

FOREXX DUTCH OPEN 2008

Name	Country	Ranking
NICOL DAVID	MAS	1
NATALIE GRINHAM	NED	2
RACHAEL GRINHAM	AUS	3
NATALIE GRAINGER	USA	4
JENNY DUNCALF	ENG	5
TANIA BAILEY	ENG	6
LAURA LENGTHORN-MASSARO	ENG	8
VANESSA ATKINSON	NED	9

Player Biography

Nicol David
MAS
Ranking 1



DATE OF BIRTH	26th Aug 1983
PLACE OF BIRTH	PENANG, MALAYSIA
LIVES	PENANG, MAS & AMSTERDAM, NED
COACH	LIZ IRVING
RACKET	PRINCE
STRINGS	PRINCE
SHOES	ASICS
OTHER ENDORSEMENTS	CIMB BANK, EQUATORIAL HOTEL, MALAYASIA,
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	5
CLUB BASED AT	SQUASH CITY, AMSTERDAM
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	SENIOR : 15 JUNIOR: 10
SQUASH ACHIEVEMENTS	WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION 1999/2001, ASIAN CHAMPION 1998, 2000,2002, 2004, COMMONWEALTH GAMES SILVER MEDALLIST 2002, ASIAN GAMES GOLD MEDALLIST, WORLD CHAMPION 2005 & 2006
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	BEING WORLD CHAMPION
HOBBIES	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, SHOPPING

OTHER	<p>Nicol David is the most successful Malaysian female squash player of all time. In a glittering junior career, the Penang-born star won the Women's World Junior title in style in Belgium in June 1999, then became the first person ever to claim the title for a second time- beating her great rival Omneya Abdel Kawy in the final in her home town of Penang two years later in 2001.</p> <p>She moved inexorably up the senior rankings to become a fixture in the top flight. For one so young the accolades keep coming, including being invited to carry the Olympic torch for Malaysia during the build up to the Athens Olympics in 2004 and being appointed a UN goodwill ambassador.</p> <p>Perhaps the main plank which completed the building of an athletic retriever into a rounded tactician was a move to Amsterdam in 2003 to be based with former star Liz Irving. Results slowly picked up until in 2004 she reached the World Open semi final in her home country. A year later she won the British Open then beat Rachael Grinham in the World Open final in December 2005 to claim the title and send the Malaysian media into overdrive. The country's Prime Minister exclaimed that the small ever smiling star was more famous than he was! The headlines continued unabated when she took over as world number one in the January 2006 rankings.</p> <p>The momentum slackened under the weight of awards and other distractions in early 2006, with top ranking being lost in April, but on the back of further Tour wins she regained the number one ranking in August 2006.</p> <p>The following months were spent cementing this position with six Tour titles in a row, including a second British Open crown and a second World Open title won in Belfast in November 2006.</p> <p>It wasn't until April 2007 that her thirteen month fifty one match unbeaten streak came to an end when Natalie Grinham beat her in the final of the Seoul Open. But she has since followed that defeat with a further three titles on the roll – the CIMB Malaysian Open, CIMB Singapore Masters and in September the Forexx Dutch Open.</p> <p>However, a match ball squandered at 2/1 up in the final of the British Open was costly as she lost that match to Rachael Grinham, and then relinquished her hold on the World Open crown when she was beaten by New Zealander Shelley Kitchen in the last 16, the first time she had failed to make a WISPA last eight for the first time since April 2004, a run of 36 events.</p> <p>But these blips were put behind her when she took the last two events of the year the Qatar Classic and Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open; and then opened her 2008 account by winning the first four events she entered, including regaining her British Open crown and the Seoul Open title.</p> <p>Small and slight, the girl nicknamed the Duracell Bunny is certainly spellbindingly fast, a great retriever, but also now a fully rounded attacking force too. She threatens to take a strong grip on the top ranking for a while to come.</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
2007	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2006	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
2005	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2004	10	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	6
2003	25	27	31	31	44	53	37	39	24	24	22	13
2002	16	16	17	18	19	18	16	16	17	18	19	26
2001	32	31	34	30	31	21	25	31	28	22	20	18
2000			50		37		35		30		29	31

Player Biography

Natalie Grinham
NED
Ranking 2



DATE OF BIRTH	16th Mar 1978
PLACE OF BIRTH	TOOWOOMBA, AUSTRALIA
LIVES	ALMERE, NETHERLANDS
COACH	LUCAS BUIT TRAINER: ALLISTAIR McCAW
RACKET	HEAD
SHOES	ASICS
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	2
CLUB BASED AT	SQUASH ALMERE & FRANS OTTEN
SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES WON	ONE
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2006 - TRIPLE GOLD MEDALLIST

OTHER	<p>Natalie is the younger sister of Rachael. Her sister chose to base herself in Egypt while Natalie chose Netherlands to maximise her competitive and practice opportunities. Definitely one of the fastest players on the circuit she scampers around the court to great effect and has consistently been in the top six of the rankings since December 2003& getting to second spot in February 2007.</p> <p>During 2004 she reached the semi finals in Brunei and Bahrain before being part of the Australian team which won the World Team title in her adopted base of Netherlands. That year ended on a real high note when she reached the final of the World Open in Kuala Lumpur, then paired up with her sister to take the Women's World Doubles title in India straight afterwards.</p> <p>2005 started slowly but momentum really got going again when she won the US Open and reached the finals of the British Open and Carol Weymuller Open. Now she was starting to edge closer to the top trio of David, Atkinson and sister Rachael.</p> <p>Early March 2006 saw her returning to her homeland to marry Dutch squash professional Tommy Berden, and she might have been expected to have had a poor preparation for the Commonwealth Games which followed straight after. Yet the younger of the Toowoomba Twosome took the Games by storm winning an unprecedented three gold medals. The individual title was taken when she beat Rachael in a sisterly final, then paired up with her to win the Women's Doubles, and with Joe Kneipp to triumph in the Mixed. Who would have bet on it!</p> <p>Her great form took her to another World Open final in 2006, where she was thwarted by Nicol David, but at the Seoul Open in April 2007 she got her revenge, ending David's 13 month unbeaten run in the final. Despite an ankle injury which caused a tame exit to Tania Bailey in the semi finals of the CIMB Malaysian Open, she bounced back to reach the CIMB Singapore Masters final the following week. However, a return of the problem may have contributed to a defeat by sister Rachael in the semis of the Forexx Dutch Open in September 2007. The up & down nature of her injury affected year continued with her managing to reach the World Open final in Madrid during October 2007 when she succumbed to sister Rachael, while nursing a wrist injury.</p> <p>She did reach three subsequent major event finals at the end of 2007 and into early 2008 but was thwarted by resurgent Nicol David on each occasion. Then in May the Dunlop British Open saw her forced to retire with a leg injury. This, coupled with her continuing wrist problem forced her to contemplate a break until the end of July.</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
2007	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2006	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
2005	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
2004	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5
2003	11	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	4
2002	12	12	13	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	12	11
2001	21	20	18	19	19	19	17	17	19	17	14	12
2000	33		30		31		29		24		21	22
1999	43		43		41		45		37		36	
1998	50		49		50		47		41		43	
1997	99		97		80		83		72		45	
1996	71		71		72		77		89		93	
1995							86		74		76	

Player Biography

Rachael Grinham
AUS
Ranking 3



DATE OF BIRTH	22nd Jan 1977
PLACE OF BIRTH	TOOWOOMBA, AUSTRALIA
LIVES	SHOROUK CITY, EGYPT
COACH	MAHA ZEIN
RACKET	HEAD
STRINGS	TECNIFIBRE
SHOES	ASICS
CLOTHING	SQUASH DESIGN
OTHER ENDORSEMENTS	EL AHLY, CAIRO
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	3
CLUB BASED AT	HELIOPOLIS CLUB, CAIRO
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	SENIOR : 5 JUNIOR : 2
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	WORLD OPEN CHAMPION, THREE BRITISH OPEN TITLES, WORLD NUMBER ONE, WON WORLD JUNIOR OPEN AGED 16 (1993)
AMBITIONS	TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WHEN I RETIRE FROM SQUASH
HOBBIES	CINEMA, READING BY THE POOL, BEACH AND FISHING

OTHER	<p>Rachael has a great pedigree as a squash player. Winner of the World Junior title in 1993 aged 16, she had an opportunity to defend in 1995, but was beaten by Jade Wilson (NZ) in the final. Since joining the WISPA World Tour during 1994, her array of strokes and strong temperament initially took her steadily towards the top 20, a barrier she finally breached in the middle of 1997.</p> <p>At the Commonwealth Games in 1998 her partnership with Robyn Cooper brought them a silver medal in the Women's Doubles. A family final finally first happened at a WISPA World Tour event in Malaysia in February 2001 when she beat sister Natalie. Arguably, the 2003 British Open was the turning point for the – who pulled off a stunning semi-final upset over the top seed, Carol Owens, then the World No 1, before beating Cassie Jackman in the final to claim the title for the first time. It was a title she was to retain in 2004.</p> <p>She has based herself in Cairo for a few years and it had proved to be a great place to hone her game. She may be slight in stature, but there is no doubting her tenaciousness, which saw her become world number one in August 2004. She held top spot until November 2005. December 2005 saw her reach the final of the World Open in Hong Kong, only to be beaten by Malaysia's Nicol David.</p> <p>David and Vanessa Atkinson pushed her down to number three in the rankings at the start of 2006, but apart from tilting at WISPA Tour titles, she claimed Commonwealth Games Gold in Melbourne early in the year when she teamed up with sister Natalie to win the Women's Doubles title and another family final resulted in a silver medal for her with Natalie taking gold in the singles at the same Games.</p> <p>Finally in October 2006 Rachael broke her run of being beaten in WISPA Tour finals when after a run of four defeats she triumphed at the Weymuller US Open.</p> <p>Last year Rachael added two World Tour titles to her name, The Alexandria Open and Hurghada International, and was beaten by Nicol David in the last three 'majors', losing to the Malaysian in the semis of the CIMB Malaysian Open and CIMB Singapore Masters, then most recently in the final of the Forexx Dutch Open.</p> <p>That Dutch final place was a sign of improving self confidence, amply illustrated by her playing very well, saving a final match ball against Nicol David before going on to take her third British Open title. And this was followed by something more special in October 2007 when in Madrid she beat her sister Natalie to take the World Open title for the first time.</p> <p>Since that career topping moment she lost to sister Natalie in the final of the Monte Carlo Classic and started 2008 in patchy form, giving up her British Open crown when she lost to England's Jenny Duncalf in the quarter finals. However, signs that she is going up through the gears again were evident when she reached the final of the Seoul Open in June 2008 before going down to Nicol David.</p> <p>But having not been favourite when she had triumphed in the World Open 2007 who is to say that she will not do it again in 2008?</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
2007	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2006	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
2005	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
2004	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
2003	8	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
2002	8	8	8	8	10	10	11	11	9	7	8	6

2001	11	10	8	8	8	7	9	9	10	9	9	8
2000	14		14		16		15		11		9	12
1999	19		19		19		16		18		18	
1998	18		18		18		19		19		20	
1997	24		25		27		18		18		18	
1996	29		29		26		29		27		26	
1995	31		29		34		27		33		34	
1994							65		42		30	

Player Biography

Natalie Grainger
USA
Ranking 4



DATE OF BIRTH	8th Jul 1977
PLACE OF BIRTH	MANCHESTER, ENGLAND
LIVES	GREENWICH, USA
RACKET	HEAD
CLOTHING	NIKE
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	2.5
CLUB BASED AT	RESULTS THE GYM, WASHINGTON DC
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	(SOUTH AFRICA) SENIOR : 3 JUNIOR: 2
SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES WON	SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALS IN EVERY AGE GROUP
SQUASH ACHIEVEMENTS	COMMONWEALTH GAMES BRONZE MEDAL X 2, WINNER QATAR CLASSIC 2003, HURGHADA INTL 2002, US OPEN 2004, FINALIST WORLD OPEN 2002, BRITISH OPEN 2004
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	PLAYING CAROL OWENS - FINALS QATAR CLASSIC & SEMIS OF WORLD OPEN 2002
AMBITIONS	GOLF, WINE, READING (ESPECIALLY HISTORICAL NOVELS), CLOTHES AND SHOES!

OTHER	<p>If you know that mother Jean was the British squash champion, that the family owned a squash centre in Johannesburg and that Natalie started playing squash before reaching the age of three; then you would hardly be surprised that she has come through as a player herself. She reached the quarter finals of the World Juniors in 1993 and 1995, on both occasions being beaten by New Zealander – Jade Wilson – the 1995 winner. Natalie won the Junior Scottish and British Under 16 titles as well as the South African Under 19 & 21 National titles 5 times. At 17 years old, she was the youngest player to be selected for the South African senior side in 1994; also representing SA in 1998.</p> <p>That year at the Commonwealth Games she won bronze in both the women's and mixed doubles, partnered by Claire Nitch and Rodney Durbach respectively. Having spent a few years based at Nottingham Squash Club in England she then went on to be based in USA.</p> <p>Four WISPA titles in 2002 from eight appearances signalled a new look for Grainger – when she went on to gain on of the sport's ultimate rewards when she topped the world rankings for one month in June that year. After a notable upset over world number 1 Carol Owens in the final of the Qatar Classic in December 2003, Natalie had a disappointing sequence of results early in the new year which caused the 27 year old to take time out to rest and recharge her batteries.</p> <p>The WISPA President returned at the Atlanta Masters and US Open in October 2004 and walked away with both titles. She continued her successful comeback by reaching the final of the British Open but was stopped at the final hurdle by world number one Rachael Grinham.</p> <p>Her form since then has been mixed as a result of injuries and illness, and although she is always busy away from the court, is also hoping for a prolonged bout of good health so that her revered racketwork and power play can blossom again.</p> <p>Good health and a change of circumstances in 2007 made it a strong year. In February US citizenship was granted – followed shortly by her winning three home WISPA Tour titles, Burning River Classic, Texas Open and Los Angeles Open. She then went on to take the individual crown in the July 2007 Pan American Games, before reaching the semis of the Forexx Dutch Open in September, where she was eliminated by Nicol David. A semi-final slot also followed in the World Open in Madrid.</p> <p>Grainger went one better in the Qatar Classic which followed, reaching the final before being stopped by Nicol David. 2007 ended with another home win in the Carol Weymuller Open, which incorporated the US Open title.</p> <p>During the first half of 2008 she retained her Burning River and Texas Open titles and reached the semi finals of the Dunlop British Open; as well as relocating to the New York area and dabbling in hardball doubles.</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4				
2007	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
2006	7	7	6	7	15	15	14	15	13	14	11	7
2005	5	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	7
2004	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
2003	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	5
2002	17	13	12	9	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	3
2001	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	10	14
2000	4		4		5		5		5		7	6
1999	9		7		7		5		4		6	
1998	17		16		15		17		15		11	

1997	30		28		20		17		17		16	
1996					83		59		65		51	

Player Biography

Jenny Duncalf
ENG
Ranking 5



DATE OF BIRTH	10th Nov 1982
PLACE OF BIRTH	HAARLEM, HOLLAND
LIVES	HARROGATE, ENGLAND
COACH	DAVID PEARSON
RACKET	PRINCE
STRINGS	E-SQUASH
OTHER ENDORSEMENTS	KARAKAL GRIPS, SORBOTHANE INSOLES
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	9
CLUB BASED AT	HARROGATE
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	SENIOR : 22 JUNIOR : 25
SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES WON	1
SQUASH ACHIEVEMENTS	NATIONAL CHAMPION, EUROPEAN INDIV CHAMPION X 2, EURO & WORLD TEAM CHAMPION, BRITISH U12/ U14X2/U16/U17X2/U23 OTHER TITLES: EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPION/ COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GOLD MEDALLIST / ATLANTA MASTERS WINNER / BRITISH NATIONALS 2007
AMBITIONS	TO BE WORLD NO 1 AND WORLD CHAMPION AND TO REPRESENT ENGLAND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
HOBBIES	MUSIC, SPORT, TRAVEL

OTHER	<p>Jenny is a past winner of the European Junior title, and other milestones are slowly being ticked off, including reaching the world top ten (in March 2005) and playing in England's women's team.</p> <p>Talented and athletic, Jenny is clearly beginning to make her mark in the upper reaches of the world rankings. An indication of her development would be the win she scored over higher ranked Natalie Grainger in the first round of the Tournament of Champions in February 2005.</p> <p>She also ended 2005 on a high beating Vicky Botwright to win the Prince Canary Islands Open. There have been mixed results in 2006 for the Harrogate, England based player, but she is such a good athlete with strong skills to match that it is only a matter of time before the top five beckons.</p> <p>However, if nothing else she could point to being part of the England side which triumphed at the World Teams in Canada in September 2006. And since then she showed that her confidence & game were blossoming as she won her national title for the first time in 2007 & was a semi finalist in the Seoul Open in Korea during April.</p> <p>Her improved confidence was clear in her play as the year progressed.</p> <p>Reaching the final of the Carol Weymuller US Open in November 2007 and also taking runner up slot in the Hurghada International in April 2008 did reinforce the conclusion that her top ten status was being consolidated; and this became more obvious when the British Open draw opened up and she reached her first British Open final in May 2008, only to be stopped by Nicol David.</p> <p>This helped propel her up to a career best equalling six in the rankings.</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	7	8	8	6	8	6	6	5				
2007	10	12	12	11	10	10	10	12	10	12	10	7
2006	10	8	7	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	8	9
2005	12	11	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8
2004	15	14	13	12	12	12	10	12	12	11	14	14
2003	29	29	26	25	24	23	23	23	22	22	16	12
2002	47	48	47	43	45	47	38	40	37	32	30	29
2001	108	85	83	82	66	67	66	58	58	52	48	45
2000												
1999	129											
1998											122	

Player Biography

Tania Bailey
ENG
Ranking 6



DATE OF BIRTH	2nd Oct 1979
PLACE OF BIRTH	STAMFORD, LINCS, ENGLAND
LIVES	STAMFORD, LINCS, ENGLAND
COACH	PAUL CARTER
RACKET	HARROW
STRINGS	E-SQUASH
SHOES	ASICS
CLOTHING	HARROW
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	9
CLUB BASED AT	STAMFORD
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	SENIOR : 35 JUNIOR : 30
SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES WON	1
SQUASH ACHIEVEMENTS	WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1999 & 2006, COMMONWEALTH GAMES SILVER MEDAL 2002, BRONZE MEDAL 2006, NATIONAL CHAMPION 2006, WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION, FINALIST BRITISH OPEN 2002, FINALIST US OPEN 2002, WORLD TEAM CHAMPION, COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002 SILVER MEDALLIST
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	FINALIST BRITISH OPEN , MALAYSIAN OPEN, HONG KONG OPEN & US OPEN.
AMBITIONS	TO WIN A GOLD EVENT & CONTINUE TO BE SELECTED FOR THE ENGLAND TEAM.
HOBBIES	GOLF, WALKING, READING, SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY, WATCHING MOST SPORTS.

OTHER	<p>In 1997 Tania travelled to Rio de Janeiro and returned to England as world junior champion. She has also reached the final of the British Open and has been as high as four in the world rankings (2003 & again in 2007). However continuity has been hampered by a catalogue of illnesses and injuries that have prevented her from competing a great deal in between the two high points.</p> <p>However, as 2005 progressed her good health enabled her to climb back towards single figure ranking. A win over world champion Vanessa Atkinson in the last sixteen of the Qatar Airways Challenge in April (where she reached the semis), and a similar finish at the Seattle Open in September where she again reached the last four helped her cause.</p> <p>Since then she has continued to move strongly forward dispelling any thoughts of stopping playing that were forming during the worst of her periods of illness and injury.</p> <p>To prove beyond doubt that she was back to her best at the CIMB Malaysian Open in July 2006 she stormed to the final leaving Vanessa Atkinson and Natalie Grinham in her wake before falling to Nicol David in a five game final thriller.</p> <p>Two months later she was a member of the England side which won the Women's World Team Championship in Canada, which she followed up by overturning the seedings to reach the final of the Cathay Pacific Swiss Privilege Hong Kong Open.</p> <p>With 2006 also seeing her win the British National title and taking number one spot in the English rankings too, and the first half of 2007 including semi final sports in WISPA 'majors', it is clear that her sustained good health is paying great dividends on court and she is certainly poised to keep her upward curve.</p> <p>That progress was maintained with a final spot in the CIMB Malaysian Open, assisted to an extent by second seed Natalie Grinham struggling with an ankle injury in their semi. In the last four of the CIMB Singapore Masters the week after Grinham reversed the result. These were followed by last four placings in the British Open & World Open.</p> <p>But 2008 saw her sidelined yet again, this time needing knee surgery. So more rehabilitation for the top flight player.</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6				
2007	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
2006	9	9	10	10	9	9	8	7	7	7	6	5
2005	15	17	15	14	11	10	10	10	10	10	8	9
2004	13	11	16	18	19	18	19	19	19	18	19	16
2003	6	7	4	4	5	6	6	6	7	7	8	14
2002	13	17	16	15	11	11	10	10	11	9	7	5
2001	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	12	13
2000	13		12		13		9		8		6	5
1999	33		33		22		22		23		16	
1998					121		119		79		50	

Player Biography

Laura Lengthorn-Massarò
ENG
Ranking 8



DATE OF BIRTH	2nd Nov 1983
PLACE OF BIRTH	GREAT YARMOUTH, ENGLAND
LIVES	PRESTON, LANCS, ENGLAND
COACH	NICK TAYLOR, NIGEL WILLIS
RACKET	HARROW
STRINGS	HARROW
SHOES	ASICS
CLOTHING	INFLIGHT
OTHER ENDORSEMENTS	GRIPS - KARAKAL
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	7
CLUB BASED AT	NEXT GENERATION, CHORLEY
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	SENIOR : - JUNIOR: 25 (APPROX)
SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES WON	GERMAN OPEN
SQUASH ACHIEVEMENTS	WOLVERHAMPTON CHAMPION 07, PLAYTED FOR ENGLAND IN EUROPEANS 07, GERMAN OPEN, SWISS OPEN FINALIST, BRITISH JUNIOR CHAMPION AT ALL LEVELS, WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION AND EUROPEAN JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPION
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	KUWAIT 05 - QUARTER FINALIST, BRITISH OPEN 05 QUARTER FINALIST
AMBITIONS	TO REACH FULL POTENTIAL AND GET AS HIGH UP THE RANKINGS AS POSSIBLE
HOBBIES	CINEMA, EATING OUT, SEEING FRIENDS, SPENDING TIME AT HOME
OTHER	<p>Laura , a twice British Under 19 champion, claimed her first WISPA title in 2004 when she won the German Open – but it was in 2005 that the 22 year old broke into the world top 20. Her most notable scalp of the year was Natalie Grainger in the British Open in October – a sensational straight games upset which led to a place in the quarter finals as a qualifier.</p> <p>The middle period saw her move up to number eleven in the world rankings as well as getting married. Hence the addition of Massarò to her name.</p> <p>And since then she has shown excellent form as 2008 unfolded, carrying on from a win against former World champion Vanessa Atkinson that took her into the Monte Carlo Classic semi finals at the end of 2007.</p> <p>In January she beat Natalie Grainger in the quarter finals of the Greenwich Open before losing to fellow English player Alison Waters the following day. But she reversed that result in the final of the Irish Open in April to take her fourth WISPA Tour title. Then in June she again belied her seeding to reach the semi finals of the Seoul Open.</p>

Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	11	12	12	12	12	9	8	8				
2007	12	11	10	12	12	12	12	11	12	10	12	12
2006	15	13	13	13	12	12	12	12	11	11	13	12
2005	21	21	21	19	21	19	20	20	20	19	18	16
2004	26	26	26	27	25	23	23	24	24	24	24	23
2003	47	44	43	41	39	36	35	37	38	37	37	29
2002	75	78	74	75	58	57	60	60	61	61	53	50
2001	71	75	74	67	70	70	65	64	64	62	73	70
2000							115		127		76	77

Player Biography

Vanessa Atkinson
NED
Ranking 9



DATE OF BIRTH	10th Mar 1976
PLACE OF BIRTH	NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, ENGLAND
LIVES	LEEDS, ENGLAND
RACKET	KARAKAL
STRINGS	KARAKAL
SHOES	HI-TEC
CLOTHING	KARAKAL
HANDED	RIGHT HANDED
AGE BEGAN PLAYING	9
CLUB BASED AT	PONTEFRACT SC
TIMES PLAYED FOR COUNTRY	SENIOR : 19 JUNIOR: 6
SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES WON	10 7
SQUASH ACHIEVEMENTS	WINNER WORLD OPEN 2004, WORLD NO 1 2005
BEST RESULTS SO FAR	WORLD CHAMPION 2004
AMBITIONS	TO WIN ANOTHER WORLD OPEN , TO DECIDE WHAT I WANT TO DO AFTER SQUASH!!
HOBBIES	READING , FASHION

OTHER	<p>Although born in Newcastle, England, Vanessa came through the Dutch junior system, having been resident there for many years. Indeed, from 1991 to 1994 she was Dutch Junior champion. She has a vibrant approach to squash and life in general, and her keenness to succeed paid dividends with a slot in the world top 30 achieved in mid 1997. Vanessa achieved a significant breakthrough in the 2000 British Open when she upset top seed and world champion Cassie Jackman to reach the quarter finals for the first time. Later in the year she won her first WISPA title in New York.</p> <p>The seven times Dutch champion enjoyed an excellent run of form in 2004, winning eight WISPA titles – the Kuala Lumpur Open, Qatar Airways Challenge, Irish Open, Malaysian Open, Brunei International and Mexican Open – before the closing months of the year.</p> <p>During October 2004 she squandered two match points in the third before losing a pulsating British Open final to world number one Rachael Grinham. She was then forced to withdraw from the Shanghai WorldStars with a shoulder injury but saved the best to last by first taking the Qatar Classic and then the World Open title in KL beating Natalie Grinham in the final.</p> <p>Since then not only did she become a star in her homeland but also moved into hot pursuit of the number one slot in the rankings. On a few occasions in 2005 the right result would have toppled Rachael Grinham – not beating her in the September final of the Seattle Open was one example, but she had the consolation of taking the Tournament of Champions, Texas Open and being runner up in the Malaysian Open.</p> <p>Eventually though the world number one status was secured in December 2005 rankings, but this pre-eminence was only to last one month as Nicol David took not only her World Open crown but top spot too.</p> <p>Since then, a further string of successes at the start of 2006 including two wins over David in Tour finals, propelled her back to number one in April 2006, before David regained the position in August 2006.</p> <p>Like so many champions before her, her late twenties saw a leap forward in form, and having turned thirty just before regaining top spot the titian haired Dutch star was focussed to regain it.</p> <p>However, early 2007 was characterised by some early round defeats as she struggled to maintain an injury free period & build up confidence.</p> <p>More shoulder problems forced her to withdraw from mid-2007 events to have treatment on the impingement. But she signalled that she was clear of the problem when she competed in her home open event, reaching the quarters of the Forexx Dutch Open before losing to eventual runner up Rachael Grinham.</p> <p>But a trio of English players got in her way in the last quarter of 2007. Quarter final losses to Tania Bailey in the World Open and Qatar Classic, to Jenny Duncalf in the Hong Kong Open and Carol Weymuller US Open; and finally to Laura Lengthorn-Massarò in Monte Carlo prevented her from making upward ranking progress.</p> <p>Maybe watching boyfriend James Willstrop come so close to winning the British Open in May 2008 will inspire her towards another major WISPA title.</p>
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Ranking History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	9	10	10	10	9	10	11	9				
2007	3	4	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
2006	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3
2005	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
2004	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2003	5	6	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	7
2002	11	10	10	11	9	9	7	7	6	6	5	7

2001	10	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	13	11
2000	11		11		11		12		12		12	11
1999	21		18		17		18		17		14	
1998	22		22		22		24		22		19	
1997	38		33		30		32		25		25	
1996	36		36		36		39		39		33	
1995					59		45		42		38	