

# 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.....

In England we have just had a Royal marriage. In squash we hope to become wed to the Olympics soon! Like the Royal couple we want to be together forever!

As you will see in an item further down, last month we were given a brief window in which to tell the IOC how squash has 'added value' to our sport in the last couple of years. With the improved quality of TV spearheaded by PSA, enhanced staging and presentation of events, new world titles, our strengthened anti-doping efforts, development projects we are about to embark upon, strategic study embracing positioning and marketing that is nearly completed, and other initiatives besides, we have a compelling case demonstrating this 'added value'.

But the Olympic Games are only one World Squash thrust from Management Committee (ManCom) and the Office. Work on refereeing qualification / training and tools, initiation of a WSF Development Committee, world championship arrangements, new marketing initiatives being developed, Racketball under the spotlight and technical service upgrades.....and these are only some areas.....there is a lot to talk about.

However, I need to be a tease! While I have covered some areas below much that is in the pipeline has not been formally announced yet so please await media releases to help complete the picture.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Durrant'.

Andrew@worldsquash.org

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## CLIMBING ON BOARD THE OLYMPIC TRAIN

Squash now gears up again to persuade the IOC that our sport would be a valued addition to the Olympics in 2020, having missed out for Rio 2016. We learned at SportAccord in London in April that the decision date will be September 2013 when the IOC meets in Buenos Aires. The procedure involved was also clarified at SportAccord.

The starting point was a 'short' questionnaire that went two weeks ago to the current sports on the programme and those like us knocking on the door. It requested any new information we wanted to provide about innovations and general changes that are taking place within the sport. We have a strong story to tell and have done so in our submission.

After review, the IOC Programme Commission will then recommend to the IOC Executive Board the sports which they believe should be short-listed..... and we will hear whether squash has made it when the list is finalised at the IOC Congress in Durban, South Africa in July this year. The one current medal sport mooted to come out for 2020 will be announced then too.

The next stage will be a revised questionnaire for each sport which will feature full information, including seven more criteria that we shall have to cover. Stages three and four will be presentations; the first to the IOC Programme Commission and the final one to the IOC Executive Board. Then we hold our breath hoping that the decision in Buenos Aires goes our way!

But of course in addition to the required formalities we shall be developing a strategy, materials and pressing our case of what we bring to the Games via meetings, media and the presentation of the World Championships and PSA / WISPA Tour events. We will invite guests and hope that the Olympic Movement will attend these events in person as well as seeing squash's television output.

The push starts now!

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## JAMES WILLSTROP BECOMES PSA PRESIDENT



England's James Willstrop has been elected President of the Professional Squash Association following Egyptian Amr Shabana's decision to stand down.

"I am very happy with the process," said PSA Chairman Ziad Al-Turki. "The players were all eager to be heard at the AGM, and this is their vote".

Willstrop looks forward to taking on the role: "I am honoured to be acting as President of the PSA, and to have the support of the players.

"In the past, I had never envisaged myself filling the position of the president of any board, in all honesty," added the 28-year-old. "Looking after myself proves difficult enough, but it became more apparent recently that I could have a go at the job. I have often liked to have a say and now an opportunity has arisen to make something of that.

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## WISPA PRESIDENT NATALIE GRAINGER STANDS DOWN



Natalie Grainger, who retired from the WISPA World Tour in December, stood down as President of WISPA with immediate effect at the beginning of April.

"WISPA has been part of my life for so long, fifteen years as a touring player, thirteen as a board member and eight years as WISPA President," said the US-based 33-year-old in her resignation letter to the Association's members.

In paying tribute to the outstanding contribution Grainger has made to WISPA, Chairman Ingrid Lofdahl-Bentzer said: "WISPA has been incredibly lucky to have profited from Natalie's enthusiasm, energy and love for the game of squash during such a long time.

Vice-President Jaclyn Hawkes will be acting President during the interim period.

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## WSF MEMBERS GO DUTCH FOR AGM

The 41st edition of the World Squash Federation AGM will take place in the Netherlands later this year. The gathering, which is expected to attract delegates from around 50 member nations from all over the world, will take place in the Dutch city of Rotterdam and will be held in conjunction with the World Open Squash 2011 - featuring the 112 best men and 72 best women from across the globe fighting it out for the official individual world titles and a record prize fund of \$418,000.



The Annual General Meeting of the WSF will be held on Saturday November 5th and will be preceded by two Conference days, during which presentations and discussions including a specific focus on marketing, communication and promotion will take place.

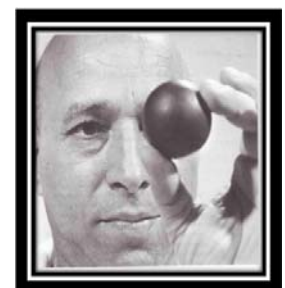
"Our delegates relish the opportunity for discussion and interaction; and to do so in Netherlands, so rich in culture, and alongside the World Open action, will ensure a fulsome attendance list. We are very grateful to our Dutch partners for inviting us," commented WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley.

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## HASHIM HITS THE SCREEN

Josh Easdon's documentary film, *"Keep Eye on Ball" The Hashim Khan Story*, has now been broadcast on the U.S. national Sundance Film Channel which also goes out in Canada and France.

Keep Eye on Ball traces the extraordinary life of Pakistan's first national hero, the father of modern squash and a proud Pashtun. In 1951, four years after the partition of India and Pakistan, 37-year-old Hashim Khan was permitted to enter the British Open. Virtually unknown at the time, he upended the elite squash world by winning the first of his seven British Open titles. He went on to create the "Khan Dynasty" — teaching his brother, cousins and sons the game, and turning them all into champions.



It is more than the remarkable story of this squash legend. It goes beyond the four walls of the squash court, tracing Hashim's story from a turbulent moment in the history of three nations — England, India and Pakistan — to his life as a Muslim in post-9/11 America. The documentary includes rare footage of the Khyber Pass and the remote Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan.

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## EGYPT TAKE WSF WORLD CUP TITLE



World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran hailed the recent WSF World Cup as "a tremendous success - one couldn't have wished for more."

The 2011 championship came to a superb climax in India when favourites Egypt toppled second seeds England in the final at the Express Avenue Mall in Chennai. The unique mixed team JSW SDAT WSF World Cup, featuring two-man-one-woman line-ups, was marking its first of three biennial years in Chennai, staged in the largest shopping complex in southern India. A spectacular all-glass showcourt was erected in the central atrium of the Express Avenue Mall, in which crowds on four floors were able to witness the

world-class action - which was filmed by ESPN for national and international audiences.

"I am very happy that my country has made such a significant investment in this important WSF world championship," added Ramachandran. "India has a great tradition for hosting major sporting events and I am delighted that our World Cup is now part of this."

Egypt were led by Ramy Ashour and Karim Darwish, ranked two and three in the world - but it was the squad's lone woman Raneem El Weleily, the world No12, who clinched victory with a first ever win over England's women's world No2 Jenny Duncalf.

A jubilant Ashour then hailed the triumph as something his country "really needed" in view of the unrest at home at the time. "After all the troubles we have had in our country, the nation's pride is now getting bigger. Everyone back home was desperate for us to win. "It's moments like this that make you feel proud to be Egyptian," said the 23-year-old former world champion. "We are very, very proud of what we have achieved."



## PSA CONFIRM THE TOP TIER

PSA has confirmed the nine events that will comprise the top tier PSA World Series calendar for 2011. They are:

21-27 January JP Morgan Tournament of Champions, New York, USA

20-26 February North American Open, Richmond, Virginia, USA

08-14 August Australian Open, Canberra, Australia

19-25 September ROWE British Grand Prix, Manchester, England

30 Sept - 06 October US Open, Philadelphia, USA

16-21 October Qatar Classic, Doha, Qatar

15-20 November Hong Kong Open, Hong Kong

24-29 November Kuwait Open, Kuwait

12-18 December Punj Lloyd PSA Masters, India

In addition to this will be the World Open – taking place in Rotterdam from 30 October to 6 November.

The PSA World Series, launched this year, features events which have prize-funds upwards of \$115,000. These championships represent the pinnacle of the men's game and are the main focus of the PSA's global TV coverage provided by the online squash channel [www.psasquashtv.com](http://www.psasquashtv.com)



## WISPA Align With PSA in World Series Launch

WISPA is going to re-brand its top tier championships as WISPA World Series events.

The decision is part of a growing plan by WISPA to work more closely with the men's international players' body, PSA, in order to maximise the resources and exposure available to both bodies.

WISPA intend to show the WISPA World Series events through the online channel Squash TV and for there be Finals to finish each round of events.

The following events will make up the 2011 WISPA World Series:

Cayman Islands Open

Australian Open

Qatar International

Hong Kong Open

World Open

Other events may be added with the intent to grow the WISPA World Series to eight events, plus the World Open.

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## ANTI-DOPING RESOURCES

We will never apologise for mentioning anti-doping at every turn as vigilance is essential from players and all those who advise them. So here are links to WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) resources that are important. They are all free.....and you cannot get cheaper than that!

Doping Control Video (5mins):

<http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Education-Awareness/Tools/Doping-Control-Video/>

Play True web based quiz:

<http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Education-Awareness/Anti-Doping-Quiz/>

Dangers of Doping Leaflet:

[http://www.wada-ama.org/Documents/Education\\_Awareness/Tools/Dangers\\_of\\_Doping\\_Leaflet/WADA\\_Dangers\\_of\\_Doping\\_EN.pdf](http://www.wada-ama.org/Documents/Education_Awareness/Tools/Dangers_of_Doping_Leaflet/WADA_Dangers_of_Doping_EN.pdf)

Interactive e-books for 12+ and 8-12+ kids:

<http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Education-Awareness/Tools/Choose-Your-Own-Adventure/>

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## LIZ IS INDUCTED



One of Australia's greatest ever sporting teams was reunited when Liz Irving was inducted into the Squash Australia Hall of Fame. Irving, aged 46, was part of the Australian women's team who won four consecutive World Championships from 1992 to 1998, alongside Michelle Martin and Sarah Fitz-Gerald. She also finished runner-up to Martin at the 1993 World Open, the 1994 and 1995 British Opens and the Australian Opens of 1991, 1993 and 1994.

Martin and Fitz-Gerald have previously been inducted into the Hall of Fame and now Irving has joined her former teammates. Since retiring as a player, Irving has settled in Amsterdam, where she coaches a number of top international women players, including world number-one Nicol David of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Martin was also elevated to "Legend" status, joining Heather McKay, Geoff Hunt and Ken Hiscoe as recipients of the highest honour in Australian squash.

Coach Di Davis a Distinguished Service Award at the dinner.

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## VANESSA ATKINSON RETIRES

Who can forget meeting the Dutch girl with the English name and perfect English diction? It appeared strange that she would have a not-very-Dutch name like Vanessa Atkinson and seem so at ease with the Dutch language. But Netherlands was her home, and she was certainly tall enough to be a Dutchie! With her titian locks flowing, her instantly recognisable backswing curve round her shoulder, fingers splayed and not least her brimful talent she was destined to become a star – and a highly popular one at that. Now she is a retired one.

In 2004 virtually without warning the player whose game has been very much based on confidence, had ingested a positivity overload and snaffled top title after title – pretty much all the majors that year. But these were dwarfed when Nicol David and Natalie Grinham ran themselves to a standstill in their World Open semi final in KL, allowing Vanessa to mop up against Natalie the following day to become World Open champion. Becoming world No.1 took a little longer, but she made it, and so became the last one before the reign of Queen David which began in August of year AD2006.

Where VA has been under-rated though is off court. Never particularly keen on talking to the media, when she did she engaged them, spoke with fluency and with insight. She would provide a good quote without saying anything that may be regretted later. A talent that could be in demand when squash TV commentators are sought!

Happy retirement, VA!



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## OBITUARY

### MAGDI SAAD



Sadly, Egyptian International Magdi Saad passed away in his 57<sup>th</sup> year in March. A world Top-ten player who was regarded as the one that top stars wanted to avoid, Saad reached the World Open quarter finals in 1985, represented Egypt many times, won veterans titles including the British Open, and was a highly successful national player coach in Egypt.

His presence as coach was a very welcome feature at many world championships in recent years.

On court he had a consummate understanding of the nuances of the court; off it a delightfully wry sense of humour and real warmth. Time in his company was always well spent.

'Captain Magdi' was taken far too early but he will live long in the memory of so many people.

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## WORLD TITLES ON THE WAY

### Men's Junior Individuals in Herentals



From 2012 onwards the annual male and female World Junior Individual championships will be held together each year, followed by the men's team event in even years and the women's one in odd years. So this year's stand alone event hosted by the Belgian Squash Federation in Herentals will be the last. Doubtless this year's crop of Egyptian youngsters will be the players to beat when the draw for the event being played 13 – 17 July is published. *Entries close 1<sup>st</sup> June.*

### Women's World Juniors Moves to USA

Originally due to be staged in Cairo, the 2011 Women's World Junior Individual & Team Squash Championships are now being played at Harvard University in Boston, thanks to an agreement between the WSF and U.S. SQUASH. The turmoil in Egypt prompted us to relocate the event, which will take place from 20-30 July.

"Egypt not only have great strength as a squash nation, but are also regular and very successful hosts of world championships," said WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley in explaining the move. "But we felt that it would be better to leave a little time for the country to settle down before what we hope will be an early return.

There will be fifteen nations chasing the Team title held by Egypt, and American Amanda Sobhy will be attempting to retain the Individual title. *Individual entry deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> June.*



### Record breaking Men's Team Entry for Paderborn



A record-equalling 32 nations will compete in the 2011 Men's World Team Squash Championship in Paderborn, Germany, from 21-27 August. Ukraine and Namibia will be making their maiden appearances in the prestigious biennial World Squash Federation championship which will be staged in Germany for the first time in its 35-year history.

Early action will take place eight pools of four before moving into a knockout second phase.

Defending champions Egypt will be joined in the 2011 event by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bermuda, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA.

#### Promotional Push

The championship has seen a great deal of innovative promotion. It has been featured on a town bus; distribution of 50,000 leaflets is underway to a multiplicity of locations across the country.

German number one player Simon Rösner will be introduced in the centre circle of the 15,000 soccer arena at the first home match of the SC Paderborn (and of course the leaflets will be on every seat).



The event had a stand at the Easter Saturday Paderborn Marathon – Their 'Worlds' car doing the rounds in front of the main group of runners. And apart from other poster and viral exercises they will also have a stand in front of the Paderborn Town Hall - Summer Festival (the famous Liboiri week that attracts 150,000 visitors a day over 7 days).

And there is so much more that we are under strict orders not to reveal yet!

### Men's & Women's World Opens together in Rotterdam



The most important championship in 2011 on the PSA and WISPA World Tours will start on October 28th with the finals scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Dutch City of Rotterdam. The organizers of the Men's and Women's World Opens are NextSquash and their tournament partners Rotterdam Topsport and Squash Bond Nederland.

The Luxor Theatre will play host to the last four days (3-6 Nov) of the championship. An all glass court will be erected on the stage of the theatre in the harbour city which has a seating capacity for 1,500 people. The early stages of the championship (28 Oct - 2 Nov) will be played at Victoria Squash, one of the most successful squash clubs in the Netherlands, which boasts 12 squash courts.

And alongside the play in Rotterdam will be the WSF Conference and AGM held 3 – 5 November.

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2011 DIGEST

*Previously:*

**WSF World Cup**, Chennai, India (8 – 12 March)

*To come:*

**World Hardball Doubles**, Toronto, Canada (3 – 6 May)

**Men's World Junior Individual**, Herentals, Belgium (13 – 17 July)

**Women's World Junior Individual & Team**, Boston, USA, (20 – 30 July)

**Men's World Team**, Paderborn, Germany (21 – 27 August)

**Men's & Women's World Open**, Rotterdam, Netherlands (28 October - 6 November)

## NEW TYPE OF TRAINING FOR ALISON WATERS!

English player Alison Waters was given the unusual but prestigious honour of having a British train named after her. In March the Virgin Train 'Alison Waters' left London Euston with its' name-sake on board and was welcomed by media upon arrival into Manchester.

Waters travels regularly between her home in London and the English National Squash Centre in Manchester, and said: "I am so excited to be launching a train named after me! This normally happens to Royalty! On a more serious note the Virgin Trains sponsorship allows me to travel freely to my training ground – a real help in these tough times and something that I hope will give my career chances a real boost."



## RESULTS FROM THE REGIONS

### European Junior U19 Championships, Kriens, Switzerland

#### Men's semi-finals:

[1] Nathan Lake (ENG) bt [5/8] Nicholas Hopcroft (ENG) 11-3, 11-5, 11-4

[3/4] James Earles (ENG) bt [2] Declan James (ENG) 12-10, 10-12, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8

#### Final:

[1] Nathan Lake (ENG) bt [3/4] James Earles (ENG) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7

#### Women's semi-finals:

[1] Emily Whitlock (ENG) bt [9/16] Elvira Bedjai (FRA) 11-4, 11-2, 11-0

[2] Tesni Evans (WAL) bt [3/4] Melissa Alves (FRA) 11-5, 11-8, 12-10 (22m)

#### Final:

[1] Emily Whitlock (ENG) bt [2] Tesni Evans (WAL) 11-6, 11-8, 13-11

Top seeds Nathan Lake and Emily Whitlock ensured an English double at the European Junior (U19) Individual Squash Championships after straight games wins in the finals of the European Squash Federation event in Kriens, Switzerland. It was the first all-English men's semi-final line-up in the tournament's 22-year history.

18-year-old Lake, who was runner-up to Declan James in the recent English Junior U19 Championship final, took full advantage of Earles's less-than-ideal preparation for the final by beating the 18-year-old Yorkshireman 11-6, 11-8, 11-7 to clinch the title.

Emily Whitlock's win was the latest success for the 17-year-old from Colwyn Bay who in January became England's first winner of a British Junior Open trophy for almost a decade when she won the U17 title - then followed this success last month by winning the English Junior U19 Championship crown.

England retained the Team Squash Championship title in style by beating second seeds Belgium 3/0 in the final of the European Squash Federation event in Kriens, Switzerland.

### EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Women's Final:

[3] ENGLAND bt [1] NETHERLANDS 3/0

Sarah Kippax bt Natalie Grinham 11-9, 11-9, 2-11, 5-11, 11-8

Jenny Duncalf bt Vanessa Atkinson 11-6, 11-2, 11-4

Dominique Lloyd-Walter bt Orla Noom 11-5, 11-6

#### Men's Final:

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

Jonathan Kemp bt Julien Balbo 11-7, 11-1, 11-3

Nick Matthew bt Gregory Gaultier 11-6, 12-10, 11-5

Peter Barker bt Mathieu Castagnet 11-5 ret.

England positively reclaimed its status as the top squash nation in Europe by winning both the men's and women's European Team Championships titles in style at the Esport Center in Espoo, Finland.

For the 11th time in the last 12 years, England faced fierce rivals France in the men's final of the European Squash Federation event which is in its 39th year.

After losing in last year's semi-finals following 32 successive title successes, England's women made no mistakes this time.

The men's bronze medal went to Italy, who beat Netherlands 3/1 to claim their first ETC medal. Meanwhile the women's bronze medal went to Ireland after two hard-fought matches against France.



## ASIAN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### WOMEN'S

#### *Semi Finals:*

Nicol David (MAS) bt Delia Arnold (MAS) 11/7 11/4 11/6

Annie Au (HKG) bt Low Wee Wern (MAS) 12/10 10/12 13/11 12/10

#### *Final:*

Nicol David (MAS) bt Annie Au (HKG) 11/3 11/2 11/5

### MEN'S

#### *Semi Finals:*

Ong Beng Hee (MAS) bt Siddharth Suchde (IND) 11/6 11/9 6/11 10/12 11/4

Nafizwan Adnan (MAS) bt Farhan Mehboob (PAK) 11/8 9/11 11/8 11/9

#### *Final:*

Nafizwan Adnan (MAS) bt Ong Beng Hee (MAS) 11/7 7/11 11/7 11/8

There was a Malaysian double on home ground when they took both titles at the Nicol David International Center in Penang.

Nafizwan Adnan took his first in his debut final, while Nicol David won her eighth consecutive one at her town on the courts named in her honour.



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## YOUR DECISION?

### ATTEND THE WSF WORLD REFEREEING CONFERENCE?

The 13th World Squash Refereeing Conference will take place in Paderborn in August, immediately preceding the Men's World Team Championship being staged in the German city.

The two-day World Squash Federation conference, from 19-20 August and supported by the German Squash Federation, has taken the theme of **Scaling New Heights: Pathways to Success**, and will feature a varied topic list designed to help referees improve their techniques and knowledge. The conference is expected to be attended by referees from every continent.

Full details of the Conference can be found at [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org), but here is a flavour of the topics on the programme:

CBTA Update – how to become a WSF Referee

How to benefit from Assessments

Using the Revised Rules Exam Paper

Managing the Repetitive Let

Recognising Interference Indicators

Conduct and Match Control

Ask the Players – *What's your Decision?*

PSA Developments – Video Appeals, New Image for Squash

Possible Changes to the Singles Rules?

The 3-Referee System and Use of Decision Cards

The ASB Electronic Referee System

Managing the Pressure of Team Events

Open Forum each day – a chance to raise and discuss issues.

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## COACHING CONFERENCE, CANBERRA

Meanwhile, Canberra hosts the 10<sup>th</sup> WSF World Coaching Conference on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August alongside the Australian open.

Keynote speakers include Geoff Hunt and Liz Irving, who are perfectly placed to address the conference theme, *Working with Elite*. A very full and interactive agenda is in place for this Squash Australia hosted conference.

Conference details will shortly be available on the WSF website: [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org).

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## SEVERAL SNIPPETS.....

### IRAN BACKS RACKETBALL.

Iranian Fereshteh Vaziri, backed by the Iran Squash Federation, has introduced racketball for male and female players in that country. Having suggested it to Federation President Masod Soleimani he encouraged her, permission was granted and coaching has begun under Vaziri's co-ordination.



### WORLD UNIVERSITY SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS.

This biennial event which is both team and individual is available for hosting in 2014. Any country interested in doing so should contact the Chair of World University Squash, Zena Wooldridge at [z.j.wooldridge@bham.ac.uk](mailto:z.j.wooldridge@bham.ac.uk)

### SURVEYING THE WORLD OF SQUASH.

In order to provide updated data on the sport from courts to participation, through referee and coach numbers and so much more, WSF will shortly be contacting all national federations worldwide to harness their support in electronically providing data. The project will be completed in four months.

### REASSURANCE NOW COMES WITH A STAMP.

ACCREDITED 2011



A new logo is now appearing on materials and products that meet WSF specifications and are accredited. From items as large as court wall down to the much small items the WSF Accreditation stamp on them will be an assurance to look out for.

A full list of currently accredited company products can be found on the WSF website under the *Technical* tab.

### YOUR MOVE.

Not the next turn in chess but a major promotion in Finland which sees the glass court from the European Team Championships moved to the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki to be part of *Your Move* week later in May to be part of a promotion to encourage 13 – 19 year olds to take up sport. Upward of 50,000 youngsters will pass through and will have the opportunity to try squash as one of the featured sports.

### BURSTING AT THE SEAMS.

Over three hundred players have entered the second of eight circuit events arranged by Asociacion Argentina de Squash Rackets for this year. This one in Buenos Aires on 6 / 7 May features eight men's categories, three women's ones and a raft of junior ones. As AASR Vice president Juan Pablo Garcia explains, "We have a lot expectation for this year because our National Circuit is growing sustainable in quantity and quality of players and sponsors". Great news.

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## WSF ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

View and contribute at:

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



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