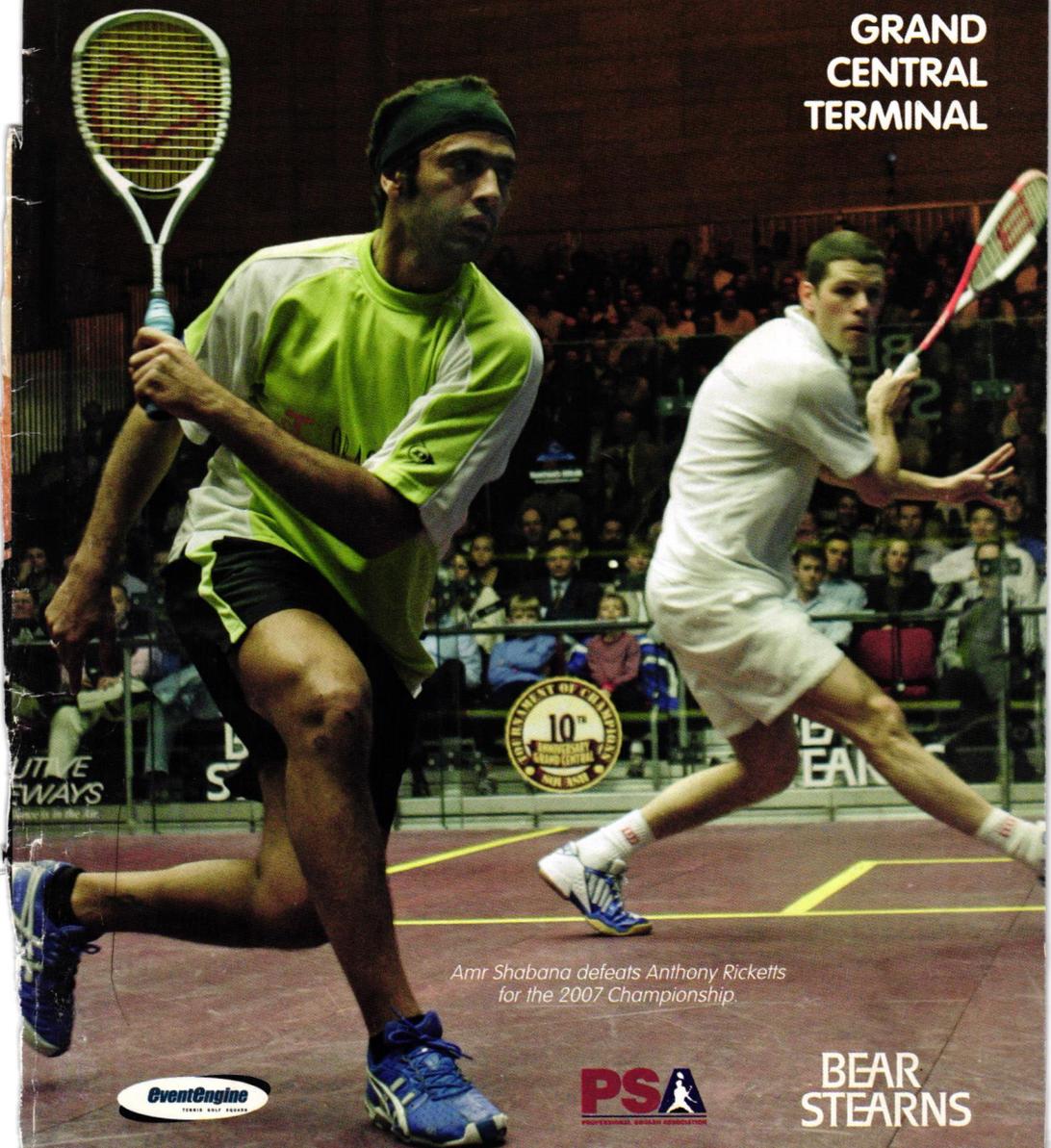


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*Amr Shabana defeats Anthony Ricketts  
for the 2007 Championship.*



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# **contents**

<b>TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GREETINGS</b>	<b>4,6</b>
<b>MY SERVE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>DESIGNING A CHAMPION</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2008 DRAW SHEET</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>MEET THE PSA STARS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>HONOR ROLL OF CHAMPIONS</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>2007 RESULTS</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>WOMEN'S EVENT</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>SQUASH PRIMER</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>NICKS &amp; BOASTS</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>PSA TOP 50</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>WISPA TOP 20</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>STREETSQUASH GROWS</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>PLAYERS CUP SERIES</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>SQUASH QUIZ</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>2008 PSA SCHEDULE</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS</b>	<b>60</b>

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## Jimmy Cayne

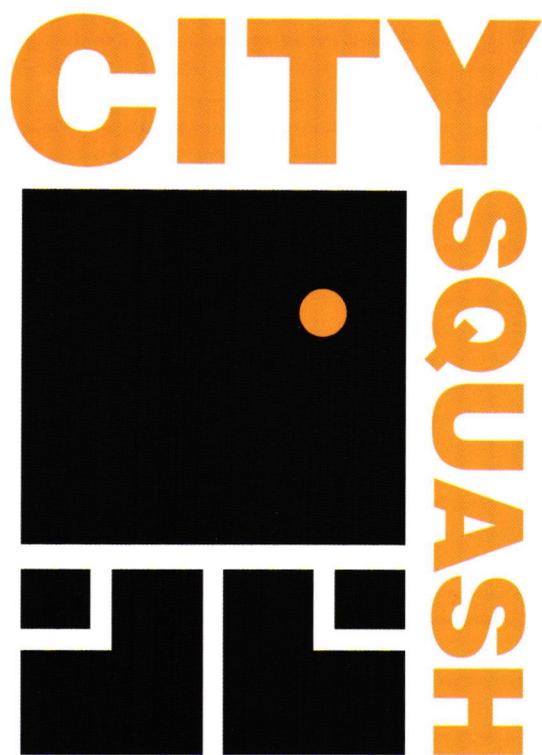
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The Bear Stearns Companies Inc

Bear Stearns is proud to be the title sponsor of the Tournament of Champions for the fifth year in a row. Every year, Grand Central Terminal welcomes the best squash players in the world to this thrilling competition. It has become a great tradition in New York City and we are excited to once again be a part of it.

Throughout our 84 year history Bear Stearns has made New York City its home, so it makes us especially proud to be able to partner with Event Engine, Inc. and the players of the Professional Squash Association to hold this event in this amazing location in the heart of the City .

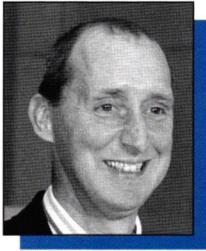
As a leading investment banking, securities trading and brokerage firm, we understand the talent level and dedication it takes to succeed. The athletes in this tournament are the world's best, and we look forward to watching them perform.

On behalf of all the employees of Bear Stearns we again welcome you and hope you enjoy this year's event. We are all expecting another great competition.



We salute the tournament players for  
their pursuit of excellence  
and thank the New York City squash  
community for all of its support.

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Gawain Briars  
Chief Executive, PSA

Having set commercial and marketing standards for every pro tour event to aspire to, John Nimick of Event Engine must be congratulated for his resourcefulness and commitment in building and maintaining the Tournament of Champions to its pinnacle status on the PSA world tour.

The inspired choice of venue has locked this event into the minds of all squash enthusiasts around the world and the players react with adrenalin, sweat and tears in their efforts to perform on the magnificent stage that Grand Central Terminal represents.

You the audiences, with your history, knowledge and support, combine to provide the special atmosphere that makes this event unique. Every year the best pro squash players in the world come to this tournament to produce their form because they know that their efforts are appreciated by all sponsors, patrons, ticket holders and those just on their way to or from trains.

Title sponsorships are the lifeblood of any professional sport. Bear Stearns is truly recognised for their continuing commitment to the Tournament of Champions and their brand is surely becoming synonymous with this iconic squash event of North America. Our sincere thanks and congratulations to them, and to all co-sponsors and patrons who support Event Engine in its quest to lift further the standards of pro squash in New York.

The PSA world tour has never been more exciting as the players jockey for consistency in a dynamic ranking list that can produce upsets at each next stop on the tour and we have several stars now who can credibly aspire to be No. 1 on the PSA ranking computer.

This is the first PSA Super Series event of the new year, and I believe that you the audience will be the winners as you witness the matches unfold through the week.



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# juice

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Dear Squash Fans,

I'm Jon Moore, a squash player and the CEO of Juice Energy Inc., an independent electricity supplier that's changing the way businesses manage energy.

As co-captain of Princeton's 1982 national championship squash team, I understand the drive and dedication it takes to win. As a member of Juice's team of energy and environmental experts, I'm now applying that same drive and dedication to managing the energy costs and the carbon footprint of large energy users.

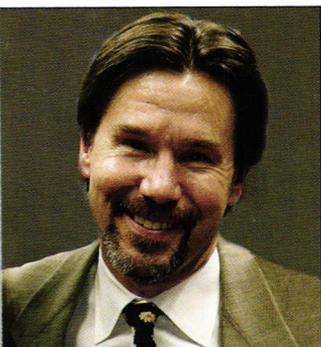
This year, Juice is proud to be sponsoring the Bear Stearns Tournament of Champions and offsetting the emissions resulting from the week's activities. To learn more about how Juice can squash your emissions while positively impacting your bottom line and the environment, visit [www.aboutjuice.com](http://www.aboutjuice.com).

Sincerely,

Jon

Jonathan Moore  
Chief Executive Officer  
Juice Energy Inc.  
(202) 370-0224  
[jmoore@juice-inc.com](mailto:jmoore@juice-inc.com)

To learn more about Juice Energy, call us at 888.92.JUICE or visit [aboutjuice.com](http://aboutjuice.com).



# MY SERVE

*from Tournament Chairman, John Nimick*

I write this before the Holidays and it prompts me to share a wish list for squash with you. I wish that squash:

1. is nominated in April 2008 by the International Olympic Committee to be on the short list of sports to be reviewed for potential inclusion in the 2016 Olympic Games;
2. is accepted as an Olympic sport by the IOC in Copenhagen in October 2009;
3. is taken up by thousands more under served urban kids through the incredible efforts of the National Urban Squash and Education Association and its founding chapters, who, cumulatively, have changed the face of the game;
4. becomes the hottest school and college sport;
5. so motivates a current teenage American squash player that he or she becomes an Olympic Gold Medalist and World Champion nine years from now.

As the Tournament of Champions enters a new decade as Grand Central Terminal's only annual world class sporting event, I just want to extend some thanks:

To Hank Kates, who gave pro squash a big lift in the late 80's and early 90's with a multi-tournament investment from Mutual Benefit Life and who sponsored the early years of the WPSA Championships in the Winter Garden;

To Dick Fuld, who lent the strength and status of Lehman Brothers to the same tournament when it became a softball event and was renamed the Tournament of Champions;

To Town Sports International and New York Sports Clubs, who launched

public squash in New York City, hosted the "Boodles" and the "Chivas," sponsored the first Tournament of Champions in Grand Central Terminal and are still with the ToC and NYC squash today, with special appreciation to Marc Tascher, Harry Saint, Bob Giardina, Mark Smith, Jenny Sinert, Merrill Richmond and the one constant throughout, Paul Marrotta;

To Jill Anderson, who deftly guided the ToC's lead sponsorship from DLJdirect to CSFBdirect to Harrisdirect;

To David Liebowitz, who ignited the spark at Bear Stearns from which the last five wonderful years of support have showered, with special appreciation to Bill Ullman, Marc Devorsetz, Chris DeMarco and Debra Douglas;

To Frank Stella, squash player, promoter, sponsor, trophy designer and ultimate friend of the game;

And to Lee Albertson, Alec Arader, Rick Bradt, Rick Bourke, Pat Canavan and the NYAC, Ed Cerullo, John Coleman, Paul Gaston, Mark Grossich, Peter Gordon, Dozier Hasty, Jeff Hanson, Jack Herrick, Dave Jasper, Rick Keating, George Kellner, Soli Mehta, Ed Minskoff, Chris Mitrano, David Outcalt, Agnes Peelle, Jeff Stanley, Michael Stoner, and Jack Turben who have supported the ToC early, often and generously.

And to the many others who've been supportive and helpful over the years - and to all of you -- the fans who share our love of the game! All the best, for 2008!

..... John



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# THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



## Grand Central Terminal

### Thursday, January 10

Noon -- 5:00 pm Men's First Round Matches  
6:00 pm -- 10:00 pm Men's First Round Matches

### Friday, January 11

Noon -- 5 pm Men's First Round Matches  
6:00 pm -- 10:00 pm Men's First Round Matches

### Saturday, January 12

Noon -- 5:00 pm Men's Second Round Matches  
6:00 pm -- 10:00 pm Men's Second Round Matches

### Sunday, January 13 Dunlop Family Day

Noon -- 5:00 pm Two Men's Quarter Final Matches  
Mayor's Cup - Princeton vs Yale

### Monday, January 14

6:00 pm -- 11:00 pm One Women's Semifinal Match  
Two Men's Quarter Final Matches

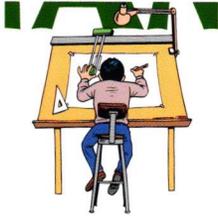
### Tuesday, January 15

6:00 pm -- 11:00 pm One Women's Semifinal Match  
Two Men's Semifinal Matches

### Wednesday, January 16

*Latest information and live scoring: [www.tocsquash.com](http://www.tocsquash.com)*

by  
Martin  
Bronstein



With Jonathon Power retired, North American squash fans have no hometown favorite to cheer for at the top level, (although Julian Illingworth is coming along nicely).

So, the question is, how do you build an American champion? Strangely nobody from US Squash has consulted me on this problem even though I see the solution as very straightforward.

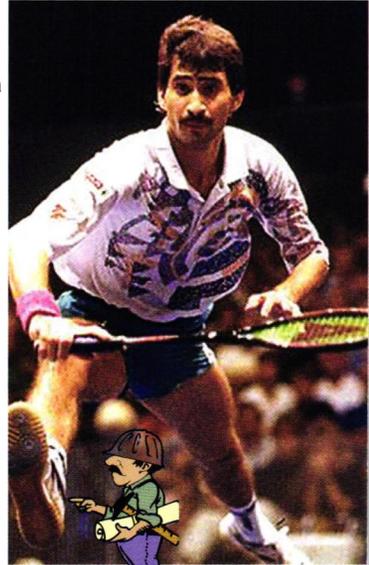
In the age of cloning, transplants and neurosurgery, how difficult could it be to assemble a new champion if you simply follow Dr. Bronstein's guidelines.



*the Doctor*

**FEET:** Very simple: the modes of transport taken from **Jansher Khan**, who by common agreement was the smoothest mover the game has seen. His movement around the court was unhurried, as graceful as a gazelle and as silent as the night.

Furthermore he never seemed to tire and he wore out thirty opponents to every pair of shoes.



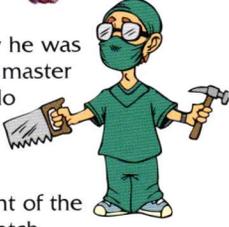
**LEGS:** After much consideration, taking in all the hundreds of professional squash players I have seen over the last 37 years, for sheer speed I would choose the legs of **Simon Parke**.

This very likeable Yorkshireman was playing league squash at the age of 12, won the world junior title and is probably the only player to have beaten Peter Nicol and Jonathon Power on consecutive days when they were at the height of their game. Parke was incredibly - and at times unbelievably - fast. On several occasions I saw him fall flat on his backside but still get up and retrieve the ball in the back corner. At times I swear I could smell burning rubber.



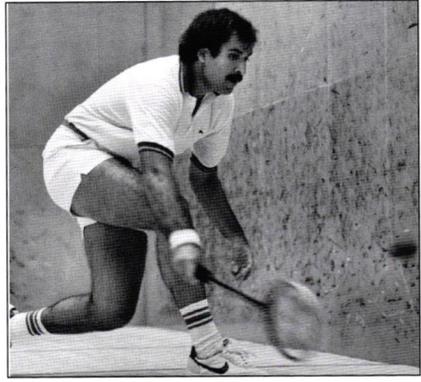
**WRIST & HANDS:**  
This one is easy – the wrist and hands of **Jonathon Power**.

For my money he was the ultimate racquet master with a wrist that could do more with a ball than any other player. Power's use of spin, cut, weight and flight of the ball was a joy to watch. Here was a player who was on court before he was ten and playing both hard and soft ball squash in Canada, an experience that gave him a unique advantage among the players from the rest of the world. His opponents could never be sure what shot he was going to play and, some say, Jonathon wasn't sure himself!



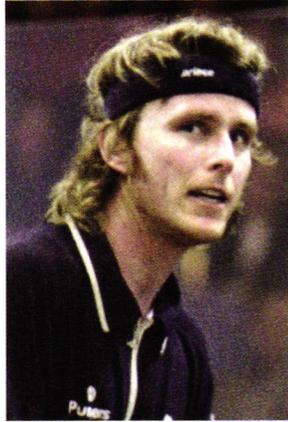
*Who's next?*

ders only occasionally play lefties and constantly hit the ball to the forehand of their left-handed opponents). Shabana is world number one because he has now acquired fitness to go with his mystical ability to hit winners, to kill the ball stone dead when the opportunity arises. When young players ask my advice I tell them to live in Cairo for six months and hope the Egyptian shot-making ability rubs off.



**SHOULDERS:** When it comes to hitting the ball with power, we must go back a generation or two to **Hiddy Jahan** (above). Hiddy was a big man in an era when the top squash players were 5ft 8" and weighed 130lbs. Hiddy was 6ft and 190lbs and used his weight and shoulders to the fullest. Hiddy at full speed was a frightening sight. And make no mistake, the ability to hit the ball hard is a very valuable weapon at any level of squash.

**ARM:** You could take the arm of any Egyptian player, but for my money, it has to be the left arm of **Amr Shabana**. (Yes, our player would be left-handed, giving him a natural advantage over right-handers because lefties spend most of their time playing righties and are accustomed to them. Whereas right-han-



**BRAIN:** No contest! It's **Peter Nicol**. We are not talking intellectualism here but the ability of the brain to control the body. Nicol lived like a monk for two or three years: there was nothing in his life but squash. Every waking moment was dedicated to making himself the best squash player he could be which resulted in him becoming the best squash

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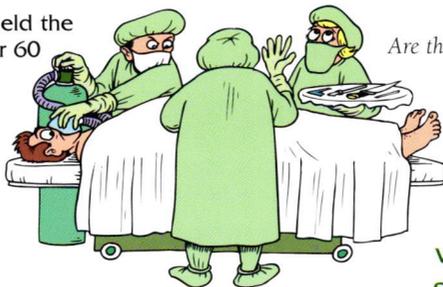


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player in the world. He held the number one spot for over 60 months and won every title there was to win. Even when he was ill, or exhausted, Nicol was able to command his body to continue to cruel and inhuman lengths. He won one British Open, beating Jonathon Power, when he was visibly and painfully exhausted, leaning on his racket between rallies. But once the rally started, the fatigue disappeared and Nicol was playing at full steam again. All Power had to do was keep the ball going and wait for the Nicol collapse: it never happened. Power was flummoxed and unbelievably -- he lost. Later Power was to say, I just don't know how I lost that one".



Are there any bits left over?.

There we have it – the blueprint for a world-beater bionic squash star. But

consider this: even if he could be built, that superchamp would unlikely be able to equal the incredible five-year 500 match unbeaten streak of Jahangir Khan. Which is why I have left that most remarkable of all squash champions (below) in one piece.



**TONGUE:** We have to come back to **Jonathon Power** here. Certainly the fastest tongue in the west, or east, or north or south. Wonderfully funny with a bookful of quotes to his name. He could come up with three reasons why his opponent shouldn't get a stroke or let before the Referee had even opened his mouth. Not required in squash, but how very welcome is a touch of humour in any human situation.



London-based Martin Bronstein, Chief Reporter for Squashtalk.com, has been a regular contributor to most major international squash publications over the years.





**Ramy Ashour (1)**



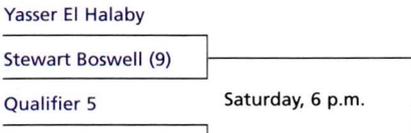
**Wael El Hindi (6)**



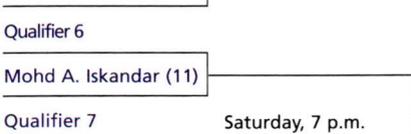
**David Palmer (3)**



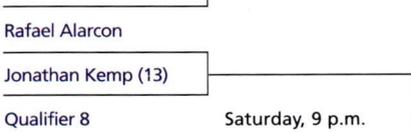
**Mohammed Abbas (8)**



**James Willstrop (5)**



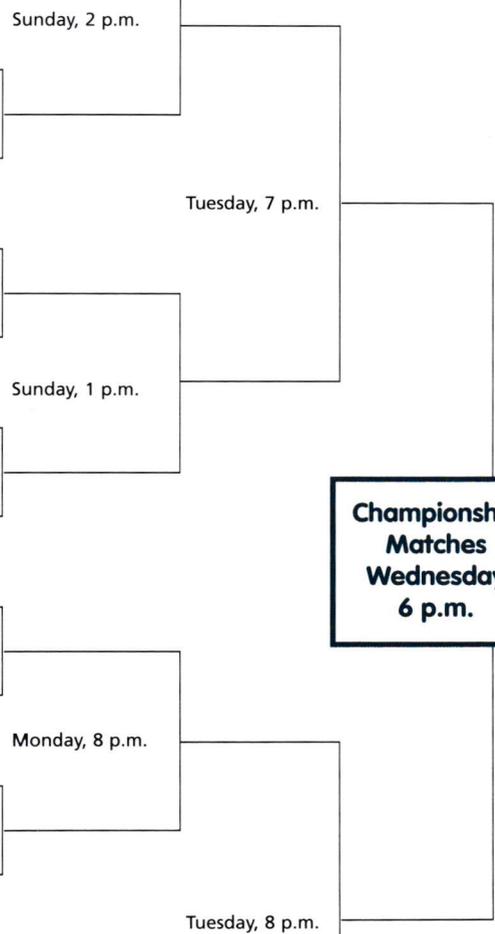
**Nick Matthew (4)**



**John White (7)**



**Gregory Gaultier (2)**



**Championship  
Matches  
Wednesday  
6 p.m.**

*Thursday matches in red,  
Friday matches in blue.*

NOTE: An updated drawsheet will be published daily.

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**MEET  
THE  
PLAYERS**

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*Action photos by Stephen Line, Squashpics*

# RAMY ASHOUR

Egypt



*Rampaging Ramy Ashour who became the hot new prospect on the Tour last season - now looks like the next No. 1.*

Ramy Ashour is truly the sport's hot property! After making his debut in the PSA rankings on November 1st 2004 at 301, the teenager burst into the top 100 (at 94) two months later - and by November 1st 2006 he was in the top ten! By June this year, the super-talented youngster had rocketed to No. 2 - a phenomenal rise!

Ashour stunned the squash world in August '04 when he became the youngest ever World Junior Champion - at the age of 16. Three months later, in his maiden appearance on the PSA Tour he won the Athens Open - becoming one of only a handful of players who won a PSA title in their Tour debut.

In July 2006, Ashour successfully defended his world junior crown in New Zealand, becoming the first man in history to win the world's leading junior title twice. Two months later, back on the PSA Tour, he romped into the World Open quarter-finals after overcoming England's No. 10 seed Lee Beachill in a five-game 85-minute marathon. Six weeks later the teenager notched up another notable milestone when he reached his first PSA major event final - upsetting tenth seed John White, former world champion Thierry Lincou and reigning world champion David Palmer before bowing to compatriot Amr Shabana!

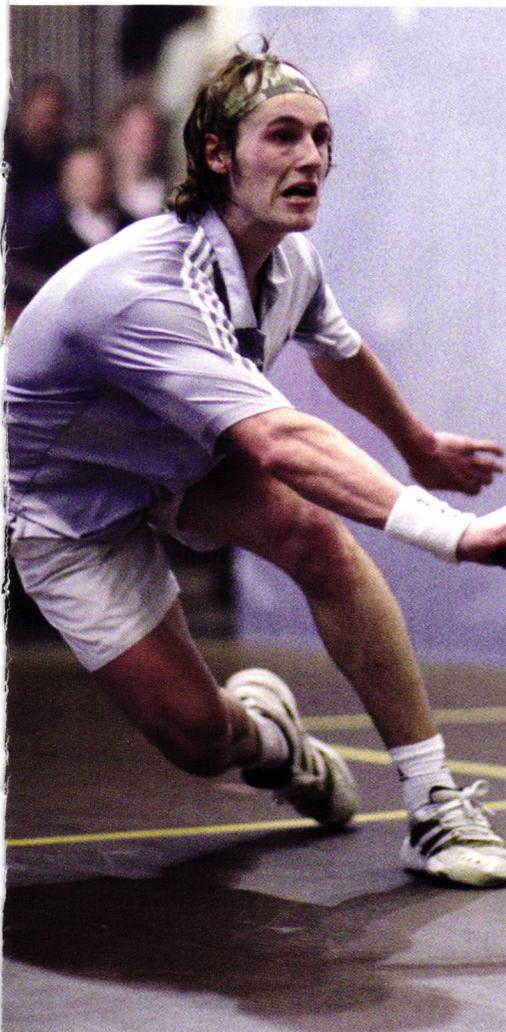
Which all led to his selection as the 2006 PSA Rookie of the Year.

Ramy started 2007 with his first **major** title at the Canadian Classic in Toronto in January, with victories over Anthony Ricketts and second seed David Palmer. Later in the month, Ashour beat John White in the climax of the Dayton Open in the USA. By April, Ashour was already established as one of the Tour's biggest draws - and his first victory over top-ranked compatriot Amr Shabana, in the final of the Kuwait Open, marked the teenager as a threat to everyone.

Less than a week later, Ramy also won the Qatar Classic, again beating Palmer in the final. In August - still a month short of his 20th birthday he added to his growing list of achievements winning the PSA's flagship Super Series Finals event in England - his fifth title of the year - beating Karim Darwish, David Palmer and Thierry Lincou en-route to the final, where he despatched Gregory Gaultier in four games. He also made the Saudi International final and the US Open semifinal last year.

**Born:** Cairo, Egypt, September 20, 1987 • **Now Resides:** Cairo  
**Best ranking to date:** 2 • **December Ranking:** 2 • **Titles won:** 5

# GREGORY GAULTIER France



*First French winner in the British Open's 77-year history with his victory over Thierry Lincou in an unprecedented all-French final.*

Gregory Gaultier's penultimate moment in squash - thus far - came last September when he joined Thierry Lincou in the first all-French British Open final - going on to beat his close friend to become the first French winner of the title in the event's 77-year history.

"Winning the British Open was a dream of mine - it's my biggest win ever," said Gregory Gaultier after defeating Lincou in a four game final. In paying tribute to his opponent, Greg added: "Thierry was a big boost for my career, throughout my whole career, and I'm grateful for what he brought into my life. I'm very happy."

25-year-old Gaultier signalled his squash potential early, winning a pair of European junior titles and making the World Junior Championship match in 2000. He started that year as No. 304 on the PSA ranking computer and has been hurtling upward ever since. He first cracked the PSA Top Dozen in October of 2003 and has remained in that elite group to this day. His best ranking to date is No. 2 which he achieved in March last year.

In 2005 he scored a pair of wins over then-rising star Amr Shabana who since has become world No. 1, and one over the now retired longtime world No. 1 Peter Nicol to serve notice that he was to be a title contender from thence forward.

He enjoyed a remarkable 2006 - which began with a world ranking of 12. After two non-PSA Tour successes - in the French Nationals (featuring his first ever win over Lincou, in the final) and the European Individual Championships - he went on to reach six PSA Tour finals against the seedings, and lifted the titles in the Hungarian Open and US Open.

In addition to his British Open win, 2007 highlights were making the finals of the World Open and the big Qatar and Hong Kong events, along with two semifinals and three quarter finals. He had to miss our event last year because of an ankle injury.

**Born:** Epinal, France, December 23, 1982 • **Resides:** Aix-en-Provence  
**Best ranking to date:** 2 • **December Ranking:** 3 • **Titles won:** 11

# DAVID PALMER

Australia

David Palmer is the latest international squash star to strengthen his ties with the growing US squash community. The rugged Aussie became the Touring Pro for the University Club of Boston late last year, the latest stop in his peripatetic career which has seen him and his young family at one time or another previously headquartered in Belgium and Bermuda.

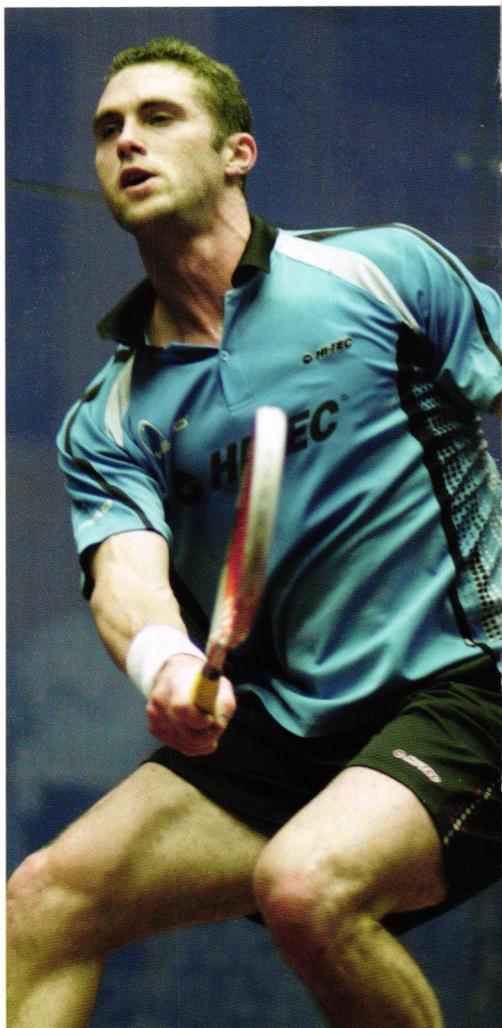
David Palmer has been Australia's top squash player for most of this decade. The 31-year-old from Lithgow in New South Wales topped the world rankings for the first time in September 2001, two months after becoming the first Australian for twenty years to win the British Open title.

A world top ten player since September 2000, Palmer has amassed 21 titles from 45 PSA Tour final appearances since September 1995 - his latest victory in the Dutch Open in September 2007 extending his lead over Thierry Lincou (with 18 titles) as the current player with the most Tour trophies to his name. He claimed his first PSA title, the Ecuador Open, in August 1997.

In 2002, David won the World Open crown in dramatic style in his, then, home town of Antwerp in Belgium, and history repeated itself four years later when Palmer, in his third World Open final, again recovering from a two-game deficit defeated Gregory Gaultier in the 2006 climax match in Egypt.

After winning the singles silver medal in the Commonwealth Games in 2006, Palmer took time off in his homeland to be with his wife Melinda for the birth of their first child, daughter Kayla, in June.

Palmer's 2007 campaign began with a runner-up finish in the Canadian Classic in Toronto in January, when he lost to rising Egyptian star Ramy Ashour in the final. In February he won the Swedish Open for his 20th trophy success. In April, he reached the final of the Qatar Classic for the fourth time. He also achieved 7 semifinals including the World Open and two quarter finals.



*Top Australian player of the decade, David made the quarter final or better of every event he played in 2007*

**Born:** Lithgow, Australia, June 28, 1976 • **Now Resides:** Boston, MA  
**Best ranking to date:** 1 • **December Ranking:** 3 • **Titles won:** 21

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# NICK MATTHEW

England



*He was in our 2006 final, but an ankle injury early last year curtailed his play. With a strong comeback in the fall, he won the US Open in NY.*

Despite first achieving a world top five ranking in October 2004, it was in 2006 that Nick Matthew made an indelible mark on squash history when the young Englishman, seeded six, upset third-seed Thierry Lincou in the final of the British Open in Nottingham to become the first home-grown champion of the world's most prestigious event for 67 years!

Lincou twice levelled the match after the local hero forged game leads - but Matthew bravely stuck to his task and fought back from behind in the decider to claim a sensational five set victory.

"This has to be the pinnacle of my achievements," said Matthew who had become the first true English champion since 1939. The triumph rounded off a sensational year for the 27-year-old from Sheffield, which began when he won the British National title for the first time - later becoming the only person to hold the National and Open titles simultaneously.

It also included a final berth in our Tournament of Champions here in New York, where he upset No. 2 seed and former champion Jonathon Power - in what turned out to be the now-retired Canadian's farewell PSA Tour match!

Matthew's 2007 campaign started with disappointment when he suffered a serious ankle injury in his first match of the year at the Canadian Classic in Toronto. Intense treatment for a torn ligament in his right ankle enabled him to make a comeback at the KL Open in Malaysia - where he reached the semi-finals. He also made semifinals of both the Canary Wharf Classic in London and the Qatar Classic.

The disappointment of failing to retain his British Open title last September - when he lost to world number one Amr Shabana in the quarter-finals - was tempered by his achievement in New York City two weeks later when he won the US Open, defeating Thierry Lincou, Ramy Ashour and compatriot James Willstrop along the way. To close 2007 on a high note, he made the semifinals of the World Open in Bermuda in December.

**Born:** Sheffield, England, July 25, 1980 • **Resides:** Sheffield  
**Best ranking to date:** 5 • **December Ranking:** 5 • **Titles won:** 7



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# JAMES WILLSTROP

England



*His imposing 6'4" presence on the court and the strength of his game make him one of the PSA Tour's major figures.*

James Willstrop, England's most successful junior player of all time, became the world's top-ranked Englishman just two years after becoming a 'senior'. In December 2005, after reaching a career-high world No. 2, he led England to victory - for the first time in eight years - in the World Team Championships in Pakistan.

After a disappointing 2006 - in which he was hospitalised with food poisoning in Cairo on the eve of the World Open in Egypt - the 23-year-old Yorkshireman struck back with a vengeance to start the 2007 campaign -- winning the British National title for the first time, then claiming his first PSA Tour Championship for more than 16 months at the Canary Wharf Classic in London.

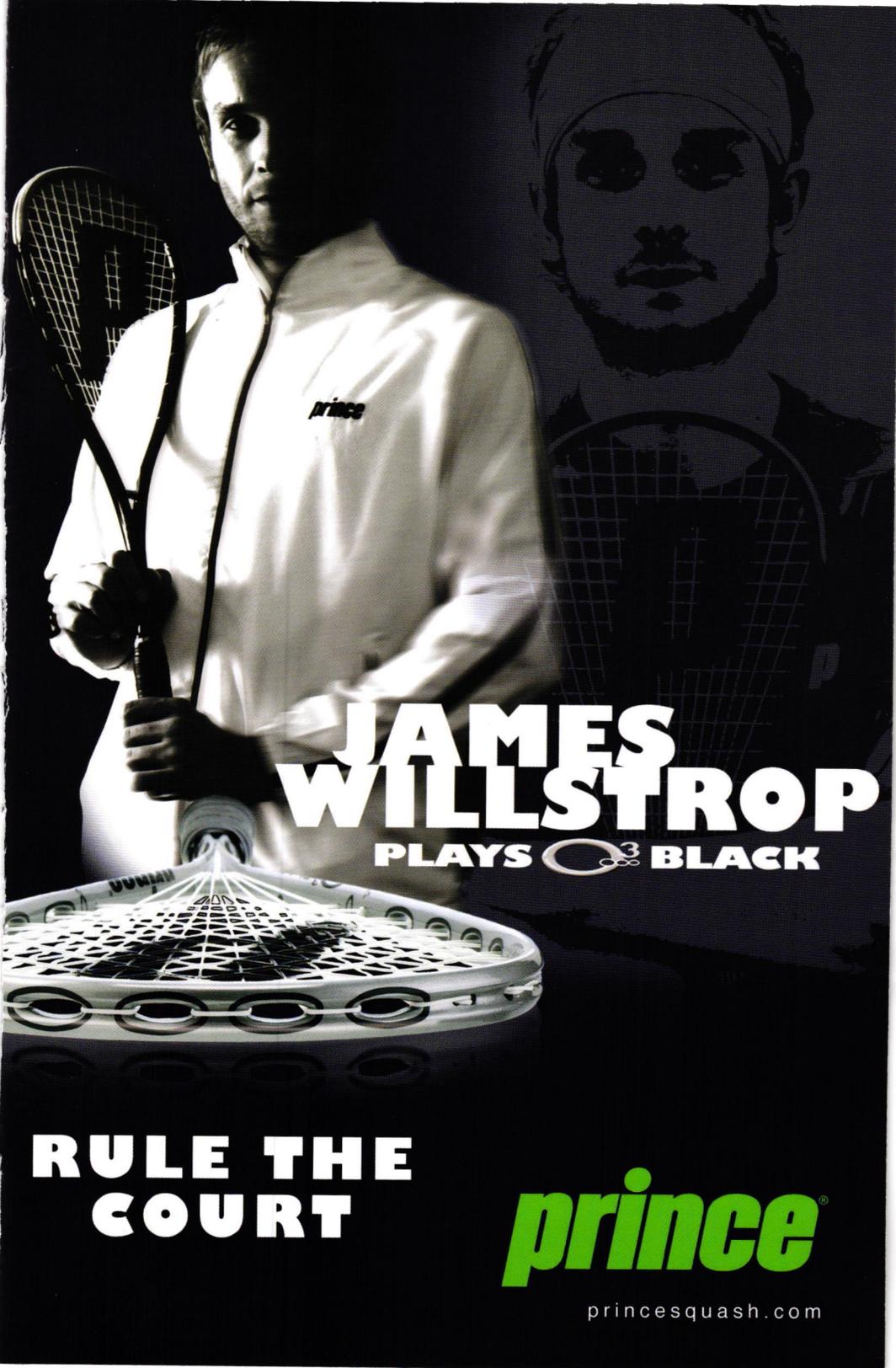
It was not only a confidence-boosting Tour triumph, but one he achieved after finally ending a career-long tally of 12 defeats by Lee Beachill, beating his Pontefract and England team-mate - and close friend - in a five-game quarter final.

In the inaugural English Grand Prix fourth seed Willstrop forced himself into the final after overcoming favorite David Palmer in a 95-minute five-game semi-final - then clinched the trophy when he beat third-seeded Frenchman Thierry Lincou in five games to claim his seventh PSA Tour title.

Palmer avenged the defeat in the quarter-finals of the British Open shortly afterwards - but James went on to score his best ever success in the US Open in October. He made his breakthrough in the quarter-finals in New York, beating the recently-crowned British Open champion Gregory Gaultier - a repeat of his first ever win over the Frenchman in August's Super Series Finals - before going on to down Karim Darwish in 98 minutes to make his 11th Tour final.

Willstrop, coached throughout his life by his illustrious father Malcolm Willstrop, enjoyed a glittering junior career - winning British National and Open titles at all age groups plus the World Junior Championship.

**Born:** North Walsham, England, August 15, 1983 • **Resides:** Leeds  
**Best ranking to date:** 2 • **December Ranking:** 6 • **Titles won:** 7



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# JAMES WILLSTROP

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# Wael El Hindi

Egypt



*A colourful character on court and off - Wael's free-wheeling style of play adds excitement to every match he's in.*

A PSA member since 1999, Wael El Hindi has long been regarded as one of Egypt's most talented players - first making his mark in the USA in 1998 when he reached the final of the World Junior Championship.

Steady progress on the Tour has seen the 27-year-old from Giza - who currently divides his time between Egypt and England - rise to a career-high world No. 10 ranking in May last year after winning five PSA Tour titles in 10 final appearances.

El Hindi won his first Tour title at the Spanish Open in September 2001.

In 2004, El Hindi began a love-affair with Malaysia where he won the Kuala Lumpur Open in February - then went on to reach the final of the Malaysian Open later in the year, and again in 2005, in both cases exceeding his seeding!

His standout achievements in 2006 included home country success in the Heliopolis Open in August 2006 - when he made his breakthrough after beating Finland's No. 2 seed Olli Tuominen in the quarter-finals. The following month, unseeded, he burst into the last eight of the World Open - also in Egypt - after beating seeded compatriot Karim Darwish and England's Nick Matthew.

El Hindi began his 2007 campaign by again beating higher-seeded Darwish en-route to a semi-final berth in the Canadian Classic in January. In April, he produced impressive performances in both the Kuwait Open and Qatar Classic (in Doha featuring upsets over Anthony Ricketts and Lee Beachill) which saw him leap four places to make his top ten debut in May.

In July, he successfully defended his Heliopolis Open crown after overcoming fellow Egyptians in each round - Mohd Ali Anwar Reda, Omar Elborolossy, Mohammed Abbas, then Karim Darwish in the final!

El Hindi credits much of his recent success to working on his fitness with British squash legend Jonah Barrington in England.

**Born:** Cairo, Egypt, June 25, 1980 • **Now Resides:** Cairo  
**Best ranking to date:** 9 • **December Ranking:** 9 • **Titles won:** 3

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# JOHN WHITE

Scotland



*Born Australian, playing under the banner of his father's native Scotland ... John and his young family now live in the U.S.*

The Australian-born Scot, widely-known as the hardest-hitter of the ball, has enjoyed a highly successful career on the international circuit. Runner-up in the British Open and World Open in 2002, John White went on to top the world rankings in March 2004. Since relocating in the USA in March 2005, he has reached eight PSA Tour finals in his new home country - winning four of them!

His 2007 campaign included the quarter final of our Tournament of Champions and a return to the British National Championship final for the second time. He also enjoyed his 29th, 30th and 31st Tour finals - at Dayton, the Canary Wharf in London and the North American Open. John owns 12 PSA Tour titles.

He turned pro in 1991, but not until April 98 did he break into the top twenty, then enjoyed a great run to the top of the game in the new millennium which led to his taking the No. 1 ranking in March 2004.

"Becoming number one in the world is one of the major goals of anyone's career, so I am delighted to have achieved this," said White at the time. Born and raised in Queensland, Australia -- in September '98, he changed his squash allegiance to Scotland (his father's birthplace) and represented his new country in the European Championships, the World Cup and the World Team Championships.

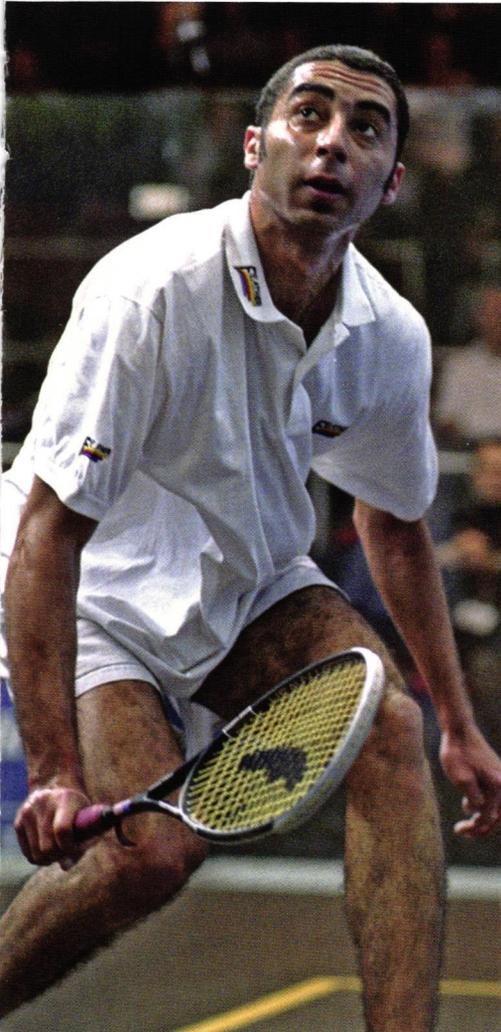
He lived in Nottingham, England for five years, and in March 2005 he and his wife and four young children established a new home-base in Philadelphia.

Last October, John launched a new phase of his squash career, taking over as coach of the men's and women's teams at Franklin & Marshall, but will continue to play some tour events.

John confirmed his credentials as the game's hardest-hitter in 2005 when he hit a ball clocked at 172 mph - a world record which has yet to be surpassed! The speed test was made after it was announced that Andy Roddick had established a record of 150 mph hitting a tennis ball.

**Born:** Australia, June 15, 1973 • **Now Resides:** Philadelphia  
**Best ranking to date:** 1 • **December Ranking:** 10 • **Titles won:** 12

# MOHAMMED ABBAS Egypt



*Abbas transitioned from his notable junior career to a steady climb on the PSA Tour ranking computer.*

Turning pro 1998, Mohammed Abbas has worked his way up the world rankings - and, after winning his third PSA Tour title in his seventh final in March this year at the Kuala Lumpur Open in Malaysia, rose to a career-high world No. 13 ranking on the first of April.

Abbas first made his mark on the international squash stage when he reached the quarter-finals of the 1998 World Junior Championships in the USA, then playing his part in Egypt reaching the final of the team event after beating favorites Pakistan in the semi-finals.

He claimed his first Tour title at the El Ahly Open at his home club in Cairo in January 2000.

Abbas enjoyed a breakthrough year in 2004 when, after reaching the final of the Dayton Open unseeded, he went on to reach the last sixteen of both the World Open and Pakistan Open in December - which resulted in a massive jump from 25 to 16 in the world rankings on 1st January 2005.

Further progress took three years to achieve, but in March 2006 he won the COAS International in Pakistan (beating fast-rising compatriot Ramy Ashour in the final) and in December achieved his best-ever finish in a Super Series event by reaching the quarter-finals of the Saudi International after beating higher-seeded fellow countryman Karim Darwish in the last sixteen.

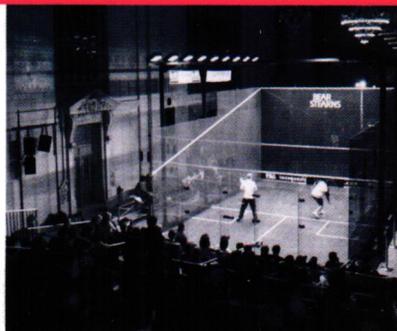
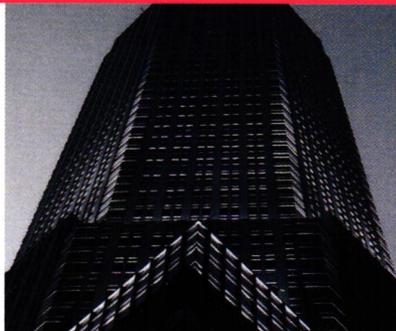
Mohammed's 2007 campaign began with a semi-final berth in the Virginia Pro Championship in February, where he upset Malaysia's Mohd Azlan Iskandar in the quarter-finals. In the Kuala Lumpur Open the following month, he beat favourite Nick Matthew in the semis and higher-seeded Stewart Boswell in the final. "This is the biggest win of my career," said the 26-year-old at the time. "I am very happy to win it here."

Back on home soil in July, Abbas battled back to the semi-finals of the Heliopolis Open for the second successive year - this time losing to another member of the strong Egyptian contingent on the Tour, Wael El Hindi, in a 90-minute marathon.

**Born:** Giza, Egypt, December 24, 1980 • **Now Resides:** Giza  
**Best ranking to date:** 13 • **December Ranking:** 14 • **Titles won:** 3



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# STEWART BOSWELL

Australia

Stewart Boswell has really had two squash careers - the first of which followed a successful junior run through to the pro stage where, in May 2002, he celebrated a career-high world No. 4 ranking. The second began with him winning seven PSA Tour titles in a row after making a comeback in April 2005 following an enforced two-year layoff with a mysterious back ailment.

From January to December 2005, he leapt a sensational 279 places to 20 in the rankings as he fought to re-establish himself amongst the world's elite. The 29-year-old from Canberra marked his return to the world top ten in April last year - then clinched his 17th career PSA Tour title at the Australian Open in July before celebrating his 29th appearance in a Tour final later in the month at the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur.

Boswell reached his first PSA Tour event final in May 1997 - and went on to reach his first Super Series final in April 2002 when, as sixth seed, he beat higher-ranked compatriot David Palmer to make the Qatar Classic climax match.

But tragedy struck after a surprising first round defeat in the PSA Masters in Qatar in May 2003. "I'd been getting some pain in my lower back leading up to that and decided to go back to Australia from there to sort it out," said Boswell. "Initially, with all scans of my back showing no damage, it didn't seem that serious. However it never improved to the stage that I could play."

Things looked bleak for Boswell for about a year -- unable to play and no real signs of progress. "I then saw a physiotherapist in Adelaide, who was doing further study on the dysfunction of the area where I was having pain. He had some different techniques and a different approach treating my problem. Things started looking up - and I was soon able to progress to harder work - running, gym, etc - before finally getting back to playing."

Back as a threat to the world's elite, Boswell added the St Louis Open crown to his title collection in 2006 - where he upset second seed John White in the final - and began his 2007 campaign by battling through to the final of the Kuala Lumpur Open, beating higher-seeded Karim Darwish in the semi-finals.



*Tour veteran Stewart Boswell thrilled the squash world when he shrugged off a serious back ailment to return to the Top 20.*

**Born:** Canberra, Australia, July 29, 1978 • **Now Resides:** Manchester  
**Best ranking to date:** 4 • **December Ranking:** 15 • **Titles won:** 7

# OLLI TUOMINEN

Finland



*Olli carries the squash fortunes of Finland on his slight shoulders, the only player from that nation to make his mark in the sport.*

28-year-old Olli Tuominen remains persistence personified. The lone Finn on the pro tour hangs in with the PSA Top 20 on sheer will and determination and all-out effort.

Unheralded until January, 1998 that month saw him with the No. 113 ranking on the Pro computer. Within a year he was well into the Top 100 -- starting 1999 at No. 79. He made the Top 50 by the end of that year and hasn't looked back since.

He's always hoped to crack the Top 10 and seemed to be closing in on it a year or so ago when he reached the No. 13 ranking position -- his best yet -- but he slipped back toward the end of 2006 and started 2007 at No. 17.

The slight Finn had his best-ever New York result last year in our Tournament of Champions making it to the semifinals with two exciting performances. He put out the veteran Lee Beachill of England, No. 8 seed, with a convincing win in the second round. That earned him a quarter final match with the tournament's No. 2 seed -- the formidable David Palmer of Australia. The underdog (Olli) dropped the first game to no one's surprise ... but then as the excitement and electricity built in the hall Tuominen scrapped and scratched and scrambled to victory in the next three games -- two of them in extra points -- including the deciding game. He gave Anthony Ricketts a four game battle in the semifinal -- but couldn't repeat the heroics of the quarter final against his second big Australian in a row.

He made one other semifinal last year -- that was the Swedish Open. He also added a pair of quarter final finishes to his 2007 highlights. One was the Dutch Open and the other the \$210,000 Saudi International last October.

Olli makes friends wherever he plays. A dedicated squash family in Boston virtually adopted him as a member of the family when he billeted with them several years ago for a PSA event there and they've virtually become lifelong friends.

When asked about off-court interests, Olli lists backgammon and playing the guitar.

**Born:** Helsinki, Finland, April 15, 1979 • **Now Resides:** Helsinki  
**Best ranking to date:** 13 • **December Ranking:** 17 • **Titles won:** 5

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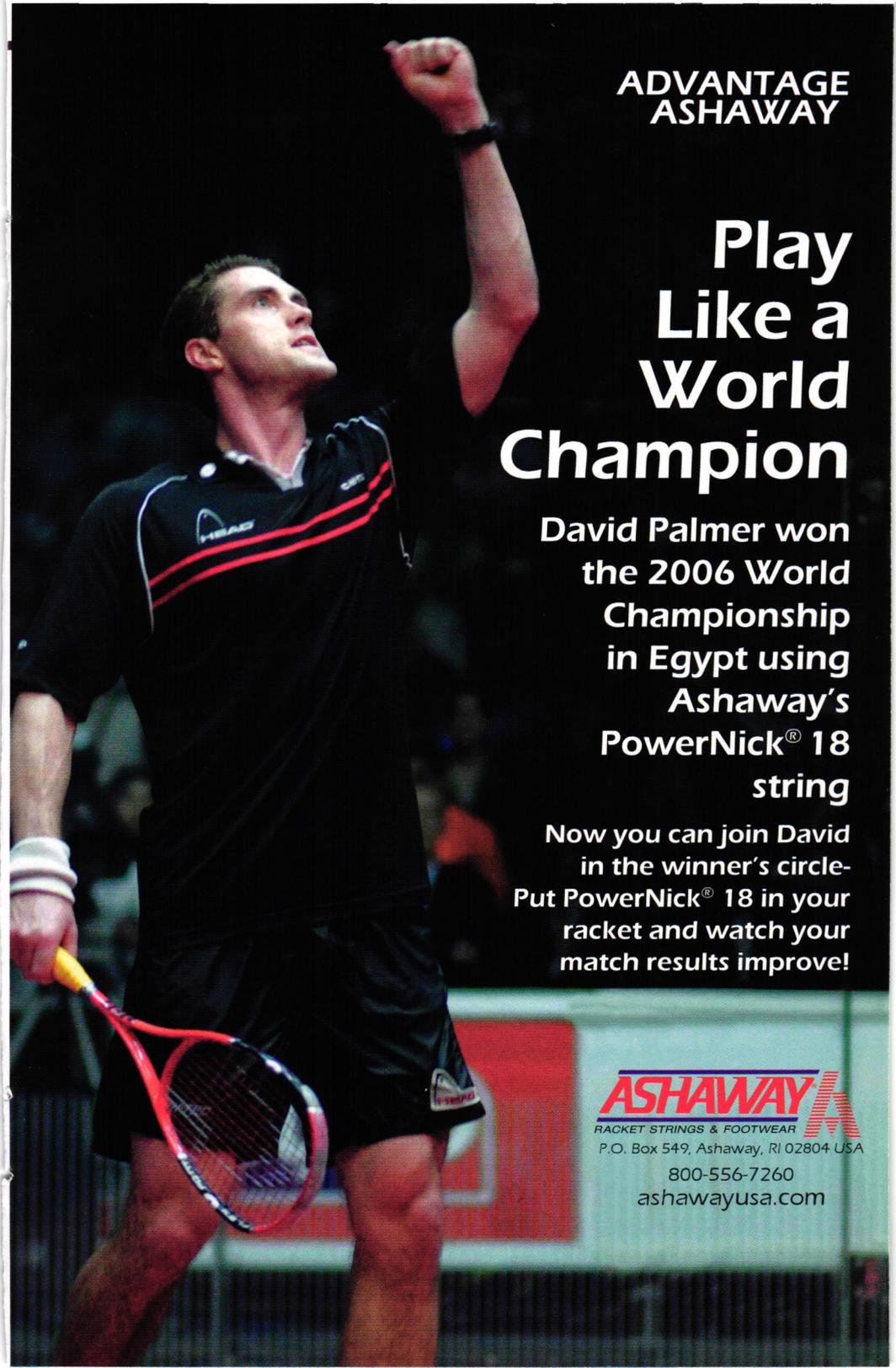
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### **MOHD AZLAN ISKANDAR, Malaysia**

**Born:** June 1, 1982 in Sarawak

**Resides:** Malaysia

**Single**      **December Ranking** 18

**Best to date:** 12 (2006)

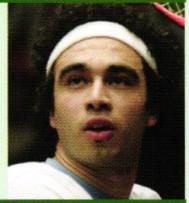
**Likes music, sports marketing, fast cars and nutrition**

### **HISHAM MOHD ASHOUR, Egypt**

**Born:** May 20, 1982 in Cairo      **Resides:** Cairo

**Single**      **December Ranking** 22      **Best to date:** 22

**Likes swimming, the gym and parties**



### **JOHNATHAN KEMP, England**

**Born:** March 18, 1981 in England

**Resides:** Shropshire

**Single**      **December Ranking** 31

**Best to date:** 25

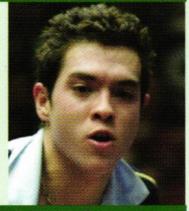
**Likes poker, golf, films and music**

### **MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, Colombia**

**Born:** February 23, 1988 in Bogota      **Resides:** Bogota

**Single**      **December Ranking** 36      **Best to date:** 36

**Likes soccer, table tennis, karts, music and lectures**



### **OMAR ABDEL AZIZ, Egypt**

**Born:** September 11, 1983 in Cairo

**Resides:** Cairo

**Single**      **December Ranking** 39

**Best to date:** 39

**Likes playing and watching squash**

### **OMAR ELBOROLOSSY, Egypt**

**Born:** October 11, 1975 in Giza      **Resides:** Cairo

**Single**      **December Ranking** 40      **Best to date:** 14 (2001)

**Likes movies and soccer**



### **RAFAEL ALARCON, Brazil**

**Born:** February 5, 1977 in Sao Paulo

**Resides:** Sao Paulo

**Single**      **December Ranking** 44

**Best to date:** 36 (2006)

**Likes the business of sport and squash club ownership**

## **LIAM KENNY, Ireland**

**Born:** November 2, 1977 in Perth  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 45  
**Likes** golf and travel

**Resides:** New York  
**Best to date:** 31



## **JULIAN ILLINGWORTH, USA**

**Born:** January 30, 1984 in USA  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 46  
**Likes** shopping, cinema and restaurants

**Resides:** New York  
**Best to date:** 46



## **YASSER EL HALABY, Egypt**

**Born:** September 30, 1984 in Egypt  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 48  
**Likes** travel, music, the beach and food

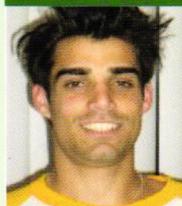
**Resides:** Cairo  
**Best to date:** 48



## **SHAWN DELIERRE, Canada**

**Born:** May 25, 1982 in Canada  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 50  
**Likes** movies, guitar, sight-seeing, feeding the ducks

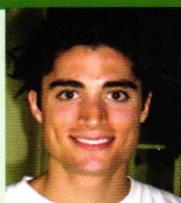
**Resides:** Montreal  
**Best to date:** 40



## **MATTHEW GIUFFRE, Canada**

**Born:** June 8, 1982 in Canada  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 54  
**Likes** reading, music and cars

**Resides:** Edmonton  
**Best to date:** 39



## **CHRISTOPHER GORDON, USA**

**Born:** July 7, 1986 in New York  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 75  
**Likes** college football and aviation

**Resides:** New York  
**Best to date:** 67



## **TAREK MOMEN, Egypt**

**Born** February 23, 1988 in Cairo  
**Single**      **December Ranking** 61  
**Likes** soccer, music and electronics

**Resides:** Cairo  
**Best to date:** 50



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1932 Jack Summers (Boston)	1972 Sharif Khan (Toronto)
1933 John Skillman (Philadelphia)	1973 Sharif Khan (Boston)
1934 Jack Summers (Philadelphia)	1974 Sharif Khan (Toronto)
1935 John Skillman (Pittsburgh)	1975 Sharif Khan (Wilmington)
1936 James J. Tully (Philadelphia)	1976 Sharif Khan (New York)
1937 John Skillman (Pittsburgh)	1977 Sharif Khan (Detroit)
1938 Al Ramsay (Philadelphia)	1978 Stuart Goldstein (St. Paul)
1938 Les Cummings (Cleveland)	1979 Sharif Khan (Toronto)
1940 Al Ramsay (Detroit)	1980 Clive Caldwell (New York)
1941 Lester Cummings (Cleveland)	1981 Mike Desaulniers (Toronto)
1942 Lester Cummings (Cleveland)	1982 Clive Caldwell (Toronto)
1943 - 1945 No tournaments	1983 Mark Talbott (Toronto)
1946 Lester Cummings (New York)	1984 Jahangir Khan (Toronto)
1947 Edward T. Reid (Cleveland)	1985 Jahangir Khan (Toronto)
1948 Al Ramsay (Buffalo)	1986 Mario Sanchez (Toledo)
1949 Edward T. Reid (Detroit)	1987 Mark Talbott (Toronto)
1950 Edward T. Reid (Hartford)	1988 Mark Talbott (Toronto)
1951 James J. Tully (Philadelphia)	1989 Mark Talbott (Toronto)
1952 Edward T. Reid (Cleveland)	1990 Mark Talbott (New York)
1953 John Warzycki (Chicago)	1991 Kenton Jernigan (New York)
1954 John Warzycki (New York)	1992 Jansher Khan (New York)
1955 Hashim Khan (New York)	1993 Jansher Khan (New York)
1956 Albert E. Chassard (New York)	1994 Rodney Eyles (New York)
1957 Mahmoud Karim (Bethlehem)	1995 Jansher Khan (New York)
1958 Mahmoud Karim (Buffalo)	1996 Jonathon Power (New York)
1959 Albert E. Chassard (New York)	1997 No tournament
1960 Raymond Widelski (Detroit)	1998 No tournament
1961 Albert E. Chassard (Louisville)	1999 Jonathon Power (New York)
1962 Albert E. Chassard (Cleveland)	2000 Jonathon Power (New York)
1963 Hashim Khan (Boston)	2001 Peter Nicol (New York)
1964 Hashim Khan (Indianapolis)	2002 Jonathon Power (New York)
1965 Mohibullah Khan (Pittsburgh)	2003 Peter Nicol (New York)
1966 Mohibullah Khan (Boston)	2004 Peter Nicol (New York)
1967 Mohibullah Khan (Milwaukee)	2005 Anthony Ricketts (New York)
1968 Mohibullah Khan (Washington DC)	2006 Amr Shabana (New York)
1969 Mohibullah Khan (Hartford)	2007 Amr Shabana (New York)

**Amr Shabana (1)**

Jean-Michel Arcucci

**Amr Shabana (1)**

11-7, 11-5, 11-5

Hisham Ashour (16)

Hisham Ashour (16)

Omar Aziz (Q)

11-8, 11-10 (2-0), 8-11  
11-5

**Amr Shabana (1)**

11-4, 11-7,  
10-11 (2-4), 9-11,  
11-7

**John White (6)**

Stacey Ross (Q)

**John White (6)**

11-4, 11-5, 11-9

Alex Gough (12)

Alex Gough (12)

Rafael Alarcon

11-5, 11-6, 11-9

**John White (6)**

11-7, 11-9, 11-10 (2-0)

**Amr Shabana**

11-4, 11-7, 11-4

**Ramy Ashour (4)**

Yasser El Halaby (Q)

**Ramy Ashour (4)**

11-6, 11-8, 11-3

Wael El Hindi (9)

Wael El Hindi (9)

Eric Galvez

11-6, 11-4, 11-9

**Ramy Ashour (4)**

6-11, 11-9, 11-5,  
11-2

**James Willstrop (5)**

Bradley Ball

**James Willstrop (5)**

6-11, 11-3, 11-8, 11-7

Shahier Razik (15)

Shahier Razik (15)

Matthew Giuffre

6-11, 11-4, 11-3, 11-2

**James Willstrop (5)**

11-7, 11-3, 11-5

**Ramy Ashour**

11-9, 5-11, 11-6,  
11-6

Chris Gordon

Borja Golan (11)

Borja Golan (11)

10-11 (1-3), 11-6, 11-9,  
11-7

Stefan Casteleyn (Q)

**Anthony Ricketts (7)**

11-9, 1-9, 11-8

**Anthony Ricketts (7)**

**Anthony Ricketts (7)**

11-9, 11-6, 11-5

Liam Kenny

Liam Kenny

Joey Barrington (13)

11-3, 11-5, 1-11, 5-11,  
11-8

Renan Lavigne

**Thierry Lincou (3)**

11-3, 11-7, 11-9

**Thierry Lincou (3)**

**Thierry Lincou (3)**

8-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-7

Saurav Ghosal (Q)

Olli Tuominen (10)

Olli Tuominen (10)

11-5, 11-3, 11-8

Miguel Rodriguez (Q)

Olli Tuominen (10)

11-5, 7-11, 11-9  
11-9

**Lee Beachill (8)**

**Lee Beachill (8)**

11-7, 11-5, 11-1

Dan Jenson (Q)

Julian Illingworth

Julian Illingworth (LL)

6-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-5,  
11-10

Mark Heather (Q)

**David Palmer (2)**

11-5, 11-3, 11-6

**David Palmer (2)**

**David Palmer (2)**

11-5, 11-6, 11-7

Olli Tuominen

9-11, 11-10 (2-0)  
11-8, 11-10 (6-4)

**Amr Shabana**

11-6, 11-9, 11-6

**2007  
CHAMPION**

**Amr Shabana**

**7-11, 11-3, 8-4 ret.**

**Anthony Ricketts**

11-10 (3-1), 11-4,  
11-6

**Anthony  
Ricketts**

11-6, 8-11, 11-1, 11-6



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# Natalie GRAINGER

You can call Natalie Grainger Madam President, reflecting her additional responsibility on the WISPA Board of Directors.

On the pro circuit since 1996, Natalie has long been one of its top performers. She cracked the Top 10 in January of 1999 and has been in that elite group ever since, except for a short injury interruption late in 2001.

Natalie had a month as No. 1 in 2003 and hasn't been out of the Top 5 since May of 2002.

Born in England, raised in South Africa and now a U.S. citizen, she boosts the Stars and Stripes to squash's highest echelon both as a player and in her new role as US Junior Women's Team coach.

The first of Natalie's 16 Tour victories was ten years ago in France. Then she began a continuing feeling of comfort and enthusiasm for playing in the USA with her second Tour title -- which she won in Greenwich the following year.

By the end of

2007 she had played over 100 WISPA ranking tournaments. In addition to her 16 Tour championships - five of which were registered last year, all in the US, Natalie was in 16 other finals -- along with 25 semifinals and another 25 quarter finals.

She won the Gold Medal at last year's Pan Am Games in Brazil and in Brooklyn in December took the Carol Weymuller US Open Championship -- laudable performances.



## PRO-FILE

### Natalie Grainger

Born: England

Date: July 8, 1977

Resides: Washington

Best ranking: 1

December Ranking: 4

Titles: 16

2007 Winner Women's  
Tournament of Champions

# Vicky BOTWRIGHT



Vicky took up squash at age 13 because both her parents played. After college she played a few small English events then made her pro debut in 1998 and loved it.

Vicky has been in the WISPA Top Ten since January of 2005. That year she won her third title and made four other finals. Vicky's most recent tournament title was the 2006 Texas Open.

Last year she played 14 WISPA tournaments. She was 'in the money' so to speak (quarter final or better) in eleven of them.

Her best result was in January when she made the Apawamis final.

She had two semifinal finishes last year -- in the big Kuwait and Hong Kong tournaments.

Vicky had quarter final results in 8 other events.

## **PRO-FILE**

### **Vicky Botwright**

Born: England

Date: June 18, 1977

Resides: Manchester

Best ranking: 5

December Ranking: 6

Titles: 4

# Vanessa ATKINSON

Vanessa is no stranger to the Tournament of Champions having won our women's event twice.

Although born in England she's been resident in the Netherlands since childhood and found squash in the Dutch junior system. She's been Dutch national champ 8 times. And she's been No. 1 on the WISPA computer -- that was two years ago. She's been in the WISPA Top Ten since February of 2002.

2004 was a productive year - Vanessa won 8 titles!

In 2005 she won 4 titles and was in two other finals.

In 2006 she won three championships and made another final.

Last year she played 11 events with two semifinals and 6 quarter final finishes.

## PRO-FILE

### Vanessa Atkinson

Born: England

Date: March 10, 1976

Resides: The Hague

Best ranking: 1

December Ranking: 8

Titles: 19



# Shelley KITCHEN

The current New Zealand Champion, Shelley started playing competitive squash as a ten year old. Through her junior years, Shelley won every New Zealand junior title on offer, as well as numerous Australian and Oceania titles. At age 20, Shelley turned professional, and has competed on the WISPA international circuit since.

Shelley was a member of the 2002 and 2004 New Zealand Women's teams that both placed third at the World Teams Championships. In 2006 she won the Women's World Doubles title and also a silver (women's doubles) and bronze medal (singles) at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Showing fine form during 2007 she beat third seed Rachael Grinham to reach the quarter final of the Kuwait Open and did it again at the Seoul Open to secure another quarter final finish. She also won the 2007 Australian Open.

## PRO-FILE

### Shelley Kitchen

Born: New Zealand

Date: March 10, 1976

Resides: Auckland

Best ranking: 9

December Ranking: 10

Titles: 5



## Squash Events Happening

# IN Brooklyn

## Grainger Emerges Victorious in 'Best Weymuller Ever' at Heights Casino

By John Torenli

The matches were long, exciting and often decided by one or two crucial points. But in the end, a previous champion stood tallest as top-seeded Natalie Grainger of the United States captured the 2007 Carol Weymuller U.S. Open Women's Invitational Squash Championship on Sunday.

"The whole week, everyone was treated to some great squash," said tournament director Fiona Geaves after four days of furious action at the Heights Casino. "Every day the matches went late, because they were so competitive."

No. 5 seed Jenny Duncalf of England emerged as the surprise of the 16-player field. She beat qualifier Lauren Briggs in Round One, stunned No. 2 seeded countrywoman Vicky Botwright in the quarterfinals and outlasted third-ranked Vanessa Atkinson of the Netherlands in a three-set semi-final thriller on Saturday.

While Duncalf was fighting her way to the ultimate match, Grainger, the only American in the tourney, breezed past her first three opponents before sweeping the final in straight sets in a somewhat anti-climactic finale.

"To be fair, [Duncalf] had a much tougher time getting to the final," said Geaves, who indicated that the tournament had raised upwards of \$10,000 for City Squash, which has been designed to provide a place for underprivileged kids to compete in one of the nation's fastest-growing indoor sports. "Natalie was just firing on all cylinders."

Brooklyn Heights native Julie Cerullo, the top-ranked women's player at the Heights Casino, was knocked out in the tournament preliminaries. As for Grainger, she captured her second Weymuller title and first since 2004, ending Australian Rachael Grinham's two-year run at the top. Grinham did not compete in the 2007 event.

"I'd like to thank the whole club for its enthusiasm," said Geaves, who won the Weymuller crown herself in 1993. "It was the best Carol Weymuller tournament ever."

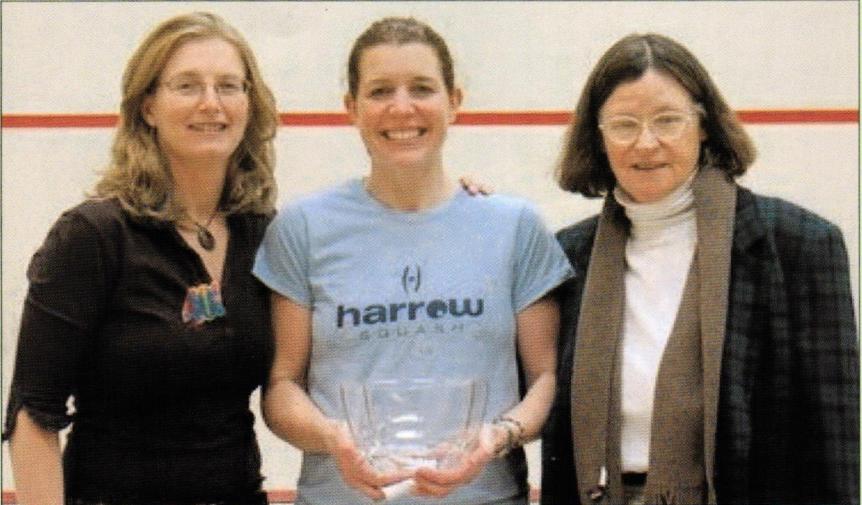
Weymuller, a former Heights resident, launched the first squash junior program in New York City and created this tournament. The Heights Casino Women's invitational was first played in Brooklyn in 1975, but

*Continued on next page*

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## Squash Events Happening

# INBrooklyn



**Natalie Grainger of the United States captured the 2007 Carol Weymuller U.S. Open Women's Invitational Squash Championship on Sunday at the Heights Casino. It was Grainger's second title and the first by an American at the event since she also won it in 2004.**

### Grainger Emerges Victorious in 'Best Weymuller Ever' at Heights Casino

*Continued from previous page*

it was only a small hardball event at the time, limited to the top players in the U.S. and Canada.

Seven-time Weymuller winner Alicia McConnell of Brooklyn converted it into a WISPA event in 1993, after the conversion to softball. Over the past decade, the tournament has regularly drawn top-ranked women professionals from all over the world,

and has become the premier women's event in North America.

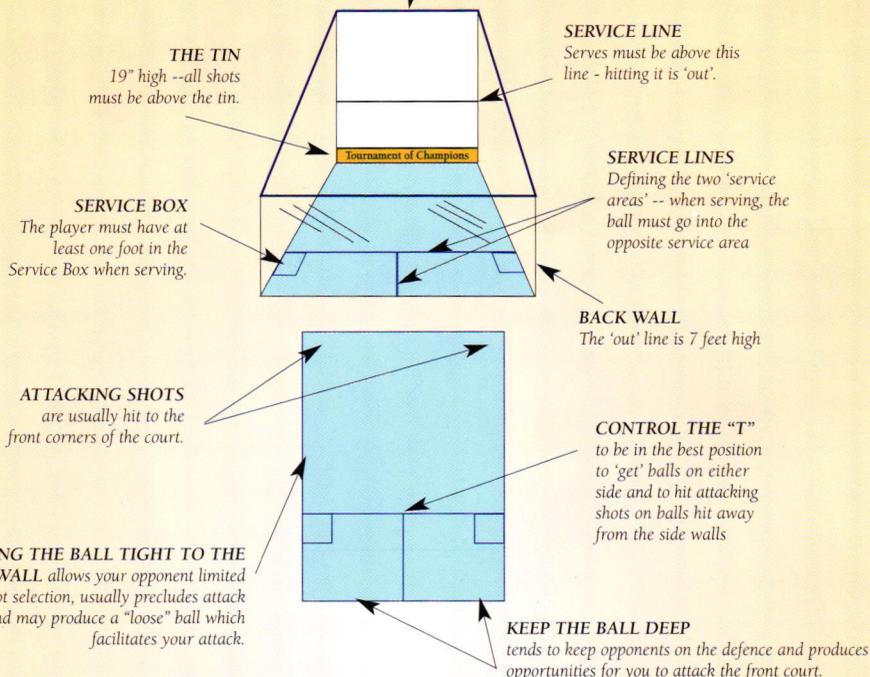
Grainger is the only American to win the Weymuller since 1992, when Philadelphia's Demer Holleran captured the last of back-to-back championships. Fellow Philadelphian Barbara Maltby kick-started the event with four straight wins from 1975-78 before McConnell ran off her amazing streak of seven in a row from 1980-86.

Recent multiple-championship winners include Aussie natives Sara Fitzgerald (1997, 2001) and Michelle Martin (1995, 1998, 1999).

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# SQUASH PRIMER

FRONT WALL  
FYI - hitting the line is 'out' in squash and the 'ceiling' is not in play.



- We use a three-official system. The **Center Referee** calls the score and keeps the official record of the points, match time, etc. His is the voice you hear throughout the match. The other two Referees indicate their judgement on each call by hand signals to the Center Referee who adjudicates the match.

- A **Stroke** may be awarded to a player who had a winning opportunity but was prevented (usually by obstruction) from playing the shot.

- When a player requests a **Let** the Referees may award a **Let** or **Yes, Let** (usually because one player was in the other's way in a routine point). It means the point will be played over again.

- The Referees will rule **No Let** if they think the player could not have gotten to the ball before it bounced twice. A player may, from time to time, appeal a ruling but the Referees' decision is final.

- The squash racquet is the same length as the average tennis racquet, but weighs just a little more than a badminton racquet.

- The squash ball is soft and somewhat dead - it bounces far less than a tennis ball.

- The matches are best of five games (ie first player to win three games). Each game is played 'first to eleven points' unless tied at 10-all -- in which case, they play on until one of the players earns a two point lead - which then gives him the game. The game score is recorded as 11-10 with the extra points total in brackets following.

- A player serves until he loses a point. The receiver then becomes the server and has the choice of from which side to begin serving -- then alternates sides for each subsequent serve until he loses a point. A player gets only one serve on each point -- a service fault is a lost point.

- After hitting the ball, the player **MUST** make his best effort to get out of the opponent's way.

- On each shot the ball can hit any number of walls, but **MUST** hit the front wall once, **MUST** stay within the court boundaries (marked near the top of the walls) and **MUST NOT** hit the tin. The ball can bounce **ONLY ONCE** on the floor.

- In squash, as the level of play improves, so does the average length of each rally in matches between players of equal or near-equal ability.

- Squash's hopes to find a place on the **Olympic** sports program in 2016 and beyond remain alive, but the sport has been part of **Pan Am Games** since 1995. The most recent staging of the Games was in **Rio de Janiero**, Brazil last summer. New citizen **Natalie Grainger** made her debut playing for the U.S. a memorable one -- winning the women's singles **Gold Medal**.

She defeated **Alana Miller** of Canada 9-1, 9-0, 9-1. **Eric Galvez** of Mexico won the men's gold with his 9-0, 9-4, 9-7 win over **Julian Illingworth** of the U.S. **Colombia** won the men's team title upsetting **Canada**. **Mexico** and **Brazil** tied for third place. The **U.S.** men's team defeated **Argentina** for fifth place. Canada won the **women's team title** defeating the U.S. 2 matches to 1. Alana Miller and Carolyn Russell won matches for Canada while Natalie Grainger earned the one U.S. match win.



*Wins Gold for the USA*

## NICKS *and* BOASTS

illustrated by the flexibility shown by referees, players, promoters, the **WSF** and **PSA** in evaluating and quickly acting on recommendations for change in the refereeing system for the pro tour. Some experimentation

was conducted at the **Canadian Classic** in Toronto last year, refined during portions of the 2007 Windy City Open in **Chicago** and the new system was implemented during our **2007 Tournament of Champions** -- fast response to an important need for change!

It's a little like the old three-referee system employed by the **WPSA** (hardball tour) some years ago -- with one significant difference -- there's no appeal process. The three officials (right wall, left wall and center) arrive at their decision on each call independently and quickly communicate those decisions to each other with the **Center Referee** announcing the consensus decision.

Communicating among the referees is by a standard set of **hand signals**. They've devised distinct and clearly recognizable signals for each of **Yes Let, Stroke, No Let, Ball Was Good, Ball Was Not Good**.

The Center Referee acts both as a Referee and as Marker (and announces all decisions). The Center Referee also maintains sole responsibility for time keeping, injury and conduct rulings (for which there are no appeals).

- Squash has, in the past, been described as an 'old fashioned game,' perhaps prompted by the sport's long history and revered traditions. But it just ain't so -- as

- Australian star Anthony Ricketts had been looking forward to taking another crack at the Tournament of Champions title which he won in 2005. However, squash

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injuries led to his surprise retirement late last year. You'll remember he made our final in 2007 but had to 'give up' in the third game due to yet another injury. Renowned for his aggressive and uncompromising style, Ricketts enjoyed an impressive run at the start of 2007, winning the Virginia Pro Championships and finishing runner-up at the Windy City Open in Chicago as well as here in New York. However, he spent most of the year recovering from his latest operation, to repair cartilage damage in his long-time troublesome knee, before accepting the inevitable -- that he would be unable to return to the Pro Tour after that fifth bout of knee surgery.

In a pro career spanning more than 10 years, the 28-year-old from Sydney won nine tour titles including the 2005 British Open, the 2005 Tournament of Champions, the 2006 PSA Super Series and the Australian Open (2000 and 2006) and had a career-high world ranking of No.3.

Anthony, who is here at the 2008 Tournament of Champions, wanted to say this to fans and followers of the tournament.

*"The Tournament of Champions has a long-standing reputation as being the centrepiece professional squash tournament within America. In my early years on the professional tour whilst yet not quite capable of fighting my way through the qualification rounds played in the clubs spread throughout New York city, I would sit and watch the matches take place in one of the most spectacular venues for a squash court ever to be built - Grand Central Station! When you chose your career path to be a professional squash player - this is what you dream about!!!*

*"To again make the final here at the Tournament of Champions in 2007 was a moment in my career that I will always cherish. Unfortunately due to long standing injuries I was unable to finish this match - but to be lucky enough to again feel the excitement of being part of such a special event within the final stages is incredible. To all the sponsors, notably Bear Stearns, and to John Nimick and all the team at Event Engine -- and most of all the patrons and spectators that sit, cheer and scream I thank you for many special times I have been lucky enough to cherish at the Tournament of Champions!*



2007 finalist Anthony Ricketts (right) with John Nimick and 2007 Champion Amr Shabana

*"So in 2005 when I was able to make my way through to the finals and eventually win the event this was undoubtedly the most special moment in my career. The energy that the player's feel stepping onto the stage in Vanderbilt Hall cannot be matched anywhere else in the world (with the Pyramids in Giza the other mention). I believe I would be correct in saying that the enthusiasm, energy and adrenalin the crowd brings to all matches always enables the players to play to their absolute best!!"*

● Let's hear it for the **Grinham sisters** who still play under the Australian banner although older (by 14 months) sister **Rachael** now headquarters in Egypt. She and sister **Natalie** became the first 'sister act' ever to make the final of the **Women's World Open** when they accomplished that memorable feat in **Madrid** last October. Senior member of the team, Rachael, prevailed, defeating Natalie 9-4, 10-8, 9-2 in the final on the open air all-glass court set up in the **Jardines del Cabo Noval** alongside Madrid's historic **Royal Palace**. The championship was 30-year-old Rachael's 5th **WISPA Tour** final in a row and 44th of her career. After a so-so competitive summer, in September she had won the prestigious **British Open** title for the third time ... providing momentum and confidence leading into the 2007 Women's World Open.

● **England** defended its **World Team** title in India late last month defeating **Australia** in the final. **France** upset **Egypt** for third place. **Malaysia** edged **Canada** for 5th. The **US** team finished 14th in the 29 country field.

Current Ranking		Last Month
1	Nicol DAVID	MAS 1
2	Natalie GRINHAM	AUS 2
3	Rachael GRINHAM	AUS 3
4	Natalie GRAINGER	USA 4
5	Tania BAILEY	ENG 5
6	Vicky BOTWRIGHT	ENG 7
7	Jenny DUNCALF	ENG 10
8	Vanessa ATKINSON	NED 8
9	Omneya ABDEL KAWY	EGY 6
10	Shelley KITCHEN	NZL 9
11	Alison WATERS	ENG 14
12	L. LENGTHORN-MASSARO	ENG 12
13	Madeline PERRY	IRL 11
14	Rebecca CHIU	HKG 13
15	Kasey BROWN	AUS 15
16	Engy KHEIRALLAH	EGY 16
17	Isabelle STOHR	FRA 17
18	Jacklyn HAWKES	NZL 19
19	D. LLOYD-WALTER	ENG 18
20	Sharon WEE	MAS 20

Current Ranking		Last Month
1	Amr SHABANA	EGY 1
2	Ramy ASHOUR	EGY 2
3	Gregory GAULTIER	FRA 3
4	David PALMER	AUS 4
5	Nick MATTHEW	ENG 6
6	James WILLSTROP	ENG 5
7	Thierry LINCOU	FRA 7
8	Karim DARWISH	EGY 8
9	Wael EL HINDI	EGY 11
10	John WHITE	SCO 10
11	Anthony RICKETTS	AUS 9
12	Lee BEACHILL	ENG 12
13	Peter BARKER	ENG 13
14	Mohammed ABBAS	EGY 14
15	Stewart BOSWELL	AUS 15
16	Ong BENG HEE	MAS 18
17	Olli TUOMINEN	FIN 16
18	Mohd Azlan ISKANDAR	MAS 17
19	Adrian GRANT	ENG 19
20	Laurens Jan ANJEMA	NED 21
21	Shahier RAZIK	CAN 25
22	Hisham Mohd ASHOUR	EGY 24
23	Cameron PILLEY	AUS 22
24	Borja GOLAN	ESP 20
25	Alex GOUGH	WAL 23
26	Joey BARRINGTON	ENG 29
27	Renan LAVIGNE	FRA 27
28	Aamir Atlas KHAN	PAK 26
29	Davide BIANCHETTI	ITA 35
30	Alister WALKER	ENG 32
31	Jonathan KEMP	ENG 34
32	Omar MOSAAD	EGY 33
33	Daryl SELBY	ENG 31
34	Bradley BALL	ENG 30
35	Mansoor ZAMAN	PAK 28
36	Miguel A. RODRIGUEZ	COL 36
37	Chris RYDER	ENG 51
38	Eric GALVEZ	MEX 40
39	Omar Abdel AZIZ	EGY 45
40	Omar ELBOROLOSSY	EGY 39
41	Kashif SHUJA	NZL 47
42	Stacey ROSS	ENG 43
43	Dylan BENNETT	NED 48
44	Rafael ALARCON	BRA 42
45	Shahid ZAMAN	PAK 44
46	Liam KENNY	IRL 37
47	Julian ILLINGWORTH	USA 50
48	Saurav GHOSAL	IND 49
49	Yasser EL HALABY	EGY 54
50	Shawn DELIERRE	CAN 46



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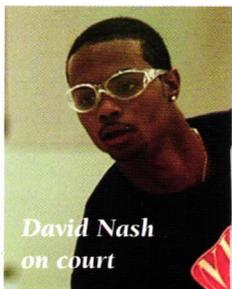
**P**redict, in 1999, that Harlem would be the home of a dozen nationally ranked junior squash players and would boast the largest squash facility in New York City, and local squash players would have probably looked at you like you were a creature from another planet. But this summer that once seemingly preposterous idea becomes a reality when StreetSquash moves into its new 18,700 square foot, \$13 million home on 115th Street between Lenox Ave. and Fifth Ave.

StreetSquash is an after-school youth enrichment program that combines academic tutoring with squash instruction, community service, and one-on-one mentoring. Working with boys and girls, ages 9 to 18, from Harlem for a seven-year period, the program's goals

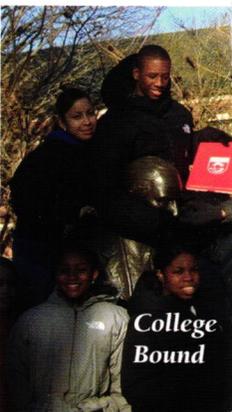
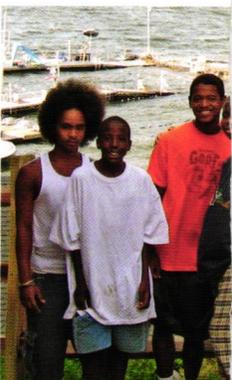
are to improve academic performance, develop an ethic of hard work and commitment, boost self-confidence and increase school attendance.

StreetSquash is about much more than squash, but it is the NYC squash community which has taken its passion for the sport and used it to support and encourage thousands of children to aim high, dream big and achieve life success.

● **1999 – The seeds of squash are sown** - Squash, school and community service is served up three days a week to 28 students from Thurgood Marshall Academy and PS 195 Roberto Clemente School in Harlem as StreetSquash is launched by George Polsky and using the Columbia University courts and classrooms.



*David Nash  
on court*



*College  
Bound*



- **2002 -- StreetSquash goes abroad** - Taralyn Gonzalez and Raymond Flowers travel to Europe with the Jeremy's Heroes Foundation.

- **2003 -- Summer squash** - 35 StreetSquash participants go to summer camps, including Camp Dudley in upstate New York, establishing a partnership which still exists today.

- **2004 -- StreetSquash expands** - 80 students, 7 staff, 5 practices a week, 5 teams, 3 partner schools.

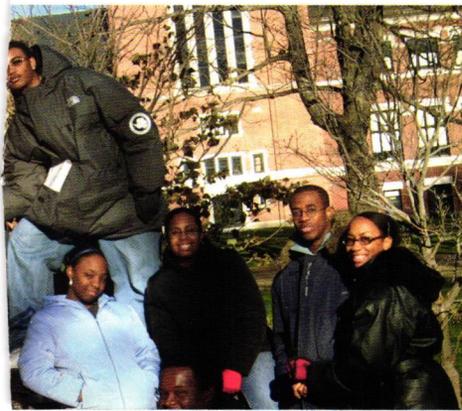
- **2005 -- College bound** - StreetSquash graduates its first class of students from high school and Lonnie Gibbs enrolls at Wesleyan University where he joins the Men's Varsity Squash Team

- **2006 -- A perfect record** - StreetSquash maintains its 100% high school graduation rate as the second class of StreetSquashers graduates from high school.

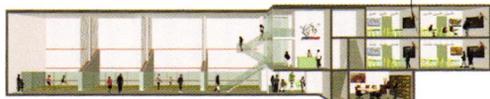
- **2007 -- Making the rankings** - 12 StreetSquashers finish the squash season with US National Rankings and David Nash becomes the first StreetSquasher to win a Non-Urban US Squash-sanctioned tournament.

- **2008 -- StreetSquash** maintains a 90% college retention rate.

- **2008 -- Squash is firmly rooted in Harlem** - The SL Green StreetSquash Community Center, equipped with eight international squash courts, four classrooms, one library, a workout area, locker rooms and administrative offices -- will serve over 1000 students, helping to make StreetSquash the biggest junior squash program in the US.



## The Future of StreetSquash



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Dayton, Toronto,  
Portland and  
Richmond  
lead to the  
Top Player  
Showdown in  
Boston in March.

In a groundbreaking initiative for the sport of squash in North America, five world-class pro tournaments will band together in early 2008 to form the **Players Cup Squash Circuit**. The Circuit tournaments, all sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association, will culminate with the first-ever Players Cup playoff event in Boston March 4-7.

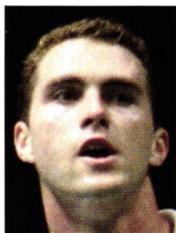
Players Circuit competition begins here in New York City at the Bear Stearns Tournament of Champions, then winds through Dayton, Toronto and Portland before wrapping up in Richmond, VA on March 1 with the final of the Davenport Virginia Pro event. The top players in the Circuit rankings earn an invitation to the Players Cup Squash Championship. The brand new 8-player playoff event features a winner's purse of \$25,000.00 USD which represents the largest first place check in North American squash history. Six competitors will qualify for the Players Cup based on their cumulative prize money earned in the five preceding Circuit events, while two players can earn a berth through local qualifying events.

John Nimick, Players Circuit founder and promoter of three of the Circuit tournaments explains, "With the launch of the Players Circuit, we are making a concerted and coordinated effort to give North American sports fans a distinct season of squash that they will never forget. Squash is one of sport's hidden gems, featuring world-class athletes at the top of their game. With 15 million people playing in more than 125 countries, the sport was recently voted by the International Olympic Committee to be the #1 choice for potential inclusion in a future Olympic Programme. We are going to bring home all that excitement to American and Canadian sports fans."



The **Players Cup Squash Circuit** is modeled on the trend in individual sports to focus fan interest and enhance value by creating regional championship playoffs such as the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup, NASCAR's Chase for the Cup and the USTA's US Open Series. Nimick continues, "Web-based content and delivery is becoming increasingly important to sports fans, but television is still the most effective medium to grow smaller sports. Eventually, we are expecting to produce TV programs from Circuit events with such frequency that we can negotiate "appointment viewing" with a cable or satellite broadcasters. It would be very valuable to offer pro squash coverage on one network every week at the same time for three or four months a year."

Other expected benefits from the Circuit include enhanced national squash interest and increased top-level player participation. The United States is becoming an increasingly friendly home base for many of the world's top players so the Circuit is in an excellent position to capitalize on their interest and availability. Recent transplants included "top tenners" **John White**, who now resides in Pennsylvania and is the Winter-time Head Coach at Franklin & Marshall College, and **David Palmer**, who is moving to New England with his wife and young daughter to become the Touring Pro at the University Club of Boston.



**David Palmer**  
2006 World Open  
Champion



**John White**  
Former  
World No. 1

World #8 White, Scottish and Australian by heritage and now a permanent US resident, extols, "The Players Circuit is such a great idea and the players will love it. The competition will bring something new to the game and add more excitement to the events here in the States. With the players knowing that there is a big purse at the end of the series, they will all come to get a piece of the action at the Finals in March."



**2008 Players Cup Circuit Schedule:**  
**Bear Stearns Tournament of Champions,**

Grand Central Terminal, NYC,  
[www.tocsquash.com](http://www.tocsquash.com)

January 10 – 16

**EBS Dayton Open,**

Dayton Squash Center, Dayton, OH,  
[www.daytonsquash.com](http://www.daytonsquash.com)

January 24 – 27

**PACE Canadian Classic,** Toronto  
Convention Center, Toronto, ON,  
[www.prosquash.ca](http://www.prosquash.ca)

February 13 – 16

**Evergreen Oregon Open,**

Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, OR,  
[www.PSAoregonopen.com](http://www.PSAoregonopen.com)

February 20 – 23

**Davenport Pro Championships,**

University of Richmond, VA,  
[www.va-squash.org](http://www.va-squash.org)

Feb. 25 – Mar. 1

**Players Cup Championship,**

Back Bay Events Center, Boston, MA,  
[www.playerscupsquash.com](http://www.playerscupsquash.com)

March 4 – 7

# SQUASH QUIZ

**1** Which nation has the most players in the December PSA Top 50?

- (a) Egypt
- (b) France
- (c) Australia
- (d) England

**2** Who won the 2007 Men's World Open?

- (a) Ramy Ashour
- (b) Gregory Gaultier
- (c) Nick Matthew
- (d) Amr Shabana

**3** Which country won the Pan Am Games men's squash team title last year?

- (a) Colombia
- (b) Mexico
- (c) USA
- (d) Canada

**4** Which country won the Pan Am Games women's squash team title in Rio de Janeiro last summer?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) USA
- (c) Canada
- (d) Mexico

**5** How many countries are represented in the December PSA Top 50?

- (a) 20
- (b) 18
- (c) 16
- (d) 14



**6** Who is the only player to have won the World Junior title twice?

- (a) Karim Darwish
- (b) Ramy Ashour
- (c) James Willstrop
- (d) Mark Talbott

**7** Who won this event last year?

- (a) Amr Shabana
- (b) Anthony Ricketts
- (c) David Palmer
- (d) Thierry Lincou

**8** Who is President of the PSA?

- (a) Jonah Barrington
- (b) Mark Chaloner
- (c) Jahangir Khan
- (d) Jonathon Power

**9** Which of the

following nations did

NOT have a player in the PSA

Top 50 in December?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) India
- (c) Sweden
- (d) Spain

**10** Who won the 2007

Women's World Open  
Championship?

- (a) Rachael Grinham
- (b) Nicol David
- (c) Natalie Grinham
- (d) Natalie Grainger



Answers: 1(d) 2(d) 3(a) 4(c) 5(a) 6(b)  
7(a) 8(b) 9(c) 10(a) 11(c) 12(c) 13(d) 14(a)



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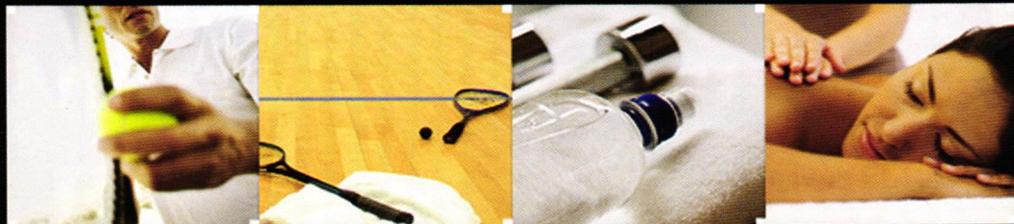
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**11** The lively player seen at right in his competitive days was outstanding in college and on the WPSA Tour. Who is he?

- (a) Ned Edwards
- (b) Mark Talbott
- (c) John Nimick
- (d) Kenton Jernigan

**SQUASH  
QUIZ**



**12** From 1996 until 2005, only two players had ever won the Tournament of Champions title. Who were they?

- (a) John Nimick and Rodney Eyles
- (b) David Palmer and Thierry Lincou
- (c) Jonathon Power and Peter Nicol
- (d) Jansher Khan and Mark Talbott

**13** Who won the Tournament of Champions women's event last year?

- (a) Vanessa Atkinson
- (b) Vicky Botwright
- (c) Serena Williams
- (d) Natalie Grainger

**14** England was the 2006 champion, which nation won the 2007 World Team Championship played in Chennai, India last month?

- (a) England
- (b) Canada
- (c) Egypt
- (d) Australia

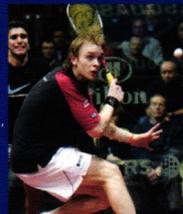


**Answers on previous page. No peeking!**

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SPORTS

These are highlights of the most current schedule of PSA and other major tournaments and national championships available at press time.

## January

- 10-16 **\*Tournament of Champions, New York City**
- 17-20 Comfort Inn Open, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 24-27 Austrian Open, Vienna, Austria
- 23-28 **\* EBS Dayton Open, Dayton, OH**
- 29-03 National Capital Open, DC Metro, Maryland

## February

- 03-08 Kolkata International, Kolkata, India
- 05-10 Bluenose Squash Classic, Halifax, NS, Canada
- 05-10 Swedish Open, Linkoping, Sweden
- 10-17 British National Championships, Manchester
- 13-16 **\* Canadian Squash Classic, Toronto, Canada**
- 13-16 Finnish Open, Mikkeli, Finland
- 17-23 **\* Oregon Open, Oregon, USA**
- 23-01 **\* Virginia Pro Championship, Virginia, USA**

## March

- 04-07 **\* Players Cup Series Championship, Boston, MA**
- 07-09 Swiss Open, Geneva, Switzerland
- 09-14 Canary Wharf Classic, London, England

## April

- 14-19 Irish Open, Dublin, Ireland
- 21-27 Kuwait Open, Kuwait
- 30-03 European Team Championships, Amsterdam
- 30-04 Canadian National Championships, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

## May

- 06-12 British Open, Liverpool, England
- 19-23 Super Series Finals, London, England

## July

- 21-26 Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur
- 27-08 World Junior Men's Championship, Switzerland

## September

- 02-07 Dutch Open, Amsterdam

## October

- 11-19 World Open, Manchester, England

## **\* Events of the Players Cup Circuit**

**NOTE: Other events will be added to the Calendar as their dates are confirmed.**

# The Tournament of Champions and Event Engine Wish To Thank

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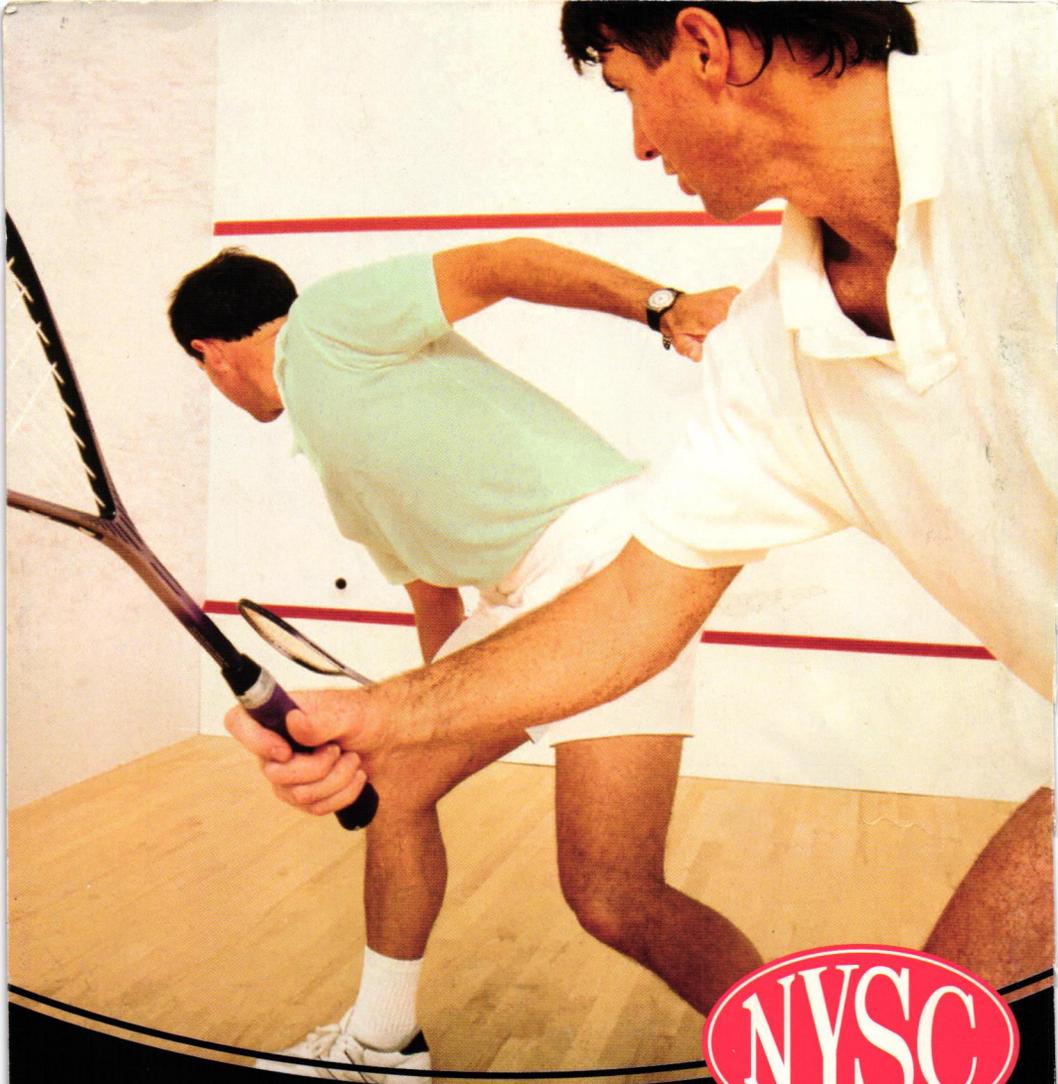
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