

Instant Update



BEIJING EXPERIENCE BOOSTS JAHANGIR'S HOPES FOR OLYMPIC SQUASH

Attendance at the 2008 **Olympic Games** in Beijing boosted WSF President **Jahangir Khan's** hopes that Squash can make its long-awaited debut in the Games in 2016.

The sport is one of seven short-listed by the IOC for possible addition to the 2016 Games programme - the decision for which will be made at the IOC session in Copenhagen in October 2009.

Khan was joined in Beijing by WSF Patron **HRH Tunku Imran**, the President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia and an IOC Member, and WSF Emeritus President **Susie Simcock**, who recently received the New Zealand Olympic Order award after more than a decade of service with the NZ Olympic Committee. The WSF trio were able to meet and receive feedback and helpful advice from many IOC members present.

In addition to meeting senior officials of the Chinese Squash Federation, the party also met with IOC Sports department representatives to clarify the process leading up to the selection of sports for the 2016 Olympic programme.

The WSF delegates also met members of the international press in Beijing, which provided numerous opportunities to convey the sport's strong credentials for Olympic inclusion.

Furthermore, Jahangir Khan joined representatives of other 2016 short-listed sports on an "Around the Rings Newsmaker" breakfast panel session, which resulted in significant worldwide publicity for the Squash bid.

"Squash is a truly global sport - indeed the top six teams in last year's World Men's Championships covered the five continents - and Olympic success would be the ultimate goal for all our athletes," said Khan, the record ten-time British Open champion and six-time World Open champion who is widely regarded as the greatest squash player of all-time,

"We were most grateful to the IOC for receiving accreditation to attend the magnificently-hosted Olympics in Beijing, giving us the chance to observe and enjoy the presentation of the many excellent sports on the Olympic programme.

"As a result of my wonderful experience in Beijing, I am committed to working even harder on behalf of our athletes to convince IOC decision-makers that Squash will add value and should be included to the Olympic programme in 2016!

"I am more optimistic than ever before that our Olympic dreams can be realised," added Khan.



IOC MEETING IN BEIJING

Tunku Imran, Jahangir Khan and **Susie Simcock** joined representatives of the other six 'short-listed' sports at a special meeting in Beijing led by IOC Sports Director **Christophe Dubi** and IOC Recognised Federations Liaison **Jean Laurant Bouquin**, and also including Olympic Games Executive Director **Gilbert Felli** and **Paquerette Girard-Zappelli**, Secretary of the IOC Ethics Commission.

The review process of the Olympic programme for the 2016 Olympic Games was outlined, which includes updating analysis of core IOC federations and in-depth analysis of short-listed IOC recognised International Federations (SIFs).

IOC Rules of Conduct for IOC recognised International Federations (SIFs) seeking 2016 inclusion were reinforced – including times and places where a sport may promote, exhibit, advertise, communicate with IOC members; the prevention of visits to, or formal receptions organised for, IOC members by SIFs, or anyone acting on their behalf; making negative comments about a rival SIF sport; and the freedom to promote their sport at any time during sports events they organise and at international events recognised by the IOC (eg. SportAccord and NOC Continental organisations).

The IOC will advise the WSF in September who will be their representative as part of IOC observation programme at the Hi-Tec World Championships in Manchester.

The timetable thereafter will include a WSF presentation made to the Olympic Programme Commission (OPC) in Lausanne on 14th November; a detailed questionnaire which will be sent to all SIFs in December and must be completed by March '09.

This will lead to an OPC Report to the IOC Executive Board on 15/16th June 2009 in Lausanne. Finally, the 2016 Olympic programme sports will be announced at the October 2009 Olympic session in Copenhagen.

CLEAN SWEEP BY EGYPT IN WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS



Hosts **Egypt** brought the **6th World University Team Championships** to an appropriate climax on the final day of the seven-day event staged in **Cairo** for the first time by beating defending champions **Great Britain** 2/0 in the final at the **International Stadium** to ensure a clean sweep of titles in the biennial event.

The championships were staged under the auspices of **Dr. Hani Helal**, Minister of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research. Dr Helal, Championships Patron, was joined at the closing ceremony by **Penina Kabinja**, Ugandan Vice-President of the International Sports Federation for Universities; **Galal Allam**, head of Egyptian Squash, and **English Zinholdeberg**, President of the Sports Federation Technical Committee International Universities.

Ramy Ashour, the world No4 who became the men's individual champion earlier in the week, and team-mate **Tarek Momen**, runner-up in the individual event, clinched the title for Egypt with straight games over their British opponents – without the need for **Raneem El Weleily**, the surprise winner of the women's individual title, to play the dead rubber.

Malaysia claimed the bronze medal after beating **Canada** 2-0 in the play-off for third position in the championships which attracted a record 50 players from 11 nations.

The next World University Championships will take place in 2010 in Melbourne, Australia.

SQUASH IN CHINA

Hong Kong Squash Chairman **David Mui** hosted a lunch at the stunning new Hong Kong jockey club in Beijing for the WSF party and high level officials of Chinese Squash.

The local delegates included Director General of Multi-Ball Games **Zhang Xiaoning** (who has overall responsibility for all ball sports in China, including Squash, Golf, Bowling, Billiards, Rugby, Sepak Takraw, Bocce & Cricket); Deputy Director General **Wang Liwei**, Secretary General (Squash) **Wang Tao** and Executive Director (Squash) **Zhang Ning**. Hong Kong-based IOC member **Timothy Fok** also joined the lunch.

Mr Zhang Xianoning talked very positively about the future plans they have for investing more money into developing Squash in China, where they currently have an estimated 200 courts.

“There were positive conversations with Jahangir Khan, Tunku Imran and David Mui about the benefits and opportunities for Squash in China – particularly using the examples of Hong Kong and Malaysia,” reported **Susie Simcock**.

“Overall, it was a very informative and most enjoyable lunch. We were most grateful to David Mui for great job he did in organising and hosting this opportunity.”

PAKISTAN RECLAIM WORLD JUNIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

It was a case of double revenge for **Pakistan** in the final of the **World Junior Men's Team Championship** in Zurich, the biennial World Squash Federation championship held for the first time in Switzerland. The second seeds not only beat defending champions **Egypt** to avenge their loss in the previous final in 2006, but squad number one **Aamir Atlas Khan** led his country to victory by defeating new world champion **Mohamed El Shorbagy** to reverse the result of the earlier individual final.

Pakistan are celebrating their fourth Men's World Junior Team success - equalling the achievement of **England**, but one behind **Australia**.

Whilst **India** reached the semi-finals for the first time, **Czech Republic** achieved the best finish of the four countries making their debut in the championships by beating **Spain** in the play-off for 19th place. **Guatemala** and **Ecuador** took 24th and 25th places, respectively, while fellow newcomers **China** - fielding a squad of 15 and 16-year-olds - ended in 31st place.

HASHIM KHAN HONOURED

Hashim Khan, the father-figure of modern squash, has been decorated with the **Sitara-e-Imtiaz** at a ceremony in Denver, USA. The 92-year-old squash legend from Pakistan received the award, the third highest honour given to a civilian or military personnel in Pakistan, from his country's US Ambassador **Husain Haqqani**.

Khan, who won the British Open seven times between 1951 and 1958, has lived in Denver for many years. Hailing from North-West Frontier Province, where some of his family and clan still live, he received the award in the presence of his Pakistani and American fans and admirers, as well several members of his family, including his children and grandchildren.

Hashim Khan was born in a small village near Peshawar in 1916 - some say even earlier. His father was head steward at Peshawar Club and young Hashim would serve as ball boy as British officers played the game. Sitara-i-Imtiaz, which translates as the star of excellence, is an honour awarded for distinguished merit in the fields of literature, arts, sports, medicine, or science for civilians.

CASH & KHAN – A MEETING OF LEGENDS

An unexpected meeting between two racketsports legends took place at the **All England Lawn Tennis Club** in London recently as members of ManCom were leaving the famous Wimbledon grounds after being entertained to lunch by England Squash President **Jackie Robinson**.

“Isn’t that Pat Cash over there?” said WSF President Jahangir Khan. When approached by **Heather Deayton**, the former Wimbledon champion was equally delighted at the prospect of meeting the Squash great:

“I love playing squash,” Cash told Khan as the group chatted about the merits of both sports.

The Australian was delighted to hear of the WSF’s bid to get Squash into the 2016 Olympics.



MASTERS HEAD SOUTH FOR NZ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2008 **Head World Masters Championships** in New Zealand boast a remarkable entry list of 760 competitors as the best ‘mature’ squash players in the world head for Christchurch to compete in the prestigious WSF event in October. One of the numerous treats on offer is the chance to have dinner with Dame **Susan Devoy**, the country’s most famous player, winner of four World Open titles between 1985 and 1992.

TOUR NEWS:

Our congratulations to:

- **Nicol David** – who marked her 25th successive month at the top of the Women's World Rankings in August, thereby overtaking Australia's **Sarah Fitz-Gerald** to establish the third-longest unbroken run in the history of the WISPA rankings. Fitz-Gerald, the record five-time World Open champion from Melbourne, topped the rankings unchallenged for 24 months from November 1996 to October 1998 - and went on to achieve a total of 40 months as world number one before retiring five years ago. David now has only New Zealander **Susan Devoy** and Australia's **Michelle Martin** in her sights - Martin having notched up 44 successive months as number one from March 1993, following a 58-month run by Devoy from May 1988!
- **Amr Shabana** – who records his 30th successive month as world number one in the September Dunlop PSA Men's World Rankings. The 29-year-old Egyptian has dominated men's squash for the past three years and is set to become only the fourth player in history to win the world title a fourth time when he defends his title in October's **Hi-Tec World Open Championships** in England.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7-11 September	South American Championships , Asuncion, Paraguay
13-19 October	Hi-Tec Men's & Women's World Opens , Manchester, England
17-25 October	Head 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