

Instant Update

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To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

FROM HEADQUARTERS.....



The last two months of the year were certainly hectic for the WSF President, Management Committee and staff, along with the professional players, national bodies and everybody else involved in the game. Our autumn / fall / spring in southern hemispheres is when the shop window is busy, plans for next year are laid and so much is tied up if possible before the end of year celebrations.

From a WSF perspective November saw President Ramachandran lead a WSF delegation to the Asian Games, Vice President Heather Deayton went to New Zealand for the Women's World Teams, and Vice President Mohamed El Menshawly and myself were present in Saudi Arabia for the Men's World Open.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Pan American Federation meeting in Guatemala which was staged alongside the vibrant Pan Am Championships; went to Glasgow for a Commonwealth Games Review and to Lausanne to be part of the International Federations Forum held there, as well as meeting the organisers of the Men's World Teams 2011 in Paderborn, Germany - which will surely be a great success.

But just as important are the efforts being made to start the wheels of the five point WSF Strategic Plan, and of course beginning to develop plans and funding for the squash bid to take a slot in the Olympic Games 2020. The decision for this will be taken in 2013, and under the leadership of our President 'Rami', it has been agreed that external bid management is key. It will be expensive but it is a must if we are to *give it our best shot*.

On a personal level, in my first few months with WSF – which I hope will be extended into many more if I am a good boy – it has become ever more clear just how much work the officers and staff get through.....and how much support and co-operation is received from federations and individuals alike. This is perhaps one of the things that sets us apart.

So, thank you one and all and very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2011. A year filled with success I hope.

For now though, here are some items of interest and reference.

See you somewhere, sometime during 2011.

Andrew

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SQUASH TAKES A STRONG AND UNITED ANTI-DOPING STAND

A statement for the new year.....

The World Squash Federation (WSF), in conjunction with player associations Professional Squash Association (PSA) and Women's International Squash Players Association (WISPA), have today jointly re-stated that squash is unequivocally opposed on ethical and medical grounds to the practice of doping in sport - and fully support the efforts of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to eliminate the use of banned substances and methods. This position is motivated by a desire for fair and equal competition amongst players and by a concern for the health of our athletes.

Squash has a deserved reputation as a 'clean sport' in today's world where the use of performance-enhancing drugs continues to be a challenge. However we must continue to be vigilant and also educate, to avoid inadvertent ingestion due to a lack of awareness of which drugs are prohibited.

In an effort to safeguard the health of our players and also ensure the spirit of fair play, WSF, PSA and WISPA will increase still further anti-doping testing in squash competition. Effective from 1st January 2011, increased frequency of testing will take place during out-of-competition periods as well as at randomly selected PSA and WISPA events and the various World Championships.

COURTING SUCCESS.....



Nick Matthew followed up his Commonwealth Games double gold when he beat fellow Englishman James Willstrop again to take his first **Men's World Open** title at Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile women's Commonwealth Games gold winner Malaysian Nicol David retained her **Asian Games** title when she beat Hong Kong's Annie Au in four games in Guangzhou, China. Mohd Azlan Iskandar made it a double when he beat Pakistan's Aamir Atlas Khan in the men's final – a result Khan

overturned, in the inaugural team final which followed, to give his country that title, while Malaysia beat Hong Kong in the women's team event.

From Guangzhou many of the female players travelled to Palmerston North in New Zealand for the **17th Women's World Team Championship**. Here a weakened England team were beaten 2/1 in the final by Australia, bolstered by evergreen Sarah Fitz-Gerald coming in at three behind Rachael Grinham and Kasey Brown.



Also played during the last two months of the year were the **Pan American Championships** in Guatemala.

Mexico secured a singles double when Jorge Baltazar beat Rafael Alarcon of Brazil in the men's final, while Samantha Teran bested Natalie Grainger in the women's.

In the doubles which followed, Mexico beat El Salvador in the men's; while Colombia defeated USA in the women's.

The final event was the team championships, where Mexico took another title, beating Canada in the men's, while USA took gold while also relegated Canada to silver spot in the women's.

ASIAN GAMES 2014



After the Asian Games 2010 staged in Guangzhou, China, where the squash as well as the Games overall were highly successful, next comes Incheon, South Korea.....and squash will be there. Thirty six sports will be contested from 19 September until 4 October 2014, with squash as one of the agreed additions to all of the Olympic programme sports.

OBITUARIES

IAN C STEWART



After the ISRF, the forerunner of WSF, was formed in 1967, Ian Stewart became the third President in 1981, serving until 1985. Indeed he maintained that he 'was the only one around that attended the original organisation meeting in 1966' referring to the initiation of the world squash body. This followed his Presidency of the Canadian Squash Racquets Association (now Squash Canada) from 1964 to 1967.

Not only did he love the sport but the Canadian, who died days into his eighty-seventh year, brought to it his business experience and clarity of thought too. It was he who hired the first Chief Executive of the world body, and he who presided over the initial stage of the game going 'open'. He played an important role in developing and professionalising the young world federation.

Indeed, his world level involvement was the culmination of supporting squash at every level from regional through to national. The personable Torontonion was an inductee into the Ontario Squash Hall of Fame and in 1977 was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Silver Anniversary Medal for his contribution to squash in Canada.

And even after retiring from active involvement in international squash he kept his finger on the pulse, while remaining active in business. In recent months, still Executive Chairman of the Stewart Group, he was presiding over the opening of a new plant in India.

He is survived by his wife Marlene, three children and five grandchildren to whom our condolences are extended.

ALISON RIDER

It is with sadness that we report the death of England Squash Chief Executive Nick Rider's wife Alison who died on 22nd December having succumbed in her second battle with cancer.

She leaves two daughters, Izzie 14 and Molly 12.

Our thoughts are with Nick at this terrible time.

NATALIE GRAINGER RETIRES



WISPA President Natalie Grainger has decided to bring to an end a distinguished career lasting 14 "glittering" years.

Grainger announced her decision to retire from the WISPA World Tour at the Women's World Team Championship last month.

She first made her mark on the international stage after reaching the quarter finals of the World Junior Championships both in 1993 and 1995, whilst competing as a South African. At only 17 years old, Grainger was the youngest player to be selected for the South African senior side in 1994. Then she became the highest-ranked South African of all-time in 1999 when she reached seventh in the world rankings, an achievement that still stands.

After moving to the USA in 2002 she transferred her allegiance to her new country of residence and in 2007 became a US citizen.

But it was in June 2003 that Grainger became world number one for one month. She went on to reach 44 WISPA World Tour finals in her career (including the British Open in 2004) and won 23 titles.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP VENUE SELECTION

Until now a country would tender for a world championship and, if successful, would arrange for a host venue. That is not the case any more. In order to ensure accessibility and suitability of host venues and hotels, the specific venue(s) (where a glass court is separately placed), must be submitted as part of the tender process, and it is the evaluation of them by the WSF Office which will determine whether a location is approved.

NAMING RIGHTS.....AND WRONGS!

There are a few naming elements for World Championships so to help remember them just think that *sex* comes first!

The order is: *sex, world, type*.

For example:

MEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

If *junior* is to be added it is placed before the event type, so:

MEN'S WORLD JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

MEN'S WORLD JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

Finally, for general materials where the word *squash* is added it is placed before *Championship*. e.g.:

MEN'S WORLD JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

There you have it. *We start with sex, go global, then get intimate with the detail!*

SPIRIT OF SPORT AWARDS 2011

It is nomination time for these awards which are managed by SportAccord.

The 'Spirit of Sport' Award was created by the SportAccord Council in 2002 to commend the commitment and humanitarian spirit creating an exceptional and lasting contribution to using sport as a tool for positive social change.

Following the establishment by SportAccord of a Sports' Social Responsibility Department in June 2010, the Spirit of Sport Award has received greater impetus in order to enhance the opportunities for recognition and reward of contributions to society made by SportAccord members in six areas:

- Sport and Child & Youth Development
- Sport and the Environment
- Sport and Gender
- Sport and Health
- Sport and Persons with Disabilities
- Sport and Peace

For further information about the Spirit of Sport Award go to:

<http://www.sportaccord.com/en/services/index.php?idIndex=33&idContent=671&idm=18>

The deadline for applications is 31 January 2011.

NEW RULES & CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS WHICH HAVE NOW TAKEN EFFECT

Squash Singles Rule 2.3

For PAR played to 15, scoring is now two clear points rather than setting to one or three. So, when the score reaches 14-all the game continues until a player leads by two points.

World Championship Regulations

L6 (2) For World Team Championships and the World Cup, shirts or tops MUST carry a national identification title, the whole to be contained within an area at least 200 square centimetres and not exceeding 300 square centimetres on the back of the shirt or dress. The player's name may also be displayed within an additional area not exceeding 150 square centimetres.



R3 b) Junior Championships

No later than 14 days before the Start Date, the WSF Seeding Panel will produce a Team Seeding Guide which will be sent in confidence to the on-site WSF Technical Director to be used as input to the Seeding Review Board.

S1 All Ties being played on a day shall use the same playing order. For Stage 2, the #1 ranked player will play in either the first or second match of the Tie but the four permutations will be drawn with none repeated. Options are 1-2-3, 1-3-2, 2-1-3, 3-1-2.

X4 For an Individual event that is linked with a Junior Team event, eligible MNAs may enter all players nominated in their squads for the Team event. Additional places, as available in relation to the published maximum draw size as agreed with the WSF Technical Director, will be allocated as follows, with those in categories 1 - 3 guaranteed acceptance:

1. 1st individual entry from eligible MNAs not entered in the respective team event
2. 1st reserve entry from a nation competing in the team event
3. 2nd individual entry from eligible MNAs not entered in the respective team event
4. 2nd reserve entry from a nation competing in the team event

[There will be a maximum of six players from an MNA entering the respective team event and a maximum of two players from an MNA not entering the Team event].

X5 For a free-standing Individual Championship every eligible MNA can enter 3 players and a maximum of 2 additional players (in order of strength) who will be put on 1st and 2nd Reserve Lists; and may be added to the draw if there is room in respect of the published maximum draw size as agreed with the WSF Office. In this case, the WSF Technical Director will give priority to 1st Reserves, then 2nd Reserves; and, within each List, the priority will be based on the nominating MNAs' final order in the last Team Championship for that gender.

X11. For individual events without a following team championship the top 8 players will be required to play off to decide positions 1 to 8 in the main draw. Where there is a following team championship then there shall be no play-offs for positions 3 to 8.

ADVERTISEMENT



Shropshire squash enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that Lilleshall National Sports Centre has recently undergone a £50,000 refurbishment of its squash facilities, with further redevelopments planned across the Centre.

Funded by Sport England, the money has been used to upgrade the existing facilities, including new lighting, new floors and the installation of new glass back doors which will improve the facility as a coaching venue. Such improvements have secured national Governing body, England Squash and Racketball's support, who have committed themselves to increasingly make use of the new facilities.

Lee Moore, Lilleshall National Sports Centre General Manager said, "We are delighted with our new squash facilities, which will benefit our thriving community base of juniors and adults and elite squads, run by the governing body. We also hope that our new facilities will encourage new groups to try out squash; a great fitness sport you can enjoy with your friends and colleagues. And with England Squash and Racketball's support we may even find the next squash superstar!"

Lilleshall's Squash Club, the largest in Shropshire, and the Junior Squash Club, a coaching programme held every Saturday, will be just some of the clubs that will benefit from the recent refurbishment.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ON THE HORIZON

SDAT WSF WORLD CUP

8 – 12 March 2011

Indian Squash Academy and Express Avenue Mall

The mixed teams entered in this event which features \$125,000 in prize money will play stage 1 at the national centre before moving onto glass for the final rounds at the recently opened largest shopping mall in Southern India.

MEN'S WORLD JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL

13 – 17 July 2011

Flemish Squash Centre, Herentals, Belgium

The entry form for this individual event hosted at the venue for the World Junior Women's 2005 will be circulated to all member nations during January.

WOMEN'S WORLD JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL & TEAM

20 – 25 July 2011, Individual

26 – 30 July 2011, Team

Cairo, Egypt

Team event entries are now closed, with the individual event entry form due to be circulated to member nations by mid-February.

MEN'S WORLD TEAM

21 – 27 August 2011

Paderborn, Germany

Entries are closed for this event which will take place at the Ahorn SportPark, host of the World Junior Men's in 1990. Promotion is already well underway, including a Paderborn bus plying through the town emblazoned with squash signage.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S WORLD OPEN

28 Oct – 6 Nov 2011

Rotterdam, Netherlands

The two showpiece events will be staged together, with final rounds being held on glass at the Luxor Theatre after early play at Victoria Squash.

GETTING DISTRACTED

The new experimental guideline on maintaining continuous play at spectator events during general distractions such as spectator applause, general movement etc has been well received and is likely to be proposed as a formal Rule change at the next WSF AGM.

Players shouldn't delay the start of a rally where the distraction is not so specific and intrusive as to be problematic, and referees do need to reinforce this to them.

However, referees should use their judgement to deal with exceptional situations that do make it reasonable for play to be held up, as they have always done.

WORLD SQUASH AWARDS DINNER 2011



The world's leading players will be honoured at the sixth annual World Squash Awards which will take place in the stunning Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal, New York, on Thursday 20 January 2011.

This year's awards, founded in 2005 by Eventis Sports Marketing and endorsed annually by WSF, WISPA and PSA, will be presented by Lexington Partners and take place the night before the JP Morgan Tournament of Champions takes centre stage in the same location.

As well as embracing the *PSA and WISPA Players of the Year*, in acknowledgement of the North American location, this year's awards will also honour the top new player and doubles team from the ISDA, the American hardball doubles tour.

Information about the dinner, is available from Melissa Winstanley at Melissa@EventEngineSports.com or Tim Garner at Tgarner@eventis-sports.com

CONFERENCE CALLS 2011.....

WSF COACHES CONFERENCE

Squash Australia is hosting this WSF conference in conjunction with the Australian Open in Canberra. Dates are Tuesday 9 - Friday 12 August, featuring two full days and two half days.

Full details will be sent to all member federations for passing on to coaches as soon as the attendance package is finalised.

WSF REFEREES CONFERENCE

The Men's World Team Championship takes place in Paderborn, Germany 21 – 27 August, and on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 the German town will be hosting the latest WSF Referees Conference, in conjunction with the German Federation.

Package details will be sent to nations when finalised.

WSF AGM & CONFERENCE

The 41st WSF AGM is being hosted in Rotterdam by the Dutch Federation in conjunction with the Men's and Women's World Opens which will be held in that seaport city. We are delighted that they will be able to provide such a great backdrop to proceedings for delegates.

The details:

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 November - Conference Days

Saturday 5 November – AGM

(Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 November will be Management and other committee meeting days).

REMINDER

The WSF Handbook 2011 will be published in March, so if you are a member nation or an individual who will be featured in the contact list but have changed your phone number, email or postal address we need to know during January. Please send the updated details to jasmine@worldsquash.org this month.

FINALLY.....

AWARDS

Isn't it great when a squash player gets recognition beyond their sport? It happened when three countries selected squash players to carry their flag at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, and here are two more accolades:

Barbados National Sports Council has named Karen Meakins as Barbados Sports Personality of the year 2010.

Shelley Kitchen has been awarded New Zealand's Order of Merit in their new year's honours list.

Well done Shelley and Karen.

SQUASH READ

Run To The Roar is the title of a new book by Paul Assaiante and James Zug. Assaiante is described as the "winningest" coach in US College sports history on the cover – but the words inside are better constructed! His tenure at Trinity College has seen outstanding success and his insight into his players, coaching and philosophy makes for a very interesting read.

Andrew Shelley

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