

Instant Update



OLYMPIC BID

Positive responses have already been received from a number of IOC Members following the circulation of a letter from WSF Patron **HRH Tunku Imran** highlighting the appeal of Squash to the Olympic Games.

WSF President **Jahangir Khan** and Emeritus President **Susie Simcock**, who will attend the **2008 Olympic Games** in Beijing on behalf of the WSF, will meet the IOC Sports Department on 21 August.

A WSF meeting with IOC President **Jacques Rogge** has also been confirmed for 13 November.

UK IOC Member **Sir Craig Reddie**, Vice President of the British Olympic Association, has accepted the WSF's invitation to attend the **2008 Men's & Women's World Opens** in October in Manchester - where he will join fellow IOC Member **Tunku Imran**.

MALAYSIAN OPEN HAILS NEW ERA FOR WOMEN'S SQUASH

The \$53,500 **Women's CIMB Malaysian Open** made squash history in July as the first women's Tour event to use point-a-rally scoring. The **WISPA World Tour Gold** championship introduced *Pro-Scoring* - the first change in scoring from the traditional 'hand-in-hand-out' system which has been used since the **Women's International Squash Players' Association** was formed in 1984.

"Scoring is a fundamental part of the game, which is why WISPA has spent a good deal of time discussing and evaluating *Pro-Scoring*," explained WISPA Chief Executive **Andrew Shelley** on the even of the event.

And Malaysia's **Nicol David** - no stranger to Squash history-making - added a further record to her 'CV' by becoming the first winner of a *Pro-Scoring* event when she beat world number two **Natalie Grinham** in straight games in the final.

EL SHORBAGY RETAINS WORLD JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL TITLE FOR EGYPT

After nine rounds of the biggest ever **World Junior Men's Individual Championship**, 17-year-old **Mohamed El Shorbagy** emerged as champion after upsetting Pakistan's top seed **Aamir Atlas Khan** in the final in **Zurich**. The biennial **WSF** event attracted a record field of more than 150 players from 36 countries in the first staging of the championship in Switzerland.

El Shorbagy's 2-9, 9-3, 10-8, 9-4 victory in 75 minutes kept the prestigious title in Egyptian hands for the third successive time. The UK-based teenager became the latest in a distinguished line of Egyptian winners of the title - including record two times champion **Ramy Ashour**, **Karim Darwish**, **Ahmed Faizy** and the country's first winner, in 1994, **Ahmed Barada**.

MAK INITIATIVE HAILED IN HONG KONG

In a magnanimous bid to raise funds for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake in China in May, Hong Kong international **Christina Mak** generously offered the Torch she was honoured to carry in the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong for public auction.

Within a few days, and following numerous bids, leading businessman Lam Tai Fai placed the highest bid of 1.8 million Hong Kong dollars.

But, so taken by the selfless generosity and kindness of the 2006 Asian Games bronze medallist, Mr Lam Tai Fai returned the Torch to Christina - who immediately decided to give it to **Hong Kong Squash** to thank the Association for nurturing her in her squash career!

With the consent of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government, Hong Kong Squash has chosen to display the Torch at the Hong Kong Squash Centre for public appreciation and most importantly to encourage the future elite squash athletes to carry on the Olympic spirit.



Picture shows **David Mui**, Chairman of Hong Kong Squash (centre), receiving the Torch from **Christina Mak**, together with **Thomas Chow**, Director of Leisure & Cultural Services.

SIERRA LEONE PRESIDENT OPENS - AND COMPETES IN - SATELLITE EVENT

Sierra Leone President **Ernest Koroma**, a keen Squash player, not only formally opened a closed satellite event taking place in the country's capital Freetown, but also competed in its 'B' event, reaching the semi-finals! "The event has been a huge success," reported **Issa Kamara**, the country's sole PSA member who is based in London. "The opening match of the tournament was shown live on television - the President's involvement helped to raise the profile of the game here."

The local newspaper *Total Sports* reported that the President is passionate about the game - and recently defeated the President of Nigeria **Umaru Yar'Adua** during his last visit to the Federal State of Nigeria.

TOUR NEWS:

Our congratulations to:

- **Nicol David** - who has become the youngest Malaysian to be conferred a Datukship in her home state of Penang. The 24-year-old world number one received the **Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (DSPN)** - which carries the title **Datuk** - from the **Penang Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas**. "This is truly an honour to receive this title from the State government of Penang," said David after receiving the Malaysian senior order of chivalry title (believed to be the equivalent of a British knighthood). "It really took me by surprise when I was informed that I would be getting a Datukship. I'm very grateful that the Penang State appreciates my achievements and supports me in my squash career."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2-8 August	World Junior Men's Team Championship , Zurich, Switzerland
22-28 August	World University Championships , Cairo, Egypt
4-7 September	1st European Masters Games , Malmo, Sweden
7-11 September	South American Championships , Asuncion, Paraguay
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
15-20 December	World International Doubles Championships , Chennai, India
10-18 October 2009	Sydney 2009 World Masters Games , Sydney, Australia