

# Instant Update

WORLD  
SQUASH

ISSUE 36

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

WSF

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

## GOODBYE 2011



There is never a dull moment in the international squash world. We saw great action on the PSA and WSA Tours, fabulous World Championships – who can forget the great staging and presentations for the World Opens in Rotterdam and the Men's Teams in Paderborn, coupled with a great deal happening in so many other areas of our sport.

Of course this importantly included gaining a place on the shortlist of sports competing for the one available place in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, and in the second half of the year with our bid consultants Vero Communications and in conjunction with WSA and PSA building the bid itself.

There is a great deal to look forward to in 2012, but first must come a really big thank you to so many organisations and individuals for your interaction and support. I know that I speak for the officers and us staff alike saying that the goodwill and enthusiasm in our sport surely cannot be replicated elsewhere.



*The referee contingent at the recent Hong Kong Open*

There are just too many federations, enthusiasts, promoters, media and supporters to name any specifically, so forgive me for spreading this gratitude around in such general terms; but, having said that, I would pay special tribute to all our dedicated referees. From WSF referees through to regional, national and local ones, and assessors too, we really do appreciate you.

So, thank you one and all and very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2012. A year which I hope will be filled with successes.

[Andrew@worldsquash.org](mailto:Andrew@worldsquash.org)

## MALAYSIAN PM HONOURS NICOL DAVID

**Nicol David**, the Malaysian who has topped the women's world squash rankings unopposed since 2006, was feted by the country's Prime Minister for her outstanding achievements.

Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak** met David and her parents at his office to congratulate the 28-year-old from Penang on creating history by winning a record sixth world title last month in the Netherlands.



Speaking to reporters after receiving a courtesy call by the World No 1 squash player at his office here, Najib expressed the hope that her success would spur other athletes to similarly excel in their respective sports.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Malaysia, I would like to extend heartiest congratulations to Nicol," he said.

David described the meeting with the prime minister as a truly meaningful event for her and her parents. "It was a great honour for me and my family to get the recognition from the government and Malaysians. Thank you for the all support," she said.

The country's most successful squash player of all-time had been greeted by hundreds of fans on arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport - all eager to see her world championship gold medal.

## FROM NOW UNTIL 2022

All the WSF World Championships and conferences for the next ten years have been allocated to the five WSF regions to ensure that each area of the world has the opportunity to host. The system also ensures that prospective host countries can bid several years ahead via their region to ensure maximum promotion and preparation time.

Countries interested in hosting the many WSF championships and conferences should contact their region to see what events and conferences are coming up for them.

## OLYMPIC BID UPDATE

President Ramachandran recently had a personal meeting with IOC President Count Jacques Rogge in Lausanne. There was further clarification of the bid process provided in advance of our Olympic Bid Steering Group (WSF, PSA, WSA and Vero) meeting again on 6<sup>th</sup> January to continue to prepare for all the steps ahead.

This followed a media round table held in London in early November where the campaign slogan was revealed:

***Squash – Sport at its Best***

At the meeting Mr Ramachandran stressed to journalists that innovation will be a core element of squash's campaign for inclusion into the 2020 Olympic Games. 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.

He 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, since our last campaign for Olympic inclusion, the sport has progressed significantly with the introduction of SquashTV by PSA, 'Video Review' technology, new and exciting showcourts with revolutionary lighting and surfaces, together with the WSF 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".



Women's world number three Madeline Perry was present to meet the media too, and added her weight to the Squash 2020 Olympic Games Campaign by being the first

player to sign a letter pledging her support to Squash 2020.

It is also positive to report that the President and Secretary General have now been accredited for the London Olympics this summer, allowing some excellent integration opportunities where our case can continue to be pressed.

Meanwhile, during the course of the year we shall be asking all Federations for assistance with statistics to answer the some 80+ page questionnaire the IOC Programme Commission will be sending us – your co-operation over this is vital, please make it a high priority.

## WORLD SQUASH DAY HITS THE SPOT

The theme of World Squash Day in November was to attract a new generation of female participants to squash, and was a real success with events all over the world as clubs opened their doors to offer free activities to females of all ages.

In Johannesburg more than 600 children from the Soweto townships were given a free lunch and treated to a day of squash and education classes.

Former WSA member Lauren Siddall, now Head Coach at Pretoria University, said: "It was a fantastic day, combining World Squash Day celebrations with real-life issues and education for people who wouldn't usually have the opportunity to play squash but who fell in love with the game instantly".

Elsewhere in the world, Athens forgot about currency problems for a while to enjoy World Squash Day at the Vari Club. The Greek women's national team, the Balkan champions known as the Golden Girls, played exhibition matches and gave free coaching to newcomers and club members.

In New Zealand, home of former world champions Susan Devoy and Carol Owens, squash leaders are taking the message even further by extending their programme from a single day to a whole year. Squash New Zealand have designated 2012 as the Year of Women's Squash to increase female participation.

Japan's leading international women players chose World Squash Day to launch a campaign to gain more awareness for the sport to support the World Squash Federation's bid for squash to gain a place in the 2020 Olympic Games.

Meanwhile, in Kuwait a host of players were brought together featuring juniors competing from twelve clubs – pictured here:



A Squash Mania doubles tournament in Moscow attracted more than 130 players to illustrate the growth of the sport in Russia.

Activities across many clubs in Ireland featured an inflatable squash court and attracted many newcomers to the sport.

Newcastle's Eldon Leisure Centre in England, a former home of the British National Championship, held a women's tournament and open day, and in Kent, World Squash Day founder, Alan Thatcher led a day of fun and fitness activity to attract new female players to squash and announced the formation of a new county-wide competition for women, the Kent Grand Prix Series.

## WSF DIRECTORY INITIATIVE

If you want to go on holiday or business to a hotel or a resort with squash courts, or to join a squash camp and get some coaching as part of an intensive course or a holiday, where could you go for a one-stop shop of details? Until now, nowhere as information was fragmented.

So, to help squash enthusiasts around the world, from junior through to adult, to have a place to go to find information on hotels / resorts or squash camps in a number of countries we have introduced the WSF World Squash Camp Directory and WSF Hotel / Resorts (Facilities) Directory, both of which will be featured on the WSF website.



The site goes live on the WSF website on 16 January.



If you know hotels / resorts or squash camps do pass on the registration link below so that they can use this marketing tool..... *and take advantage of the half price registration offer which is only available up to 16<sup>th</sup> January.*

### HOTELS / RESORTS

The registration link is:

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

### SQUASH CAMPS

The registration link is:

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

N.B. This link is only for registering – the directory lists will not appear until 16 January.

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## WILLSTROP BECOMES WORLD NUMBER ONE



The climax to an incredible end-of-year run by James Willstrop on the PSA Tour saw the Englishman clinch his third successive title at the Punj Lloyd PSA Masters in India in a victory which ensures his status as first time world number one in the January rankings.

The 28-year-old from Leeds, whose title triumphs in the Hong Kong Open and Kuwait Cup in November catapulted him to second place in the world rankings in December, faced French rival Gregory Gaultier in the climax at the Siri Fort Complex in the Indian capital New Delhi.

He won, and now he has overtaken countryman Nick Matthew atop the world.

## HOSTS ANNOUNCED.....

### Gold Coast

Queensland's Gold Coast have secured the right to stage the **2018 Commonwealth Games**, beating off competition from Hambantota in Sri Lanka.

The squash tournament will be held at the redeveloped Runaway Bay Sports Complex, which will also host the weightlifting competition.

A temporary show court will be built at Runaway Bay, along with a permanent centre featuring six singles courts and four courts that can be adjusted to cater for both singles and doubles.

"This is an excellent outcome for our sport and ensures squash will continue to have a high profile in one of Australia's fastest growing areas", commented Squash Australia Chief Executive Gary O'Donnell.

Despite it being an indoor sport, squash has always enjoyed good support and success on the Gold Coast. Australian squash legend Geoff Hunt has his family house there, and former world champion Rodney Eyles lives and coaches on the Coast, as does former world number two Brett Martin, one of the famous Martin siblings who dominated world squash in the 1980s.

### Ontario

The **2014 WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship** has been awarded to Canada by WSF. The event will take place at White Oaks Conference Resort & Spa (The Club at White Oaks) in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, from 1-6 December 2014.

Canada has previously hosted the Women's World Team Championships on three occasions - in 1981, 1992 and, more recently, in Edmonton, Alberta, in 2006.

2014 Women's World Team Championship tournament director Mark Sachvie, who has been the White Oaks Club Racquets Director for the past 25 years, commented: "Hosting the WSF Women's World Team Championship is a wonderful opportunity to profile Canada's top female athletes and, at the same time, act as a showcase for women's squash."

Squash Canada's Executive Director Danny Da Costa added: "We are honoured to partner with Squash Ontario and The Club at White Oaks to host this world championship in Canada in 2014. We are excited to showcase the great game of squash, and also to promote the advancement of women's sport not only in Canada but around the world."

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## PERPETUAL POSSIBILITIES

The World Masters has many age groups but virtually no perpetual trophies at present. So if you would like to donate a trophy to remember somebody, or for any other reason, the WSF Office would be delighted to hear from you.

The first time new trophies would be presented would be at the World Masters 2012 in England.

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## BOOST FOR BACK THE BID

# WORLD SQUASH

## back the bid

### WSF

*Back the Bid 2020*, launched 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 has started well. As WSF President Ramachandran said at the introduction,

"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".

But there is some way to go before WSF can cover the full bid costs so please don't hesitate to let anybody you know who may be interested in supporting the bid of the opportunity.

For further details of Back the Bid visit:

[http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?page\\_id=6632](http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?page_id=6632)

## WSF AMBASSADORS INSPIRE LATVIAN SQUASH

The World Squash Federation's inaugural *WSF Ambassador Programme* to Latvia was hailed as an "inspiration" to the country's squash community at the end of the three-day visit to the Baltic country's capital Riga, led by leading international players Nicol David and John White.

Just weeks after winning a record sixth World Open title, Malaysia's Nicol David joined former world number one John White, now the Director of Squash at Drexel University in the USA, at the event hosted by the Latvian Squash Federation at the eight-court Zelta Bowling and Squash Centre.



After a press conference at the centre, the players met and hosted coaching sessions for the Latvian national senior and junior men's and women's squads, and entertained enthusiasts to a series of exhibition matches.

The Ambassador Programme also featured a two-day coaching workshop hosted by Ronny Vlassaks, the Head Coach of the Dutch and Belgian national squash teams, and similarly a refereeing seminar led by Scotsman Ian Allanach, a former WSF top referee and now a worldwide refereeing assessor.

"The WSF Ambassadors were a real inspiration to the Latvian squash community – the impact of Nicol David and John White's visit to Riga will be remembered for years to come," said Latvian Squash Federation chairman Alex Pavulans.

"The media interest the visit has attracted has been a fantastic boost for Squash in Latvia – and we hope that we will be able to build on this with our domestic championships in the future. We would like to be able to stage a Tour event here soon – perhaps a women's WISPA event.

"Furthermore, we hope that the widespread interest this has generated will enable us to attract funding from our sports ministry."

The visit also attracted enthusiasts from neighbouring Baltic countries Estonia and Lithuania, as well as from Russia. Edvinas Dovydas, President of the Lithuania Squash Federation, highlighted the new SEB Arena in Vilnius: "All five courts are currently fully booked from 8am through to 11pm each day - we want to use this momentum to build more courts and are currently looking for a location to build a new club."



WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley summed up the success of the first Ambassador Programme visit: "The sheer enthusiasm of the players, young and old, coupled with the workshop attendees was enough for us to know that the WSF's visit to Latvia had been a roaring success – from the players who came from the cluster of countries and got on court with Nicol and John; to those who took part in the invigorating and enjoyable workshops given over two days by Ian Allanach and Ronny Vlassaks; from the media interest and coverage; and from the enthusiasm and all the feedback.

"We are indebted to the players and workshop managers who gave their time freely and free," Shelley continued. "The WSF group had the opportunity to meet enthusiasts from all over the Baltic region – and to talk to the Latvian Olympic Committee visitors who knew of our short-listing for the 2020 Olympic Games and wanted to see the activities personally.

"But this was only the start of what we hope will be a long-term link as the sport flourishes under the efforts and initiatives of the Latvian Squash Federation. Great people and great hosts."

## EGYPT DOMINATES ARAB GAMES



Front: Dr. Ali Jihad – The President of Iraq Squash Federation (left), Mr. Hussain Maqseed, President of Kuwait Squash Federation. Men's medalists (l to r): Karim Abdelgawad, Tarek Momen, Abdullah Almezayen, Ali Alramezi.

Egypt retained the men's and women's squash titles in the Arab Games after first-time triumphs by Tarek Momen and Raneem El Weleily in the 2011 championships' finals at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in the Qatar capital Doha.

Top seeds Momen, the men's world No20 from Cairo, and El Weleily, the women's world No7 from Alexandria, led strong fields featuring players from Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

The favourites were keen to retain the titles won by compatriots Amr Shabana and Engy Kheirallah in the 2007 Arab Games in Egypt.

After overcoming Kuwaiti Abdullah Al Muzayen - also a semi-finalist in 2007 - in four games, Momen lined up against fellow countryman Karim Abdel Gawad in the men's final.

Alexandria-born Gawad, the 20-year-old second seed, took a 2/1 lead - but the more experienced 23-year-old Momen regained control to close out the match 11-6, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-4 to claim the gold medal.



In the women's final El Weleily also faced a second seeded compatriot - Omneya Abdel Kawy.

But it was to be a silver medal for the second time in a row for the former world No8 from Cairo as the in-form El Weleily marched on to gold

medal success, winning 7-11, 11-5, 11-2, 11-6.

"Current Egyptian domination of the Arab Games squash is a given," commented WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley. "But with the improvements from other competing nations - and the participation of Iraqi players, for example - the breadth and depth in the region is growing too.

"These Games, like all the other major multi-sport events in which squash takes part, are pinnacles for

all players until we achieve a place in the one that transcends them all, the Olympic Games."

The quadrennial Arab Games were first played in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1953.

### Men's Semi-finals:

[1] Tarek Momen (EGY) bt [3/4] Abdullah Al Muzayen (KUW) 11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-2 (40m)

[2] Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) bt Ali Bader Al-Ramzi (KUW) 11-8, 11-2, 11-7 (21m)

### Final:

[1] Tarek Momen (EGY) bt [2] Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) 11-6, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-4

### Women's semi finals:

[1] Raneem El Weleily (EGY) bt Aisha Al-Hamad (KUW) 11-2, 11-2, 11-2 (17m)

[2] Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) bt Mariam Dashti (KUW) 11-2, 11-0, 11-3 (16m)

### Final:

[1] Raneem El Weleily (EGY) bt [2] Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) 7-11, 11-5, 11-2, 11-6

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## FRAN MARSHALL 1930 – 2011



1961 Women's British Open champion Fran Marshall has passed away aged 81. She was famous for being the last person to beat Heather McKay before the Australian went on an unbeaten streak in the sport that lasted an incredible sixteen years. The win was a 3/2

victory in the Scottish open final 1962 which took an hour and a half to secure.

Marshall was also runner-up in the British Open five times and English number one for over ten years.

She had been raised in Kenya before returning to Yorkshire and, after her competitive retirement, coached before moving to Spain in 1983.

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## NEXT UP..... WSF UNDER 21 WORLD CUP



This inaugural WSF Under-21 event takes place 1 – 5 February in Chennai, India, giving a great opportunity for top juniors and players who have recently left the

age band to play for a world mixed team title on the alternate years to the WSF World Cup.

While Egypt are likely to be favourites, they face threats from other entered nations including Hong Kong, France, Malaysia, Germany, England, Australia and hosts India.

Play begins at the Indian Squash Academy facility before transferring the Express Avenue Mall – the largest shopping mall in southern India. And here not only will the upgraded ASB glass floor be trialed, but excitingly the LightPower company will be installing thousands of controllable LED lights under the floor so that service boxes can be lit and other presentational opportunities brought into play.

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## THE CREAM COMES TO LONDON



The **ATCO World Series Squash Finals** will return to The Queen's Club in London for the third time from 4-8 January.

The superbly staged flagship PSA event, which celebrates its 18th staging since 1993, will feature the top eight players from the 2011 Dunlop PSA World Series Standings following their achievements in this year's nine PSA World Series events.

But new for 2012 will be the simultaneous staging of the WSA World Series Finals, featuring the top eight women, led by Malaysia's record six-time world champion Nicol David.

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### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

The WSF Championships Committee met during Conference / AGM week in Rotterdam in November, and, as part of their remit, updated the World Championship Regulations for 2012. The new version is available on the WSF website, but here is a selection of amendments:

**Appointment of Championship Referee and WSF Advisor (Reg E3)**

The proposed amendment ensures that the Championship Referee (CR) appointed has adequate experience. If an advisor is assigned alongside the CR, they will assist in scheduling the referees for matches and assessments and provide on-site advice and guidance as required.

**Assignment of Referees (E6)**

The Host nation will not be able to invite overseas referees in addition to WSF Referees without first consulting with their national and regional committee who they are intending to invite to help guarantee the experience and capability of attending referees.

**Accommodation (F5)**

An amendment has been added so it is clear for Member Nations how much extra accommodation will cost (inclusive of taxes and breakfast) in the General Information for the event that is circulated.

**Provision of Seating for Players (F12)**

The amendment is to ensure that Promoters keep back enough tickets for participating teams/individuals families etc to buy at later stages.

**P3 – Changed order of Final Pool Matches (P3)**

All pools will use the same match order from now on.

Keeping players from same Country apart in Main and Plate Draws (X9)

The expanded requirement will separate players further on in main draws and plates where feasible.

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### END OF THE LINE FOR.....

Australia's **Stewart Boswell** announced his decision to retire from the PSA World Tour after falling to Frenchman Gregory Gaultier in the Kuwait Cup quarter-finals. He is reviewing coaching options it is understood.



as long as I have.

In a hand-written note, the 33-year-old former world No4 wrote: "While it's been a difficult decision, I feel I've reached the stage in my life both on and off court where it's time I called it a day on my playing career. Squash has been my whole life since I was about nine years old, and I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to play professionally for as

"I'd like to thank all the people who've coached and helped me along the way, as well as the AIS and Squash Australia for their constant backing. Most of all though, I want to thank my family, my mum, dad and sister back in Australia for the sacrifices they all made when I was younger to give me this opportunity.

"And finally, to my wife Vicky (Botwright) for her unwavering support and understanding of how much playing squash has meant to me."



.....Meanwhile the WSA Tour will now be without stalwart **Isabelle Stoehr**, next year. The French 32 year old suffered more than most from a range of leg and ankle injuries but with delightful Gallic flair won seven WSA Tour titles, reached the British open semi finals in 2007 and achieved a ranking high of ten in February 2009. She now intends to train as a physio.

Also retiring – at only 24 years of age is **Tenille Van Der Merve** (Swartz before marrying). After periods out with a serious shoulder injury and finding it difficult to compete from her South African home, she became national number one and broke into the top thirty with her great tenacity on court. Very popular Tenille is going into the recruitment business while finishing a law degree next year.

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## CHAMPIONSHIP 2012 DIGEST

### WORLD

#### Under 21 World Cup

Chennai, India (1 – 5 February)

#### Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships,

Doha, Qatar (7 – 12 July)

#### Men's World Junior Team Championship

Doha, Qatar (13 – 18 July)

#### World Masters

Birmingham, England (20 – 27 July)

#### Women's World Team Championship

Nimes, France (12 – 17 November)

#### Women's World Open

Cayman Islands (13 – 21 Dec)

#### Men's World Open TBC

### REGIONAL U19 + TEAM

#### European U19 Championships

Oporto, Portugal (30 Mar – 8 Apr)

#### African U19 Championships

Harare, Zimbabwe (5 – 10 April)

#### Asian Team Championships

Kuwait (1 – 5 May)

#### European Team Championships

Nuremberg, Germany (1 – 5 May)

#### Asian U19 Championships

Tehran, Iran (19 – 23 June)

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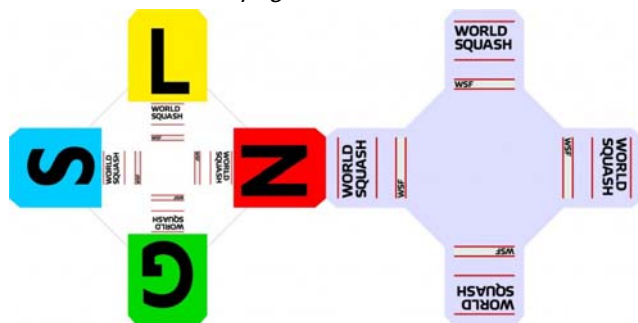
### NO MORE REFEREE HAND SIGNALS

From the start of 2012 the PSA and WSA Tours along with World Championships have mandated 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, WSA 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 use of hand signals used by the three referees to communicate their decisions has been entirely replaced by the standard size / colour four spoke referee decision cards and approved electronic systems.

#### *To buy cards / consoles:*

**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/>

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## SNIPPETS

### WSA UNVEIL A NEW LOGO

Having made the change from WISPA to WSA, the women's player body has published their new logo:



### WEE AT WORK



Sharon Wee retired from the Women's Tour a year ago and after establishing herself at Astro, the Malaysian Sports TV channel she is a sports commentator covering squash, badminton and netball. She is now also a host for two shows, Forum and Grandstand Ahead.

Apart from other major sports events it was she who commentated on her ex-teammate Nicol David winning her sixth World Open title.

### RUSSIAN RECOGNITION

Russian Squash Federation Chief Executive Vladimir Lifshits reports that his Federation have been accepted as members of the Russian National Olympic Committee.

### FRITZ RETIRES

Fritz Borchert, who has been a face seen through the front walls of courts throughout the world for over thirty years as he photographed the action, has announced his retirement. Fritz, seen here (left)



being toasted by Steve Line, fellow photographer, is based in Kent, England where he has also plied his trade as a master baker. Not only has he supplied many magazines and websites of the

squash world, but done so with a warmth and enthusiasm that makes us hope that Sinatra-like, this will only be the first of many retirements!

### WOMEN TAKE TWO

The WSA Tour is now aligned with PSA in that their gap between games has gone from ninety seconds to two minutes.

### NAO PRODUCES ANOTHER TOP CLASS PROMOTIONAL CLIP

The PSA North American Men's Open in February, run by irrepressible Gus Cook, has followed up a great clip last year with a new one for their February event:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMaOxezCREQ>

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## ADVERTISE HERE.....

If you want to advertise in future Instant Updates which go to all nations, stakeholders, opinion formers and supporters of the world of squash contact [lorraine@worldsquash.org](mailto:lorraine@worldsquash.org)

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*Official WSF Magazine*

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