

Sonya, Mats in love match wedding

By Yogin Devan

ALL eyes were on centre court for the love match of the tennis year yesterday when Swedish ace Mats Wilander, 22, married Sonya Mulholland, 24, in a private ceremony at Shongweni.

The world No 3 turned down a Davis Cup appearance to wed the former Durban schoolgirl, now an international model.

Despite strong protests by the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groups at Wilander's decision to marry in South Africa, the couple took their wedding vows, though amid tight security.

The guest list, which read like a Who's Who of the tennis world, was headed by best man and Swedish Davis Cup team member, Joakim Nystrom.

About 30 of Mats's Swedish friends were among the 150 guests, who also included local horse-racing personalities.

The wedding was held at the home of Sonya's sister, Bly, who is married to Mickey Louw, former show jumper and now bloodstock agent.

Reporters were not allowed through the gates and had to wait at the roadside for more than 90 minutes before they were allowed on the lawn for a photo session which lasted less than 10 minutes.

Sonya's gown was striking in its simplicity. She wore a long, body-hugging white dress designed by the famous Cape Town designer Errol Arendz.

The silk chiffon fabric, which was embroidered in Switzerland, was studded with white sequins.

Errol said he had only a week in which to make the dress. He and Sonya had pooled their ideas for the design.

"It's a dress which has a traditional feeling and yet has a modern outlook."



THE world's No 3 tennis ace, Mats Wilander, teamed up for life with former Durban model Sonya Mulholland yesterday. The couple were married at a private ceremony in Shongweni yesterday.

Picture: MORRIS REDDY

