

# Instant Update

**WORLD  
SQUASH**

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**WSF**

**To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

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

## FROM HEADQUARTERS



The world of squash came to the Dutch city of Rotterdam. The World Opens have once more been as compelling and exciting as ever. The WSF Management meetings, conference days and AGM have come and gone. PSA and WISPA held their AGMs, and all manner of other get-togethers

took place.

Decisions were taken, conversations and discussions helped understanding, but most of all there was a great air of togetherness coming from a passion for the sport and a strong desire to go forward in unity.

The WSF Conference theme was very much marketing and communication, spreading the word. Nurturing the media, embracing innovation, development all figured. We were able to not only hear about the PSA's great progress with TV filming, but the delegates could see the presentation for themselves across the canal at the Luxor Theatre where the final rounds took place. The NextSquash team led by Tommy Berden staged the World Opens splendidly, with the theatre being a great arena for the action.

Of course our bid to gain a place in the Olympic Games is gathering force and Rotterdam gave us a great opportunity to introduce Mike Lee, Chairman of Vero Communications our bid management company, to a large group of players at a special meeting to brief them about the bid. He then made a presentation at the WSF Conference to give the delegates a similar update.

As for the WSF AGM, details later in this review.

There has been a lot of activity in the last couple of months – some of which you will read about here, also a great deal of administration, liaison and more. It has also been a busy time for the Tours, with more events to come, and that means more chances to see the excellent PSA filming output.

Added to that, work at all levels of the game from development though to elite by regions, nations and their constituent states / counties etc.

A flavour of all of this is included in this Update.

## WSF PUTS INNOVATION AT HEART OF 2020 OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN

WSF President Ramachandran stressed that innovation will be a core element of Squash's campaign for inclusion into the 2020 Olympic Games when he met the Olympic and business media in early November to introduce our bid. He also outlined the significant growth the sport has achieved in recent years and some of the major enhancements that have been introduced since squash's most recent campaign for Olympic inclusion for 2016.

President Ramachandran said: "We know we have to show the International Olympic Committee that squash is a fantastic product, and that we are not scared to innovate. Over the past few years the sport has progressed significantly with the introduction of SquashTV, "Video Review" technology, new and exciting showcourts with revolutionary lighting and an international ambassador programme. It is vital over this next campaign that we communicate these innovations to the IOC to show just how far the sport has come, and what the exciting plans are for the future of our sport.

"Squash is a growing, global sport played by 20 million men and women on more than 50 thousand courts in 185 countries. We have thriving men's and women's professional tours - more than 500 players from 74 nations compete on the men's tour and over 350 on the women's. Prize money is growing, as are the number of events across the world, and our global calendar would be a fantastic promotional platform for Olympic squash. It really is an exciting time for our sport."

World Women's No 3 Madeline Perry today added her



weight to the Squash 2020 Olympic Campaign by becoming the first player to sign a letter pledging her support to Squash 2020. Perry said: "Squash is a huge sport and to have the chance to represent my country

on the world's greatest sporting stage would be amazing, not just for me, but for all players around the world." Ramy Ashour meanwhile, expressed his disappointment at being unable to attend and add his signature as he had intended, forced home with a hamstring injury.

## THE WORLD MET IN ROTTERDAM



The theme of the WSF Conference which preceded the 41st WSF AGM in Rotterdam was *Spreading the Word*, so presentations on communication and marketing were well to the fore.

From within the sport, World Squash Media Director explained to delegates the importance of national federations nurturing their media and photographer Steve Line detailed the need to take and supply good photos to media to illustrate the media output. Social media specialist Brett Hasell gave the meeting a run down on how Facebook / Twitter can be added to the national federation armouries, and Andy Friedlander who delivers events across a diverse selection of sports gave an insight into how other sports gain exposure via promotion and presentation.

Then, to show the best of marketing and presentation, Norman Farthing, Director of the hugely successful Men's World Team Championship in Germany detailed the ingredients that had made it so.

Also in the shop-window were reports given by PSA and WISPA on the current Tours; and to supplement an update on the very successful PSA filming system Lee Beachill gave some background into the operation of the video review operation that has been recently introduced.

To add to them, Dr Bharatinder Singh reminded delegates of the omnipresent need to educate players about the paramount importance of staying dope-free, while Khalid Ali, Secretary General of the European Sports Security Association, communicated the danger of illegal wagering.

As ever, development was to the fore and, in addition to reports on initiatives in New Zealand and Belgium, the Sport for All programme was outlined. And to illustrate that inflation is not always a bad thing a Go-Squash plastic 'fun' court was inflated in the conference room!

The final report was the Olympic bid update from WSF bid consultants Vero, given by Chairman Mike Lee, whose insights into the process - along with background from other bids he has been a part of - gave the delegates a wealth of information as squash goes forward with our own one.

As for the AGM itself, because 2011 is not an election year and plans to update the constitution, voting methodology and related matters are also scheduled for next year there were no 'headline' decisions. Included in the minutes will be that regional federations will now have a right to place motions, that PSA and WISPA expand protected dates for regional / national events slightly, that the WSF membership fees 2012 are held at the current level. Significant, but no headlines.

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## DAVID & MATTHEW RETAIN WORLD OPEN TITLES



Malaysian superstar Nicol David collected a record sixth Women's World Open title at the Luxor Theatre in Rotterdam with a supreme final performance to dismiss second seed Jenny Duncalf in straight games in just under half an hour.

The English world number two didn't do anything wrong, made very few unforced errors, but it was

hard to see where her points were going to come from, such was the control that the Malaysian - moving and hitting supremely well - was exerting on the match and on her opponent.

"She was ridiculously good today," admitted Duncalf. "I wanted to stay on there as long as possible, but she had other ideas..."

David was impressed too: "This is my best performance ever. I didn't expect anything but I wanted it so badly; I didn't want anybody to put their hands on that trophy but me. I had great support in the crowd, they were magnificent, I had my parents, Liz, and a big team of supporters from Squash City in Amsterdam that came to support me.



Meanwhile, in a much harder match Nick Matthew, who last year became the first Englishman to win the World Open title, today became the first player for 15 years to defend it when he beat Frenchman Gregory Gaultier in a stunning 92-minute final, before a packed crowd at the New Luxor Theatre.

"Being called 'double World Open Champion' – it sounds amazing," said the jubilant Matthew after receiving his trophy – and consigning the Frenchman to his third runner-up finish. "I can't tell you how tough playing Greg is. We've been playing since we were 15 or 16. I have two or three years on him, but it shows how tough he is that even at 16, he was pushing and beating me sometimes when I was 18. He's younger than me and he will get his name on this trophy, no doubt."

The event, superbly staged by NextSquash at the Victoria Club before moving on to the theatre, attracted very large voluble crowds and plaudits from all those who spectated. The setting, the presentation, the ASB Showcourt and hospitality for players and officials alike was second to none; and like the Men's World Team Championship in Paderborn, Germany two months earlier, has raised the bar for future championship hosts.

## WSF LAUNCHES 'BACK THE BID 2020'

The World Squash Federation has launched *Back the Bid 2020* to tap into the huge support players, fans and corporate organisations are showing towards Squash's campaign to get the sport into the Olympic Games.

**WORLD  
SQUASH**

back the bid

WSF

The new WSF concept will also support development initiatives to attract more young people into the sport, who could aspire to compete in the Games.

"With individuals and companies expressing an interest in playing a part in supporting our Olympic campaign, we felt now was the right time to provide an opportunity for them to do so through *Back the Bid 2020*", said WSF President N Ramachandran.

"I have been struck during the years of my Presidency by what an enormous reservoir of goodwill there is for our sport, especially from our huge playing community across the world. They all are keenly interested in where squash is and what we are trying to achieve and I'm often asked 'how might I help?'.



"*Back the Bid 2020* is designed to provide exactly that opportunity," added Ramachandran.

"Inclusion in the Olympic Games is a huge opportunity for Squash, especially for youngsters who will come into the sport - and the feedback we have had from fans world-wide since launching our 2020 Olympic campaign in July has been phenomenal. Many just want to play their part and *Back the Bid 2020* will enable them to do so."

Everybody backing the bid will automatically become a *Friend of World Squash* the ongoing linked WSF programme.

For further details of Back the Bid visit [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org)

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## IT'S A WISPA.....

At the WISPA AGM in Rotterdam it was agreed that from 1st January the name of the women's player body changes to Women's Squash Association (WSA). Three players were newly elected to the Board at the meeting – Emma Beddoes (Eng), Aisling Blake (Ire) and Melody Francis (Aus).

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## QUOTE OF THE YEAR!

Nicol David in Rotterdam: "My World Open titles mean the world to me, but I would gladly trade the six of them for just one Olympic Medal..."

## FRITZ FINISHES

For over thirty years Fritz Borchert has peered through glass walls, snapped presentations and generally photographed squash events across the globe from his English base. Now, despite being more than capable of dragging his equipment and clambering around, he has said that the World open in Rotterdam was his last international event.

We don't think it will be the genial snappers last but, in case it really is, we wish him all the very best for his squash retirement while thanking him for supplying many of the memorable squash shots over the years.



Pictured (L to R) are fellow media men Rod Gilmour, Ian McKenzie, Fritz and Steve Line.

## PLAYER BRIEFING AT WORLD OPEN

During the World Opens the WSF took the opportunity to brief the player associations on progress of the bid for an Olympic place. Mike Lee, Chairman of Vero Communications, the WSF bid communication partners, was in Rotterdam to do so.

Following his presentation he answered general questions, and is seen here, 2nd left, with WSF President N Ramachandran (centre), listening to world number one Nicol David, while World Junior Champions Nour El Tayeb and PanAm Games winner Samantha Teran look on.



## WSF OPENS OFFICE IN LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND



sport based there and to be close to the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee.

The WSF now has an office in the *Maison Du Sport International* in Lausanne, Switzerland, to work alongside the many other International Federations of

Welcoming the development, WSF President N. Ramachandran, said: "Since becoming President of the World Squash Federation, I have visited Lausanne on many occasions. However, given our campaign for squash to become part of the Olympic sports programme, it now makes sense for the WSF to have a base alongside so many of our colleagues in the Olympic movement.

"Representatives of WSF and the wider Squash family will be spending an increasing amount of time in Lausanne over the next two years as we step up our campaign for Olympic inclusion. Thanks to provisions made by the City, Canton and IOC, we will now have an office that will make it much easier to reach out to the Olympic family.

"This is an important step for Squash and one which further demonstrates our commitment to becoming part of the Olympic Sports Programme from 2020."

## SQUASH HITS THE FRONT PAGE WITH SPORT BUSINESS AS 2020 CAMPAIGN GATHERS PACE

Following on from the success of the WSF Men's World Team Championship held in Paderborn, Germany, the sport of squash has received a further boost in September by featuring on the front cover of *Sport Business International Magazine*.

With a monthly readership of 200,000 spread across 40 countries, Sport Business International is one of the leading publications within the sport business industry and came as a major boost to squash's campaign for inclusion into the Olympic Programme in 2020.



The five-page feature examined the growth of squash, both on and off the court, highlighting the growing commercial interest of the sport and innovative broadcast technologies now showcased in both the men's and women's tours.

Leading squash representatives interviewed in Sport Business included Ingrid Lofdahl-Bentzer, Chair and acting CEO of the Women's International Squash Players' Association (WISPA), Alex Gough, CEO of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), and Andrew Shelley, WSF CEO.

Speaking of the feature Andrew Shelley, said: "We are delighted that Sport Business has chosen to showcase Squash in their September issue. These are exciting times and the Squash Family is constantly looking at new and innovative ways of showcasing the sport.

"As we embark on our quest for inclusion into the Olympic Sports Programme, we know that we have a sport that will bring a new dimension to the Olympic Games and are building on the lessons learned from previous campaigns to emphasise our attributes along with showcasing our fine young athletes."

## REFEREE HAND SIGNALS TO BE PHASED OUT

From the start of 2012 the PSA and WISPA Tours along with WSF World Championships are mandating that referee decision cards and electronic consoles are used at major events, rather than hand signals.

The events covered initially will be PSA World Series, WISPA World Series and Gold, and all WSF World Championships and, 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 cards prevent players seeing the decision of individual referees, while the electronic console adds a new dimension to both the decision and its display for spectator and broadcast audiences on all-glass show courts.

To buy:



### **Cards:**

Go to [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org) and follow the link from the home page.

**Consoles:** WSF have approved the ASB TopSquash Three Referee System. Go to <http://asbsquash.com/squash>

[-court-renovation/topsquashreferee/](http://asbsquash.com/squash-court-renovation/topsquashreferee/). Three wireless iPods using cutting edge technology immediately compute decisions and display them to players and spectators.



## FITZ-GERALD ATTENDS IOC ATHLETES GATHERING

Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the former world number one and world champion who is Director of the WSF Athletes Commission represented squash at the 5th International Athletes Forum of the IOC at the US Olympic training base in Colorado, USA in October.

Two full days of plenary sessions and workshops covered a multitude of athlete orientated topics as diverse as the use of social media, safety, betting, anti-doping and many others. Alongside this, there were great opportunities to compare notes across the sports, as Fitz-Gerald highlighted in her report.

## WORLD SQUASH FEDERATION LAUNCHES FIRST 3D SIMULATION PC VIDEO GAME

Squash enthusiasts will now have the chance of enjoying the sport they love in the comfort of their own homes following the launch of *WSF Squash*, the official squash simulation video game of the WSF.

Using the most modern software and hardware, the game is a realistic representation of the sport with great tactical aspects - and all shots can be played, including drives, corkscrews, boasts and more. Players can also play online matches against each other, or play at iconic locations - and an offline tournament mode allows users the chance to organise virtual tournaments during real events.



It is easy to connect wireless controllers to the game and link to a big screen, so that squash clubs can host a virtual event. Details of this are available from the game's dedicated website [www.wsfsquash.com](http://www.wsfsquash.com) - where a trailer, screenshots, and more, can also be seen.

There are twelve real top squash players in the game. Users can choose between four different top tournaments at iconic locations - either selecting their favourite player or creating their own player, choosing equipment, skin colour, hair colour, posture, playing style, etc.

"For me, Squash is a much faster, aggressive, raw and also responsive game than, for example, tennis," said Team6 Games CEO Ronnie Nelis. "For WSF Squash, gamers will not only need to have much faster reflexes than for any other sports game, but they will also even have to think about their strategy during the game. All this made a very good reason for us to make a game that nobody dared to make before."

WSF President Mr N Ramachandran commented: "Our hope, of course, is that in endorsing this game we will see a significant number of newcomers to squash trying it - who may then feel that they would like to try the real thing on court, and boost grass-roots numbers as a result."

There are further plans to develop the game for Nintendo Wii and xBox.

## SQUASH COURTS A NEW GENERATION OF FEMALE PLAYERS ON WORLD SQUASH DAY

Squash was all set to attract a new generation of female players thanks to a worldwide day of action and innovation backed by the WSF.

*World Squash Day* took place on 5<sup>th</sup> November with events taking place all over the globe as clubs opened their doors to welcome female members to the sport.



"Squash is ideal for the modern female. It's a great calorie-burner and is rated the best sport for fitness in a number of surveys.

"We hope that the many newcomers to the sport who support World Squash Day enjoyed their experience on court and realised the many benefits squash has to offer.

"A superb sport for fitness and agility; Squash is ideal for the recreational player and also for those who seek more demanding competition.

"World Squash Day coincided with the World Open in The Netherlands and this

unique day provided an ideal link between the game's leading players and a programme of grass-roots activity designed to increase female participation," WSF commented.

National federations were quick to promote the idea and events took place in a wide variety of countries, including Russia, Vietnam, Portugal, Brazil and Lebanon.

Events also took place throughout more established squash nations including England, USA, Canada, India, Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa and Finland.

In Greece, the national women's team, who recently retained the Balkan Championship, played exhibition matches and passed on free tips to all comers at the Vari Sports Club in Athens.

The Greeks and the Irish really captured the spirit of the day with the emphasis on staging fun events to attract a new playing audience.

Deirdre Faul of Irish Squash said: "Ireland looked forward to celebrating World Squash Day this year. Events were organised by Irish Squash and Leinster Squash at a large number of clubs. The emphasis was on having fun on the day and encouraging new players young and old on to the court."

World Squash Day founder Alan Thatcher said: "It seems that the accent of many events that took place on World Squash Day was on fun, fitness and friendship. We hope those themes were echoed throughout the world."

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

## RESULTS

### Pan American Games Squash Championships, Guadalajara, Mexico



**Men's Singles** semi-finals:  
 [5/8] Cesar Salazar (MEX) bt [3/4] Arturo Salazar (MEX) 11-2, 11-8, 11-2  
 [2] Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) bt [3/4] Shawn Delierre (CAN) 11-7, 11-3, 11-7  
 Final: [2] Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) bt [5/8] Cesar Salazar (MEX) 11-7, 11-9, 11-4 (55m)

### Women's Singles

semi-finals:  
 [1] Samantha Teran (MEX) bt [3] Nicolette Fernandes (GUY) 11-3, 11-5, 11-3 (38m)  
 [4] Samantha Cornett (CAN) bt Miranda Ranieri (CAN) 11-9, 11-5, 5-11, 11-8 (24m)  
 Final: [1] Samantha Teran (MEX) bt [4] Samantha Cornett (CAN) 11-6, 11-4, 11-6 (33m)



### Men's Doubles

semi-finals:  
 [1] MEXICO (Arturo Salazar & Eric Galvez) bt [3/4] ARGENTINA (Hernan D'Arcangelo & Roberto Pezzota) 11-4, 11-6 (52m)  
 [5/8] USA (Christopher Gordon & Julian Illingworth) bt [5/8] PARAGUAY (Esteban Casarino & Nicolas Caballero) 11-8, 11-10 (37m)  
 Final:  
 MEXICO bt USA 11-7, 11-9 (93m)

### Women's Doubles

semi-finals:  
 [1] COLOMBIA (Catalina Pelaez & Silvia Angulo Rugeles) bt CANADA (Miranda Ranieri & Stephanie Edmison) 11-7, 8-11, 11-7 (35m)  
 MEXICO (Nayelly Hernandez & Samantha Teran) bt [2] USA (Maria Elena Ubina & Olivia Blatchford) 11-4, 11-5 (19m)  
 Final:  
 MEXICO bt COLOMBIA 11-8, 11-5 (26m)

### Men's Team

semi-finals:  
 [1] MEXICO bt [3/4] BRAZIL 2/1  
 Arturo Salazar lost to Rafael Alarcon 6-11, 7-11, 8-11 (26m)  
 Cesar Salazar bt Vinicius Rodrigues 11-4, 11-8, 11-6 (28m)  
 Eric Galvez bt Vinicius Costa 11-6, 11-5, 11-5 (38m)  
 [2] CANADA bt [3/4] USA 2/0  
 Shahier Razik bt Julian Illingworth 8-0 ret.  
 Shawn Delierre bt Christopher Gordon 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-8 (54m)  
 Final:  
 [1] MEXICO bt [2] CANADA 2/1  
 Cesar Salazar bt Shawn Delierre 9-11, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12 (76m)  
 Arturo Salazar lost to Shahier Razik 8-11, 11-9, 8-11, 3-11 (60m)  
 Eric Galvez bt Andrew Schnell 11-5, 11-1, 11-3 (33m)

### Women's Team

semi-finals:  
 [3/4] COLOMBIA bt [1] USA 2/1  
 Silvia Angulo Rugeles lost to Olivia Blatchford 3-11, 6-11, 6-11 (21m)

Catalina Pelaez bt Maria Elena Ubina 8-11, 11-6, 11-0, 11-6 (22m)

Ana Gabriela Porras bt Lily Lorentzen 2-11, 4-11 ret.  
[2] CANADA bt [3/4] MEXICO 2/1

Miranda Ranieri lost to Samantha Teran 5-11, 4-11, 2-11 (21m)

Samantha Cornett bt Imelda Salazar Martinez 11-6, 11-8, 13-11 (30m)

Stephanie Edmison bt Nayelly Hernandez 11-8, 11-2, 11-2 (28m)

Final:

[2] CANADA bt [3/4] COLOMBIA 2/0

Samantha Cornett bt Catalina Pelaez 9-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-2 (29m)

Miranda Ranieri bt Silvia Angulo Rugeles 10-12, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7 (37m)

### Hosts Mexico Ride High In Pan Am Games

Hosts Mexico celebrated a magnificent four Squash gold medals in the fifth staging of the sport in the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara.

Despite fears that hurricane 'Jova' would interrupt the opening ceremony, the sun shone brightly on the day that the XVI PanAm Games got underway. Squash action saw medals contested in Singles and Team competitions and - for the first time - in Doubles championships for both men and women, in an event that was hailed as the best ever.

Thirteen countries had sent teams, and in a fabulously festive atmosphere and with altitude a factor the Mexicans were just too hot to handle.

A bronze medallist in both the 2003 and 2007 Games, world No14 Samantha Teran won the first gold medal for Mexico after storming to victory in the women's singles beating Canada's Games newcomer Samantha Cornett in the singles final.

Teran went on to win double gold, partnering Nayelly Hernandez to surprise success in the Women's Doubles. After upsetting second seeds USA in the semi-finals, the Mexican pair progressed to overcome favourites Colombia (Catalina Pelaez & Silvia Angulo Rugeles) in the final.

And the hosts made it a double in the inaugural Doubles when top seeds Arturo Salazar & Eric Galvez survived a 93-minute marathon final against USA, ultimately beating Christopher Gordon & Julian Illingworth 11-7, 11-9.

Arturo Salazar had earlier suffered a surprise defeat to his lower-ranked twin brother Cesar Salazar in the Men's Singles semi-finals. A 5/8 seed, Cesar made his breakthrough in the quarter-finals, upsetting Canada's top seed Shahier Razik, the 2003 gold medallist.

But the 23-year-old Mexican from San Luis Potosi met his match in the final, as Miguel Angel Rodriguez despatched Salazar in straight games to become the first Colombian to win the gold medal.

Mexico's fourth gold medal came when the men's team beat former champions Canada 2/1 in the Team final.

After disappointment in two earlier finals, Canada finally tasted gold in the Women's Team event where Samantha Cornett beat Catalina Pelaez before

Miranda Ranieri overcame Silvia Angulo Rugeles as the second seeds beat Colombia 2/0 to successfully retain the title they have now won four times since 1995.

The growing strength of squash across the region was powerfully demonstrated by the fact that medals were shared across eight nations - Mexico, Colombia, Canada, Guyana, USA, Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil.

Before the opening Squash matches, the Federacion Panamericana de Squash (FPS) honoured former President Sergio Rodriguez with a minute's silence in his memory. It was an emotional moment for the many who knew the popular figurehead - in particular for his widow Marta Luz who was participating in the tournament as a referee director.

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### NICOL DAVID INDUCTED



Malaysia's world number one Nicol David became the newest member of the World Squash Federation Hall of Fame as part of the World Squash Awards programme at the World Open Championship/WSF AGM dinner in Rotterdam.

The 28-year-old from Penang, who the following day won the World Open crown for a record-breaking sixth time was inducted by compatriot HRH Tunku Imran, the WSF Patron and IOC member who himself is a former Malaysian national squash champion.

Nicol David has enjoyed a spectacular career in Squash: After becoming the first ever double winner of the biennial world junior title in 2001, she went on to begin an unbroken reign at the top of the world rankings in August 2006 - in March this year becoming the second longest-standing world number one of all-time. She now has 55 World Tour titles to her credit, and has beaten mentor Sarah Fitz-Gerald's five world title record.

David has almost single-handedly put squash on the map in her home country - and earlier this year won a record eighth Malaysian Sportswoman of the Year award. She won her first of three (quadrennial) Asian Games gold medals in 1998, aged just 15, and in April this year claimed her eighth successive (biennial) Asian Championship crown.

On hearing of her WSF Hall of Fame induction, Nicol said: "It is great to be recognised while I am still

competing – and to have my achievements compared with the top players in history.

"It is truly fantastic and I am really honoured.

"But even though I have been playing the professional circuit for over ten years this honour doesn't mean I plan to finish yet!" added the hugely popular Penangite.

Past WSF Hall of Fame winners are:

**F.D. Amr Bey** – Egypt

6 British Open titles: 1933-1938

**Janet Shardlow** (Morgan) – England

10 British Open titles: 1950-1959

**Hashim Khan** – Pakistan

7 British Open titles: 1951-1958

**Jonah Barrington** – Ireland

6 British Open titles: 1967-1973

**Heather McKay** (Blundell) – Australia

2 World & 16 British Open titles: 1962-1979

**Geoff Hunt** – Australia

7 World Open/Individual & 8 British Open titles: 1967-1981

**Susan Devoy** - New Zealand

4 World Open & 8 British Open titles: 1984-1992

**Jahangir Khan** – Pakistan

8 World Open/Individual & 10 British Open titles: 1979-1991

**Michelle Martin** – Australia

3 World Open & 6 British Open titles: 1993-2000

**Jansher Khan** – Pakistan

8 World Open & 6 British Open titles: 1987-2000

**Sarah Fitz-Gerald** – Australia

5 World Open & 2 British Open titles: 1996-2002

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## 7th ANNUAL WORLD SQUASH AWARDS



Back row (L to R): El Weliely, Deayton (Services to Squash winner, see below), El Tayeb.  
Front Row: Massaro, Ashour, Mueller.

The world's leading players were honoured at the seventh annual World Squash Awards which took place after the World Open semi finals in Rotterdam.

This year's awards - founded in 2005 by Eventis Sports Marketing and endorsed annually by the WISPA, PSA and the WSF - were part of the Official Dinner of the World Open Squash 2011. It featured most of the top players, tournament officials, representatives from the PSA, WISPA and WSF, and delegates from most national governing bodies who were in attendance for the WSF AGM earlier in the day.

The event not only coincided with World Open semi-finals day, but also World Squash Day.

PSA's Male Player of the Year went to Egyptian Ramy Ashour whose run of success meant he pipped England's world No1 Nick Matthew; and while Malaysia's world champion and world No1 Nicol David was looking to maintain her stranglehold on the women's award, a couple of unexpected losses in 2011 meant that the WISPA Player of the Year award went to somebody else for the first time since 2005. Laura Massaro, recent winner of the US Open was the narrow and very happy winner.

Female Young player of the Year went to favourite Nour El Tayeb, the Egyptian World Champion, while Nicolas Mueller took the 'young' men's prize – a Swiss first.

Meanwhile, in the WISPA Most Improved category there was more Egyptian success with Raneem El Welily winning on the back of establishing herself in the world top ten.

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## PRESENTATION PARADE

In addition to the WISPA and PSA Player of the Year awards and Nicol David's induction into the WSF Hall of Fame, all mentioned elsewhere in this Instant Update, there were other presentations too.

At the Awards presentation there was a Services to Squash award to WSF Vice President Heather Deayton. It came as a complete surprise to her, but was greeted with ringing applause for the mother of Hong Kong squash.

Heather ran the national association from 1984 until 2005; she was part of the organization team from the first Hong Kong Open (1985) and is still on the organising committee until now; she has been involved in the management of several Asian Champs and World titles staged in Hong Kong; she has been a vice president of WSF from 2006 until present; she is universally popular!

Meanwhile, the WSF AGM acknowledged three people in diverse fields of squash who have been working assiduously over many years. They were:

Don Ball. Don, from South Africa, has been involved with the Rules of the Game for many years. He has been involved in their updating and their interpretation and fields Rules questions on the WSF website for those who 'Ask Don', as so many do. A guru on refereeing.

Major Maniam. He was the Malaysian national coach for some years before stepping up to become Asian Federation Coaching Director nearly ten years ago, and has similarly headed the WSF Coaching and Development Committees. The popular Malaysian is another guru in his field!



Col Clapper. Some nineteen years ago the formation of the Oceania Squash Federation saw Col, from Brisbane, installed as Executive Director, with the role of President for the last fifteen years. He shortly steps down as Executive Director, but Oceania will continue to have his immense experience as President for the region.



## WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012 MOVE TO QATAR



Hisham Agosaibi, (QSF General Secretary), left, looks on while QSF President Nabeel Ali Bin Ali confirms agreement to host the WSF World Juniors 2012 with WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley

The current circumstances in Egypt have forced the WSF to relocate the Men's and Women's World Junior Individual & Men's Junior Team Squash Championships 2012.

Originally due to be staged in Cairo from 7 – 18 July, they will now be played in Doha, Qatar, thanks to an agreement between the World Squash Federation (WSF) and Qatar Squash Federation (QSF).

'When we were informed this week that the WSF could not continue in Egypt we moved quickly to ensure that there could be certainty for the event. Juniors are our future and it is a great opportunity for us to support them in addition to the professional end of the sport as we do with the Qatar Classic and Challenger events. We look forward to welcoming the best young players from across the world to Qatar next July', said QSF President Nabeel Ali Bin Ali.

WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley who arranged the change in Doha explained. "We are very sad not to be able to return to Cairo as we had hoped as we know that the Egyptian Squash Federation would provide a welcome and a staging that would be second to none. But while the country settles down we need to acknowledge the concerns of parents, coaches and squash federations where a junior event is concerned. We will need to wait a little longer but really hope that we can return to Egypt with a WSF Championship soon.

'For next year we are delighted that QSF responded so positively and immediately to the situation and have taken on the championships. They already superbly host events at the excellent Khalifa Complex and the players can look forward to being very well looked after as they contest the most important event in junior squash there next year.'

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## PADDY McILROY

Irish Squash has passed on the sad news of the death of former Irish Squash President, Paddy McIlroy. Paddy served as Irish Squash President from 1997 to 1999 and contributed to Ulster Squash over a 40 year period. Our condolences to Paddy's wife, Maura and family.

## WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS EXPANDS TO INCLUDE OVER 80'S



For the first time in the history of the World Masters Squash Championships the Over 80's now have their own category to enter and compete for the title of

world champion.

Players from across the world in categories from over 35 upwards will gather in Birmingham to take part in what promises to be the biggest squash event on between 20 and 27 July 2012.

Entries are now open just visit: [www.squashworldmasters.com](http://www.squashworldmasters.com) to book a place.

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## YATHREB DOES THE DOUBLE



Egypt's 15-year-old Yathreb Adel (left) has made history by becoming the youngest winner of two WISPA World Tour titles after clinching the Women's Sheikha Al Saad Squash Open at the Qadsia Sporting Club in Hawally, Kuwait in October.

Incredibly, it was only two weeks before that compatriot Nour El Sherbini set the record. Two months before her 16th birthday, El Sherbini despatched all-comers to win the Alexandria International Open, her second Tour title.

But, after lifting the Swiss Open crown in March, Adel swept through the WISPA field at the Sheikha Al Saad Open, beating top seed Emma Beddoes en-route to the final where she defeated England's higher-ranked Lauren Selby 11-5, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9 - *a feat she achieved aged just 15 years and seven months!*

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## REGIONAL COACHES MEETING

The Regional coaching representatives from all five continental federations were present in Rotterdam for a two-day conference to discuss coaching arrangements and qualifications and related matters.



Headed by WSF and Asia Coaching Director Major Maniam (Asia); Sardar Ali Khan (Pan-America), Richard Castle (Africa), Ken Watson (Oceania) and Michael Khan (Europe) were there.

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## HARARE HOSTS ALL AFRICA JUNIOR 2012

Vijay Gajjar, President of the African Squash Federation (left), has announced that the next All Africa Junior Championships will be staged in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 5-10 April 2012 - during which the African Squash Federation AGM will also take place.

Commenting upon the first time that the event has been staged in Harare, at the St John's Squash Club, Gajjar said: "While Egypt goes from strength to strength at the top of the sport, here in Africa there are encouraging signs of growth in a number of other countries.

"A number of traditional squash-playing nations have a well-developed squash culture - in Congo, for example, the government has provided land for a national centre, and a new scheme 'Squash to Schools' has been launched there. Malawi is also targeting primary and high schools as part of its strategic plan with government sponsorship under the title 'President's Initiative For Sport'.

"Namibian squash also continues to develop, with the country competing in the Men's World Team Championships this year for the first time. And with Botswana, Zambia and other countries active too, there are growth spurts to be seen across the continent," concluded Gajjar.

N Ramachandran, President of the World Squash Federation, welcomed the announcement: "Sub Saharan Africa has tended to be a hidden gem in the world of squash. Despite limited resources, there is so much going on, with national federations spearheading initiatives to develop the sport.

"We can only praise this work which will ensure the vibrancy of our sport in the region."

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## SIGNING OFF



Leaving the pro domain at the World Open was Australian David Palmer. The 35 year old from Lithgow, Australia has had a sparkling career by any standards, winning two World Open titles, four British Open crowns, twenty one PSA Tour titles and reaching world number one. His gritty determination and resilience have been legendary, and an inspiration to any player who is down in a game or a match.

As he moves to Florida with wife Mel and two children to start his life post-competing we wish him all the best and salute his achievements.

## DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT

The Nigerian Squash *Association* doesn't exist; it is the Nigerian Squash *Federation*, and the email [nigeriasquashracketassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:nigeriasquashracketassociation@yahoo.com) is part of a scam by people looking to secure visas. So when you receive an Email from Nigerian Squash, make sure the third word is *Federation*.

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## SNIPPETS



The poster for the **Qatar Classic** played last month looked like a postage stamp. Why? Because the Qatar Squash Federation had arranged for a Qatari stamp to be issued by their philatelic bureau promoting the event. A new way to promote with 200,000 printed. Lick that!

## SCOTLAND CELEBRATES



Scottish Squash is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. There are a series of events to mark the formation in October 1936.

## ANOTHER SQUASH ENGAGEMENT

English top thirty PSA player Jonathon Kemp has become engaged to WISPA's Kiwi President Jaclyn Hawkes, herself a top twenty star.

## SQUASH COURTING!

Hong Kong's Dick Lau proposed to his now fiancée, Sardonna Heha Yau, at the courts during the Macau Open this week!

## SARAH FITZ-GERALD WEDS

Sarah Fitz-Gerald, five times Women's World Champion, has new title – that of Mrs Dalley – after her wedding to Cameron Dalley in September in Melbourne. Is he now Mr Cameron Fitz-Gerald?! What we know for sure is that the nuptials took place in Melbourne, fair dinkum, and we wish them every happiness together.



## SQUASH WITH THE PROS

.....is the title of a new coaching book by South African Pro Rodney Durbach. For information [www.publisher.co.za](http://www.publisher.co.za)

## SERBIANS SPOTTED

Serbia may only have a small squash community but a group of six players marshalled by Ivan Djordjevic were at the Luxor Theatre in Rotterdam to watch the World Open action. Inspired, Ivan said 'What a great event. The guys have been getting lots of ideas of what we can do. We have got really connected'.

## GLASS COURT ON THE MARKET

Rusty Koys from Slovakia is selling his mobile all glass ASB court with Harrow wooden floor, which he says is in perfect playable condition, after use at a number of events in Central and Western Europe. He also says that it could be erected and used also as a permanent court at already existing squash club. The selling price is €35000, including tailor-made transportation container, all construction utilities and spare glass parts. For further details Rusty is at: [koys.rusty@gmail.com](mailto:koys.rusty@gmail.com).

## SQUASH CANADA WEBSITE

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery you may wish to look at their updated website: <http://www.squash.ca>

## WSF ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

View and contribute at:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Worldsquash](http://www.facebook.com/Worldsquash)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/WorldSquash](http://www.twitter.com/WorldSquash)



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## Advertise here.....

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