

Serving up a treat

Stars from tennis' past and present proved to be a smash hit in Liverpool over the Summer.

The 2008 Liverpool International Tennis Tournament brought some true legends to the city in June, including former Wimbledon champions Jana Novotna, Martina Hingis, Pat Cash and Goran Ivanisevic.

They were joined by the rising stars of the game, such as America's Amer Delic, who won the men's tournament, and Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, who took the women's title.

The tournament has grown into one of the biggest events on Europe's tennis calendar, and 2008 was no exception, with record crowds enjoying six days of world-class action in Liverpool's leafy Calderstones Park.

It was top-notch tennis all the way, from Martina Hingis' win over Jana Novotna in a 'rematch' of the 1997 Wimbledon final, to Goran Ivanisevic's thrilling Super-Tie-Break victory over Pat Cash in the 'Legends' Cup.



Flame and glory!

Liverpool turned up the heat in August for the World Firefighter Games.

More than 3,500 firefighters from 43 nations competed in the event, which ran throughout Liverpool and the North West.

Officially opened by sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe, the 10-day competition saw Firefighters competing in a range of gruelling events, including Fire Truck Challenge, marathon, indoor climbing and swimming.

They also battled it out in equestrian, sailing, football, ice hockey and much more.

Liverpool Echo Arena, Aintree Racecourse and Wavertree Aquatics Centre were among the city venues to host events.

Over 20,000 spectators attended the 72 events across 42 venues – making the 2008 Games the world's biggest international amateur sporting event.

www.liverpool.gov.uk



Fanatical about football

The joy, despair and passion of the 'beautiful game' was captured in a stunning fly-on-the-wall film for 08.

On the Edge of Passion received its world premier in FACT in December, an exploration of what football means to fans in three European cities - Liverpool, Marseilles and Istanbul.

Each port city is renowned for its love of their football team - Liverpool, Everton, Olympique de Marseilles, Galatasaray, Fenerbace and Besiktas - and the in-depth documentary by Comic Strip productions, revealed what it means to be a supporter and how football transcends language barriers across the world.

