

Instant Update



OLYMPIC STRATEGY PLANNED IN KUALA LUMPUR

Following the IOC announcement that Squash has been included on the shortlist of sports under consideration for the 2016 Olympic Games, the WSF organised an **Olympic Strategic Planning Session** during last month's ManCom meeting schedule in Kuala Lumpur.

Members of ManCom were also joined WSF Patron and IOC Member **Tunku Imran** and Emeritus President **Susie Simcock**.

Among the issues discussed were:

- The benefits of Squash's inclusion in the Games, both from the WSF and the Olympic movement's points of view
- The Review Process timeline from now until the Copenhagen meeting decision date in October 2009
- Lobbying
- The role of Media & PR
- Communication of the sport's Development & Growth
- Major event presentation
- Market Intelligence
- Operational plan

"After the huge disappointment of so narrowly missing out on inclusion in the 2102 Games in London, we are determined to present an irresistible case for Squash being added to the 2016 Olympic Games programme," said WSF President **Jahangir Khan**. "This is the sport's number one focus over the coming year."

WSF, PSA & WISPA EXPAND USE OF THREE-REFEREE SYSTEM

The **WSF**, **PSA** and **WISPA** are united in making the Three-Referee System mandatory at all major events in the future. The system - featuring a central Referee (who is also the Marker) and two Side Referees (closer to the two side walls) - has been used at many major events over the past year, and has met with universal support from players, referees, and spectators alike.

The WSF will make the Three-Referee System mandatory for all World Championships, while the PSA will now require all matches at Super Series events to use the new system, including all qualifying rounds.

WISPA is phasing in usage of the new system, beginning with multi-sided glass courts, from 1st January 2009.

The Three-Referee System will be used at the **Hi-Tec Men's & Women's World Opens**, to be held in Manchester in October, and the **Women's World Team Championships** in Cairo in December.

SUSIE SIMCOCK WINS PRESTIGIOUS NZ AWARD

Susie Simcock has received a prestigious award from the **New Zealand Olympic Committee**. The WSF Emeritus President has been made a **New Zealand Olympic Order** holder, following her decision to step down from the NZOC board, after more than a decade of service.

The award is granted in recognition of an outstanding and enduring contribution to the Olympic movement of New Zealand. Only 32 recipients have received the award in the 100 years of New Zealand Olympic history.

Susie Simcock says she was totally taken aback when presented with the award: "It is an unbelievable honour. I know how prestigious the award is, so to be deemed worthy to receive it is incredibly humbling."

WSF President **Jahangir Khan** was not surprised that Susie Simcock had been honoured in this way: "WSF has had the luxury of having Susie involved at management level for over 20 years. We know just how much knowledge, problem solving skills and positivism she brings to any sports organisation."



MAK LEADS HONG KONG BID TO SUPPORT SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The **Hong Kong** squash community quickly organised themselves to support the Sichuan earthquake victims in China. National Coach **Tony Choi**, together with elite athletes, offered autographed squash rackets to the highest bidders, raising some HK\$80,000. Hong Kong Squash followed, raising HK\$260,000.

But Hong Kong National player and WISPA star **Christina Mak** deservedly made headlines in her home country when she decided to donate for auction the Olympic Torch which she had run with recently in the Hong Kong sector of the Beijing Olympic torch run.

"The fact that this squash athlete would so generously support the victims in the recent earthquake in China became the talk of the town - and she raised an amazing HK\$1.8 million, along with the other combined squash donations," said WSF Vice President **Heather Deayton**. "The Hong Kong squash community labels itself as a 'Squash Family' - and this certainly shows a tremendous combined team effort. Well done!!"

FEDERATION NEWS:

At its recent AGM, staged during the **European Team Championships** in Amsterdam, the **European Squash Federation** voted to switch to PAR 11 scoring for all ESF tournaments, including those on the European Junior Circuit, for an experimental period of 12 months.

TOUR NEWS: WISPA TO MOVE TO PAR SCORING

In the first scoring system change in the history of women's professional squash, **WISPA** will move to what it terms *Pro-Scoring* from 21st July. The decision will introduce scoring of 'point a rally' to 11 points (PAR11) - the same as that used on the PSA Tour. The initiative will be launched at the **CIMB Malaysian Open** in Kuala Lumpur.

WISPA President **Natalie Grainger** added: "*Pro-Scoring* has been very enthusiastically received at our trial events so I am excited that we have made the change. It will take our players a short while to adapt to the different structure of games but I have no doubt whatsoever that this is another forward step for women's international squash."

PSA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The **PSA** has announced the appointment of **Richard Graham** as its new Chief Executive. The former Chief Operating Officer of the Parallel Media Group plc has worked with a number of sports federations, including the Lawn Tennis Association, the Lipton International Players Championships in Miami and British Equestrian Promotions. Furthermore, he has acted as an independent sponsorship agent to a variety of rights holders, including Birmingham City FC, Honda F1 Racing, SnowsportGB and the English Open Golf Championship.

"I'm extremely excited about the potential that exists within squash and delighted to be joining the PSA," said Graham. "I feel that all of the experience that I have gained from working in sport can be brought together in this role. I believe that squash has a strong base from which the Tour, the PSA's commercial partnerships and the sport's media coverage can each be developed. It is in these three areas that I hope to focus my energy from the outset."

Our congratulations to:

- **David Palmer** - who affirmed his status as one of the sport's greats when he prevailed in a dramatic **British Open** final in Liverpool last month to claim the prestigious title for a fourth time. The rejuvenated 31-year-old Australian took his PSA Tour title haul to 22 - more than any other current player on the Tour. The former world number one, who has maintained an unbroken presence in the world's top ten since September 2000, this month celebrated his 81st month in the top five.
- **Nicol David** - who stretched her lead at the top of the June Women's World Rankings following her convincing victory in the women's **Dunlop British Open**. The 24-year-old Malaysian celebrated her fourth successive appearance in the final in Liverpool - her straight games win over surprise English opponent **Jenny Duncalf** marking up her third title and the 27th WISPA World Tour trophy of her career.
- **Gregory Gaultier** - who ended a four-match winning Tour run by **Amr Shabana** to beat the world number one from Egypt in the final of the **ATCO Super Series Finals** in London. The world number two became only the second ever Frenchman to win the flagship PSA event.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| 3-7 June | European Individual Championship , Bratislava, Slovakia |
| 14-18 July | Oceania Masters Championships , Norfolk Island |
| 27 July - 8 August | World Junior Men's Championship , Zurich, Switzerland |
| 22-28 August | World University Squash Championships , Cairo, Egypt |
| 4-7 September | 1st European Masters Games , Malmo, Sweden |
| 13-19 October | Hi-Tec Men's & Women's World Opens , Manchester, England |
| 17-25 October | World Masters Championships , Christchurch, New Zealand |
| 30 Nov - 6 December | World Women's Team Championships , Cairo, Egypt |
| 10-18 October 2009 | Sydney 2009 World Masters Games , Sydney, Australia |

WSF MOVE

The WSF will be moving at the end of this month to a new temporary address. Email addresses will remain the same but, from 1st July 2008, the postal address will be:

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