

**To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

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

## SQUASH GETS THROUGH TO THE LAST THREE



(L-R) George Mieras (WSF Secretary General), Nicol David (Women's World Champion), N Ramachandran (WSF President), Ramy Ashour (Men's World Champion), Andrew Shelley (WSF Chief Executive)

Where else would this Instant Update start but with the great news that our presentation to the IOC Executive Board in St Petersburg on 29 May resulted in squash getting into the final three from which one sport will be chosen for the Olympic Games 2020?

So we now go forward to the IOC Meeting in Buenos Aires during which a new IOC President will be elected, and the host city for 2020 chosen, on 8 September squash will make our final presentation as will wrestling and softball/baseball to try and secure the cherished and deserved place.

The Olympic Bid Steering Group has planned its strategy for these final weeks leading up to the presentation – everything possible that we can do will be done.

Now, for information, here is the press release issued when the result was announced in Russia.

### **WORLD SQUASH FEDERATION WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

#### **Sport Shortlist Decision for 2020 Games**

29 May, St Petersburg, Russia: The World Squash Federation today welcomed the decision by the International Olympic Committee [IOC] Executive Board to shortlist Squash as a potential sport to join the Olympic Programme for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The IOC Executive Board, which comprises 15 IOC members including President Jacques Rogge, made its decision after receiving presentations from eight sports. The Squash presentation team included seven-time women's world champion and world number one Nicol David, and Ramy Ashour, men's world champion and

world number one. Three films [which can be viewed at [www.worldsquash.2020](http://www.worldsquash.2020)] were shown in the Squash presentation including a newly commissioned film which captures the broadcast innovations the sport has introduced in the last few years.

World Squash Federation President Ramachandran, who led Squash's presentation team, said:

"This is a huge milestone in our quest to join the Olympic Programme and I would like to thank the Executive Board for the faith it has placed in Squash. It was fantastic to have the women's and men's world number ones on our presentation team, and Nicol and Ramy were passionate about what it would mean to them to have the chance to compete in the Olympic Games. It was also important that our presentation communicated the scale and breadth of innovations that Squash has introduced over the last few years, in particular in key areas such as broadcasting, and I believe we did that.

**Malaysia's Nicol David, seven time World Champion, said:**

"This is a great day for Squash as it takes us one step closer to realising our long held ambition to join the Olympic Games. I said to the Executive Board that the one big regret in my career is that I have never had the chance to compete in the Olympic Games, but I would happily trade all my seven world titles for the chance of Olympic Gold. Hopefully that showed what competing in the Games means to me. It was a true honour to play a part in our presentation and I will do everything I can as we head towards Buenos Aires to help our campaign."

**Egypt's Ramy Ashour, Men's World Number one, said:**

"It was great for Nicol and me to be part of the presentation team and to represent the Men's and Women's professional Squash Tours. I think this was an important message to the IOC Executive Board as it shows what competing in the Games would mean to us and every single player on the tours. Being part of our presentation has fuelled even more my dream to compete in the Olympic Games, and I pray that this journey leads me to the Olympic Games in 2020, where I can make my country proud and win Gold for Egypt."

**President Ramachandran added:**

"Squash would grow all over the world with the Olympic Movement. We are a growing, global sport played in 185 countries by millions across the world. We offer the genuine prospect of new nations on the medal podium. We would be easy and low cost to integrate into the Olympic Games with just 64 athletes, two competition courts that can be built in days and we have a great track record of being hosted in iconic locations. I think all these elements were important considerations for the IOC Executive Board. It is critical now that we build further momentum and support ahead of the IOC Member vote on September 8, and this is what the global Squash family is completely focussed on."

## ENGLAND UPSET TITLE-HOLDERS EGYPT TO WIN WORLD TEAM TITLE IN FRANCE



In a dramatic final of the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship in France which went the full distance, second seeds England upset defending champions Egypt to reclaim the sport's most prestigious trophy for the fifth time since 1995.

Daryl Selby put the underdogs ahead before world number one Ramy Ashour evened matters for Egypt, the top seeds bidding to become the first nation since 1987 to win the title three times in a row.

In the decider, world No4 James Willstrop made up for his loss to Karim Darwish at the same stage of the previous final two years ago to beat the world No5 11-3, 11-13, 11-3, 11-5 to clinch the title for England for the first time since 2007.

31 nations competed in the 24th edition of the championship which was being staged in France for the first time in its 46-year history. Play took place at two venues in Mulhouse, the Espace Squash 3000 Centre and the Palais des Sports where, for the first time, matches have been played simultaneously on three ASB all-glass showcourts spectacularly lined up side-by-side.

### Selby Scores

England made a great start when team number three Selby beat Tarek Momen 11-5, 11-3, 11-7 in his first win over the higher-ranked Egyptian for over three years.

Hosts France, narrowly beaten by England in a dramatic semi-final the previous night which finished just before 2.00 am - before a still packed and partisan crowd - defeated former champions Australia in the bronze medal play-off.

Event newcomers Botswana recorded an impressive 24th place finish with a squad led by world No15 Alister Walker - but also including the event's youngest ever competitor, 14-year-old Theo Pelonomi.

Germany beat South Africa to win the play-off for fifth place - their highest ever finish - while India became the highest-placed Asian country for the first time after beating Malaysia in the seventh-place play-off.



The championship, described by Indian number one Saurav Ghosal as "the toughest tournament in the world", featured international TV coverage - while play on all three glass courts was streamed live throughout the week.

World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran, who presented the trophy to England after the final, said: "The value of all initiatives and innovations introduced into squash over the past few years were brilliantly demonstrated in the presentation of the Championship in Mulhouse.

"The French Federation, under the inspired leadership of President Jacques Fontaine, mounted a spectacle to be hugely proud of, clearly much enjoyed by all players, managers, coaches, spectators and the media, and I congratulate and thank them very much indeed for this."

### RESULTS:

Final: [2] England bt [1] Egypt 2/1  
 Daryl Selby bt Tarek Momen 11-5, 11-3, 11-7  
 Nick Matthew lost to Ramy Ashour 11-5, 6-11, 9-11, 9-11  
 James Willstrop bt Karim Darwish 11-3, 11-13, 11-3, 11-4  
 3rd place play-off: [3] France bt [4] Australia 2/0  
 Mathieu Castagnet bt Ryan Cuskelly 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9, 11-6  
 Gregory Gaultier bt Cameron Pillely 11-9, 11-4, 11-4  
 5th place play-off: [6] Germany bt [7] South Africa 2/0  
 7th place play-off: [8] India bt [5] Malaysia 2/0  
 9th place play-off: [16] Scotland bt [14] Pakistan 2/1  
 11th place play-off: [15] Canada bt [11] USA 2/0  
 13th place play-off: [10] Hong Kong bt [9] Finland 2/1  
 15th place play-off: [12] New Zealand bt [13] Mexico 2/0  
 17th place play-off: [17/20] Switzerland bt [17/20] Netherlands 2/0  
 19th place play-off: [17/20] Kuwait bt [21/24] Argentina 2/0  
 21st place play-off: [17/20] Colombia bt [25/28] Japan 2/0  
 23rd place play-off: [21/24] Ireland bt [21/24] Botswana 2/1  
 25th place play-off: [25/28] Czech Republic bt [29/31] Kenya 2/0  
 27th place play-off: [25/28] Poland bt [29/31] Russia 3/0  
 29th place play-off: [21/24] Austria bt [25/28] Venezuela 2/0  
 31st place: [29/31] Namibia

### WORLD REFEREEING CONFERENCE IN JORDAN

A reminder that the 12<sup>th</sup> World Squash Refereeing Conference will be held in Amman, Jordan on 4 and 5 October.



The theme this year is 'The Next Step: Becoming an Elite Referee' and the varied programme and quality presenters will ensure that attendees come away having developed their skills and learnt a great deal.

Full details and the registration form are at: [www.worldsquash.org/ws/?p=11030](http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/?p=11030), and a 10% discount is being offered to registrations received before 11 July 2013.

## HONG KONG, PAKI STAN & ENGLAND SHINE I N REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHI PS



Annie Au made history in Pakistan when she became the first Hong Kong Chinese player to win the women's FMC Asian Squash Championship title, after upsetting Malaysian favourite

Low Wee Wern in the final at the Mushaf Ali Mir Squash Complex in Islamabad.

Runner-up in the last championship in 2011, the 24-year-old world No13 beat Low, ranked six places higher, 5-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-1.

The men's championship provided the first Pakistan winner for 15 years when Aamir Atlas Khan beat third-seeded Kuwaiti Abdullah Al Muzayen 11-9, 11-3, 11-8 - ending Malaysian dominance of the men's event since 1998.



The 40th European Team Championships took place in the Netherlands city of Amsterdam, where England maintained their grip on both the men's and women's titles despite stiff opposition.

Former world No2 Jenny Duncalf earned her 100th England cap in sensational style on semi-finals day by clinching victory in the deciding match against third seeds France.

In their 13th successive final against France, the England men found themselves 2/0 down for the first time after powerful French wins by world No3 Gregory Gaultier and the now retired former world champion Thierry Lincou.

But Essex duo Daryl Selby and Peter Barker - ranked 13 and 7, respectively, in the world - steadied the England ship with straight games wins over Lucas Serme and Gregoire Marche to give the defending champions an 8-6 win on games countback - and England's narrowest victory since 2002.

### RESULTS:

**European Team Championships**, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Men's final:

[1] ENGLAND bt [2] FRANCE 2/2 (*England win 8-6 on games countback*)

James Willstrop lost to Thierry Lincou 11-4, 12-10, 5-11, 9-11, 5-11, Nick Matthew lost to Gregory Gaultier 11-13, 6-11, 12-14. Daryl Selby bt Lucas Serme 11-6, 11-4, 11-9, Peter Barker bt Gregoire Marche 11-5, 11-8, 11-9

Women's final:

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

Laura Massaro bt Madeline Perry 11-7, 11-5, 11-2, Alison Waters lost to Aisling Blake 5-11, 9-11, 6-11  
Jenny Duncalf bt Laura Mylotte 11-4, 11-5, 11-2

**Photographs:** Many with thanks from SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

**FMC Asian Championships**, Islamabad, Pakistan

Men's final:

[6] Aamir Atlas Khan (PAK) bt [3] Abdullah Al Muzayen (KUW) 11-9, 11-3, 11-8

Women's final:

[2] Annie Au (HKG) bt [1] Low Wee Wern (MAS) 5-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-1

**Asian Junior Individual Championships**,

Amman, Jordan

Final:

[2] Syed Ali Mujtaba Shah Bokhari (PAK) bt [1] Ahmad Al-Saraj (JOR) 4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 14-12

Semi-finals:

[1] Ahmad Al-Saraj (JOR) bt [3/4] Tayyab Aslam (PAK) 11-9, 10-12, 11-5, 11-7

[2] Syed Ali Mujtaba Shah Bokhari (PAK) bt [3/4] Kush Kumar (IND) 13-11, 5-11, 11-6, 11-9

Quarter-finals:

[1] Ahmad Al-Saraj (JOR) bt [5/8] Bilal Zakir (PAK) 11-6, 11-7, 11-9

[3/4] Tayyab Aslam (PAK) bt [5/8] Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT) 12-10, 11-8, 3-11, 11-8

[3/4] Kush Kumar (IND) bt [9/16] Deepak Mishra (IND) 8-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-7

[2] Syed Ali Mujtaba Shah Bokhari (PAK) bt [5/8] Yousif Nizar Saleh (KUW) 8-11, 13-11, 11-6, 11-9

Final:

[2] Ho Ka Po (HKG) bt [1] Anaka Alankamony (IND) 11-9, 12-10, 12-10

Semi-finals:

[1] Anaka Alankamony (IND) bt [5/8] Vanessa Raj (MAS) 11-6, 6-11, 11-3, 11-8

[2] Ho Ka Po (HKG) bt [3/4] Pansy Chan (HKG) 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-9

Quarter-finals:

[1] Anaka Alankamony (IND) bt [5/8] Rachel Arnold (MAS) 11-7, 8-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-9

[5/8] Vanessa Raj (MAS) bt [3/4] Ho Tze-Lok (HKG) 11-9, 15-13, 11-5

[3/4] Pansy Chan (HKG) bt [5/8] Chu Man Yee (HKG) 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8

[2] Ho Ka Po (HKG) bt [5/8] Lakshya Ragavendran (IND) 11-3, 11-1, 11-8

## WSF APPROVED BALLS



## ESF ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT



The European Squash Federation, the sport's longest-established regional federation, elected Zena Wooldridge as the second female President in its 40-year history at its AGM held alongside the European Team Championships.

Wooldridge, the youngest female Chair of England Squash between 2006 and 2012, alongside her paid job as Director of Sport at the University of Birmingham, was awarded an OBE in 2009 in recognition of both these roles and her long-standing involvement in British University Sport.



The new ESF President has stressed the benefits Olympic inclusion would bring to the sport. The ESF has 42 member nations - ranging in size from England, with almost 5,000 courts, to 'younger' squash nations such as Liechtenstein and Macedonia with far smaller numbers.

But Wooldridge pointed out that some of these nations are growing quickly and believes that expansion would increase if the IOC votes to include squash in the 2020 programme in September.

"Europe has some of the leading squash nations in the world, but also some new fast-emerging nations such as Poland, which is investing rapidly in new squash centres and is now hosting a range of European and World Championships, which is great to see," said Wooldridge.

"The ESF has some very committed expert volunteers, who are doing some impressive work to support development in many of our smaller member nations. Israel reaching the final of last weekend's European Under-15 Championship is a prime example of how new nations are developing.

"If squash becomes an Olympic sport later this year, I'm sure this growth will escalate. It's an exciting prospect for the sport."

## 12TH WORLD SQUASH DAY LAUNCHED



Following the incredible success of the 2012 World Squash Day, when 46,000 players took part in the biggest sports fixture in history, it has been confirmed that the 2013 World Squash Day will take place on Saturday 5 October, under the theme *Reach Out*.

This year's event - the 12th celebration of this worldwide festival - will encourage players from across the globe to embrace another club, town, sport, or organisation, to help continue the global growth of Squash.

World Squash Federation Chief Executive Andrew Shelley said: "2013 is an incredibly important year for squash as we hope to forge a new Olympic partnership ourselves, and we are keen to encourage links and initiatives as part of our quest for continued growth of the sport at every level.

"World Squash Day (WSD) is a wonderful opportunity for squash to show the world the wide range of benefits of playing our fantastic sport, a sport for life.

"Squash is a hugely enjoyable, healthy sport, with a strong presence in every continent of the world. Our leading athletes are incredible role models and it's great to see so many of them supporting this initiative to attract the next generation of champions and build on the already huge recreational base."

WSD founder Alan Thatcher added: "We are hoping that every squash club on the planet will join in and reach out to another organisation. They could be next door or on the other side of the world. The idea is to build connections and create partnerships to help the sport grow.

"This year is a massive year for squash with the World Squash Federation's bid for a cherished place in the 2020 Olympic Games being decided in September. Whatever the result, we need clubs to work together to show the world what a wonderful sport we have."

For full details, plus ideas for events, please visit: [www.worldsquashday.com](http://www.worldsquashday.com)



### **Official WSF Magazine**

Jon Carney, facilities manager for England Squash & Racketball, explains why defibrillators are a must for any squash club.

For the full article, click here:

[http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/pdfs/features/22\\_SP133\\_defibrillators\\_web.pdf](http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/pdfs/features/22_SP133_defibrillators_web.pdf)

Also, Dominic Bliss examines the issue of heart attacks in squash.

For the full article, click here:

<http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/pdfs/features/Heart%20Feature-web.pdf>

**OBI TUARI ES**

**Peter Zöbelein**



At the start of May while attending the European Team Championships, German referee Peter Zöbelein collapsed and died while breakfasting. He had been feeling unwell for some days and did not seek treatment, creating a huge sense of loss for his family and friends, first and foremost, and the squash referee community.

Peter was not only a popular person but had become one of the most respected match officials in the world. He was a WSF Referee who could be relied upon to always put in an excellent performance.

As Wilhelm Eickworth, Chairman, Referee & Rules Committee of the German Squash Rackets Association said:

*"We will miss his personality, his competence and his humour. He had some sharp edges, but that was fine (after all, he was a lawyer!). He always had an open ear for his refereeing colleagues and he was always prepared to help others progress, as he pursued his own development. He had been an active member of the German Federation refereeing pool since 1995. His appointment as WSF Referee testifies to his professional competence; his personal competence was never in question.*

*We did not have a chance to say thank you, just to say it was great to meet you.*

*It was for us a pleasure, thank you very much!"*

**Dicky Rutnagur**



The world of squash is mourning the passing of Dicky Rutnagur, the highly-respected Indian-born British-based journalist who covered squash, badminton and cricket for the Daily Telegraph and died in London during June, aged 82.

"It is a sad day for the squash family as Dicky was one of the first journalists to get squash into the broad-sheets," said PSA CEO Alex Gough. "We were lucky to have someone who had such great knowledge and true insight into the game. He was already missed at events over the past few years and our thoughts go to his family at this sad time."

Jahangir Khan, the record ten-time British Open champion from Pakistan said: "He was a wonderful

man. I knew him since when I started playing junior events in the UK. He was greatly respected by everyone and he knew squash so well - and his articles were so enjoyable and to the point. He was actually an all-round writer and I have read many of his articles on other sports in the Telegraph. My father and I had worked on a book with him called Khans Unlimited in Pakistan. It is a great loss to Journalism. May his soul rest in peace."

Andrew Shelley, Chief Executive of the World Squash Federation, said: "In an era that started decades before the reporting world changed with the advent of internet, Dicky Rutnagur was already a doyen of the craft. His encyclopaedic knowledge of players and championships, his direct and accurate mode of reportage - whether it be squash or his other love cricket - led Dicky to be held in the highest esteem by players, promoters and his publications alike. When you added to that his ability as a raconteur, a wicked sense of humour and a penchant for practical jokes, he was the best of company. Wonderful memories, wonderful man."

Ted Wallbuton, a former WSF Chief Executive, added: "Dicky Rutnagur was truly a 'one off'. His Squash reporting was always flawlessly accurate, infinitely readable and usually contained a reflection of his quirky and endearing sense of humour. His many stories of Fleet Street life in its hey-day were memorable and he knew how to work the system to his advantage.

**CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2013**

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are eligible for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events; when buying new products look for the WSF Certified Tested logo on them. Brands that become certified will be added to the WSF website and featured in Instant Updates.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL
	Dunlop I-ARMOR
	i-Mask
	2500 (9903 Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43)
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
	R615

## WSF AMBASSADOR VISIT TO INSPIRE PANAMA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DEBUT

"This visit will help us achieve our goal - to see Panama represented for the first time at the next Men's World Team Squash Championship," said the country's former national champion Pedro Altamiranda as the 2013 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Panama reached its climax.

Led by Malaysia's record seven-time world squash champion Nicol David, the first leg of the latest annual WSF Ambassador Programme visit to the capital Panama City attracted widespread interest in the sport - and significant media attention. David was accompanied by Egypt's former world junior champion and current world No6 Mohamed Elshorbagy.



After meeting the country's Vice President Juan Carlos Varela (pictured above), David and Elshorbagy headed to a press conference to welcome the World Squash Federation party. Altamiranda and reigning national champion Jorge Zachrisson described the unique boost to Squash in Panama that this visit would inspire, while fellow Panamanian host Dr Jorge Lasso de la Vega, who is Professor of Oncology & Gynaecology at the University of Panama, also highlighted the substantial health benefits the sport offers.

WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley answered general questions including those on the sport's bid to join the 2020 Olympic Games programme - and Camilo Amado, President of the Panama National Olympic Committee, described the process which will see squash, or one of its two fellow shortlist rivals, win the coveted place for a 'new sport' in the 2020 Games at the IOC session in Buenos Aires in September.

"I have seen the squash bid video and, of the three sports in contention, squash looks the most advanced," declared Amado (pictured below).



American nations.

A session at the 'Club Raqueta de Panama', at which David and Elshorbagy ran a number of court sessions for all-comers, enthusiasts turned out in force - not just from Panama City but from all over the country as well some from neighbouring Central

"I've never played before, but I definitely want to again now," added 11-year-old Venezuelan Maria Cokeres.

Nicol David, pictured below with some of the youngsters in her session, was thrilled with the response from the kids: "Some had clearly not played squash before, but had been interested in coming along after seeing posters promoting our visit - but they obviously loved it and wanted more. It was really rewarding."



Zachrisson was overwhelmed with the response to the two world stars' visit to his club: "I've never seen so many people in the club ever - and we've certainly never seen so many kids in the club before."

The session finished when Altamiranda took on David, and Zachrisson did battle with Elshorbagy.

"It was an honour to play her," said Altamiranda after losing in straight games to the Malaysian superstar in an entertaining match which delighted the packed and partisan crowd. "I have been studying her videos on SquashTV for the past two months, trying to work out how I could beat her," added the former five-time national champion.

Panamanian number one Zachrisson faced Elshorbagy - and was a point from taking a game from the former world No5 from Alexandria. But Elshorbagy showed his class by pegging back the four-point deficit before closing out the match in three.

"He's the best player I've ever played - by far - and it was a great opportunity to be on court with him!"

David and Elshorbagy took time out to see the world-famous Panama Canal - and are pictured below with Altamiranda (right) and Zachrisson (second left) as a massive Supertanker negotiated the final lock before heading into the Atlantic.



The Ambassador visit generated unprecedented media coverage for the sport - including TV coverage on *TV Max*, *TVN*, *TeleMetro* and *Cable Onda Sports*,

with national press reports in *Panama America*, *El Siglo*, *La Estrella* and *Mi Diario*.

"We are delighted with the outcome of your visit," Zachrisson told David and Elshorbagy (pictured, below, outside the club). "We did our best to promote the visit by advertising on TV and in the press, via social media and with posters - and the results we achieved were beyond our expectations.



"Something like this only happens once - so I hope we are able to capitalise upon it fully.

"You have definitely opened doors for us at all different levels - even at the Olympic level.

"With the new four-court facility opening soon at the Union Club - a very popular social club which has around 3,000 members - we hope this will attract more new people into the game.

"And of course we must attract more juniors, and establish stronger links with the 30 or so apartment blocks in the city which have squash courts, and where families hitherto play without any formal link to a national system.

"We must make more of a focus to participate in future Central American Championship with our juniors," said Zachrisson.

"But the biggest goal - and one which we are now much nearer to realising thanks to your visit - is to have a team in the 2015 Men's World Team Championship," concluded Altamiranda.

## **WSF AMBASSADORS LEAVE LONG-LASTING MEMORIES IN VENEZUELA**

As the 2013 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Venezuela neared its conclusion, Francisco Paradisi had no doubts about its impact: "Our people will never forget it," said the President of Federacion Venezolana de Squash. "It was definitely an inspiring visit which people will be talking about for a long time."

Led by Malaysia's record seven-time world squash champion Nicol David, the second and final leg of the latest annual WSF Ambassador Programme visit to the capital Caracas attracted unprecedented interest in the sport and comprehensive media attention. David was accompanied by Egypt's former world junior champion and current world No6 Mohamed Elshorbagy.

The WSF team also featured Dutch and Belgian National Coach Ronny Vlassaks, Scotland's Senior

WSF Referee Assessor Ian Allanach and WSF CEO Andrew Shelley.

On arrival, the group visited the headquarters of the Comité Olímpico Venezolano for a Press Conference hosted by the Venezuelan National Olympic Committee. NOC Treasurer and former Vice President Dr Elida Parraga de Alvarez escorted David and Elshorbagy around the Museum before meeting the national media.

*(Pictured below outside the NOC building are (L to R) Elshorbagy, Paradisi, Dr Parraga de Alvarez, David & Shelley)*



"Dr Elida thanked us for this great event in Caracas and for visiting the Venezuelan Olympic Building and its museum," said Paradisi. "She praised our work in our bid for the 2020 Olympic Games and wished all the luck for squash at the next IOC meeting in Buenos Aires."

Over the next two days, the team visited the 357 Spa Club y Club Santa Paula for a series of exhibition matches and clinics with a variety of players, including those from national men's and women's squads - plus Coaching and Refereeing workshops directed by Vlassaks and Allanach.

In one of the most eagerly-awaited matches, Elshorbagy took on Gabriel Teran, the Venezuelan number one who led his national team in last month's Men's World Team Championship in France.

"The big difference between Mohamed and the players I usually play is his deception - he always plays the ball really late so you never know where it is going," said Teran after his introduction to world class squash. "He's at a different level to anyone I have ever played before!"

Gabriela Cioco, the country's top-ranked woman, had the chance to play David: "Nicol is such an amazing ambassador for our sport - everyone has fallen in love with her and the team. You can be sure that, from now on, everyone here will be playing with new motivation.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for people in Venezuela to get to know more about squash - we've never had media interest like this before. It's been great for players - especially the girls - we are really motivated. It will help us realise our dream to develop our passion."

After an enthusiastically-attended refereeing workshop, Allanach commented: "Those who attended the refereeing sessions generally had good knowledge of the rules, and could explain them.

"I felt that there were some participants who had the knowledge and skills to go further as referees - but the challenge for them is to get better matches to handle. There is no doubt that they have the potential."



Vlassaks (*pictured above, second left, with Venezuelan team players and Allanach, left*) spotted notable talent amongst his coaching candidates: "There were a few players here who impressed me - ones who, if they were based say in Belgium or Holland, with a wider range of facilities available to them, would have the chance of success."

"It was clear that many of the players could see the value of coaching and being coached. The experience was obviously a real eye-opener to some of them, who didn't realise what coaching could do to take them up to a higher level."

Nicol David was thrilled with latest of her three successive WSF Ambassador Programme visits - which included a dinner hosted in her honour by the Malaysian Ambassador: "What impressed me is that the Venezuelans made the most of what was available - the refereeing and coaching workshops, the opportunity to be on court with me and Mohamed, and the exhibition matches. You can tell that there is strong interest - so now we hope they use this visit to move onto the next level. It's so rewarding to do what we do - to see the enthusiasm we can create."

"We're full-time squash players - but it's good to have some fun as well, and spend some time with people who love the game like we do," said the 29-year-old from Penang (*pictured below with Elshorbagy and brothers Ramses, 9, and Diego, 5, proudly wearing caps they had produced to honour the two players*).



Elshorbagy, who made his Ambassador debut in 2012, added: "After my first experience as a WSF Ambassador last year in Africa, I felt more confident this year - and it has been great this time to meet different people, from different cultures. I was impressed by the enthusiasm for squash shown by all the people we met, all keen to take advantage of our visit. I really hope we see a champion from Panama and Venezuela one day soon."

Francisco Paradisi was overwhelmed with the visit's success: "It has been an exciting experience for all of us. The comments I have had from people who attended the coaching and refereeing clinics have been unbelievable - they couldn't believe how much they learnt. They were really happy."

"It was such a great experience for our players to be on court with Nicol and Mohamed. The kids were so excited by it and your Ambassador players were so generous with them. Our people will never forget it. It was definitely an inspiring visit which people will be talking about for a long time," exclaimed the local federation president.

"It was a great experience for our national squad to be with Mohamed - not just on court, but being able to hang out with him too. And it was especially beneficial for Gabriela to play with Nicol - she never has the chance to play top players. The coverage we received on TV was really incredible. We've never had this kind of media exposure before - I have received loads of texts and phone calls from people who saw it. There is more coverage to come - but we must try and keep it going! The visit has also really raised our profile with the NOC - and, even though our national sport is baseball, they are impressed that the WSF chose to come to Venezuela."

"Our next major event is the *Juegos Bolivarianos* (the 'Bolivarian Games', the only multi-sport event in the world to be named after a person which is contested by Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela, plus invited members El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic and Paraguay). This is our Pan American Games or Commonwealth Games - and squash has been included for many years."

"Our men will be competing in the Games, but we hope that this visit will open the door for our women's team to take part too."

Andrew Shelley summed up the success of the latest visit: "I call these our 'E' trips. They Encourage and Enliven the countries we visit, and Energise us too. Entertainment comes from seeing the players in their city, and Excitement taking part in the workshops. "They work on so many levels, and we wish we could do more, but for each one we are indebted to the sport's top players who give their time without fee, similarly the refereeing and coaching gurus who spread their expertise - yes, another 'E' - and to the hosts who are so welcoming."

"Long-term relationships and stimuli come from each - and the great squash communities in Panama and Venezuela will add to the long list, I am certain. It was great for all of us to spend time with them."





*(Picture above shows David & Elshorbagy with a jubilant group of Venezuelan squash enthusiasts)*

This is the third year of the WSF Ambassador Programme, the World Squash Federation initiative designed to highlight the appeal of squash in countries where the sport has taken root and can benefit. After the launch in Latvia in 2011, the WSF Ambassadors visited Malawi and Namibia last year, and began the 2013 programme in Panama.

### DUBAI SUMMER SPORT FESTIVAL FEATURES SQUASH

A spectacular glass-court squash show night launches the 2013 Dubai Summer Sport Festival at the Dubai World Trade Centre during July.

The four-sided glass court, donated by Courtwall will be used throughout July and August for a non-stop series of local tournaments, company events, junior training and open days.

The aim is to attract new participants to the sport. Squash is already a popular sport in the region, with major events being regularly staged in Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia; and with the Asian Junior Championships being held in the Jordan capital Amman from 25-29 June.

The opening gala event on July 4, the Dubai Squash Show Night, features an exhibition match between high-flying Egyptian brothers Mohamed and Marwan Elshorbagy.



The pair from Alexandria are both double World Junior champions: 22-year-old Mohamed in 2008 and 2009 and 19-year-old Marwan in 2010 and 2011. Mohamed has climbed to number five in the PSA world rankings, with Marwan currently at 28.

Courtwall International, one of the world's leading racket court construction companies, hopes the exposure generated in Dubai will help to grow the sport locally as well as raise the profile of squash as it campaigns for a place in the 2020 Olympic Games.

### WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS HIGHLIGHT GLOBAL REACH OF SQUASH

**WSF WORLD SQUASH**  
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013



The growing reach of Squash around the world has never been more emphatically demonstrated than by the seeding for next month's WSF World Junior Squash Championships in Poland.

The top eight seeds for the men's event hail from seven different nations and four separate continents - with players from Jordan and Qatar seeded in the elite group for the first time in the U19 event's 33-year history, and 16-year-old 5/8 seed Diego Elias becoming the event's first ever representative from Peru.

More than 150 players from a record 37 nations will compete in the 2013 Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships and the Women's World Junior Team Championship at the new 15-court Hasta La Vista Club in Wroclaw from 16-27 July - the event's first staging in Poland.

The three titles are expected to remain in Egyptian hands: Fares Mohamed Dessouki is the men's favourite, whilst a historic first is predicted of the top women's seed Nour El Sherbini.



The 17-year-old from Alexandria - who became the sport's youngest ever world champion in 2009 by winning the title aged just 13 - is now set to outdo greats like world number ones Nicol David and Ramy Ashour by claiming the title for an unprecedented third time!

Egypt is also seeded to win the biennial world junior team title for the fourth time in a row - in a further first for successive titles.

"This breadth of challengers for our world titles really is very global," said World Squash Federation President Ramachandran. "It clearly demonstrates how many countries have worked hard on their junior programmes. I am delighted to see this. The result is that these World Juniors promise to be more exciting than ever."

### WSF APPROVED RACKETS



## WSA & PSA JULY RANKINGS



### Ashour's position Assured



Ramy Ashour (pictured) moves into his seventh successive month at the top of the Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings to establish his longest unbroken run as world number one in the July list published by the Professional Squash Association.

The 25-year-old from Egypt first topped the rankings at the beginning of 2010. But it was in January this year that Ashour began his latest run as the world's highest-ranked player - *one which saw him achieve the highest points average ever recorded, in April.*

Ashour is the dominant force in world squash today after winning his eighth successive PSA World Tour title at the Allam British Open in May.

In an unchanged world top 20, Frenchman Gregory Gaultier holds onto second place - his highest ranking for more than a year - while Englishmen James Willstrop and Nick Matthew are at No3 and No4, respectively.

Egypt's strength on the world stage is emphatically demonstrated by the support Ashour has in the elite list, with five compatriots - Karim Darwish, Mohamed Elshorbagy, Amr Shabana, Tarek Momen and Omar Mosaad - occupying places 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11, respectively.

#### July 2013 top 10 (including points average):

1	Ramy Ashour	EGY	1,761
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA	1,109
3	James Willstrop	ENG	982
4	Nick Matthew	ENG	941
5	Karim Darwish	EGY	705
6	Mohamed Elshorbagy	EGY	674
7	Peter Barker	ENG	520
8	Amr Shabana	EGY	514
9	Borja Golan	ESP	471
10	Tarek Momen	EGY	459



### Women Are Unchanged

The July WSA World Rankings provide an unchanged top 10 after a quiet month on the WSA Tour.



Nicol David extends her stay at the top of the rankings for an 82<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month. Laura Massaro (pictured) remains the closest that anyone has been to closing that gap in over three years after success at the British Open in May.

Raneem El Weleily, Alison Waters and Joelle King remain no.3, no.4 and no.5 respectively.

The only change in the top 20 sees Sarah Kippax leap frog Nour El Tayeb to no.19, her highest ranking since January 2012.

Outside the top 20 a few players record career high rankings, Emily Whitlock at no.23, Deon Saffery at no.47 and Barossa Valley Open finalist Tong Tsz-Wing at no.49 making four Hong Kong players in the top 50 for the first time ever.

#### July 2013 top 10 (including points average):

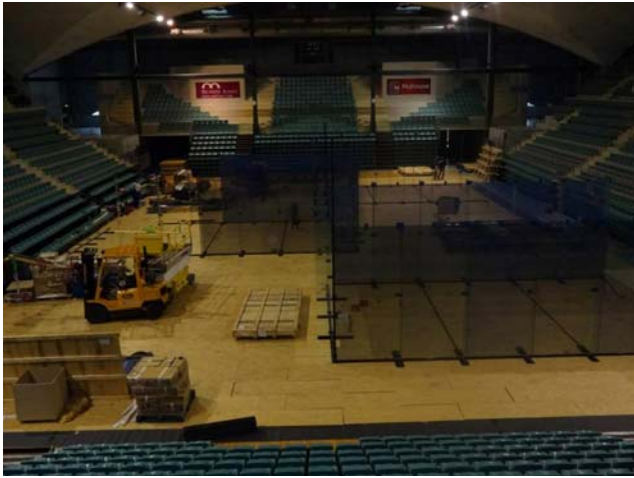
1	Nicol David	MAS	2782.35
2	Laura Massaro	ENG	2348.75
3	Raneem El Weleily	EGY	1896.88
4	Alison Waters	ENG	1413.89
5	Joelle King	NZL	1097.89
6	Low Wee Wern	MAS	981.842
7	Jenny Duncalf	ENG	935.0
8	Madeline Perry	IRL	912.136
9	Natalie Grinham	NED	862.353
10	Kasey Brown	AUS	770.4



## ASB TRIPLE WHAMMY IN MULHOUSE!

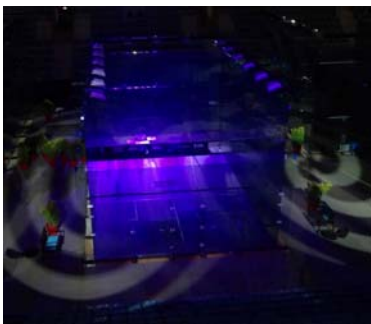
ASB, the world's most innovative court construction company, created a spectacular and unique vision of three all-glass squash courts at the Palais des Sports in the city of Mulhouse for the 24th staging of the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship, when it was held in France last month for the first time in its 46-year history.

The technical features were impressive: The contents of three articulated trucks, with an overall weight of almost 33.000 kg, was put together in six working days. For the set-up four ASB supervisors and six workers, who were provided by the city of Mulhouse, used several special court building tools plus three scissor lifts, two forklifts and a manitou to give 31 nations from all five continents the opportunity to play the matches simultaneously on three ASB show courts lined up side-by-side.



Before all materials and machines were able to enter the venue, a handball arena, the 1,200 square metre floor needed special protection to avoid damage from the additional weights and building work.

"The big challenge was not to make any mistakes which might end in glass breakage during the building period or even worse during the tournament. Every single team member had to be concentrating 110% all the time!". ASB glass court and event specialist Peter Schmidl concluded after his teams finished the iconic set up.



"This is the best set-up I have ever seen – wow!" said Scotland's national coach Roger Flynn, while England's world No3 James Willstrop exclaimed: "The set-up here is almost revolutionary – I've never seen

anything like it before, with three glass courts side-by-side. It's squash moving forward, proving that it can do things in different ways – something other sports can't do."

After the championships, the three glass courts were dismantled and loaded back onto three trucks to be stored until they will be built in three national trainings centres in France.

## IRAN SQUASH BOASTS RECORD GROWTH

With the squash court count doubling over the past three years and the number of registered players rising five-fold, the Iran Squash Federation is reporting record growth for the sport in Iran - particularly amongst women and girls.

At the elite level, Iran has made a huge progress over recent years in the region. From outside the top 16, the Iranian team finished in seventh place in the Asian Junior Championships two months ago in Korea.



Furthermore, Iranian girls will participate for the first time in the forthcoming Asian Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing.

"Establishing the squash association with civic authorities and the Education Ministry has speeded up the growth of the sport dramatically," said ISF President Masoud Soleimani. "Today many parks in the capital city Tehran have one-wall squash. Also in schools, one-wall squash is popular and some classrooms have been modified so squash can be taught."

Some 400 women coaches have been trained to promote squash amongst young children in kindergartens. To this end, light plastic rackets have been specially designed and produced. The balls are also lighter and bigger - especially designed for the kids - named 'smile balls'.

Iran Squash Federation budgets are equally divided between initiatives for men and women. As a result of this, women's squash has become very successful over the past three years.

"Sogol Samoodi, our U17 girl who was placed sixth in Asia in 2011, is the first lady to achieve this from Iran," explained Soleimani. "Ailee Nayeri, our U13 champion, also reached the Asia top 10.

"Also, for the first time in the history of the game here, Iran had six boys and six girls in the top eight players of different age categories in 19th Asian Junior Individual Championship in Kish Island, Iran," added the ISF President. "This was the first major championship hosted in Iran, in which Iran was very successful and responded very positively to the trust of the Asian Squash Federation.

"This success led Iran to become the host of this championship again in 2014 - another huge achievement for the country at international levels."

Picture shows Iran Women's Premier League champions Tehran.

## NI COL DAVID HEADS WORLD GAMES FIELD IN COLOMBIA



JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> TO AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

Malaysia's world number one Nicol David is seeded to win her third successive World Games squash title when the ninth edition of the event takes place in Cali, Colombia, from 25 July to 4 August.

The World Games, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sport event - designed for sports or disciplines or events within a sport that are not contested in the Olympic Games. The World Games, contested every four years, are organised and governed by the International World Games Association (IWGA), under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The squash championships will take place at the Canas Gordas Comfenalco Club - featuring an all-glass showcourt - from 2-4 August.



After winning her first women's World Games gold medal in Germany in 2005, record seven-time world champion David successfully defended the title in the 2009 Games in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.

A new men's champion is assured: France's world No2 Gregory Gaultier (left) will be the event's top seed, while second seed Peter Barker,

the world No7, will be hoping to keep the title in English hands.

Local interest in the men's event will be led by Miguel Angel Rodriguez (below), the world No19 from Bogota who is the second highest-ranked South American of all-time.



Past World Games gold medallists also include Nick Matthew (England), Peter Nicol (England), Ahmed Barada (Egypt) and Sarah Fitz-Gerald (Australia).

Players were entered from the nations as below:

Australia: Cameron Pilley, Ryan Cuskelly, Donna Urquhart, Rachael Grinham

Brazil: Thaisa Serafini

Canada: Shawn Delierre, Samantha Cornett

Colombia: Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Bernardo Samper, Catalina Pelaez, Laura Tovar Perez

Egypt: Tarek Momen, Omar Mosaad, Raneem El Weleily (pictured top right), Omneya Abdel Kawy

England: Peter Barker, Tom Richards, Emma Beddoes, Sarah-Jane Perry

France: Gregory Gaultier, Mathieu Castagnet, Camille Serme

Germany: Simon Rosner, Raphael Kandra, Franziska Hennes

Guyana: Mary Fung-A-Fat

Hungary: Edina Szombati

India: Harinder Pal Sandhu, Mahesh Mangaonkar, Dipika Pallikal, Joshana Chinappa

Jamaica: Christopher Binnie

Japan: Ryosei Kobayashi, Misaki Kobayashi

Kuwait: Abdullah Al Muzayen

Malaysia: Ong Beng Hee, Mohd Nafiizwan Adnan, Nicol David, Low Wee Wern

Mexico: Samantha Teran

Netherlands: Laurens Jan Anjema, Natalie Grinham

Peru: Diego Elias

USA: Julian Illingworth, Christopher Gordon



### COMPLETE COURT ACCREDITATION



As announced in 2011, new courts built after 1 January 2013 are required to register for Complete Court Accreditation (CCA) in order for them to be eligible for use at international events, such as PSA and WSA tournaments and WSF World

Championships. Regional and national federations have been altering their regulations so that they also only play their events on courts that are CCA registered, thus all competition on new courts will take place with a high standard of playing conditions assured.

Of course this regulation does not apply to courts that are already built.

Once registered, a certificate will be sent to the court operator and the courts are listed in the worldwide directory.

Accredited Companies that manufacture the full range of major court components can become WSF Complete Court Accredited Companies (CCAC); all new courts built by these companies using their components can be registered as CCA courts.

Accredited Companies that manufacture only some of the major components can register the courts they build as CCA providing other components used are separately accredited.

[An installer that only uses WSF Accredited products can register the courts they build as CCA courts; they do not need their own accreditation.]

Already completed courts can be registered too, and for all registrations please go to:

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

## SNI PPETS

**Oceania Squash** have a new website:  
<http://www.oceaniasquash.org/>




**Congratulations** to M. Jacques Fontaine, President of the French Squash Federation and ESF Vice-President, who has been elected to the Board of the French National Olympic Committee.

**Bangladesh** Army has incorporated squash as one of their official sports. Their Army has squash courts in all the regions of the country and the Bangladesh Olympic Association headed by the Army chief will assist development by now allowing Bangladesh Squash to use their courts.

**Nick Matthew** has been announced as the next Sheffield Legend to join the city's prestigious 'Walk of Fame' outside the Town Hall, joining the likes of Jessica Ennis, Sean Bean, Michael Palin and Sir Sebastian Coe on the city's 'Hollywood Boulevard-style' attraction outside the Town Hall.

**Squash & Art** again drew massive crowds as it took place in Krakow, Poland during June. With a glass court placed in front of Galeria Krakowska with its 300 shops, there were over 50,000 people walking by the court every day.

Squash & Art featured the finals of Polish Squash League 2013 with 16 men's teams, 8 women's and 7 junior teams participating. But that was not all as there were a photo exhibition, music concerts, dance shows and more besides.

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