

# Instant Update

WORLD  
SQUASH

WSF

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**To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

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

## FROM HEADQUARTERS



It is not enough to produce a great product, to actually sell it you also have to advertise and market it. People cannot buy something they haven't heard about; hence the great importance of developing branding and promotion. Exactly these same basic business essentials apply to squash – which is definitely a great product!

But all too often it is assumed that people will simply come to squash rather than them being taken by the hand and shown it.

How many squash centres actually promote themselves? Not enough. The same question goes for national federations – how many *really* push media, PR and marketing? Not enough. Professional players who have commercial managers working to get them into the media and into advertising? Yes, not enough.

There are so many sports and pastimes out there that those that are 'fads' in nature, those that don't bind their players are the ones who have grasped the need to promote themselves. It speaks to the solid 'for life' nature of squash that we are not strong enough in this field as we don't think we need to. We love squash, and assume that everybody else does too.

### Where World Squash Day Fits.....

In its way, World Squash Day plays a role in addressing this. Hundreds of clubs around the world are already registered for this year's World Squash Day Challenge on 20 October and by the time the day comes round hopefully it will be thousands. They will have a great time, they will be supporting the Olympic Bid, but will they all use the opportunity to promote squash at their club? There will be do-it-yourself downloadable press releases for local media, but will they all use them? Not enough. Will participating clubs send reports and photos to their local media? Not enough. And most importantly, will they all have schemes in place so that when people enquire about the possibility of trying squash they are set to encourage them? You know the answer. Social media is a great step forward but cannot completely replace old-fashioned main media publicity.

If we all, from world body, to national, to state/county to centres, make a stronger effort to sell our product all of the sport will reap greater profits definitely enough, success on a grander scale; end of sermon!

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## OLYMPIC BID UPDATE

July saw us submit the 88 point questionnaire that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) requested from WSF to give information on all facets of the sport. August was the month in which the video featuring Nicol David and Ramy Ashour was edited on its way to being ready for the first of two presentations we make to the IOC, in December. September onwards sees more bid landmarks.

We will be developing another video for the presentations as well as planning the scripts. Preparing for the IOC Inspection Event, the Hong Kong Open is well under way with Hong Kong Squash and more besides.

There is so much more going on too, of course. Networking is ongoing, press releases are reminders of our activities, PSA/WSA events showcase the sport while national initiatives reach their media too.

Go to [www.squash2020.com](http://www.squash2020.com) for information on how you can be involved as we press the case for squash.



## WORLD JUNIORS 2013 GO TO POLAND



*Pictured at the signing of the agreement are (L to R): Tomasz Banasiak, Michal Janicki, Andrew Shelley, Zenon Waniak, Marek Wojnarski (Hasta La Vista manager) and Piotr Mazur (Wroclaw Director, Sports, Tourism and Recreation)*

The 2013 WSF World Junior Squash Championships have been awarded to the Polish city of Wroclaw.

The decision follows an inspection of the proposed venue and hotel options by WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley, with the World Individual Under-19 titles for both men and women (16-21 July), followed by the Women's World Junior Team Championship (22-27 July) being contested.

Welcoming the allocation of the event to his city, Deputy Mayor Michal Janicki commented: "We can truly say that you will have a great welcome in Wroclaw and we look forward to meeting the world of squash in our city next year.

"Squash is becoming very popular and, as far as I know, the biggest facilities in any sport being built in the city are for squash," he added.

The event will be played at the Hasta La Vista Club, a new Wroclaw facility which has just been opened.

Owner Zenon Waniak explained that it was his love of squash that encouraged him to invest in the sport by building the centre. "It was a huge fondness for squash on one side and on the other side its very dynamic development in my country," said Waniak.

Shelley underlined the expansion of the sport as he told the Deputy Mayor: "Poland is a great success story and is poised to become a European market leader in the sport in the coming years. To have the opportunity to bring a WSF World Championship to Wroclaw is only going to be the first of many, I am sure.

The superlative facilities at Hasta La Vista, coupled with the plans to showcase squash by holding the finals on an all-glass show court in the city centre, make for something to really look forward to in a year's time."

The opportunity for Poland to host a world championship also delighted Polish Squash Federation President Tomasz Banasiak, who added: "We were privileged to host the European Individual Championships in 2011, and we are excited to take the step up to a world title next year as part of our strategic plan to grow squash as a perfect sporting activity in our country."

These championships follow on from the city hosting matches in the European Football Championships 2012 and an announcement that Wroclaw is the chosen host for the World Games 2017.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS - AMENDMENT

Please note that Regulation K6, which is part of the player eligibility section, has been amended by the addition of an additional final sentence, with immediate effect. The updated Regulation is here:

*K.6. In all cases where a player's eligibility is in doubt, the responsible MNF must submit supporting evidence to the WSF Office at least **21 days** before the submission deadline so that the player's eligibility can be reviewed and a decision made by the WSF Championships Committee. MNFs, Team Managers and individual entrants must be able to produce proof of eligibility and/or age if requested by the CAP or WSF Championships Committee.*

*WSF, at its' discretion, may require further information to be provided in respect of eligibility or age by any available means before permitting inclusion of a player.*

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## COMPLETE COURT ACCREDITATION (CCA)



As announced last year, new courts built after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 are required to register for CCA for them to be eligible for use at international events, such as PSA and WSA tournaments and WSF World Championships.

It is also intended that regional and national federations will also only play their events on new courts that are CCA registered too, thus all competition on new courts will take place with a high standard of playing conditions assured.

Companies that have all their major court components Accredited can become WSF Complete Court Accredited companies (CCA), and all new-build courts built by any installer using only Accredited components can be registered as CCA courts.

Courts will be registered too and be listed on the worldwide registered court directory. Look out for them and the certificates that will be displayed at the locations.

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## STANDARD RACKETBALL RULES

Proposed standardised rules for Racketball are on the agenda of the WSF AGM being held in Stockholm on 30 September. If agreed they will be posted on the WSF website. While they will not be mandatory for general recreational play, they will provide a set that new Racketball countries can use when introducing the game.

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## WSF APPROVED BALLS



## LEADING STARS BACK WORLD SQUASH DAY'S OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN



Founder Alan Thatcher reports:

World Squash Day has been an ideal barometer for testing the global squash community's support for the WSF's 2020 Olympic bid. At the time of writing, more than 12,000 players have signed up to play in the biggest squash match in history and thousands more are expected to join in the fun on Saturday 20 October.

World Squash Day has a 2020 theme, with clubs invited to stage matches featuring two teams of any size, but how about 20-a-side, representing Team Squash and Team 2020. Every club score will count towards one overall global result.

The passion and enthusiasm of the game's leading players has been infectious, with world champions Nick Matthew and Nicol David, current PSA number one James Willstrop and Egyptian maestro Ramy Ashour all working hard to support the bid.

During the London Olympics, all four were busy pushing the case for squash to join the greatest sporting show on earth. Willstrop wrote three hugely entertaining blog posts on the Huffington Post news website, expressing a squash player's respect for some amazing athletic pursuits by a variety of Olympic champions and revealing the frustration and despair of being reduced to the role of a spectator and not a gold medal-hunting competitor.

David, meanwhile, elected to try a different Olympic pursuit every day, and tweeted a series of entertaining pictures to her 26,100 followers.

Matthew and Ashour were also busy on FaceBook and tweeting throughout the Games. Matthew would have loved the opportunity to add an Olympic gold to his two World Open titles, especially on home soil, and Ashour would have relished the chance to win a rare gold medal for Egypt.

### Nick goes further.....

Matthew went the extra mile during an England training session last week by arranging a photo-call to back the 2020 campaign and he also had the perfect platform to amplify his Olympic message when he was featured on BBC TV's The One Show. Matthew's enthusiasm is particularly engaging and his home club in Sheffield, Hallamshire, has always been a big supporter of World Squash Day.

When you see this level of unselfish support from four leading players who are unlikely to benefit personally if squash does win the vote for 2020

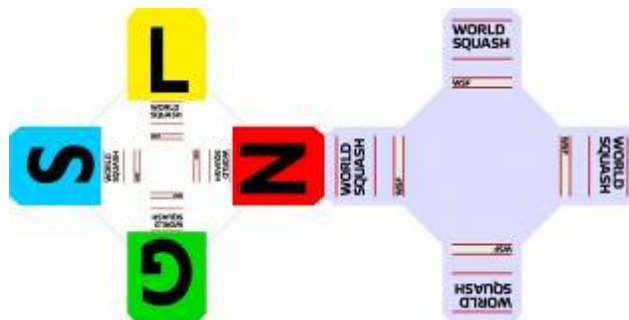
(although Ramy may disagree) it certainly helps to inspire the team behind World Squash Day to support the bid as much as we can.

I would like to publicly express my thanks to Vicky Clark for coming up with the idea for this year's World Squash Day campaign, and to Steve Cubbins for building and formatting a phenomenal website [www.worldsquashday.com](http://www.worldsquashday.com) that provides all the information and free downloads required for any club or association to stage a successful event to back the bid.

World Squash Day: [www.worldsquashday.com](http://www.worldsquashday.com)

Back the Bid: [www.squash2020.com](http://www.squash2020.com)

## THREE REFEREE SYSTEM



WSF Regions, National Federations, PSA, WSA, WSF Referees and Assessors have been reminded that they need to arrange consoles or cards in good time for referees at their events. Hand signals have been phased out because cards/consoles are better for both players and referees, and also help present the sport more professionally.

For general information, they are required to be used as follows:

PSA and WSA World Tours - along with WSF World Championships - mandate that referee decision cards and electronic consoles are used at major events, rather than hand signals.

The events covered initially are PSA World Series, WSA World Series and Gold, and all WSF World Championships. While there will be exceptions – where it is discretionary rather than mandatory, as notified, e.g. qualification rounds – the joint intention is that the use of hand signals used by the three referees to communicate their decisions will be entirely replaced by the standard size/colour four-spoke referee decision cards and approved electronic systems.

The cooperation of all national federations, promoters and referees would be really welcomed so that the system is used uniformly.

Standard cards can be ordered at:

[http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?page\\_id=4938](http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?page_id=4938)

## WSF APPROVED RACKETS



## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

### WSF World Junior Squash Championships, Doha, Qatar

#### Men's

final:

[1] Marwan El Shorbagy (EGY) bt [2] Mohamed Abouelghar (EGY) 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8

semi-finals:

[1] Marwan El Shorbagy (EGY) bt [3/4] Danish Atlas Khan (PAK) 12-10, 11-7, 5-11, 11-4

[2] Mohamed Abouelghar (EGY) bt [3/4] Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry (EGY) 2-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9, 14-12



#### Women's

final: [1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [3/4] Yathreb Adel (EGY) 10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 11-2

semi-finals: [1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [5/8] Mariam Ibrahim Metwally (EGY) 11-2, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6

[3/4] Yathreb Adel (EGY) bt [2] Emily Whitlock (ENG) 11-8, 13-11, 11-7

Top seeds Marwan El Shorbagy and Nour El Sherbini celebrated a notable Egyptian double in Doha by becoming world junior squash champions for the second time - El Shorbagy winning the men's title to retain the trophy he won for the first time last year, and El Sherbini, in her third final in four years, reclaiming the U19 crown she first won in 2009 aged just 13.

El Sherbini was more than tested for two and a half games at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in the Qatar capital by surprise finalist Yathreb Adel - but the world number seven from Alexandria eased ahead from the middle of the third game, taking 18 of the last 20 points to clinch the title 10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 11-2 after 42 minutes.

The men's match was a repeat of the all-Egyptian 2011 final - El Shorbagy taking on close friend Mohamed Abouelghar, the No2 seed. Again, the opening games were evenly contested, El Shorbagy taking a 2/1 lead before coming back from 7-1 down in the fourth to retain his title and emulate his brother Mohamed in being a double world junior champion.

#### Men's Junior Team Championship

Final:

[1] EGYPT bt [2] PAKISTAN 2/0

Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry bt Syed Ali Shah Bokhari 7-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-6

Marwan El Shorbagy bt Nasir Iqbal 11-9, 11-7, 11-6 (39m)

3rd place play-off:

[4] INDIA bt [3] ENGLAND 2/0

Kush Kumar bt Richie Fallows 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 13-11 (46m)

Mahesh Manganonkar bt Ollie Holland 6-11, 11-0, 11-6, 11-7 (54m)



In the fifth successive meeting in the climax of the biennial event, it was favourites Egypt who again triumphed over second seeds Pakistan in the final of the Doha WSA Men's World Junior Team Squash Championship at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in the Qatar capital Doha to retain the title.

India claimed their highest-ever finish after upsetting third seeds and former champions England 2/0.

### World Masters Squash Championships, Birmingham, England



#### WOMEN'S

**O35** Final: [1] Sabine Schoene (GER) bt [2] Wendy Maitland Jones (SCO) 11-3, 11-4, 9-11, 11-3. semi-finals: Schoene bt [3/4] Karen Meakins (BAR) 11-4, 5-11, 11-8, 11-3, Maitland Jones bt [3/4] Laura Mylotte (IRL) 11-3, 11-9, 3-11, 12-10

**O40** Final: [3/4] Simone Korell (GER) bt Linda Shannon (RSA) 11-8, 11-7, 11-5. semi-finals: Korell bt [1] Senga Macfie (SCO) 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 12-10, Shannon bt Yoriko Michishita (JPN) 12-10, 11-7, 11-5

**O45** Final: [1] Michelle Martin (AUS) bt [2] Sarah Nelson (AUS) 11-8, 5-11, 11-6, 11-6. semi-finals: Martin bt Louise Lefebvre (CAN) 11-3, 11-7, 11-5, Nelson bt [3/4] Nicola Horn (ENG) 11-6, 11-6, 11-3

**O50** Final: Susan Lawrence (JAM) bt [5/8] Theresa Elliott (ZIM) 11-8, 13-11, 11-8. semi-finals: Elliott bt [1] Mandy Akin (ENG) 12-10, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, Lawrence bt [2] Lisa O'Grady (RSA) 11-3, 11-6, 12-10

**O55** Final: [1] Julie Field (ENG) bt [3/4] Anne Richards (AUS) 11-7, 4-11, 3-11, 12-10, 11-9. semi-finals: Field bt [3/4] Karen Hume (ENG) 9-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-5, Richards bt Jacky Gardner (ENG) 7-11, 9-11, 12-10, 11-4, 14-12

**O60** Final: [1] Sue Volkze (AUS) bt [3/4] Faith Sinclair (SCO) 11-4, 10-12, 7-11, 11-5, 11-2. semi-finals: Volkze bt [3/4] Sue Vine (ENG) 11-7, 11-4, 11-9, Sinclair bt [2] Laura Ramsay (CAN) 5-11, 11-1, 15-13, 11-6

**O65** Final: Ann Manley (ENG) bt [3/4] Bett Dryhurst (ENG) 11-7, 12-10, 12-10. semi-finals: Manley bt [3/4] Jean Grainger (RSA) 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 7-11, 11-4, Dryhurst bt Kaye Jackson (NZL) 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 11-4

**O70** Final: [1] Barbara Sanderson (IRL) bt [2] Glenda Erasmus (RSA) 10-12, 11-2, 11-5, 11-5

#### **MEN'S**

**O35** Final: [2] Renan Lavigne (FRA) bt [3/4] Stefan Leifels (GER) 14-12, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8. semi-finals: Leifels bt [1] Omar Elborolossy (EGY) 6-11, 11-6, 6-11, 14-12, 11-7, Lavigne bt [5/8] Mirko Pareccini (ITA) 11-3, 11-5, 11-3

**O40** Final: [2] Craig Rowland (AUS) bt [3/4] Nick Taylor (ENG) 11-6, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7. semi-finals: Taylor bt [1] Derek Ryan (IRL) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7, Rowland bt [3/4] Michael Tootill (RSA) 14-12, 3-11, 11-6, 11-5

**O45** Final: [1] Craig van der Wath (RSA) bt [5/8] Yawar Abbas (ENG) 11-9, 11-5, 11-6. semi-finals: Van der Wath bt [5/8] Frank Ellis (SCO) 10-12, 11-7, 11-6, 11-3. Abbas bt Jean-Jacques Pineau (FRA) 11-7, 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-6

**O50** Final: [3/4] Willie Hosey (IRL) bt Dominic Hughes (USA) 11-1, 11-7, 11-4. semi-finals: Hughes bt [5/8] Zainal Abidin Ab. Malik (SIN) 7-11, 11-9, 4-11, 12-10, 11-8. Hosey bt [2] Trevor Wilkinson (RSA) 11-5, 11-9, 11-4

**O55** Final: [2] Pierr Roodt (RSA) bt [1] Peter Alexander (ENG) 11-6, 11-8, 11-8. semi-finals: Alexander bt [3/4] Udo Kahl (GER) 1-11, 11-8, 11-0, 11-6, Roodt bt [5/8] Rustom Bativala (ENG) 11-2, 11-2, 11-4

**O60** Final: [9/16] John Macrury (CAY) bt [1] Keith Jones (ENG) 3-11, 12-10, 11-1, 11-3. semi-finals: Jones bt [3/4] Moussa Helal (ENG) 17-15, 11-13, 11-8, 11-7, Macrury bt [3/4] Gordon Daniel (RSA) 11-9, 11-8, 11-3

**O65** Final: [1] Philip Ayton (ENG) bt [5/8] Roy Plumstead (RSA) 11-5, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9. semi-finals: Ayton bt [3/4] Rodney Boswell (ENG) 11-7, 11-6, 11-5, Plumstead bt [3/4] Chris Goodbourn (ENG) 11-4, 3-11, 8-11, 11-1, 11-7

**O70** Final: [1] Adrian Wright (ENG) bt [2] Brian Phillips (WAL) 11-6, 11-7, 7-11, 11-2. semi-finals: Wright bt [3/4] Mo Khalifa (ENG) 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, Phillips bt [3/4] Michael Gough (USA) 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-9

**O75** Final: [2] Patrick Kirton (ENG) bt [3/4] Malcolm Gilham (ENG) 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 11-5. semi-finals: Gilham bt [1] John Woodliffe (ENG) 14-12, 11-6, 13-11, Kirton bt [3/4] Lance Kinder (ENG) 11-6, 11-7, 11-2

**O80** Final: [1] Peter Fahrenheim (RSA) bt [3/4] Alex Hamilton (SCO) 11-2, 11-2, 11-7. semi-finals: Fahrenheim bt [3/4] Diarmuid Swan (CAN) 11-4, 11-8, 11-9

[3/4] Alex Hamilton (SCO) bt Michael McKean (ENG) 10-12, 11-6, 11-7, 11-5

#### **Fahrenheim Wins Historic World Masters Crown in Birmingham**

South Africa's Peter Fahrenheim won a record-equalling fourth World Masters Squash title - and became the sport's oldest world champion in the process - when he triumphed in the inaugural Men's Over-80 event in the World Squash Federation championships in Birmingham, England.

More than 750 players from 47 countries competed across 18 different events from Men's and Women's Over-35 championships to the Men's Over-80 event - with South Africa and Australia each claiming three titles but hosts England celebrating five successes in finals on a new state-of-the-art all-glass ASB show-court erected in the Bramall Music Building at the University of Birmingham.

But it was Fahrenheim - who will celebrate his 82nd birthday at the end of the year - who was the toast of Birmingham after beating fellow octogenarian Alex Hamilton, from Scotland, 11-2, 11-2, 11-7 in the 14-minute Over-80 final.

Amongst the array of events and players the Women's O45 was an all-Australian affair with former World Open champion Michelle Martin managing to clinch a 3/1 victory against team-mate and friend Sarah Nelson.

The 45-year-old former world number one from Sydney commented: "It's always great to win but it's amazing to catch up with some old friends. Some of them I've not seen in years so that's the best part for me."

There were a few surprise winners with unseeded Jamaican Susan Lawrence coming out on top in her final against Zimbabwean Theresa Elliott in the Women's O50 event, and John Macrury of the Cayman Islands beating home favourite Keith Jones in the Men's O60.

#### **A GALAXY OF STARS**

Some great champions were snapped at the Australian Open in Canberra recently. Nicol David was competing, former great champions Sarah Fitz-Gerald and Vicki Cardwell there, and Heather McKay, winner of a mere sixteen British Open titles and unbeaten for the whole period was a guest of honour. The other top Australian is Liz Irving, former world number two and David's coach.

An historic shot in itself..... if only Michelle Martin and Susan Devoy had been in town too!!



*Back: Irving, Front: Fitz-Gerald, David, Cardwell, McKay*

#### **WSF WORLD DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND WSF AGM – LAST CHANCE!**



Details of these conferences, the WSF World Development Conference and WSF AGM and AGM Conference have previously been circulated. They take place in the Stockholm, Sweden, with the Development Conference taking place on 26, 27 and 28 (morning)

September, with the AGM Conference on 28 and 29 September followed by the WSF AGM on 30 September. (On the morning of 28 the two conferences will be combined with topics of joint interest. Reservations for both conferences should be made via the website at:

<http://iof3.idrottonline.se/SvenskaSquashforbundet/WSFConference/>

### THREE SHOW-COURTS FOR NIMES

In a unique development for world squash, action in the 2012 WSF Women's World Team Championship in France in November will take place on three new state-of-the-art all-glass show courts.

The exciting initiative by the Fédération Française de Squash will ensure that, for the first time in the event's 33-year history, all the teams participating in the event should experience the opportunity of playing on all-glass courts. In previous world team championships, most of the action has taken place on club courts, with only a few teams playing on a single four-glass-walled court leading up to its use for the event's final rounds.

The 2012 Women's World Team Championship will be staged in France for the first time - at the La Parnasse Arena and the eight-court Squash Des Costieres Club, in Nimes, from 12-17 November.

On the completion of the championship, the all-glass courts will be dismantled and re-erected in the country's three national training centres - one in Creteil in Paris, one in Aix-en-Provence and the third in Le Mans.

"Our investment in three ASB all-glass show courts is a major initiative for the Federation - not just to use in two world championships in France, which we are very proud to host, but also for the long-term to use in our three national training centres," said FFS President Jacques Fontaine. "Both the Women's World Teams in Nimes, then next year the Men's World Team Championship in Mulhouse, will provide major promotional opportunities for squash in our country.

"But the fact that the courts can be used in different locations is one of the key attributes of moveable, all-glass show courts like these," Fontaine added. "Thus the initial investment in two world championships will provide a legacy which will give a major boost to the development of the sport in the future."

N Ramachandran, President of the World Squash Federation, said: "This will be a landmark championship. Three state-of-art show courts, so that spectators and broadcast have an even greater opportunity to revel in the atmosphere and competitiveness of our Women's World Team Championship, mean that November in Nimes will be very special."

Official event website: [www.worldwomensquash-nimes2012.fr](http://www.worldwomensquash-nimes2012.fr)



### MICHELLE OBAMA VISITS SQUASHSMARTS



"Imagine the First Lady of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and two dozen prominent mayors from across the U.S. walking into your house of business...then throw in a few dozen Secret Service, White House staffers, media and nearly 350 local VIP's and guests. It's easy to get ahead of yourself!"

That was the experience of Stephen Gregg, Executive Director of SquashSmarts, an afterschool program in Philadelphia that combines the sport of squash with academic tutoring and mentoring of under-served, urban youth to develop self-esteem and discipline through academic, athletic and personal achievement.

"SquashSmarts' business is helping kids. So when the White House and the Philadelphia Mayor's office call to give you three-days-notice that Mrs. Obama would like to use your facility to promote her national youth initiative, our team was ecstatic."

First Lady Michelle Obama visited SquashSmarts to promote her Let's Move! health and fitness youth initiative. Let's Move provides urban youth with innovative, low cost, and space-efficient ways to get active and stay fit, and the program's message echoes SquashSmarts mission to keep kids in shape in school and on track for a healthy life.

SquashSmarts is a member of the National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA), which oversees community-based urban squash and education programs across the United States. NUSEA is U.S. Squash's official charity, and a portion of proceeds from the U.S. Open Squash Championships, hosted in Philadelphia, also benefit Urban Squash organizations.

Gregg spent a few moments briefing Mrs. Obama, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, and Philadelphia's Mayor Michael Nutter on the benefits of squash and the national urban squash and education movement.

"Mrs. Obama commented to me that she first encountered squash while attending Princeton as an undergraduate, not unlike how many people might come across our game," said Mr. Gregg.

"Getting to personally meet the First Lady was a humbling experience. It made me acutely aware of how enormous youth development is in this country, and how well aligned SquashSmarts' mission is with Mrs. Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative.

"It reinforced for me how favourably SquashSmarts and the NUSEA programs stack up in terms our

effectiveness in altering the course of young people's lives," he said.

"The SquashSmarts boys and girls loved the experience. Our staff did a great job preparing them, telling them what to expect, how to imagine a big crowd, how to work through nerves – not unlike a big squash match.

Report courtesy US Squash  
Photograph: Julieanne Harris

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## UGANDA SQUASH GETS INTO SCHOOLS

Uganda Squash Rackets Association (USRA) report that they have embarked upon a development programme which features a series of sessions with children from a number of schools in the central part of Kampala for a three-month period, after which a detailed review will be carried out by USRA and the teachers responsible for sports in each of the participating schools.

Following this review a revised programme will be drawn up and sponsorship will be sought. It is hoped that the geographical catchment area for the participants would be expanded in future phases, with the possibility of running a course in the town of Jinja.

The development programme would take place during working hours at the Kampala Club, which has three courts.

USRA are hoping to get approximately 20 pupils (aged 10 to 15) to attend each session, with the coach and two assistants leading the trainees as they carry out basic drills covering such topics as ball control, balance, court etiquette and hand-eye-ball co-ordination. An introduction to basic sports' fitness and first aid is planned which will be of wider use to participants in the other sports activities in which they participate.

There will be twelve sessions per month, with a total of 60 pupils being involved in the initial phase. Each trainee would attend a session each week, for a period of 10 weeks. Up to 10 schools are hoped to send youngsters wishing to give squash a try. We are keen to ensure that girls have strong representation amongst the trainees, and are intending that one of the three coaching assistants will be a woman.

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## USING A SIDE WALL!



With a nod to a Team GB Olympic Games poster this design by Karla Pett.

## THIERRY LINCOU RETIRES



Frenchman Thierry Lincou, the first continental European to top the men's world squash rankings, has announced his retirement from the PSA World Tour.

Winner of the world title in 2004, twice a European champion and a record 11-time French national champion, Lincou has enjoyed a remarkable career. In his 44th Tour final appearance in April this year, he won the last of his 23 Tour titles at the Bluenose Classic in Canada - on the eve of his 36th birthday! First topping the PSA world rankings in January 2004, Lincou went on to reign supreme throughout 2005. In April 2011, he celebrated 10 unbroken years in the world top 10 - one of only a handful of players in the sport's history to achieve this incredible feat.

Originally from La Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean, Lincou has been based in Marseille for several years - but last week arrived in Boston, USA, where he is about to start a new career, including coaching promising American junior players.

If there was ever a player for whom the term 'class act' was made for it is him. A gentleman on court, an ambassador in every sense off it. We wish him and his family all the very best in their next chapter of life.

.....and Iskandar too

Mohd Azlan Iskandar has also announced his Tour retirement with immediate effect. The Sarawak-born Malaysian 30-year-old has enjoyed a distinguished career reaching 24 PSA World Tour finals and winning 14 Tour titles - including three Malaysian Open crowns between 2004 and 2010. The Asian Games gold medallist in 2010 and twice winner of the Asian Championship, Iskandar celebrated a career-high world No10 ranking in March 2011.

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## SEPTEMBER RANKINGS



The top five positions in the September Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings remain unchanged, but Nicolas Mueller makes history by becoming the first Swiss player to achieve a world top 20 ranking by moving up three places to No20.

It was two years that the 23-year-old from Zurich became the highest-ranked player from Switzerland after breaking into the top 40. The former European Junior champion, who became a professional in 2005, has already notched up seven PSA World Tour titles from nine final appearances.

England's James Willstrop extends his lead ahead of fellow countryman Nick Matthew to head the list for the eighth month since January.

Frenchman Gregory Gaultier holds onto third place - ahead of Egypt's Ramy Ashour, who successfully defended his Australian Open title last month, at No.4.

1	James Willstrop	ENG
2	Nick Matthew	ENG
3	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
4	Ramy Ashour	EGY
5	Karim Darwish	EGY
6	Amr Shabana	EGY
7	Peter Barker	ENG
8	Mohamed El Shorbagy	EGY
9	Laurens Jan Anjema	NED
10	Omar Mosaad	EGY



The September WSA ranking has seen Alison Waters returning to the Top-10. Following a year-long layoff with an Achilles injury, the former world No.3 had slipped to No.44 in the world. Now the Englishwoman has stormed back to occupy the No.9 slot.

Also in the Top-10, Kasey Brown moved up two places to No.8 after reaching the Australian Open quarters, whilst Laura Massaro leapfrogs fellow Englishwoman Jenny Duncalf for the first time in her career, to occupy No.3.

Rachael Grinham has slipped out of the Top10 for the first time in twelve years following disappointing finishes in the Australian and Matamata Opens, with Low Wee Wern moving up to No.10, her highest ever world ranking.

1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Raneem El Weleily	EGY
3	Laura Massaro	ENG
4	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
5	Madeline Perry	IRL
6	Annie Au	HKG
7	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
8	Kasey Brown	AUS
9	Alison Waters	ENG
10	Low Wee Wern	MAS

## SNIPPETS

### WSA China Open Upgrades

The WSA 2012 Lujiazuie Finance City China Squash Open has upgraded to a Gold 50 event.

Hosted by the Shanghai New District, the event is one of many in Asia that has seen an increase in prize money in recent months. It will take place from the 23-28th October, following on from the Macau Open Silver 25 and will see a host of the world's top players battle it out for a total prize fund of \$55,000.

### Team Event for Nanjing

A Team event is now confirmed on the squash programme for the 2013 Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China (16th - 24th Aug 2013).

### Greg and Girl Get Boy

Congratulations to French star Gregory Gaultier and his partner on the birth of a son, Nolan.

## More rackets get sent



More African countries are taking the opportunity to receive a supply of squash rackets courtesy of the Rackets for Africa programme. Started by Riley Watrous in Calgary, Canada, the fruits of his collection of hundreds of used rackets have seen stocks sent to

many countries to help them with their development programmes. They include Kenya, Congo, South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

### Junior Jason Shows the Way

Victorian under-15 player Jason Holmes was so eager to support the Olympic bid that the young Australian organised a local squash tournament and raised A\$400 towards the bid costs. He has shown the way, and we hope that not only do we succeed in getting squash added to the programme of the 2020 Olympic Games but that Jason gets to play the event too! Thanks, Jason.

### Historical Exhibition

If you are interested in the history of squash do take a look at website [www.squashcollection.com](http://www.squashcollection.com). Australian Masters player Bert Armstrong has a museum alongside and indeed even using the roof of his court with a matchless display of rackets used since the game started plus very much more in the way of squash memorabilia – a great collection!

### San Diego Shines

Access Youth Academy in San Diego, USA, provides a structured after-school environment for San Diego's underserved youth with a programme comprising academic tutoring, college preparation, health and wellness training, community service and physical fitness through squash. This year it is holding Squash in the Park on 3rd/4th, November featuring the first glass squash court to be placed in San Diego. Centred in Petco Park in the heart of downtown, the glass court will be a brightly lit centrepiece to their weekend. A great initiative.

### David is on Fitz-Gerald's trail

If Nicol David can win September's CIMB Malaysian Open she would overtake the number of Tour titles won by Sarah Fitz-Gerald – 62 of them. David would then stand ahead of both Fitz-Gerald and Michelle Martin for sure, and possibly great Kiwi Susan Devoy too, though her full set of 80's Tour titles are uncertain. A project waiting to happen!

### Proud Pallikal

Just being one among the 25 athletes who have done the nation proud was a great feeling' said Indian Dipika Pallikal who received the Arjuna Award from the Indian government, making her the first squash player to receive the prestigious recognition, after a period in which she won three Tour events and reached the semi finals of the Australian Open.





OFFICIAL WSF MAGAZINE



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