

Instant Update

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To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

FROM HEADQUARTERS.....

Arrive too early for a film, a show or indeed a squash match and you have to hang around. Well, I am sorry, but I am going to have to ask you to do so here. WSF are embarking on schemes, liaising and developing generally, but please let us get them fully in place so that I can report to you in the next Instant Update.

But there is already a lot happening, detailed below. The office is busy dealing with ManCom decisions, servicing our partners throughout the sport and preparing initiatives, championships etc. So more than enough to keep Lorraine, Jasmine and myself busy.

ManCom themselves have a steady flow of matters to review so they are not let off lightly either!

One strand has been the knock-on effects of the turmoil that has been ongoing throughout the Middle East. The Women's World Junior Individual & Team Championships were scheduled for Cairo, but while it is calm now there will be uncertainty until the current situation evolves into elections. With this in mind, it was decided that we should look to return very soon to our great hosts on the Nile, but that the Women's World Junior Individual should be relocated.

Details of the new arrangements will be announced very shortly; so, as mentioned, patience for news please.

So, rather than tease further let me simply launch into a selection of news and information.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew'.

Andrew@worldsquash.org

OUR OLYMPIC PUSH

As ever, our aspiration to secure a place in the Summer Olympic Games, is always in mind. The next opportunity will be in 2013 when the IOC meets not only to decide the venue for the 2020 Summer Games, but the participating sports too.

We are poised to push our case, but need to wait until the format of bids is confirmed by IOC. We hope to receive the answer to this when meetings take place with IOC in April at SportAccord, the annual gathering of the IOC, sports and stakeholders.

Cricketer Bowls in.....



Mr Ramachandran (left) receiving his award from Muttiah Muralitharan

World record-breaking cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan has offered his support to squash's bid to join the Olympic programme.

At the Opening Dinner of the Asian Junior Squash Championships in Colombo, the Sri Lanka star - who has taken 800 Test wickets and over 500 in One Day internationals - was presenting a *Friend of Sri Lankan Squash* award to Indian World Squash Federation President Mr N Ramachandran.

"I've played squash and was particularly impressed with just how hard it is physically - the top athletes must be super-fit," said Muralitharan. "Perhaps I might give it a go when I finally retire from cricket in order to stay fit myself!

"I'm told my wrist action might make me a very difficult player to read on court!

"I'm very happy to be linked with the bid by such a fine sport to gain a place as a summer Olympics medal sport," concluded the revered cricketer.

Thanking him, Mr Ramachandran responded: "Both our sports have World Cups beginning shortly, and while we look forward to looking out for your results and you keep an eye on the Sri Lankan team effort in ours, we are grateful that we can all look towards the biggest possible prize for any squash player, participation in the Olympic Games."

BREAKING IT DOWN

The WSF manages a whole raft of World Championships e.g.:

Men's and Women's World Teams, Men's and Women's Junior Individual and Teams, World Cup, World Doubles

And world conferences include:

World Referee Conference, World Coaching Conference, WSF Conference and AGM, World Development Conference, Federations Management Conference.

Until now, member nations wanting to apply to host any of these have simply applied as a country for the opportunity. What this has meant is that there has been no certainty that regions of the world will have a share, secure a range of events over time nor be able to lay plans several years ahead if they wish. (Oh, and as an aside, no longer can countries bid without specifying the actual venue, so suitability can be assured prior to acceptance).

This has changed with a new system being initiated now where the five regions of the world have been allocated all the WSF events and conferences right through to year 2020.

Countries interested in hosting an event or conference, that has been allocated to their region, will apply to become the choice of the region and so be put forward to WSF for approval. A fairer spread, more certainty, better all round.

SPLIT STRANDS

The WSF Development and Coaching Committee has a very wide remit. From introductory tools and approach to the elite qualification and activity end of the spectrum. So now, within the overall umbrella, two panels have been put together featuring specialists from across the regions. This will ensure an even tighter focus on all facets of the coaching and development area by the committee.

The WSF Development Panel within the Development & Coaching Committee will undertake the following:

- Encourage the development of squash, not only in countries where it is a new sport but also where it is already well-established.
- Link with regional federations, and in conjunction with them advise members on all development matters, primarily by the production of templates for local use, supplemented by support via the group of WSF specialists in the Development and Coaching Committee and via "best practice" on the WSF website.
- Development matters to include grassroots development programmes, promotions and marketing, mini squash, basic ideas on facilities design and construction and other relevant matters as determined by the committee overall.
- Panel Members will identify needs for development projects in their regions and recommend activity plans to the WSF for resources and funding.
- The Panel will organise a Development Conference on a biennial basis and may run coaching clinics in new and developing squash nations where funding permits to help develop the game especially amongst youngsters.

As part of this, in addition to the WSF Coaching Conference every two years, in the intervening years starting 2012 a **WSF World Development Conference** will be held and so allow for even more targeted content.

This year's **WSF World Coaching Conference** will be held alongside the Australian Open in Canberra with two full days and two half days of activity on 9 – 12 August. The theme will be *Working with Elite*.

Coaches interested in attending will soon be able to find the details at the WSF website www.worldsquash.org.

PRESIDENT, PADERBORN'S PATRON

The Patron of the 23rd Men's World Team Championship 2011 is no less than President of the Federal Republic of Germany His Excellency Christian Wulff, a real boost for the championship.

OBITUARIES

JACK FLYNN



The world of squash is saddened to hear of the death on 1st March of Jack Flynn aged 71.

Jack, a jovial Dubliner was very well known in elite squash circles even before he became a WSF referee in 1990. He was officiating at events across the world until his retirement in 2000, but since then remained an active WSF assessor, dispensing wisdom that has helped so many referees improve their craft until suffering a severe stroke last month.

The world of squash offers sincere condolences to his wife Breda and two sons and two daughters. They have lost a lovely man.

LOU ZANDVLIET

Dutchman Lou Zandvliet, credited as the founder of the European Squash Federation, also passed away recently after a short illness recently at the age of 84. An international player forty-five years ago, Lou Zandvliet had the idea of forming a group of European countries to compete against each other and to promote the welfare of Squash, within Europe.

The *European Squash Rackets Federation* was founded on 17th April 1973, during the inaugural European Team Championships. The Championships were staged in Edinburgh (Scotland) and ten Nations competed and founded the Federation. The Federation was organised by a team of honorary (unpaid) officers and Lou Zandvliet was, from the start, one of the elected Vice-chairmen. And following Lennart Iepsen's (Sweden) term of office as Chairman from the beginning until 1977, was his natural successor. Lou presided until 1985 and the title of Chairman was altered to President.

The world of squash has lost a leader.



The March Dunlop PSA Rankings see Englishman Nick Matthew, winner of the North American Open last week maintain the PSA top spot for the third month in a row in his second spell as world number one. Runner Up at the North American, Egypt's Ramy Ashour, stays at number two in the listing.



Nicol David from Malaysia, who has been WISPA number one since January 2006 bar four months that year goes into her 59th month heading the list, though her unbeaten record which stretched back to November 2009 was ended in February by England's Laura Massaro at the Cleveland Classic in USA last month.



NEW SEVEN COURT CENTRE FOR MOSCOW

Stanislav Suprunov tells us of a new facility which is well under way in Moscow, a great addition for the city. Progress can be viewed at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/SquashClub.RU/OurNewStateOfTheArtSquashClubIn2013ConstructionInProgress?feat=directlink>

.....and here is the background from him:

There are four courts with stationary walls, and three with movable walls. All are ASB. One glass court will be assembled in the multifunctional game court for special events. In other times we are going to use it for promotional tours across Russia.

The Squash Center has fitness, swimming pool, climbing wall, multifunctional game court, and will be a part of a multifunctional development, which will include, office buildings, Hampton Hotel (Hilton brand), 2-floor underground parking, conference facilities & retail units. The Squash Center is located in Strogino region of Moscow near the Moscow Circular Road.

The centre, built in partnership by Suprunov and Russian number one PSA member Alexei Severinov will open in early 2013.

.....AND NEW COURTS FOR HELSINKI

Finland will shortly have five new courts and an all-glass one too when the Tali-Halli project in Helsinki being built by McWIL Courtwall opens as part of a new 12 court badminton and squash centre during summer 2011.

Next to the McWIL Courtwall premium courts there will be a portable WSF accredited all glass court permanent located in the middle of the club, but available for events away from the centre too. First use will be a Youth Festival in Helsinki, where the court will be placed next to the Olympic Stadium for the 50,000 youngsters attending from all over Scandinavia.

TORONTO TOO.....

The building of the National Squash Academy (NSA) in Toronto, Ontario Canada is well on its' way. The NSA is the superbly-designed facility that is the result of the partnership of Jonathon Power, Gary Waite and Jamie Nicholls. It is already the Canadian hub for elite training, junior development and the resurgence of squash in Toronto.

McWIL Courtwall has completed the installation of eight (8) singles courts and will install an all-glass singles court this Spring, followed in the Autumn by the world's first and only all-glass North American (hardball) doubles court.

A GAGGLE OF REFEREES

Meanwhile, a few days after the coaching gathering the WSF World Refereeing Conference will take place on 19 and 20 August in Paderborn, Germany. This precedes the Men's World Team Championship which begins there on 21st August, and will feature a myriad of topics of interest to serious referees. Details and forms are available on the WSF website.

DOUBLING UP

The doubles format review initiated by WSF since the Commonwealth Games is taking shape. The intention has been to find a formula that re-packages top level doubles as an entertainment led spectacle. Not too long and not too attritional.

A set of formats have been evolved and they will be trialled alongside the JSW SDAT WSF World Cup in Chennai this month with a view to refining into a new system to be introduced in 2012 for the World Doubles and future Regional Games etc.

For those that follow cricket the analogy is making doubles the equivalent to the short, sharp 20 / 20 format. A new innings!

IF WE HAD A POSTER OF THE YEAR AWARD.....

.....the one for the North American Open would surely be an early favourite! Promoter Gus Cook commissioned this from designer Dan Bogosh who produced a great approach.



'WORLDS' ON THE WAY



The **JSW SDAT WSF World Cup**, taking place in Chennai, India is making a welcome return after a long absence. It features national teams of two men and a woman and so will effectively provide the sport with its foremost mixed national team. Egypt head the seedings, with England placed at two.

The highlights, being shown locally on ESPN, and internationally by other broadcasters, should make compelling viewing.

If you want news and information on the JSW SDAT WSF World Cup taking place in Chennai 8 – 12 March go to www.wsfworldcup.com

Streaming of the final rounds from the Express Avenue Mall will be available at www.worldsquash.org

July sees the last *stand alone* World Junior Individual event, as from 2012 the Men's Individual will be held alongside the Women's Individual and Team championships and vice versa.

So, the **Men's World Junior Individual** will be played at the Flemish National Centre in Herentals, Belgium from 13 – 17 July, with the **Women's World Junior Team and Individual** kicking off a few days later (20 – 30 July). Details to be confirmed.



Then it is to Paderborn, as mentioned, for the **Men's World Team Championship** from 21 – 27 August.

The curtain will then come down on world titles in a mouth-watering way when the Dutch city of Rotterdam hosts the **Men's and Women's World Opens** together from 28 October to 6 November. The top cats going for the cream together!

CODES OF CONDUCT NOW CONDUCTED TOGETHER

Aligning the WSF, PSA and WISPA Codes has been ongoing, so that now, any disciplinary breach has the same code letter and referees who may need to report an offence can use one form applicable for all the federations.

These are now being sent to tournament referees and can be downloaded from the WSF website at: <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?p=4142>

PLAYER CAREER INFORMATION

Go to the ATHLETE tab on www.worldsquash.org, and click on IOC ATHLETES CAREER and the link will take you to the IOC site which has lots of useful information for players.

ANTI-DOPING INFORMATION

Essential viewing for all national federations is:

<http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Education-Awareness/Tools/>

Here can be found information, DVDs etc which should be distributed and shown to competitive players everywhere. The importance of educating players to take care and advice to avoid ingesting anything that contains a banned substance cannot be over-emphasised. A mistake can potentially end a playing / representative career so do review and use the tools provided by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency).

EVER FANCIED a 24 HOUR SQUASHATHON?

They did at MSAC in Melbourne, the Australian host venue of the Commonwealth Games.....and raised over A\$14,000 for 'Go for Gold' scholarships to support persons living with Multiple Sclerosis achieve a lifelong dream. Sarah Fitz-Gerald was the event Ambassador and said "the 24 Mega Squash was a fantastic event for people of all fitness levels and the money raised will provide opportunities for some truly inspirational people who are living with a really difficult disease."

The format, which may be helpful to anybody another group trying this:

Each team of up to 15 members play over a period of 24 hours. Each team has to have a player on court at all times during the 24 hours. (In Melbourne teams were also tasked with the challenge of raising funds for people living with MS and there were awards for the team and individual raising the most funds).

The 24 hours were broken into 15 minute blocks - play 14 with a 1 minute rest / changeover. People could play for as little or as long as they liked. The team captains were responsible for the playing roster. (In Melbourne with 8 teams they played a round robin format with teams changing courts and opponents every 3 hours.

Not only is this a social and successful way to raise funds for a good cause, but to promote squash locally too.

WSF ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

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