



**Under embargo until 00.01 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010**

## **Svetlana Kuznetsova Vs Mozy Man at AEGON International**

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010: Svetlana Kuznetsova, two time Grand Slam champion and former World Number 2 ladies tennis player took on a surprising new opponent on the opening day of the AEGON International earlier this month. Svetlana enjoyed a convincing win against Malaria No More UK's 'Mozy Man' in a dramatic two set defeat at Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club in Eastbourne.

This was the first time in the history of the Tournament that a super size mosquito has set foot on court. Their encounter was filmed to create a short online viral for Malaria No More UK to raise awareness about malaria, a preventable disease that claims the life of a child in Africa every 45 seconds. The film will be available to view on Malaria No More UK's microsite [www.netsneeded.co.uk](http://www.netsneeded.co.uk) from 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The build up to the match had seen a fierce rivalry develop between the two players with Mozy Man entering with a wildcard and Svetlana unwilling to recognise the giant size mosquito as a credible opponent. The match was short lived as Mozy Man failed to live up to his rhetoric or return a series of well placed and hard hitting shots from Svetlana. Mozy Man became increasingly frustrated at his inability to hold serve or win any points and he finally lost the match 0-6, 0-6 leaving him with a considerable amount to reflect on.

Svetlana Kuznetsova said of making the film: "I have enjoyed it and I hope the public really enjoy it too because the idea was great. They should listen to this important message because it will help."

This was Mozy Man's highest profile public appearance to date as Malaria No More UK's biggest fan. Unlike malarial mosquitoes, Mozy Man does not bite people but works tirelessly to raise awareness and funds from the British public to help save lives in Africa.

Sarah Kline, Executive Director for Malaria No More UK watched the action unfold and was gripped by the encounter. Sarah said: "I am very grateful to Svetlana and to the Lawn Tennis Association for supporting our charity and for the match with Mozy Man. We set out to capture the attention and imagination of the British public on the crucial issue of making malaria no more. We hope this latest film will do just that. It will be great to see the public's reaction to Mozy Man's performance!".

Malaria is an urgent health crisis - it affects half of the world's population and claims 850,000 lives each year. Over 90% of these deaths occur in Africa where pregnant women and children, typically the most vulnerable are affected first and worst. The tragedy is that every death is needless as malaria is an entirely preventable disease. Simple tools such as mosquito nets help save lives and stop malaria from spreading. It costs just £5 to buy and deliver a mosquito net to a family in Africa, each net lasts up to five years and protects two people, usually a mother and her child from being bitten at night when malarial mosquitoes are most likely to attack.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

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- **Content and imagery:** To access high broadcast quality footage to play the film and / high resolution imagery to accompany the story contact Roz Hunt: [roz.hunt@malariafurthermore.org.uk](mailto:roz.hunt@malariafurthermore.org.uk) / T: 0207 801 3846.
- **View the short film here from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010:** [www.netsneeded.co.uk](http://www.netsneeded.co.uk)

#### **About Svetlana Kuznetsova**

Svetlana Aleksandrovna Kuznetsova was born June 27, 1985 in St. Petersburg (then Leningrad) is a Russian professional tennis player. She won the 2004 US Open and the 2009 French Open singles titles defeating Elena Dementieva and Dinara Safina. She also was the runner-up in singles at the 2006 French Open and the 2007 US Open, both times to Belgian player Justine Henin. As of June 7, 2010, Kuznetsova is ranked World No. 19. She was at the Sanchez-Casal Academy with Andy Murray.

#### **About Moszy Man**

Mosquito Man is Malaria No More UK's biggest fan. He is different from other mosquitoes in that he doesn't bite people! He works tirelessly to raise awareness and funds from the British public to help save lives in Africa.

- Follow Mosquito Man on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/mozy\\_man/](http://twitter.com/mozy_man/)
- Become fans of Mosquito Man on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Mozy-Man/125116310854042?ref=ts>

#### **About Pretzel Films**

The film is being shot by Pretzel Films directed by Giles Ripley. Since graduating in 2008, Giles has exhibited under Kay Saatchi, in New Contemporaries at the Liverpool Biennial, internationally under Richard Patterson, and has been tipped as one of the "Ten Emerging Artists To Watch" in The Times. His work also recently appeared on School Of Saatchi, a BBC2 series in which he was selected to present in the last 12 in a pool of over 3000 competing artists by the likes of Charles Saatchi, Matthew Collings and Tracey Emin.

#### **About Malaria No More UK**

Malaria No More UK launched in April 2009 fronted by David Beckham and Andy Murray, founding members of the charity's Leadership Council. The charity is committed to ending suffering and death caused by malaria and works with governments, corporations, celebrities and the public to raise mass awareness and funds to achieve the following UN goals:

- 1) Ensure every man, women and child at risk of malaria in Africa has access to a mosquito net by the end of 2010
- 2) Help put an end to malaria deaths by 2015

A £5 donation to Malaria No More UK is **enough to** purchase, transport and deliver a life saving bed net to a mother and her child in Africa protecting them for up to five years. **Every penny donated directly by the public to Malaria No More UK is used on the ground in Africa to support malaria prevention and treatment programmes.** [www.malariafurthermore.org.uk](http://www.malariafurthermore.org.uk)