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Source: Independent testing against leading brands by Quintic Consultancy Ltd.

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PSA

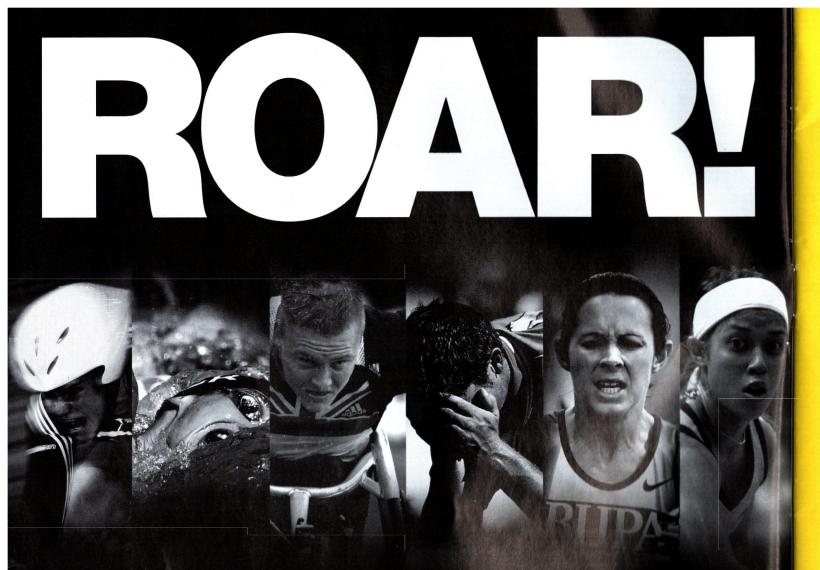


WISPA.

11th - 19th October 2008, National Squash Centre Sportcity, Manchester. www.worldsquash2008.com



MANCHESTER



2008 has seen the biggest year of global sport in Manchester since the XVII Commonwealth Games in 2002. Manchester has played host to six world class events this year, the UCI Track Cycling World Championships, 9th FINA World Swimming Championships 2008 (25m), UEFA Cup Final 2008, Paralympic World Cup, BUPA Great Manchester Run, and of course the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships Manchester 2008.

The action continues...

Inaugural British Open International Taekwondo Championships 1-2 November, Sportcity

Manchester will host Britain's first ever taekwondo Open, a major new tournament. All of the 16 British elite team members and the entire British Junior squad will pit their skills against the best in the world including Olympic, World and European Champions.

UCI Track Cycling World Cup Classic 2008 31 October — 2 November National Cycling Centre, Sportcity

Get set to share the passion and experience the power of track cycling as Manchester hosts the first major international track cycling event following the Beijing Olympic Games. This is your chance to get up close to the world's best riders in splitsecond racing at one of the world's best venues.

Welcome

Welcome from Manchester

On behalf of Manchester it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships, here at the National Squash Centre at the heart of Sportcity.

Manchester is delighted to be hosting what is the most prestigious event in the world squash calendar and also forms the final part of the World Sport 08 series that included world championships in Cycling and Swimming, the Paralympic World Cup, Great Manchester Run and the UEFA Cup Final. Manchester recognises the profile and economic benefits the hosting of major sports events can bring to the City, but will also strive to ensure that residents see real legacy benefits.

Manchester's Sports Development team is continuing to deliver a city-wide squash programme that includes school coaching, holiday programmes, coach education and competitions across the city's squash venues. Working in partnership with England Squash, the development programme has gained worldwide recognition for its innovative and wide-ranging initiatives.

We will undoubtedly see some top class performances over the week and Manchester City Council is proud to be working with the partners that I'm sure will make the event a great success.

Finally, may I wish the best of luck to all competitors and hope that they and all spectators enjoy their visit to our sporting City



WISPA

Welcome from England Squash

On behalf of England Squash, welcome to the National Squash Centre for the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships -Manchester 2008.

The Hi-Tec World Squash Championships Manchester 2008 herald a significant landmark in the history of the event, being the first time that the Men's and Women's World Open Championships have been run together in England, and it is our great honour to host the event alongside Manchester City Council.

Squash & Racketball are among the most popular sports in England, with more than half a million adults and thousands of children taking part in squash on a regular basis, while England are Men's and Women's World Team Champions. England's World Champions will be playing this week and I am sure you will want to show your appreciation of their achievements.

The Hi-Tec World Squash Championships -Manchester 2008 promise to be one of the most exciting and competitive events in the sport's history, so sit back, relax, and enjoy!



Nick Rider Chief Executive, England Squash

Find out more at www.manchesterworldsport08.com

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Manchester World Sport 08 partners











G HI-TEC

PSA



Welcome from Hi-Tec Sports

Hi-Tec Sports was founded in the UK in 1974 and has since become a global brand with a presence in over 90 countries worldwide. Cementing the importance of the sport of Squash to the brand, the original success of the company can be attributed to Hi-Tec's (and the sport's) first ever shoe, The Hi-Tec Squash, Specifically designed for the game of squash it was an industry benchmark then and is now; in fact few shoes in athletic foot-wear history have recorded unit sales of over 18 million pairs worldwide to date. The Hi-Tec Squash remains Britain's all-time bestselling sports shoe model to this day.

Hi-Tec is extremely proud to sponsor possibly the most exciting event in the history of Squash in which for the first time ever, in a UK city, the World's top 64 men and leading 32 women will compete for the title of World Champion at the same tournament.

We would like to send our sincere thanks and best wishes to everyone involved in the event, including competitors, supporters and organisers, for their continued commitment and unrivalled passion towards such a fantastic sport!

Frank van Wezel, Founder & Chairman of Hi-Tec Sports and Life Vice President of England Squash: "In 1974 Hi-Tec produced the world's first ever sports shoe designed specifically for the game of squash. In the 34 years since the Hi-Tec Squash was born. Hi-Tec has been at the forefront of the game both in terms of product innovation and sponsorship of the game from the grass roots through to the professional game. I am extremely proud that Hi-Tec is the title sponsor of the 2008 World Championships and I believe that Manchester will provide a tournament which will make the world of squash proud."



Frank van Wezel Chairman, Hi-Tec Sports

DUNLOP





S HI-TEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008

2007 Men's World Open

by Howard Harding World Squash Media Director

The 2007 Endurance World Open last November saw the world's top players gather on the sun-kissed Caribbean island of Bermuda where Egyptian Amr Shabana etched his name in squash's history books by becoming only the fourth man after Geoff Hunter, Jansher Khan and Jahangir Khan to win three World Open titles.

As temperatures soared in the popular holiday destination the action on the court was red-hot right from the start with a series of upsets and stunning comebacks entertaining the packed crowds.

The opening round marked a historic occasion for the championships as 23year-old Yale graduate Julian Illingworth became the first US player to take part in a World Open, putting up a brave battle against former World No.1 Thierry Lincou. before succumbing 3-1.

England's fourth seed James Willstrop looked dead and buried in his opening round and was stretched to the limit by unseeded Dutchman Laurens Jan Anjema before eventually prevailing in a 93-minute five game marathon.

The second round saw Alex Gough, who had produced a shock in the opening stages by beating England's former World No.1 Lee Beachill, continuing his giant-killing antics just a fortnight before his thirty-seventh birthday by downing the number nine seed Wael El Hindi and reaching the quarter-finals for the first time since 1998.

England's Willstrop had the crowd's hearts in their mouths again in the second round as he once again went 2-0 down, this time to Egypt's Mohammed Abbas, but once again battled back to win in five games.

Double World Champion Amr Shabana also suffered his own scare when Australian Stewart Boswell took him to five games in his second round match, but the Giza-based player was back in top gear for his guarterfinal, needing just four games to dispatch France's fifth seed Thierry Lincou.

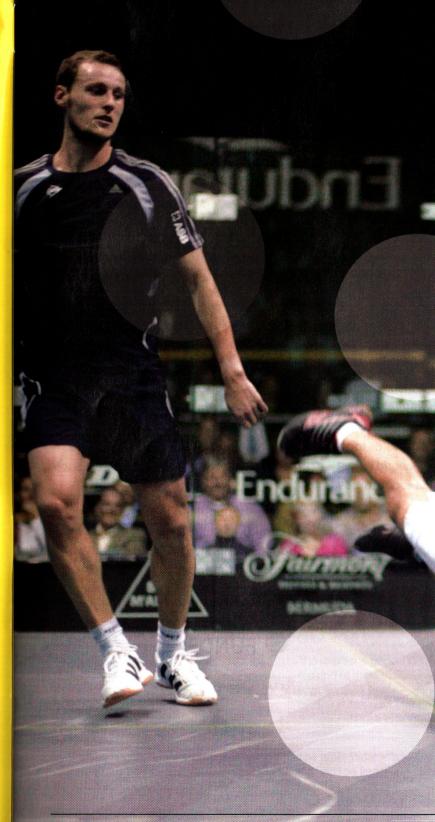
But it was another Frenchman, Gregory Gaultier, who was catching the eye, cruising through his first three rounds in imperious style to set up a semi-final clash with England's Nick Matthew, who had earlier beaten compatriot James Willstrop.

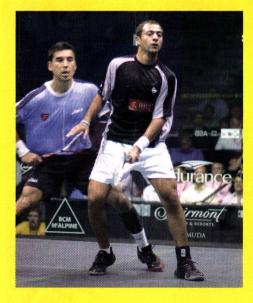
Gaultier continued his breathtaking form in the semi-finals to end Matthew's run by winning in straight games. The other semi-final saw a mouthwatering clash between Shabana and defending champion David Palmer of Australia. Despite a characteristically gutsy performance from Palmer, Shabana proved too strong running out an 11-6 3-11 11-5 11-5 winner.

With the final being played out in front of a capacity 1,400 crowd, Shabana saved the best for last, putting in an impeccable display of near faultless squash to beat the World No.3 in straight games and ensure his place in the record books.

A delighted Shabana believed the performance to be one of his best, saving, "Greg is a true champion. But I was able to stop him today. In the second game, I played like a dream. You can only play like this once in your life. I don't think I have ever played as well as today. To beat Greg after the way he has been playing this week he beat everybody 3-0 - I had to play the best squash of my life."

"I don't think I have ever played as well as today. To beat Greg after the way he has been playing this week - he beat everybody 3-0 - I had to play the best squash of my life" Amr Shabana - 2007 Men's World Open Champion











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The World Championship is the biggest event in world squash, the competition everyone wants to win. What lies ahead are nine days of top sporting action where the world's best squash players will battle it out to be crowned champion.

The World Squash Championship here in Manchester is being supported by **UK Sport's World Class Events** Programme, which delivers world class competition to the UK.

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True Champions Amr Shabana & Rachael Grinham

by Howard Harding World Squash Media Director



The 2007 Men's and Women's World Opens marked key milestones in the careers of Amr Shabana and Rachael Grinham: the Egyptian Men's World No.1 secured his place among the sport's greats by winning his third World Open while Grinham took her first World Open crown after nearly a decade at the top of the sport.

It was in 2003 that Shabana made his major career breakthrough, choosing the biggest stage of them all to do it on, the World Open in Pakistan. Seeded nine, he despatched title holder David Palmer, the third seed, in the third round before going on to win his first World Open title and become the first Egyptian World Champion.

However it was not until 2005 that Shabana admitted that his life had come together. Over a short period, he acquired a new coach. Ahmed Tahir: a new manager. the former Egyptian international Omar Elborolossy; and married Nadila. "All I have to worry about now is plaving my matches everything else is looked after for me now," said the relaxed Shabana.

With this stable base behind him Shabana rounded off the year in tremendous style by winning his second World Open title, dropping only one game all tournament. He defeated England's Lee Beachill and

former World Champion Peter Nicol in the quarter and semi-finals respectively, before despatching David Palmer in the final in straight games.

Shabana continued this form into 2006, winning the Canadian Classic, Tournament of Champions, PSA Masters, Hong Kong Open and the Saudi International. In December, he was honoured as PSA Player of the Year, which he also won the following year.

2007 saw Shabana continue his dominance of the sport, including a remarkable winning sequence of four successive PSA Super Series titles during an action-packed end to the year, including his historic third World Open title in Bermuda. Shabana saw off old rival David Palmer in the semi-finals before producing one of the best performances of his career to beat Frenchman Gregory Gaultier 3-0.

The exertions began to take their toll and by the end of the year Shabana was suffering from acute tendonitis in the wrist. But as the true champion that he is, the Egyptian has fought back in 2008 and captured the Kuwait Open title earlier this year.

The 2007 Women's World Open not only marked the first victory for Rachael Grinham but it was also the first time that two sisters



had contested a World Open final. Grinham first marked her arrival on the squash scene when winning the World Junior Title at the age of just sixteen in 1993.

At the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, Grinham's partnership with Robyn Cooper brought the pair a silver medal in the Women's Doubles. But it was arguably the 2003 British Open that marked the arrival of the talented Australian – who pulled off a stunning semi-final upset over the top seed Carol Owens - then the World No.1 - before beating Cassie Jackman in the final to claim the title for the first time, which she then went on to retain in 2004.

Grinham became the World No.1 in August 2004, a position she held until November 2005, and the following month saw her reach her first World Open final in Hong Kong, only to be beaten by Malaysia's fast-rising star. Nicol David.

In 2006 Grinham claimed Commonwealth Games gold in Melbourne after teaming up with sibling Natalie to win the Women's Doubles title and the following year saw Rachael seize a third British Open before going on to win the biggest title of her career and establish herself as the reigning World Champion.

SHITEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008

2007 Women's World Open

/ Howard Harding /orld Squash Media Director

he 2007 Women's World Open was one f the most eventful and memorable hampionships in the event's illustrious venty-eight year history, culminating in the rst ever all-sister final which saw older bling Rachael Grinham capture her first /orld title at the age of thirty.

he opening round was dominated by nglish players with all five – Tania Bailey, icky Botwright, Alison Waters, Jenny uncalf and Laura Lengthorn-Massaro – naking it through to the second round, otwright and Duncalf setting up an II-England second round clash.

atalie Grainger suffered a scare off the burt when her bag was lost on the flight ver from Luton. Having only been reunited ith her kit less than an hour before she book to the court against Samantha Teran, rainger was forced to warm up with a borrowed racket. However Grainger showed er experience and put the distraction ehind her to claim a straight games victory.

/orld No.1 Nicol David was bidding for a storic third successive World Open title nd opened her campaign with a dominant /0 win over Isabelle Stoehr of France. But disaster struck in the second round for the Malaysian as she crashed out to New Zealand's Shelley Kitchen in one of the biggest shocks in the tournament's history.

Kitchen romped to a two game lead after just twenty-four minutes, battering the double World Champion, who only managed to pick up a single point during that period. But the redoubtable David forced her way back into the match to draw level. Order looked as if it was about to be restored when the 24-year-old Malaysian superstar took a 5-0 lead in the decider. However, Kitchen, the 27-year-old from Auckland who had beaten David to the bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games the year before, regained the upper hand and after drawing level to six-all went on to earn a sensational 9-0 9-1 2-9 3-9 9-6 victory in sixty-nine minutes.

Sensing an unanticipated opportunity, following David's shock defeat, Jenny Duncalf and Tania Bailey secured their places in the quarter-finals, while Natalie and Rachael Grinham also progressed with victories over England's Waters and Hong Kong's Rebecca Chiu respectively. Kitchen was unable to reproduce her heroics and fell in the quarter-finals to Natalie Grainger, who booked a semi-final against Rachael Grinham. Tania Bailey came through a tough match against former World Champion Vanessa Atkinson, eventually winning in four games to secure a semi-final berth against Natalie Grinham.

With the chance of the first all-sister final a real possibility, Rachael overcame a nervous first game against Grainger to fight back and win 5-9 9-6 9-6 9-3 while Natalie enjoyed an easier match, dispatching Tania Bailey 9-2 9-5 9-7.

The final was played out on an open-air court in the stunning Jardines del Caba Nova alongside Madrid's historic Royal Palace and saw Rachael, the older of the two sisters by fourteen months, impose her superiority to win her first ever World Open title 9-4 10-8 9-2.

A delighted Rachael said, "It's been an awesome couple of months - I've been World No.1 and now I'm World Champion. I was having a bit of a spiral downwards and over the summer put in a lot more training - and things started to go well."







"It's been an awesome couple of months - I've been World No.1 and now I'm World Champion."

1):

Rachael Grinham - 2007 Women's World Open Champion



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- Introduce children to squash in a sustained way
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- · Promote squash to become one of the best known sports in the country
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2008 Men's World Open Preview



With Amr Shabana having won a historic third World Open title in Bermuda last year and recently extended his stay at the top of the PSA World Rankings to thirty-one months, it appears on the face of it that the number one seed is a strong favourite to capture a fourth men's title at the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships - Manchester 2008.

However sport is rarely as simple as that and closer inspection of the draw throws up some interesting questions. With only one major tour victory since Bermuda last year will Shabana be able to rediscover his winning ways in Manchester? Will France's No.2 seed Gregory Gaultier be able to go one better than his successive final appearances? Will Britain be able to boast a winner for the first time since Peter Nicol raised the trophy in 1999? And will Australia's David Palmer be able to capture a third World Open title?

Since Shabana's victory last November he has struggled to hit the heights in 2008, having narrowly lost to fellow countryman Ramy Ashour in successive tournaments earlier in the year. However, Egypt's greatest ever player bounced back to gain some revenge in April when beating Ashour in the Kuwait Open, but that failed to be the springboard for further success and the Giza-based player was knocked out of

the British Open in May by David Palmer en route to his fourth title.

The 29 year-old was then beaten in the semi-finals of the Petrosport Open the following month by another countryman, Wael El Hindi, who he is seeded to meet in the third round, and with Ramy Ashour seeded to meet Shabana in the semi-finals the three time World Open Champion is going to have to be at his very best to win the sport's greatest prize again this year.

France's Gregory Gaultier has been the bridesmaid for the past two years and like Shabana has struggled to find his best form in 2008, having only made one final at the beginning of the year when he lost to England's James Willstrop, who he is seeded to meet in the semi-finals in Manchester.

With twelve British players in the draw the crowds will have plenty of home-grown players to support. James Willstrop, the number three seed, leads the charge and

has been in the best form of his life over the past twelve months having reached eight PSA World Tour finals.

British number two and the eighth seed Nick Matthew recently bounced back from shoulder surgery to win the Dutch Open in his comeback tournament and will also be a strong contender for the sport's Blue Riband event.

At 32 years of age, Australia's number five seed and former two-time champion David Palmer is as competitive as ever having won two titles this year, including the prestigious British Open, and will be a huge threat to add a third World Open crown to his collection.

With the men's World Tour showing huge strength in depth and no fewer than sixty-four players from nineteen different countries and five continents entering the tournament, The Hi-Tec Squash Championships - Manchester 2008 promises to be one of the most keenly contested in the history of the sport.

HITEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008

Men's Player Profiles

y Howard Harding



Amr Shabana Eavpt

| Country: Born: Birthplace: Residence: Marital status: | Egypt 20 July 197 Cairo Giza Married | 79 | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| Highest World Ranking: 1 (April 2006) | | | | |
| PSA Tour Titles PSA Tour Final | | 21 31 | | |
| After completing year at the top of in April this year, confirmed his sta longest-standing all-time. | f the world r Amr Shaba atus as the f | anking ina fifth- | | |
| The achievemen | t is the lates | st mile | | |

mpressive career which features wenty-one PSA World Tour titles om thirty-one final appearances, ncluding twelve Super Series crowns and World Open trophies in 2003. 005 and 2007

But it was in 2007 that the Egyptian's dominance shone through - with early successes in Chicago and New York followed by an incredible succession of Super Series title riumphs, in the Saudi International Qatar Classic, Hong Kong Open and World Open in Bermuda - where he ecame only the fourth player in history to lift the title for a third time.

Despite suffering with acute tendonitis in his wrist in December, Amr bounced back in 2008 to reach five further major finals celebrating his first title of the year at the Kuwait Open.



2 Gregory Gaultier France

France Country: Born: 23 Dec 1982 **Birthplace:** Epinal Aix-en-Provence **Residence:** Marital status: Single **Highest World Ranking:** 2 (March 2007) **PSA Tour Titles:** PSA Tour Finals Played: 27

One of the fastest-rising new talents on the international circuit. Gregory Gaultier has been in the shadows of his illustrious compatriot Thierry Lincou since emerging from the iunior ranks

But, in January 2007 - just a week after his 24th birthday - he leapt to three in the world rankings, overtaking Lincou to become the highest-ranked Frenchman for the first time. A month later, the Aix-en-Provence star celebrated a career-high World No.2 ranking! His crowning glory, however, came in September when he joined Thierry in the first all-French British Open final - going on to beat his compatriot to become the first French winner of the title in the event's 77-year history.

In the 2006 World Open, staged by the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt Gaultier disappointed the local crowd by upsetting favourite Amr Shabana to reach his first PSA Super Series event final. A year later in Bermuda, he was back in the World Open final - where Shabana gained revenge to consign the Frenchman to a runner-up finish for the second year in a row.



3 James Willstrop England England Country:

Born: 15 Aug 1983 **Birthplace:** North Walsham **Residence:** Leeds Marital status: Single **Highest World Ranking:** 2 (Dec 2005) **PSA Tour Titles:** PSA Tour Finals Played: 17

England's most successful junior ever, James became the world's top-ranked Englishman within two years of becoming a 'senior'.

Just two weeks after reaching a career-high World No.2 in December 2005, he led England to victory for the first time in eight years - in the World Team Championships in Pakistan

After a disappointing 2006, the 25-year-old Englishman struck back in 2007, first winning the British National title for the first time, then claiming his first PSA World Tour title for more than sixteen months at the Canary Wharf Classic in London, where he finally ended a career-long tally of twelve defeats by his friend and England teammate Lee Beachill.

This kick-started the best run of his career, including the title in the English Grand Prix and a sequence of triumphs in successive World Tour events - the English Open, Swedish Open, Davenport Virginia. Pro and, for the second time, the Canary Wharf Classic. In May, in his second British Open final in four years, he cruelly lost out to David Palmer in a 111-minute marathon.



4 Ramy Ashour Egypt

Country Egypt 30 Sept 1987 Born: **Birthplace: Residence:** Cairo Marital status: Single **Highest World Ranking:** 2 (June 2007) **PSA Tour Titles:** PSA Tour Finals Played: 15

Ramy Ashour stunned the squash world in August 2004 when he became the youngest ever World Junior Champion - at the age of 16.

Three months later, in his maiden PSA World Tour appearance in Greece, he won the Athens Open becoming one of only a handful of players who have claimed PSA titles on their Tour debuts.

In 2006, he successfully defended his world junior crown, becoming the first man in history to achieve the double. But his rise up the PSA rankings was truly meteoric - five World Tour title wins in 2007, four of which were Super Series, propelled him to a career-high World No.2 while still a teenager

His first victory over top-ranked compatriot Amr Shabana in the final of the Kuwait Open in April marked the youngster as a threat to everyone. After being forced to miss last year's World Open with a foot injury, Ramy's progress continued apace this year, with wins in the Tournament of Champions, Canadian Classic and Hurghada International, before further injury woes halted his progress in the British Open and Petrosport International in Cairo.

"I tried hard and didn't want to give up. But it just wasn't my day. I will just have to refocus. But I will get this trophy soon, that's for sure"

Gregory Gaultier, after defeat in the 2007 Men's World Open



beating Gregory Gaultier in the final

in Cairo.

SHITEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008



Karim Darwish Egypt

| Egypt 29 Aug 1981 |
|----------------------|
| Cairo |
| Cairo |
| Married |
| |

Highest World Ranking: 5 (March 2004) PSA Tour Titles:

PSA Tour Finals Played: 20

Karim Darwish, who led Egypt to the final of the World Team Championships in 2001 - and has participated in three further campaigns since then - is one of the country's leading players.

The 27-year-old from Cairo enjoyed a distinguished junior career, winning both the British Junior U19 Open and World Junior Open trophies before claiming the World University Championship title in August 2002.

Three PSA World Tour titles early in 2004 took Karim to a World ranking high of No.5 in March that year. Marriage to fellow Egyptian international Engy Kheirallah late last year kick-started a fine run in 2008, beginning with title success in the Oregon Open in the USA in February - when he upset favourite Thierry Lincou in the final to clinch the thirteenth and biggest World Tour title of his career.

However, it was his run in the British Open later that gave him the most satisfaction when he dispatched defending champion Gregory Gaultier in straight games in the quarter-finals - later describing it as "the finest match I've played



8 Nick Matthew England

Country Born: **Birthplace: Residence:** Marital status: Single

England Sheffield Sheffield

25 July 1980

Highest World Ranking: 5 (Oct 2004)

PSA Tour Titles: PSA Tour Finals Played:

After spending most of this year recovering from shoulder surgery in January, Nick will be hoping that he will be able to emulate his stunning semi-final finish in last year's championship in Bermuda, where he upset compatriot James Willstrop to make the event's last four for the first time.

A notable highlight of his career was in February 2006 when he became British National Champion for the first time - but his World Tour breakthrough came later in the year when he upset Thierry Lincou in the British Open final in Nottingham to become the first home-grown Englishman to win the prestigious title for 67 years!

Nick celebrated his sixth World Tour title triumph at the US Open last year and, after leading England to success in the World Team Championships in December, he made it to the climax of the English Open in his home town of Sheffield to notch up his twenty-second major final appearance.



HALLENGE CONVENIENT RESPEC SIVENESS ENDURANCE ATHLET HONESTY FAIR PLAY EFFICI **ALLENGE COMPETITIVE** FRIEND CIAL EXHILARATING ENDURAN FFICIENT CONVENIENT RESPEC JSIVENESS ATHLETICISM Y FAIR PLAY COMPE RIENDLY SOCIAL EXHILARA

Welcome

Welcome from the World **Squash Federation**

The World Squash Federation is delighted that our two premier events in the world of squash are being staged together for the first time in the UK. All the very best players will be competing in Manchester, and we are very grateful to hosts England Squash and Manchester City Council, along with title sponsors Hi-Tec Sports and all the other supporting organisations, for making this event possible.

I have no doubt whatsoever that Manchester will provide a great showcase for our sport something that is especially important this year as we move towards our next chance to persuade the Olympic movement that we deserve a place at the Olympic Games. We have made clear to the IOC that not only is ours a truly international sport, but our players compete professionally in every sense of the word. In Manchester they will see this for themselves.

Thank you again to all the hosts, and best wishes for a successful and enjoyable championship to all the participating players.



Jahangir Khan President, World Squash Federation



worldsquash.org



Welcome from the PSA

It is a great honour to welcome you to the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships -Manchester 2008, the thirty-first edition of the top men's individual event that is sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association (PSA).

The roster of past winners contains all the great players of the modern era and cements the World Open as the tournament that every player on the PSA Tour aspires to win during his career.

It promises to be one of the most evenly contested of all time, with a large number of players capable of winning the trophy.

World No.1 Amr Shabana will be aiming to win his fourth World Open and leads a large contingent of players from Egypt, the strongest squash playing nation in the world at present.

Europe could produce its first champion since Thierry Lincou in 2004, with a strong group of players appearing throughout the draw

Australia, Pakistan, Malaysia and New Zealand make up the challenge from Asia Oceania.

Whoever is crowned Men's World Open Champion on October 19th will have done so after a gruelling set of tough matches against durable and talented opponents in the largest field for any squash tournament this year

Let the battle commence.



Richard Graham Chief Executive Professional Squash Association (PSA)

Welcome from WIPSA

The dream for all us players is to win the World Open. Only a very few do, but we al spend the year looking forward to competing in this pinnacle event.

And this year it will be the unique experienc of playing alongside the top men players a they try to win their title.

To stage a championship such as this take great commitment and we are greatly indebt to our hosts Manchester City Council and England Squash. We have been to England National Centre for the British Open and know what a great job everybody there do in running a major squash championship. Great staff, a wonderful band of volunteers superb match officials and an excellent grou of sponsors and supporters. And here a special thanks to Hi-Tec Sports who have taken on title sponsorship of the World Ope

Thank you to you all from WISPA. We look forward to a great ten days in Manchester.





Natalie Grainger WISPA President

HI-TEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008

Women's World Open 2008

NICOL DAVID (MAS) SHARON WEE (MAS)

REBECCA CHIU (HKG) LAUREN BRIGGS (ENG)

LAURA LENGTHORN-MASSARO (ENG) ANNELIZE NAUDE (NED)

OMNEYA ABDEL KAWY (EGY) QUALIFIER

NATALIE GRAINGER (USA) QUALIFIER

VANESSA ATKINSON (NED) JACLYN HAWKES (NZL)

SHELLEY KITCHEN (NZL) QUALIFIER

MADELINE PERRY (IRL) ENGY KHEIRALLAH (EGY)

QUALIFIER

KASEY BROWN (AUS)

RANEEM EL WELEILY (EGY) JENNY DUNCALF (ENG)

QUALIFIER SAMANTHA TERAN (MEX)

DOMINIQUE LLOYD-WALTER (ENG)

NATALIE GRINHAM (NED)

ISABELLE STOEHR (FRA)

ALISON WATERS (ENG)

VICKY BOTWRIGHT (ENG)

RACHAEL GRINHAM (AUS)

SHITEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008

LOUISE CROME (NZL)

QUALIFIER

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15t Round Ct and Round

1 AMR SHABANA (EGY)

BORJA GOLAN (ESP) Shawn Delierre (Can) 9 WAEL EL HINDI (EGY)

OMAR MOSAAD (EGY) Qualifier 3

6 THIERRY LINCOU (FRA) AMR SWELIM (EGY)

RENAN LAVIGNE (FRA)

HISHAM MOHD ASHOUR (EGY)

10 ONG BENG HEE (MAS) TOM RICHARDS (ENG

CHRIS RYDER (ENG)

4 RAMY ASHOUR (EGY)

12 PETER BARKER (ENG) ERIC GALVEZ (MEX)

8 NICK MATTHEW (ENG) **Qualifier 7**

CAMERON PILLEY (AUS)

JOEY BARRINGTON (ENG) AARON FRANKCOMB (AUS)

STEWART BOSWELL (AUS) TAREK MOMEN (EGY)

15 LAURENS JAN ANJEMA (NED) RAFAEL F. ALARCON (BRA) FARHAN MEHBOOB (PAK) JULIEN BALBO (FRA)

MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ (COL)

Qualifier 1

Qualifier 2

Qualifier 4

Qualifier 5

Qualifier 6

Qualifier 8

DARYL SELBY (ENG) 16 OLLI TUOMINEN (FIN)

Qualifier 9 5 DAVID PALMER (AUS)

Qualifier 11 13 LEE BEACHILL (ENG)

JOHN WHITE (SCO)

JAN KOUKAL (CZE) JONATHAN KEMP (ENG)

Qualifier 10 DAVIDE BIANCHETTI (ITA)

MANSOOR ZAMAN (PAK)

Qualifier 12 JAMES WILLSTROP (ENG) JULIAN ILLINGWORTH (USA) ALISTER WALKER (ENG)

KASHIF SHUJA (NZL) 11 MOHD AZLAN ISKANDAR (MAS)

Qualifier 13 AAMIR ATLAS KHAN (PAK)

Qualifier 15 MOHAMMED ABBAS (EGY)

Qualifier 16 GREGORY GAULTIER (FRA)

Qualifier 14 KARIM DARWISH (EGY)

OMAR ABDEL AZIZ (EGY) 14 ADRIAN GRANT (ENG) SAURAV GHOSAL (IND) SHAHIER RAZIK (CAN)



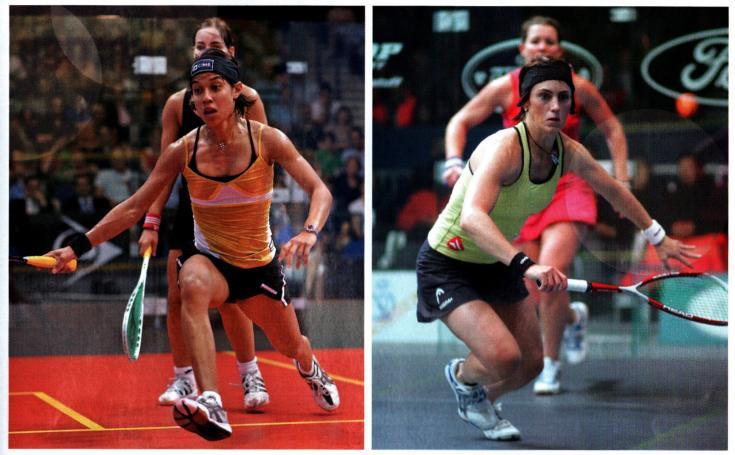
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2008 Women's World Open Preview

Malaysia's Nicol David has dominated women's squash since winning the first of her successive World Opens in Hong Kong in 2005, and despite her shock defeat to New Zealand's Shelley Kitchen last year, the 25 year-old is the red-hot favourite to recapture her World Open crown.



David has proved what a champion she is by quickly putting last year's defeat behind her to win all nine tournaments she has played in since, and extending her stay at the top of the world rankings to an incredible twenty-seven months.

The Penang-based star will play fellow Malaysian Sharon Wee in the opening round and is seeded to meet England's Laura Lengthorn-Massaro (seeded eight) in the quarter-finals before a potential clash with America's number four seed, Natalie Grainger, in the semi-finals.

Australia's Rachael Grinham made history last year when winning the first all-sister World Open final, defeating Natalie 3-0 in Madrid. The 31-year-old, who lives in Egypt, has enjoyed a mixed year, winning one of the three finals she has reached on the main WISPA World Tour, and will potentially have to overcome Natalie in the semi-finals if she is to retain her title.

Natalie Grinham, who has had to settle for

the runner-up spot for the past two years, started the year off in fine style, reaching three finals in her first four tournaments, before eventually falling short against the relentless Nicol David each time.

The 30-year-old, who now plays for The Netherlands, potentially faces England's British Open finalist and number five seed Jenny Duncalf in the guarter-finals before the fascinating prospect of a potential rematch against her sister in the semis.

Natalie Grainger is the only US seed in the main draw and will be hoping to improve upon her four previous semi-final appearances. The 31-year-old, who was born in Manchester, has continued to show herself to be one of the star players on the women's Tour this year, winning the Burning River Classic before beating England's Laura Lengthorn-Massaro in the final of the Texas Open.

Harrogate's Jenny Duncalf, who beat Rachael Grinham on her way to the finals of the prestigious British Open earlier this year, heads the four English players who have been seeded for the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships - Manchester 2008. However, Lincolnshire's Tania Bailey, the World No.7, is a noticeable absentee from this year's championships, having been forced to miss out due to a persistent knee injury.

Making up the rest of the English seeds will be National Champion Alison Waters (seeded seven), Laura Lengthorn-Massaro and Vicky Botwright (seeded eleven), who will be making her last World Open appearance.

The increasing popularity of squash around the globe is once again emphasised through the huge diversity of nationalities of this year's seeds with no fewer than eleven countries being represented among the top sixteen players - Malaysia, Hong Kong, England, Egypt, USA, Netherlands, New Zealand, Ireland, Australia, Mexico and France.

SHITEC WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS MANCHESTER 2008

Women's Player Profiles

y Howard Harding



Nicol David Malaysia

| Born: Birthplace: Residence: Marital status: | 26 August 19 Penang, Mala Penang/ Amsterdam Single | | | |
|---|--|----------|--|--|
| Highest World Ranking: 1 January 2006) | | | | |
| WISPA Tour Tit WISPA Tour Fir | | 30 44 | | |
| | | | | |

The most successful Malavsian squash player of all-time, Nicol David is rapidly establishing herself as her country's most successful sportswoman ever

After becoming the first player in history to win the biennial World Junior Open twice, Nicol soon made her mark on the WISPA World Tour and at the Singapore Masters in August, notched up thirtieth Tour title in just eight years.

Nicol's senior breakthrough came after she moved to Amsterdam in 2003 to work with respected coach Liz Irving. It was in 2005 that she began her remarkable run - winning her first British Open crown in September and her maiden World Open title in Hong Kong in December. Further World Open success came in Belfast in 2006 and two more British Open titles n 2006 and 2008

This year's Singapore Masters victory marked her twenty-seventh World Tour final appearance in twenty-nine events since the British Open in 2005. But, off court, accolades kept coming Nicol's way: the 25-year-old received Malaysia's highest honour, the 'Order of Merit', in June, then the following month was conferred a 'Datukship', becoming Penang's oungest ever Datuk



2 Rachael Grinham Australia

22 January 1977 Born: Birthplace: Toowoomba. Australia Cairo, Egypt **Residence:** Marital status: Single **Highest World Ranking:** 1 (August 2004) WISPA Tour Titles: WISPA Tour Finals Played: 47

Winner of the World Junior title in 1993, aged sixteen, Rachael has gone on to achieve notable success on the WISPA World Tour - often alongside her vounger sister Natalie

Arguably, the turning point came in late 2003 when she claimed the British Open title for the first time a title she was to retain in 2004 and win again in 2007. Five further World Tour titles in 2004 saw Rachael begin a sixteen month reign as World No.1 in August.

In addition to a career haul of twenty seven WISPA titles, the Cairo-based Queenslander also boasts Silver Medals in the 1998 and 2006 Commonwealth Games - and Gold on home soil with Natalie in the 2006 Women's Doubles - plus title successes in the World Doubles and Mixed Doubles in 2004.

After making her debut in the event in 1997, Rachael clinched her maiden World Open title in Madrid last year - in the first ever final between two sisters.



3 Natalie Grinham Netherlands 16 March 1978 Born: **Birthplace:** Toowoomba, Residence: Marital status: Married Highest World Ranking:

2 (Feb 2007) WISPA Tour Titles: WISPA Tour Finals Played: 30

For a long time overshadowed by her older sister, Natalie Grinham began her breakthrough in March 2003 when she beat Rachael for the first time on the Tour (at the Texas Open) - and first overtook her in the rankings in June 2006 before maintaining the lead from February last year when she secured the World No.2 ranking position for the first time

Based in the Netherlands for some years, the 30-year-old Queenslander married former Dutch Champion Tommy Berden in March 2006 and later in the month clinched Commonwealth Games Gold Medals in the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles to become the first squash player to achieve the triple!

Buoyed by this success, Natalie went on to reach the World Open final for the second time in Belfast where she lost out in a marathon 95-minute final to regular rival Nicol David - a defeat which she finally avenged in the Seoul Open final in April 2007, ending the World No.1's 13-month undefeated run.

In Madrid last year, Natalie celebrated a hat-trick of World Open final appearances, but suffered her third defeat, this time to sister Rachael.

4 Natalie Grainger USA

Born: 8 July 1977 Manchester Birthplace: England Residence: Greenwich, NY Marital status: Single **Highest World Ranking:** 1 (June 2003) WISPA Tour Titles:

WISPA Tour Finals Played: 36 The daughter of former British

Champion Jean Grainger, Natalie was born in the UK, raised in South Africa, and then based in England for some time, before settling in the USA where she gained citizenship in 2007

At 17 years old, she was the voungest player to be selected for the South African senior side in 1994 and went on to gain two Bronze Medals for the country in the 1998 Commonwealth Games

Four WISPA Tour titles in 2002 enabled Natalie to progress towards the head of the world rankings which she eventually topped for one month in June of the following year.

In a career too frequently beset by injuries and illness, the now President of WISPA is clearly settled in the US where she has reeled off seven titles since becoming a citizen - including a Pan American Games Gold Medal for her new country in Brazil.

A World Open runner-up in 2002. Natalie reached the semis for the second year in a row last year.

"30 years old, and I've finally won my first World Open. I've been World No.1 and now I'm World Champion."

Rachael Grinham, after winning the 2007 Women's World Open



10 Nov 1982

Haarlem,

Harrogate

Netherlands

5 (August 2008)

Born:

Birthplace:

Residence:

Marital status: Single

WISPA Tour Titles:

Rachael Grinham.

Highest World Ranking:

WISPA Tour Finals Played:

This catapulted the 25-year-old to

a career-high No.5 world ranking

in August, making Jenny the top-

ranked English woman for the first

time. After a sparkling junior career

National titles before clinching the

European crown in 2001, Jenny

went on to secure the European

significant roles for England in five

senior title twice as well as play

European Team Championship

successes since 2004 and the

World Team Championships in

Jenny achieved her best World

Open run last year in Madrid where

she exceeded her seeding to reach

the quarter-finals for the first time.

2004 and 2006.

in which she won four British



New Zealand

England

the final

| thplace: | 2 Dec 1979 Kaitaia, New Zealand Auckland Single | | Born Birth Resic Marit |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|---------------------------------|
| ghest World R | anking: 7 (Feb 2008) | | Highe |
| SPA Tour Fina SPA Tour Fina | | 12 18 | WISP WISP |
| | | | |

Jenny Duncalf is currently enjoying Shelley Kitchen will be making her tenth successive World Open the best run of her career - a notable highlight of which was an unpredicted appearance in Manchester after appearance in the final of this year's making her debut in 1999 in British Open in Liverpool after an Seattle, USA. impressive four-game quarter-final It was in Madrid last year that the victory over defending champion

Во

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New Zealander scored one of the biggest upsets of the year by beating hot favourite Nicol David in the second round - stopping the World No.1 from reaching the last eight of a WISPA World Tour event for the first time in three and a half years!

A Silver (Women's Doubles) and Bronze (Singles) Medallist in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Shelley enjoyed her best year on the Tour in 2007 winning four titles as well as her third New Zealand National crown.

Shelley began her 2008 campaign in fine style, lifting the Greenwich Open trophy as fourth seed in January and going on to record a career-high No.7 world ranking the following month.

the second year in a row. The 24-year-old made her senior England debut in the World Team Championships in Canada in 2006. helping England to reclaim the title in Edmonton, and a second runners-up berth in the 2007 British National Championships led to Alison finally clinching the title this year. Her fifth WISPA final appearance, in the Irish Open in April, followed by a surprise semi-final berth in the Seoul Open in June, took her to a career-high World No.8 ranking in September which she celebrated days later by dispatching World No.2 Rachael Grinham in straight games en route to the semi-finals of the Dutch Open.



Alison Waters

19 March 1984 London England London nce: al status: Single est World Ranking: 8 (Sept 2008) A Tour Finals Won: 1 A Tour Finals Played:

After a highly successful junior career in which she won National U12 and U19 titles, Alison quickly made her name on the senior circuit and in 2005 became the first unseeded player in the history of the British National Championships to reach

Alison went on to claim her first WISPA title later in the month. winning the Southport Open in the USA, and rounded off the year by being voted WISPA's 'Most Improved Player of the Year' for

8 Laura Lengthorn-Massaro England

Born: Birthplace:

Inflight

2 Nov 1983 Great Yarmouth England Preston

Residence: Marital status: Married

Highest World Ranking: 8 (July 2008)

WISPA Tour Finals Won: 4 WISPA Tour Finals Played: 9

Twice a British U19 Junior Champion, Laura made her senior breakthrough in 2004 when she claimed her first WISPA World Tour title at the German Open.

But it was in 2005 that the English international broke into the World's top 20 - and the following year she won the Wolverhampton Open on home soil, upsetting England and County team-mate Vicky Botwright in the final. An upset over Madeline Perry saw her successfully defend the title a year later.

Laura has shown excellent form as 2008 has unfolded, romping through to the guarter-finals of the WISPA Gold Apawamis Open before reaching her first British Nationals final against expectation in February Two successive upsets in April saw Laura lift the Irish Open trophy - her fourth WISPA title - before clinching a career-high World No.8 ranking in July.

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- 4:SYS Midsole
- Peak Force Outsole



4:SYS SQUASH

- Lightweight PU/Mesh Upper
- Gusseted Air Mesh Tongue
- Internal Torsion Bar
- 4.SYS Midsole
- Peak Force Outsole



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- Lightweight PU/Mesh Upper
- Gusseted Air Mesh Tongue
- Internal Torsion Bar
- CMEVA Midsole
- Peak Force Outsole



COMET

- Lightweight PU/Mesh Upper
- TPU Shank
- CMEVA Midsole
- Non Marking Gum Rubber Outsole

Squash Centre -A World Class Legacy

The National

When the National Squash Centre first opened following the XVII Commonwealth Games in 2002, few could have predicted the extensive and wide range of users that now frequent the seven courts.



No-one would be surprised to see the

the courts immediately after the elite squad

sessions are finished! In addition, four league

season in the premier division of the North

The partnership philosophy that underpins

the relationship between Manchester City

Council and England Squash is crucial to

Centre. The recently formed Manchester

for carrying the centre forward as a

diverse range of users.

the ongoing success of the National Squash

Sport and Leisure Trust is now responsible

performance venue, a public sports centre

to balance the needs and aspirations of the

and major event venue and will continue

The centre also forms the focal point of

the Manchester Squash Development

Programme that continues to deliver

teams now play from the centre and the

first team have just started their debut

West Counties Squash League.



school coaching, coach education, holiday England Squads of all levels regularly training programmes, competitions and recently at the centre, but such is the strength and racketball as part of an initiative in partnership flexibility of the relationship with the city that with the Health Authority. regular leisure centre users and Manchester The Hi-Tec World Squash Championships -Squash Academy members are taking to

Manchester 2008 was secured as part of the city's Major Events Strategy and includes a commitment to a legacy plan. The hosting of the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships represents an opportunity for Manchester to further strengthen its development programme in partnership with England Squash.

The Legacy Squash Group formed by the development teams from Sports Development and England Squash have put together a plan that includes initiatives in a variety of areas:

School Coaching: forty Manchester primary schools have received a coaching programme that culminated in competitions and a visit to the World Championships itself. Teacher training was also included and each school receives a Mini Squash Wall and Mini Squash Balls and Dunlop Rackets to keep.

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Coach Education: forty coaches, including many young people attending fully subsidised Level 1 and 2 courses.

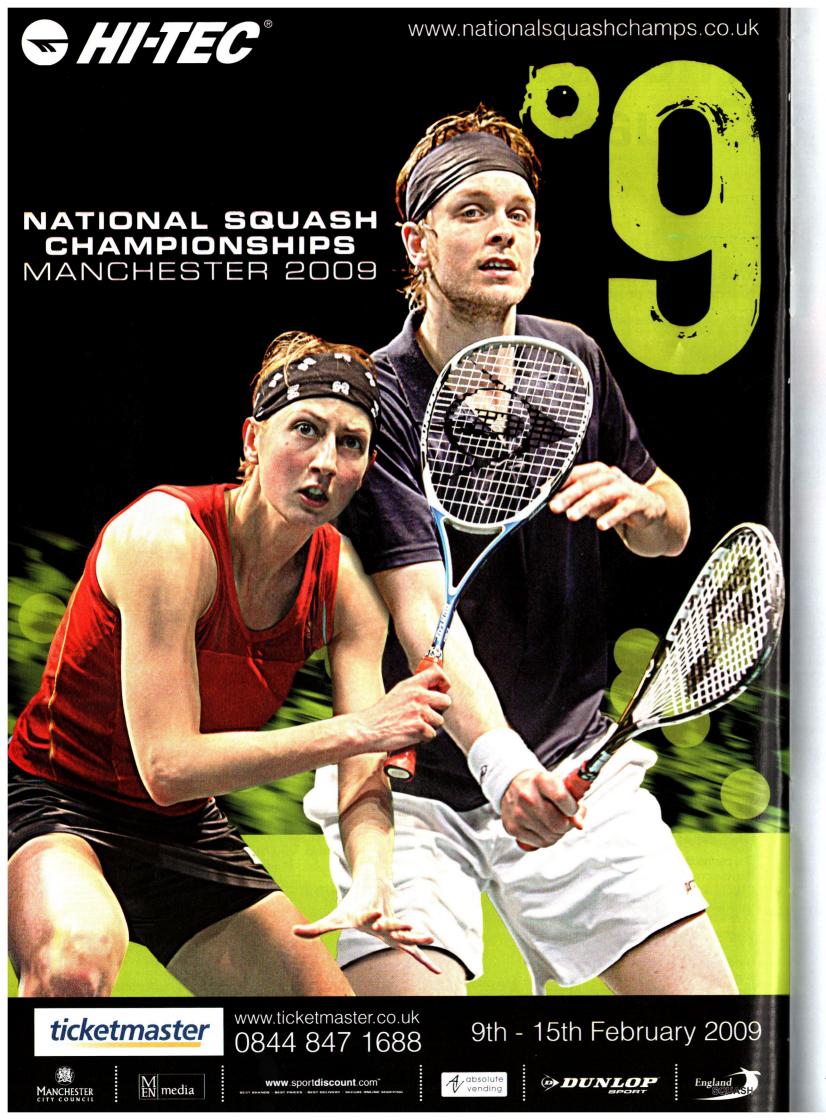
Awards for areas including National Schools Championships, Volunteer of the Month and Club of the Year to be presented at the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships -Manchester 2008.

Racketball pilot projects to raise awareness of the health benefits of squash and racketball.

National Squash Week to raise the profile of squash and the World Championships throughout England.

Referee/Marking and Young Leaders (two have taken place in Manchester with nineteen voungsters attending) courses to increase the number of qualified leaders and officials nationwide.

These legacy plans are already coming to fruition and all signs are that the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships - Manchester 2008 will leave a truly lasting legacy benefiting squash in Manchester and the country as a whole.



Manchester Squash Development





Manchester City Council has a long-standing history of hosting world class events and also operating the largest and most successful local authority community squash programme in England.

Manchester's year-round Squash Development Programme provides an integrated range of services and opportunities for the local community. The programme spans community, club, schools and performance activity. Within schools alone a team of twenty coaches deliver squash to over eighty schools. Children from across Manchester are given opportunities to integrate into the squash programme run at the National Squash Centre, giving them access to coaching, playing and competitive programmes. The Manchester programme also provides extensive opportunities for adults to play squash and racketball.

In addition to the day to day activities, a comprehensive delivery programme has been running for the past twelve months as a part of the World Squash Championships Legacy initiative.

Working in partnership with England Squash, Manchester City Council have been running a number of community squash and racketball legacy programmes within the North West and also throughout England with the specific aim of involving

local people in activity using the inspiration of a world class event to get people excited about squash and racketball.

The legacy programme builds upon the hugely successful existing structure. Within legacy activity alone, forty-five primary schools and sixteen secondary schools have received coaching and taken part in schools competitions. To complement this nineteen young people have been trained as young squash leaders, and these youngsters are now directly involved in the delivery of Manchester's community squash programmes. For adults, twenty-four local coaches have received coach education subsidies and successfully undertaken UKCC level one and level two coaching qualifications.

In recognition of club and volunteer activities, England Squash Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Month programmes have also been running nationally to recognise exceptional clubs and volunteers who have been working with England Squash. The Club of the Year programme was open to the one hundred and

seventeen Club Charter Clubs who have been awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold level awards by England Squash in recognition of their programmes and club operation. Out of these clubs, twenty-four were awarded prizes as regional winners and three awarded national awards. Volunteers, both senior and junior (Under 18), have also been recognised on a monthly basis leading up to these championships for their outstanding contribution to squash and racketball. All National Club of the Year winners and Volunteer of the Month winners will be formally rewarded and recognised during the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships -Manchester 2008 with an on-court presentation.

The promotion of squash and racketball in both Manchester and throughout England will continue after this event, and hopefully the legacy of the activities that have been associated with the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships - Manchester 2008 will act as a further platform for people young and old to try, have fun with, and get involved in, playing the best sport in the world.

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England Squash

England Squash are the National Governing Body for Squash & Racketball and are responsible for developing the sport at all levels, from the elite players you will see this week such as James Willstrop and Alison Waters, down to structured grassroots programmes in schools.

Here at our Head Office in the National Squash Centre in Manchester, we have fourteen full time employees including Chris, Paul and Alison, who work on all of our events, Louise, who coordinates our nationwide coaching courses, and Irene, who manages the England Squash High Performance Programme.

This year we also brought in three new faces - Paul, Ben, and Theo, who have formed our new Sales & Marketing Department. They will be working to ensure that Squash & Racketball get the recognition they deserve, and that all of our affiliated clubs thrive and continue to develop.

Across the country we have another sixteen employees, spread across our eight Area Offices. Wherever you are based in the country, we hope that you will have seen our England Squash Area teams out and about. They are there to promote and develop Squash & Racketball on a regional basis, listening to and helping clubs, players, coaches, referees, and volunteers, as well as promoting both sports to people who have never picked up a racket.

The next twelve months promise to be hugely exciting for Squash & Racketball, starting with the the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships - Manchester 2008.

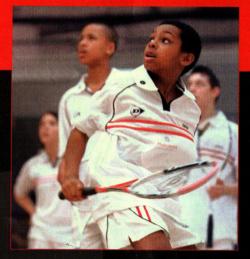
We hope that throughout the week you will be cheering on all of the English players in action, and for those of you who are new to squash, here are six to watch out for:

p: James is currently World No.3 and although only 25 years old has already won eleven major World Tour titles. He is British National Champion and a key member of England's World and European Championship winning teams.

w: In 2006 Nick became the first homegrown British Open Champion in more than 67 years, and the World No.7 will be going all out to add the Men's World Open to his six major titles.

r: Peter is one of England's rising stars, having broken into the World's top ten in the last six months. Peter's finest moment came in December 2007 when he sealed England's World Team Championship title with victory in the final match against Australia.





E Jenny's brilliant form over the past twelve months has seen her reach. the final of two major events - the Hurghada International and the British Open - while she has propelled to a career-high World ranking of 5.

v: Former World Junior Champion Tania has spent much of 2008 battling back from a career-threatening knee injury, but only a fool would write off the current World No.6, who played a major role in England's women winning the World Team Championship in 2006.

saro: Laura is another of England's rising stars on the World tour, having just achieved a career high World ranking of 8. In the last twelve months Laura has won the Irish Open and reached the final of two major events. including the British National Championships.

ATCO British Open Manchester 2009

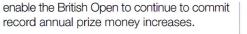
Sports management company internationalSPORTgroup[™] have announced a pioneering new agreement with Manchester City Council to stage the British Open in the UK's squash capital for the next three years, heralding an exciting new era for the world's most prestigious squash title.

The ATCO British Open – Manchester 2009 will be held from the 8th to 14th September and will feature the world's leading male and female professional players who will compete alongside the sport's most successful annual Masters championships, comprising thirteen age-group events from O35 to O70.

In just four years, and following successful stagings in Manchester (2005 and 2007), Nottingham (2006) and Liverpool (2008), internationalSPORTgroup™ in partnership with England Squash have re-established the British Open as the sport's blue riband event, and both are confident that the support of Manchester City Council will be integral to future success.

The world's most famous tournament with which squash legends Hashim Khan, Jonah Barrington, Geoff Hunt, Jahangir Khan, Jansher Khan, Heather Mackay, Susan Devoy, Michelle Martin and Sarah Fitz-Gerald were all once synonymous is again carrying some of its old status forward to what promises to be new and different glories.

Familiar surroundings in Manchester and uplifting long term support from the ATCO Group and HEAD Sport, the championship's official racket and footwear partner, will



"The British Open should be the ultimate ambition for every young squash player and I do tandem it with the World Open because it is the height of the professional game," said internationalSPORTgroup™ Chief Executive Paul Walters.

"There was a time when the British Open appeared to be sliding into obscurity, but we can now look forward with genuine optimism. Suddenly we are talking about our sport becoming fashionable again and the reasurgence of the British Open will hopefully act as a promotional springboard and give great incentive for more and more youngsters to be involved".

"Squash deserves a higher profile and greater share of media coverage and our vision is to promote the sport's most prestigious championships in a way that will show new audiences that squash is one of the most exciting participation and spectator sports in the world," added the head of the leading squash marketing and management company.

Nick Rider, Chief Executive of England Squash, concurred: "Squash is a genuinely popular sport in this country, with more than half a million regular players. Manchester is our home and this partnership with internationalSPORTgroup™ and Manchester City Council is a key element in our five year strategy to further widen squash's popularity, to increase its profile and to continue our success on the international stage".

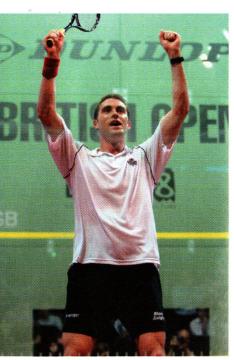
Eamonn O'Rourke, Head of Leisure for Manchester City Council, concluded: "We're delighted to be hosting the British Open for the next three years and we look forward to welcoming the world's finest squash players to Manchester for such a prestigious tournament which will attract thousands of sports fans to the city, and further cement our position as a world class sporting venue."

In an era that has never experienced so many potential winners, reigning champions David Palmer and Nicol David can both expect to face equally challenging defences of the sport's most sought after title.

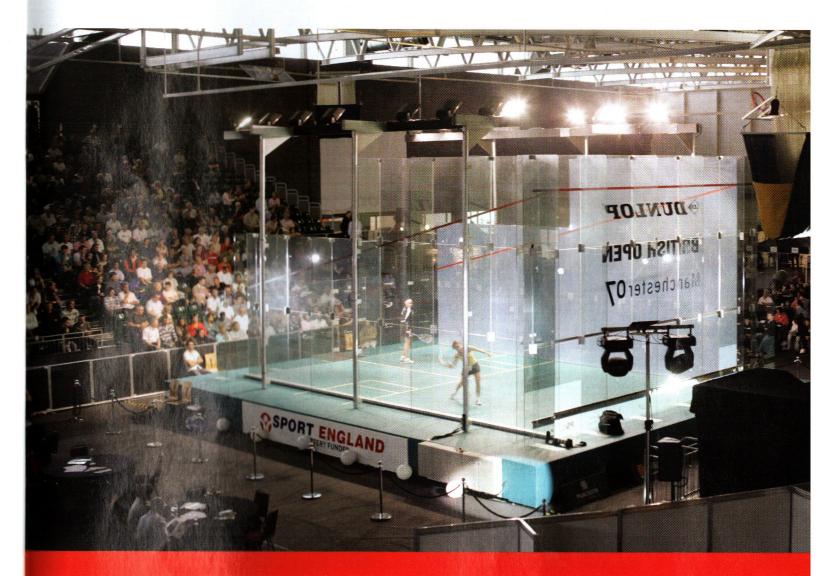
Tickets for the ATCO British Open -Manchester 2009 can be booked online at www.isportgroup.com/ticketing by telephone on 0844 870 000 or for further information email: info@iSPORTgroup.com.











Suddenly we are talking about our sport becoming fashionable again and the reasurgence of the British Open will hopefully act as a promotional springboard and give great incentive for more and more youngsters to be involved".

Paul Walters, Chief Executive of internationalSPORTgroup™

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"We're delighted to be hosting the British Open for the next three years and we look forward to welcoming the world's finest squash players to Manchester for such a prestigious tournament" Eamonn O'Rourke, Head of Leisure for Manchester City Council









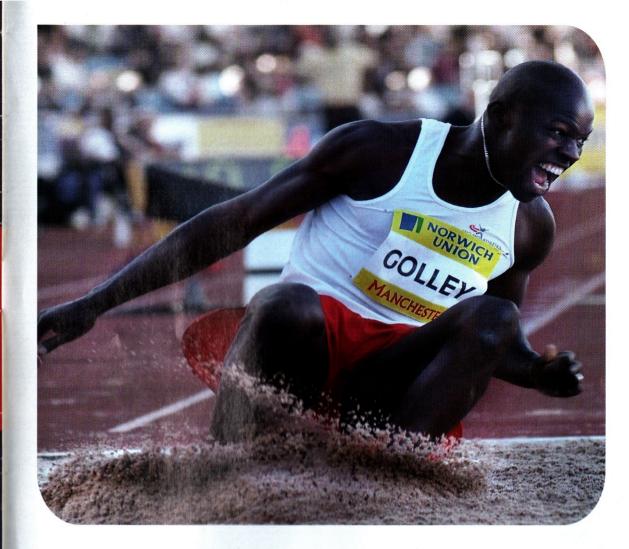
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For more information please visit www.englandsnorthwest.com





















