

Tops in wheelchair tennis

The Airports Company South Africa Strand Open, sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), is part of the NEC World Wheelchair Tennis Tour, and takes place from 1 to 4 October at the Strand Tennis Club.

The Airports Company South Africa Strand Open is one of three entry level international events hosted in South Africa. Around 84 players are expected to participate in events, with the majority of players being from the country's regional programmes.

The focus for this event, being a Future Level Event, is to give as many players as possible the opportunity to gain world ranking points

and experience.

It is the perfect environment to introduce new talent to international competitions, and provide them with valuable competitive experience.

The Open Men's Draw is set to offer exciting tennis. Evans Maripa, SA's No 1 and Nyasha Mharakurwa, Zimbabwe's No 1 player have just returned from the 2012 Paralympics where they both won their first rounds and lost to players ranked in the top 15 in the world.

Other South African players to watch are Marshall Marsh and Leon Els.

In the women's division SA's No 2 women's player Rose van der

Meer is a firm favourite for the title. She has won the last two international events in South Africa in 2012 - the ACSA Polokwane Open and the ACSA Soweto Open.

Will she be able to make it three in a row, or will talented Mabel Mankgele from Pretoria stop her winning streak?

The junior division will certainly be one of the most competitive draws.

Will Gift Lekhanyane take his third Junior title for the year from fellow school mate Mabel Mankgele or will up and coming players, Thato Tsomole and Sean de Hilster from Hartebeespoort Dam, rise to the challenge?