

# Instant Update



## WSF MEETS IOC TO DISCUSS OLYMPIC BID

WSF President **Jahangir Khan**, together with Emeritus President **Susie Simcock** and Secretary General **Christian Leighton**, met IOC Sports Director **Christophe Dubi** during this month's **Sport Accord** in Athens, to discuss Squash's bid to join the programme for the **2016 Olympic Games**.

The meeting was called by the **IOC Sports Department** with the objective of appraising the next steps regarding the 2008/09 review process and providing short-listed IFs the opportunity (individually) to ask questions on the process or other topics.

The WSF was asked to name competitions that the Programme Commission should visit as part of the Observation Programme. Invitations will be extended to the **2008 Men's & Women's World Opens** in Manchester in October.

The presentations from short-listed IFs to the Executive Board will be made on 15-16 June 2009 in Lausanne.

## JAHANGIR KHAN HONOURED

A touching "Spirit of Sport" award ceremony kicked off the AGM of the **General Association of International Sports Federations** in Athens, at which 83 IFs and international organisations were represented. The award recognises those who, through their unique commitment and humanitarian spirit, have made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the pursuit of sports excellence, sportsmanship and sport participation.

WSF President **Jahangir Khan** received the 2008 GAISF Award from GAISF President **Hein Verbruggen** - alongside World Chess Federation (FIDE) Honorary President Florencio Campomanes and International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) President of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Committee Patricia Wade.

## ASOIF APPEAL FOR 28 SPORTS IN OLYMPIC GAMES

At a joint meeting held in Athens between the **Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)** and members of the **IOC Executive Board**, it was announced that ASOIF supports the inclusion of two additional sports on the programme for the Games of 2016 - and requested a clear and transparent process for all seven candidate sports leading to the selection of the two additional sports for the 2016 Olympic Games.

## RULE CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY IOC

The IOC has announced a revision of its Rules of Conduct for International Federations seeking inclusion in the 2016 Olympic Programme.

The IOC agreed to implement changes to the original version following a request by ARISF on behalf of the short-listed sports. The key change is that all IOC Members will now be able to attend sports events, instead of only those normally involved in the sport.

## **TUNKU IMRAN HONOURED**

Former WSF President **Tunku Imran**, now the Federation's WSF Patron and an IOC Member, has been appointed an Honorary Vice-President of the **International Masters Games Association**.

## **SYDNEY 2009 WORLD MASTERS GAMES**

Plans are already well underway for the Squash event which will take place from 10-18 October next year. The athlete registration process went online on 1st June (link available from WSF website). To maximise entry numbers, Sydney 2009 will have a presence at the **WSF World Masters 2008** in Christchurch, New Zealand.

## **SPORT ACCORD MEETINGS**

In a hectic Sport Accord visit to Athens, the WSF team also had productive meetings with:

- 2016 Candidate Cities
- Organising Committees of Major Games (including Kaohsiung 2009 World Games; Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games; and Sydney 2009 World Masters Games)
- IOC Staff
- ARISF
- IWGA
- GAISF
- ASOIF
- IFs (Hockey, CGF, Netball, Rugby, Karate, Roller Sports, Softball, Water Skiing, Racketball, Orienteering, Sumo among others)
- Manchester 2008 World Opens hosts
- Yorkshire Regional development Agency
- Event Scotland
- WADA

## **BEIJING 2008**

President **Jahangir Khan** and Emeritus President **Susie Simcock** will attend the **2008 Olympic Games** in China in August on behalf of the WSF.

## **ZURICH TO HOST RECORD WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A record 163 players from 37 countries will compete in the 2008 **World Junior Men's Squash Championship**, in **Zurich** from 28 July to 1 August. The biennial **WSF** event will be followed by the **World Junior Men's Team Championship**, from 2-7 August. With teams for the first time from the **Cayman Islands, China, Ecuador and Guatemala**, the team championship boasts a record entry of 32 nations.

China, hosts of the 2008 Olympic Games, are making notable progress in the world of Squash: The nation made its international debut in the **World Junior Women's Championships** in Hong Kong in 2007 after hosting its maiden Tour event in Shanghai in 2004.

Pakistan's **Aamir Atlas Khan** has been nominated as top seed in the individual event. A semi-finalist in 2004 and 2006, the 17-year-old will be hoping that it will be third time lucky in Zurich. If successful, Aamir would become only the third Pakistani to win the title - but the first since his legendary uncle **Jansher Khan** lifted the trophy in Australia in 1986, before going on to win the senior **World Open** crown for a record eight times!

Egyptian **Mohamed El Shorbagy**, also 17, is the No2 seed, while Switzerland's **Nicolas Mueller** and Frenchman **Gregoire Marche** - who contested the 2008 European Junior Championship final - are third and fourth seeds, respectively.

## "TRADITIONS GIVEN CHOP WITH SQUASH STROKE"

This headline appeared above a full-page report in *The Times* during the prestigious Wimbledon tennis championships - highlighting the fact that top tennis stars are now using Squash strokes to raise their game!

"Rafael Nadal has started playing it more this year - and Roger Federer has just been getting better and better," the article explained.

**Peter Nicol** gave Times readers his opinion: "Yes, they are clearly adopting squash techniques, the use of the wrist shots, especially on grass," said the former world number one. "You can't just use the old techniques any more. Federer once said that a lot of his different shots were from his days playing squash." Nicol went on to suggest that tennis players would benefit from studying squash: "It would be good to get them to watch a top, live match and understand what works. I think that would really help them."

## TOUR NEWS:

### PSA APPOINTS ALEX GOUGH AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Within weeks of appointing its new CEO **Richard Graham**, the PSA announced the surprise appointment of Tour veteran **Alex Gough** as Chief Operating Officer. The former world No5 from Wales will work closely with Graham on the operational aspects of Tour development, media coverage and promotion. His primary role will be to instigate and monitor quality control on all PSA Tour events, to ensure that they run to a consistently high professional standard, and advise promoters on effective management of their events.

Underlining the importance of the burgeoning Squash market in North and South America, the PSA also appointed **Justin 'Gus' Cook** as a consultant for the territory. US-based Cook, the long-time promoter of the **Davenport Professional Championship** in Virginia, has been given responsibility for seeking new promoters and assisting them, and current PSA partners, to create and develop new events for the World Tour.

### WISPA LAUNCHES GLOBAL GRAND SLAM SERIES

In a groundbreaking initiative due to be unveiled in 2009, **WISPA** is developing a **Global Grand Slam** major championships series to link with the **Women's World Open** at the pinnacle of women's professional squash. Discussions are already underway with a number of prospective hosts for these events which will be staged on all-glass courts in exciting locations - featuring prize funds of US\$150,000 and with television highlights programmes being distributed to all continents. Planned titles are Asian, European, North American, South American, African, Oceania and Gulf Grand Slams.

Our congratulations to:

- **Nicol David** - who received one of her country's highest honours when the 'Order of Merit' was conferred upon her by the King of Malaysia, **Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin**. The 24-year-old world number one becomes the first recipient of the award which was established in 1975 and is limited to 10 recipients who have made significant contributions in arts, science and humanity on national and international levels. "The award is the country's highest recognition to Nicol for her hard work in bringing glory to the country," said SRAM deputy president **Datuk Syed Mustaffa Syed Ali**.
- **Abdullah Almezayen** - who became the first Kuwaiti ever to win a **PSA Tour** title when he upset favourite Dick Lau in the final of the **Crocodile Challenge Cup** in Hong Kong. Earlier the 20-year-old seventh seed from Kuwait City, ranked 138 in the world and playing in only his seventh Tour event, despatched the second and third seeds to reach his first final.
- **Samantha Teran** - who won the **Women's Epstein Becker & Green Los Angeles Open** this month to seal her status as the top twenty player with the best win average on the WISPA World Tour: With only two losses in her 13 final appearances, the Mexican boasts an 85% success rate - ahead of Malaysia's world No1 **Nicol David** at 67%; Dutch star **Vanessa Atkinson** (61%); Australian **Rachael Grinham** (59%); USA's **Natalie Grainger** (50%) and world No2 **Natalie Grinham** (41%).

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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

#### **WSF MOVE**

The WSF has completed its move to a new temporary address. Email addresses will remain the same but, from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, the postal address is:

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