

# Instant Update

ISSUE 39

JULY / AUGUST 2012

WORLD  
SQUASH

WSF

## To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

### FROM HEADQUARTERS



In this *Instant Update* there are several items that emphasise the unity of our sport. It is consistent but just look at a few examples now proving that the professional sportsmen and women in squash could never be described as self centred.

They freely give, in every meaning of the phrase.

We asked players to line up in support of our Olympic bid and they filled the show court at the O<sub>2</sub> during the British Open to take part in the group photo. Asking them to get behind World Squash Day in pictorial and practical support and they were there. Asking Nick Matthew and Maria Toor Pakay to travel to Quebec to attend the SportAccord Convention to talk about and demonstrate squash and they did so, brilliantly. Asking Mohamed El Shorbagy and Nicol David to travel to Malawi and Namibia to help emerging squash nations as part of the WSF Ambassadors Programme and they didn't hesitate.

Finally, only last week we asked Nicol David and Ramy Ashour to lead a film shoot for the Olympic bid presentation bid and you can see how willing they were.

These are just a few current examples of how players think so deeply about their sport – not just about their own competing. This is nothing new – I speak from long experience.

So when you watch the stars of squash on court you can be sure that you are seeing many rounded, caring individuals. And when you read the reports that have been mentioned remember that these players have taken time out from training and playing to support development, promotion and the Olympic bid.

### UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Thus we know that players are squarely behind World Squash Day on Saturday 20 October, but are you and your club? Details are below, but WSD signals our aim to hold not just the biggest ever squash event, but perhaps one of the biggest in the world of sport. Every club, centre or group of players are encouraged to register themselves, simply gather all the players together on the day and split them into two teams and be part of the championship. It

will almost certainly be the largest ever club team event of any sport! Registration details can be seen at: [www.worldsquashday.com](http://www.worldsquashday.com)

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

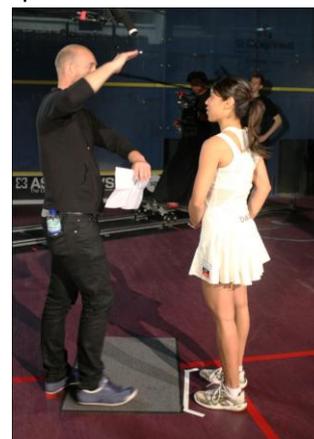
### ON THE OLYMPIC BID FILM SET



Ramy Ashour and Nicol David have been filming scenes for the Olympic bid presentation video at St George's Hill Club near London. Wilder Films, who are making the feature, also filmed at the O<sub>2</sub> on Allam British Open semi finals day and will be travelling to Cairo to follow Ashour for a day.

Asked about the content, WSF was not giving away secrets. 'You will have to wait and see! I can tell you that Ramy and Nicol are doing a fine job in fronting the production and the message is that squash has a great deal to offer the Olympic Games, but first viewing will be when squash makes its initial presentation to the IOC Programme Commission in Lausanne later in the year'.

'This video is another feature of the bid that the whole sport is so united behind. We have a great weight of responsibility, funding still to find, but we really are moving forward strongly'



# 20 WORLD SQUASH DAY 20 OCTOBER 2012

PLAY IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TEAM MATCH. EVER.



Squash players all over the world are uniting to create the biggest squash match in history, with two teams playing in one global event showcasing the sport's bid for a place in the 2020 Olympic Games.

World Squash Day takes place on Saturday October 20th and the format has a 2020 theme: Clubs are invited to field two teams of 20 players, with team members playing against their opposite number in one game up to 20 points.

The scores from every club will count towards an overall global result between *Team Squash* and *Team 2020*.

A massive number of leading professionals have lent their support to the project: World Champion Nick Matthew said: "This is a great idea for squash players all over the world to back the Olympic bid. My own club, Hallamshire in Sheffield, has always been an enthusiastic supporter of World Squash Day and this looks like a fantastic idea to get huge numbers of people involved."

The total figure of competitors should run into tens of thousands, placing it as one of the biggest sports fixtures in history, as well as certainly the biggest squash match ever.

Andrew Shelley, WSF Chief Executive said: "There are more than 50,000 courts spread across the world and to give the players on all of them the chance to compete in the same championship will bring the world of squash together in such a unique way. A day to look forward to, a day that will be remembered!"

Event founder Alan Thatcher commented: "Our aim is to get this event into the Guinness Book of Records, and we hope that kind of response will show a tremendous global support for squash and the Olympic bid. Along with event co-ordinator Vicky Clark I look forward to being inundated with club registrations!"

Further details: World Squash Day founder Alan Thatcher at [alan@squashuk.com](mailto:alan@squashuk.com)

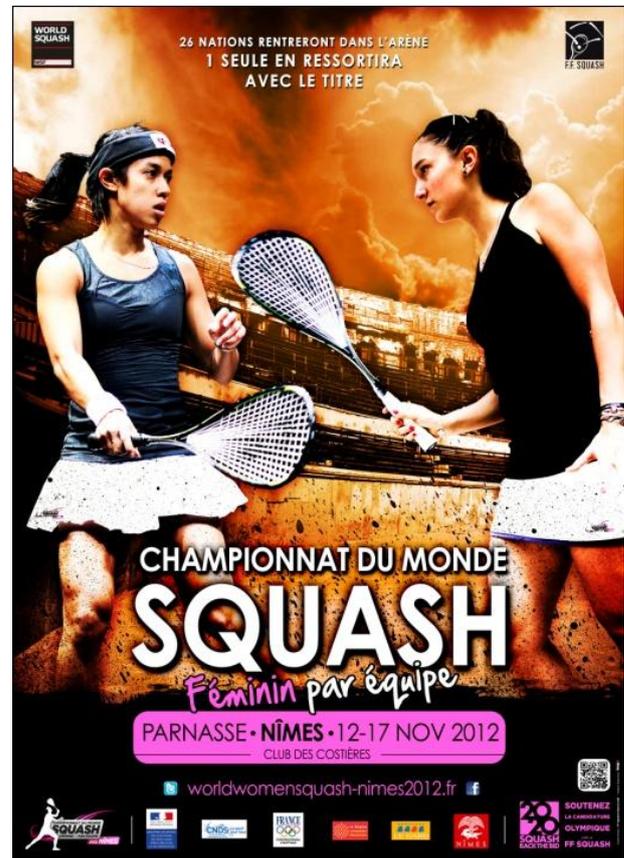
World Squash Day website: [www.worldsquashday.com](http://www.worldsquashday.com)

Squash 2020 website: [www.squash2020.com](http://www.squash2020.com)

## WSF APPROVED RACKETS



## WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD IN NIMES



When twenty six teams compete in the French city of Nîmes for the WSF Women's World Team Championship in November (12 – 17), it will edge ahead of the preceding record participation held by Guernsey in 1994.

There, they will find the stunning spectacle of three glass courts erected in Le Parnasse. Each will be located on the floor of the hall, the main court having a full arena of seating, with the others, separated by curtains, also having extensive viewing so that spectators can choose their ties as well as taking in the exhibition area and other facilities. Full details for the championship are at:

<http://www.worldwomensquash-nimes2012.fr/en>

## HONG KONG HAVE WORLD MASTERS '14

The 2014 WSF World Masters Squash Championships have been awarded to Hong Kong, China. To be held from 4-12 July 2014, the Championships will include men's and women's events in some 18 age groups for players aged from 35 to over 80.

The 2014 Championships will be staged at the Hong Kong Squash Centre and the prestigious

Hong Kong Football Club, both located in heart of the city.

For more information visit

[www.worldmasterssquash.com.hk](http://www.worldmasterssquash.com.hk) - or send a message to [info@worldmasterssquash.com.hk](mailto:info@worldmasterssquash.com.hk)



## NICK MATTHEW FEATURES AT SPORTACCORD



WSF President N. Ramachandran, supported by England's World Champion Nick Matthew and Pakistan's leading female player Maria Toor Pakay, were in attendance at SportAccord in Quebec to promote Squash's campaign to become an Olympic Sport.

As well as holding meetings with the International Olympic Committee and IOC members, WSF also exhibited inflatable squash courts which are becoming increasingly popular as a way to encourage children to try squash at schools or in public places.



President Ramachandran (left) said: "We have had some very constructive discussions with the Olympic Family in the last few days and there has been real interest in learning about the innovations professional squash has been introducing - such as

super slow-mo replays, high definition broadcasting, multiple camera angles, and experimenting with LED lighting under glass floors.

"It was also great to see so many children taking part in our squash demo on inflatable courts - a cost effective and accessible way to introduce the sport to young people," added the WSF President.

Nick Matthew, the World Champion said: "Squash is on an exciting journey, both as a sport that is evolving but also in our ambition to become an Olympic sport. It would be the absolute pinnacle for me to compete at an Olympic Games.

"Squash is moving with the times, embracing change - but still retaining a gladiatorial essence. It's chess at a million miles an hour; a great test, both mentally and physically."

Maria Toor Pakay (pictured with Matthew), added: "My dream is to play in the Olympic Games and to inspire other Muslim girls and women to take up Squash. It's a perfect sport."



Maria's journey has been a tough one: "I come from a tribal area of South Waziristan and education is hard to get. Fathers don't want girls to go out and get into trouble - so squash, which is big in Pakistan, was good, but girls didn't play.

"I started and it has given me great opportunities. But I got death threats from the Taleban and my dad asked if I really wanted to keep playing. As I did, we left. I had to play in my room for three years, hit the ball against the walls - but I did get third place in the world juniors somehow.

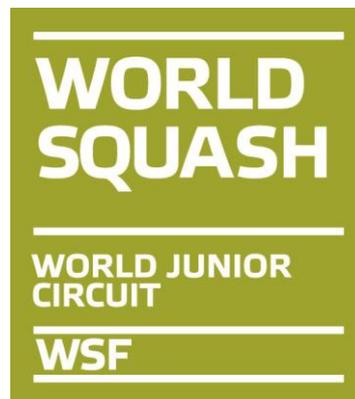
"I wrote thousands of emails and eventually Jonathon Power arranged for me to come and train with him in Canada in 2010.

"I was the lucky one, given a chance by my father - and now my dream is to play on the Olympic platform to inspire and encourage other girls," concluded the 21-year-old.

The two "GoSquash" inflatable courts that were shown off in the Demo Zone of the convention had reached Canada from Australia, courtesy of Mike Cornish and Wayne Cowell of GoSquash, whose great support enabled delegates to look and even trial the introductory tools alongside local youngsters, marshalled by coach Guy Vignault and renowned Kiwi coach Glen Wilson.

Cowell was on hand to breathe life into the plastic via air machines that did the job in about a minute, leaving them ready for fun action. Matthew and Pakay tried out the courts using rackets and also BigHand, the 'glove' beginner rackets, as seen in the photo.

## WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT RANKINGS



The quarterly ranking cycle has been amended to go one month later i.e. first working day of February, May, August\*, November each year, so that rankings follow rather than precede major events.

*\*The August listing will be delayed if*

*necessary so that the World Junior Championships can be included in it, irrespective of it possibly finishing after the start of August in a future year.*

This means that this year we delay production of the July listing until August and then carry on from there in the new cycle.



## FROM THE REGIONS:

### European Team Championship

Nürnberg, Germany

Men's final:

[1] ENGLAND bt [2] FRANCE 3/0

Daryl Selby bt Gregoire Marche 11-3, 11-13, 11-9, 11-9

James Willstrop bt Gregory Gaultier 11-3, 8-11, 11-6, 11-1

Peter Barker bt Mathieu Castagnet 11-7, 11-5, 11-7

Nick Matthew v Thierry Lincou (match not played)

3rd place play-off:

[5] GERMANY bt [6] SCOTLAND 3/1

Simon Rosner bt Alan Clyne 11-6, 11-8, 11-4

Raphael Kandra bt Greg Lobban 11-2, 11-5, 11-5

Jens Schoor lost to Chris Small 7-11, 13-15, 6-11

Andre Haschker bt Stuart Crawford 11-3, 4-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8

Women's final:

[1] ENGLAND bt [3] IRELAND 2/1

Jenny Duncalf lost to Madeline Perry 11-13, 11-7, 11-3, 7-11, 8-11

Laura Massaro bt Aisling Blake 11-1, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8

Alison Waters bt Laura Mylotte 11-2, 11-8, 11-2

3rd place play-off:

[4] FRANCE bt [6] GERMANY 3/0

Camille Serme bt Kathrin Hauck 11-5, 11-2, 11-4

Coline Aumard bt Pamela Hathway 11-3, 11-8, 11-5

Laura Pomportes bt Franziska Hennes 11-8, 11-2

The 2012 Division 2 championships saw Spain and Switzerland gain promotion in the men's event and Czech Republic and Belgium in the women's.

### England Celebrate European Championship Double

England successfully retained their titles in the European Team Squash Championships after a 3/0 men's victory over France and a 2/1 women's win over Ireland in the 40th staging of the European Squash Federation event at the Sportpark Nord in Nürnberg, Germany.

### European Junior U15 & U17 Team Championships, Espoo, Finland

#### Under 15

Final:

[1] ENGLAND bt [2] FRANCE 3/0

Amelia Henley bt Elise Romba 16-14, 12-14, 11-4, 12-10

James Peach bt Enzo Corigliano 11-5, 11-9, 11-3

Patrick Rooney bt Lucas Rousselet 11-5, 11-2

*Remaining final positions: 3 Spain, 4 Finland, 5 Switzerland, 6 Wales, 7 Czech Republic, 8 Sweden, 9 Germany, 10 Denmark, 11 Netherlands, 12 Ireland, 13 Israel, 14 Scotland, 15 Belgium, 16 Portugal, 17 Norway, 18 Turkey*

#### Under 17

Final:

[1] ENGLAND bt [2] FRANCE 2/1

Eleanor Lake lost to Marie Stephan 14-12, 12-14, 11-9, 8-11, 6-11

Richie Fallows bt Baptiste Masotti 11-3, 11-5, 11-9

Lyell Fuller bt Auguste Dussourd 10-12, 11-1, 11-4, 11-7



*Remaining final positions: 3 Finland, 4 Germany, 5 Czech Republic, 6 Wales, 7 Spain, 8 Italy, 9 Ireland, 10 Israel, 11 Hungary, 12 Belgium, 13 Portugal, 14 Scotland, 15 Denmark, 16 Austria, 17 Switzerland, 18 Netherlands, 19 Sweden, 20 Norway, 21 Turkey*

### European Individual Squash Championships, Helsinki, Finland

Men's Final:

[3/4] Olli Tuominen (FIN) bt [2] Borja Golan (ESP) 11-8, 11-9, 11-3

Third place play-off:

[1] Simon Rosner (GER) bt [5/8] Mathieu Castagnet (FRA) 6-11, 11-7, 13-11, 11-7

Women's Final:

[2] Camille Serme (FRA) bt [1] Natalie Grinham (NED) 8-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9

Third place play-off:

[3/4] Lucie Fialova (CZE) bt [3/4] Gaby Huber (SUI) 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 10-12, 11-7

### Asian Team Championships, Kuwait

Men's Final:

[4] PAKISTAN bt [1] INDIA 2/0

Farhan Mehboob bt Saurav Ghosal 10-12, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-9

Farhan Zaman bt Siddharth Suchde 11-7, 11-6, 11-13, 7-11, 11-9

*Remaining final positions: 3 Kuwait & Malaysia, 5 Hong Kong China, 6 Japan, 7 Jordan, 8 Korea, 9 Iran, 10 Singapore, 11 Iraq, 12 China, 13 Sri Lanka, 14 Chinese Taipei, 15 Palestine*

Women's Final:

[3] INDIA bt [1] HONG KONG CHINA 2/0

Joshna Chinappa bt Joey Chan 11-3, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8

Dipika Pallikal bt Annie Au 11-8, 12-10, 11-8

*Remaining final positions: 3 Malaysia & Korea, 5 Japan, 6 China, 7 Sri Lanka, 8 Iran*

## WSF APPROVED BALLS



## India Historic Asian Champs Success

India celebrated their first senior Asian squash title success following unexpected victory in the women's event in the 2012 Asian Team Championships at the Salem Al-Sabah International Squash Complex in Kuwait. The third seeds faced favourites and defending champions Hong Kong, China. But after a four-game victory by Indian number two Joshna Chinappa over Joey Chan - ranked over 30 places above - top string Dipika Pallikal scored her career-first victory over Hong Kong's Annie Au in straight games.



But India failed to make it a double in the men's event where Pakistan successfully retained the title, beating the favourites 2/0 in the final.



## JACKSON BACKS THE BID AS MATTHEW CONQUERS

British hurdles star Colin Jackson backed squash's bid for a place in the Olympics after watching world champion Nick Matthew win through to the second round of the Allam

British Open.



Jackson, a silver medallist in the 1988 Seoul Games, was a guest of Matthew's at London's O<sub>2</sub> Arena as the 31-year-old from Sheffield began his bid for a third British title by beating Max Lee of Hong Kong

Jackson (pictured) said: "I used to play a bit of squash down in Cardiff but it's amazing to watch the top guys in action. As an athlete myself, I have an enormous

respect for them and simply can't understand why squash is not in the Olympics.

"This is a very exciting sport and the glass court here in the O<sub>2</sub> looks amazing."

## POLITICIANS VISIT ALLAM BRITISH OPEN & BACK SQUASH'S OLYMPIC BID

The Allam British Open welcomed a group of MPs to the O<sub>2</sub> Arena as the All-Party Parliamentary Leisure Group dropped by to watch the world's best players as guests of England Squash & Racketball.

Richard Graham, MP for Gloucester, a keen squash player, said: "We sit here in an Olympic venue, with England developing world class players and yet it is frustrating that they are denied the opportunity of a medal. What is great to see is how squash is making the sport accessible to all age groups and communities. How many other sports can children rub shoulders with a world number one?"

Nick Rider said: "It was fantastic that our guests joined us here at the Allam British Open here at the O<sub>2</sub>. It has been a great chance to show constituency MPs how successful squash is from a grass-roots level right up to the elite level. Squash clubs and public facilities are a major part of their local communities and squash is an ideal sport to energise and educate young people".



**Back Row:** Nick Rider (CEO, England Squash & Racketball), Andrew Shelley (WSF), Lord Stevenson, Richard Graham MP, James Willstrop (world number one) Lord Hodgson, Clive Betts MP (Vice Chair, APPLG), Simon Johnson (CEO, British Institute of Sport and Leisure). Picture by squashpics.com

## WORLD'S LEADING PLAYERS UNITE IN LONDON TO SUPPORT SQUASH 2020 OLYMPIC DREAM

Many of the world's leading squash players, including women's world number one Nicol David and men's world number one James Willstrop, have come together at London's O<sub>2</sub> Arena to show their support for Squash's campaign to become part of the 2020 Olympic Games.

16 players took time out from the Allam British Open which is taking place this week at the O<sub>2</sub> - one of the venues for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - to back the inclusion of Squash in the Olympic Games from 2020.

Nicol David, the record six times world champion from Malaysia who has topped the women's rankings since August 2006, said: "It's the missing link in the Olympic Games. Squash has every element of what a true Olympic sport should be. It would be amazing if we were there with all the other racket sports - we have so much to offer the Olympic programme."

James Willstrop, the world number one from England, said: "Squash is the ultimate Olympic sport - it's what sport should be. We've got everything; it's physical, mental, tactical - and psychological. Every

base has to be covered. It's a true all-round challenge. The sport is also well-established around the world with flourishing men's and women's tours."

Dipika Pallikal, the 20-year-old world No14 from Chennai who led India to its first Asian title last month, added: "Squash is a really demanding sport and its top players are amongst the fittest in any sport. The sport can be staged at iconic venues around the world – like here at the famous O<sub>2</sub> Arena in London. We would fit perfectly into the Olympic Games."



World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran was delighted with the unanimous show of support: "It's fantastic that our leading players are so passionate about getting Squash into the Olympic Games. Their support is an important element to our campaign as we head into a crucial 12 months that will see us present to the IOC Programme Commission and Executive Board and explain what the benefits to the Olympic Movement would be if Squash becomes part of the Sports programme for the 2020 Games."

### TIN GOES LOWER FOR DOUBLES

The WSF has confirmed that for future World Doubles Championships, Commonwealth Games and other major events, the height of the tin used for men's, women's and mixed events will be lowered from 43cm (17") to 33cm (13") - with the current expanded doubles court width of 8.42 metres (27.63 ft), as used at the Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi, being maintained.

Explaining the background to the decision, WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley said: "Because some matches, primarily men's, proved to be too lengthy and unexciting at major championships, the format has been under review.

"Following matches played in May between pairs representing Australia, England and Scotland, using a variety of options, the data and comments have been reviewed and it has been decided by WSF that lowering the tin by 30% provides an excellent means of encouraging shot-making and using the full court to provide really entertaining play for spectators and broadcast viewers alike."



### NEW WEBSITE FOR WSA

WSA have launched a new website [www.wsaworldtour.com](http://www.wsaworldtour.com) as part of a continued effort to rebrand women's squash.

Following the renaming of WISPA to the Women's Squash Association (WSA) and the introduction of a new logo featuring the silhouetted six-time World Champion Nicol David earlier this year, the website will be a great showcase for up-to-date news and tournament information on the WSA World Tour.

WSA President and world No19 Jaclyn Hawkes said: "When the tour was renamed back in January, people really responded well to the name and especially the new logo. The website is the extra step in advertising what a strong, diverse and attractive tour the WSA World Tour is, and from a player's point of view this is only going to have positive repercussions for the sport."

### TIM GARNER STEPS DOWN



Tim Garner has stepped down as WSA Tour Director. WSA report that he now feels that he cannot dedicate enough time to the position, given his other duties in the squash world. He said: "It has been a tough decision to make as I have really enjoyed working with WSA and its Board

and members.

Garner will still be a regular face in the squash world, as his company Eventis Sports Marketing Ltd will continue to be heavily involved behind the scenes with a number of tournament fixtures on the WSA World Tour calendar.

The role of Tour Director will be filled by former world No25 Suzie Pierrepont (right) in the interim while the search for a permanent candidate is under way.



### WSA RANKINGS - JULY

The July WSA World Tour Rankings see an unmoved top 10. The highest move at the top of the rankings sees **Joelle King** of New Zealand leapfrog **Samantha Teran** of Mexico to occupy the No12 spot. King's international teammate **Jaclyn Hawkes** also moves up one place, overtaking **Joey Chan** of Hong Kong at No17.

1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
3	Laura Massaro	ENG
4	Raneem El Weleily	EGY
5	Madeline Perry	IRL
6	Annie Au	HKG
7	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
8	Camille Serme	FRA
9	Rachael Grinham	AUS
10	Kasey Brown	AUS



**PSA TO MOVE**

Alex Gough, PSA's Chief Executive has reported that the PSA office in Cardiff, Wales, '...is closing its doors on 1st October 2012. Cardiff has been the home of the PSA for an incredible 28 years'



He added, 'Since its inception Sheila Cooksley (pictured) has been running the office, along with her fabulous staff who have tirelessly served the association throughout our time in Cardiff, giving complete

dedication to their respective roles.

With Sheila's upcoming retirement the PSA management and board feel that now is the right time to relocate our administration to Leeds, as well as opening a London office which will be the new face of the PSA'.

**PSA CLOSED SATELLITE EVENTS CATEGORY EXPANDS**

In conjunction with the European Squash Federation PSA will introduce a new category of Closed Satellite events that will cover National Junior Open tournaments, mirroring the scheme that WSA has operated for a number of years.

**PSA RANKINGS - JULY**

England's James Willstrop celebrates his sixth month as world number one in the new July Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings.

The 28-year-old from Leeds heads an unchanged top 20 list, ahead of fellow countryman Nick Matthew at two; Frenchman Gregory Gaultier in third place; and Egyptians Ramy Ashour and Karim Darwish at four and five, respectively.

July 2012 top 10:

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

**WSF AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME IN AFRICA**

'A huge, huge thing for us'.....

News that the WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Malawi has inspired a squash facility to be included in a new OlympAfrica Sports Centre in the capital Lilongwe has been hailed by Squash Malawi President Jimmy Kawaye as "a huge, huge thing for the sport in our country".



The WSF Ambassador Programme to Malawi, led by Malaysia's record six-time women's World Champion Nicol David and Egypt's former World Junior Champion, Mohamed El Shorbagy, is a World Squash Federation initiative designed to highlight the appeal of squash in countries where the sport is in its infancy.

On arrival in Lilongwe, the WSF party was welcomed by Hon. Enoch K Chakufwa Chihana, MP, the Minister of Youth Development & Sports (pictured). "It is a great honour for us to host your visit," said the Minister. "There are many countries in Africa, but the fact that you have chosen to come to Malawi is very special to us."

It was at a press conference later that Malawi Olympic Committee representative Jappie Mhango revealed that squash courts will now be featured in a new indoor sports facility which will be added to the OlympAfrica Sports Centre.

The party was based at Lilongwe's two-court Capital Sunbird Hotel, where David and El Shorbagy passed on tips to many of the country's leading players and juniors - while South Africa national coach Richard Castle and WSF referee Mike Collins, also from South Africa, conducted coaching and refereeing workshops, respectively, over two days for attendees both from Malawi and neighbouring countries.



The coaching and refereeing workshops proved to be highly popular and made a significant impact on the attendees, while spreading good practice in Malawi and beyond.



President Kawaye explained further: "We weren't really getting much attention from the government - particularly the ministry - so this visit came at just the right time."

"It has focussed them on making a concrete commitment - and this is a huge element of what the visit has achieved."

"The coaching and the involvement of Nicol and Mohamed has given our players an extra dimension to their play," Kawaye continued.

"The refereeing sessions were really useful too. We thought we were doing OK, but discovered there were many gaps in our understanding of the rules. It has inspired us to create a national body for referees."

"The media interest was also beyond our expectations. We had representatives from various outlets, including the Malawi News Agency (MANA), with us from the point of your arrival through to your departure!"



### "You have empowered Namibian squash....."

Tyc Kakehongo, National Administrator of the Namibian Squash Association, told record six-time women's world champion Nicol David and twice world junior champion Mohamed El Shorbagy as the five-day WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Namibia came to an end in the country's capital Windhoek.

On arrival in Windhoek, the party was welcomed at a press conference hosted by the Trustco Group, sponsors of the Namibian Squash Association for the past ten years.



"It is truly an honour to host this distinguished group from the world of international squash," said Quinton van Rooyen, CEO of the leading Namibian company.

"Sport builds bridges, but squash builds even

bigger bridges."

Next stop on the tour was the country's second city Walvis Bay, where the Buccaneers Club - based at WASRA sports centre - has played a leading role in the sport's development with an impressive junior initiative. The four-court club hosts two afternoon sessions a week for some 20 youngsters from the nearby Walvis Bay High School, run by coach Luke Allen.

The group moved up the coast to popular resort Swakopmund, home of the SFC Club. After sessions with a number of club members, David and El Shorbagy took on the club's two top men, before further demonstrating their skills to an enthralled crowd with an exhibition match between the pair.

Back in Windhoek, the climax of the visit came with a hugely-popular evening at the city's Wanderers Squash Club, in which David took on the country's top five women, one after the other, and El Shorbagy showed off his prodigious talent against the nation's top five men.



Gwen Lister (pictured with the players), the distinguished founder and long-time editor of *The Namibian* newspaper, was recently invited to become Patron of the squash association after falling in love

with sport when introduced to it at the age of 49. "Squash is a niche sport - but I think it can break barriers."

"We must make the sport accessible to youth in the townships," added Lister. "In order to get more sponsors, we have to ensure that squash is more readily available to the black community."

Andrew Shelley, Chief Executive of the World Squash Federation, was delighted with the success of the latest Ambassador initiative: "When you travel to countries where the squash playing communities have such passion to spread the sport - and in the case of Malawi overcome challenges as basic as equipment - the WSF Ambassador Programme visits can be very humbling. We can do so little in comparison."

"The word 'Ambassadors' is in the scheme title, but it couldn't sum up Nicol and Mohamed better. Throughout a gruelling schedule, they played, smiled, gave of themselves and won new legions of fans. They weren't paid fees, but certainly earned huge respect."



## WSF 'RACKETS FOR AFRICA' BEGIN ARRIVING

A consignment of 50 squash rackets arrived in the Namibian capital Windhoek for the Namibia Squash Association to use for development projects - heralding the start of deliveries for the *Rackets For Africa* project launched by the World Squash Federation earlier in the year.

It was Canadian Riley Waterous, a squash-playing student from Calgary, who conceived the idea of collecting used squash rackets to send to communities that could make use of them - leading to the birth of *Rackets For Africa*, an initiative supported jointly by the WSF and the Squash Federation of Africa (SFA).

The Namibia package is one of several that are currently en-route to African nations, including Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Nigeria and Botswana.

"With more countries submitting development plans that can make use of a stock of rackets, further consignments will be on their way from Canada to Africa soon," commented WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley.



(Pictured: El Shorbagy, Tyc Kakehongo & Adrianna Lambert of Namibian SRA, David and Shelley)

"As part of the WSF Ambassadors Programme that only recently spent time with squash communities in both Malawi and Namibia - which coincided with the arrival of the rackets in Windhoek - we know just how challenging finding equipment can be," added Shelley.

Adrianna Lambert, Chairwoman of the Namibian Squash Association, was excited about having a stock to link in with plans to expand opportunities in disadvantaged areas.

"We have schemes in place that will enable youngsters in new areas to try squash, and having a supply of rackets will make a real difference," said Lambert. "This will be such a useful programme for us - and all over Africa, I am certain."

Meanwhile Glenn Lazarus, another recipient on behalf of Central Gauteng in South Africa, will be using the rackets he has now received to provide equipment for his programme of training sessions every Wednesday and Thursday for high and primary schools and on Saturdays for social groups.

"There are 60 trained teacher coaches from the inner-city, Alex and Soweto, who train kids," Lazarus explained. "We have more than 1500 kids from the inner-city and 500 from Soweto. We run 'coach the coach' and certified courses for our coaches as well as a monthly coaching forum to ensure there is continuity

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Doha WSF World Junior Squash Championships take place at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in the country's capital Doha from 7-18 July.

Players from 29 countries will initially do battle in the men's and women's individual championships (7 - 12 July), which will be followed by the biennial Men's World Junior Team Championship.



El Shorbagy and El Sherbini

The individual titles are expected to remain in Egyptian hands - with Marwan El Shorbagy seeded to retain the men's title and repeat his brother's "double" win.

It was in 2009 that Marwan's older brother Mohamed El Shorbagy clinched the crown for the second year in a row in India - becoming only the second player in the event's history to secure the title for a second time. El Shorbagy junior is expected to face Pakistan's 3/4 seed Danish Atlas Khan in the semi-finals before the predicted all-Egyptian climax against Mohamed Abouelghar, the No2 seed.

Former champion Nour El Sherbini is the hot favourite to reclaim the women's title. The 16-year-old from Alexandria became the sport's youngest ever world champion when she won this U19 title in 2009, aged just 13!

With a career-threatening knee injury now well behind her, El Sherbini marked her formidable promise on the world stage again only two months ago in London where she became the youngest player ever to reach the final of the prestigious British Open.

Runner-up last year, El Sherbini will be aiming to reach a record-equalling third world junior final in Doha this year - and then, with further possible appearances in the next two years' championships, has the potential to rack up a total of four titles!

El Sherbini, now ranked seven in the world, is expected to line up against England's European Junior champion Emily Whitlock, the No2 seed, in the final.



**WORLD MASTERS  
SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS  
BIRMINGHAM 2012**

Seedings and draws for the World Masters in Birmingham, England are underway at the time of writing, with approaching eight hundred players participating.



As ever, there is a real blend of players, including a number of past professionals. Too many to feature a selection, but room to mention the inclusion of former World Champion and World number one Michelle Martin from Australia. Working with the Australian Institute players will have helped her

preparations!

Birmingham University will host the event on their spectacular all-glass courts with Edgbaston Priory, Solihull Arden and West Warwickshire Sports Club all holding matches throughout the week long tournament.

England Squash & Racketball have announced Subway, the "submarine sandwich-makers", as the official sponsor. Nick Rider, Chief Executive for England Squash & Racketball said: "We are delighted that such a well recognised and international brand is sponsoring the 2012 World Squash Masters Championships.

"The event is one of the largest squash tournaments in the world and promises to be a fantastic spectacle and we are thrilled to be hosting it in Birmingham with the support of the Subway brand", he added.

**WSF WORLD DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE  
.....AND WSF AGM**

Details of these conferences, the WSF World Development Conference and WSF AGM and AGM Conference have previously been circulated. They take place in Stockholm, Sweden, with the Development Conference taking place on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> (morning) September, with the AGM Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September followed by the WSF AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> September. (On morning 28<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**SNIPPETS**

**THE FIRST UAE JUNIOR LEAGUE** has concluded in the Emirates. Launched with the support of the UAE Squash Association and sponsors Prince, it proved a huge success with nearly 80 juniors from Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah competing in regional clubs over a period of 12 weeks.

**CARIBBEAN CONQUEROR**



Christopher Binnie made squash history in the British Virgin Islands when he became the first Caribbean player to win a PSA World Tour title. The 23-year-old Jamaican upset Frenchman Johan Bouquet in the final of

the inaugural British Virgin Islands Open to win the PSA Challenger 5 event at the Tortola Sports Club in Tortola. And, incredibly, Binnie recorded his historical maiden title as a qualifier

**S-TREND**, official suppliers of Allam British Open merchandise ([www.s-trend.com.au](http://www.s-trend.com.au)), very generously gave space

on their stand at the O<sub>2</sub> so that BACK THE BID clothing could be made available to spectators – and very popular it was too! To get yours in good time for World Squash Day go to [www.squash2020.com](http://www.squash2020.com).

**GUYANA GOINGS ON**

National squash coach Carl Ince says that he has already begun to see talent emerging in some of the students involved in the after school squash programme currently ongoing at the squash courts of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports National Racquet Centre, Camp Street.



"Right now we have at least two boys who are very promising. What we would like to do first is get a few of the really good ones and start a league, and get a few of our good players, to the really good players but some of the other players that are at their level, and have them compete against each other," Ince told Stabroek Sport in an exclusive interview recently.

Ince recently took over the running of the programme, which began in January as an initiative of the Guyana Squash Association (GSA) under their sponsorship grant with telecommunications giant, Digicel.

The program is a project that the Association had been eager to conduct since the commissioning of the courts at the Racquet Centre last year. Correspondence was sent to a number of schools within proximity to the squash centre, with Ince suggesting that the ultimate goal of the program is to have all the schools integrating the sport into their curriculum.

## ANOTHER 'SQUASH' MARRIAGE



WSA and PSA members merged when Kiwi Jaclyn Hawkes, the current WSA President, wed Brit Jonathan Kemp, PSA top 40 player.

Very best wishes to them both.

## AND A 'SQUASH' BIRTH.....

Congratulations to married Egyptian squash star duo Karim Darwish and his wife Engy Kheirallah who celebrated the birth of their first child, Omar Karim Darwish recently.

## PARAGUAY GETS A NATIONAL CENTRE

'I am very proud to announce that Paraguay has started the building of its National Squash Centre. It will be placed in the National Sports Secretary, where the table tennis, swimming, handball and Volleyball are going to have their own centres among the existing track and field facilities' Esteban Casarino reports.

The centre will feature three singles court and a doubles court.

## COMING TO SQUASH?

A tennis racket stuffed with electronic sensors capable of tracking a player's every slice, spin and smash made its public debut at the French Open recently.

Tennis stars Rafael Nadal and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga were among those who tested the racket, made by French manufacturer Babolat.

Stroke type, category of ball spin, shot power and the positioning of the ball impact were all tracked live by the rackets, which are due to go on sale in 2013.

Eric Babolat, who took the reins of the family enterprise in 1998 after his father was killed in a plane crash, said the "Play & Connect" rackets, which feel and weigh the same as a normal racket, represented a great leap forward for the game.

"It's like going from silent cinema to movies with sound," he told journalists.

Belgium's Kim Clijsters, who also tested the racket opposite China's Li Na, described the technology as "amazing."

The producer's aim is to appeal also to non-professional players, who will be able to upload data to an online application and track their performance to improve their game.



OFFICIAL WSF MAGAZINE



WORLD  
SQUASH

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