LIBRARY DAILY POSTING INDEX: UNCATEGORISED (general)

				2021	Mov	00	MISBA Promotional Tour (Puggia)
Year	Month	Day	(features, bold)	2021 2021	May May	08 15	WISPA Promotional Tour (Russia) SportAccord 2012 (Inflatable court)
2019	Nov	22	Agatha Christie's Court	2021	May	22	Missing publications
2019	Dec	06	1st mag article - Boys Own Paper 1894	2021	May	25	Prince Philip – playing in Hong Kong
2019	Dec	07	1st book - 1900	2021	May	30	Fred Perry ad, Khans, 1954
2019	Dec	27	Library featured - Squash Player Magazine	2021	June	05	Greek Law, medical fitness, 1968
2020	Jan	01	Death of Elvis Presley	2021	June	11	Torvill & Dean on court
2020	Jan	12	Litesome coaching cassette	2021	June	15	1 st squash book by a woman
2020	Jan	13	Stamps featuring squash	2021	June	22	Harrow School
2020	Jan	18	Racketball/Squash 57 history	2021	June	23	1st court in a house
2020	Jan	25	Bjorn Borg	2021	June	25	Titanic Ship court
2020	Jan	26	Shakespeare Squash	2021	June	28	Shadow Caller training aid
2020	Jan	28	US Urban Programme	2021	July	03	Rod laver (squash ball in pocket)
2020	Feb	05	Worldwide Clubs 1938	2021	July	24	Hugo F Charteris comments (1909)
2020	Feb	12	London Breweries	2021	Aug	03	Post directory
2020	Feb	24	London Capital Radio Survey	2021	Aug	06	Qatar stamps
2020	Mar	01	Irish qualification appeal	2021	Aug	07	Commonwealth Games 2014 stamp
2020	Mar	21	Coaching film 1938	2021	Aug	09	Plate event start
2020	Mar	31	Squash Player Diary	2021	Aug	12	Doubles report 1951
2020	Apr	01	Postal Squash!	2021	Sept	13	Squash court ballroom 1930s
2020	Apr	18	Squash Forward launch	2021	Sept	22	Australian growth 1957
2020	Apr	28	1st World Squash Day	2021	Sept	25	Squash in art
2020	May	80	Hardball / Softball USA 1983	2021	Sept	30	Argue Martin!
2020	May	18	1st squash computer?	2021	Oct	05	Squash on stamps
2020	June	02	Spelling; Racket or Racquet	2021	Oct	09	World Squash Day 2021
2020	Aug	09	Eric Hyde views (smoking/women) 1935	2021	Oct	14	Longest Match 2015
2020	Aug	12	Covid Snapshot	2021	Oct	18	Squash + Education Alliance
2020	Aug	17	SPIN introduction	2021	Oct	23	Racket sports –risk of death
2020	Aug	31	Jumbo Doubles	2021	Oct	29	1 st English computerised ranking
2020	Sept	05	Nicol/Garner 7 Court Challenge 2013	2021	Nov	04	Titanic court fees
2020	Sept	13	History timeline	2021	Nov	05	WSF Ambassadors Programme
2020	Sept	15	PSA / WISPA promo DVDs (2004 & 07)	2021 2021	Nov Nov	18 24	Australia accounts 1936 World Squash Coaching start
2020 2020	Sept	21 27	Elton John Squash court Missing WSF Annual appeal	2021	Dec	20	Amr Bey memento return
2020	Sept Oct	05	Gander Dowar predictions 1932	2021	Jan	15	Squash sculpture 1986
2020	Oct	14	Hardball Doubles promotional brochure	2022	Jan	29	Squash Wales calorie chart 2013
2020	Oct	24	Squash Library 1st birthday	2022	Feb	02	Obata session, Japan
2020	Nov	14	1st Malaysian Champion, Tunku Imran	2022	Feb	12	Anti-doping education
2020	Nov	21	Prince Philip meets	2022	Feb	15	Worldwide squash boom (1973)
2020	Nov	24	Ball levy 1965	2022	Mar	22	Outside the Box, show
2020	Dec	15	1st British Squash 57 Champs (1984)	2022	April	05	Hashim Khan on service.
2020	Dec	24	RAC Club coaches	2022	April	14	Kirks Classic Squash can
2020	Dec	31	SquashInfo Partnership	2022	April	18	Atari Squash Game 1992
2021	Jan	16	New website daily post directory	2022	April	22	US Hall of Fame
2021	Jan	17	New website championships heading	2022	June	03	Tom Cruise squash T-shirt
2021	Feb	02	Doha Airport Squash Courts	2022	June	09	Quotes prompt
2021	Feb	04	Athens LTC (HM King Constantine - 1966)	2022 2022	June July	13 01	Arsenal / Chelsea training courts Charles Read book, women comments
2021	Feb	06	Racketball becomes Squash 57	2022	July	11	John Skillman's book 1937 on glass courts
2021	Feb	21	Boy's Own Paper article 1894	2022	July	20	Richard Mosley coaches King Juan Carlos
2021	Mar	01	Filofax Squash Insert (1990)	2022	Aug	05	Women's Tour calendar 2009 & 2010
2021	Mar	03	Handicaps for Squash (1937)	2022	Sept	13	Memorable quotes
2021	Mar	07	World Clubs 1938	2022 2022	Sept	19 20	Worldwide National court list 1987 Eve Group event rights acquisition 1999
2021	Mar	09	Bath Club v Queens Club 1906	2022	Sept Sept	24	Eye Group event rights acquisition 1999 Roger Federer retirement
2021	Mar	19	Dick Hawkey, author	2022	Oct	04	Extract, Charles Arnold coaching 1926
2021	Mar	31	Jesters Club (first 75 years)	2022	Oct	11	Ned Bigelow, US 'shaker'
2021	Apr	01	Finals backwards (April Fool)	2022	Oct	14	World Squash Day start
2021	Apr	05	1st nuclear reactor - in a court (racquets)	2022	Nov	09	Cellphone offer (UK) 1987
2021	Apr	06	Pop-up squash shop	2022 2022	Nov Dec	19 24	Sports Marketing Survey UK 1987 Bath Club Cup, best of three (1936)
2021	Apr	15	Novak Djokovic plays squash	2022	Dec	27	John Nimick, PSA & promoter
2021	Apr	28	Ultra violet squash	2023	Jan	09	1 st Postage stamp 1962

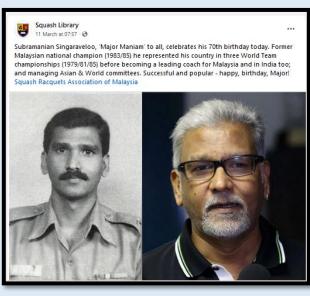
2023	Jan	09	Pakistan stamp, Worlds 2005
2023	Feb	11	Kensington Country Club
2023	Feb	14	Munster courts WW2
2023	Apr	24	Hashim Khan book guote
2023	May	27	Tay-Bul squash game
2023	June	02	Scandinavian squash 1969
2023	June	03	English SRA accounts 1938
2023	June	13	1st anniversary Nicol David Org
2023	June	15	Bert Armstrong collection
2023	June	19	RAC Squash Sub-committee 1912
2023	June	27	Veterans Club of GB 60th anniversary
2023	July	28	Elliman's Athletic Rub
2023	Aug	24	Andrew Shelley job ad
2023	Sept	11	Frankenstein's monster ad 1989!
2023	Sept	12	Question of Sport cards 1987
2023	Sept	19	Sports Survey UK 1987
2023	Oct	13	World Squash Day
2023	Oct	28	Male player fashion 1938
2023	Nov	04	Drinks trolley 1951!
2023	Nov	09	Racquets Ground, Fleet Prison
2023	Nov	10	Frank Sedgeman on tennis/squash
2023	Nov	17	Jack Giles (coach)
2023	Dec	27	Squash stickers
2023	Dec	30	SRA officers 1938 (inc Amr Bey)
2024	Jan	02	Aliens playing squash!
2024	Jan	22	1950s player levy, Canada
2024	Feb	10	Coaching course 1951
2024	Feb	23	Peter McRae heroism WW2
2024	Mar	04	Hillary Clinton opens StreetSquash
2024	Mar	11	Subramaniam Singaraveloo 70th
2024	Mar	16	Calcutta Merchants Cup (1954)
2024	Apr	20	Dunlop factory visit 1962

Update: 30 April 2024

2024











Today's post is only peripherally about squash, the link being that Peter McRae played for England; just once in 1937. It recounts the heroic act that ended his life during World War 2. He was serving on HMS Mahratta in the Arctic when the ship was sunk by a German U-boat.

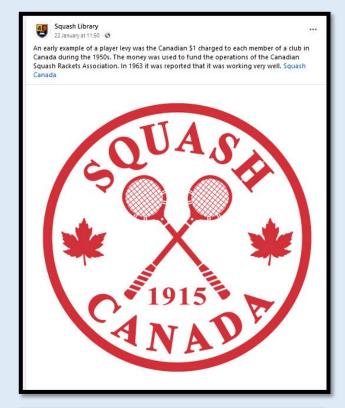


McRae and 17 others scrambled onto a small float.

Realising that it was overcrowded, he apparently remarked 'There's not enough room for us all' and slipped off the float into the sea to his death. The postscript is that the rest of the sailors were rescued.

Playing squash for England was an achievement, but nothing compared with what he managed in his utterly selfless death.







2023

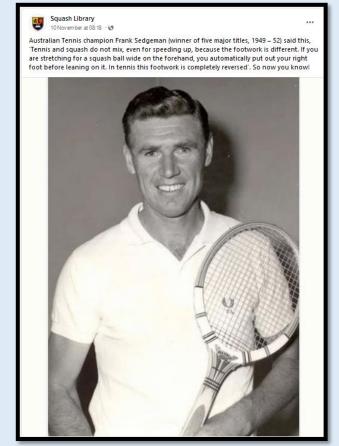


Squash Library

30 December 2023 at 08:29 - 3











In 1951 the English Cambridge University team travelled to The Hague to play the Dutch national team. Hospitality was such that the No1s got on court very late, and it reached two all at around midnight. At that point a trolley was wheeled in to the court and the players were invited to take food and drinks before finishing their match! Squash Bond NederlandEngland





Long sleeves, long trousers – squash gear as worn by two top English players in 1938. Albert Biddle (left) was runner-up in the British Open that year, and Leslie Keeble won the first British Professional Championship after WW2, in 1947.





World Squash Day takes place tomorrow. It promotes and celebrates squash globally, having been initiated following the deaths of so many people in New York in the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001. The history of it is at www.worldsquashday.net/how-it-all-started/.



Squash Library 19 September at 08:23 ⋅ 🚱

A UK survey carried out by Sports Marketing Surveys in 1987 asked people aged 15 – 30 the sport they most enjoyed playing saw squash at 12.2%, behind only soccer (15%), and ahead of tennis (8.9%) and badminton (8.1%).

Squash Library 12 September at 07:52

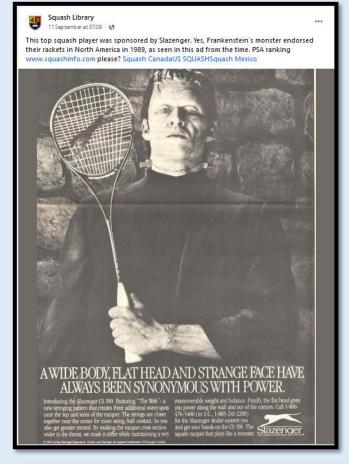
A British TV quiz programme, A Question of Sport, produced a sports person set of 240 cards in 1987 which included squash players. Pictured from top left, Lisa Opie, Jahangir Khan, Jamie Hickox, Qamar Zaman.













I have found this Squash Player Magazine ad from 1976. The SRA misguidedly employed somebody with no experience or knowledge – me! This ad led to the Shelley personal squash journey starting. Thank you, SRA! Andrew.

THE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION

Require an

Administrator for the organisation of Tournaments and Membership Initiative, good humour and a willingness to partcipate in general work essential. Opportunities for increased responsibility.

Starting salary, c. £3,300. Applications to:

SRA, 70 Brompton Rd, London S.W. 3.







A meeting of Squash Racquet players was held on Friday, 14th
June, 1912, after dinner, when there were present: Mr. M. Blaiberg,
Mr. R. B. Blobb, Col. R. R. E. Crompton, C.B., Mr. O. Crompton, the
Hon. Dudley Carleton, Dr. T. Drysdale, Mr. A. Duckham, P.C.S.,
Mr. C. R. Hart, Mr. C. W. Lowther, Mr. A. Mayer, Mr. O. D. Rotch,
Capt. H. S. Soott-Harden, Capt. T. M. Kincaid Smith, Mr. C. D.
Soligman, Mr. P. Wilkins, And the Secretary.

A Squash Recquets Sub-Countities was formed consisting of the following gentlemen: The Hon. Dudley Carleton, Col. R.K. B. Crompton, C.B., Dr. T. Dryadale, Mr. A. Mayer, Mr. F. W. Polehampton, Capt. M. S. Scott-Marden, and Mr. F. Wilkins.

On the motion of Capt. H. S. Scott-Harden, seconded by

That Col. R. E. B. Crompton, C.B., be Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was fixed for Wednesday 19th June, at 7 o'clock.

......Chairma



Juneat 08:30 · 🚱

In 1981 Bert Armstrong completed building a squash court next to the kitchen in his Melbourne home. This coincided with the first graphite rackets appearing, and so friends left wooden ones behind when he played them — prompting him to hang them round the court. Then he started adding club badges, banners, flags, balls; anything that had a Squash / Racket sports connection. An obsession with collecting was beginning.

As he put it, 'From then on I visited every Charity shop, Municipal Tip, Antique Fair from Hobart Tasmania to Cairns in far North Queensland, and similarly the UK, and even scoured a market in Kirkenes Norway.'

So about 35 years later he has 1000+ rackets from 120 manufacturers in 23 countries plus many badges, books, flags, trophies, documents etc.

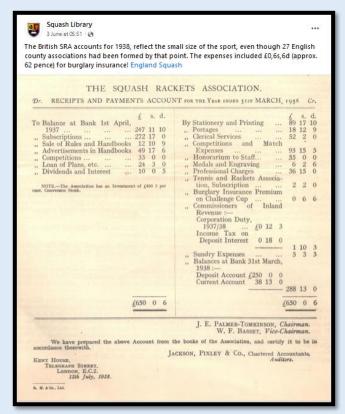
Squash Player Magazine interviewed him in 2021, which you can see in the Library here: www.squashlibrary.info/general-resources.

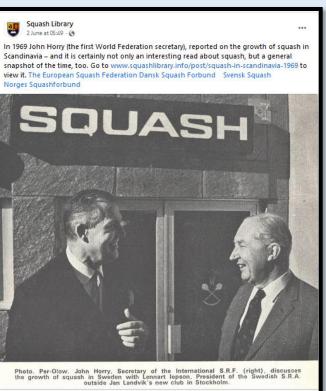
Since then Bert has turned much of his collection into a display at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club,

Since then Bert has turned much of his collection into a display at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, complete with notes so that anybody can come along and see them (some cabinets are pictured here). He is even offering personal tours! Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

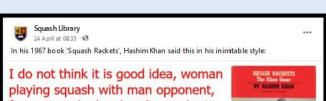






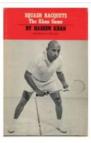




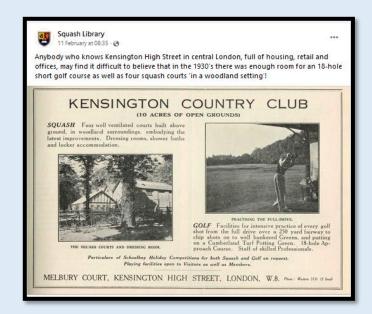


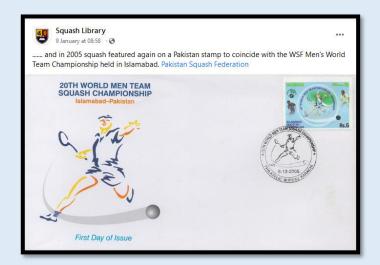
I do not think it is good idea, woman playing squash with man opponent, for reason she has handicap: she is not so strong in wrist and arm, and cannot twist quick to change direction like man.

Not fair match. Better women play only other women.











2022

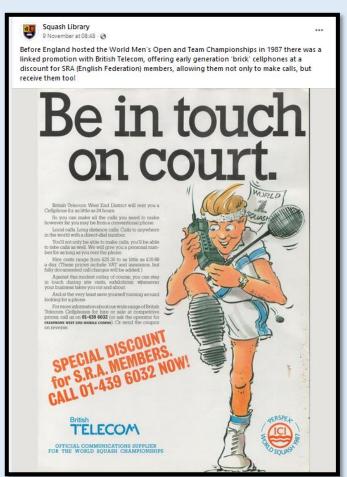


Squash Library 27 December 2022 at 08:33 - 🚱

Squash Library

19 November at 08:14 · ②

A UK survey carried out by Sports Marketing Surveys in 1987 asked people aged 15 – 30 the sport they most enjoyed playing, and saw squash with 12.2%..... behind only soccer (15%), and ahead of tennis (8.9%) and badminton (8.1%).







Squash Library
11 October at 08:44 · 😚

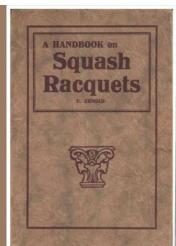
Ned Bigelow, a great 'shaker' of squash in USA, having been responsible for the beginning of the US Open in 1954, travelled to Russia in 1958 to try to get the sport started there. But although he met the 'Master of Sport' the initiative failed. (Detail of squash beginnings of nearly 80 nations is at www.squashlibrary.info, then POSTS). US SQUASH U.S. Open Squash

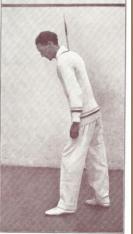




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Charles Arnold, the professional at the Bath Club in London, wrote his Handbook on Squash Rackets in 1926. Here, at www.squashlibrary.info/features, is an extract showing how the forehand stroke was explained and illustrated 95 years ago.







The retirement of Roger Federer prompts the memory that in 2013 the tennis star backed squash to be added to the Olympic Games programme in 2020.

"I think it's a wonderful sport. It's unfortunate some sports don't get the opportunity to be in the Olympics," said Federer. "I think squash would deserve it. They run a great tour and they have great players and characters. I'd personally be very happy for them."

Meeting up with then women's squash world No1 Nicol David at the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, Federer expressed his support to David and revealed he played the sport growing up.

"I used to play it a lot when I was younger every Sunday with my dad," Federer said. "I started with a wooden racket like I did in tennis. I've always been a big fan of the sport." World Squash Federation Squash - PSA World TourNicol David





...

In 1999 the uncertainty about the staging of the British Open was swept away via an 8 year deal with Eye Group, a sports rights acquisition and production company. The deal lasted for that year in Aberdeen as well as the next two years before it collapsed with legal action being taken by England Squash against Eye and their sister company Fablon in 2002. But not before Eye / Fablon agreed other 8 year agreements with PSA and WISPA to inject many millions over 8 years into the Men's & Women's Tours, together with a WSF accord too. All three organisations were involved in the Melbourne Festival 2001 which was to feature the Men's & Women's World Opens, Men's Team Championships and World Masters events. The non-payment of the underwriting commitment led to PSA cancelling the Men's World Open, while funding had been secured in advance to provide a Women's prize pot so that it went ahead, as did the other elements. The Australian organisers incurred substantial losses however.

A short but sorry story after such high hopes.











In 1978 English player Richard Mosley (right) aged 23 was coaching a Spanish businessman in Madrid and found himself summoned to the Royal Palace. There, at the King's court he was introduced to King Juan Carlos by tennis star Manuel Santana, the King's squash partner and was invited to play the King (right) and pass on coaching tips. He did. REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE SOLIASH







When American John Skillman wrote his book 'Squash Racquets' in 1937 he speculated about glass squash courts, over four decades before they began to be produced. Here is the section: US



I often have thought how fine it would be if we could have glass squash courts. At every exhibition match I have watched, even those in which I have played, the spectators were shoving each other and stepping on each other's toes in order to get an occasional glimpse of the players. Some even resorted to getting high step-ladders, so that they might look over the crowd and see a little of the play. This lack of gallery space is indeed a great handicap to the game, for many people who now do not play would want to learn the game if they saw how much real enjoyment players of all degrees of skill get from it. Those who are already interested in the game are anxious to watch good players in action in order to learn things that would better their own games.

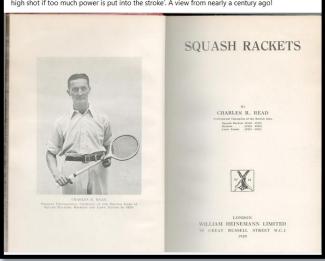
Recently I discussed the possibility of building glass courts with a man well acquainted with many glass products on the market today. He thought the idea a good one and quite practical. I have no doubt that within a short time glass courts of the type that I am going to describe will be built. I feel that an investment in courts of this kind would prove profitable to any club interested in increasing interest in squash racquets.

The glass court I have in mind would have its two side walls and its back wall of glass. The inside of the court would be white, and would have the same reaction on the wall as the wood court. There would be no sliding effect, as one might fear. It would be possible for spectators to look in and see all the actions of the players, but the players would not be able to see out. If they could see out the court would be worthless, as the crowd would annoy the players so badly that good squash would be impossible. These glass sides and back could be made every bit as strong as any wood backing. This is hard to believe but it is true. Get ready to play in glass courts in the future and prepare yourself for a great treat.



When Charles Read wrote his book 'Squash Rackets' in 1929, he encouraged women to play saying, 'Squash Rackets is a game which should appeal to every lady who wishes to keep fit, to retain a youthful figure and to remain supple and comely for years beyond the general alloted span of such attributes'.

Mind you, he did also observe this about females 'Her back is more flexible and weaker than a man's back; it is apt to become tired more quickly, and it may wobble and spoil the direction of a high shot if too much power is put into the stroke'. A view from nearly a century ago!





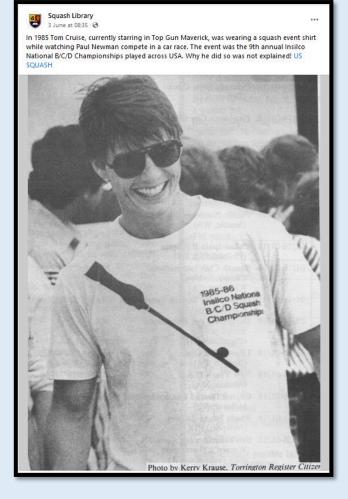




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Tarek Momen's quote from yesterday (below) prompts a reminder that the Library is still looking for more memorable squash quotes for a compilation. Funny, insightful or strange. Play, refereeing, coaching or any other facet of the sport. Please send me your favourite by reply, DM or Email (info@squashlibrary.info). Thanks, Andrew

'I had a plan today. It seemed like I wanted to break the world record for the number of tins hit in one match. I came close but I didn't reach it, maybe another match'.





April 2022 has seen U.S. Squash formally open their U.S. Squash Hall of Fame at the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center.

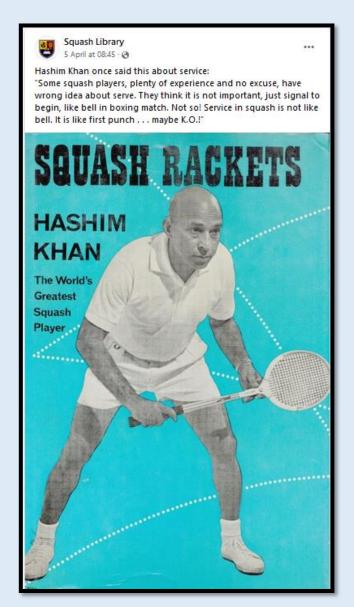
The Peggy & Leo Pierce U.S. Squash Hall of Fame was launched in 2000. It was initially housed at the Racquet Club of Philadelphia before moving in 2006 to Payne Whitney Gymnasium at Yale University. Now it has returned to Philadelphia at the recently opened U.S. Squash Center.

There are now sixty-nine members of the U.S. Squash Hall of Fame, many pictured here at the opening. Full list at https://ussquash.org/hall-of-fame/US SQUASH













Outside the Box
The story of squash

21 - 22 MAY 28 - 29 MAY

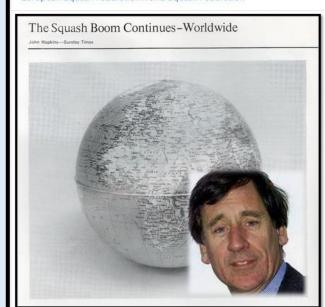
> N UNTIED ARTISTS THE PLAYHOUSE





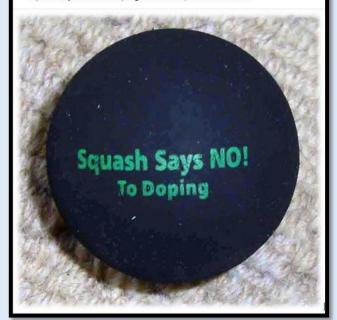
15 February at 08:48 · 🚱

In 1973 UK's Sunday Times newspaper journalist John Hopkins wrote an article for the British Open programme that year. It provides a great snapshot of the state of squash around the world nearly fifty years ago. Go to https://www.squashlibrary.info/features to read it. Squash Federation of Africa - SFAFederacion Panamericana de SquashThe European Squash FederationWorld Squash Federation





In 2016 Anti-Doping education was carried out at the British Junior Open, via DFSU (Doping-Free SportAccord Unit) on behalf of the WSF. Players visiting their Outreach Booth was could participate in an online WADA quiz and given a free squash ball incorporating the logo: "Squash says NO! to Doping". World Squash Federation





In April 1997 in Chiba, Japan, Nobuo Obata started gathering friends, and their friends too, for monthly coaching sessions at Central Fitness ShinUrayasu. The squash routines – which have been unchanged since the start so that progress can be gauged – along with general play, have always been followed by a meal.

Over 4,000 have joined in, and while Covid caused a pause after session 246 (the 200th was celebrated in August 2015), the sessions are poised to re-start on the 25th year anniversary and move to 300 shortly.

Pictured: Nobuo Obata (left) with Tomokazu Saito who has managed the sessions with him from the start. Japan Squash Association







In 1986 squash players from the Detroit Athletic Club, commissioned the well-known sculptor A. Thomas Schomberg (creator of the Rocky statue displayed at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games) to create a squash sculpture. Just 24 of these quarter life-size sculptures were produced.





The Library has reunited a memento given to Egyptian legend Abdel Fattah Amr Bey with his family. The five times British Open Champion (1932-7) had received it, engraved: 'with sincere appreciation from his American Friends'. The other wording was: 'In commemoration of receiving from H.M. King Fuad 1, The Orders of Merit (14 Feb 1935) and the Bahaweya (26 Mar 1936). The boxed memento was found by British tennis memorabilia

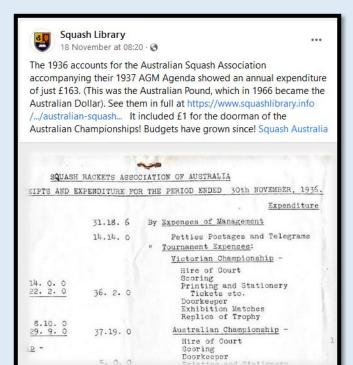
collector Alan Chalmers, who kindly passed it onto the Library so that it could be reunited with his family. Pictured here is Amr Bey's great grand daughter Dana Khater who gratefully received it in London. Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش



The WSF Coach Education Programme, which heralded the start of a worldwide unified and standardised coaching structure for Squash, was launched at the start of 2015.

Tutor training across the continents began with Level 1 courses introduced first. The courses featured agreed core-content and delivery methods to ensure that standards were uniform and qualifications achieved would be recognised not only in the coach's own nation but worldwide too for coaches moving internationally. World Squash Federation

World Squash COACHING





The WSF launched its Ambassador Programme in 2011 with a visit to Riga, Latvia. It was the first of a decade of the WSF international promotional initiative taking leading squash players, together with an international coach and referee, into younger squash nations to help raise the sport's profile - through clinics, exhibition matches, refereeing and coaching seminars, and media presentations.

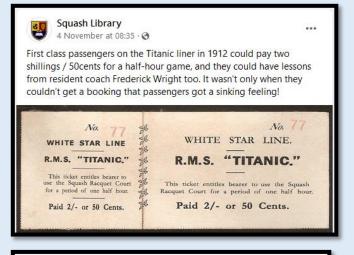
After Latvia the African countries of Malawi and Namibia followed, then Panama and Venezuela in 2013, Papua New Guinea in 2014, before focussing on the Balkan region in 2015 with appearances in Serbia, Romania and Croatia. In 2016, the team visited Dalian and Macau in China. After the 2017 edition was postponed, the Ambassadors went to Armenia and Ukraine in 2018, and Nairobi, Kenya in 2019. World Squash Federation



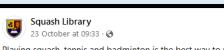












Playing squash, tennis and badminton is the best way to reduce the risk of suddenly dying, a study published in 2016 found (https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/51/10/812). The racket sports reduce the risk of death by 47 per cent compared to doing nothing, researchers discovered based on 11 annual health surveys for England and Scotland from between 1994 and 2008.

The study, which looked at the impact of different sports on health of people with an average age of 51, discovered that taking part in running and jogging, or football and rugby did not have a significant effect on cutting the chance of death. British Journal of Sports Medicine (BJSM)

Sports Medicine



In 2003, Boston's SquashBusters became the first US urban program to open its own youth center in coordination with Northeastern University. Two years later when the American National Urban Squash and Education Association was launched in 2005, it featured four member programs serving a total of 250 students in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

It now has 19 member

organizations across the country and five affiliates abroad, with more than 2,500 students enrolled. As the NUSEA network expanded —beyond the United States and outside of major urban centres—the need for a new name became clear. Squash and Education Alliance (SEA), was chosen. Squash and Education Alliance@



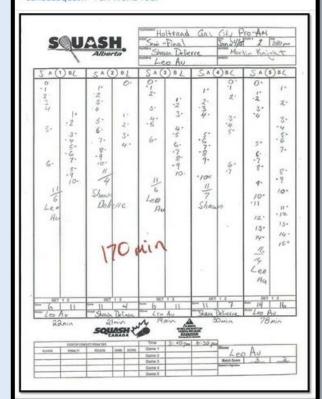


Leo Au, from Hong Kong, broke the record for the longest professional squash match ever recorded en-route to claiming the ninth PSA World Tour title of his career at the Holtrand Gas City Pro-Am in January 2015 in Canada.

His dramatic semi-final victory was the longest match ever recorded - a mammoth 170-minute encounter (11-6, 4-11, 11-6, 7-11, 16-14) against Canadian Shawn Delierre.

It was a match that eclipsed the previous record set by legendary Pakistani six-time world champion Jahangir Khan, who took 166minutes to get past Gamal Awad in the 1983 Chichester Festival 9-10, 9-5, 9-7, 9-2. Yes, in four games!

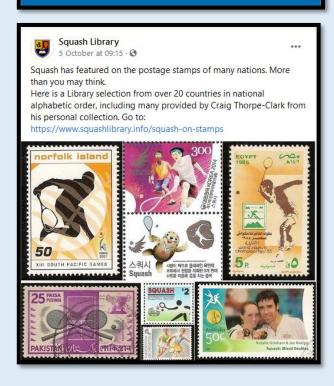
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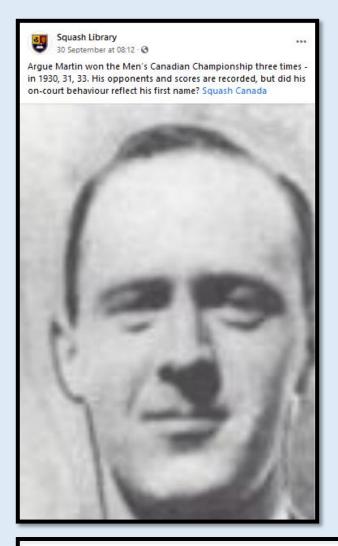




Today marks the 20th World Squash Day, it having been started in memory of Scottish squash junior international Derek Sword, one of the many fatalities of the Sept 11 2001 attack on New York's World Trade Centre. Alongside the worldwide celebrations and promotions this year is another great auction of exciting items in support of the PSA Foundation and World Squash Library. See them & bid on eBay here: https://tinyurl.com/4jyuhfvb. (Worldwide postage can be arranged at cost). What are you waiting for? World Squash DayWorld Squash Day AuctionSquash - PSA World Tour Squash - PSA FoundationWorld Squash Federation

WORLD SQUASH DAY SAT OCT 9, 2021 20TH ANNIVERSARY







As squash events moved from glass-backs to all-round viewing there was a brief stage where buildable glass back courts were used. The first major event to do this was the March 1980 British Open, with final rounds played on the stage of the Wembley Conference Centre. (After that year the event moved away before returning in 1984 with a showcourt with seating all found it).

Promoter Mike Palmer of Multisquash needed to show what this new staging concept would look like. In his words, 'To give the media – and the public – a greater understanding of what was happening, I commissioned a commercial artist to produce an illustration. This was then photographed and photos sent out with press releases'. This picture is an example of 'squash art', as opposed to cartoons and the like. If there are others out there the Library would love to create a gallery of them so that they can be viewed and preserved.









SQUASH RACKETS, FIVES TENNIS AND RACKETS

we pass on the suggestion to any of our readers who are fortunate enough to possess a Squash Rackets court of their own'.

VOL. 1. No. 1

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1932

Price 6d. Weekly



Seventy years ago, in 1951 this report on the state of doubles appeared in a British magazine, indicating that there was only one 'larger' court available. It was a few decades before moveable side wall courts added more on demand to the few permanent ones.

B EFORE the war the doubles game was rapidly increasing in popularity and several doubles events were built in the London area. Unfortunately, bombs and other causes have exterminated every doubles court in England, leaving only the doubles court at the Edinburgh Squash Club where devotees of this type of game can continue to play.

In the past few years, there has been growing up an increasing tendency for those who find the singles game too strenuous, to play the doubles game in the ordinary standard singles court. Those who have played the game for some time have evolved the technique by which the players give way to each other so that each player has plenty of room in which to play his shot and collisions between players are surprisingly infrequent.

Although the game is not yet officially recognised by the S.R.A., doubles competitions have started and a tournament has been successfully held at the Worthing Squash Club for the past two seasons.



Plate events, events to give 1st match event losers a second game, were first introduced at the South African Championships held in Johannesburg in 1948. The idea was soon taken up widely. While they are not played in PSA Tour events, for World Junior Individual Championships minimum three matches are offered i.e. plate, consolation plate (1st match plate losers) and classic plate (2nd match losers).

Squash - PSA World TourWorld Squash FederationSquash South Africa







GLASGOW 2014

XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES



Have you found the POSTS heading on www.squashlibrary.info? Every Library daily post, nearly 900 of them, are there in 13 categories, each one having an index too. Want to explore the posting archive on people, events, nations, rules, milestones, etc you know where to look!

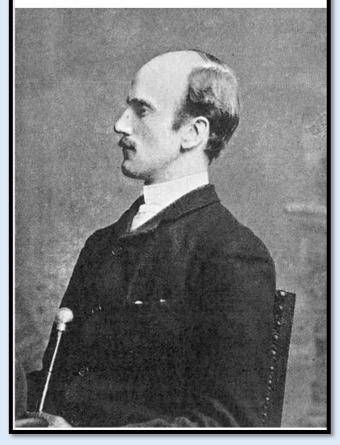
BRITISH OPEN
COURTS & EQUIPMENT
EVENT REGS (Champs & PSA)
EVENT VENUES
MEDIA/BROADCAST
NATIONS (Squash beginnings)
OBITUARIES
OLYMPIC/REGIONAL/GAMES
PLAYERS & EVENTS (general)
REFEREEING & RULES
SQUASH FEDERATIONS

LINCATEGORISED (general)



In 1909, Hugo F Charteris (later Lord Elcho) wrote this while posted as an attaché to the British Ambassador in Washington:

'Squash Rackets is the great game in American country houses. It is the most brutal smashing form of sport in which I have ever indulged. It is squash tennis, really, as they use tennis rackets and covered tennis balls. It is impossible to miss the ball, as it as big as the racket with which you hit it, and it goes on bouncing for a good long time in a small four sided court with no ledges or steps to add to the variety or uncertainty of the game. You hit as hard as you can till you become exhausted and miss it.'





Commentators at the Wimbledon tennis this week have regularly talked of 'squash shots' being played. Meanwhile Australian tennis legend Rod Laver once said of his career that he was never without a squash ball in his pocket to help strengthen his wrist!





Squash Library 28 June at 08:45 ⋅ 🚱

..

Shadow training / star bursts, where a player replicates movement from tee to corner and back without a ball has been a feature of training regimes for generations. But in 1986 an attempt was made to automate it with a device that would call out a random set of corners to avoid predictability.

Enter 'Shadow Caller'. An electronics firm in England developed a unit that would be placed at the back of the court and emit four different tones at intervals – each indicating a different corner. Intervals and tones were adjustable. It was sold for GB£90.

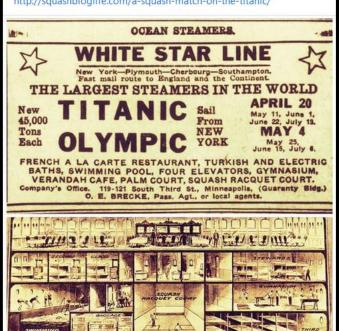
Perhaps the absence of follow up advertising indicated low interest at a high price.





When the Titanic, the largest passenger steamship of the time, sank in 1912, the squash court on it was relocated to the Atlantic depths. The court was available for use by 1st class passengers, and there was a professional in residence. Full details can be found in this comprehensive report:

http://squashbloglife.com/a-squash-match-on-the-titanic/





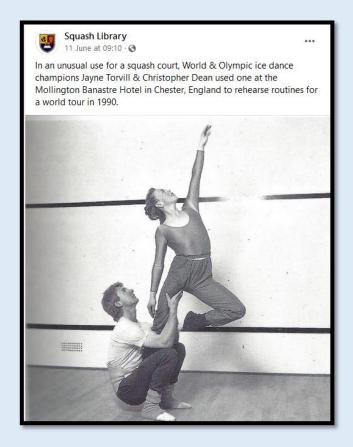
After the first squash-specific courts arrived at Harrow School near London in 1865 (see https://www.squashlibrary.info/features for details), a past-pupil constructed what is thought to be the first court in a house. Augustus George Vernon Harcourt (pic), a scientist, did this at his Oxford home in 1883.

His son Simon (one of 10 children – an unbalanced 8 girls and 2 boys!) recounted 'As soon as they could walk the children were taught the game. It must have been between 1980 and 1895 that my brother-in-law, the famous war correspondent, Sir William Beach Thomas who ran for Oxford, C B Fry, TB Case and many others used to come along and play with us'

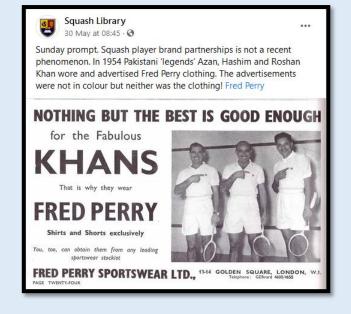








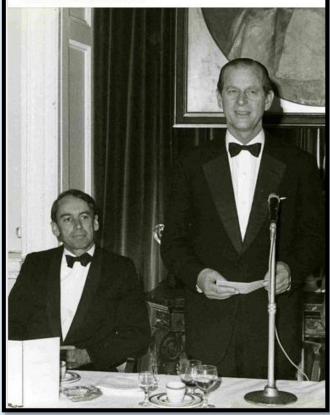






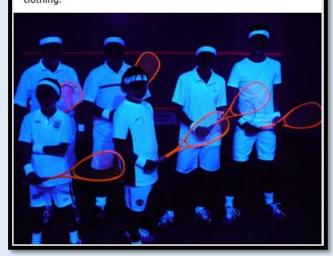
UK's Prince Philip had a secret squash court in Hong Kong. You didn't know? Why would you, it was a secret!

https://www.squashlibrary.info/features for the full story. Hong Kong SquashEngland Squash





Eight years ago The University of Warwick, England, held an Ultra Violet Squash Festival. The unique four day event featured 160 players with matches being played in ultraviolet light with fluorescent tape on the walls and floors. The rackets and balls were also sprayed with fluorescent material, and all players wore white clothing.





World Squash Library is trying to fill gaps in the archive, as ever. If you have any of these let's discuss please! Thanks, Andrew. (Email: info@squashlibrary.info or DM). Full list link:

https://www.squashlibrary.info/whats-missing

ISRF Handbooks: 1980, 1986

(WSF was called ISRF until 1992) English SRA Handbooks: 1931 – 1935

World Champ Programmes: see link



With the World Juniors going to St Petersburg next year, looking back to 2003 Russia was visited by Vanessa Atkinson and Sarah Fitz-Gerald, with sessions in St Petersburg and Moscow assisting the development of squash there.

(During the period 1999 – 2009, the Women's Tour, under the WISPA banner, took top players to over twenty 'young' squash countries to help them promote squash. In Moscow the players took time out in Red Square to pose with Army Academy graduates!).









...



SportAccord is the key meeting place for all involved in international sport, and when squash's delegates attended in 2012 in Quebec, Canada, they arrived with two inflatable mini-courts. World champion Nick Matthew and Pakistan's leading female player Maria Toor Pakay attended to demonstrate this way to encourage children to try squash at schools or in public places. They tried out the courts in the Demo Zone using rackets and also BigHand, the 'glove' beginner rackets, as seen in the photo. SportAccordWorld Squash Federation



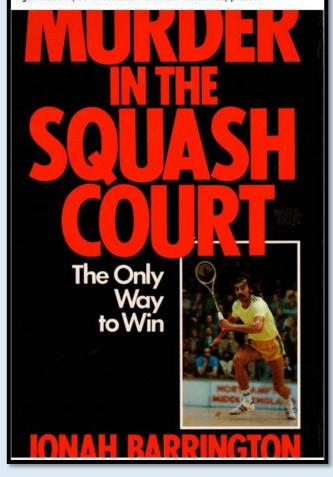


Sunday prompt. The list of books in the Library is at www.squashlibrary.info/library.

World famous murder novelist Agatha Christie who created the fictional detective characters of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, bought Winterbrook House in 1934 with her second husband Max Mallowan. Not only did she live and do most of her writing there for 40 years, but she also had a squash court built for herself and her husband.

The superb 'Murder in the Squash Court' is in the Library, but could she have been the real author using the pseudonym Jonah Barrington?

There are still gaps in the collection being preserved for future generations, so information on them welcomed, please.





We hear tennis commentators describe a shot as a squash shot, especially from Roger Federer and here is another tennis player playing squash.

When he put down his tennis racket on his winter break in 2015 tennis star Novak Djokovic clearly liked to still keep a racket in his hand while on holiday. A future player for the Serbian squash team?





An idea from eight years ago has relevance as retail stores have borne the Covid brunt along with squash. In Manchester's Corn Exchange in England, a pop-up squash shop making use of un-used retail space created a temporary high street squash court, with the England Squash intention to roll it out in other cities.

A BBC sports presenter Mike Bushell (pictured) gave it a try with Laura Massaro. England Squash





The world's first working nuclear reactor was built in a racquets court! In Chicago, USA, at University of Chicago's Hyde Park Campus in 1942. The court sitting beneath the bleacher seating for the football field became the first home for self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.





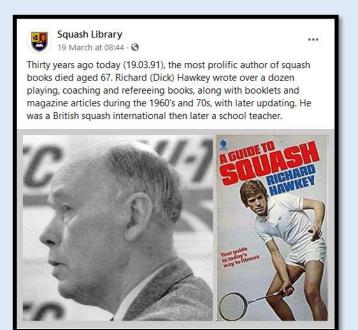
PSA have found the solution to the issue of pro players needing flexible flights as they don't know how long they would be in a tournament has been found. The problems of tiredness as matches get harder has been solved too. All very neatly and simple - by playing event final on the first day and working backwards to end the event with the first round.

Most players could arrive when the event was well under way, with all the players knowing they would leave after the first round. Matches get progressively easier too. News of when the PSA Tour roll out this format is awaited.

Squash - PSA World Tour

BACKWARDS





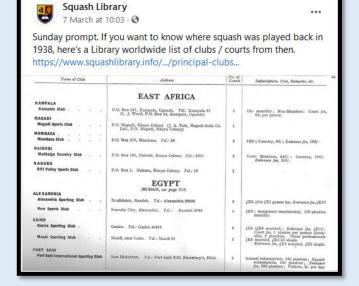


In 1906 what was reputedly the first inter-club match took place. In London, England, the Queens Club thought it would be 'interesting' to challenge the Bath & Racquets Club, and it was arranged that each club would field a team of three, each should play all of the other side, and six matches would be played at Queens Club, three at Bath Club. The matches, on 22 & 23 February 1906 resulted in a crushing victory for Bath Club.

It was reported at the time in Lawn Tennis magazine: 'It is hoped that this match may be the forerunner of others, for one believes squash racquets will become more and more popular'









Handicap events are a popular feature at many clubs, but eighty years ago the idea was being developed. How to handle handicapping being wrestled with, as this December 1937 UK Tennis Magazine article by the Escorts Club secretary indicates. See it at https://www.squashlibrary.info/features

WHY NOT HANDICAPS FOR SQUASH?

By PETER HADLEY, Hon. Secretary, The Escorts S.R.C.

A LTHOUGH Squash has been growin in popularity from year to year it has still one great lack; ther is no major tournament in which player of all standards can compete with on another on a basis that makes fo

equality.

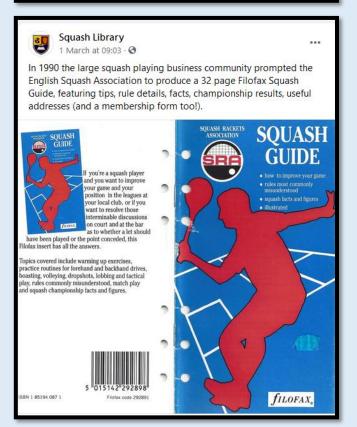
In the Lawn Tennis world, thanks to
the existence of handicaps, players of ar
indifferent standard can compete in
tournaments with a reasonable chance o
surviving several rounds of an event, an
perhaps even of winning it. In Squash
on the other hand, the ordinary playe
has no hope of progressing in a tourna
went beyond the first or, off he is very

players who never experience anything more exciting after their day's work than an occasional match for their local club, and who would welcome an opportunity for tournament play. The introduction of handicap events would provide such an opportunity

an opportunity.
It should not be difficult to evolve efficient system of handicapping. Loe committees might assign handicaps members of their own club, based current form (adder matches, etc. Thus the best player in the club might given a handicap of, say, Owe 5, and te worst might Receive the same amour These handicaps could be used not on These handicaps could be used not on

ment should be able to determine the annificaps with some degree of accuracy, Zeh competitor could be asked to a upply, with his entry, not only information as to his club handicap, but also to the country of the country of the intring the season. Most club severtaries cep full records of all matches, so that member would have no difficulty in bitaining the necessary scores. An neromous number of club matches are the country of the cou

In order that the fullest possible data night be available, it would perhaps be





https://www.squashlibrary.info/post/boy-s-own-paper-1894

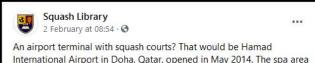
BOYS OWN PAPER

THE WINE IN PROPERTY AND A CONTROLLED TO THE PAPER AND A CONTROLLED TO THE PAPER



Racketball, a form of squash played on a squash court was rebranded as Squash 57 in an initiative spearheaded by the World Squash Federation in partnership with England Squash in September 2016. The new formal name focused on the key difference to squash - the larger ball, which has a maximum diameter of 57mm (compared with 40mm for a squash ball). Although at a local British level it was expected that the old name would be informally used for a time to come, newer countries... See more





International Airport in Doha, Qatar, opened in May 2014. The spa area at Hamad features two ASB courts available for passengers, with rackets, balls and shoes provided. Hamad International Airport Qatar Squash Federation







The two squash courts at the Athens Lawn Tennis Club were under threat when the Greek club was due to be re-located, but with H.M. King Constantine an avid player, this was averted, and indeed saw a doubles court built in time for him to win the Greek Doubles Championship held there in 1966.

For the record, he and Demetriades beat Zeruos & Glyplis 15/13, 10/15, 15/11, 15/12.

(Seen here, H.M. The King receives a pennant at a match played against Malta. Queen Anne-Marie is looking on).







Squash Library

16 January at 09:07 - 3

Squash Library posts daily on many aspects of squash's rich history. Now, you can find all of them broken down into thirteen groups for easy reference at: https://www.squashlibrary.info/daily-postingdirectory.

The headings:

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP & PSA REGULATIONS COURTS & EQUIPMENT MEDIA MISCELLANEOUS NATIONS OBITUARIES OLYMPIC / MAJOR / REGIONAL CHAMPS PLAYERS & EVENTS SQUASH ORGANISATIONS SQUASH RULES & REGULATIONS VENUES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



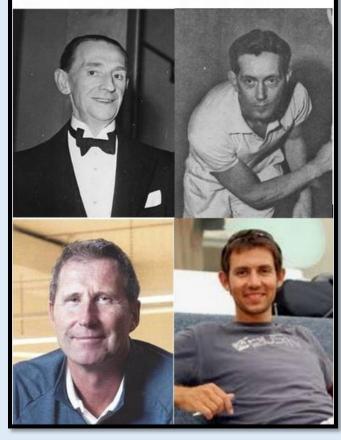
2020





The RAC Club in London had three coaches who held the post for no less than 107 years between them! It has now just appointed Patrick Foster as their new Head of Squash - so expect him to be in place for a while! (The Irish international is moving from a similar role for Bermuda Squash). Previously Oke Johnson had been at the RAC for 45 years; while Jack Giles (who reputedly gave over 50,000 lessons) and Greg Pearman who retired earlier this year, were in post for a mere 31 years each too!

Top (L) Johnson, and Giles. Bottom (L) Pearman, and Foster.





was held from 1 December 1984 at the Metropolitan Club in London. Inaugural winners were Denis Secher - pictured (Men) & Greer Batty (Women's). They beat John Hakes and Barbara Watkins respectively.







While the SRA in England were still managing the sport internationally (the World Federation began in 1967), they introduced a ball levy so that a proportion of the sales price would come to them as support funding. Hence the ball price rise to 171/2p (approx. €0.191/2 / \$0.22).

INCREASE IN PRICE OF THE SQUASH BALL

The increase in the recommended retail price of a squash ball from 3s. to 3s. 6d. from the 1st July, 1965, has come about as the result of a request made by the Squash Rackets Association to the Federation of British Manufacturers of Sports and Games Ltd.

to the Federation of British Manufacturers of Sports and Games Ltd.

In recent years, the rapid increase of international commitments, in a game in which spectators are necessarily so few, has resulted in a very severe strain on the S.R.A's finances, and the repeated, and unsatisfactory recourse to appeals for money from clubs and individuals. The S.R.A. felt that the players in this country would not object to paying an increased price for a ball, if they realised that it was money that was being put back into the game, and was being solely used to maintain our position in international squash, and as the overall governing body. With the game developing so rapidly throughout the world, our S.R.A. is competing with overseas associations, which derive financial assistance from their own sources, and to maintain our leadership in the international federation, which will no doubt shortly come into being, our finances must be on a sounder basis. This levy will, it is hoped, help to do this, and a proportion will go to the Women's S.R.A. to assist them with their international commitments. It must, therefore, be clearly understood, in fairness to the manufacturers and distributors of squash balls in the U.K., that this increase has been made at the request of, and solely for the benefit of, the S.R.A. and W.S.R.A., and is in no way a normal trade increase. The manufacturers are taking no profit whatever from this, and do not at present foresee the need to put up the price further. In view of the fact that the price of the ball has remained stable for so many years, it is hoped that this increase will be accepted without criticism by players in this country, in whose interests it is being made.

J. H. HORRY, Secretary,

J. H. HORRY, Secretary, Squash Rackets Association



21 November at 09:12 - 3

In 1965 H.R.H Prince Philip became President (later, Patron) of what was then the English Squash Rackets Association. He was a keen player himself on the court at Buckingham Palace, and on court when his first son was born!).

Some photos of his meeting top players and national teams are at https://www.squashlibrary.info/features





The very first winner of the Malaysian National Championship in 1973 was Tunku Imran Ja'afar, beating Hood Salleh 3-0. Prince Imran as he is informally known, not only fostered the development of Malaysian Squash (seen here with star product Nicol David), but is a former President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, and an Honorary Member of the International Olympic Committee. In squash circles he became an inspirational President of the World Squash Federation (1996 – 2002) and is now the WSF Patron.

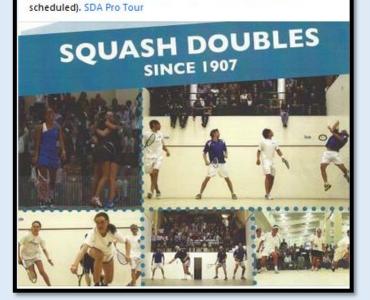




World Squash Library celebrates its first birthday today. A year of over 500 Facebook / Twitter posts, many features produced / questions researched, the archive building too. Lots more to develop, but for now comments & ideas welcomed, along with any items to fill gaps (https://www.squashlibrary.info/whats-missing), or any donations towards planned digitalisation work (at www.squashlibrary.info). Thanks for all the support during the year. Andrew

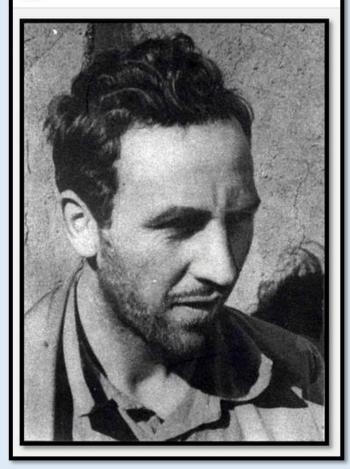


Before the International Squash Doubles Association (ISDA) became Squash Doubles Association (SDA) Pro Tour in 2012 it produced an informational and promotional booklet. See it at https://www.squashlibrary.info/features. (For 2020, around 20 events across the United States, Canada, and Mexico were





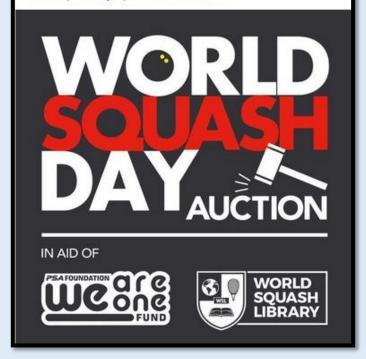
In October 1932 Mr K.C. Gandar Dower, a leading English tennis and squash player of his day (and aviator, explorer and author too!), set out predictions for the future of squash in a magazine article. Now, 88 years later, here is an extract for interest: "What of the future? We must remember that squash is still in his infancy, somewhere about where lawn tennis was in 1900. By 1940 let us hope that players will have reached a degree of accuracy so great that they can really kill the ball, or else, as is much more probable, matches will be lasting somewhere around three hours. By 1970 ... athletes will drug themselves scientifically and make their one great bid for the championship and totter home and die. And I shall come puffing into the auditorium and take my place among 5,000 people and watch the final reflected in the vast mirror in the roof".





World Squash Library, committed to preserving squash's rich history, is delighted to partner PSA Foundation as beneficiaries of proceeds for the World Squash Day Auction, and grateful to World Squash Day for including the Library. Some great items to bid for!

World Squash Day Squash - PSA World Tour

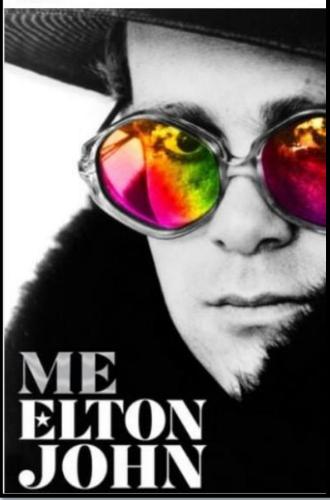




Music legend Elton John bought his home in Old Windsor near London in 1975, and in his autobiography entitled 'Me', he wrote, 'The squash Court was one of the things I liked when I moved in. I would challenge anybody who came over to a game'.

But he added that eventually the squash stopped as packing cases of memorabilia were deposited there. Later, it was transformed into

A court lost. Don't go breaking our heart, Elton! EltonJohn







Want to know the milestone dates for squash from the 1850's until present? Nations, court, championships, legends, compiled by James Zug, it is on the Library website here:

https://www.squashlibrary.info/history-of-squash World Squash FederationSquash - PSA World Tour

1971

An all-glass back wall, using suspended assembly, is constructed at Abbeye at a cost of GB£31,000; the British Open in 1972 is played on this court. Squarmagazine, is started.

1973

Jonah Barrington creates the International Squash Professionals Association In April the European Federation hosts the first European Championships in The West German Squash Rackets Association is founded.

1974

The British Open, having been closed to only amateur women since 1922, all enter tournament; the finals are filmed for television by the BBC.

1976

The first individual World Championships is played in London in February fo Brisbane in August for women; Geoff Hunt and Heather McKay are the winn

1977

Heather McKay wins the last of her record sixteen straight British Open titles

1978

In September six hundred people watch the world's first portable court tour a glass back wall erected in the Swedish national tennis centre in Stockholn

1979

In March the first Women's World Team Championships are held in Birming!



In April 2013 former squash world number one Peter Nicol and fellow professional Tim Garner played seven squash match in seven days in what they called the '7 Continent Challenge' It aimed to promote the squash Olympic bid for a place on the now postponed 2020 Games programme.

The itinerary was Falkland Islands (Stanley), Chile (Santiago), Australia (Sydney), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Egypt (Cairo), England (London), USA (Stamford, Conn).

It involved: (a) Total flying time: 76 hours, (b) Total travel time: 138 hours, (c) Flights taken: 12, (d) Missed flights: 0! (e) Fund raising a substantial sum for good causes.





Jumbo Doubles is a big South Eastern Asia idea! So-called because of the larger court, the Library has produced a feature on the local squash variation at https://www.squashlibrary.info/features.
Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia Singapore Squash Thailand Squash Rackets Association (TSRA)

JUMBO DOUBLES - A BIG SOUTH EAST ASIAN IDEA!

Doubles squash can be played on singles courts, and on courts that are expanded to & International Competition width -7,620 & 8,420mm respectively, as opposed to sing 6,400mm. But in South East Asia a variation called Jumbo Doubles is played too on N sized 'Hardball' courts — which are 7,600 wide but much longer than an international as opposed to 9,750mm.



In Thailand in the early of expatriate tobacco p in Chiang Mai started p on a singles court at l Club. Soon after the tournament for resident

Then, during the 198 Bangkok Sports Club I Doubles court, using the of an American hard bal and started a tourname Mai Cup.



Squash Library 17 August · 🚱

International Player registration began for squash when WSF introduced it in January 2014. Called SPIN (Squash Personal Identification Number), it was formulated along the lines of other regulated sports that already had player, coach, official licences. The intention was to deal with official coordination and player international event entry, seeding, draw and results seamlessly, handle eligibility, uniform name spelling, discipline and anti-doping considerations. Half of the income from registration fees was rebated to regional federations to help with their promotional and development activity. World Squash Federation

WORLD SQUASH



WSF



COVID-19's impact on world sport in general, and on squash specifically, will be remembered for generations to come. So, to record the wide range of effects produced by the pandemic on the sport, the World Squash Library is asking for contributions from around the world – from which to create a unique record of the unprecedented period.

From players, both recreational and professional, facility operators, federations; anybody involved with squash. The impact; the repercussions; and views on what the future holds.

This will be published on the website, and available so that in future people can look back at this time for the sport using information supplied by the squash community.

Please go to https://www.squashlibrary.info/covid-19-squashsnapshot - and write about your personal and/or business experiences of how Covid-19 has impacted squash, plus other insights including thoughts on how the sport might be altered in the future. Thank you.





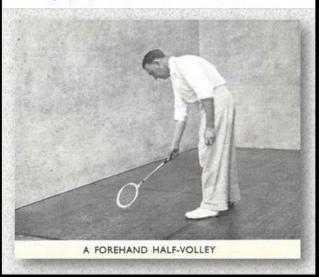
In 1935 an Englishman, Eric Hyde, wrote a book entitled How to Play Squash Rackets. In addition to his coaching tips (the illustration shows a rather erect half volley pose), he covers preparation and ladies squash.

On preparing he says this about smoking, '.... none at all on the day of a match, until about half an hour before the match starts, when a cigarette will steady the nerves'. Definitely not a recommendation any more.

He also comments on women's squash saying, 'Usually a woman is quicker and lighter on her feet than a man.... But she is liable to tire quickly with injudicious running about'.

Hyde also explains, '... one other important difference between the sexes in playing games is a temperamental one. Most women play a dashing type of game which produces a brilliant shot one stroke and very often a weak one the next it is definitely not the way to win matches consistently.

The library reports, it does not endorse historical comments!





Squash Library

Do we play squash with a racket or racquet? Generally speaking it has been a racquet in USA, and a racket elsewhere worldwide. In America a 'racket' can be used as a term for unscrupulous activities!

In the late 1300s British author Geoffrey Chaucer used the term racket & later William Shakespeare did too, referring to tennis e.g. King Henry V says 'When we have match'd our rackets to these balls'.

Other famous writers from where the sport originated in UK have used racket, including Johnson, Swift, Thackeray and Dickens.

Perhaps it is best left that either spelling is understood, wherever it is written!





It was in 1978 that one of the first squash computer programmes was developed - by the Victorian Association in Australia. Reacting to the growth of squash and time taken to process results, it was intended to cover areas we have taken for granted for many years

At the time the uses were stated to included: (a) weekly match results, (b) Ladders, (c) Performance lists, (d) Registration lists (e) Club registration (f) remote output using data transmission from country areas.

Then, it was claimed that squash was a sport that was an early recogniser of the value of computers to sport.

(Sid Myers, VRSA President, pictured testing the computer with company reps looking on). Squash Australia





At the 1983 WSF AGM (then called ISRF) this was recorded:

'HARDBALL. It was noted that the Directors of U.S. SRA voted to recognize and support softball squash as a summer game within the United States, and had recently completed the first national softball championships'. International squash has certainly blossomed Stateside since. US SQUASHWorld Squash Federation





World Squash Day was born in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 World Trade Centre attack in New York. Former Scottish squash junior international Derek Sword was one of the many fatalities, and WSD founder Alan Thatcher along with Sword's friend Laurie Maclachlan decided this would be a fitting tribute, while doing something positive for the sport.

A few months later on 11 January 2002 the inaugural event was an eight player challenge tournament at Lambs Club in London. including stars Peter Nicol, John White and Paul Price (logos 2002 – 2004 below).

The occasion also marked the first 15 a side London-New York Challenge match for the Derek Sword Trophy donated by Derek's friends and colleagues at Keefe Bruyette Woods in New York.

With more than 50 events taking place around the world in 20 different countries, it was the start of the annual worldwide Day used to develop and promote squash.

World Squash Day this year takes place on Saturday 10 October. Details at www.worldsquashday.net World Squash Day





Squash Library

...

On this day in 2018 PSA & WSF announced SquashFORWARD, an initiative which selected young PSA members from across the world to bring his or her own perspective on the future of their sport. They became the ambassadors of thousands of young players internationally to help capture the aspirations of their generation to help shape squash's future. World Squash FederationSquash -PSA World Tour





In keeping with the Library archive role, as it is April Fools Day here is an article on postal squash from The English Federation magazine 27 years ago, just before the internet began. (Mea culpa!). Now time for a new version? Web Squash?

My three wall boast got lost in the post

"SURELY he can't have volleyed," I thought as I retrieved the familiar looking postcard that had come to rest, snuggled neatly between the final gas demand and a card from the library insisting that three books had been required back many moons ago. Ignoring the ever-mounting library fine, I turned over Peter's card to find that he had indeed played a sharp volley deep into the forehand court.

Here we were well into the fifth game of our Postal Squash match and he was still taking the ball early. One could only marvel at the stamina of an opponent after eight months' exhausting play. Still, a good response now and my trump card - a same-day couriered card no less - would see me at match ball.

You may not have encountered Postal Squash since there are currently only two players, but stand by for what may become the new sporting phenomenon of the 1990s. Don't be surprised if it sounds the death knell for scores of squash clubs, as participants switch from the frantic energy sapping version they currently play in the sweat boxes of the nation.

What is postal squash? Quite simply, it is a derivation of postal chess in which each player sends his opponent the next shot in a rally which continues until a point is won.

I cannot yet reveal the rules and general details of postal squash, as my patent application has yet to be granted. Obviously I must wait until I can do so without fear that it might be copied before royalties can be agreed. However, I am conceited enough to believe that I might be doing for the development of sport what Mr. Waddington has done for board games. And I'm not overly worried about the reaction from those who say the whole element of exercise has gone. I can simply point to the virtual elimination of any risk of injury, which must surely be to everybody's benefit.

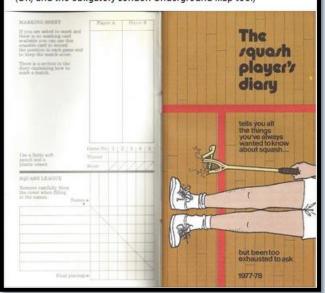
I am prepared to say that in principle a player wins a point if the opponent incorrectly anticipates a shot when cards cross in the post. Or when his return doesn't arrive within a stipulated deadline. Of course, the requirement for quick delivery if points are not to be squandered generally means short matches in England where the Post Office continue to mount strikes or simply lose letters within their sorting system for days and weeks! It is only a personal observation, but mail is definitely more likely to go astray if it has a short distance to travel. Address it to the other side of the country and it will unerringly arrive the next day if it has been sent second class and three days later if posted first class, but don't hold out too much hope if you are corresponding within the same town!

too much hope if you are corresponding within the same town!

But I digress. Readers will appreciate that postal squash cannot operate effectively without use of a third party who will receive and log all shots. It is he or she who adjudicates on lets and strokes, ensures players do not take more than the one week head allowed between games and



Such were the number of seventies UK players that in 1977 a company produced a Squash Player's Diary that ran for several years. In addition to normal diary detail, it featured a grid for match bookings and results and sections on Rules, tactics and refereeing. (Oh, and the obligatory London Underground map too!)





The start of the now annual WSF World Coaches Conferences can be traced back to 1994 when the first was held at the Dekker Club in Zoetermeer, Netherlands, organised by legendary coach Ken Watson (pic), the Australian at the time being the national coach of Denmark. Sixty coaches attended. World Squash Federation







Do you have Irish heritage then this article searching for possible representative players may be of interest. However, you may have missed the response date (and requirements changed) as this request appeared 56 years ago in 1966! Irish Squash

COULD YOU PLAY FOR IRELAND?

The Irish S.R.A. is trying to form a panel of British based players who are eligible to play for Ireland, Ireland has been the weakest of the four home countries for many years and the Association feels that there are many good players who live and play their squash in England who do not realise that they are qualified to play for Ireland. The differences between the county and international qualifications are that whereas the residential qualification for international teams is three years instead of one, an international qualification may be obtained if a player's father was born in the country. Therefore any first-class player whose father had been born in either Eire or Northern Ireland is qualified to play for Ireland and the Irish S.R.A., the Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, would like to hear from him.



In 1987 research carried out for a London, England commercial radio station, Capital Radio, come up with the impressive stat that 1 in every 20 men aged 15 to 34 from London played squash at weekends. When all ages were combined the proportion dropped to 1 in 50 – which still placed squash as twice as popular as golf, and on a level with tennis.





As far back as the 1920's Guinness advertised their beer as having health benefits. They also must have thought the same about squash as they had a squash court at their London brewery, as did another famous brand, Watneys. After WW2 they and some of the other London firms started the London Breweries Squash League which ran into the 1950s. Supporters no doubt hoped to be invited to the post-match socialising! Guinness





Here is a list of worldwide 'Principal Clubs' from 1938. There were a number of GB / US clubs followed by Argentina through to Sweden - nearly 20 other nations in all. A few country names have changed, and 82 years later it is pretty definite that the club manager list is out of date, as are the membership fees! It is in the Library features section: https://www.squashlibrary.info/features World Squash Federation

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In 1995 SquashBusters launched in Boston, USA, the first program of its kind to combine the sport of squash with academic support, mentoring, and community service.

Ten years later in 2005 The Squash and Education Alliance was formed to provide an umbrella that would unify, share knowledge and support. 'US Urban Squash' is now celebrating its silver jubilee year with twenty national locations in place along with five international affiliates (Canada, Colombia, India, Israel and South Africa). Squash and Education AllianceUS SQUASH





An interesting question posed by a writer for a rackets magazine in 1932. William Shakespeare died 406 years ago and seemed to have played squash! (When he played squash badly was it 'A Comedy of Errors', winning definitely 'All's Well That Ends Well'. Or is the whole article really 'Much Ado About Nothing'?)

December, 1931

SQUASH BACKETS, FIVES, TENNIS AND BACKETS

191

DID SHAKESPEARE PLAY SQUASH RACKETS AND FIVES?

By W. HODGSON BURNET

OCU will of course at once poch-poch the idea that Sakakepeare ever played either Squah Rackets or Free. But I am not so sure. In fact from a close study of his works I have at least convinced support that not only was he a kens player of both games but that he belonged to a recogrished club which had International Setting.

In Henry V. i 2, he says—

When we have matched our rackets to sheer balls we will in France by God's grace play a set.

sull in Funce by God a given play a set. (The difficulty he mention of being able to get, "racken to match these bulls" is one which luckely no reader of this pages who patternises over advertisers need have to: facely. That Shakespear, howe something about the design and construction of Sepanh courts there can be little doubt. Playing a match one day be remarks to his opponent—

"The reof of this court is too high."
(Love's Labour Last ii 1)

and again, speaking of a friend who had just built one with our expert advice, he says—

"He hath a court he little cares for."

(Combeline i 7).

Sometimes (for he was only human) Shakespeare appears to have lost his temper when playing, for we find him exclaiming angelly—

"That's a feed fault" (Henry V. in 2), but after a hard won match he shows his real love of the gas by saying in a sort of contanyWith regard to Pives there is distinct evidence (always of urse cusmingly concealed in the text) that Shakespeare had marked perference for the Rugby game, for when asked to ske up a four he says with community.

"Rughy! Come to the Court!" (Merry Witer t 4):

suttering as he goes in evident disparagement of the Estate

"No mate-butters!" (Macheth 1 0)

"No naity—butters!" (Macrem 1 0)

I am sorry to say that in the matter of Pives gloves Shakepeare shows himself a bit of a mob for he refers (quite unscommitted to—

Those gloves the Court gave me," (Much Ado About Nothing iii 4).

I am still somer to have to record that the Bard was addictor to the practice (referred to in a recent issue of this paper) of inserting pieces of metal in his gloves for apparently just belon a match he says in a spirit of pure swank—

"Fill this glose with crowss." (Henry V. to 8), then turning to his opponent adds in a confident and offensive

"I dare you to this match." (Cymbeline i 3).

I could give any number of further references to prove that
the question in the title of this article must be answered in the

[So do I. Definitely.—En.]



As the Australian Open tennis moves into its second week current stars Federer has been a squashie and Djokovic pictured on a court, are both in the mix. Looking back, Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg enjoys his squash, and Bjorn Borg used to play squash at the Monte Carlo Country Club in Monaco where the Swede was based. Here he is in 1978 with rackets and girlfriend Mariana Simionescu. #borgsquash







On 12 January 1977 the British Post Office issued what is thought to be the first postage stamp featuring squash. It was part of a series of four racket sports of different value, the others depicting badminton, lawn tennis and table tennis. Since then there have been others, for example a Pakistan one of Jahangir Khan and an Australian one using illustrations (one player looking suspiciously like a 'reversed' Kiwi Ross Norman!). Other examples?









Back in the time of cassettes, a squash coaching tape was produced. Using the catchy title 'Litesome teaches you to play squash with Jonah Barrington' the 40 minute tape of Barrington teaching was

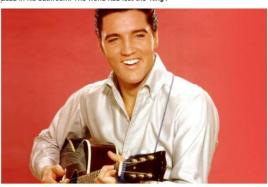




World Squash Library @SquashLibrary · Jan 1, 2020

The sadly early death of Elvis Presley aged 42 on 16 August 1977 followed a game of Racquetball (not racketball, now called Squash57). He liked Racquetball so much he had his own court built at his Graceland mansion.

Elvis was overweight, on a cocktail of drugs and apparently had a diseased enlarged heart, leading to a heart attack verdict. On the day of his death he gave up mid-game saying 'I can't go on' and left the court. An hour later he was found dead in his bathroom. The world had lost the 'King'.





Squash Library

27 December 2019 - 3

World Squash Library is featured by Squash Player Magazine in their latest edition. Thanks, SPM. Squash Player Magazine

FEATURE

Mike Dale finds out about the World Squash Library, Andrew Shelley's new labour of love following his departure from the World Squash Federation

In a small room recently vacated by an osteopath at Southgate Squash Club in North London lies a treasure trove of 4,000 items revealing every significant event in the world of squash dating back to 1890.

The room - packed full of books, magazines, pho

Called the Ward's Squash Library, it is undoubtedly the most comprehensive collection of squash information on the planet is includes alrowed every book ever written about the garven final 200 in stratil, as well as every single issue of Squash Player magazine since if that his nevertation is 1971 list own than but the same planet in the control of the same single issue of Squash Player magazine since if that his nevertation is 1971 list own that he because of many 'rival' magazines, which are, also, now extinct!

Tve started this library to ensure we preserve the history of squash for future generations, as well as helping the current generation – media, fam, players, national federations, students – who need information now, "Shelly told Squash Player. "This is a collection which is ever-growing and will!

— y expost to a small number of people. I'm only one pair of snds, but I'll be doing this until I drop, so hopefully I'll have early of time to make it pretty special.

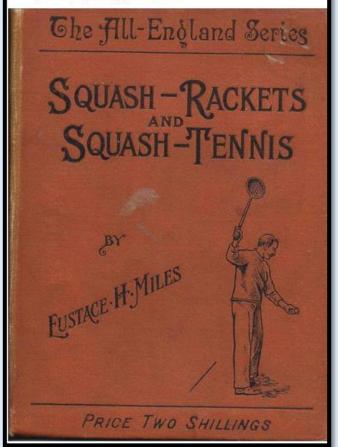
After the SRA, he spent 15 years at WISPA (latterly the WSA, before it joined forces with the PSAI and is credited with grow the women's professional four by 300 per cent. He joined the Mariel Squash Federation in 2010 and spent nine years as its 3rief erecutive.

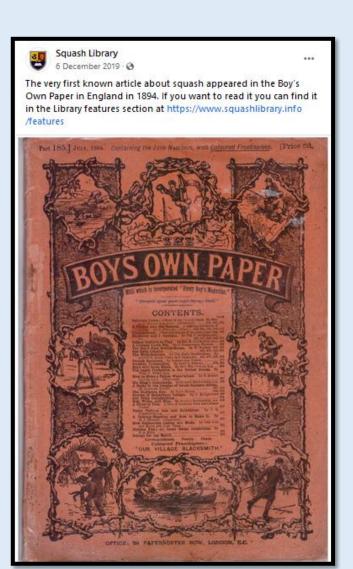
He reflected: "Having seen out the last Diampic bid -tog with the PSA, we mounted a terrific bid - it was clear we miles away from the current intentions of the IOC [latern Olympic Committee], so I thought it was time for semebo fresh to come in.

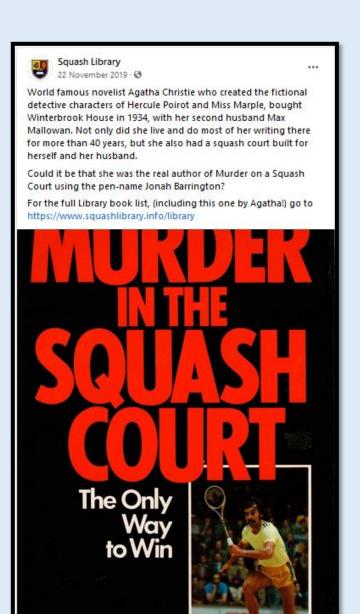
SQUASHPLAYER.CO.UP



Eustace Miles, the Amateur Champion of America of Rackets and also Squash-Tennis (as he called it), and Amateur Champion of the World of the time, wrote The Game of Squash, first published in 1900. He said 'Squash has no literature of its own: I believe that this is the first book on the game. In fact, till 1899 I had never seen an article on squash, or even a report of a match'. (Miles clearly had not seen the magazine article on squash in Boy's Own Paper of 1894 – see yesterday's posting!). US SQUASH







JONAH BARRINGTO