

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

cc: WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Committee Members, WSA, PSA, Accredited Companies

ST PETERSBURG AWAITS



May 29 is a critical date for squash.

Last December we presented our case to the IOC's Programme Commission and this day in May we shall do so to the IOC Executive Board in St Petersburg, Russia, along with the other shortlisted sports for the place on the programme of the 2020 Olympic Games.

The presentation group will be led by WSF President Ramachandran and features our two world champions Nicol David and Ramy Ashour, whose passion and charisma are sure to impress the IOC President Jacques Rogge and his fourteen IOC Board colleagues.



The bid film will be shown – it features the two players and has already been viewed nearly 110,000 times, along with the video giving a snapshot of the 185 countries that play squash (you can see both at <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?p=10564>) – along with a new film, that is being finished featuring innovation, broadcast and presentation. The spoken presentations will be accompanied by over 70 great slides illustrating the points made.



What happens next is not confirmed. Originally it was stated that one sport would be recommended for ratification by the full IOC membership but indications now are that a few sports may be put forward for the final vote. That will be made clear on the evening of 29th May and we must hope that we are there for the final decision in Buenos Aires on 8th September.

WSF AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME SETS SIGHTS ON PANAMA & VENEZUELA

Malaysia's record seven-time world squash champion Nicol David will lead this year's WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Panama and Venezuela in June, accompanied by Egypt's former world junior champion and world No6 Mohamed El Shorbagy.

The Ambassador Programme international promotional initiative was launched by the World Squash Federation two years ago. With two of the sport's leading international players, plus an international coach and referee, the WSF Ambassadors first visited the Baltic country of Latvia - then last year, spearheaded by David and El Shorbagy (seen here in Namibia), the team highlighted the appeal of Squash to the public and media in the African countries of Malawi and Namibia.



The players will integrate with the local squash communities in Panama City and the Venezuelan capital Caracas, providing clinics and exhibition matches. Meanwhile coaching and refereeing workshops will be hosted in Venezuela by Ronny Vlassaks, the highly-experienced European Squash Federation Tutor who is also the Head Coach of the Dutch and Belgian national squash teams; and Scotsman Ian Allanach, a former WSF top referee and now a worldwide refereeing assessor.

"To have these squash superstars coming to Panama will not only bring media interest here but give our squash community an exciting opportunity to interact with them and help us bring new players into our wonderful sport," said the excited two-time Panama national champion Pedro Altamiranda.

Meanwhile, Squash Venezuela President Francisco Paradisi was also enthused: "In Venezuela we have around a 100 courts. We are very excited about the visit of the WSF Ambassadors group as this will bring us a unique opportunity to promote squash, especially among the girls. I am sure it will be a great experience for squash and non-squash players."

OLYMPIC CHAMPION MURRAY SUPPORTS SQUASH



Andy Murray, who won the London 2012 Olympic tennis singles title beating another bid supporter Roger Federer, is seen here in Monte Carlo showing his support. Scottish Murray is also the US Open champion after thrillingly beating Novak Djokovic in five games in the final.



Great champion himself and now Murray's coach, Ivan Lendl (pictured left) also thinks that squash would be a great addition to the Olympic programme.

Yet another squash bid backer is tennis star Caroline Wozniacki, who not only became the first Scandinavian female to take the world top spot, but the Dane went on to hold it for sixty seven weeks.



WSF AGM GOES TO NEW ZEALAND



As notified to member nations, the 43rd WSF Annual General Meeting, presided over by WSF President Ramachandran, takes place on Wednesday 23rd October 2013, together with the WSF AGM Conference which takes place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22nd October.

(Committee meetings take place on 20th).

Squash New Zealand is hosting the meetings this year, which will be held in the city of Christchurch.

Full details and booking form can be found at the AGM website: <http://www.2013worldsquashagm.com>

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

The following amendments have been made to the WSF World Championship Regulations and are applicable for WSF Championships immediately.

Rest Time Between Games

To align World Championships with the PSA and WSA Tour Rules the maximum rest time between games has been extended from 90 seconds to 120 seconds (two minutes). *Please note that this alteration is only applicable for World Championships, not the Rules of the Game for general play.*

E10: The Championship shall be played under the current Rules of the Game and WSF Code of Conduct (see Appendix B). However, for all WSF World Championships the maximum break between games shall be 120 seconds (two minutes)

Ball Change

(As notified in the March 2013 WSF Instant Update)

The WSF World Championship Regulations have been amended so that they are aligned with PSA in respect of ball changes and now read:

E11: The referee may decide that the ball must be changed at any time if he feels that the shape or playability of it is or has become inappropriate in accordance with general standards or specifications. In the case of white balls the referee may also order a change if the visibility of it has deteriorated, and must, upon a request from either player, provide a new ball at the start of the third game.

Eyewear

(Also previously notified in the WSF Instant Update)

This amendment relates to the altered system of WSF Certification of eyewear products. The requirement for wearing eyewear at the World Junior Championships remains unchanged.

G3: MNFs through their Team Managers must ensure that all their Doubles and Junior players (under 19 years of age) wear protective eyewear (manufactured to an approved national safety standard) properly over the eyes at all times during practice and match play. It is the responsibility of the individual player to ensure that the quality of the product worn is satisfactory for the purpose. The list of WSF Certified Eyewear allowable at the time of participation can be viewed on the WSF website.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

All Africa Junior Squash Championships, Windhoek, Namibia



Men's Individual Championship

Quarter-finals: [1] Omar Elatmas (EGY) bt Blessing Muhwate (ZIM) 11-3, 11-4, 11-6. [5] Shehab Essam Hosny (EGY) bt [3] Ahmed Effat Ashoush (EGY) 5-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-4. [8] Aubrey Lawrence (RSA) bt [4] Lawrence Kuhn (RSA) 11-3, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-8. [6] Luke Willemse (RSA) bt [2] Ruan Olivier (RSA) 11-8, 11-6, 12-10

Semi-finals: Elatmas bt Essam Hosny 11-8, 11-2, 11-7. Willemse bt Lawrence 11-5, 11-7, 11-3

Final: Elatmas bt Willemse 11-4, 11-3, 11-9

Women's Individual Championship

Quarter-finals: [1] Nouran Ahmed Gohar (EGY) bt Ruthe Okoro (NGR) 11-2, 11-3, 11-2. [4] Alexa Pienaar (RSA) bt [5] Kacey-Leigh Dodd (RSA) 11-7, 11-6, 8-11, 11-7. [3] Megan Page (RSA) bt [6] Kehinde Adebayo (NGR) 11-8, 11-0, 11-2. [2] Nadine Ayman Mohamed Shahin (EGY) bt Stephanie Hobart (ZIM) 11-1, 11-5, 11-5

Semi-finals: Gohar bt Pienaar 11-7, 11-6, 11-7. Shahin bt Page 11-5, 11-3, 11-3

Final: Gohar bt Shahin 11-8, 11-3, 11-1

Team Championship Final:

EGYPT bt SOUTH AFRICA 3/0

Omar Elatmas bt Ruan Olivier 11-6, 11-5, 11-8

Nouran Ahmed Gohar bt Megan Page 11-1, 11-7, 11-5

Ahmed Effat Ashoush bt Lawrence Kuhn 11-6, 7-11, 7-11, 12-10, 14-12

Clean Sweep for Egypt in All Africa Junior Championships

Egypt successfully retained all three titles in the 2013 All Africa Junior Squash Championships at the Wanderers Club in the Namibia capital Windhoek.

Favourites in the mixed team championship, Egypt brushed aside South Africa 3/0 in the final - Omar Elatmas and Nouran Ahmed Gohar winning their matches in straight games and Ahmed Effat Ashoush fighting back from 2/1 down in the dead rubber to quash determined opposition from Lawrence Kuhn to clinch an 11-6, 7-11, 7-11, 12-10, 14-12 victory.

In the individual championships which followed, 16-year-old top seed Elatmas cruised to victory in the men's event, beating South African Luke Willemse 11-4, 11-3, 11-9 in the final. Sixth seed Willemse made his breakthrough in the quarter-finals where he upset second-seeded compatriot Ruan Olivier.

The women's final was an all-Egyptian affair between the top two seeds, in which favourite Nouran Ahmed Gohar, a 15-year-old former British Junior U15 Open champion, beat Nadine Ayman Mohamed Shahin, also 15, 11-8, 11-3, 11-1.

European Junior U19 Squash Championships, Zurich, Switzerland

Men's Individual Championship



Quarter-finals: [1] Richie Fallows (ENG) bt [5/8] Baptiste Masotti (FRA) 11-6, 4-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9.

[9/16] Robin Gadola (SUI) bt [3/4] Angus Gillams (ENG) 11-8, 11-9, 11-4. [5/8] Ashley Davies (ENG) bt [9/16] Jakub Solnický (CZE) 11-9, 11-8, 11-7. [2] Ollie

Holland (ENG) bt [5/8] Joel Makin (WAL) 11-4, 11-7, 11-9

Semi-finals: Fallows bt Gadola 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6.

Holland bt Davies (ENG) 12-10, 11-9, 9-11, 11-4

Final: Holland bt Fallows 11-9, 11-5, 11-7

Women's Individual Championship

Quarter-finals: [1] Nele Gilis (BEL) bt [9/16] Lily Taylor (ENG) 5-11, 11-2, 9-11, 11-5, 11-7. [3/4] Nada Elkalaawy (ENG) bt [5/8] Anna Kimberley (ENG) 12-10, 11-9, 11-9.

[9/16] Marie Stephan (FRA) bt [3/4] Emilia Soini (FIN) 11-8, 11-1, 10-12, 11-5. [2] Victoria Temple Murray (ENG) bt [5/8] Tessa ter Sluis (NED) 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-5

Semi-finals: Gilis bt Elkalaawy 11-6, 11-9, 11-6. Temple Murray bt Stephan 11-6, 11-2, 11-4

Final: Temple Murray bt Gilis 10-12, 11-6, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9



Team Championship Final:

[1] ENGLAND bt [2] FRANCE 3/0

Ollie Holland bt Baptiste Masotti 9-11, 11-3, 11-1, 11-3

Richie Fallows bt Auguste Dussourd 11-6, 11-7, 11-6

Victoria Temple Murray bt Marie Stephan 12-10, 11-8

England Rule in European Junior Championships in Zurich

After winning both individual titles in the European Junior U19 Squash Championships in Switzerland, favourites England went on to claim the team title in impressive style at the Tennis & Squash Centre Sihltal in the country's largest city Zurich.

The men's individual event saw the predicted all-English final between the top two seeds Ollie Holland and Richie Fallows. But it was second seed Holland who became the third English winner in a row - and the second in succession from the same club in Nottingham - when he beat Fallows 11-9, 11-5, 11-7.

There was a similar upset in the women's final when No2 seed Victoria Temple Murray beat Belgian favourite Nele Gilis 10-12, 11-6, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9 to become the fifth successive English winner.

England reached the team final without dropping a match - and Holland, Fallows and Temple Murray maintained the squad's run against France in the final, beating the second seeds 3/0.

SQUASH: THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN POLAND



The WSF World Junior Squash Championships are taking place in July in a country of unprecedented expansion for the sport. "Squash is the fastest growing sport in Poland," says Maciek Maciantowicz, Vice President of the Polish Squash Federation.

With a growth rate of around 25% a year, the sport has taken off significantly in the last ten years - following the building of the first court in 1976 in Brodnica by construction workers who simply wanted to play squash while working there!

The WSF World Junior Championships will take place in Wroclaw at the Hasta La Vista Club, a centre which boasts 15 squash courts including an all-glass permanent showcourt.

Poland first established itself on the international squash map in 2011 when the European Individual Championships were staged in Warsaw, then later in 2012 when the Sebo Squash & Art Festival was held on a court erected in the open air in the centre of Krakow.

The reasons for such strong growth - according to Tomasz Banasiak, President of the Polish Squash Federation - centre around the education of investors and players and the provision of local event opportunities. The Federation organised 463 events in Poland last year.



"Squash is probably the best-matched sport for our country, fitting our geographical conditions for the whole year," said Banasiak. "It also responds to the needs of our active and hungry-for-success developing Polish population. We can see independent investors

continuing to spread clubs widely in the whole country. The Polish Squash Federation provides an increasingly professional environment for adults and juniors, high-performance and recreational players with coaches, and referees - including all our tournaments at different levels".

Milestone

"The World Junior Championship 2013 in Wroclaw is the milestone to the expansion of squash this year," added Banasiak. "Becoming a part of the 2020 Olympic Games would give us another kick among all activities led in Poland by those passionate for Squash."

World Squash Federation Chief Executive Andrew Shelley added: "Poland now has 100,000 players spread across the country - and part of the reason for this growth is that Poles have taken to a sport that provides great exercise without eating into their leisure time.

"The sport is being embraced by students and seen as a great opportunity by investors and leisure-time

for the sport is increasingly being provided free by employers.

"This growth has begun to be seen in success in the world professional Tours, with Polish players breaking into the men's top 200 and into the women's top 100," Shelley explained.

"The WSF World Juniors in Wroclaw in July will no doubt attract additional media attention for the sport as well as giving local players the chance to see all the very best young players in the world in action."

Picture below shows action in the 2011 European Individual Championships taking place on the all-glass showcourt erected in the Blue City shopping centre in Warsaw. Photograph courtesy of Pawel Dziurzynski



The entries:

Sixteen nations will contest the WSF Women's World Junior Team Championship. They are: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa and USA.

Entries for the individual events close on 4th June.



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www.squashchampions.com

WORLD HANDBALL TITLES SHARE-OUT



The event, featuring 95 players from 19 countries saw home heroes Amanda Sobhy and Natalie Grainger take the Women's championship, Aussie all-star team Damian Mudge and Ben Gould added another trophy to their impressive collection in the men's division and another Australian victory by Paul Price and Narelle Krizek in the mixed division.

In the women's draw semi-finals, top seeded US team Grainger and Sobhy defeated England's Tina Rix and Carrie Hastings, while Australians Narelle Krizek and Natarsha McElhinny were defeated by Canada's Seanna Keating and Stephanie Hewitt to make the 2013 World Doubles women's championship final an all-North American affair.

In the finals match, held at Brooklyn Heights Casino, Grainger/Sobhy comfortably defeated the number two seeds and defending champions Keating and Hewitt in three games, 15-7, 15-11, 15-7, to take out the title of Turner Women's Open World Doubles Champions.

In the men's division top seeds and defending champions Damien Mudge and Ben Gould cruised through comfortably into the championship final, while an upset in the semi-finals saw second seeded men's team Matt Jenson and Paul Price of Australia stopped in their tracks on the way to the final. Things were looking sweet for the pair however the strong partnership of Jonny Smith and Clive Leach of England was too much to tackle.

In the championship final, all-star team Mudge and Gould - who have dominated the pro doubles scene since they teamed up in 2010, defeated Smith and Leach in three breathtaking games to take out the Kellner Men's Open division of the World Doubles tournament 15-8, 15-9, 15-9 and add another trophy to their impressive collection.



The mixed finals played out between Australian team Paul Price and Narelle Krizek and US team Preston Quick and Natalie Grainger, saw the Australians crowned the Richmond Mixed Open World Doubles champions.





The Women's final match saw last year's defending champions compete against one another in the final, as last year the championship was won by Quick and Krizek together.

The intense four-game match fell smoothly in favour of the Aussies in the first two games, 15-7, 15-6, but Quick and Grainger climbed back in the third from 10-6 down to take the game 15-10. However the Americans narrowly missed out on evening up the stakes in the fourth, going down 15-13 in a nail biting finish to the match.

CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2013

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are eligible for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events; when buying new products look for the WSF Certified Tested logo on them.

Brands that become certified will be added to the WSF website and featured in forthcoming WSF Instant Updates.

| BRAND NAME | APPROVED MODEL |
|--|--|
| Dunlop  | Dunlop I-ARMOR |
| i-Mask  | i-Mask |
| Prince  | Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2) |
| Tecnifibre  | R615 |



Official WSF Magazine

Nicol David, the seven-time world champion, talks to Richard Eaton about the techniques she uses with psychologist Frank Cabooter to ease the pressure on her.

For the full article click here:

www.squashplayer.co.uk/workshop/DavidsMental%20Edge.pdf

Coming up in Issue 3 of Squash Player, Cabooter advises how to deal with pressure.

WSF HAILS NICOL & GARNER'S 7 CONTINENT CHALLENGE TRIUMPH



World Squash Federation President Ramachandran has praised the Xodus 7 Continent Challenge as an initiative of 'epic proportions' and one which has given the sport's Olympic bid a great boost.

Peter Nicol MBE and fellow former professional Tim Garner launched the Xodus 7 Continent Challenge in Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands on the edge of Antarctica just over a week ago - then traversed the globe via Santiago in Chile; Sydney in Australia; Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia; Cairo in Egypt; and London in England before reaching the climax of their bid to contest *7 Squash Matches in 7 Days on 7 Continents* to raise the profile of Squash's campaign to join the programme of the 2020 Olympic Games in Connecticut in the USA on Saturday.

"DONE!" tweeted Garner after the intrepid pair rounded off their mission at the new 12-court Chelsea Piers Club in Stamford, where Nicol edged to a 4/3 series victory in the squash challenge - after seven matches, 32 games and more than six hours of playing time!

"70 hours on airplanes, 40,000 miles of travelling and seven matches completed. It's been an incredible week!"

President Ramachandran was full of admiration for the pair's efforts: "Both Peter and Tim have already made significant contributions to the sport - Peter as a former world champion and world number one and Tim as director of major events like the British Open, World Series Finals and Canary Wharf Classic.

Beyond the Call.....

"But this went beyond the call of duty - it was an extraordinary pioneering mission of epic proportions which has caught the imagination of sports enthusiasts the world over and has done much to boost our Olympic bid."

Garner, a former world No26, later commented: "We set out on Xodus 7 Continent Challenge to help highlight the profile of the 2020 bid and raise some money for two worthy causes. I think it did just that - and more, as each and every venue had pushed the boat to make their event special and in doing so did much for squash in their community.

"It has been a tough challenge, but I am pleased that we both managed to come through it relatively unscathed, though it may take a few days to recover as the muscles and bones are feeling a little weary!

"It was great to spend a week with one of my best friends - who, fittingly, I met through squash -

though it was annoying to lose to him in the decider!"

On the journey back to London, Nicol added: "As we set off on this incredible journey, I was apprehensive for several reasons but also hugely excited. From landing in the Falklands all the way through to Stamford, CT, we were wonderfully surprised with the reaction from local squash players, the media and, to be perfectly honest, by our bodies to playing. We both expected to find the squash the hardest aspect of the tour but were delighted to find out that we were still capable of playing to a decent standard over the course of seven days".



As well as profiling the Olympic Bid, the Xodus 7 Continent Challenge has raised monies for two squash causes: The first the LV=SOS Kit Aid Scheme, and the second Natasha's Steps, a trust set up help young squash player Natasha Drake who is recovering from an idiopathic bleed on her brain.

SQUASH BALL SPECIFICATIONS

As ever, players are encouraged to use the right speed of ball for their standard of play and the warmth of the courts. To slavishly use the double dot (Competition) ball is not sensible.

With this in mind, the WSF have now published specifications for both the double dot (competition) and single dot (Club) balls. They can be found at:

http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?page_id=8290

LV= SOS KIT AID, SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL SQUASH SUPPORT LAUNCHED



WSF is now supporting Kit Aid which recycles sports kit for the benefit of young people in the UK and overseas. Launched at the Canary Wharf Classic where James Willstrop gave out some kit to youngsters from a local school, collections and deliveries will expand internationally during the year.

AGASSI, CLIJSTERS AND EDBERG ALSO JOIN TENNIS ELITE IN BID SUPPORT



Andre Agassi, Kim Clijsters and Stefan Edberg have followed fellow tennis legend Roger Federer in backing Squash to be added to the Olympic Games programme in 2020.

"Squash is absolutely one of the best/toughest sports," said Agassi, the eight-time Grand Slam champion and Olympic gold medallist in 1996. "The Games would be proud!"

Federer was one of the first leading tennis players to pledge support for his fellow racket sport: "I think it's a wonderful sport. It's unfortunate some sports don't get the opportunity to be in the Olympics - I think squash would deserve it."

Since then, fellow stars Agassi, Clijsters and Edberg have also given Squash their backing.

"I think Squash would be a great addition to the Olympic Games," said Clijsters, one of the greatest ever players in the women's game, who won 41 WTA singles titles including four Grand Slams. "It's a great competitive game and different from the other racket sports in not having a net dividing the players."



"It shows great intensity. With the modernisation of the game I think it deserves a place in the Olympic Games."

Edberg first started playing squash when he was on the ATP Tour and used to play in the top Swedish league: "Squash has all the credentials to be an Olympic sport - it would complement the other racket sports that are already part of the programme and it would be great to see it included in the Games," said the former world number one and Olympic gold medallist.

World Squash Federation President Ramachandran is delighted by the growing list of world top athletes who are backing the sport's bid for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games programme.

"It is heart-warming to have tennis idols like Agassi, Federer, Edberg and Clijsters supporting Squash's campaign – and equally gratifying to see top athletes from sports like rugby, cricket, football, cycling, badminton, weightlifting, diving and shooting rallying to our cause."

JAHANGIR KHAN ELECTED TO PAKISTAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION



Squash legend Jahangir Khan has been elected to the Pakistan Olympic Association. "It is indeed recognition of your devotion and valuable contribution for the promotion of national and international squash and bring laurels for the country," said POA

President Lt Gen Syed Arif Hasan in a letter inviting Khan to become an individual member of the General Council. "I'm sure your vision and active participation will strengthen and promote the Olympic Movement in Pakistan," continued Hasan.

Widely acknowledged as the greatest player in the history of the Squash, Jahangir Khan burst onto the international scene as a 15-year-old in 1979 when he became the youngest-ever winner of the World Amateur Individual Championship. In November 1981, he became the youngest World Open champion of all-time at 17 - and went on to establish a remarkable 555-match unbeaten run over five and a half years, winning six World Open and a record 10 British Open titles.

AISTS TO CONDUCT SQUASH REFEREE RESEARCH



WSF has appointed world-renowned International Academy of Sports Science and Technology (AISTS) to conduct research that will provide a framework to help encourage

more players and ex-players to become qualified as referees.

The research will also look at new options that will help raise officiating standards generally.

The two-phase project, which is due to be completed by August this year, will involve a combination of information-gathering and interviews by the Swiss Lausanne-based Institute before recommendations are made at the second stage.

Welcoming the partnership, WSF President Ramachandran commented: "Squash is blessed with some excellent referees from across the globe, but we do need to enlarge the pool and ensure that they have the best possible resources to enable them to improve - from local right through to international level. This study by the esteemed AISTS team will provide new perspectives for us as part of that process."

AISTS Executive Director Dr Claude Stricker is pleased to confirm that the project is already underway: "The AISTS looks at innovative solutions to develop qualified referees in the sport of squash and follows a multidisciplinary approach in this process. The AISTS integrates knowledge from different disciplines such as management, psychology, economics, technology and incorporates the knowledge from the best case studies found in other sports."

DUTCH FEDERATION MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE AT HISTORIC EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Squash Bond Nederland celebrates its 75th anniversary this week by hosting the biggest ever European Team Squash Championships in the Netherlands capital Amsterdam.

The Dutch Squash Federation is the second oldest European member of the World Squash Federation (after England Squash) - and will be hosting the historic 41st edition of the European Team Championships for the tenth time since 1978.

More than 50 teams are competing in all three men's and women's divisions of the European Championships – including men's championship debutants Estonia and first-timers in the women's event Latvia and Slovenia.

The championships will take place at the 21-court Frans Otten Stadion in Amsterdam from 1-5 May.

"The Dutch federation is one of the most active WSF member nations in Europe as well as being a world leader and we congratulate them on this magnificent three-quarters-of-a-century milestone," said WSF President Ramachandran, who will be attending the championships.

"Furthermore, our European Squash Federation is celebrating its 40th anniversary at a time when they are going from strength to strength," added Ramachandran.

"The fact that the celebrations will also include the staging of the biggest international team event in the world – bringing together nations such as Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovenia with successful countries such as France, England and hosts Netherlands, joined by smaller ones such as Luxembourg and debuting Estonia - will make this week in Amsterdam an extremely special one for our sport."

WSF APPROVED BALLS



OLYMPIC BID BITS

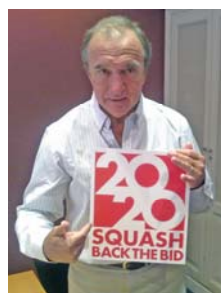
England Rugby Team Backs Squash 2020 Olympic Bid



Ahead of the England Rugby team's Six Nations clash with Italy recently, Squash's campaign to become part of the 2020 Olympic Games received a boost when England captain Chris Robshaw, along with Chris Ashton, Dan Cole, Henry Thomas, Tom Youngs, Joe Marler and Mako Vunipola backed the Squash 2020 campaign.

Their support follows the launch last month of a new online campaign to build support for Squash's ambition to join the Olympic Games using the Twitter ID @vote4squash. The World Squash Federation campaign has already gained the support of current and former athletes including Roger Federer, Sachin Tendulkar, Muttiah Muralitharan, Victoria Pendleton, Greg Searle and Squash legend Jahangir Khan.

Hugo Porta too



Argentinean rugby superstar, the man credited with really putting rugby on the map in South America, Hugo Porta is another bid supporter.

Porta, thought to be one of the best fly-halves the sport has ever seen, is a member of the International Rugby Hall of

Fame.

As do CIMB

"CIMB has long been a supporter of squash so we wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to help the sport win a place at the Olympic Games" said CIMB Group CEO Datuk Seri

Nazir Razak, while handing over his autographed Back The Bid 2020 sign to World Champion Nicol David on the eve of the CIMB KL Open recently.



And Eamonn Coghlan



Eamonn Coghlan, the three time Irish Olympian and former World Champion over 5000 metres, took time out of his busy schedule as an Irish Senator, to back Squash's

bid for inclusion into the 2020 Olympics, during the Irish Open. Coghlan is seen here with Aisling Blake, reigning Irish champion and President of WSA.

Jockeys too

Professional jockeys have also shown their support before mounting up!



GAULTIER & LINCOW LEAD HOME CHALLENGE



The 24th WSF Men's World Team Championship, hosted by the Fédération Française de Squash, will be held from 9-15 June in

Mulhouse; and France have high hopes that they will be able to overcome the inevitably superb squash from holders Egypt as well as the high English hopes to regain the crown.



World number three Gregory Gaultier (pictured) will head the French squad, and in a real boost will be joined by former World number one Thierry Lincow, who is now based in the United States. Lincow has recently retired from the PSA Tour but has always been targeting the

event since the French Federation gained the right to host it.

A maximum 32 nations - with representation from all five continents - will contest the event which will be held in France for the first time in the event's 46-year history. Hosts France, twice runners-up, will be looking to win the title for the first time. Meanwhile, Botswana and Poland will be making their first appearances in the championship.

The full list of nations participating is (in alphabetic order): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA and Venezuela.

The deadline for squad submissions is 19 May so soon after that the squad details, seedings and pool groupings will be released - and the action nearly upon us at both the Espace Squash 3000 Centre and the Palais Des Sports (pictured) - where action will take place on three all-glass showcourts. This three glass court staging which follows the very successful Women's World Team Championship also played on a trio of courts, in Nimes last November.



The official website: www.worldmenssquash-mulhouse2013.fr/

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WorldSquashChampionshipsMulhouse2013

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WorldSquash2013>

PSA & WSA MAKE APPOINTMENTS



PSA has expanded its staff with the appointment of Laurent Cossa, Jeremy Milnes (left) and Hannah Mason.

Cossa has been part of the SquashTV team for the last three years and now joins the PSA on a

full-time basis to further the media output of the Tour. He takes the title *Creative Media Manager*.

Milnes, a former Sales & Marketing Consultant from Doncaster in Yorkshire, is appointed to the new role of *Marketing & Commercial Manager*. The former Commercial Director of Keepmoat Stadium in Doncaster was previously in Sales & Marketing roles at various leading racecourses in the UK.

History graduate Mason takes up the position of *Tour Co-ordinator*. An avid spectator, player and coach in various sports, Mason last year completed an 82-mile charity walk for Help for Heroes.

Meanwhile, PSA has also appointed five-time Indian champion Ritwik Bhattacharya to the new position of *PSA South East Asia Representative*.

The 33-year-old former world No38 from Mumbai will take on a wide role, including liaising with existing PSA World Tour events in the region; attracting new events to India and the region; ensuring that PSA requirements are delivered across events, press, media, player welfare, etc.



On the women's side WSA have announced that former WSA player Suzie Pierrepont (left) will take up a new role within the WSA as North American Tour Director.

This year's US Open will be the first World Series event in squash to have equal prize money for both WSA and PSA tournaments, U.S. Squash recently announced. In accordance with the positive work undertaken in

the US to promote the women's game, the WSA have created the position to emphasise the importance of the sport's growth in North America.

Now residing in Greenwich, New York, Pierrepont will be involved with tournament organisation and promotion in the North American continent.

Photographs: Many with thanks from SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

JUNIOR CIRCUIT RANKINGS

Peru's Elias Moves up Twelve Places



English pair Richie Fallows and Victoria Temple Murray head the latest WSF World Junior Circuit Rankings according to the new May list published today by the World Squash Federation.

Still only 17, Fallows (left)

followed title triumphs in the Nordic, Swiss and French Junior Opens by finishing as runner-up in the European Junior Championships in Switzerland in March.

Temple Murray (right), from Exeter in Devon, was also victorious in the Swiss Junior Open – but then also clinched the women's European title in Zurich.



South American interest in the new rankings is

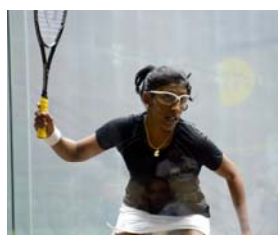


powerfully led by Diego Elias (left), the 16-year-old from Peru who leaps 12 places to reach No2 in the men's list. Winner of the Pan American Junior U19 Championship in September, Elias then

claimed the South American Junior U19 Championship title in February.

And Ivan Dolovcak becomes the first player from Croatia to enter the top ten after winning both the Serbian and Croatian Junior Opens. The 18-year-old leaps 18 places to No3.

India's Anaka Alankamony (left) holds on to second place in the women's list, boosted by title successes in both the Indian Junior Open and the Asian Junior Championships.



A nine place rise takes Belgium's 17-year-old Nele Gilis to third place after title successes in the Nordic and German Opens, and a runners-up finish in the European Championships.

USA's Sabrina Sobhy and Colombia's Laura Viviana Tovar Perez – both aged only 16 – are celebrating 6th and 7th places, respectively, in the new women's rankings.



The *WSF World Junior Circuit Rankings* - based on the under-19 age grouping and launched in 2011 - are issued quarterly, based on results achieved in national junior opens, regional championships and WSF World Junior Individual Championships.

Men's top 10:

| | | | |
|----|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | (3) | Richie Fallows (ENG) | 76.00 |
| 2 | (14) | Diego Elias (PER) | 66.67 |
| 3 | (21) | Ivan Dolovcak (CRO) | 59.33 |
| 4 | (5) | Karim Ayman Elhammamy (EGY) | 58.33 |
| 5 | (1) | Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT) | 56.67 |
| 6 | (4) | Ollie Holland (ENG) | 56.67 |
| 7 | (6) | Tomotaka Endo (JPN) | 55.00 |
| 8 | (7) | Fares Mohamed Dessouki (EGY) | 55.00 |
| 9 | (9) | Yeung Ho Wai (HKG) | 51.00 |
| 10 | (128) | Ashley Davies (ENG) | 46.00 |

Women's top 10:

| | | | |
|----|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | (6) | Victoria Temple Murray (ENG) | 83.33 |
| 2 | (2) | Anaka Alankamony (IND) | 80.00 |
| 3 | (12) | Nele Gilis (BEL) | 76.00 |
| 4 | (4) | Ho Ka Po (HKG) | 74.33 |
| 5 | (5) | Yathreb Adel (EGY) | 66.67 |
| 6 | (7) | Sabrina Sobhy (USA) | 56.67 |
| 7 | (22) | Laura Viviana Tovar Perez (COL) | 54.33 |
| 8 | (8) | Vanessa Chu (HKG) | 50.00 |
| 9 | (9) | Karolina Holinkova (CZE) | 49.33 |
| 10 | (62) | Jacqueline Peychar (AUS) | 49.33 |

WORLD REFEREEING CONFERENCE IN JORDAN



A reminder that the 12th World Squash Refereeing Conference will be held in Amman, Jordan on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 October.

The theme this year is 'The Next Step: Becoming an Elite Referee' and the varied

programme and quality presenters will ensure that attendees come away having developed their skills and learnt a great deal.

Full details and the registration form are at: www.worldsquash.org/ws/?p=11030, including an opportunity for excursions to the Dead Sea and stunning Petra either before or after the conference.

AFRICAN AGM ELECTIONS

At the AGM of the Squash Federation of Africa held in Windhoek, Namibia on 30 March the following were elected to the Board:

President: Hany Hamouda (Egypt)

Vice-Presidents: Northern Region – vacant, Eastern & Indian Ocean Region - Adrien Wehrli (Mauritius), Western & Central Region – Rot Olufemi Ajagbe (Nigeria), Southern Region – vacant.

Secretary General - Liz Addison (South Africa), Treasurer (Acting) - Vijay Gajjar (South Africa)

WSF APPROVED RACKETS



WSA & PSA RANKINGS



Unchanged Women's Top Fifteen

The WSA World Tour sees an unchanged top group ahead of the forthcoming World Series British Open event later this month.



Nicol David sits atop the women's elite for the 80th consecutive month, leading Laura Massaro, Raneem El Weleily and Alison Waters to complete the top four.

David is one of two Malaysian players to feature in the WSA top twenty along with Low

Wee Wern who sits at number seven. Massaro and Waters are also joined in the twenty by former world second ranked compatriot Jenny Duncalf who is currently eight, and also Sarah-Jane Perry who rises two places to eighteen this month.

El Weleily remains the highest ranked Egyptian player, ahead of teenager Nour El Sherbini at five.

Outside the top twenty, Nicolette Fernandes' Irish Open final appearance has seen her rise three places to twenty eight this month, just one place shy of her career best ranking.

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|----|----------|
| 1 | Nicol David | MAS | 1 | 2958.824 |
| 2 | Laura Massaro | ENG | 2 | 1992.500 |
| 3 | Raneem El Weleily | EGY | 3 | 1896.875 |
| 4 | Alison Waters | ENG | 4 | 1355.263 |
| 5 | Nour El Sherbini | EGY | 5 | 1107.813 |
| 6 | Joelle King | NZL | 6 | 1088.889 |
| 7 | Low Wee Wern | MAS | 7 | 1036.250 |
| 8 | Jenny Duncalf | ENG | 8 | 915.882 |
| 9 | Camille Serme | FRA | 9 | 816.389 |
| 10 | Natalie Grinham | NED | 10 | 812.059 |
| 11 | Madeline Perry | IRL | 11 | 803.727 |
| 12 | Kasey Brown | AUS | 12 | 695.400 |
| 13 | Annie Au | HKG | 13 | 636.579 |
| 14 | Omneya Abdel Kawy | EGY | 14 | 617.471 |
| 15 | Dipika Pallikal | IND | 15 | 530.974 |
| 16 | Donna Urquhart | AUS | 17 | 475.500 |
| 17 | Rachael Grinham | AUS | 16 | 473.048 |
| 18 | Sarah-Jane Perry | ENG | 20 | 393.684 |
| 19 | Samantha Teran | MEX | 18 | 375.000 |
| 20 | Joey Chan | HKG | 19 | 357.079 |



New PSA Rankings Show Increased Global Spread

Whilst Egypt's Ramy Ashour continues to lead the May Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings by a considerable margin, it is the presence of 11 countries in the top 20 - representing four continents - which provides the most noteworthy aspect of the new list published today by the Professional Squash Association.

Swiss star Nicolas Mueller, his country's highest-ranked player of all-time, moves up into the top 20 to add Switzerland to Egypt, England, France, Spain, Germany, Botswana, Australia, Netherlands, South Africa and India with players whose success on the PSA World Tour have earned them places in the elite top 20 group.

Further representation from Malaysia, Colombia, Finland, Hong Kong, Kuwait, New Zealand and Canada see players from 18 countries - and all five continents - in the top 40.

"To have a top twenty in any sport with this breadth of countries being represented is fantastic," said PSA CEO Alex Gough.



Ashour, the reigning world champion from Cairo, holds his lead over England's world number two Nick Matthew (both pictured here), while Frenchman Gregory Gaultier leapfrogs England's James Willstrop to reclaim third place.

Mohamed El Shorbagy also rises above fellow Egyptian Karim Darwish to take over fifth place, while England's Peter Barker does the same to Egyptian Amr Shabana to regain the No7 position.

| | | | | |
|----|------|---------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | [1] | Ramy Ashour | EGY | 1,671 |
| 2 | [2] | Nick Matthew | ENG | 1,099 |
| 3 | [4] | Gregory Gaultier | FRA | 1,001 |
| 4 | [3] | James Willstrop | ENG | 982 |
| 5 | [6] | Mohamed El Shorbagy | EGY | 701 |
| 6 | [5] | Karim Darwish | EGY | 671 |
| 7 | [8] | Peter Barker | ENG | 584 |
| 8 | [7] | Amr Shabana | EGY | 578 |
| 9 | [9] | Borja Golan | ESP | 445 |
| 10 | [11] | Omar Mosaad | EGY | 433 |
| 11 | [10] | Tarek Momen | EGY | 416 |
| 12 | [12] | Simon Rosner | GER | 328 |
| 13 | [14] | Daryl Selby | ENG | 317 |
| 14 | [13] | Alister Walker | BOT | 299 |
| 15 | [17] | Cameron Pilley | AUS | 298 |
| 16 | [15] | Tom Richards | ENG | 292 |
| 17 | [16] | Laurens Jan Anjema | NED | 286 |
| 18 | [18] | Stephen Copping | RSA | 270 |
| 19 | [19] | Saurav Ghosal | IND | 259 |
| 20 | [21] | Nicolas Mueller | SUI | 249 |

PARAGUAY PRESIDENT UNVEILS NEW NATIONAL SQUASH CENTRE

Federico Franco, the President of Paraguay, unveiled the world's latest National Squash Centre when he cut the ribbon to open the Centro Nacional de Squash – Paraguay, in the country's capital Asunción.

The impressive new facility features both singles courts and a moveable-walled ASB international doubles court.

President Franco was joined at the opening ceremony by Paraguay's Sports Minister Marcelo Bedoya, the National Olympic Committee President Camilo Perez and South American Squash Federation President Claudio Fontanazzi.

Distinguished squash player David Palmer, the two-time world champion and four-time British Open champion from Australia, gave clinics to juniors and adults, along with exhibition matches with local players including the Paraguay champion Esteban Casarino.

"To have a public National Centre of Squash in Paraguay, with three single courts and one double with a moveable wall, is a huge achievement," said Marcos Vaisenbrut, President of the Paraguayan Squash Association.

"This was made possible thanks to the international success in the Latin American championships, which brought us gold, silver and bronze medals and also to our good relations with local authorities.

"The inauguration of the Squash National Centre is a milestone in the history of Paraguayan Squash and we are very proud of it," added Vaisenbrut. "Along with a strong group of juniors, we can therefore ensure the success and continuity of squash in our country."



Pictured (L to R) are: Sports Minister Marcelo Bedoya; Paraguay President Federico Franco; Paraguayan Olympic Committee President Camilo Perez; and Paraguay Squash Association President Marcos Vaisenbrut.

SNIPPETS

Italian Search

Paola Pasquali is trying to create an Italian squash team composed of disabled players. The contact: http://www.okdisabili.it/squash_disabili_info.asp. A team from another country may wish to arrange a match against them.

Heather McKay wins centenary sportswoman's award



Heather McKay – one of the most formidable women's squash players ever to pick up a racket – has been named the Australian Capital Territory's top sportswoman, for her contribution to squash nationally and internationally over several decades.

She received the Chief Minister's ACT centenary sportswoman's award – which was made as part of the celebrations marking 100 years since the foundation of Canberra as the national capital – at a ball at Parliament House.

Sixteen times British Open Champion McKay was chosen from Australia's top 100 sportswomen of all time.

Meanwhile, Susan Devoy is appointed



The four-time women's squash world champion and one of New Zealand's greatest sports stars, Dame Susan Devoy, has been appointed the new Race Relations Commissioner.

The Race Relations Commissioner is a member of the Human Rights Commission that works with the Government to "encourage harmonious race relations and equal employment opportunities, and to resolve complaints about discrimination and related issues" Justice Minister Judith Collins said in a statement.

Originally from Rotorua, Devoy became a professional squash player at 17 and went on to win the World Open in 1985, 1987, 1990 and 1992.

Nigeria to Host

The Squash Federation of Africa has selected Nigeria to host the 2014 edition of the African Squash Championships, the President of the Nigerian Squash Federation, Femi Ajagbe, has confirmed.

Life Time Events Give PSA US Pro Series A Further Boost

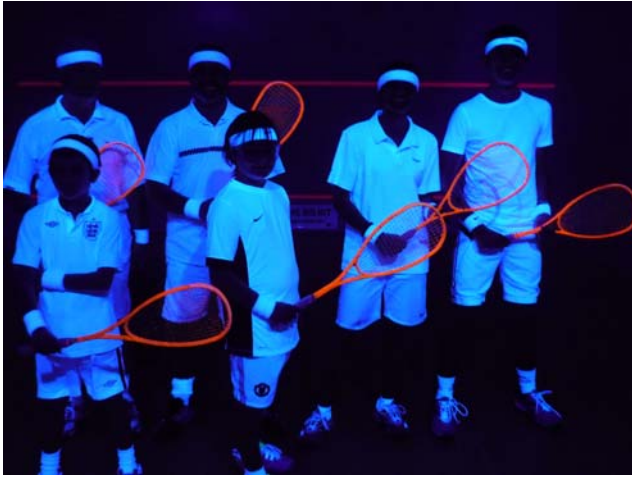
The recently-launched US Pro Squash Series, a collaboration between PSA and US Squash, has been given a further boost this week by the inclusion of the Life Time Grand Prix Squash Tour.

Life Time Fitness has 107 clubs with 44 squash locations and 116 courts nationwide, with more clubs being built in 2014. Events staged at clubs in Atlanta, Houston, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Chicago and Boca Raton this year will add to the growing list of events already included within the *US Pro Squash Series*.

New Website for ASF

The Asian Squash Federation has an updated website with a new address: www.asiansquash.org

Ultra Violet, the new light!



The University of Warwick held the first UV Squash Festival in the UK. The four day festival featured 160 players including players from Kenilworth Squash Club and LA Fitness in Warwick.

This unique event saw matches being played in ultraviolet light with fluorescent tape on the walls and floors. The rackets and balls were also sprayed with fluorescent material. All participants wore white.

Another Award for Pallikal



At the India Today Woman Summit & Awards 2013 number one player Dipika Pallikal was winner of the award in the "India Today Woman in Sports" category.

Airport Squash

The new Hamad International Airport at Doha, Qatar, not only features all the areas one would expect to find at an airport, but at least one that you might not expect at a terminal – yes, a squash court for travellers to use while awaiting their flights!

PacMan on Court!



PacMan was just one player when 135 players played 30450 game points to raise money to support sufferers of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) at a 24 hour squash marathon in Melbourne, Australia.

Vanessa Pickerd - who retired from the Women's circuit recently - was inside the PacMan outfit and it was her team from MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) who raised the most money and won the event.

With their help MS Australia will offer *Go for Gold* Scholarships, financial assistance grants and services to directly benefit people living with MS.

Finally



Colombian Squash President Pablo Filipe Serna has taken his love of squash into his own home. He commissioned abstract painter Leandro Penagos to paint a picture for his living room.

Pablo loves it, but reports that his wife wants to shoot him!



Executive Office: Maison du Sport International,
Avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

Administrative Office: 25 Russell Street, Hastings,
East Sussex, UK TN34 1QU

Tel: +44 1424 447440 **Fax:** +44 1424 430737

Website: worldsquash.org

Chief Executive – Andrew Shelley: andrew@worldsquash.org

Operations Manager – Lorraine Harding: lorraine@worldsquash.org

Operations Assistant – Jasmine Gibson: Jasmine@worldsquash.org

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