

Instant Update



OLYMPIC LATEST

Our next milestone is in April 2008 when the IOC announces the shortlist for the **Olympic Programme Review 2008/09**. We must then extend the successful campaign which saw Squash come out on top of the five sports on the 2005 shortlist. The good news now is that only a simple majority vote is required - rather than the two thirds needed then! Furthermore, we have made significant progress against the Programme Commission's report for Squash in 2005 - in areas such as Popularity, Development and Presentation.

WSF EXPANDS

Sri Lanka and **Ecuador** were welcomed as full members of the WSF at the AGM in Bermuda in December - bringing the total membership of the Federation to 138 nations. Sri Lanka made their debut in the 2007 ICL Men's World Team Championship in India, while Ecuador will compete for the first time in the 2008 Men's World Junior Championships in Switzerland.

HISTORIC AGREEMENT



The WSF concluded its largest ever sponsorship deal in January with the renewal of its agreement with **Dunlop Slazenger International**. The new five-year agreement for Dunlop to be the 'Official Ball' of the WSF extends until 2012 the relationship first made in 1991 - marking Dunlop as WSF's longest standing sponsor. Picture shows Dunlop Slazenger International's Indoor Sports Group Marketing Manager **Toby Marcham** (left) with WSF Chief Executive & Secretary General **Christian Leighton**

DOUBLES

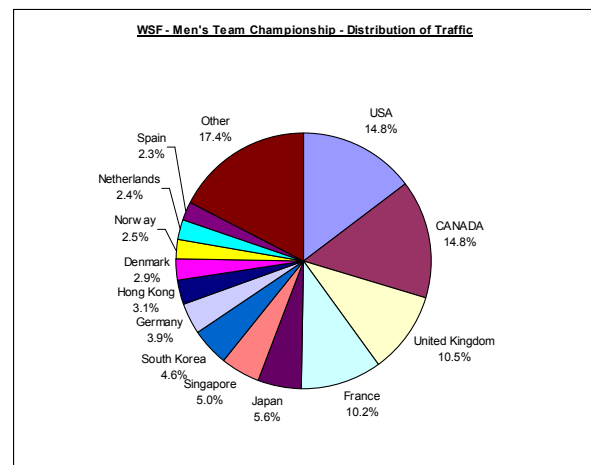
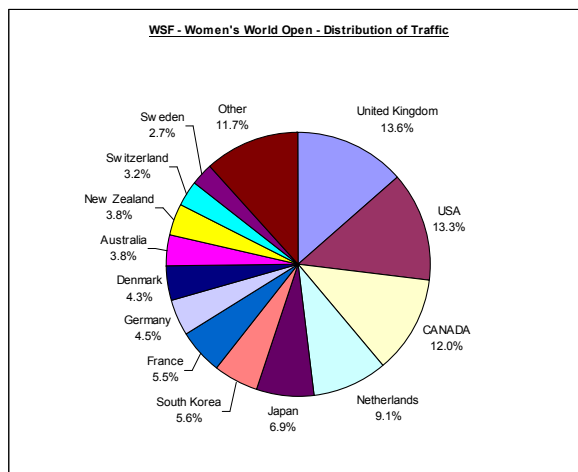
After exhaustive analysis and trialling of various options by Squash New Zealand, a proposal to increase the width of the Doubles court **for the elite game** was approved by the WSF AGM in Bermuda. Thus, whilst the current official doubles court (width 7.62m) will continue to be used at all other events and for recreational play, a court that is 0.8m wider (ie. 8.42m) will now be used for all World events that include elite athletes - the intention being to make elite doubles more exciting to

play and watch. Some of the events that will use the wider court include the **World Doubles Championships Chennai 2008** and the **Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010**.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS RE-LAUNCH INITIATIVE

This new initiative reaped significant benefits in the two senior championships in 2007 - the **Women's World Open** in Madrid, and the **World Men's Team Championship** in Chennai - including:

- Widely-acclaimed TV coverage from Madrid, with live transmissions in Spain and - for the first time - Russia, and delayed live broadcasts in Malaysia, plus daily news coverage on ESPN in Malaysia and Hong Kong. Chennai produced live coverage in India, delayed live in Malaysia, and a Highlights show in the UK with five re-runs over Christmas weekend
- The free Web Streaming service provided by the WSF had major impact - resulting in response from 76 countries, including 45,519 hits and a total of 1,894 viewing hours of from Madrid; with 70 countries, 27,637 hits, and 2,135 hours of viewing from Chennai (see further details below)
- The International Media presence was outstanding in Madrid, with the levels of output both locally and internationally far surpassing the 2006 edition. Both championships boasted high quality event websites - and the WSF website was able to generate unprecedented levels of coverage from the two events.
- Madrid attracted high-profile visitors including four IOC Members (**HRH Tunku Imran**, **Kai Holm**, **Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr.**, and **HRH Doña Pilar de Borbón**), plus Spain's Minister of Sport, the Mayor of Madrid, Madrid 16 members and members of the WSF Management Committee; whilst two further IOC Members **Randhir Singh** and **Els van Breda Vriesman** attended the Chennai championships, in addition to **Sarah Spingman**, President British Triathlon



WORLD JUNIOR RANKING SYSTEM

Delegates at the 2007 AGM backed the WSF's initiative to introduce a global ranking system for Juniors - (a) to boost participation in Junior competitions; and (b) to make the process of seeding at World Junior Championships easier. "The vision follows our acknowledgement that Junior squash is growing globally and complements the decision to make the biennial World Junior Individual Championship an annual event," explained WSF Vice President **Frank van Loon**. The roll-out of the new system is expected by September 2008.

ALL AFRICA GAMES ZAMBIA 2011

Squash has returned to the programme of this important quadrennial multi-sport event after last being included in the 2003 Games in Abuja, Nigeria. "Our inclusion on the programme of the All Africa Games Zambia 2011 is a welcome boost to our development drive in the continent," said WSF President **Jahangir Khan**. "Africa is already producing World Champions at senior and junior level in Egypt - but people should also note that with 27 playing nations, 21 MNFs and over 6,000 courts, we have the infrastructure for further development." The WSF is currently considering the disciplines and working with the Organising Committee on the planning aspects of the Zambian Games.

WORLD WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP CAIRO 2008

The Egyptian Federation has confirmed the excellent news that that the event (30 Nov - 6 Dec) will be held "under the auspices of the **First Lady, Her Excellency Mrs Suzanne Mubarak**".

38TH WSF CONFERENCE & AGM 2008

This year's Conference (16-17 October), followed by the AGM on 18 October, will be held in Manchester, England - alongside the **Men's & Women's World Open Championships**, the finals of which take place on 19 October. In addition, the **World Squash Awards** will also take place in Manchester on 18 October.

US COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS RECORD

A record 51 teams, including 50 American colleges and universities and one from Canada, competed in the **National College Team Championships** in the USA in February. "Collegiate squash has simply exploded over the past decade," said CSA executive director Ron Beck. **Trinity College** went on to overwhelm principal rivals **Princeton University** to win the title for a tenth successive season!

WSF STRENGTHENS EAST ASIAN GAMES LINKS

Celebrating the fact that Squash has been added to the **2009 East Asian Games** programme for the first time, members of the WSF Management Committee enjoyed a successful meeting in Hong Kong with officials of the Organising Committee at the offices of the 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited.

WORLD SQUASH DAY UNITES ENTHUSIASTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Squash enthusiasts around the globe united for **World Squash Day** on Saturday 15 March, when hosts of special activities were arranged at clubs and sports centres all over the world to highlight the sport's appeal. In the UK, organisers joined forces with Sport Relief 2008 - the well-established fundraising campaign, linked to Comic Relief, which is supported by famous faces from the worlds of sport and entertainment.

TOUR NEWS

The new **WISPA Premiere Series**, designed to encourage new women's events in new countries, is already celebrating its fifth success. Launched in September 2007 with the Icelandair Group Classic in the Icelandic capital Reykjavik, the series continued with pioneering tournaments in Portugal, Iran and, early in the New Year, the Hangzhou Open in China. In March, Hanoi hosted the WISPA Vietnam Open, the first professional Squash event ever to be staged in Vietnam.

The **PSA** is currently recruiting a new Chief Executive after the surprise announcement of the retirement of **Gawain Briars** after nine years at the helm.

Our congratulations to:

- **Nicol David** - who was voted 'Asian Sportswoman of the Year' in December, and in February won her sixth Asian Championship title since 1998
- **Samantha Teran** - who in February became the first Mexican to enter the women's world top 20, thereby taking the number of countries represented in the top 20 to an all-time high of 11.
- **Bermuda** - for attracting a capacity crowd of some 1,400 enthusiasts to the final of the Men's World Open in December - more than 2% of the island's total population!
- **Amr Shabana** - for winning his third World title in Bermuda, then in March celebrating his second complete year as world number one
- **Camille Serme** - who won the women's European Junior U19 title in March, becoming the first player ever to win the title three times!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

30 April - 3 May	European Team Championships , Amsterdam, Netherlands
24-31 May	Pan American Championships , Cuenca, Ecuador
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
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

Squash will be featured in the **1st European Masters Games** in Malmo, Sweden, from 4-7 September 2008.