It was the idea of Tennis Australia and its chief executive Craig Tiley, who was worried about the threat a Saudi Masters in the first week of January would pose to the Australian tennis summer.

After some discreet initial meetings between the Grand Slams, including one in London in the week before this year’s Australian Open, all vested interests were invited to a summit at Indian Wells in March.

That meeting is best remembered for the intervention by the ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi, who revealed an alternative $1.3 billion (£1.05bn) offer from Saudi Arabia, as first reported by the Telegraph., external

What that offer was actually worth to the sport is hard to quantify. Primarily a bid for a combined 1,000 event, it is understood to have factored in several years of prize money and may also have incorporated elements of the deal for the WTA Finals.

That particular offer is no longer on the table, because of the start of the ATP bidding process and the confirmation Riyadh would host the WTA Finals. But the way it was introduced to the meeting went down very badly with the Grand Slams.

Since then, though, discussions have become more collaborative and cordial. Gaudenzi, the WTA chair and chief executive Steve Simon, and the chairs of the four Grand Slams have recently begun meeting more regularly, and the ATP and the WTA will jointly stage tournament meetings in Madrid this week - for the first time anyone can remember.

The WTA could have a brewing rivalry that is growing organically from two players implying they can beat the other or one player simply leaving out the other's name when asked who are the best players on tour. Organic rivalries are the best kind. That means they could have depth and last a long time. That is good for the sport of tennis.

In this case, a rivalry could be blooming between Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff. Maybe neither player feels any maliciousness toward the other...yet. Last week, Gauff was asked about her chances of winning the French Open and some might have interpreted her words as her saying she had a right to win the Grand Slam event since she had spent so much time in the city. Never mind that Swiatek had won three of the last four titles at Roland Garros.

Speaking of developing, Jannik Sinner certainly has over the last year. He is currently ranked No. 2 on the ATP tour with a fairly decent chance, should he continue to play as well as he has to start the year, to reach No. 1 over the summer. Current No. 1 Novak Djokovic is withdrawing from more tournaments than he has been playing lately, and this gives Sinner a chance to overtake Djokovic in the rankings.

Tennis great Boris Becker was recently asked about Sinner's recent form during a press conference for the 2024 Laureus World Sports Awards and Becker's answer was both amusing and insightful. In other words, classic Becker.