

Instant Update

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WORLD
SQUASH

WSF

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

IT'S NEARLY THE TIME!

There are now only two days left before the IOC Session in Buenos Aires makes the decision on which sport will be included for the Olympic Games 2020.

The squash bid, which started with us achieving a place on the initial shortlist over two years ago, has continued with questionnaire completion; inspection events; presentations to the IOC Programme Commission and IOC Executive Board, and now the final one to all members this month; media releases; social media blasts; advertising; mailings of brochures and other materials; film production; lobbying and meetings.

Under the leadership of WSF President Ramachandran, the whole sport has supported the bid in every way. From PSA and WSA, their members, to national federations, clubs and individuals, squash has pulled together magnificently and shown just how united we are.

Thank you to you all, everybody has played a part as we edge towards the vote. We have made a strong case, we hope it resonates with the IOC Members. Whatever happens though, we have a wonderfully enduring and resilient sport and will keep moving forward.

TWO DAYS UNTIL DECISION DAY



The squash presentation party (L to R): Shelley, Fitz-Gerald, Elias, Ramachandran, Benedith, Ashour

Friday 6 September, Buenos Aires: The WSF delegation that will present our case to join the 2020 Olympic Games at the IOC Session on Sunday has been preparing for the presentation and today hosted a press conference attended by worldwide TV crews and journalists. The WSF delegation: N Ramachandran, WSF President; Men's World Champion Ramy Ashour from Egypt; former Women's World Champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald from Australia; Pan American Junior Champion, Diego Elias from Peru; Andreina Benedith, the United States U-19 Urban Squash Champion from the Bronx, and Andrew Shelley, WSF Chief Executive.

Comments made included:

WSF President N Ramachandran, "During our 10 year campaign to join the Games we have never stopped

listening, learning and innovating. On Sunday we hope to demonstrate to the IOC that Squash is a sport that represents the future, not the past."

Sarah Fitz-Gerald, "The biggest regret in my playing career was that I never had the chance to play at the Olympic Games, so being able to play a part in Squash's final presentation to the IOC is a huge honour. Now, as Chairman of the WSF Athlete's Commission I hope that I can play a role in persuading the IOC membership that the next generation of squash players will be a fantastic addition to the Olympic Games Programme.

Ramy Ashour, "In many ways I feel like I'm preparing for the biggest match of my career. So much is at stake, not just for me, but for young players' right across the world such as Diego and Andreina

Diego Elias, "It is a huge honour for me to be here in Buenos Aires as part of the Squash presentation team. Competing in the Olympic Games is something that I think about every single day"

Andreina Benedith, "Squash has given me an amazing opportunity in life and I can honestly say that being part of the Squash Olympic presentation team is a tremendous honour. I really do hope the IOC gives Squash a chance."

Timetable (Argentinean time)

Sunday

11.00 Squash Presentation

12.45 Result announced

NICOL DAVID & GREGORY GAULTIER WIN WORLD GAMES GOLD

Five nations came away with Squash medals in the ninth staging of the World Games in the Colombian city of Cali, with Malaysia's world number one Nicol David striking gold for a record third time in a row in the Women's Championship and world No2 Gregory Gaultier claiming the first ever gold medal for France in the men's event.

The World Games squash action - featuring 40 of the sport's leading men and women, representing 20 member nations - took place at Club Caniasgordas, which boasts six glass back courts plus an all-glass show court.

The supreme Nicol David reached the latest milestone in her illustrious squash career when she beat Dutch rival Natalie Grinham 11-6, 11-9, 11-8 in a repeat of the 2009 final in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.



(Women's medallists: (L to R) Grinham, David and Serme)

The 29-year-old from Penang, who has topped the world rankings unopposed since August 2006, not only celebrated her 13th World Games match win in a row since July 2005, when she won her maiden title in Germany, *but her 13th without dropping a game!*

But Grinham, a former world No2 who won a record three Commonwealth Games gold medals for Australia in 2006, gave David a good run for her money. The first game was evenly poised up to 4-4 before the favourite raced away to collect the first with some steady squash. Throughout the match David was aggressive whilst Grinham mixed it up with some beautiful lobs and delicate drops - but David was always there to pick them up, and ultimately prevailed in straight games.

Debut Winner

The second final was certain to provide a new men's World Games champion - with Gaultier taking on surprise opponent Simon Rosner, the third seed who upset England's No2 seed Peter Barker in the semi-finals to become Germany's first ever finalist. The match was keenly contested. The first game saw some amazing attacking shots, some unbelievable retrieving by both players and the score line read 10-9 game ball to Rosner. During the final rally, a ball

was called out and the referee announced 11-9 game to the German.

However Gaultier appealed and Rosner demonstrated impressive sportsmanship by agreeing to play a let - a great gesture which Gaultier acknowledged. Nevertheless, Rosner took the game to open up a surprise first game lead.



(Men's medallists: (L to R) Rosner, Gaultier and Rodriguez)

Errors crept into the German's game in the second as Gaultier drew level. Gaultier maintained the upper hand thereafter to march through to his 9-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 win to give the gold medal to France.

"I'm so happy to contribute this gold to the total tally of medals to my country," said Gaultier afterwards - alluding to the bronze medal won earlier by compatriot Camille Serme after upsetting second-seeded Malaysian Low Wee Wern 11-8, 11-4, 11-4 in the women's play-off.

Popular local hero Miguel Angel Rodriguez claimed the first World Games medal for Colombia after Barker was forced to concede the men's bronze medal play-off due to injury.

"What a three days we have had," said Competition Manager Major Maniam. "Such fantastic squash, so competitive, a really great atmosphere and some real surprise results. There is something special about being part of multi-sport events - like we also are in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games - the crowds were in awe, the players loved it, and I did too".

MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING

The WSF Championships Committee has considered whether there should be any changes to the match scoring of point-a-rally to eleven points (PAR11) for WSF Masters Championships. The review included survey responses from players who competed in the World Masters in England last year. The Championships Committee recommendation was that the scoring should remain at PAR11 for WSF Championships and this has been accepted by the WSF Board.

Thus PAR11 continues to be applicable for all WSF and Regional Masters age group events.

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

RECORD 16 NATIONS IN WORLD JUNIOR TOP TENS

Players from a record 16 nations feature in the top tens of the latest WSF World Junior Circuit Rankings, according to the August list published by the World Squash Federation.



Egypt's World Junior Champion Karim El Hammamy heads the men's list for the first time, while the new women's No1 is Ho Ka Po (pictured), the Asian Junior Champion from Hong Kong.

But close behind are players from Peru, Qatar, England, Mexico, Croatia, Jordan, Japan,

Colombia, Belgium, Spain, Austria, Canada, USA and France - showing a remarkable diversity of emerging global squash talent.

El Hammamy upset the form book by beating top-seeded fellow countryman Fares Mohamed Dessouki in last month's World Junior Championship final in Poland. The 17-year-old from Cairo also won the US Junior Open trophy in December.

Ho Ka Po has enjoyed a glittering year on the WSF World Junior Circuit, winning the Hong Kong Junior Open trophy before going on to take the Penang Junior Open title in Malaysia and then clinching the Asian Junior crown in Jordan.

Both number ones are followed closely by South Americans - 16-year-old Peruvian Diego Elias retains second place in the men's list courtesy of his South American and Pan American Junior title triumphs, while Laura Viviana Tovar Perez leapt five places to put Colombia at No2 following victory in the South American and a runner-up finish in the Pan American championship.

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

Men's top 10:

1	(4)	Karim El Hammamy (EGY)	125.00
2	(2)	Diego Elias (PER)	108.33
3	(5)	Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT)	93.33
4	(8)	Fares Mohamed Dessouki (EGYT)	88.33
5	(1)	Richie Fallows (ENG)	77.67
6	(17)	Edgar Zayas (MEX)	77.00
7	(16)	Ma Tsz Hei (HKG)	75.00
8	(3)	Ivan Dolovcak (CRO)	59.33
9	(15)	Ahmad Al-Saraj (JOR)	58.67
10	(7)	Tomotaka Endo (JAP)	55.00

Women's top 10:

1	(4)	Ho Ka Po (HKG)	90.00
2	(7)	Laura Viviana Tovar Perez (COL)	77.00
3	(3)	Nele Gillis (BEL)	76.00
4	(33)	Cristina Gomez Jimenez (ESP)	66.67
5	(11)	Nour El Sherbini (EGY)	66.67
6	(4)	Jacqueline Peychar (AUT)	65.00
7	(28)	Hollie Naughton (CAN)	65.00
8	(6)	Sabrina Sobhy (USA)	56.67
9	(14)	Mariam Ibrahim Metwally (EGY)	63.33
10	(25)	Marie Stephan (FRA)	52.00

EL SHERBINI WORLD HAT-TRICK MAKES SQUASH HISTORY IN POLAND

WSF World Junior Squash Championships, Wroclaw, Poland



Men's Final:

[2] Karim Ayman Elhammamy (EGY) bt [1] Fares Mohamed Dessouki (EGY) 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 13-11 (83m)

Women's Final:

[1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [5/8] Mariam Ibrahim Metwally (EGY) 11-7, 16-14, 11-8 (34m)

More than 160 players from a record 37 nations competed in the 2013 championships at the spectacular new 19-court Hasta La Vista Club in Wroclaw - the event's first staging in Poland.

Egyptian teenager Nour El Sherbini has become the world's most successful junior squash player of all-time after winning the WSF Women's World Junior Championship title for a record third time.

Victory over compatriot Mariam Ibrahim Metwally in the final of the World Squash Federation event, at the Hasta La Vista Club in the historic city of Wroclaw in Poland, sees the 17-year-old from Alexandria extend the previous women's double record set by the reigning world No1 Nicol David in 2001, and the twin-title men's record established by Ramy Ashour - also the current world No1 - in 2006.

There was an upset in the men's final - also an all-Egyptian affair - when No2 seed Karim Ayman Elhammamy beat favourite Fares Mohamed Dessouki in four games to keep the trophy in Egyptian hands for the eighth year in a row.

El Sherbini, the championship favourite reached the final without losing a game - and faced surprise opponent Metwally, a 5/8 seed to whom she had dropped a game in the 2012 quarter-finals.

Metwally, a year younger than Sherbini, had reached her maiden final after upsets over No2 seed Nouran Ahmed Gohar and last year's runner-up Yathreb Adel, a 3/4 seed.

But El Sherbini, ranked 11 in the world, could not be stopped. It took just 34 minutes for the 17-year-old to fulfil her dream, beating Metwally 11-7, 16-14, 11-8 to take the title.

Egyptian Upset

The men's final brought together the event's top two seeds - with top-seeded Dessouki not only boasting a world ranking more than 200 places above his opponent, but a victory over Elhammamy in

January's British Junior U19 Open en-route to winning the prestigious title.

But, in a fittingly dramatic climax to the World Individual Championships in Wroclaw, underdog Elhammy clinched the title 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 13-11 after 83 minutes. Losing semi finalists were Richie Fallows and Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi, from England and Qatar respectively.

Egypt Claim Record Fourth Successive World Junior Title In Poland



It took just 45 minutes for Habiba Mohamed Ahmed Alymohmed and Nour El Sherbini to win the first two matches in the final of the WSF Women's World Junior Team Championship to take Egypt into the record books after winning the title for an historic fourth successive time.

The tie against second seeds USA - a repeat of the previous final two years ago in the USA - brought to a climax 12 days of action at the 19-court Hasta La Vista Club in Wroclaw.

Habiba Mohamed, a 14-year-old from Alexandria, put Egypt ahead after defeating Reeham Sedky 11-4, 11-2, 11-5 in a 26-minute battle between the team's third strings.

It was perhaps fitting that squad number one Nour El Sherbini should then despatch Sabrina Sobhy in her quickest recorded match in 11 successive wins at the Hasta La Vista Club - beating her US counterpart 11-5, 11-6, 11-3 in just 19 minutes to clinch the historic title for her country.

In the bronze medal play-off, fourth seeds Hong Kong China upset former champions England, the No3 seeds, 2/0 after Ho Tze-Lok and Ho Ka Po prevailed in five-game clashes against Lily Taylor and Victoria Temple Murray, respectively.

RESULTS:

Final: [1] EGYPT bt [2] USA 2/0,

Habiba Mohamed Ahmed Alymohmed bt Reeham Sedky 11-4, 11-2, 11-5, Nour El Sherbini bt Sabrina Sobhy 11-5, 11-6, 11-3, Mariam Ibrahim Metwally v Olivia Fiechter (match withdrawn)

3rd place play-off: [4] HONG KONG CHINA bt [3] ENGLAND 2/0

Ho Tze-Lok bt Lily Taylor 7-11, 11-4, 11-5, 7-11, 11-9

Ho Ka Po bt Victoria Temple Murray 9-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5

Pansy Chan v Lucy Beecroft (match withdrawn)

5th place play-off: [7] CANADA bt [5] MALAYSIA 2/0

7th place play-off: [6] INDIA bt [8] NEW ZEALAND 2/1

9th place play-off: [11] JAPAN bt [10] FRANCE 2/1

11th place play-off: [9] AUSTRALIA bt [12] COLOMBIA 2/1

13th place play-off: [13/16] CZECH REPUBLIC bt [13/16] SOUTH AFRICA 2/1

15th place play-off: [13/16] GERMANY bt [13/16] POLAND 2/0

NAMIBIA IN HISTORIC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BREAKTHROUGH



President Ramachandran (left) pictured above with Tyc Kakehongo at the 2013 World Men's Team Championship in Mulhouse, France

In what will be one of the southern African country's first ever staging of a World Championship, Namibia has won the rights to host the 2014 WSF World Junior Squash Championships.

The World Squash Federation event, which will include the Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships in addition to the Men's World Junior Team Championship, will be held in the capital Windhoek from 10-21 August 2014.

"We are proud and excited that Namibia has been awarded the rights to host the 2014 edition of the World Junior Squash Championships, in Windhoek," said Tyc Kakehongo, the Tournament Director for Desert Events Namibia on behalf of the Namibian Squash Association. "This is the first event of this magnitude to be hosted in our country and we look forward to welcoming juniors from all over the world to our beautiful country."

Youth Orientated

"The main objective for the Namibian Squash Association remains to promote squash as a choice of sport for the general public. By hosting a global show-piece of the sport, we hope this will give a major boost to our vision of mass participation from the full spectrum of our communities and leave behind a legacy that will see many Namibians - especially our youth - take up a fun and exciting sport."

The Championships have Namibian government support: "We are excited to be part of the process to bring such a major international event to Namibia," said Sivute Katamba, Chief Administrator of the Namibian Sport Commission.

WSF President Ramachandran added: "For our World Junior Championships to be awarded to Namibia next year after Qatar in 2012 and Poland this year illustrates further the breadth of enthusiasm for squash - something of which we are very proud."

"I have no doubt that the Championships in Windhoek will be a resounding success."

The venues proposed to host the Championships are the Wanderers Squash Club - the home of squash in Namibia - and a new multi-sport complex earmarked for completion in the first quarter of 2014.

SQUASH MEDALS SHARED SIX WAYS IN SQUASH'S FIRST ASIAN YOUTH GAMES

Six nations shared the Squash medals in the sport's maiden appearance in the Asian Youth Games at the Nanjing OSC Squash Hall in China.

Malaysia emerged as the best performing team with three gold medals, one silver and one bronze, with India claiming one of each medal, and Hong Kong China boasting two silver medals and three bronze. In addition, Sri Lanka, Japan and Jordan came away with bronze medals.



India and Malaysia struck gold in the individual championships after successes by the top seeds - Kush Kumar (IND) beating Mohd Syafiq Kamal (MAS) in the men's final and Vanessa Raj (MAS) overcoming Pansy Chan (HKG) in the women's.

Again the favourites triumphed in the women's team final when Malaysia beat second seeds Hong Kong China 2/0.

But there was a dramatic upset in the men's team final when second seeds Malaysia recovered from losing the first match to beat India 2/1 - the Malaysian hero being Mohd Syafiq Kamal who avenged his earlier individual gold medal defeat by beating Indian Kush Kumar 11-4, 7-11, 11-3, 10-12, 11-6 in a tense 55-minutes encounter.



"Squash was delighted to be part of the 2nd Asian Youth Games, which have been so very well hosted in Nanjing, China," said WSF President Ramachandran. "I am sure all present will have been enthralled with the staging of the squash on the all-glass court and deeply impressed by seeing so much very bright talent on display from many parts of Asia.

"I hope that this will lead to even further expansion of our Squash tour events in China, a very important market indeed for the spread of our great game."

RESULTS: Men's Final:

[1] Kush Kumar (IND) bt [2] Mohd Syafiq Kamal (MAS) 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, 11-7

Bronze medallists: Ng Eain Yow (MAS) and Yuen Tsun-Hei (HKG)

Women's Final:

[1] Vanessa Raj (MAS) bt [2] Pansy Chan (HKG) 11-3, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9

Bronze medallists: Mihiliya Methsarani (SRI) and Choi Uen Shan (HKG)

Men's Team Final:

[2] MALAYSIA bt [1] INDIA 2/1

Ng Eain Yow lost to Vijay Meena Kumar 11-5, 11-7, 9-11, 6-11, 5-11, Mohd Syafiq Kamal bt Kush Kumar 11-4, 7-11, 11-3, 10-12, 11-6, Darren Chan bt Madhav Dhingra 11-3, 8-11, 11-7, 11-1

Bronze medallists: HONG KONG CHINA and JORDAN

Women's Team Final:

[1] MALAYSIA bt [2] HONG KONG CHINA 2/0

Rachel Arnold bt Choi Uen Shan 5-11, 11-7, 13-11, 12-10, Vanessa Raj bt Pansy Chan 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 11-3

Bronze medallists: INDIA and JAPAN

SQUASH: THE IDEAL LUNCHTIME BREAK SPORT

We all know that squash provides an intense and competitive workout over a relatively short time. Now it has been voted the preferred sport of choice when it comes to lunchtime exercise, in a survey of UK office workers as part of research into attitudes towards fitness and wellbeing during the working day.

When asked 'What sport/activity would you choose to do during lunchtime should the necessary equipment/facilities/playing partners be ready to hand?', the top five responses were:

1. Squash - 21%
2. Gym - 18%
3. Tennis - 17%
4. Golf (driving range) - 9%
5. Running - 8%

Those who selected squash as an option were asked why this was the case: 31% cited its 'professional image'; 28% 'relatively short playing time' and 22% its level of 'social interaction', were the main reasons given in the research conducted by online sports equipment retailer sweatband.com.

"Squash is so well-fitted for the modern lifestyle," said WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley. "Not only does it provide great exercise in a short time span but there is no routine, no going through the motions. It is competition, physical and mental, and all the more stimulating for that.

"This research follows the recent survey by the widely respected and influential US business magazine Forbes which rated squash as 'the healthiest sport', and a nomination by Men's Health magazine as 'the ultimate fitness sport'."

WSF APPROVED RACKETS



UK SHOPPING CENTRES WANT MORE 'POP-UP' SQUASH SHOPS

An exciting England Squash & Racketball initiative to temporarily convert empty shops into squash courts has received widespread interest from shopping centres across the UK.

The Big Hit 'pop up' squash shop campaign is aimed at introducing people to the sport whilst successfully transforming empty retail spaces into a temporary high street squash court. Following a trial, interested players are then offered vouchers for free sessions at nearby clubs and leisure centres.

The initiative looks to promote squash to new markets, predominately in the 18-35 age-group.

"We were inundated from shopping centres across the country after our first 'pop up' squash shop was shown on BBC TV," said England Squash & Racketball CEO Nick Rider. "The coverage led to the opportunity to have a month-long shop at Westfield Stratford, Europe's largest shopping centre next to the Olympic stadium in London." (see pictures below)



Steve Amos, the ESR Head of Development who devised the novel promotion to take squash to the public, explained: "This is the perfect way to utilise empty retail space around the country. We are able to reach out to the public in a completely different way and give them the opportunity to try squash.

"Not only are we raising the profile of our sport but also introducing people to their nearest courts and Big Hit sessions. 'Pop Up' squash is part of the wider Big Hit campaign that works with public facilities and clubs to help increase participation.

"Pop Up' squash is a concept that could easily be replicated across the world and is an initiative that England Squash & Racketball are extremely proud of and would encourage other federations to try."



England's world No2 Laura Massaro is delighted that the concept is attracting more players to the sport: "I think it's a great idea. Squash is the perfect sport to put in the 'shop window' and because we play on courts not much bigger than a shop, the experience for shoppers to pick up a racket and have a go, gives them a real feel for how much fun the game can be.

"Making good use of unused retail space to get people playing squash is another example of how squash is willing to innovate and attract new people to this fun and exciting sport. I can't wait to try out the courts for myself!"

World Squash Federation Chief Executive Andrew Shelley added: "England have hit upon a new and innovative way to get people into squash, which hopefully will further increase participation in the sport as well as inspire people to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

"With less than two weeks to go until the IOC vote, this is yet another example of how the squash community is looking to innovate and engage new participants as well as hopefully create a new generation of squash stars."

More details are available on the Big Hit website: www.thebighit.net

COMPLETE COURT ACCREDITATION



As announced in 2011, new courts built after 1 January 2013 are required to register for Complete Court Accreditation (CCA) in order for them to be eligible for use at international events, such as PSA and WSA tournaments and WSF World

Championships. Regional and national federations have been altering their regulations so that they also only play their events on courts that are CCA registered, thus all competition on new courts will take place with a high standard of playing conditions assured. Of course this regulation does not apply to courts that are already built.

Once registered, a certificate will be sent to the court operator and the courts are listed in the worldwide directory.

Accredited Companies that manufacture the full range of major court components can become WSF Complete Court Accredited Companies (CCAC); all new courts built by these companies using their components can be registered. Accredited Companies that manufacture only some of the major components can register the courts they build as CCA providing other components used are separately accredited.

[An installer that only uses WSF Accredited products can register the courts they build as CCA courts; they do not need their own accreditation.]

Already completed courts can be registered too, and for all registrations please go to:

<http://www.worldsquashcourts.org/addAccredited.aspx>

WORLD MASTERS GAMES 2013

Here are the medallists from the Games which took place in Torino, Italy:

AGE GROUP - GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE

MEN'S



- + 35 Paul Johnson (Great Britain), Domagoj Spoljar (Croatia), Richard Green (Great Britain)
- + 40 Josè Facchini (Italy), Renzo Andorno (Italy)
- + 45 Craig Van Der Wath (South Africa), Steve Wren (Canada), David Sly (Canada)
- + 50 Trevor Wilkinson (South Africa), John Van Heeswijk (South Africa), Richard Millman (USA) (*pictured above*)
- + 55 Michael Bertin (Canada), Bob Grynock (Canada), Wayne Pye (Canada)
- + 60 Chris Grainger (South Africa), Brian Roberts (Australia), Keith Derham (Spain)
- + 65 Brian Cook (Australia)
- + 70 Gerry Poulton (Canada), Desmond Sacco (South Africa), Tom Slattery (Australia)
- + 75 Malcolm Gilham (Great Britain)

WOMEN'S



- + 35 Natalie Grainger (USA), Mia Coen (Italy)
- + 40 Veronica Favero Camp (Italy), Cinzia Sigot (Italy)
- + 45 Sonia Pasteris (Italy), Julie Kessler (USA)
- + 50 Beth Fedorovich (USA), Susan Lawrence (USA)
- + 55 Pauline Douglas (South Africa), Anne Richards (Australia)
- + 60 Laura Ramsay (Canada), Susan Volzke (Australia), Claire Briars (France)
- + 70 Jean Grainger (South Africa)



Official WSF Magazine

Former world champion David Palmer talks to Rod Gilmour about his new role as a coach. For the full article, click here: www.squashplayer.co.uk/pdfs/features/LR%20Palmer.pdf

Also, five-time world champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald tells Richard Eaton about her new life in Australia. For the full article, click here: www.squashplayer.co.uk/pdfs/features/LR%20Fitz-Gerald.pdf

PRUE HAMILTON



In the for much of the 1970's and 1980's not only was Prue Hamilton the face of and leader of Irish Women's Squash but she served World Squash heading up the women's committee that existed then as well as serving as an officer of the Federation.

She was a very bright both in terms of intelligence and personality, an excellent strategic planner, progressive and always supportive of those who worked with her.

Unfortunately, after a number of years battling heart and lung problems she died on 12th July and her loss will be acute for husband Philip, daughter Helen and the rest of her family. She will be greatly missed by the squash world too. As former WSF President Susie Simcock commented, 'Prue certainly made a significant contribution to the evolution of World Squash over a number of years ...and will leave many very special memories with us all'.

12TH WORLD SQUASH DAY LAUNCHED



Saturday 5 October has been confirmed as the 2013 World Squash Day; the theme is *Reach Out*.

For full details, plus ideas for events, visit: www.worldsquashday.com

REGIONAL & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

As agreed in early 2013 with the cooperation and understanding of PSA and WSA, the protected date system has been expanded in a trial that will begin in 2014. (For a number of years the WSA and PSA Tour Rules have restricted events in certain periods so that World, Regional and National Championships can be protected from conflicting events allowing promoters, federations and players to have more certainty when arranging and participating in them).

Essentially, there are designated periods during which it is highly recommended that regional and national championships are held so that regions and nations can have certainty about player participation that is not possible at other times. Players can also commit knowing that there will be no conflicting events.

In outline, in 2014 using the date protected weeks:

National championships: Seven (7) days from the second Monday in February and June.

Regional championships: Seven (7) days from the last Monday in April

Where there is regional agreement that one of the designated National Championship weeks is not used then an additional Regional Championship can be held then, of course.

GULF SQUASH GROWTH WILL YIELD A WORLD CHAMPION SAYS ASHOUR



(Al Tamimi and Hunt pictured at the World Junior Championships in Poland)

The significant growth of Squash in Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan will soon lead to the Gulf region producing a World Champion says Egypt's world number one Ramy Ashour. "I really believe that a Gulf country can produce a World Champion - there is so much happening there right now, and it is very intense," declared the reigning twice World Champion from Cairo.

Squash is a major sport featured at the Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence, the Qatar centre which was launched in Doha in 2004 and attracted Australian Institute of Sport Director and Squash legend Geoff Hunt to become its Head Coach in 2006. In conjunction with the Qatar Squash Federation, the distinguished four-time World Champion and eight-time British Open Champion has led Qatari squash forward.

Under the Aspire Academy's guidance, Qatar's Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi won last month's Dutch Junior Open and Pioneer Junior Open in Germany - two of the leading events on the European Junior Squash circuit - before defying the seedings by reaching the World Junior Championship semi-finals in Poland. The 18-year-old has been awarded a graduate scholarship by Aspire to assist his aspirations to become a top professional.

"Already Abdulla has had an impact on squash in Qatar and is attracting media attention," said Hunt. "He is also inspiring the other Aspire Academy students from all sports as well as other young squash players.

"No other Qatari has done as well at junior squash as Abdulla. Further success at senior level will certainly have a positive flow onto other aspiring squash players in Qatar."

Across the Region

Similar success is being experienced elsewhere in the Gulf region, where highly professional junior programmes are already bearing fruit on the world squash stage.

Kuwait's Head Coach Nasser Zahran said: "Squash is taken very seriously in Kuwait. We have a programme to build right through from the bottom upwards. The Kuwaiti Federation uses a team of coaches and physical trainers to improve skills and fitness levels." These efforts bore fruit in Poland last

month when Yousif Nizar Saleh became the first Kuwaiti to reach the quarters of the World Juniors.

Another emerging Squash nation is Jordan, whose capital city Amman successfully hosted the Asian Junior Championships in June this year. The Jordan junior programme was started over a decade ago, but took its present form four years ago, according to Ramzi Tabbalat, President of the Jordan Squash Federation. Ahmad Al-Saraj made history at the Poland World Championships by becoming the first Jordanian to be seeded in the top four.






"Having players like Al-Saraj is key," admitted Tabbalat. "His gradual ascent on the ladder of world squash is instrumental in providing encouragement and a role model for thier kids. The system in Jordan has revolved around having dedicated coaches to manage training and waiving all expenses so that families do not have to pay for any coaching, court times or equipment. We have also renovated squash courts in other cities in Jordan and provide local coaches. All of this has made squash presence in the local media very strong."



WSF Commission Chairman Sarah Fitz-Gerald with six times world pole vault champion Sergey Bubka at the IOC Athletes Forum in Singapore recently.

CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2013

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are the only brands permitted 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 Instant Updates.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL
Dunlop 	Dunlop I-ARMOR
i-Mask 	i-Mask
Karakal 	2500 (9903 Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43)
Prince 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
Tecnifibre 	R615

WORLD REFEREEING CONFERENCE IN JORDAN



A reminder that the 12th World Squash Refereeing Conference will be held in Amman, Jordan on 4 and 5 October. *Registration closes on 15 September 2013.*

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



Greek player Petros Tzamaloukas pictured at Olympia, where the modern Olympic Games began.

WSF AGM GOES TO NEW ZEALAND

As notified to member nations, the 43rd WSF Annual General Meeting, presided over by WSF President N Ramachandran, takes place on Wednesday 23 October 2013, together with the WSF AGM Conference which takes place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 October. (Committee meetings take place on 20th).

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

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

WSF APPROVED BALLS



KIT AID PRIMED TO START SQUASH DISTRIBUTION



Picture caption: Broadfoot (centre, right) and Hanne pictured with the members of the Japanese and English squads at the World Junior Championships

Budding squash players around the world will soon be able to take advantage of recycled equipment following the move by LV=SOS Kit Aid into the sport to further boost junior development.

More than 130,000 youngsters have benefited from the \$5.25 million worth of recycled sports kit that LV=SOS Kit Aid has already donated internationally. Now young squash players are set to benefit as deliveries of rackets, clothing and shoes will begin shortly.

John Broadfoot, Chief Executive of LV=SOS Kit Aid, attended last month's WSF World Junior Squash Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, to meet managers and coaches from the many national teams there to assess needs.

On Stream

"In LV=SOS Kit Aid we are really looking forward to working with the WSF - collecting and recycling squash kit and sending it around the world to really promote the game in less developed and new countries and help the WSF too." Said Broadfoot.

This support, in partnership with Lord's Taverners, follows on from and expands the *WSF Rackets to Africa* programme that has already seen several hundred squash rackets shipped to a number of African countries.

World Squash Federation Vice President Hugo Hanne was delighted to welcome the Kit Aid initiative, telling Broadfoot: "Development is a priority for us, and to be able to offer such strong support to communities that have courts and youngsters who could use them, given the equipment and clothing, will bring long-term benefits.

"This channel will hopefully grow into a large, regular and valuable flow."



Marta Luz Rodriguez, Colombian, squash referee and administrator was given the honour of taking the oath on behalf of all match officials across the sports at the World Games



Rodriguez Becomes Highest-Ranked South American

Whilst Ramy Ashour holds his lead at the top of the September Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings, it is Colombian Miguel Angel Rodriguez who is the focus of attention in the new list after becoming the highest-ranked South American of all-time.

"I am very happy to reach the top 16 and became the best Latin American and South American player in history to achieve this position," said Rodriguez on hearing the news of his three-place leap to No16 - a career-best world ranking which finally sees the Colombian move ahead of the 17th place achieved by Argentina's Federico Usandizaga two decades ago.

"It all comes together when you do the right things - I knew this was going to happen and I was waiting for the moment," continued the 27-year-old from Bogota who reached the semi-finals of the Colombian Open last month unseeded. "But there is still more work to do to climb the path to the top 10, the top five and then number one."

In an unchanged top 10, Frenchman Gregory Gaultier holds onto second place, followed by Englishmen James Willstrop and Nick Matthew at No3 and No4, respectively.

Egyptians occupy four further places behind Ashour in the world top ten: Karim Darwish at 5; Mohamed Elshorbagy in sixth place; Amr Shabana at No8; and Tarek Momen in 10th place.

England's Daryl Selby moves up to 13 in the September list, while India's Saurav Ghosal also rises one place, to No19.

September 2013 top 20 (inc. points average):

1	Ramy Ashour	EGY	1,638
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA	1,109
3	James Willstrop	ENG	982
4	Nick Matthew	ENG	941
5	Karim Darwish	EGY	705
6	Mohamed Elshorbagy	EGY	674
7	Peter Barker	ENG	567
8	Amr Shabana	EGY	514
9	Borja Golan	ESP	471
10	Tarek Momen	EGY	459
11	Omar Mosaad	EGY	390
12	Simon Rosner	GER	347
13	Daryl Selby	ENG	336
14	Cameron Pilley	AUS	329
15	Alister Walker	BOT	310
16	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL	278
17	Stephen Copping	RSA	268
18	Laurens Jan Anjema	NED	265
19	Saurav Ghosal	IND	259
20	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY	244



David Still Ahead

September's rankings have provided little change at the top, with Nicol David recording another month at the top, which sees her hold the longest unbroken reign in squash ranking history. Laura Massaro remains hot on her heels at number two, with next week's Malaysian Open being crucial to Massaro's hunt for the number one position.

Elsewhere Nour El Sherbini leaps back above Kasey Brown to number ten.

Sarah-Jane Perry had a breakthrough year in 2012 and carried that into 2013 where she has already won a joint tour leading three WSA titles. Perry moves up one place to number 17. A year ago she was down at no.43.

Nicolette Fernandes, who reached her biggest final in April at the Irish Open, moves up three places to a career high no.23.

Samantha Cornett won her first Canadian National title back in May, moves up two places to a career high of no.31.

1	Nicol David	MAS	21200.0
2	Laura Massaro	ENG	17180.0
3	Raneem El Weleily	EGY	15175.0
4	Alison Waters	ENG	10555.0
5	Joelle King	NZL	9045.0
6	Low Wee Wern	MAS	8347.5
7	Jenny Duncalf	ENG	8065.0
8	Madeline Perry	IRL	8671.0
9	Natalie Grinham	NED	7330.0
10	Nour El Sherbini	EGY	6087.5
11	Kasey Brown	AUS	7109.0
12	Camille Serme	FRA	5617.5
13	Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY	5368.5
14	Annie Au	HKG	5158.0
15	Rachael Grinham	AUS	4742.0
16	Dipika Pallikal	IND	3839.25
17	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG	3907.5
18	Donna Urquhart	AUS	3673.5
19	Nour El Tayeb	EGY	3024.25
20	Joey Chan	HKG	3437.25

Players at the Japan Junior Open were keen to show their 2020 Olympic bid support.



PSA World Squash Championship to Broadcast on the BBC

The BBC in UK has become the latest broadcaster to add Squash coverage to its programming after confirming an agreement to cover next month's AJ Bell PSA World Squash Championship in Manchester.

The championship, the premier annual event on the PSA World Tour, will take place at Manchester Central, the city's former Manchester Central railway station, from 26 October to 3 November - and will feature the world's leading players from countries including Britain, Egypt, Australia, France, Germany, Colombia, South Africa, Spain, Botswana, Malaysia, Netherlands, Switzerland, India, Finland, Hong Kong, USA and more.

The news means that the BBC joins a broad range of international broadcasters which have covered the elite PSA World Series events since the launch of SquashTV - including Sky Sports, Eurosport, Astro, PCCW, Starhub, SkyNet, Ten Sports, Orbit Showtime Network and One World Sport.

The new agreement will lead to coverage from the quarter-final stage across the BBC Red Button, IPTV and the BBC Sport website. There will also be a highlights programme following the event on BBC Two & BBC Two HD.

The deal ensures that there will be live coverage of quarter final and semi-final action on the BBC Sport website and IPTV. The final will be live on the BBC Red Button, the BBC Sport website and on IPTV. In addition, all the news, updates, reviews and interviews throughout the tournament will be featured on the BBC Sport website.

"In our bid to become an Olympic sport, PSA has been investing heavily in TV coverage of squash through SquashTV and to now have the BBC on board is obviously a major boost," said PSA CEO Alex Gough.

Social Media Surge for Squash 2020 - Over 20,000 Facebook likes over the last 7 days

With days to go until the International Olympic Committee (IOC) votes to decide if Squash will join the 2020 Olympic Games, the Squash bid campaign has received worldwide surging social media support.

As the campaign looks to build further momentum in the lead up to the IOC presentation on the 8th September, the Squash 2020 Facebook page has now registered over 124,000 likes (a 21% increase over the last seven days) with the 'Back the Bid' film on YouTube receiving almost 153,000 views and @Vote4Squash Twitter account fast approaching 10,000 followers.

As the only new sport to be shortlisted for inclusion at the 2020 Olympic Games, Squash has received social media support from across the globe, including Brazil, Egypt, Columbia, Spain, South Africa, Japan, Switzerland, India, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Malaysia - once again highlighting Squash's global appeal and its popularity across all ages and languages.

Kuwait to Host WSF World Team Championship

Kuwait will host its first World Team championship after being awarded the rights to hold the 2015 Men's World Team Squash Championship by the World Squash Federation.

The fast-growing squash nation has twice hosted the Asian championships and in 1997 first launched the Kuwait Open, a major PSA World Tour event which has continued to attract the world's leading players. In 2009, Kuwait staged the PSA World Championship at Green Island Resort.

"Squash has a long and flourishing history in Kuwait and we have already held major World Tour events featuring both men and women's championships as well as the Men's World Individual Championship," said Fayez A. Al-Mutairi, Vice-President ASF & Secretary General of the Kuwait Squash Federation. "We are now honoured to have been selected to host the top 32 teams in the world in two years' time."

WSF President N Ramachandran welcomed Kuwait as a new host of its premier team event: "Kuwait Squash not only has high quality facilities but now also abundant experience at staging major squash events, which is why I am delighted that we have chosen Kuwait to host this Championship. It is a fantastic, exciting event and will be much anticipated."

Action will be take place at the Late Sheikh / Salem Al-Sabah International Squash Complex from 12-18 December 2015.



International actress Michelle Yeoh, a former Bond girl and current keen squash player is hoping for a bid blockbuster!

SNIPPETS

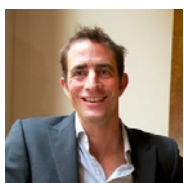
Lucky in Place

Lucky Mlilo, Chairman of Zimbabwe Squash has been confirmed as the Squash Federation of Africa Vice President – South.

South American News

There is a new Spanish news website in South America: www.zonasquash.com

PSA Hire Tim Garner to Boost European Tour



The Professional Squash Association has further expanded its management team with the appointment of former Tour player Tim Garner as PSA European Representative. Englishman Garner, a former world No. 26 who competed on the PSA World Tour for more than ten years, has a wealth of experience in event management and administration - making the 43-year-old Londoner an outstanding candidate for the new position.

Record Ended in Nepal

Hira Bahadur Thapa has been defeated. Having dominated Nepal Men's squash for two decades his national championship title was taken by his own son, Amrit Thapa.

Thapa Jr won the NSRA National Squash Championship beating his father 3-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-7. The coach - the bronze medallist from 9th South Asian Games - fell to the power of his student, his understudy, his son. The title may have changed hands, but one thing you can't challenge is this man's endurance. It was the first time in a National Championship for 19 years that Thapa Sr had tasted defeat. Indeed, only twice in the past 18 years, had he dropped a game: 1994 and 2012.



Some Very Special Effects

You thought that you had seen great squash special effects. Think again. Check out this video of the Pan American Championships which is underway at present:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHvo40iflaQ&feature=em-share_video_user

CASA Elections



The Caribbean Area Squash Association (CASA) AGM held at the Georgetown Club in Georgetown, Guyana elected their new officers for a period of two years. Five additional members make up the CASA Executive Board. President: Ronald Burch-Smith (Guyana), Vice-President: Douglas Beckford (Jamaica), Treasurer: Ian Patrick (Cayman Islands), Secretary: Craig Archer (Barbados).

Meanwhile, players at the CASA Championships in Guyana took time to show their 2020 support.

ASB Floors BT Sports

BT Sports, who have become a major player in sports broadcasting in UK having bought a number of rights across many sports in England, have a futuristic glass floor in their studio supplied by leading innovators ASB. It features the under-floor lighting the squash court company developed for squash and at the touch of a button can be 'lined' for the sport that they are showing at that moment. There are ten sports available to the producers at present. See it at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKn5jSpyQBQ&feature=em-upload_owner

Where squash leads.....!!

Equality in Philly



The \$230,000 2013 Delaware Investments U.S. Open Squash Championships, from 9-18 October in Philadelphia, will make history by being the first major event in the sport to provide equal prize money for both the women's and men's events.



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