ASP, Australia
Paperback, £24



This is a fascinating biography of one of Australia's most popular tennis stars. John Bromwich was born in 1918 and began his tennis career shortly

before World War II. His unique style – ambidextrous, with a two-handed forehand – allied to an aggressive, attacking game, made him the player the crowds flocked to see, but the war robbed him of his prime years.

In 1939, 20-year-old Bromwich had won the vital fifth rubber against the USA's Frank Parker to win the Davis Cup for Australia, the only time a nation had come back from 2-0 down in the final to take the title. Bromwich was a national hero, and when the war began he was ranked No.2 in the world behind Bobby Riggs.

However, fate now dealt a double blow. Not only was Bromwich robbed of his prime competitive years, he also suffered a bullet wound to his left hand which affected his ability to grip the racket. Showing great strength of character, Bromwich remodelled his style and took to playing with a racket grip one-third smaller than normal. So complete was his recovery that he reached the 1948 Wimbledon singles final, where he came tantalisingly close to winning. By the end of his 20-year career, he had won 19 Grand Slam titles across singles and doubles.

Authors John Leckey and Norman Marshall have done a splendid job of chronicling Bromwich's life. Both men were born in the early 1930s and would have had plenty of opportunities to see Bromwich play. This first-hand knowledge shines through in their writing, which is never clouded by hero-worship. The



Happy families: John and Zilda Bromwich christen their newborn daughter Robyn

book is extremely well researched, with full acknowledgment of original information sources.

Tennis Confidential II



by Paul Fein
Potomac Books, USA
Hardback, £24



Subtitled 'More of Today's Greatest Players, Matches, and Controversies', this is a wonderful follow-up to Fein's *Tennis Confidential* (2002).

The book is in three sections, the first of which comprises a set of essays looking at controversial issues facing those who administer the world game of tennis in the 21st century. Topics covered include on-court coaching, Hawk-Eye, the ATP doubles reforms, and whether the interests of TV run counter to the long-term interests of the sport.

Part two looks at people and trends that have changed the face of tennis, opening up with a powerful argument for the importance and influence of top women players on society as a whole, and going on to cover such topics as the emergence of Russian women players.

Other subjects addressed with wit and insight include famous tennis feuds and the parallels between tennis and rock music, and there are also articles about Andre Agassi, Maria Sharapova and Pete Sampras. Add interviews with leading players past and present including Yannick Noah, Amelie Mauresmo, Stefan Edberg and Martina Hingis, and the late Gene Scott (founder and publisher of *Tennis Week*), and you have a stimulating and enjoyable read for the tennis enthusiast.

Coaching Your Tennis Champion



by David Miniham
Mansion Grove House, USA
Paperback, £22



With the modern emphasis on developing youngsters to become the stars of the future, it is simply amazing that there are so few good resources available for coaches, teachers and parents. What books and DVDs there are mostly come from America, where the USA takes a proactive role to fund and endorse approved coaching resources.

David Miniham's book is born out of the belief that tennis should first and foremost always be fun for kids. If they have fun, they will keep coming back to play, and some will emerge as potential performance players. Subtitled 'The Progressive Plan for Success', the book is targeted at those who coach children aged from five to 10 years. This group is subdivided into 5 to 7s and 8 to 10s, and a range of illustrated games and drills is provided for each.

The overall aim is to simplify and accelerate the learning of the basic skills of the game, so that youngsters experience the motivation that comes with early success.

All books and DVDs are available from The Tennis Gallery on 020 8715 8866 or order online at www.thetennisgallery.co.uk

BESTSELLERS

Based on Tennis Gallery shop and mail order sales – 1 to 31 March 2008

1 A Little History Of Tennis

by John Crace
(Appletree Press, hardback, £4.99)

2 Official Guide To Professional Tennis 2008

by Greg Sharko & Roger Gatchalian
(ATP/WTA, USA, paperback, £24)

3 The ITF Year 2007

edited by Mitzi Ingram Evans
(ITF, paperback, £12)

4 Mini Tennis Lesson Plans

by Simon Wheatley
(CCC, soft covers, £10)

5 Breaking Back

by James Blake with Andrew Friedman
(Harper Collins, USA, hardback, £18.99)

6 Roland Garros 2007

by Patrice Dominguez
(FFT, France, soft covers, £35)

7 The History Of Professional Tennis

by Joe McCauley
(Privately published, paperback, £22)

8 Fantastic Federer

by Chris Bowers
(John Blake, paperback, £7.99)

9 Davis Cup: The Year In Tennis 2007

by Chris Bowers
(ITF/Universe, hardback, £24)

10 Managing Performance Anxiety In Tennis

by Dr Andrew Peden
(Trafford Publishing, paperback, £9.99)