


LIBRARY DAILY POSTING INDEX: COURTS & EQUIPMENT

Year	Month	Day	(features, bold)
2019	Nov	02	Largest Club - Hasta La Vista, Poland
2019	Nov	05	Viewing Panel, Melbourne 1967
2019	Nov	14	Altitude ball
2019	Nov	15	Court com + Racket ads 1930's
2019	Nov	29	1st 4 sided spectator viewing 1982
2019	Dec	23	Skorts advertisement 1936
2019	Dec	29	Table Squash
2020	Jan	05	Lady Gray racket ad 1973
2020	Jan	06	Doubles Court dimensions
2020	Jan	07	Gas rig court
2020	Jan	08	Thames House 1933 (15 courts)
2020	Jan	16	Glass backwall ad 1972
2020	Jan	19	Baghdad to Trinidad Courts ad 1930s
2020	Feb	06	Oldest Club, Toronto
2020	Feb	08	Racket bumper strip
2020	Feb	09	Blue balls
2020	Feb	15	Courts on ships
2020	Feb	29	Tele-balls
2020	Mar	05	Shark Racket 1983
2020	Mar	07	NZ viewing windows 1954/6
2020	Mar	10	Referee Gantry
2020	Mar	14	1st coloured floor
2020	Mar	22	Showcourt on hydraulics
2020	Mar	23	Courts on ice rinks
2020	Mar	27	Spectator Squash timeline
2020	Apr	05	Ball warmer 1980
2020	Apr	09	ASB side door
2020	Apr	15	Ball speeds (1950's - 1999)
2020	Apr	17	1st all-glass, North America (1987)
2020	Apr	20	Outdoor court - New York
2020	Apr	24	Glass backwall (Abbeydale)
2020	Apr	29	International Standard Scheme (1988)
2020	May	14	Portable Court 1937
2020	May	15	Timber Court 1937
2020	June	04	Royal racket endorsement 1934
2020	June	21	Court lighting 1930
2020	June	25	Courts in palaces
2020	June	28	Handmade rackets
2020	July	14	1st five wall glass (ASB Glass floor)
2020	July	26	Doubles courts dimensions
2020	Sept	04	Contra-vision
2020	Oct	06	Eyewear rule 1999
2020	Oct	19	Protective Eyewear ad 1936
2021	Jan	06	US/Canada court floors (1930s)
2021	Jan	23	1970s scoreboards
2021	Jan	24	Under 18, then 18 (1986 - 1988)
2021	Jan	25	Innovation timeline feature pointer
2021	Feb	10	Racket Specification history
2021	Mar	05	Florescent Lighting (1948)
2021	Mar	10	Making wooden rackets
2021	Mar	11	Eye protector 1968
2021	Mar	29	Transparent court (1938)
2021	May	05	Red balls (1937)
2021	May	10	Lighting presentation, 2011
2021	May	16	1 st four sided viewing (1982)
2021	May	24	Camera position specifications
2021	May	29	Patent application, glass court 1935
2021	June	09	Johannesburg court
2021	June	10	Protective Eyewear poster
2021	June	22	Harrow School courts
2021	June	23	1 st court in a house
2021	June	25	Court on the Titanic
2021	July	14	Chris Herridge retires 2018
2021	Aug	16	Timber courts 1930s
2021	Aug	25	Foldaway courts
2021	Sept	05	Tin name
2021	Sept	09	Tele-balls
2021	Sept	10	Ball feature request
2021	Nov	01	Sochi, Russia courts
2021	Nov	02	ASB company start
2022	Jan	13	Demountable glass-back show courts
2022	Jan	21	Steel rackets
2022	Jan	27	Banbury Concrete Courts (1971)
2022	Jan	28	Tele-ball TV feature
2022	Feb	10	Asian Beach Games court
2022	Feb	11	Squash ball warmers
2022	Feb	22	The evolution of squash balls
2022	Feb	25	RAC Squash ball
2022	Feb	26	Squash ball sales machine
2022	Apr	08	Doubles court / tin dimensions
2022	Apr	15	Transwall Court 1981
2022	May	03	Shark Racket feature
2022	May	07	Steel Rackets 1968
2022	May	12	Queen Mary liner court
2022	June	30	Perstorp court, Stockholm event
2022	Aug	06	Cairo University gallery 1958
2022	Aug	15	Palmerston North viewing 1956
2022	Sept	22	Merco ball ad 1980s
2022	Sept	23	Silvertown Ball ad 1951
2022	Sept	24	Dunlop Ball ad 1935
2022	Sept	30	Expandable Doubles Show Court (1998)
2022	Nov	18	ASB side-door showcourt
2023	Jan	03	Outdoor courts, Elstree School
2023	Feb	03	Referee gantry 1980s
2023	Feb	07	Contravision sheets (1980s)
2023	Feb	22	Queen Mary court 1936
2023	Feb	25	Timber courts 1930s
2023	Mar	09	Ball adoption 1981
2023	Mar	11	Permanent hardball court 2013
2023	May	16	Electronic scoreboards 1970s
2023	May	20	Banbury Court ad 1968
2023	May	23	Squash court photo from 1930s
2023	June	15	Bert Armstrong collection
2023	July	14	Kiltonga Club, Northern Ireland
2023	July	15	Court, South Africa
2023	July	26	RAC Narrow court
2023	Aug	05	Portable courts 1937
2023	Aug	12	New Grampians Club, London
2023	Aug	18	Philadelphia's place US squash
2023	Aug	29	French Open 1983 blue floor
2023	Aug	31	Squash at Lords, London
2023	Oct	03	Officers Club court, Delhi, India
2023	Oct	14	Ball Boaster
2023	Dec	28	Courts, balls etc 1936
2024	Jan	11	Dunlop racket ad 1938
2024	Jan	17	Dunlop Blue Flash shoes
2024	Feb	17	Bumper strips
2024	Mar	08	End of wooden rackets

Squash Library
3 September at 07:45 · 🌐

We are so used to glassbacks in clubs, but after they emerged in the early 1970s (see <https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../innovation...> for a Library timeline), they did not mushroom everywhere initially. In 1990, for example, India had only four in the country, albeit with another twelve on the way.



Squash Library
12 August at 07:51 · 🌐

In August 1982 the court used for the World Masters pro event in England six weeks later was built to test the precision of the exact 'registration' of the white and black dot layers to produce clear viewing from the outside but a 'milky' finish for the players to sight the ball against. It was ContraVision, a clear film of superimposed black and white dots 'wallpapered' onto the inside of the court wall. Later, dots were baked in and colour added.

The full story of squash innovations form part of the lavishly illustrated World Squash Library publication <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration>.



Squash Library
5 August at 07:55 · 🌐

During the 1980s after the abandoning of the requirement that wood must be used, racket manufacturers turned to graphite and other materials. Aluminum was also used for lower priced recreational rackets. While graphite was better for power, and less tennis-elbow inducing vibration, an aluminum tube that started in the handle, went up around the head and back down again was promoted. Here is a range from forty years ago.

MODEL	MAKER	PRICE	MATERIAL	WEIGHT	STRINGING AREA	SPECIAL FEATURES
Plus 40	Donnay	14.99	6000 series Alum.	225gms	47.8sq ins.	Leather Grip
Rally	Wilson	15.95	6000 series Alum.	215-225gms	47.8sq ins.	Synthetic grip Available in 4 colours
StarFlex	Pro-Kamex	16.00	Aluminium	210gms	Mid-size	Synthetic Grip
XLT 10	Dunlop	18.99	Aluminium	205-220gms	47sq ins.	Trigrip, Head light
Sprint 11	Browning	18.50	Aluminium	215-225gms	Mid-size	Leather grip
Bella	Goode	18.80	Aluminium			
Akotec	Uniquashable	19.95	6000 series Alum.	220-225gms	20% oversize	Polyurethane grip
Power Mid	Donnay	19.95	6000 series Alum.	225gms		Synthetic grip Shock absorber Leatherwarp grip
Paathier Club	Slazenger	19.99				Leatherwarp grip
Defender	Wilson	19.95	6000 Series Alum.	215-225gms	47.8sq ins.	Synthetic grip
Top Flex	Pro-Kamex	20.00	Aluminium	210gms	Mid-size	Synthetic grip
Rainbow	Oliver	23.00	Aluminium	220gms	Mid-size	
Discovery 11	Browning	24.00	95% Aluminium 5% Zinc	215-225gms	Mid-size	Leather grip
Mid 205	Donnay	24.95	6000 series Alum.		Mid-size	Shock absorber Special throat Extended throat piece for vibration control
Parther	Slazenger	24.99				
Athens	Goode	26.99	7000 Series Alum 5% zinc	215-225gms	Mid-size	130mm Stringing
Ala Comp 11	Browning	26.70	7000 Series Alum 5% zinc	215-225gms	Mid-size	130mm Stringing
Titalac	Uniquashable	27.50	6000 Alum plus Titanium	215-225gms	square 22% oversize	Polyurethane Grip
Black Max 11	Dunlop	27.99	Aluminium	205-220gms	47 sq ins	Shock absorber headlight resistance Synthetic grip
Powerflex	Pro-Kamex	29.95	6000 Series Alum.	215gms	Mid-size	Leather grip
Cobra Max	Wilson	29.95	Alum Magnesium	215-225gms	47 sq ins	Leather grip
Parther	Slazenger	29.99	Aluminium			Ergonomic sweet spot
Concord	Oliver	30.00	Aluminium and Titanium		Mid-size	
Mag. 4	Donnay	34.99	Alum with magnesium	205-225gms	mid-size	Weight screws and shock absorber
Magnesium Dominator	Pro-Kamex	35.0	Alum with magnesium	210gms	Mid-size	Micro-stringing
Mag 95	Browning	35.60	95% magnesium	203-225gms	Mid-size	Micro-stringing

Squash Library
2 August at 07:47 · 🌐

In the 1930s Thames House in London had 15 courts, making it the largest facility in the world at the time. As the building now houses the UK security service (MI5), the Library understands that none remain, but prefers not to draw attention to itself by checking!



CARTER'S SPORTS COURTS LTD.
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Squash Library
11 July at 05:40 · 🌐

If you want to know how squash balls, their packaging and promotion has evolved you need to buy <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration>! Only available from the Library, it includes the gloss-finished RAC Number Two ball (pic) which has the RAC logo, and was developed in 1924 as a new slower standard ball.




Photo from Bas van Hoom collection

Squash Library
8 July at 07:38 · 🌐

Following on from yesterday's post listing clubs in 1929, here are Library notes on the London clubs that were active at that point nearly a century ago.

LONDON CLUBS LISTED BY SRA 1929-30

Army & Navy Club
The original Army & Navy Club in Pall Mall was opened in 1847, and added a squash court when the club expanded in 1927. When the club was re-built on the same site in 1983 squash courts were not included.

Bank of England Sports Club
The club in Rotherhampton for its staff had two courts at the time, later expanding to five.

Bath Club
The Bath Club at this time on its original site in Dover Street had two courts which had opened in 1904. It administered the Bath Club Cup, a London league, and joined with the Conservative Club after a basement fire in 1941 destroyed the building. Later it located in Brook Street in 1959 before closing in 1981. (In 1989 the similarly named Bath & Racquets Club opened in Brooks Mews under new ownership although unrelated to the original Bath Club).

Cavendish Club
Formerly, New Cavendish Club, it opened in 1920 in Cavendish Square and ceased to be featured soon after court registration began.

Conservative Club
The club had two courts at St James Street before merging with the Cavalry Club in 1975 to become the Cavalry & Guards Club in 1986.

Junior Carlton Club (Pall Mall)
The club opened with three courts, but went down to two in its new base built in 1968, before it closed in 1977.

M.C.C. (Lords)
The first court at Lords was opened in 1899, and like the second court added in 1908 was oversized. These were followed by a new court in 1927. Later, only one of the two initial courts was altered to standard dimensions. The 1927 court was removed around 1950 for a memorial gallery, with the other two being relocated in 1977.

Navy SRA (Admiralty)
Details uncertain.

Princes Club (Knightsbridge)
The club had three singles and one doubles court, and after being requisitioned by the War Office in WW2 did not re-open and was demolished in 1952.

Queens Club (West Kensington)
Queens Club built two courts in 1905, and a further two courts in 1924. Check whether 3 originally as now. (During WW2 a bomb destroyed courts 1 and 2 which were not rebuilt, but after that the remaining two courts were always known as 3 and 4).

Rotherhampton Club (SW15)
The initial three courts were built in 1929, with a further three being added in 1986.

Royal Air Force Club (Piccadilly)
The club opened in 1922 with two non-standard sized courts, which remained in use until the area was re-purposed in 2018.

Royal Automobile Club (RAC) (Pall Mall)
The RAC opened in 1911 with three non-standard sized courts. One standard sized court was added in 1935, and later (in 1950) the other courts were modified so 2 were standard and one narrow.

Union Club (Carlton House Terrace)
This club had two courts but was only open briefly after the 1929/30 listing.

The SRA in Great Britain became the de facto world body when it was formed in 1928, and a year later produced this list of clubs 1929/30 Clubs. It showed the beginnings of overseas registrations, which would expand substantially until the World Federation was formed in 1967. By 1960, for example, the list was nine pages long and featured facilities in thirty countries.

SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION (SRA) MEMBER CLUB LIST 1929-30

(SRA was formed a year earlier in 1928)

UK

Aberdeen Squash Club (2 courts, Hardgate, Scotland)
Buxton Club (1 court, Palace Hotel, Derbyshire)
Greenjackets (Rifle Depot, Winchester)
Leicestershire Rackets Club (1 court, Welford Place, Leicester)
Liverpool Racket Club (3 courts, Upper Parliament Street)
Manchester Tennis & Racket Club (1 court, Salford)
Newcastle Squash Rackets Club (3 courts, College Street)
Royal Air Force SRA (Porton, Wilts)
Royal Military College (Sandhurst, Berks)
Sussex County Sports Club (3 courts, Eaton Road, Hove)
Weybridge Squash Rackets Club (3 courts, Otlands Park, Surrey)
Yorkshire Rocks (2 courts, St Peter's School, York)

LONDON (further details on London clubs tomorrow)

Army & Navy Club (Pall Mall)
Army SRA (Birdcage Walk)
Badminton Club (Piccadilly)
Bank of England Sports Club (EC2)
Bath Club (Dover Street)
Cavendish Club (Marylebone)
Conservative Club (St James Street)
Guards Club (Brook Street)
Junior Carlton Club (Pall Mall)
M.C.C. (Lords)
Navy SRA (Admiralty)
Princes Club (Knightsbridge)
Queens Club (West Kensington)
Roehampton Club (SW15)
Royal Air Force Club (Piccadilly)
Royal Automobile Club (RAC) (Pall Mall)
Union Club (Carlton House Terrace)

OVERSEAS

Durban Country Club (1 court, South Africa)
Gezira Sporting Club (8 courts, Cairo, Egypt)
Khartoum Sporting Club (Sudan)
Sudan Club (6 courts, Khartoum)
Sydney Squash Rackets Club (Australia)

Around 30 years before glass backwalls appeared, the idea of increasing viewing capacity by use of mirrors was floated in 1939. The article from the Bas van Horn collection, seemingly from USA, is reproduced here for readers to try and follow!

MIRROR USED IN PROPOSED DESIGN OF FOUR-WALL COURTS

GAVIN HADDEN, Engineer

In increasing four-wall courts for games like squash, racquets, tennis, etc., one great restriction has been the difficulty of providing for more than a handful of spectators at any one court. With the field of action at the bottom of a "wall" formed by the four playing walls, there is a steep angle of view downward from above one of the walls. The back wall of the court is the least of the four, and open for spectators' seats or stands. Even with tiers of seats rising as steeply as possible, always part of the play has been hidden from those seated or standing anywhere behind the first or second rows.

A new scheme for the design of four-wall courts in which the spectators are placed above and behind the front wall, and by which all of the playing surface can be seen, is now proposed. Spectators are seated on gradually rising tiers instead of a steeply stepped floor. Their line of sight are reflected from a large mirror located in part above the rear of the court, in space not required for play.

The number of possible arrangements of the mirror with respect to court and spectators is limited only by the slope of the mirror and its height above the floor. With regard to the mirror's slope, there are two limiting positions: one just permitting the front-row spectators to obtain a view, broadened to a single line, of the back wall, and the other just permitting the last-row spectators to obtain a similar view of the front wall.

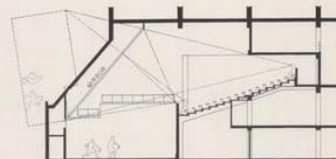
The section diagram shows various trends or eyes, which would extend the full width of the standard squash court and accommodate at a

single match about 200 seated spectators, all provided with a view of the entire court; or, if the chairs or benches are removed, more than 400 spectators can be accommodated, all similarly provided with a view of the entire court. In addition, one row of seated spectators could be accommodated in the small corner, with a direct view from above the back wall, through the opening between the top of the wall and the bottom edge of the mirror. The height and angle of the mirror can be altered to provide for additional rows of spectators above and behind the back wall, but these spectators would not be able to see the entire court—just as they are unable to do so at existing courts today.

Among the problems to be solved are those involving the structural support and accurate adjustment of the great mirror; provision for heating the mirror to prevent condensation and chattering of the frame; the method of artificial lighting, etc.

Because of the mirror, indirect lighting of the ordinary type is not possible; but the high ceiling and the large side openings between the mirror and the top of the side walls make possible the use of illuminating from a considerable height above the floor. Such lighting can be arranged to avoid glare in the eyes of players or spectators.

A possible objection to the scheme arises from the fact that the spectator sees only a reflected view, in which all locations are reversed. For example, a right-handed player will appear to be left-handed, and vice versa. The designer maintains, however, that the completeness of the view would compensate more than adequately for its somewhat artificial character.



Section diagram

MARCH 1939

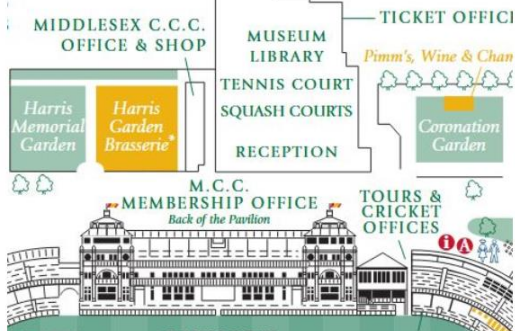
BUILDING NEWS
49

Lords in London provides a good example on how court dimensions evolved from before they began to be standardised in 1923 (details in <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration>).

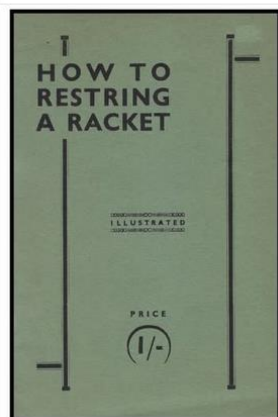
According to details found by Chris Orriss, the first court - the "A" court, also called the Long Court, was - 42ft x 24ft - with a 28in tin! Plans were approved in July 1898 and it was reported to have a leaking roof in June 1899 even before it was used.

The second "B" court was completed in 1908 - 36ft x 22ft - so midway between the subsequent "standard size" and the Long "A" court. The first British Amateur championship in April 1923 was played on the "B" court.

A "C" court was constructed, presumably using the standard 32ft x 21ft and 19in tin, in the rackets court in 1927. Two courts remain at the Lords Cricket Ground behind the Pavilion.



Back in the 1930s a 24-page booklet on how to re-string a tennis or squash racket was produced by a company who sold the equipment. Here are the items, but they may be out of stock! More pages on <https://www.squashlibrary.info/general-resources>.



In 1979 the English SRA started producing editions of a 'Guide to Maintenance & Refurbishing' for squash courts. The details covered many of the enquiries received by the SRA at the time. In addition to advice on all aspects of court repair and maintenance it included programme for daily, weekly, monthly, 6 monthly and annual maintenance. The first two editions were kindly provided by Alan Chalmers to be lodged in the Library. [England Squash Alan Chalmers](#)

THE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION

2 AUG 1979



SQUASH RACKETS COURTS

A GUIDE TO THEIR MAINTENANCE AND REFURBISHING

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THE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION
 20 Brimpton Road, London, SW3 1DX
 Telephone: 01-584 2506 & 01-584 0094

ISSUE No. 1

JUNE 1979

Squash Library
5 February at 07:58

1865 signalled the start of squash with the first purpose-built courts opened at Harrow School in North West London. This photo of the open-air courts in the foreground is taken from <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration>, which also includes much more detail and other Harrow photos too. Happy 160th birthday, squash! World Squash Federation, @Squash - PSA World PSA Squash Tour, European Squash Federation, Federacion Panamericana de Squash, Squash Federation of Africa SFA, Squash Australia, US SQUASH, Squash Canada, Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش, England Squash, Scottish Squash, Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa Squash Wales - Sboncen Cymru 1Malaysia SquashSquash South AfricaSquash Stories



Postcard photo from the Bas van Hoorn collection.

Squash Library
6 January at 08:06

An Australian ball gun was produced around 50 years ago – the Squashmaster being endorsed by top player Cam Nancarrow. See the promotional information here [Squash Australia](https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration)



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Recommended by Australian & International Squash Champion... CAM NANCARROW

2024

Squash Library
7 November at 08:02

There was a time when squash balls were individually wrapped. The evolution of the squash ball from the beginning is covered in 'Squash Then And Now' (including the great image below). Go to <https://pdhsports.com/.../squash-then-and-now-a-celebration> to get your copy of the book. DunlopDunlop Squash



Squash Library
20 September at 06:05

The Titanic had a squash court (as covered in <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration>, page 45), but it was not the only liner of the time with one. Sister ships in the Cunard-White Star fleet, Corinthia and Queen Mary also had a court; as did Empress of Britain (Canadian Pacific) and Nieuw Amsterdam (Holland America Line).



Naturally the 'Queen Mary' has her own Carter Squash Court

The Queen Mary is the proud holder of the blue riband of the Atlantic; Carter's have been told that they hold the blue riband for the building of Squash Courts. What could be more natural, therefore, than a Carter Court for the Queen Mary, the only ship afloat with a lantern light above the Squash Rackets Court, permitting play by natural light—though, of course, she is not the only ship with her own CARTER Court. This Court was designed and constructed by Carters.

Messrs. Carter's Sports Courts Ltd., who are the largest builders of Squash Rackets Courts in the world, will be pleased to submit estimates for Covered Sports Courts of all kinds in any part of the world.

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Squash Library
1 August at 07:23

In 1983, just as the wooden head rule was being set aside, Spalding were advertising their range, including hardball and a Hashim Khan signature racket. The racket history with so many fascinating photos of old rackets can be found in the newly announced Squash Then & Now: A Celebration. www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration for details.

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Squash Library
27 July at 08:22

In 2006 the first tour event to use ASB's glass floor was the Women's Qatar Airways Challenge staged in Hyderabad, India. The court was sited in the grounds of the Falaknuma Palace, overlooking the city. www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration for the court evolution history. Squash - PSA World Tour Squash Rackets Federation of India ASB Squash Courts

Photo courtesy Alex Wan

Squash Library
8 July

An English court company was exporting courts to places such as Baghdad, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Trinidad as long ago as 1937, as they proclaimed here.

A SCENE IN BAGHDAD. Carter's were recently shipped to Doham, near the ancient city, the materials for three standard Squash courts.

FROM BAGHDAD TO TRINIDAD . . . CARTER COURTS!

Wherever people play squash, or badminton, or fives—and play well—there you will probably find a Carter Court. Carter Courts, always the standard of the world, are becoming more and more popular every season. In the margin is shown a partial list of contracts at home and abroad in hand or recently completed by Carter's.

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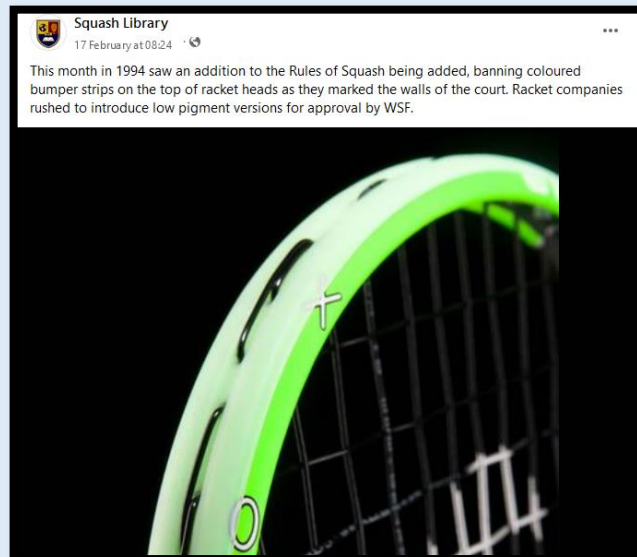
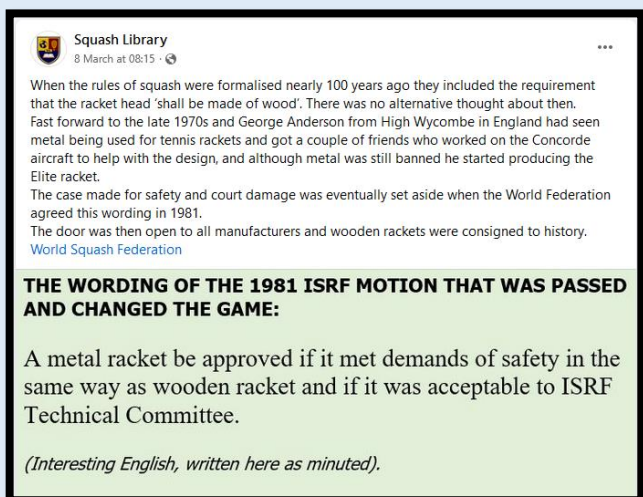
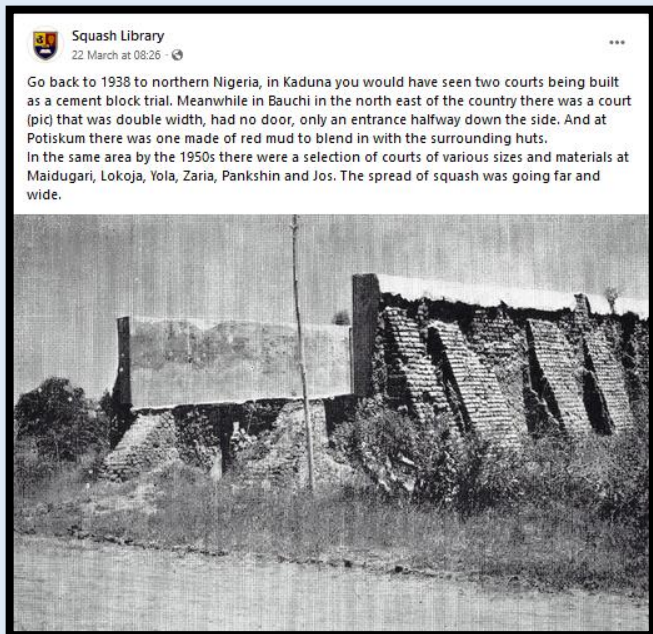
Squash Library
20 June at 08:39

Once glass backwalls opened up viewing opportunities, seating systems began to be offered to clubs. Courtback, a product from Audience Systems, was one of those from the end of the 1970s. Here: <https://www.squashlibrary.info/general-resources>, the Library has reproduced their brochure.

COURTBACK
Squash Viewing System
The unique answer to spectator seating for squash

Squash Library
10 June at 08:26

Along with the Abbeydale version posted recently, another early example of an electronic scoreboard appeared in 1971 in South Africa. It was designed and built for the Western Province SRA. Here is the console. [Squash South Africa](https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration)



In 1936 a report on the state of the game in UK was already talking about scoring, court measurements in relation to uniformity with the American hardball game. Here is what it said:

Court

While there is much to be said in favour of the universal adoption of the English singles court measurements, it is not suggested that concessions should come from the American side only. The statesmanship of both countries might in the first instance be directed to attaining uniformity in lesser directions. It should, for instance, be possible for the American doubles court measurements to be adopted as standard in England. The doubles game has become very popular in America, but it is only in the early stage of development in England.

Tin

A further point of agreement could be the lowering of the "tell-tale" to the American 17 inches as, in the view of many eminent players in England, this would be a definite improvement. A still further concession could be in the method of scoring by agreeing to the American five games of 15 points up and the winning of a point whether the player is "in hand" or not, as advocated by many prominent English players.

Ball

The ball question is one of much simpler solution, and an agreement to compromise should be easily arrived at between sensible men.

Beekman Pool, one of the greatest of American players, is of the opinion that the difference in the courts is not nearly so radical as the difference in the bounce and speed of the ball, and is wholly in favour of a ball half-way between the ones now in use in England and America. This opinion is endorsed by A. Willing Patterson, one of the younger American players, who has had special opportunities of studying playing conditions in both countries, while W. Palmer Dixon, who won the American Championship in 1925 and 1926, gives the interesting opinion that a combination of the English court and the American ball would be practically ideal. There seems, however, to be general agreement that a "compromise" ball would be a great step forward on the path to uniformity.

In the mid-1980s a Welsh company called Sportequip produced a squash ball-firing coaching aid, costing around GB£600. It was called The Boaster, details here. (included with the Boaster was a bag of talcum powder, which was added to coat the balls!)

FOR THE PLAYER

You want to improve your squash play? Or coach? You have weaknesses in your game? Naturally! So you need to practice specific shots. The Boaster can provide these shots for you, full length drives, drop shots, lobs, backhands, receiving serves, volleys. Any type of shot you need can be supplied consistently by this new squash practice. With The Boaster you can now concentrate intensively on those weaknesses and turn them into your strengths.

FOR THE COACH

The Boaster takes all the tedium out of coaching. Simply set the machine to supply the shots you want for your pupil. Let the squash practitioner do all the donkey work. How can you watch your pupil all the time, he will benefit from concentrated instruction. Your pupil will also benefit from the consistency of the shots supplied and 'get the hang of it' more quickly.

FOR THE GROUP

The Boaster provides an excellent means of group practice in the court for your club members, for serious practice or 'how about just a fun machine?'

Telephone (0298) 614841 or (01434) 0910 to arrange a demonstration in your squash courts.



BOASTER

SPECIFICATION

Weight 20kg
Size 320mm wide x 525mm long x 600mm high (without the barrel)
Barrel length 720mm
Power supply 240 volt 50Hz 9 amps 2250 watts
Ball speed Fully adjustable from 13m per sec to 31 m per sec.
Ball capacity over 80 balls any colour any type.
Firing interval Adjustable from 2 sec to 15 sec intervals via an electronic timer.
Elevation angle Fully adjustable from 0° to +60°.
Ball heating 120W heater, thermostatically controlled to 40° ±2°C. Time to reach thermostatic temperature - 30 to 90 sec. depending on ambient temperature.
Supply cable 3 core cable 17 m long fitted with 13 amp plug.
Internal Ball feed control This mechanism is electronically controlled to prevent ball jamming.
Lifting handle and wheel mounting provided for ease in transportation.

It is random historical photo day! The year is uncertain but here is the Officers Club Squash Court in Delhi. Did the lower ranks have a court too? [Squash Rackets Federation of India](#)

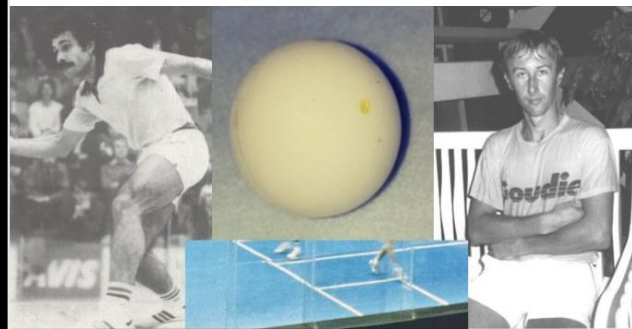


Along with other early adopters including the RAC, Queens, Bath Club and Princes, Lords was another London club which added squash. It hosted the first British Amateur in 1923. Library details here www.squashlibrary.info/general-resources.



The first painted showcourt floor appeared at the French Open at the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris in 1983. It was painted blue, and lines were added in yellow. The first players to try it, Australian Frank Donnelly and Egyptian Ali Aziz (left), were presented with another innovation too, a white ball to play with. The paint hadn't quite dried to there was a sticky sound underfoot and the ball turned blue very quickly for that first match!

[FFSquash - Fédération Française de Squash - PSA World Tour](#)



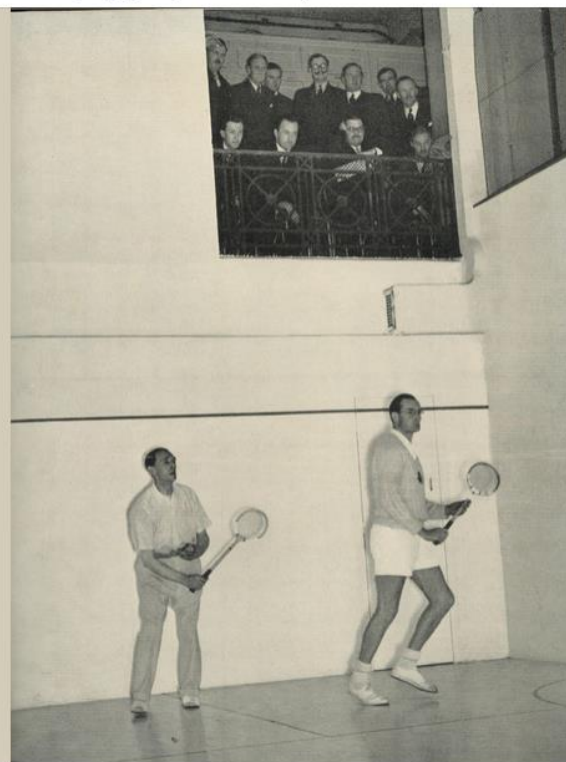
A new Squash Library resource explains how USA pivoted from hardball to softball, the key role Philadelphia played in this, and the city's position as 'squash central'. Go to www.squashlibrary.info/general-resources to read it. [US SQUASH](#)



In the summer of 1957 four times British Open winner Azam Khan became the owner of the New Grampians Club along with his brother Hashim. The Pakistani star had been the club professional before Mark Lewis sold out to them. Azam Khan was based at the three court Shepherds Bush, London club for the rest of his active life before it closed in 2014.



Between 1950 and 1957 the RAC central London club had a 'narrow' court based upon American width (18ft 6in rather than 21ft) complete with curved service box. Here, RAC coach Oke Johnson (left) played top amateur Brian Phillips.



Think portable courts, think glass and think recent. Think wrong! Here is a court ad from 1937.

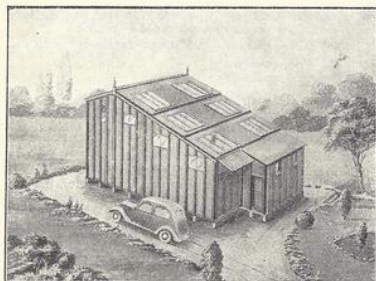
PORTABLE SQUASH COURTS LTD.

Why not invest in one of our Courts?
It is a permanent building in every way of indefinite durability.

It can, however, be taken down and re-erected on a different site if desired.

Our Courts are in all respects of standard construction. The owner of a court, recently purchased, in the South of England writes to us regarding the visit of a Squash Professional from one of our most famous Public Schools. He says, "I had the professional from H—— School over the other evening and he was delighted with the play of the Court and expressed the opinion that it was equal to those of Standard Construction."

The Cost is about half that of the usual brick courts.

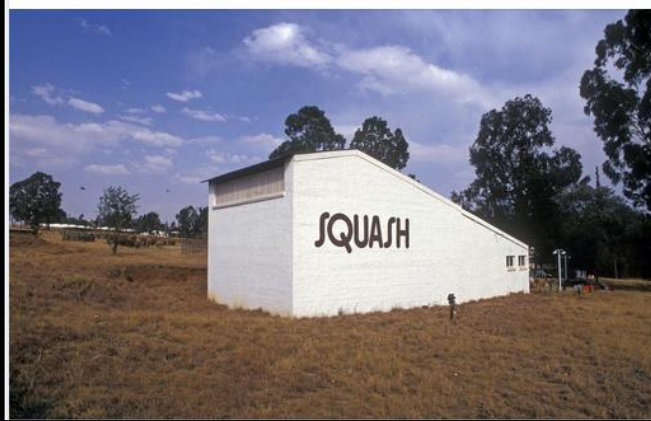


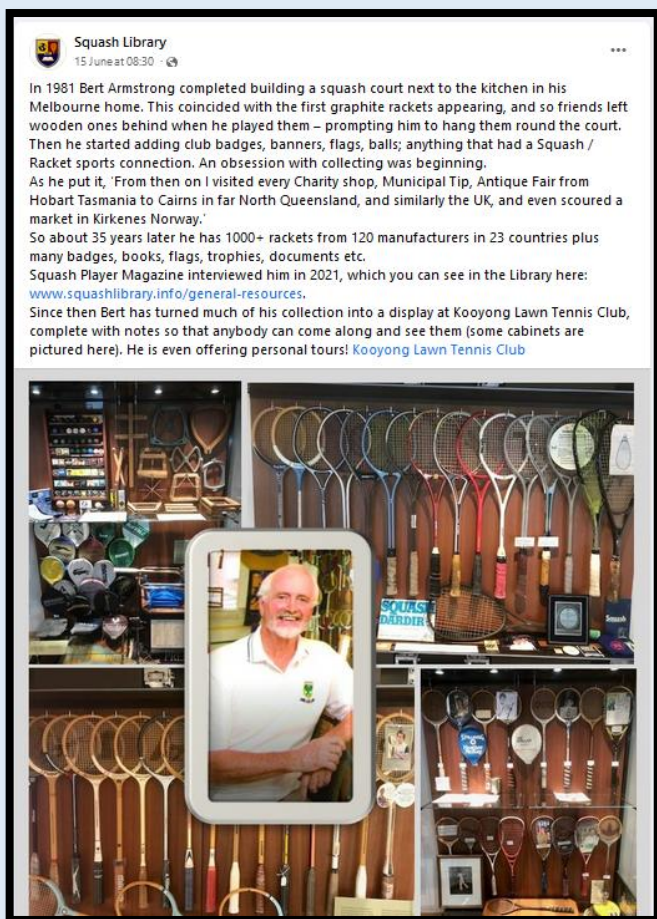
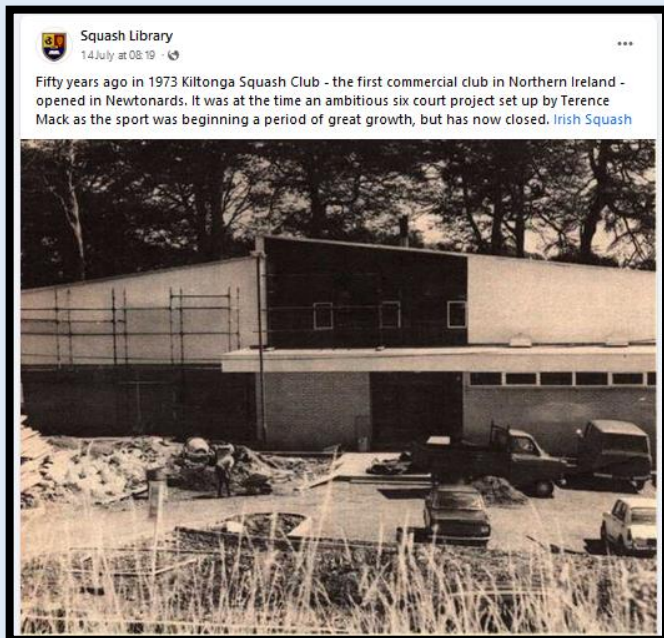
View of Court showing three quarter balcony.
Full size balcony can be fitted if desired.

For further particulars apply :—

The PORTABLE SQUASH COURTS LTD.,
Trent Navigation Building, No. 3,
NOTTINGHAM

Another pay-for-play centre, one that made very clear on the outside what sport it housed, was a court built near Lanseria Airport at Shumba Valley Lodge, north of Johannesburg, South Africa. It is now a conference centre. [Squash South Africa](#)





Squash Library
20 May at 08:26 · 🌐

In 1968 the British based Banbury Squash Courts company advertised their courts, and included the costs at that time, as listed here.

BANBURY SQUASH COURTS

SENSATIONAL SUCCESS STORY

Right from the first announcement, Banbury Squash Courts have had Tremendous success. From all over the country orders have come – tennis clubs, universities, sports and athletic clubs, industrial concerns. After all, there is no finer all-weather game for maintaining club revenue and fostering a club spirit.

AND NOW A DOUBLE COURT

Where the demand or potential future demand justifies more than one Squash Court, this double court makes sound sense. The communal gallery reduces the price per court and the whole building is an attractive feature in any club.

THE FINEST SQUASH COURTS ON THE MARKET TODAY

- ★ Perfect playing walls which require NO PLASTERING and therefore REQUIRE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE
- ★ Design and construction approved by the Squash Rackets Association
- ★ Our General Manager, Mr. W. J. K. Smith will be very pleased to answer any problems. Please write to him at:
- ★ Supplied, complete with gallery, at a competitive price, and ready for play in eight weeks from delivery
- ★ An excellent source of all-year-round revenue for your Club
- ★ Champions have pronounced it an excellent medium slow court of international match standard

SINGLE COURTS

£3,750

excluding base

DOUBLE COURTS £7,350


delivered and erected ready for play

BANBURY GRANDSTANDS LIMITED 5 Robins House, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Tel: Leamington 27131/9

Squash Library
16 May at 08:12

Fifty years ago flatscreens and tablets were very much in the future. Here is a 1973 squash scoreboard advertisement which pre-dated slimline screens and had controls certainly way too big to be hand-held!

REMEMBER THE BAD OLD DAYS OF SQUASH?



OF COURSE YOU DO — YOU'RE STILL PLAYING IN THEM.

Before we installed an electronic score-board our spectators were too busy asking questions to enjoy the game. "Who's hand-in?" "What's the score?" "Is this the first game?" "This is the second serve isn't it?" Ad infinitum.

Then we had the marker. Struggling with sheets of paper. Hoping his memory was reliable. Shouting into the court for maybe a couple of hours.

Not forgetting the players — "Sorry, I didn't hear you." "Did you say 6 — 31?" "It's this side, isn't it?" "Eh?" "What?"

Noise. Confusion. Arguments.

SO WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT OUR COURT?

Spectators never miss a move. They can join a game at any stage and know instantly what they are watching. Just sit and enjoy the game.

Markers! It's a new world. They can actually watch the game as relaxed as the spectators and really enjoy every rally. All they have to do at the end of a rally is press a button.


Players! Well, funny enough, all we ask of them is that they play — there's nothing else for them to do. Quiet. Peace. Calm.

CONTROLS Ergonomically designed for simplicity of operation. Distinctive colours identify players.
COMPACT Despite the wealth of information displayed, board measures 50" x 30", control box 30" x 10".
RELIABLE All components are well-proven and designed to operate well below the maximum load.
SAFE Operates at 24V.
ADAPTABLE Home and Away panels — designed for team matches — can be easily altered to show players' names.

The electronic score-board is designed, manufactured and marketed by
The Edward Thompson Group, Richmond Street, Sunderland, SR5 1BQ. Telephone: 77511 (10 lines) Telex: 53671
SRA APPROVED Patent applied for

Squash Library
11 March at 08:28

Ten years ago in 2013 the first all-glass permanent hardball court was installed by McWil at the National Sports Academy in Toronto (45 ft long by 25 ft wide (as opposed to 32 x 21). It accompanied nine other courts in a former Canadian Air Force hangar. Founded in 2010 the facility has since closed. [Squash Canada](#) [McWil Squash](#)



Squash Library
9 March at 08:34

1981 saw changes in squash ball adoption, with the European Federation agreeing a three year deal to use Dunlop balls for their events, while England & Scotland moved to the Grays Merco ball. These came just after ISPA (now PSA) signed an agreement with Dunlop which included their logo being stamped on them, and ISRF (now WSF), used them for their world championships. [Squash - PSA World Tour](#) [World Squash Federation](#) [The European Squash Federation](#) [England Squash](#) [Scottish Squash](#)

The Dunlop Black Championship Ball.

The number 1 Ball.



The only official ball of the International Squash Players Association — which represents the world's 100 top professionals.
Also exclusively adopted for the 1981/1982 ISRF World Championships, European Championships and World Open Championships.

Indisputaball.



The New SRA Championship Ball.
Selected exclusively for the 81/2.82/3.83/4 seasons.

Stringent tests by the SRA confirm the new Grays Merco black ball as their official Championship ball selected exclusively for the next three seasons. Tested extensively for consistency, durability, the retention of matt finish, rebound characteristics and feel, both the black and the green squash balls are officially approved.

Grays Merco — indisputably the best ball for you. Available from your sports dealer.

Grays Merco

Squash Library
25 February at 08:23

In the 1930s, timber courts were advertised as a cheaper alternative to brick. Here is an example.

TIMBER-BUILT SQUASH COURT AT HALF THE COST OF BRICK . . .

by the makers of the renowned—



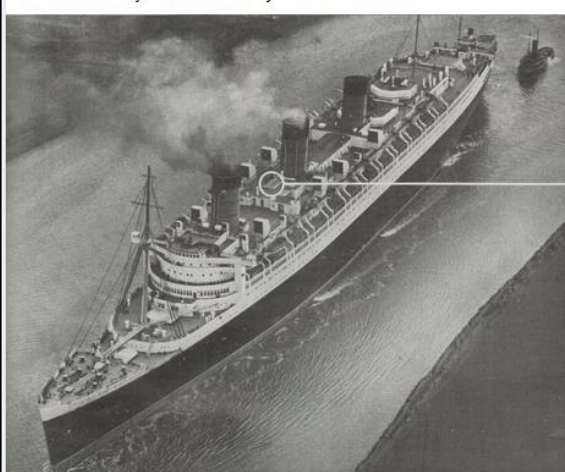
The "SHORTER'S" Timber-Built Squash Court (as illustrated) is the answer to cheaper squash. You get a first class court at half the cost of a brick building. Substantial and attractive construction. Send for details: **SHORTER WEATHERPROOF COURT Co.** Willifield House, Willifield Way, N.W.11 (Phone: guin "B" 11-37) Phone: Spentall 5115-5



Squash Library
22 February at 08:39

When the Queen Mary liner set sail across the Atlantic for the first time on 27 May 1936, it featured a squash court — as did the ill-fated Titanic. But this one was at deck level and had a glass ceiling.

It won the Blue Riband for the fastest crossing between England and USA, at just 27 minutes more than four days - to allow time for just a few court sessions.



Lantern light allowing play in natural light

One solution to provide referees with the best possible view of the court after the arrival of glass backwalls and full showcourts was a gantry so that the referee and marker could sit right over the backwall. Great for them but less so for the master shot of TV cameras with the screen filled by their backs! They would access the seats via a ladder which would be removed when they were up – though it was also said that this would prevent angry players reaching them! Because of the public, Tele-Squash period lighting requirements and general camera view issues, they were discontinued.

HIGH VIEW REFEREES' CHAIR

Squash Players...

- Having trouble with referee?
- Their pick-up was good?
- Anyone could see the ball was out of court?
- A doublet - No!

Now is your chance to put the referee in his place!

Referees...

- Too far from the action - view obstructed by spectators?
- Can't see the ball - in, out or out of court?
- Why do they keep asking the score - can't they hear?
- Annoyed by people full of advice - detected by radar?

Get on top of the game and assert your authority!

With the MFI structure for referees and markers you can put the referee in the best place to control the match.

- The standard assembly is for floor standing and fits to the top of the glass back wall. Quickly and easily assembled it is ideal for match nights and tournaments.
- If space is a problem the wall mounted structure accommodates seated or standing officials and leaves room for spectators.
- Whatever your layout we can design and install a structure to improve the view for referees and markers.
- Our products are approved by the BSA, the BSC, and are used at all the major tournaments around the world.

Call us for a quotation or survey without obligation or return the coupon on the back of the leaflet for MFI details.



The High View referee stand is positioned on the BSA Perspex Court or Wimbledon for the BSA Open Tournament.

- Floor standing
- Simple, long to court
- Clear view for officials
- Minimum obstruction for spectators

- Wall mounted structure
- Clear space for spectators
- Simple, safe access



All referee stands are made from steel and are furnished with a tough plastic coating in a choice of colours.

For further details phone or fax to 0202 279660, or send coupon.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
MRI SERVICES
85 Glenview Lane
Congen
Cheshire CW12 2HQ
Phone & Fax: 0202 279660



After the beginnings at Harrow School (see http://www.squashlibrary.info/_/harrow-school-where..), other UK public schools including Elstree School north of London introduced squash too. Outdoor and with no back wall there, as was often the case.

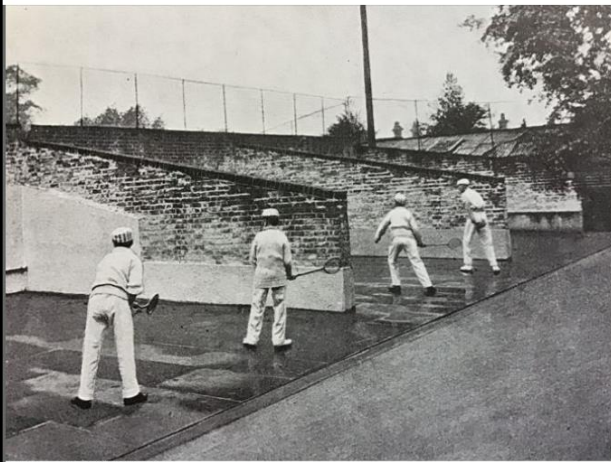
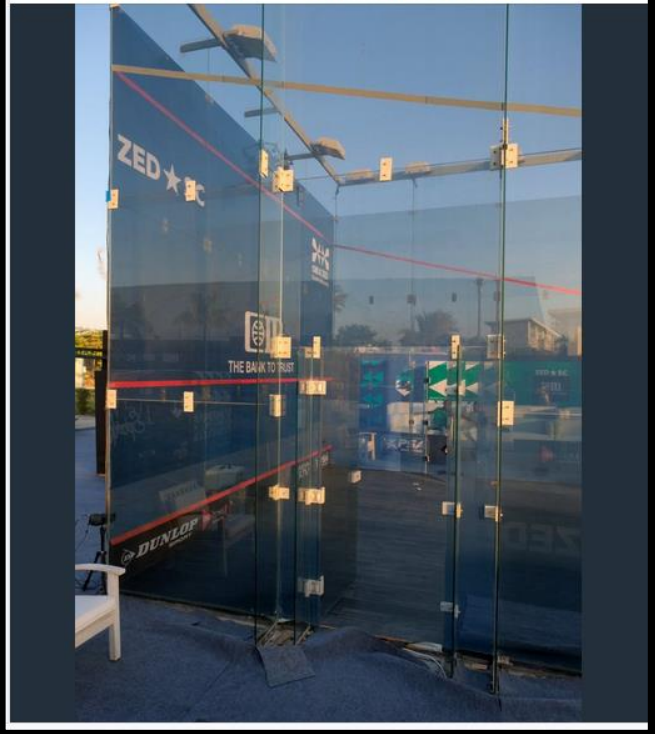


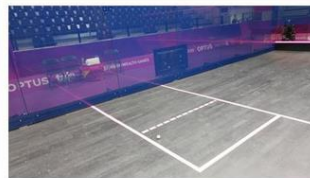
Photo courtesy Stuart Hardy

Ten years ago in 2012 court company ASB produced a glass court with two side wall doors, intended to enhance the clearness of broadcast shot through the larger panel and door-less back wall. It was first used in Egypt that year, their national federation having purchased it, as well as the Egyptian Federation lending it for the Hong Kong Open in December that year – an inspection event by the IOC for squash's Olympic bid 2020. [ASB Squash Courts](#)



In September 1998 the first glass showcourt that could be expanded onsite to a doubles configuration was developed by ASB for squash's inaugural participation in the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia. Both side walls could be moved outwards by 1.1m to reach the 7.62m/23ft 8in doubles width.

(Subsequently the International Doubles Competition Width of 7.62m was expanded to 8.42m/27ft 6in from 2012 onwards. The tin was also lowered to 33cm/13in cm). The extra width each side is shown between the service box hatched line and the wall.



2022

To complete a trio of squash ball ads we go back to a British Dunlop racket and ball ad from 1935. (35/- for the top racket is £1.75 in current currency). Squash balls were 90pence – for 12! A press to stop the wooden racket warping cost 12.5p).

Dunlop

RACKETS, BALLS PRESSES

SQUASH RACKETS. Each is the world's best rackets at its price. Highest quality frames and best English Gut used throughout.

"MAXPLY" - Tournament Model	Price 35/-
Standard Model	Price 30/-
"BLUE FLASH"	Price 21/-
"PIONEER"	Price 25/-
"NIMBLE"	Price 17/6
SQUASH BALLS Standard T.R.A.	Price 18/- Per dozen
SQUASH RACKET PRESS - Automatically asserts equal pressure over the entire surface. The most efficient press on the market.	Price 2/6

FROM ALL SPORTS DEALERS.

DUNLOP RUBBER Co. Ltd. (Sports Division),
St. James's House, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1.

The Triumphant Trio

Going further back, in 1951 this advertisement for the British Silvertown ball appeared to promote their ball, using Egyptian British Open champion Mahmoud El Karim. The ball had been popular in the first half of the century, but ceased production shortly afterwards. (www.squashlibrary.info/post/squash-balls-from-then-to-now for the Library history of the squash ball).



The Champion's Choice

MAHMOUD EL KARIM plays and prefers the Silvertown Ball

Silvertown Balls in Australia . . .

Silvertown Squash Balls of the medium pace type were used in the series of Australian Championships played in September

Silvertown
SLOW and MEDIUM SQUASH BALLS

THE SILVERTOWN COMPANY, HERGA HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

In 1956 after a similar set-up was initiated in Invercargill, new courts at Palmerston North in New Zealand incorporated viewing windows. (The full library history of innovation is at <http://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-event-innovation...>). They were built in the back wall of the court so that spectators standing on a platform in the passageway outside could view the game from almost ground level through plate glass windows. The only part of the court not visible was the back wall and corners. [SquashGym Palmerston North Squash New Zealand](#)



In the late 1980s Australian sports balls company Merco produced a brochure about their range. Here is the front page featuring Jahangir Khan, along with the squash details.



merco sporting balls, manufactured in Australia by Elastomer Technologies Pty. Ltd., are used and acclaimed by leading sporting identities throughout the world.

With many years' experience manufacturing rubber and plastic products to exacting standards of performance and quality, this dynamic company boasts unsurpassed levels of polymeric technology and engineering which combine to make Merco high performance sporting balls among the world's best. Acknowledged leaders in the manufacture of squash balls, synthetic hockey and cricket balls, racquetballs and handballs, Merco sporting balls are exported to more than 30 countries around the world.

SQUASH BALLS

The Merco ball revolutionised the game of squash in 1971 with the introduction of the new universally accepted "non-marking" black ball.

Prior to the Merco innovation, squash balls caused heavy soiling of court walls and thus heavy court maintenance costs. The Merco technique of ball construction also extended its playing life far beyond that of any product then available.

Over the years since its introduction, the Merco squash ball range has been expanded to meet the various needs encountered in diverse markets around the world. The Merco Squash ball range is far wider than that offered by any other manufacturer.

The unique blend of polymers in the Merco compound enables the speed and rebound characteristics of the ball to be varied to meet any requirement.

Thus the Merco ball was the first to be able to be "slowed down" to satisfy the modern requirement for an extremely slow ball for use by super-elite professionals under the very hot lighting conditions of televised tournament squash.

The full Merco Squash ball range is detailed in a separate bulletin. It includes a complete range of speeds to suit all classes of player from novice to professional. A special "Ever Ready" Double Red Dot Ball is widely acclaimed by coaches as a teaching ball. As well as the universally used "International" ball, Merco makes the only complete range of "Hardball" Squash balls for the American Squash game.

More so than in any other game, the quality of a squash ball is critical to the players' enjoyment of the game. The Merco product has no peer for durability, surface finish, "feel" on the racquet, rebound and consistency of performance, from ball to ball and batch to batch.

Merco has Championship Official Ball status throughout the world and is the Official Ball of many S.R.A.'s, including Britain, Canada, U.S.A. and Singapore.

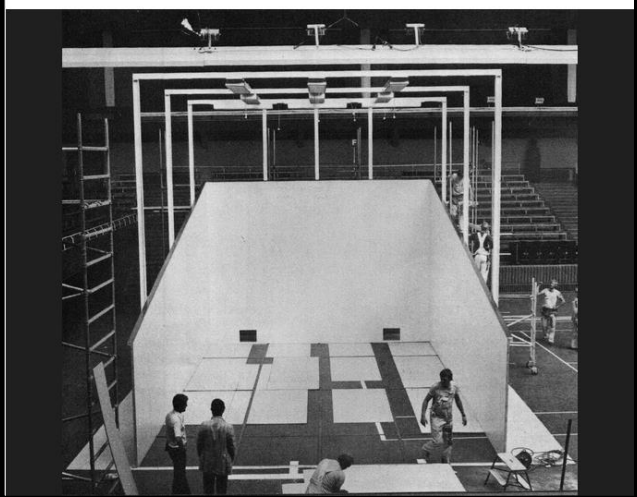
In 1986 Merco became the exclusive Official Ball of the International Squash Players Association (I.S.P.A.).

SPORTING BALLS

Until 1958 the largest gallery above a solid back wall was at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg, South Africa. It could hold 300-400 people. That year it was overtaken by this court built in the grounds of Cairo University. The huge block could seat 500 spectators, as well as 100 in two side galleries. (London's Lansdowne Club which hosted the British Open at the time had 144 seats and standing for 60 more). [Egyptian Squash Federation](#) - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش



When the PIA World Series reached Sweden on 31 Aug - 5 September 1978 as a new innovation a Perstorp panel court with a glass backwall was erected in the Kungliga Tennishallen in Stockholm. It led to what was then reported as a world record audience of 510 watching the final. The full Library PIA World Series history is at www.squashlibrary.info/features.

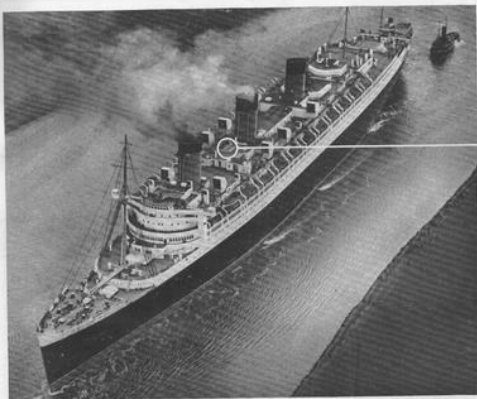




Squash Library
12 May at 08:33 · 🌐

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The Queen Mary ocean liner was launched in 1936, and ran the North Atlantic route until 1967. And as can be seen from this 1936 Carter Sports Court advertisement, featured a squash court for passengers on their way between Europe and USA.



Lantern light allowing play in natural light

Naturally the 'Queen Mary' has her own Carter Squash Court



The Queen Mary is the proud holder of the blue riband of the Atlantic: Carter's have been told that they hold the blue riband for the building of Squash Courts. What could be more natural, therefore, than a Carter Court for the Queen Mary, the only ship afloat with a lantern light above the Squash Rackets Court, permitting play by natural light—though, of course, she is not the only ship with her own CARTER Court. This Court was designed and constructed by Carters.

Messrs. Carter's Sports Courts Ltd., who are the largest builders of Squash Rackets Courts in the world, will be pleased to submit estimates for Covered Sports Courts of all kinds in any part of the world.

CARTERS SPORTS COURTS LTD.

Established 1878

(Formerly Sports Court Dept. of G. H. Carter Ltd.)

"Courts for all Sports"

CLISSOLD WORKS, 57-69, GREEN LANES, LONDON, N.16

Phone: Clissold 6920-1-2

Code: Marconi



Squash Library
7 May at 08:41 · 🌐

...

In March 1968, there was an SRA concern that an all-steel racket may be produced. At that time while the handle shaft could be made of 'wood, cane, metal or glass fibre', the Rules insisted on that the head be wood. They issued this statement to confirm their stance:

It recently came to the notice of the Squash Rackets Association that an all-steel racket was being manufactured and would shortly be on sale to the public. The Hon. Technical Adviser informed the company concerned that not only would such a racket be potentially dangerous, in his opinion, but that it would be in contravention of the Rules of the Game which lay down clearly that "... the framework of the head shall be made of wood." Despite this, the firm would offer no guarantee that the project would be abandoned, and a prototype was therefore obtained and examined carefully by the Management Committee, who unanimously supported the view of the Hon. Technical Adviser that it is potentially a most dangerous racket and one which is illegal for all matches played under the auspices of the S.R.A. The Association also strongly advises individuals to refuse to play against an opponent using one of these rackets in friendly matches, and clubs are advised to bar them from use on their courts in view of the increased danger of damage to the walls, apart from the element of risk to their members.



Squash Library
3 May at 08:49 · 🌐

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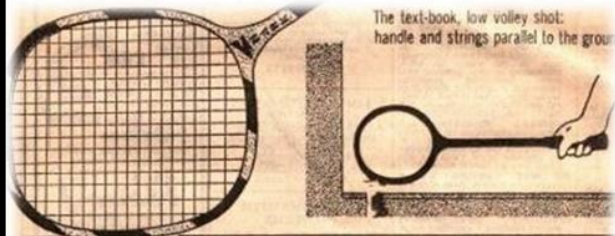
On 11 August 1985 journalist Martin Bronstein reported on the Shark racket, square head with an angled handle, intended to make it easier to get to balls close to the nick. See the illustrated article here: www.squashlibrary.info/features

It was also claimed to have a larger sweet spot at a time when stringing areas were still size-restricted.

A patent infringement dispute meant the racket was never produced.

.....spot at a time when stringing areas were still size-restricted.

A patent infringement dispute meant the racket was never produced.



Squash squares the court circle



Squash Library
16 April at 08:31 · 🌐

...

In 1981 a Swedish company, Andren & Sons of Stockholm, marketed a plexi glass court called Trans Wall which was used for the German Masters that year. Here are the details. The full Library court and presentation history is at <http://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-event-innovation...>

TRANS WALL

Squash inför fyllda läktare
Squash played in full view of crowded stands.

TRANS WALL

ger squash provides sq... in fact a

Periscope effect
The court is built on a raised platform... the ball is visible through the plexi glass walls... the court is built on a raised platform... the ball is visible through the plexi glass walls...

Plexiglas walls
The walls are made of plexiglas... the ball is visible through the plexi glass walls... the court is built on a raised platform... the ball is visible through the plexi glass walls...

Full view of the court
The court is built on a raised platform... the ball is visible through the plexi glass walls... the court is built on a raised platform... the ball is visible through the plexi glass walls...





Squash Library

10 February at 08:48 · 🌐

An illustration of the versatility of show-courts came when squash featured as a medal sport at the 4th Asian Beach Games played in Phuket, Thailand in November 2014. An ASB court was erected on Karon Beach. Harinder Pal Sandhu of India and Liu Tsz-Ling from Hong Kong (pictured) claimed the gold medals. [Thailand Squash Rackets Association \(TSRA\)](#) [Hong Kong Squash Rackets Federation of India](#)



Squash Library

28 January at 08:44 · 🌐

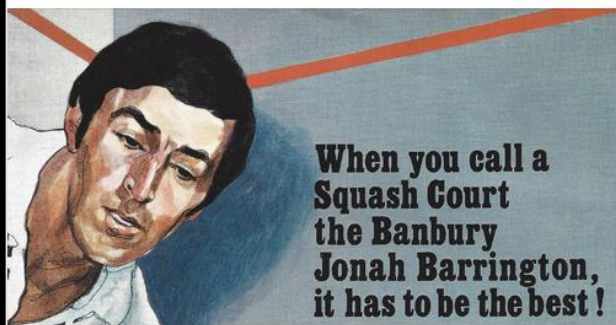
In 1985 two dentists in England drilled and filled white squash balls to make them retro-reflective. The BBC, who filmed the British Open that year, introduced their coverage with this feature. It is on the Library YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjFo-3pCw5gTEQSUO34TQnQ>



Squash Library

27 January at 08:36 · 🌐

There was a period when courts were built with concrete walls. A leading company was Banbury, who produced this brochure in 1971. See it at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features>. It advertised single courts at GB£4,620 - £4,850 each (with no extras!).



Squash Library

21 January at 08:55 · 🌐

In 1966 the English SRA (then the de facto World body, just before the World Federation was formed the following year) made clear that steel rackets, were not to be used. (For the full racket spec history: <https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-rackets-1928...>). Here is the notice: [World Squash Federation England Squash](#)

S.R.A. BAN ALL-STEEL RACKETS

THE following official notice has been circulated to all affiliated clubs as well as to the Press:—

It recently came to the notice of the Squash Rackets Association that an all-steel racket was being manufactured and would shortly be on sale to the public. The Hon. Technical Adviser informed the company concerned that not only would such a racket be potentially dangerous, in his opinion, but that it would be in contravention of the Rules of the Game which lay down clearly that "... the framework of the head shall be made of wood." Despite this, the firm would offer no guarantee that the project would be abandoned, and a prototype was therefore obtained and examined carefully by the Management Committee, who unanimously supported the view of the Hon. Technical Adviser that it is potentially a most dangerous racket and one which is illegal for all matches played under the auspices of the S.R.A. The Association also strongly advises individuals to refuse to play against an opponent using one of these rackets in friendly matches, and clubs are advised to bar them from use on their courts in view of the increased danger of damage to the walls, apart from the element of risk to their members.

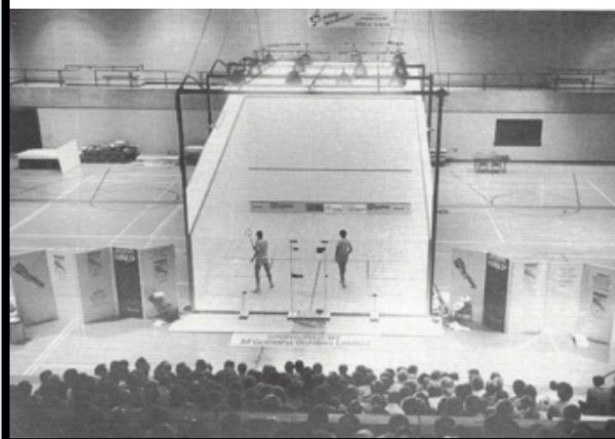
J. H. HORRY
Secretary



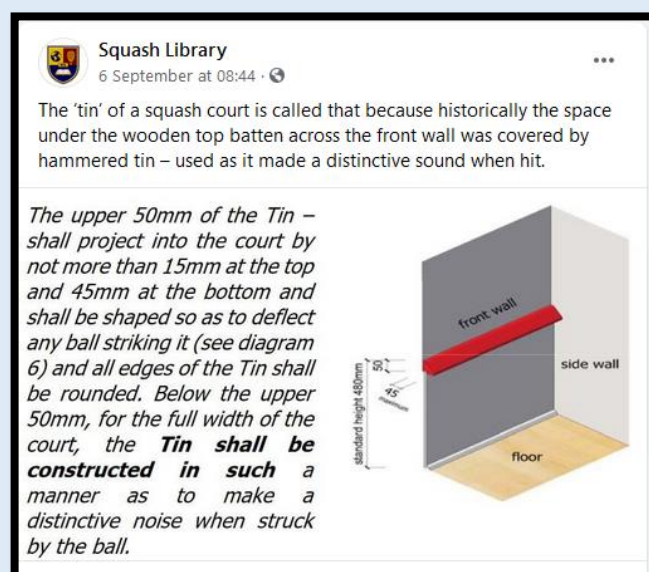
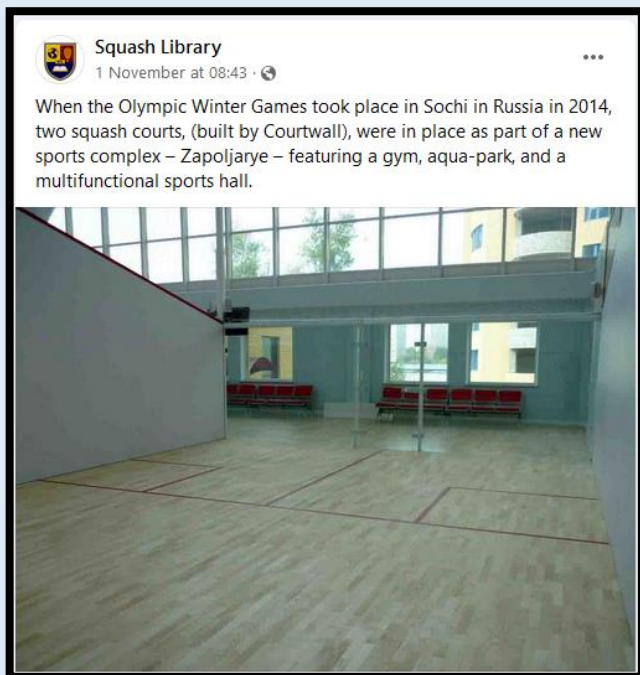
Squash Library

13 January at 08:41 · 🌐

After back walls had begun to appear, there came a brief intermediate stage at the end of the 1970s where glass back walls and their accompanying panelled side and front wall courts could be built especially for championships (including Worlds) and then taken down immediately afterwards. <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features> for the details. [World Squash Federation Squash - PSA World Tour](#)



2021



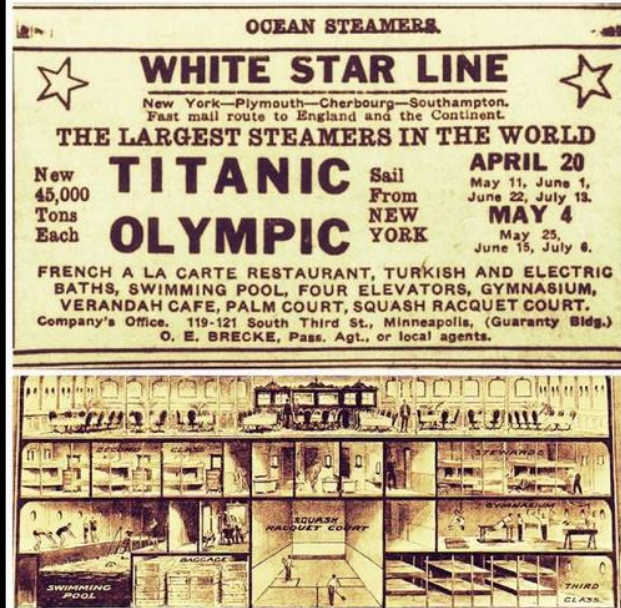
Squash Library
25 August at 09:11 · 🌐

In September 1976 a squash court company called Lumiere Leisure built what they called a Ring Beam court in a ballroom at Castle Klesheim in Austria as a feature of the Austrian Trades Fair. Courts were built in other settings too, with the selling pitch being: '.... This enables the maximum time to be available for squash, and yet allows the space occupied by the Foldaway court to be cleared for Saturday night dances and other leisure activities'



Squash Library
25 June at 08:14 · 🌐

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/>



Squash Library
16 August at 08:57 · 🌐

In the 1930's timber court buildings were promoted as a cheaper alternative to brick, as seen in an advertisement from the time. The shape of the roof in the photo is interesting in relation to squash!



TIMBER-BUILT SQUASH COURT AT HALF THE COST OF BRICK . . .

The "SHORTER'S" Timber-Built Squash Court (as illustrated) is the answer to cheaper squash. It is a first-class court; substantial and attractive construction.

TENNIS COURT ?—first of all you should examine the unique features of the famous—

SHORTER WEATHERPROOF COURT Co.
Willifield House, Willifield Way, N.W.11
(Please quote "Style 37") Phone: 0208 6111-0



Squash Library
14 July at 08:45 · 🌐

Chris Herridge, the undisputed world authority on court components and products, retired at the end of 2018 after 28 years being responsible for this area for World Squash Federation as chairman of the WSF Courts & Technical Commission.

For three decades, Herridge, an architect by profession in Winchester, England until his retirement, had been inspecting courts and products wishing to be WSF Accredited, evolving court specifications, liaising with the industry and dealing with all manner of enquiries.

A presentation was made to him by then WSF President Jacques Fontaine (right, above) at the WSF AGM 2018 to mark his retirement.

[World Squash Federation](http://WorldSquashFederation.com)





Squash Library

23 June at 08:13 · 🌐

...

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 1880 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'



Squash Library

10 June at 08:20 · 🌐

...

Wearing certified protective eyewear became mandatory for junior events by WSF in 1999. In order to help promote awareness of eye protection in 2014 WSF produced a downloadable scalable poster for clubs to display. The current version is at: <https://www.worldsquash.org/eyewear/eyewear-poster/> World Squash Federation

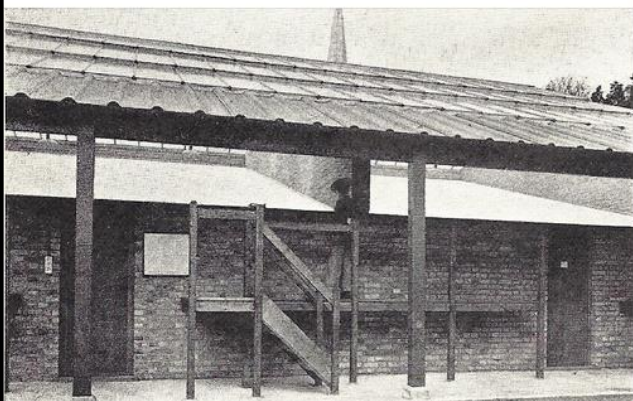


Squash Library

22 June at 07:49 · 🌐

...

The story of how squash evolved from being played on 'baby' rackets courts at Harrow School in North West London in 1865 into the courts we know is detailed in a new Library feature. See it at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features>



Squash Library

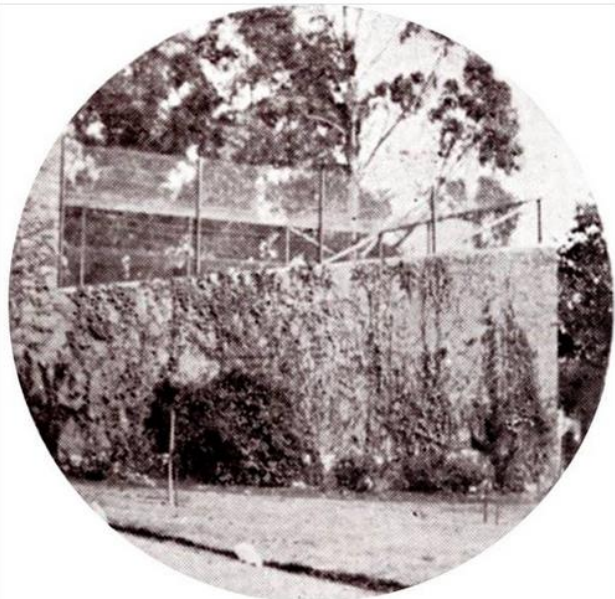
9 June at 08:49 · 🌐

...

One of the earliest courts outside UK was built in South Africa at the Johannesburg Country Club, and opened in December 1906. It was open to the skies and had a concrete floor. As for size, it was a little wider than what became the standard dimensions, which were agreed nearly twenty years later.

In 1930 it was adjusted to the standard size, a roof added and a wooden floor laid. Two further courts were added then too.

[Squash South Africa](#)





Squash Library

29 May at 08:22 · 🌐

...

Over 40 years before transparent squash courts appeared in the early 1980s, in 1935 a patent was taken out on them by George Herbert Colt, a surgeon from London who claimed the invention. It has lapsed now, but it was certainly ahead of its time.

Improvements in or relating to the construction of fives courts, rackets courts, squash-rackets courts and the like

466,220. Squash rackets and like courts. COLT, G. H. Dec. 2, 1935, No. 33300. [Class 20 (i)] Fives courts, squash rackets, and like courts, are formed wholly or partially with transparent walls to allow spectators to view the play from without but which are more or less opaque to the players within. The panels for the walls are formed of compound glass sheets 10, unbreakable or safety glass, celluloid, or like transparent substances, having one or both faces roughened, stippled, painted or provided with frosted areas 12 to render the panels partially opaque. The outer surface may be covered with mesh screens 3 and the screens may be enclosed by further glass sheets 14; sheets of perforated metal may be used as screens. In certain cases opaque blinds may be used to screen the court when the exterior is more brilliantly lit than the interior. The panels are fitted together to provide continuous playing surfaces free from obstructions and are secured by sunken bolts 18 to T-shaped frame bars 16 which may be supported by inclined struts 17.

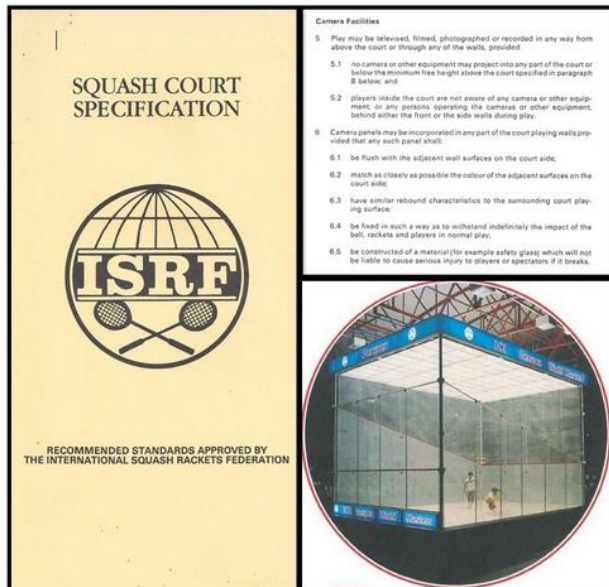


Squash Library

24 May at 09:02 · 🌐

...

When the World Federation published Squash Court Specifications in 1983, transparent side and back walls had been introduced such as the Perspex court using Contravision (below), so this section on Camera Facilities appeared. [World Squash Federation](#)



Squash Library

16 May at 09:34 · 🌐

...

Sunday Prompt. See how squash events and their presentation have changed from the 1950's until now. <https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-event...> Included is the first four sided viewing event in November 1982.

A milestone moment for squash - as stated on the booking form. The event had viewing through all four Perspex walls (which was the material used before glass), and Contravision which was essentially a wallpaper of dots pasted on the inside of the court to provide a basic 'one-way' effect. Later, the dots were baked into the glass. A black ball was used (coloured floors only started in 1984).

A new view of world class squash 1982 World Masters SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Granby Halls
Leicester

1st - 5th November, 1982



Squash Library

10 May at 08:56 · 🌐

...

LightPower, a leading worldwide exponent in TV and live stage visuals used their expertise to offer up a new dimension to squash arena lighting / presentation at the Men's World Team Championship 2011. It was played in Paderborn, Germany, their operational base. [Lightpower](#)





Squash Library
5 May at 08:15 · 🌐

...

Red squash balls? Indeed there were, as evidenced by this extract from notes written in 1937 by Englishman Simon Harcourt. 'Even fifty years ago we were, as we are now [1937], experimenting with the ball. The black surface of the ball left the mark of its shape on the walls, and very curious they sometimes were. And in consequence we played for many years with a red ball which in time gave the walls a pleasant pink hue. We also used a ball with a hole in it, probably at the same time as the Bath Club were trying out a similar ball. The ball was very popular with us as it needed a perfectly-timed shot to get it to the back wall – i.e. there was no waiting for the ball second time round'.



Squash Library
29 March at 09:17 · 🌐

...

Perspex and then glass showcourts began in the early 1980's but look at this ad from 1938! Excepting that it would have used gauze rather than laminated dots, the principle pre-dates the appearance of them by over 40 years. Perhaps the intervention of the 2nd World War put paid to production.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

TRANSPARENTLY-BUILT SQUASH COURTS

A perfect view of play for large audiences

"It is likely to revolutionize the game from the point of view of the spectators. At present not even 100 persons can see every stroke of a match. The glass court will allow nearly 2,000 people to watch a match."

THE TIMES.

Patented in Great Britain, United States, Canada, and South Africa

The invention supersedes the existing method of accommodating spectators in galleries. At the present time only a small number of persons in the front row of the gallery can obtain an adequate view, and most spectators see about two-thirds of the play as a whole.

The new invention allows of a direct and perfect view of play for a large audience from the level of the court. A semi-transparent panel is let into the wall of a court, and through this the details of a game can easily be followed up to a distance of 40 to 50 yards. The audience sits in darkness as in a cinema, and is invisible to players.

The panel is produced from sheets of plate glass evenly roughened. The surface gives the same bound of ball as a plaster surface. The panel is rendered opaque on the playing side by a special finely woven white gauze behind the plate glass. The sheets of treated glass are built into a steel framework giving the necessary element of strength. A whole court can be built in this way. There is no sweating of the surface. The roof, floor and lighting are the same as in an ordinary standard court.

It is a striking fact that more than 350 persons can be seated comfortably behind the back wall and obtain a perfect view of the game, in the length of a cricket pitch.

Further information may be obtained from:

MAJOR C. D. KNIGHT,
28 SHEPHERD MARKET,



Squash Library
11 March at 08:40 · 🌐

...

In 1968 after having been hit in his left eye by a racket causing loss of vision, Dr E.D. Kerr of High Wycombe in England had a metal protective mask made. His prototype was not taken up – probably because it would seem that protection was limited, especially with holes wide enough for a ball to pass through. (As from 1 January 1999 WSF mandated that all Juniors and Doubles players were required to wear protective eye-guards during competition play).



Squash Library
10 March at 08:27 · 🌐

...

If you have ever wondered how to make a squash racket, here is your answer in a Squash Library feature at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features>. It may be a little out of date as it comes from a publication produced in 1938!

The Making of Squash Rackets.

by R. E. Hadingham.

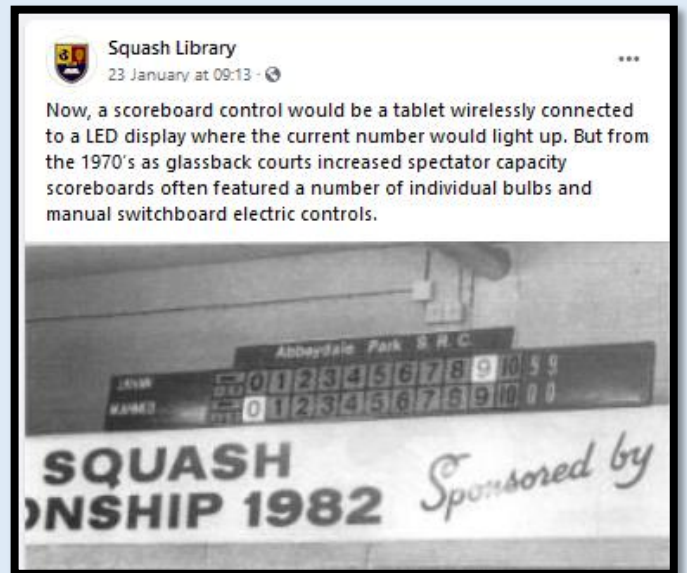
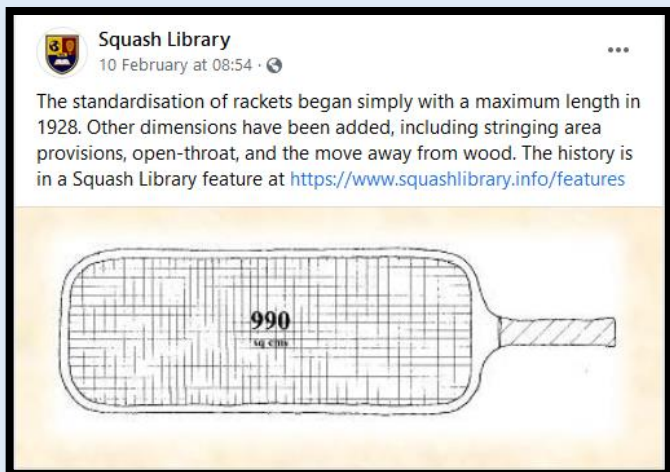
THE main timber used in most squash rackets is English ash, which arrives at the factory in logs direct from the forest. At the factory it is quartered and then planked, after which it is allowed to season for about ten months before being cut into strips measuring four feet and nine inches long, seven eighths of an inch wide and one eighth of an inch thick.

Occasionally strips or laminations of continental beech are introduced, so that the racket is made with two, three or more laminations, such as ash-beech, ash-beech-ash and so on. Some players like the handle to be of Manila cane, which is spliced into the throat piece and gives a racket extra whippiness.

The heart or wedge of the racket is made of sycamore, which arrives in planks and is roughly cut to the desired shape with a hand saw and then finished with a spindle-moulding machine.

Short lengths of ash which provide the overlays on the shoulders of rackets are bent into U-shaped pieces and then cut on a special machine.

Now the strips of ash and beech, together with the wedge pieces and the overlays, are sent to the bending shop. Glue is applied



2020



Squash Library

19 October at 09:17

...

If you thought that protective eyewear for squash is a relatively new initiative, think again. Here is a British advertisement from 1936!



THEODORE HAMBLIN LIMITED
MAKERS OF SPECTACLES TO SURGEONS' PRESCRIPTIONS ONLY

HAMBLIN'S
"FULL-FIELD"
SPECTACLES

IDEAL FOR SQUASH
RACKETS AND ALL
SPORTS

The shape of Hamblin's "Full-Field" Spectacles makes possible the wide field of view so essential in sports of all kinds. With the more ordinary round or oval lenses unobstructed vision is not possible at extreme angles, the rim of the frame invariably coinciding with just the line of vision required.

SALVOC REINFORCED
LENSES ARE A SAFEGUARD
IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS

An illustrated brochure will be sent on application.

In the interests of the public, Theodore Hamblin, Ltd., would like to point out that the importance of absolute accuracy of prescription is becoming more and more recognized as a necessity in coping with the exigencies of modern life, and that this can only be obtained with confidence from an Ophthalmic Surgeon. Theodore Hamblin, Ltd., only dispense prescriptions so acquired.

15 WIGMORE STREET
LONDON, W.1

And at MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, SHEFFIELD, LEEDS, EDINBURGH, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, BOURNEMOUTH, WINDSOR, KING'S LYNN, CHESTERFIELD, MIDDLESBROUGH, SCARBOROUGH



Squash Library

6 October at 08:39

...

As from 1 January 1999 all competitors at WSF World Junior Individual and Team Championships, along with Doubles events, were required to wear protective eye guards (manufactured to an appropriate national safety standard) properly over the eyes at all times during competition play.

This Regulation was subsequently adopted by Regions & Nations for their competitions, and for junior club play generally.

World Squash Day auction item:

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/324317948817>



EBAY.CO.UK

World Squash Day Auction 2020: Black Knight Eyewear signed by Daryl Selby ...

Pair of Black Knight eyewear signed by the player who is leading the way in encouraging players to wear eye protection, Daryl Selby.



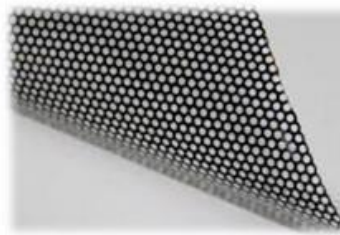
Squash Library

4 September

...

As the 1980s started 'wallpapering' the inside of a Perspex wall with a product called Contravision enabled multi-sided viewing. (See: <https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-event...> for a full innovation history).

It was a clear film of superimposed black and white dots 'wallpapered' onto the inside of the Perspex court walls. (Perspex was the forerunner to glass, and later with glass, the dots could be baked into it). In October 1982 at the ICI World Masters at the Granby Halls in Leicester, England (an event for professionals, not seniors), Contravision was used on the front and side walls for the first four sided viewing event.



Squash Library

6 October at 13:28

...

In March 1983 the French Open court floor at the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris was painted blue and used a white ball instead of black... and you could own the signed white ball included in the World Squash Day auction (with funds going to the PSA Foundation and Squash Library)! [World Squash Day](https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/324317971472)
<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/324317971472>



EBAY.CO.UK

World Squash Day Auction 2020: Canary Wharf Classic squash ball, Ali Farag |...

Squash ball used at this year's Canary Wharf Classic, signed by Ali Farag.

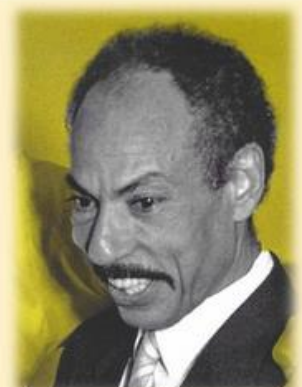


Squash Library

8 August

...

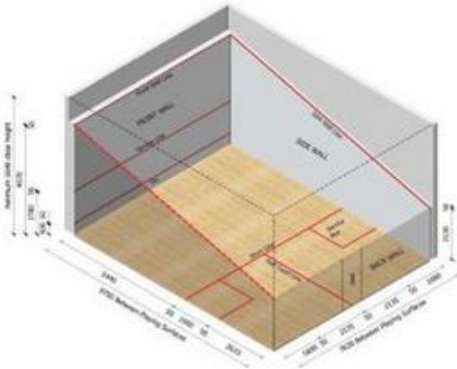
It is possibly unique for a squash ball to be branded by the name of a player. Dardir Squash Balls were in use at the start of the 1970's, named after the Egyptian professional and later legendary coach Mohamed Dardir El Bakary. He had been Australian based before settling in New Zealand in 1967, and was revered internationally. He died in 2015. [Squash New Zealand Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش](https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-event...)



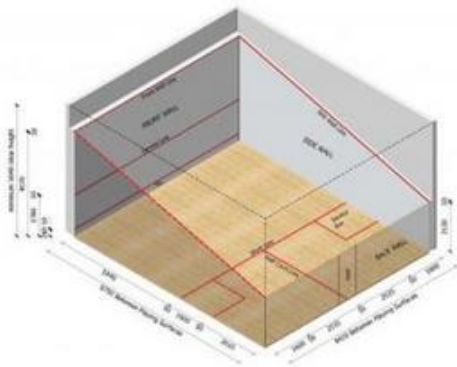


85 years ago a British SRA report in 1935 indicated that Doubles courts were already being built in Great Britain. The dimensions being used were length 45ft x width 25ft, and featured a 17inch (43cm) tin height. (Now, the doubles width is unchanged – except for the International Competition width - but the standard length of a squash court is significantly less, at 32ft i.e. 9.75m). (Current WSF court specifications e.g. doubles as illustrated, are at <https://www.worldsquash.org/court-construction/>)
[World Squash Federation](#)

Doubles Court Diagram:



Doubles Court Diagram – Competition Width:



The first time that a five-sided glass court was used was when WISPA (Women's International Squash players Association, since merged with PSA in 2015) ran the Qatar Airways Challenge in September 2006.

An ASB four wall glass court was erected in the grounds of the Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad in India, featuring a glass floor too. The glass had raised dots for grip, and the background underneath could feature any colour and sponsors logos. The sprung underfloor could be covered in LED lights so that names, scores could be illuminated.

As losing semi-finalist Jenny Duncalf commented, 'this floor was solid without being hard, not at all slippery and was firm in the grip. I liked it a lot. I wish all court floors were as good'. However, as was found in the Men's World Open the following year, it did become slippery in very humid conditions. (Pic: ASB's Horst Babinsky onsite in Hyderabad) [Squash - PSA World Tour Qatar Airways ASB Squash Courts](#)





Before the Second World War squash rackets could be bought 'entirely hand-made'. As advertised, John Holden (based a few doors down from Sherlock Holmes in London's Baker Street) would make you his top of the range model for 30 Shillings (now GBP1.50).

THE "SUPER-HOLDEN" SQUASH RACKET

OUTSTANDING
IN QUALITY AND
PERFORMANCE

THIS NEW MODEL WITH ITS
BUILT-UP CANE SHAFT COM-
BINES LIGHTNESS, STRENGTH
AND GREAT DRIVING POWER

30/-



OTHER
MODELS

"EMPIRE"

A FIRST-CLASS RACKET

26/6

"REGAL"

21/-

EVERY RACKET ENTIRELY HAND MADE BY

JOHN HOLDEN

(The Specialist)

232, BAKER STREET, LONDON, N.W.1

Phone: WELbeck 8622

Ask for Price List



Squash courts can be found in many places, including Royal Palaces. Examples include Buckingham Palace in London where HRH Prince Philip was a keen player (and who was on court when his oldest son was born); and the Prince's Palace in Monaco (pic), where HSH Prince Rainier & son HSH Prince Albert have played. In Malaysia there are two courts in the Palace of the Sultan of Negeri Sembilan. Nearby, the Sultan of Brunei had two all-glass courts at his disposal at his Palace. There are also two possibly unique marble courts still in the Indian Palace of Umaid Bhawan at Jodhpur. Doubtless there are others too.



There was a time before court lighting featured fluorescent tubes, & most recently LED options. This is how 'globes' were arranged during the late 1920's.

NOTES ON THE ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING OF THE COURT

The best results may be obtained by the use of six 300 half watt electric lamps hung so that the globes are not less than 17 feet from the floor. They should be hung in pairs from front to rear of the Court, each lamp at 3 feet 6 inches from the nearest side wall, and 8 feet between each pair and between the nearest pair and the front wall.

The reflectors of the front pair should be so arranged as to throw the light forward sufficiently to avoid shadows on the front wall and to protect the eyes of Hand-in from glare when serving.

Protection is seldom required for any of the lamps if hung at the proper height but may be found necessary in some circumstances for the pair nearest the front wall.



This ad for the Super Arnold Racket (named after the British Open R/up 1931, Charles Arnold, pictured) is possibly the only royal squash racket endorsement – by HRH Duke of Kent. Arnold already had a royal connection as he had taught British King Edward VIII to play squash.

ARNOLD SUPER SQUASH COURTS

GUARANTEED SATISFACTION

Accommodated by the leading Amateurs and Professionals as being equal to the best, and with our recent improvements are better than any other type.

CONSTRUCTED BY
The Arnold Squash Racquets Court Construction
Co. Ltd.
22, COURTHOPE ROAD, LONDON, N.W.3

The SUPER ARNOLD SQUASH RACKET

AFTER 11 YEARS STILL THE WORLD'S BEST

As used by

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT

Specifically designed by Charles Arnold,

one of the leading Squash players, and he

has perfected what is undoubtedly the

best racket on the market.

Only the finest English Ash is used in the

frame. It is strong with special quality

2 1/2". The shaft is of exceptional strength

and lightness, and the racket perfectly

balanced. Suitable for Tournament or

Club play and will please the most

critical players.

PRICES

SUPER ARNOLD - 21/-

THE ARNOLD - 18/-

GLUE - 1/-



FINEST BALL FOR ANY
COURT

Used in
Professional Championship, 1936,
Doubles Championship, 1937,
etc.

JAMES COBBETT (1934) LTD.
151, PARK ROAD, LONDON, N.W.8

Tel: 01-262 2222 (2 lines)





Yesterday, a pre World War Two portable court, today a timber one being promoted at the same time. 20% cheaper than brick, and with a clearly desirable quick erection.

News of any portable or timber courts from the period still in existence welcomed please.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT TIMBER SQUASH COURTS WITH COMPOSITION WALLS

(Patents pending)



One of many suggested designs

- * 20% cheaper.
- * Non Sweating Composition Walls.
- * Quick Erection.
- * Removable for re-erection.
- * "Play" as Carter's Brick Courts.
- * Sloping or damp sites can be used.

CARTERS are the largest builders of Squash and other Covered Courts in the world, and have introduced these Timber Courts to meet the demand for cheap but durable Courts.

Illustrated Brochure 'O' (Timber) or 'P' (Brick) on request.

CARTER'S SPORTS COURTS LTD.
57-69, GREEN LANES, LONDON, N.16

Telephones : Clissold 6920-1-2. Telegrams : Carcorts Finspark, London



If you thought that portable courts are a relatively recent phenomenon, think again! These courts were advertised in 1937 on the basis that they could be fixed or moved. The car was an optional extra!

PORTABLE SQUASH COURTS LTD.

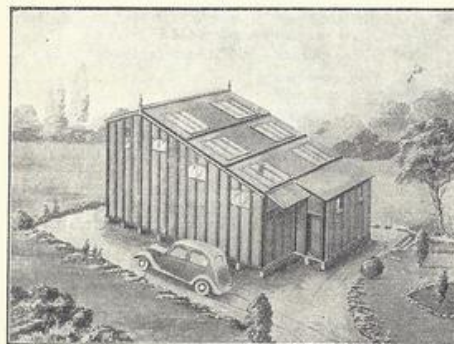
Why not invest in one of our Courts ?

It is a permanent building in every way of indefinite durability.

It can, however, be taken down and re-erected on a different site if desired.

Our Courts are in all respects of standard construction. The owner of a court, recently purchased, in the South of England writes to us regarding the visit of a Squash Professional from one of our most famous Public Schools. He says, "I had the professional from H— School over the other evening and he was delighted with the play of the Court and expressed the opinion that it was equal to those of Standard Construction."

The Cost is about half that of the usual brick courts.



View of Court showing three quarter balcony.
Full size balcony can be fitted if desired.

For further particulars apply :—

The PORTABLE SQUASH COURTS LTD.,
Trent Navigation Building, No. 3,
NOTTINGHAM



Squash Library

29 April · 🌐

...

1 January 1988 saw the start of the ISRF (now WSF) International Standards Scheme to test and approve squash court materials and components. The intention was stated as 'this will ensure that future courts are built to the very highest standards, and should give member nations value for money and give support and encouragement to reputable companies'.

(This continues today as WSF Accreditation, details at <http://www.worldsquash.org/accreditation-scheme-2/>) World Squash Federation

WORLD SQUASH

ACCREDITED PRODUCT

WSF



Squash Library

20 April · 🌐

...

In April 2018 a group in USA – the Public Squash Foundation – collaborating with German court company ASB, unveiled a free-to-use public outdoor squash court. It was erected at Hamilton Fish Park in New York City for summer play.

The floor was made up of weather-resistant boards installed on top of an elastic drainage sub structure to allow rainwater to drain away. [US SQUASH](#)



Squash Library

17 April · 🌐

...

The first permanent four-sided glass court installed in North America opened on 1 October 1987. The location was Curzon's Sporting Club in Toronto, Canada; the re-development of the Carlson facility masterminded by Englishman Garry Oliver, who had already installed the first UK all-glass court at the Cannons Club in London.

It featured 360 seats and hospitality boxes down one side. Seven other glassbacks completed the squash set-up.

While it has ceased to operate, it successfully hosted Canadian Open & Mennen Cup events in its' heyday. [Squash Canada](#)



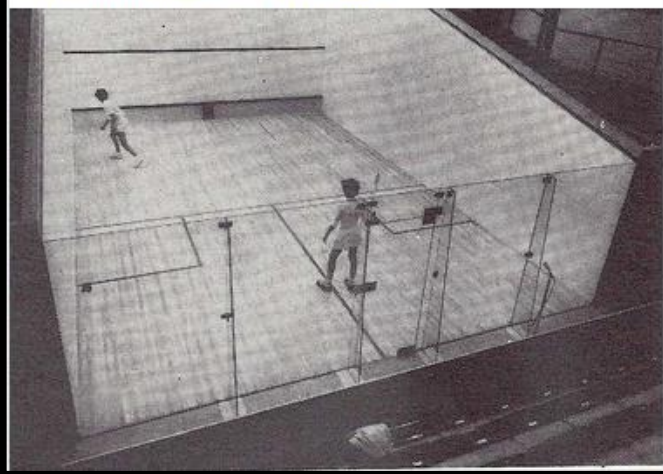
Squash Library

24 April · 🌐

...

In January 1972 the British Open became the first major championship to utilise a glass backwall when played at Abbeydale, Sheffield. It was installed in 1971 (date of photo). As the event programme noted: 'For the first time spectators can easily see what is happening in the back corners of the court, where so much play takes place'.

The full Library event innovation timeline 1954 – present is at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features>





Squash Library
15 April - 6

...

Before coloured dots were introduced in the 1950's squash balls were two speeds, i.e. Standard & Slow.



1951-52 SEASON

THE *Dunlop*

'SLOW' SQUASH BALL
has been exclusively selected for
The British Open Championship
The British Amateur Championship
The British Women's Championship
The British Professional Championship
... for the fourth successive year

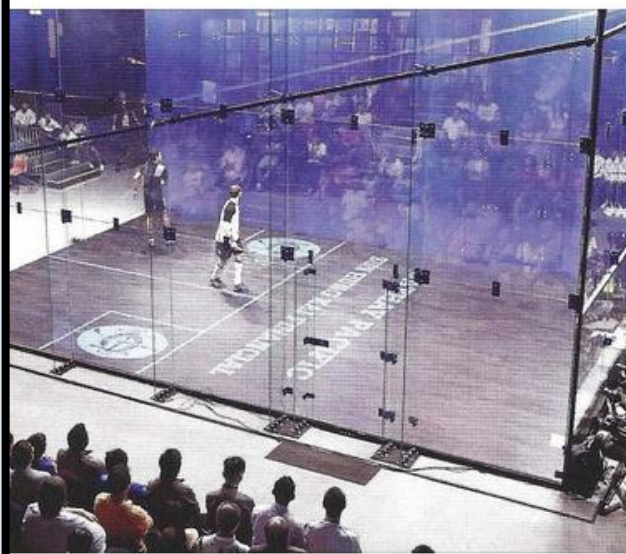
DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY LIMITED, 19-20 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1



Squash Library
9 April - 6

...

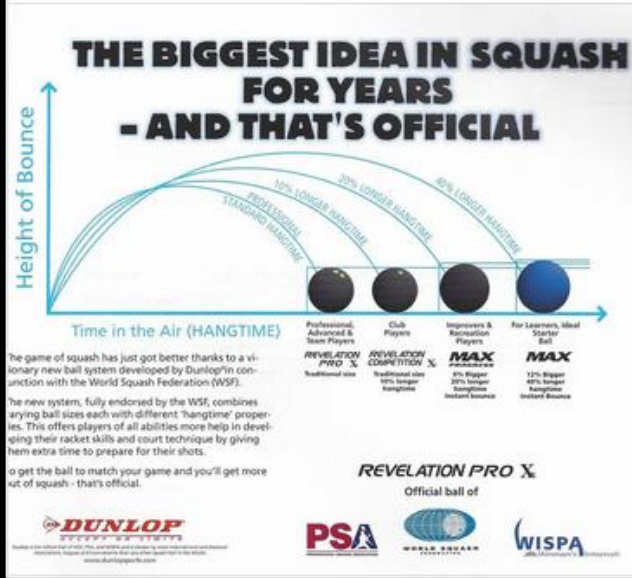
In April 2012 a door on each side wall rather than on the backwall, was first seen at the El Gouna event in Egypt in a showcourt innovation developed by ASB. This allowed for larger panels in the backwall, no door frame and fittings, and so enabled a 'cleaner' broadcast shot through the backwall. The full event 1954 - present Library timeline is at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features>



Squash Library
15 April - 6

...

From the 1950's until 1999 the speed of squash balls was indicated by different colour dots (blue - fast, red - medium, white - slow, yellow - extra super slow). Then market leaders Dunlop scrapped dots and introduced larger balls intended to aid participation. Others followed. Double dot entered the squash vocabulary at that time.



Squash Library
5 April - 6

...

In colder climes, or in winter, some squash courts that had no heating were called ice boxes, and to get a too slow ball to bounce reasonably was hard. Cue the marketing of ball warmers to help - as this example from 1980 shows.

Your Club needs the Decpace Squash Ball Warmer... and can afford it too!



Great ideas don't have to cost the earth - the Decpace Squash Ball Warmer is a new, exciting and attractive squash facility that your club needs and, at an all-in cost of only £1.00 per week, can afford.

PLAYERS BENEFIT

A warm ball right from the start allows normal stroke play. Should a ball burst during the game, simply take the spare from the warmer and continue at the same pace, saving the usual wasted warm-up time. Also, playing with a ball of unvarying pace reduces the risk of injury and, don't forget, that for players the facility is free.

CLUBS BENEFIT

Satisfy your members by providing a facility that the modern player will expect to see in the clubs of the 80's. It is a small attractive, low-cost unit using minimal electricity. No club in Britain should be without the Decpace.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THE CLEAR ADVANTAGES OF THE DECPACE UNIT

1. Thermostatically controlled, it will determine its own temperature and will not overheat and damage the balls.
2. It heats two balls (not one), in effect halving time and cost.
3. It features highly effective hemispherical heating chambers.
4. It is a truly sturdy and rugged unit.
5. The unit is backed by a first class, personal service.

Patent No. 1559976 applies

Decpace Ltd., Pit Lane, Talke Pits
Stoke on Trent, Staffs, England. Tel: 07816 5016

Telex: 36250 Chacom G.



Squash Library

27 March · 🌐

...

Available today – the Squash Library Event Innovation Timeline spectator presentation, broadcast & courts. See how squash events and their presentation have changed from the 1950's until now.

www.squashlibrary.info/features

World Squash Federation Squash - PSA World Tour



SQUASH EVENT INNOVATION TIMELINE

..... Spectator event presentation, broadcast & Courts

Until squash courts had glass back walls, viewing was very limited, as was the opportunity to televise or even photograph on-court action. But from the first use of glass nearly 50 years ago the breakthroughs in court construction, colour, presentation and broadcast have been rapid and varied. Here are a number of the key innovation milestones that have seen squash move even further into the mainstream as a spectator sport.

1954 & 1966

To add to backwall balcony viewing, small windows are added just above the backwall out-of-court line in courts in Invercargill & Palmerston North respectively, in New Zealand. This adds two lower rows of spectators to the balcony capacity.



1959 & 1962

Squash is televised in a local broadcast for the US Open in Pittsburgh in 1959, and three years later part of a court door is removed in Perth Australia to enable filming through the open doorway.

1965

A glass window is placed in a court door at the Albert Park Squash Centre in Melbourne to enable filming, and is used for the ISRF Men's World Individual Championship in 1967. (Geoff Hunt, front, beating Cam Nancarrow, rear, in the final).



Squash Library

22 March · 🌐

...

For the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, a permanent all-glass court was built on an elevated base with hydraulics. This meant it could be slid from the squash facility into the adjacent indoor athletics track through a removable wall, and seating built around it. [England Squash](#)



Squash Library

23 March · 🌐

...

There are at least two instances of showcourts being built on frozen surfaces. The Leekes British Open in 1997 was held at the Welsh National Ice Rink in Cardiff and the Women's Texas Open was played on the ice rink at the Plaza of The Americas in Dallas 2003 (pictured). Fortunately, there were no power cuts, the ice didn't melt & the court didn't sink!



Squash Library

14 March · 🌐

...

In March 1983 coloured floors on showcourts began. The French Open painted the floor blue and used a white ball instead of black.

The first blue floor glass court match was played at the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris by Frank Donnelly (Australia, right) and Ali Aziz (Egypt). Court markings moved from red to yellow and overall to a more colourful presentation for broadcast & spectators alike.

[FFSquash](#) - [Fédération Française de Squash](#) Squash - PSA World Tour



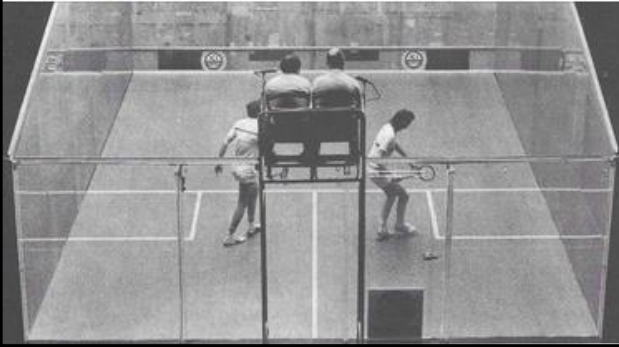


Squash Library

10 March · 🌐

...

At the World Masters (top professional, not mature age) event in Warrington, England in October 1984 referees on a gantry against the backwall was tried. The 'Squash Observer' was a great position for officiating, but not so good for filmed events as their back view was centre-screen!



Squash Library

7 March · 🌐

...

The first glass backwall was unveiled in (Dec 1966). Before this to add to balcony viewing narrow windows were added just above the backwall out of court line in courts in Invercargill & Palmerston North, in New Zealand in 1954 & 1956 respectively. This innovation enabled a further two rows of spectators to watch from below the people on the balcony. [Squash New Zealand](#) [SquashGym Palmerston North](#)



Squash Library

5 March · 🌐

...

Back at the end of 1983, two years after the requirement that rackets had to be made of wood had been dropped a prototype carbon fibre racket called 'The Shark' appeared in England. It featured straight sides and an angled head which, it was thought, would be a great benefit to players as it could get closer to the nick and help shovel the ball back. It was also claimed to have a larger sweet spot at a time when stringing areas were still size-restricted. Promoted by player Danny Lee, due a patent infringement dispute the racket was hastily placed under wraps again, and was never produced.





Squash Library
29 February · 🌐

...

At the 1985 British Open a 'tele-ball' was first used. Dunlop balls were drilled with holes by a dentist in Surrey, England, and light-reflecting material inserted. Lights placed next to camera lens shone on the ball & the beam returned to the lens to produce a glowing highly visible ball.

It worked just like cats-eyes reflect headlight beams on roads. Following the play became easier - except for people viewing through the front wall who were dazzled by the bright light! A Merco version of the Tele-Ball using 'fingers' of reflecting material was used at the Men's World Open 1986 in France (where Ross Norman ended Jahangir Khan's unbeaten years). However, the increased proportion of reflective area to rubber made it more prone to skidding. Tele-balls were not continued with as cameras improved picture quality.



Squash Library
15 February · 🌐

...

The Titanic liner, complete with squash court, struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and sank in 1912, as is commonly known (see the court position on the brochure). But the Titanic was not alone. The Queen Mary plied the Atlantic with a court, and much more recently the German AIDA cruise ship includes an ASB glass court on deck.



Squash Library
9 February · 🌐

...

Marked Walls 2. Black squash balls were also badly marking walls, hence companies introduced green 'non-marking' balls. However, the green balls were felt to be inferior to the black ones in playing characteristics. The next stage was the introduction of blue balls, first by Grays and Slazenger during the 1976 / 7 season. They were trumpeted as not only being non-marking' but also playing similarly to 'championship' balls. [Slazenger](#)

IT'S NEW! IT'S BLUE! IT LEAVES YOUR WALLS WHITER!



The New Non-Marking Squash Ball
by Slazenger with improved
playing characteristics - the ball all squash
players have been praying for

Approved by the Squash Rackets Association

The proudest name in sport **Slazenger**



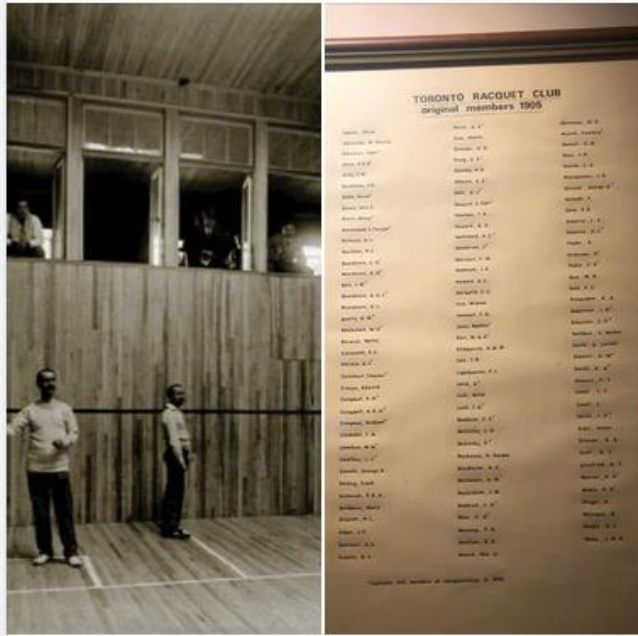
Squash Library
8 February · 🌐

...

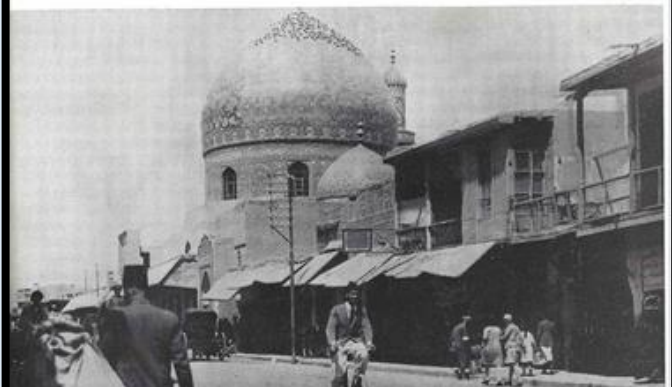
After 1 January 1994 court operators stopped finding their walls covered in marks from the coloured bumper strips on racket heads. A change to the Rules of Squash meant that from then on bumper strips needed to be white, colourless or unpigmented, with colours only allowed where the manufacturer could demonstrate that it was non-marking.



Following on from the club list posted yesterday featuring 1938 clubs from many nations such as Australia, Canada, China, East Africa, Egypt, Netherlands, South Africa UK, USA and others (<https://www.squashlibrary.info/principal-squash-clubs>), we get to the question of which is the oldest continuous squash club in the world? Let me start the discussion by putting forward the Toronto Racquet Club in Canada, founded on 6 February 1905. As can be seen from the TRC website <http://www.trcsquash.com/index.php/about-us/history> it has moved location, but the club itself has been continuous, starting with hardball before initiating softball courts. Any other bidders for the title?



This advertisement from 1937 shows how the world squash market had opened up. A court company ad headlined Trinidad and Baghdad, but the list of countries on the left of the page is a wide one. [Trinidad & Tobago Squash Association](#) [Iraq squash](#) اسكواش العراق



A SCENE IN BAGHDAD. Carter's have recently shipped to Dhihban, near this ancient city, the materials for three standard Squash courts.

FROM BAGHDAD TO TRINIDAD ... CARTER COURTS!

DIHIBAN IN BAGHDAD, Iraq	1 Court
B. A. Squash Racquets Club—Cairo	1 Court
Trinidad Tennis Club—Trinidad	1 Court
Capetown—(Open Order)	1 Court
Tenby College—Wales	1 Court
Durham College	2 Courts
Marlborough College	1 Court
University of Sheffield, Green Hall	2 Courts
Kings College Hospital (Bancroft)	2 Courts
Toronto Club—Southampton	1 Court
Chesham House—Buckingham	2 Courts
John Court—Peters	2 Courts
Wells Squash Racquets (Carter's Ltd., Cardiff)	2 Courts
Murray Park Tennis Club, Blenheim Square, S.W.1	2 Courts
Green Lane Tennis Club—Chesham Park	2 Courts
Wentworth Squash Racquets Club	1 Court
Eding Public House (and many others)	1 Court
R.A.F. Station (Various)	4 Courts
R.M.S. St. Vincent, Guyana	1 Court

Wherever people play squash, or badminton, or fives—and play well—there you will probably find a Carter Court. Carter Courts, always the standard of the world, are becoming more and more popular every season. In the margin is shown a partial list of contracts at home and abroad in hand or recently completed by Carter's.

Your enquiries are invited for SQUASH RACKETS COURTS and ALL COVERED SPORTS COURTS in any part of the world.

Illustrated Brochure and other literature free on request.

CARTER'S SPORTS COURTS, LTD.

(Covered Courts for all Sports)



CLISSOLD WORKS, 57-69, GREEN LANES, LONDON N.16.

Phones: CLISSOLD 4920-1-2

Telegrams: CARCORTS, FINS PARK, LONDON.

Code: MARCONI

Cablegrams: CARCORTS, LONDON

Established 1878

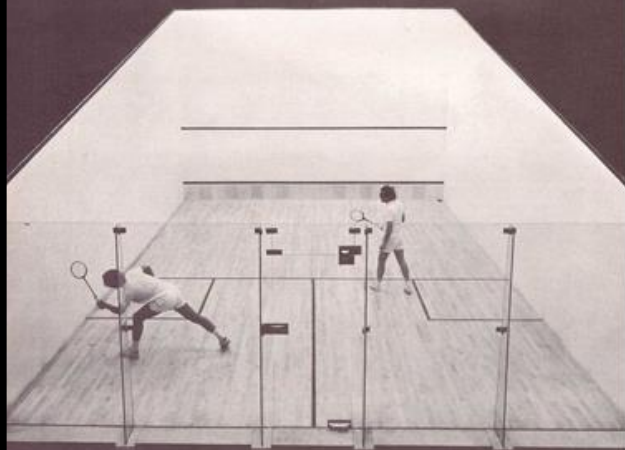
Glass backwalls as commonplace now, but when they began to be installed from 1968 they were transformational for squash. A year later Ellis Pearson started promoting the innovation, and in 1972 a manufacturer, Pilkington Brothers, trumpeted that they were sending walls to countries including Japan, South Africa, Nigeria, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Lebanon, Kuwait and USA. The sales information stated that the walls were called Armourplate, 'glass up to 20 times stronger than o... See more

ellis pearson

GLASS BACK WALLS

Twelve months after the installation of the very first glass back walls, thirty seven courts have been specified including single developments of six courts at Winchester, three courts at Harrow and two at Derby. Squash court designers are steadily realising the advantages not only of vastly increased spectator facilities but also the considerable cost savings introduced by omitting traditional balcony construction.

Ellis Pearson & Co. Ltd., Glass & Metal
P.O. Box 48, Meadowhall Road, Sheffield S9 1FA
Telephone: 43333 STD: 0742



One of two courts installed at the new Crivdon SBC for County Squash Rackets Ltd.

In November 1933, a centre with no less than 15 courts was opened at Thames House on Millbank in the centre of London. The annual subscription was GB£1.05 and court fees 10p per player. The courts were taken over at the outbreak of World War 2 for file storage, and it took over 20 years before the Civil Service SRA managed to get three courts released for squash again. Courts are still there, but as the building is now occupied by the British security service MI5, the number left is probably a secret!

The largest squash rackets club in the world . . .



Thames House, London



Thames House contains fifteen first-class squash courts, all of which were finished by Carters.

The same firm has been responsible for almost every first-class squash court in this country, and about 90 per cent of the standard courts.

Carters will be pleased to send, at their own expense, a technical expert to advise you or submit estimates for Private, Club or Hotel Courts, or for the conversion of old buildings into courts. This free service they offer to anyone in the United Kingdom and most European Countries.

An illustrated brochure will be sent post free on request.

CARTERS SPORTS COURTS LTD.

Established 1878

(formerly Sports Court Dept. of G. H. Carter Ltd.)

"Courts for all Sports"

CLISSOLD WORKS. 57-69 GREEN LANES. LONDON. N.16

When you think of unusual places for squash courts to be found, a gas rig is not likely to spring to mind. However, in 1981 a Total owned rig in the Arabian Gulf became the home of a Perstorp System court. A prefabricated building was placed on a barge and then lifted onto the top of the accommodation block, after which the court was assembled inside. (The court could not be assembled before the building was taken out to the rig as the flexing would have affected the precise court joints).

...over water...

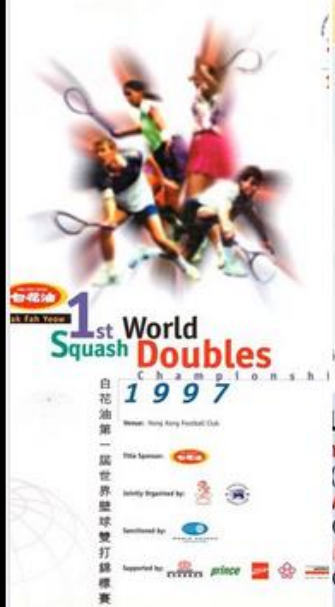


...to final resting-place.



Squash Library
6 January · 🌐

Doubles Squash has been played since the 1920s on singles courts in many countries, but in 1992 the WSF AGM approved dimensions of 32 feet (9.75 metres) by 25 feet (7.62 metres) for International Doubles courts. The width of the court for elite play at World and Commonwealth Games was increased to 8420mm from April 2008. In July 2012 it was decided that the tin height would be dropped for both men's and women's events to 13 inches (330mm). Hong Kong were the first host of the World Doubles Championships in 1997, with these teams participating and finals, meanwhile, (Doubles features in the Asian, PanAm and Commonwealth Games too). [World Squash Federation](#)



Women's Doubles	Mixed
Australia	Australia
Canada	Canada
England	England
Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Japan	Malaysia
Malaysia	New Zealand
New Zealand	Scotland
Philippines	Singapore
Scotland	South Africa
Singapore	United States of America
South Africa	
United States of America	

WORLD DOUBLES FINALS
 Men (Chris Walker & Mark Cairns)
 (Dan Jenson & Craig Rowland)
 New Zealand (Leilani Joyce & Phil)
 Cassie Jackman & Sue Wright)
 Australia (Dan Jenson & Liz Irving)
 Chris Walker & Cassie Jackman

Squash Library
5 January · 🌐

The first squash racket specifically produced for the female market was the Lady Gray, launched in 1973 by Grays of Cambridge. The intention was to make the feel more attractive for women, with a weight of 220gm and a handle circumference of 9.5cm. Wooden construction meant they were necessarily heavier than now.

Now, a squash racquet made exclusively for women

The Lady Gray



Natural gut gives the extra resilience.

Weights only 71 ounces, with extra light balance and feel.

Tough laminated wood shaft and frame, will stand up to the modern game.

Slim, well-shaped, light blue towel grip of about 3". Easier to grasp, more comfortable to hold.


A second model, the Gazelle, is available to the same frame specification, but with clear, synthetic stringing.

Grays of Cambridge
The Squash Specialists
Playfair Works Cambridge

2019

Squash Library
29 December 2019 · 🌐

40 years ago a company called Table Squash Ltd introduced a cross between squash and table tennis played on a table resembling a miniature squash court measuring 5ft long and 4ft wide. Black table tennis balls were used. Unlike a table tennis shot, the venture was not a smash!





In 1936 skorts were delightfully advertised as 'the new and correct garment for being athletic in whilst looking enchantingly female!'



SKORTS for SQUASH

THE new and correct garment for being athletic in whilst looking enchantingly female! Neither shorts nor skirts... always chic, immaculate and graceful! Brilliantly tailored by the creators of Dorville Models to give both freedom and seamliness whilst maintaining the illusion that the female form is divine! For International and Championship Players and all smart sports-women. "SKORTS" are obtainable from the best Ladies' Out-fitters in your Town. In White Linen and Grey and Navy Flannel

35/-

FROM THE
BEST STORES
& OUTFITTERS
IN ALL CITIES

SKORTS

Stocked and
Recommended
by



Lillywhites
OF
Piccadilly Circus



A milestone moment for squash - as stated on the booking form. The event had viewing through all four Perspex walls (which was the material used before glass), and Contravision which was essentially a wallpaper of dots pasted on the inside of the court to provide a basic 'one-way' effect.

Later, the dots were baked into the glass.

A black ball was used (coloured floors only started in 1984).

A new view of world class squash 1982 World Masters SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Granby Halls
Leicester

1st - 5th November, 1982



- * First ever Squash Championship viewed through four see-through walls. Squash as you've never seen it before with theatre-in-the-round comfort and visibility.
- * 16 of the world's best players - including world no. 1 Jahangir Khan plus Hiddy Jahan, Qamar Zaman, Gamal Awad, Gawain Briars, Philip Kenyon.

25% discounts for groups of 10
or more on some sessions.

Booking form overleaf.



..... and racket advertising had a different style in the 1930's too!
[Dunlop Squash](#)

...a *Squash* RACKET for the **FIRST-CLASS PLAYER**



Other
Dunlop Models
15/- 18/6 21/-

Dunlop MAXPLY



DUNLOP FORT MODEL	-	35/-
TOURNAMENT MODEL	-	30/-
STANDARD MODEL	-	25/-
DUNLOP RACKET PRESS	2/6 each
DUNLOP SQUASH SHOES	Women's 4/11. Men's 5/11
DUNLOP SQUASH BALLS	18/- per dozen

From all Sports Dealers
DUNLOP RUBBER CO. LTD. (Sports Division),
St. James's House, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1

C.F.H.



In the 1930's squash court construction companies had a very polite way of looking for contracts!



An Open Letter **RAYNERS**

Proprietor · N. Dean.

Court Dept.
Llanaway Road, Godalming
Phone : Godalming 242

August, 1936

Dear Sir,

May we be permitted
to tender for your
Squash Rackets Court?
Our representative will
inspect site, and we
will prepare complete
estimate without cost
or obligation. We
feel sure this will be
the means of saving you
many pounds.



Squash Library

14 November 2019 · 🌐

...

Squash with altitude! Squash is played at La Paz, Bolivia at 3,600m high, while WSF World Squash Championships have been held in Quito, Ecuador (2,800m), Johannesburg, South Africa (1750m) and Windhoek, Namibia (1725m). PSA events have been held at Denver (1,730m), for example. A green dot ball – slower than a double dot – is generally used above 1,600m because the ball travels faster in the thin air.



Squash Library

2 November 2019 · 🌐

...

The question of which is the global largest squash centre is easily answered. It is Hasta La Vista Club in Wrocław, Poland with 32 courts, including a glass showcourt; along with another showcourt that can be built in the 10 court badminton hall. Certainly enough space to host the WSF World Masters next August! [HASTA LA VISTA](#) [#polskisquash](#) [World Squash Federation](#)



Squash Library

5 November 2019 · 🌐

...

As glass backwalls were arriving in the 1960s, a glass viewing panel inserted into the door was tried for very limited viewing added to balconies. The photo shows one at Albert Park, Melbourne in Australia, venue for the first World Amateur Individual Championship in 1967. The players seen here in the final are winner Geoff Hunt (front) and runner-up Cam Nancarrow.

@SquashAustralia

