

# 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.....

July and August have seen no less than four world titles contested. In a spectacular spell of success all went to the Land of the Pharaohs. Marwan El Shorbagy and Nour El Tayeb taking the junior individuals titles whilst the Egyptian teams won the Junior Women's and Men's Team events.

A fantastic achievement, but the success is not without precedent on the male side as one can go back to the nineteen thirties and find great champion Amr Bey, with so many more following him before the present day clutch of stars.

The same cannot be said for the women and girls. It was only in the early nineties, fostered by Dr Samiha AboulMagd, the mother of Egyptian squash, that the female side was given attention. First Omneya Abdel Kawy emerged, and now there are many more rising stars from that recent beginning.

This leads us seamlessly into mention of World Squash Day on 5th November (see below). The theme this year is encouraging women and girls, and while it is participation driven, gold can be panned too. Think back to when Malaysia were given the Commonwealth Games – the effort put behind unearthing talent mined Nicol David. Top tenner Annie Au came from the Hong Kong schools programme; and there are other examples besides.

So, we do hope that everybody from club to regional to national level will get behind this World Squash Day and ensure that more and more women and girls can be introduced to the pleasures of squash. Maybe in a few years time new names will be added to the examples of elite success springing from the schemes.

Speaking of success, anybody in Paderborn will use that word as a description of the Men's World Team Championship.....probably prefixed by huge. There are very well staged events on the Tours and world championships too (indeed, including the World Juniors in Herentals and Boston); others that have had excellent marketing, some strong presentationally, those where exhibitions have been well executed, others administratively strong and some good corporate entertainment along the way. The Men's Teams in Paderborn combined all of these in a most compelling fashion, and added an arena / court lighting facet that is way beyond anything hitherto tried (report below). Our congratulations go to the team spearheaded by Norman Farthing and Andreas Preising.

They have raised the bar for events that follow, though perhaps not the forthcoming Men's and Women's World Opens in Rotterdam, as promoters Next Squash are at the forefront of event management. Our Olympic bid partners and event management company for the next senior worlds were in Paderborn, we have excellent footage & photos for the bid promotional materials; and now that we are on the shortlist we can really encourage attendance from more opinion formers. Roll on Rotterdam.

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

Andrew@worldsquash.org



## World Squash Day 2011: Here Come the Girls

This year World Squash Day, which takes place on Saturday 5 November, will focus on attracting a new generation of female players to the sport.

The WSF will be encouraging clubs and associations all over the globe to open their doors to welcome potential new girl and women enthusiasts - no matter what age or ability.

Nicol David, the world No1 and five times world champion from Malaysia, is right behind the programme. "Squash appeals to women everywhere; anyone who is looking for the perfect sport to pick up," said the 27-year-old from Penang. "It provides the most all-round workout and it's a lot of fun with friends.

"Anyone can play it! This World Squash Day is focussed on getting women and girls to join squash, so create a social trend among your girlfriends to keep fit with squash."

As well as building pathways for elite competitors, the WSF is keen to boost the numbers of recreational players who will choose squash as their preferred sport for health and fitness.

Full details on the World Squash Day website: [www.worldsquashday.com](http://www.worldsquashday.com)

A promotional poster for World Squash Day 2011. The top text reads 'WORLD SQUASH DAY HERE COME THE GIRLS NOVEMBER 5TH 2011'. Below this is the WSF logo and a photograph of two women playing squash. Text on the poster includes: 'World Squash Day 2011 is dedicated to attracting a new generation of female players to the sport. All ages and abilities welcome. Squash means Fun, Fitness and Friendship.' At the bottom, it lists 'EVENTS AT THIS CLUB: FREE Coaching ALL DAY, FREE CLASSES: Get Fit with Squash, BRING A FRIEND: Check out the special membership offers, EXHIBITION: Learn from the Pros'.

## Vero Appointed



Following the IOC's announcement that Squash was on the shortlist for Olympic inclusion in 2020, the first and arguably most important WSF action was the appointment of Vero Communications to be our Bid Management Company.

Commenting on Vero's appointment, WSF President N Ramachandran said: "I am delighted that we have reached agreement with Vero for them to be our Bid Management Company and communications advisers and we look forward very much to working with Vero Chairman Mike Lee (pictured) and his colleagues in trying to realise our long-held goal of Squash becoming a Summer Olympic medal sport from 2020.

"When we met Mike, we felt straight away that he understood our sport and our ambitions. Vero have a tremendous track record in assisting bidding cities and sports so Squash will benefit immensely from drawing upon their experience and knowledge."

Mike Lee OBE, Vero Chairman, added: "We are thrilled with this appointment. Our aim is to help Squash put forward a compelling case to the IOC Programme Commission and wider Olympic Family on why the sport would be a fantastic addition to the Games.

"There is a long road ahead in the campaign but we are excited by the challenge. Working with President Ramachandran and the WSF team, we will do all we can to help ensure that the voice of Squash is heard all the way to the IOC Session in Buenos Aires in September 2013."

Vero has extensive experience in the world of sport and successfully advised the International Rugby Board in its campaign to get Rugby Sevens on the Olympic Sports Programme; PyeongChang in its bid to host the 2018 Winter Games; Rio in its bid to host the 2016 Summer Games; Qatar in its bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup; and Glasgow in its bid to host the 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships.

*For further bid information please go to [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org)*

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## WSF Launches Ambassador Programme

The WSF Ambassador Programme, a new international promotional initiative devised by the World Squash Federation, will be launched in Latvia later this year.

Riga will be the host city for the first *WSF Ambassador Programme* from 25-27 November, when the Latvian capital will welcome two leading international players, a coaching guru and a refereeing instructor to highlight the appeal of Squash.

While the players will integrate with the local squash community and media, referees and coaches from Latvia and local countries will be invited to attend workshops to help them spread ideas, information and good practice in the region.

The venue in Riga will be the Zelta Bowling and Squash Centre, an imposing squash facility featuring eight courts and many other sporting and leisure options.

Heralding the new initiative, WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley commented: "There are squash courts in around 175 countries, and while we can only do so much each year to reach selected clusters of them, we will never run out of options!

"The scheme will continue with two further visits in 2012 where, like Latvia, we intend to support local efforts to promote squash by bringing in such a group of players, coaches and referees. It is a package that works on many levels and we are excited about getting underway first in Latvia."

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## Ramachandran Hails Men's World Team Championship as Boost for Olympic Campaign



N Ramachandran, president of the World Squash Federation, praised the German city of Paderborn's hosting of this year's Men's World Squash Team Championship which concluded in the last week of August (report below), and believes the event has boosted the sport's Olympic credentials.

"Paderborn has proved to be a first class venue but it has also raised the bar in terms of how squash can be presented to fans and sponsors.

Over seven thousand spectators have attended the event so far this week and we've had an incredible atmosphere. The tournament has seen some exciting new

innovations including using lights and music between each match on our show court to build excitement and really get the spectators engaged", he said.

Around 110 countries streamed games from the tournament live and in high-definition.

President Ramachandran added that he was delighted to see these exciting innovations being embraced by world championships and professional Tour events as they can only help in our ambition to become an Olympic sport.

"It is now important that the sport builds on this momentum as we move forward and build our case for Olympic Games inclusion with the IOC [International Olympic Committee] and other influencers."

## September World Rankings

England's Nick Matthew held onto his number one position in the September Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings, despite losing to his Egyptian rival Ramy Ashour in last month's Viridian Australian Open final in Canberra.



It was the pair's third successive clash this year in the climax of a PSA World Series event - and world No2 Ashour avenged his earlier defeat to win in five games.

Whilst just 50 points separate Matthew and Ashour at the top of the list, Egyptian Karim Darwish retained third place more than 300 points behind, with Englishman James Willstrop at number four.

But David Palmer, the 35-year-old Aussie who delighted the Canberra crowd by outplaying two seeds to reach the Australian Open semi-finals unseeded, is rewarded by leaping two places to No8 - recording his highest position for 18 months.

There is also encouraging news for fellow countryman Stewart Boswell, the Australian number three and former world No4 who returns to the world top 20 after a three-month absence.

An unexpected berth in the last eight of the Australian Open has led Laurens Jan Anjema to become the top 20's highest riser. The unseeded Dutchman, who beat seventh seed Thierry Lincou in the opening round, has moved up three places to No12.



New Zealand number one Joelle King moved up to a career high of 11 in the WISPA September rankings. The 22 year old was outside the top 20 last year but a strong season of results, including a quarter final place at last month's Australian Open, has pushed the Kiwi closer to a place in the world's top 10.

Inside the top 10, Rachael Grinham leapfrogged Madeline Perry to return to the top three. Grinham has been inside the world's top five for over eight years, debuting back in February 2003.

French number one Camille Serme also records a career high. The 22 year old moves up one place to seven to equal her highest ranking from October 2010.

Natalie Grinham returns to her highest ranking in exactly a year as she moves up two places to 13. The younger Grinham upset Kasey Brown in the second round in Australia to reach the quarter finals where she really tested world number two Jenny Duncalf.

Mexican star Samantha Teran climbs four places to number 16. In August she claimed her 14<sup>th</sup> WISPA title in Vancouver, breezing past top seed Jaclyn Hawkes in the final.

Anyone looking at the top twenty will see a significant name missing this month. Alison Waters has suffered with an ankle injury since the Commonwealth Games a year ago, where she had to concede her bronze medal match. The England star reached a career high of three last year but now finds herself at No21, her first time out of the top twenty for over six years.

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## Four World Titles.....Egypt Dominate

**WSF Men's World Junior Individual**, Herentals, Belgium

Final

[2] Marwan El Shorbagy (Egy) bt [5/8] Mohamed Abouelghar (Egy) 11/6, 11/6, 11/8 (45m)

Two years after his older brother won the title for the second time, 17-year-old Marwan El Shorbagy (pictured) clinched the 2011 WSF Men's World Junior Individual Squash Championship crown at the Flemish Squash Centre in the Belgian town of Herentals.



Marwan and *Mohamed El Shorbagy*, currently ranked nine in the world, are the first brothers in the sport's history to win world individual titles.

In the second successive all-Egyptian climax of the championship in Belgium, El Shorbagy junior beat his close friend Abouelghar. "I'm so happy right now - I've been dreaming of this since I'm 10, and when I saw my brother getting his first title in Switzerland, I wanted so much to win too," explained the new champion. "I have one more year to year to go, and next year will be in Egypt, so I so want to win it, because it will be in my own country. But it will be hard".

Abouelghar made his breakthrough in the semi-finals where he defeated defending champion Amr Khaled Khalifa.

## WSF Women's World Junior Individual, Boston, USA



Final:

[1] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) beat [3/4] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) 11-5, 3-11, 11-7, 11-8 (42m)

After disappointment in the 2009 and 2010 finals, it was third time lucky for Nour El Tayeb (pictured) in the final of the 2011 WSF Women's World Junior Individual Squash Championship when she beat fellow Egyptian and former champion Nour El Sherbini to win the title.

"I've been dreaming about this for a long time," admitted El Tayeb after her 11-5, 3-11, 11-7, 11-8 triumph in 42 minutes. "But I haven't been thinking about winning or expecting to win when I've been on court, I've just been thinking about the match, the next point.

"It feels weird, I've been in the final twice before and now I've won it. I can't explain how happy I am.

## WSF Women's World Junior Team Championship, Boston, USA



Team Final:

[1] EGYPT beat [2] USA 2/1

Nouran El Torcky beat Sabrina Sobhy 11-9, 11-3, 11-3 (20m)

Nour El Tayeb lost to Amanda Sobhy 9-11, 11-6, 6-11, 9-11 (44m)

Nour El Sherbini beat Olivia Blatchford 11-8, 11-3, 11-8 (29m)

3rd place play-off:

[6] HONG KONG CHINA beat [3] INDIA 2/1

Choi Uen Shan beat Aparajitha Balamurukan 11-9, 11-9, 12-14, 11-8 (36m)

Ka-Yi Lee lost to Anaka Alankamony 3-11, 6-11, 7-11 (20m)

Ho Tze-Lok beat Saumya Karki 4-11, 11-5, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8 (46m)

## Egypt Retain World Junior Title

Favourites Egypt (pictured above) successfully retained their title in the WSF Women's World Junior Team Squash Championship in Boston - but hosts USA, celebrating their first appearance in the climax, forced the tie into a decider after former world individual champion Amanda Sobhy defeated the newly-crowned champion Nour El Tayeb on the final day of the WSF event at the Murr Center at Harvard University.

Defending champions Egypt made a great start to the final as Nouran El Torcky beat a nervous Sabrina Sobhy 11-9, 11-3, 11-3.

Amanda Sobhy, determined to make amends for her shock semi-final exit in the individual event, edged a tight first against new World Junior Champion Nour El Tayeb, pulling away from eight-all. El Tayeb drew level - but New Yorker Sobhy ran away with the third to retake the lead. Holding a slight lead throughout the fourth, Sobhy eventually clinched her third match-ball to win 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9 to force the tie into a decider.

But less than half an hour later, Egypt made sure of the title when Nour El Sherbini, winner of the 2009 title and runner-up in the 2011 championship, beat Olivia Blatchford 11-8, 11-3, 11-8.

In the bronze medal play-off for third place, sixth seeds Hong Kong China beat India, the third seeds, 2/1 - and former champions England improved on their finish two years ago by beating fifth seeds Malaysia 2/0 in the play-off for fifth place.

## WSF Men's World Team Championship, Paderborn, Germany



Final:

[2] EGYPT beat [1] ENGLAND 2/1

Ramy Ashour beat Nick Matthew 11-7, 11-9, 14-12 (61m)

Hisham Mohamed Ashour lost to Peter Barker 6-11, 9-11, 7-11 (50m)

Karim Darwish beat James Willstrop 11-5, 13-11, 9-11, 11-4 (65m)

3rd place play-off:

[4] AUSTRALIA beat [3] FRANCE 2/1

David Palmer lost to Gregory Gaultier 9-11, 4-11, 0-11 (47m)



*Boston Referees on Parade*

Stewart Boswell beat Gregoire Marche 11-13, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4 (63m)

Cameron Pilley beat Thierry Lincou 12-10, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6 (64m)

Egypt (pictured above) sensationally retained their title in the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship in Paderborn, Germany after upsetting favourites England 2/1 in a thrilling final of the 23rd staging of the event.

With sell-out crowds throughout the week, the final between the top two seeds at the Ahorn-Sportpark was the dream climax to an event which is being hailed as the best world championship ever.

The top two players in the world took to the court for the opening clash, with Egypt taking early honours when Ramy Ashour beat Nick Matthew, the world number one from Sheffield, 11-7, 11-9, 14-12. Matthew saved a match ball in the third game before going on to have his own game ball. But Ashour kept his cool to wrap up the match without dropping a game.

Londoner Peter Barker brought the top seeds back into contention when he overcame Ramy's older brother Hisham Mohamed Ashour 11-6, 11-9, 11-7.

The decider featured second strings Karim Darwish and James Willstrop - a pair who have been opponents on a squash court since the world junior championships in 2000, with Englishman Willstrop boasting a 12-6 head to head advantage.

But, after losing out to Frenchman Thierry Lincou in the semi-finals, Darwish was determined to make amends. The 29-year-old from Cairo took the first two games, then survived the loss of the third to record an 11-5, 13-11, 9-11, 11-4 championship-winning victory - his first over the Yorkshireman since 2006.

Darwish was immediately engulfed by his team-mates on the court as the Egyptian supporters in the crowd went wild in celebration of Egypt's third world team title success since 1999.

"I didn't play well against Thierry yesterday because of the pressure, I just didn't play my game," said a beaming Darwish minutes after his victory. "Today, I decided to enjoy myself, and was much more relaxed. In fact I think I played one of my best matches - I think I played superb squash. I don't think a lot of people expected us to win.

Fourth seeds Australia won the play-off for third place, upsetting last year's runners-up France, the third seeds. After David Palmer lost the opening to French No1 Gregory Gaultier in straight games, Aussie No3 Stewart Boswell brought the former champions back into contention with a four-game victory over Gregoire Marche.

And after a 64-minute decider, it was second string Cameron Pilley who clinched victory for Australia, beating Thierry Lincou 12-10, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6 to claim his first win over the world No8.

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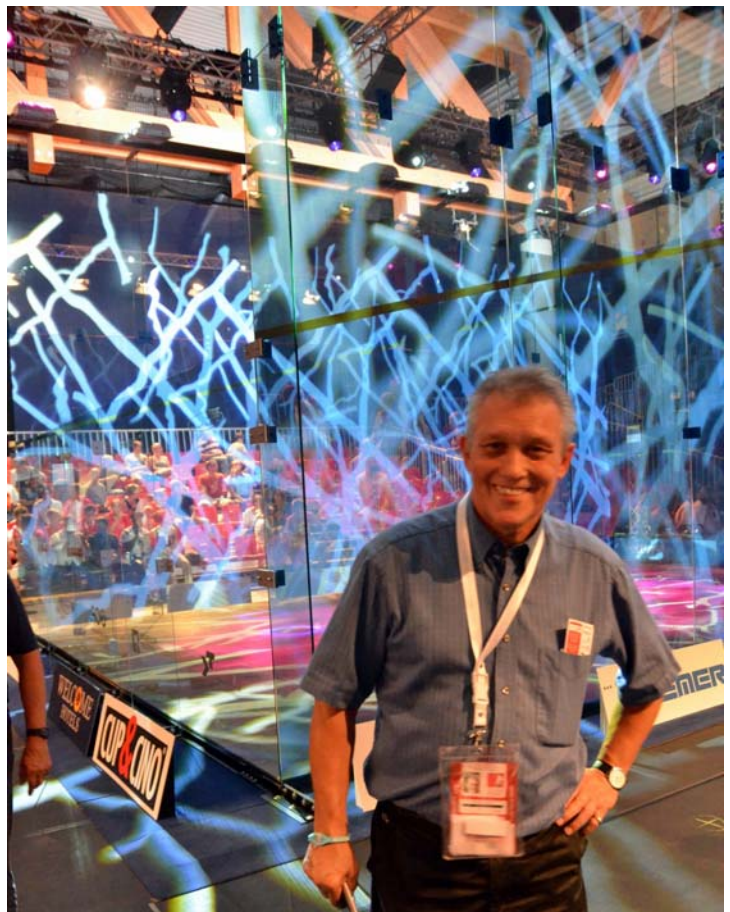
## Men's World Team Championships – a great showcase for squash!

"It has been the best World Team Championships I've ever been to", said Chris Stahl, vice-president of the World Squash Federation in his speech at the prize-giving ceremony.

World No 1 Nick Matthew echoed the comments, saying: "There has been a great buzz right across the tournament and the way music and the court lighting have been used to pump up the crowd has been great and really added to the atmosphere. This sort of innovation can only help in our goal to become an Olympic sport."

World No 3 Karim Darwish said: "The tournament has been a great showcase for Squash and our goal to be included in the 2020 Olympic Games."

The centre-piece of the event was the very latest all-glass show court produced by leading international squash court constructor ASB. Featuring new larger glass panels, providing an enhanced experience for both athletes and spectators, the unique all-blue court also boasted air conditioning, a new lightning system and an entirely new floor. Additionally Lightpower, one of the leading international companies for television and live stage entertainment took squash arena lighting and presentation to a whole new level.



Championship Manager Norman Farthing with the stunningly lit centre court behind him

## President's Gather



Pictured (L to R) David Mui, Anne Rogge, Jacques Rogge, N Ramachandran and Sani Karim.

World Squash Federation, President, Mr. N. Ramachandran, Asian Squash Federation, President, Dato Sani Karim, Chairman, Hong Kong Squash, David Mui were present in Hong Kong recently to meet with Jacques Rogge, President, International Olympic Committee. He was present there to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China. Also present was Mr Wu IOC Vice-President and Member for PR China.

WSF President Mr. N. Ramachandran thanked the IOC President for including squash in the short list to be considered for the one slot that is available for the 2020 Olympic Games. He also highlighted the technical innovations implemented by the WSF which give an added value to squash in respect of the Olympic Games.

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## Some new building projects:

### Herlev, Denmark

Herlev is a suburb of Copenhagen and the existing six courts plus one 4-sided glass court are to be added to with a further six courts to be built by CourtTech which are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Is this now the biggest squash centre in Scandinavia?

### Cadiz, Spain

ASB has built its' first court in a private home in the south of Spain, near Cadiz. Many have been built in the United States, e.g. Colorado, Idaho, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

### Wroclaw, Poland

Hasta La Vista is the name, a nice play on owner Mr Zenon Hasta's name! His new centre will have eleven CourtTech courts plus one 3-sided CourtTech Glass Court. The biggest centre in Eastern Europe? The completion of this facility is also scheduled for the end of this year.

### Also in Poland

Poland's squash scene is also expanding ASB System 85 courts being built at Squashclub Zabierzow (4 courts), Squashclub Belchatow (2 courts), Jupitersport Squash & Fit in Wroclaw (4 courts).

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## Next World Titles up for grabs.....

### Men's & Women's World Opens in Rotterdam

Large draws for the most important championships on the PSA and WISPA World Tours, with entries closing in early September, starting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 28th with the finals scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> November, in the Dutch City of Rotterdam.

Included will be a number of WSF Wild Cards to primarily enable players from countries who could not otherwise get a place to take part in the squash gala.

The Luxor Theatre will play host to the last four days (3-6 Nov) of the championship. An all glass court will be erected on the stage of the theatre in the harbour city which has a seating capacity for 1,500 people. The early stages of the championship (28 Oct - 2 Nov) will be played at Victoria Squash, one of the most successful squash clubs in the Netherlands, which boasts 12 squash courts.

For ticketing and other information: [www.worldopensquash2011.com](http://www.worldopensquash2011.com)



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## WSF AGM 2011

Now is the time for delegates from member nations to complete and return your forms if you would like to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> WSF AGM on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November in Rotterdam, Netherlands, preceded by two days of WSF Conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, full of presentations, discussions and information. The theme this year is very much *Spreading The Word*, on marketing, media, innovation, development and much else besides.

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## World Championship 2011 & 2012 Digest

2011 - Previously:

**WSF World Cup**, Chennai, India (8 – 12 March)

**World Hardball Doubles**, Toronto, Canada (3 – 6 May)

**Men's World Junior Individual**, Herentals, Belgium (13 – 17 July)

**Women's World Junior Individual & Team**, Boston, USA, (20 – 30 July)

**Men's World Team**, Paderborn, Germany (21 – 27 August)

2011 / 12 to come:

2011 **Men's & Women's World Open**, Rotterdam, Netherlands (28 October - 6 November)

2012 **Under 21 World Cup**, Chennai, India (1 – 5 February)

**Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships**, Cairo, Egypt (7 – 12 July)

**Men's World Junior Team Championships**, Cairo, Egypt (13 – 18 July)

**World Masters**, Birmingham, England (21 – 27 July)

**Women's World Team Championship**, Nimes, France (12 – 17 November)

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## Obituaries

### Don Green

One of the leading advocates for the sport of squash and a former president of Squash New Zealand, Don Green has passed away.

Green, originally from Timaru, spent most of his life further south in Dunedin and was one of New Zealand's leading players throughout the 1950s winning the national title in 1956.

He was on the national association's management committee from the late 1960s until 1974 and was its president in 1972-73.

He became the New Zealand delegate to the International Squash Rackets Federation from 1975-81 and was accorded life membership of the national association in 1976.

In 2010 he was inducted into the Squash New Zealand Hall of Fame in recognition of his contribution to the sport

### Michael Magee

Michael Magee was a very well known Manager of Irish junior Squash teams from the late 1970's then represented Ireland at ESF and WSF Meetings whilst President of Irish Squash. A very large attendance at his funeral in Dublin from the squash community showed just how well liked and respected was this most committed enthusiast for our sport.

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## WSF World Refereeing Conference

A very successful Referees Conference was held in Paderborn, Germany on 19/20 August. It was attended by 27 Delegates and 3 main speakers from 16 different Countries. 19 of those attending the Conference stayed on to officiate as referees at the World Men's Teams; and 2 of the speakers stayed on as WSF Assessors.

The main topics were:

- How to become a WSF Referee – an update on CBTA
- How to conduct and benefit from an Assessment and Debriefing
- Understanding the Rules – Interference, Injury, Conduct, Repetitive Lets
- How to improve Communication with the Players
- Interpretation of the Rules – a PSA perspective by James Willstrop
- Latest Developments of 3-Referee System
- The new ASB TopSquash Referee System
- The new Video Review System

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## Snippets

**Glasgow 2014's** Commonwealth Games Athletes' Advisory Committee (AAC) has appointed three new members to broaden their expertise, including squash player Frania Gillen-Buchert, who will now offer advice over the next three years to the Glasgow 2014 Board and Organising Committee.

**PSA** have recently updated their website, which has a completely new feel and new features. You can check it out at [www.psaworldtour.com](http://www.psaworldtour.com)

**Sports industry** organisations can advertise their job vacancies on a new job board within the World Squash website. Thanks to an innovative partnership with a GlobalSportsJobs, vacancies posted via World Squash will also be advertised on GlobalSportsJobs and its partner sites, including other international sports federations and

sports media – giving them exposure to a potential worldwide audience of around 500,000 sports industry professionals and maximising candidate response.

The World Squash job board can be found under 'Job Centre' on the menu bar.

**Spirit of Squash** is a British not-for-profit organization that gives kids the chance to play squash and benefit socially from sports participation. It was founded to introduce children to the sport of squash through initiatives that encourage personal, social and athletic achievement and run community projects that provide sporting opportunities for young people and help secure threatened public sports facilities.

They run community projects in Islington and Finsbury, providing coaches at public leisure centres and sending them into schools. They also work with youth centres to give kids outside the school system access to squash. Top professionals are taking notice with both Joey Barrington and Adrian Grant signing up as ambassadors.

[Play@SpiritofSquash.com](http://Play@SpiritofSquash.com)

**The Indian Government** have recognised the work of WSF President Ramachandran in developing the National Squash Academy in Chennai over the last ten years by making a national award to him.....*Establishment & Management of Sports Academies of Excellence.*

Mr Ramachandran received the *Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar* award from India's President Pratibha Patil.

Elected as WSF President in 2008, Ramachandran established the Indian Squash Academy in his home city of Chennai more than ten years ago. The ISA has not only nurtured a number of top international players – including Saurav Ghosal, who last year became the country's highest world-ranked player ever – but has also hosted a number of leading international events.

"The conferment of the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar is the highest award that the government can bestow," said the WSF President after being honoured in Delhi. "It is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the coaches and trainees of the Indian Squash Academy.

"Players, coaches and referees from all over India have benefited from the programmes of the Indian Squash Academy and this award will only rededicate the academy to further propagate the growth of squash in India. Over many years, the Indian Squash Academy has also hosted all major WSF world championships.

"This unparalleled government recognition augurs well not only for Indian squash but also for WSF and our dream of becoming an Olympic sport."

**The Latest US Urban Squash** programme will come on stream at Minneapolis / St Paul in January 2012. 'There are now 10 NUSEA member programs serving 1000 kids with the likelihood of 3 more cities coming on board this year' according to founder Greg Zaff.

**Entries** for the World Masters 2012, to be held in Birmingham, England on 21 – 27 July are already open, and there is an early-bird discount too. To access the form go to [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org), and click on the link.

And you may be interested to know that a number of age groups of the World Masters do not have perpetual trophies, so if you would like to donate one in your name, or perhaps a player who has passed away, please contact the WSF office.



Mr. N. Ramachandran receiving the award from the President of India, Mrs. Prathiba Patil.

## For Referees.....



The World Squash Federation (WSF) is backing an innovative new referee system developed by German squash court manufacturer ASB, as used at the WSF Men's World Team Championship in Germany during August.

**The ASB TopSquashReferee system** features iPods as referee terminals, working wirelessly to compute the decisions and display them for players and spectators on screens alongside the scores.

Specifications - along with purchase details, including a 20% introductory discount - can be found at: <http://asbsquash.com/squash-court-renovation/topsquashreferee/>

Recognising the need to develop the three referee decision signalling system, beyond hand signs for use at events, WSF has standardized a **WSF Three Referee Decision Card**. Each decision spoke has the decision identified by letter and colour and can be clearly seen by the central referee; and importantly, not by the competing players.

Their use is encouraged at all events, in conjunction with PSA and WISPA.

To order sets of three cards go to [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org)





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