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1998 MAHINDRA WORLD OPEN-QATAR

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**29TH NOVEMBER TO 5TH DECEMBER 1998
AT KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL TENNIS & SQUASH COMPLEX**

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MEN'S SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

29TH NOVEMBER TO 5TH DECEMBER 1998



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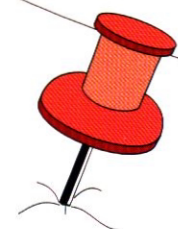


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A MESSAGE FROM

ALI AL FARDAN

President of Qatar Tennis and Squash Federation
President of the Higher Organising Committee



It is with great pleasure that I welcome distinguished guests, officials, media, spectators and, of course, the players to the 1998 Mahindra World Open-Qatar.

We are very proud to host this World event which, once again, is a first for Qatar in the Gulf.

The decision to move the event from India to Qatar was taken a couple of months ago and therefore I would like to thank all parties involved in organising this event in such a short time.

It is also a pleasure to be able to extend our sincere thanks to Mahindra, the main sponsors for their generous contribution and for working in partnership with the Qatar Tennis and Squash Federation, for making this event possible.

We are also grateful to have the unstinting support of the Emir of the State of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who has consistently helped and encouraged us in the work we do here. Also to the Heir Apparent, H.H. Sheikh Jassem bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and the Prime Minister, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al-Thani for their guidance and support.

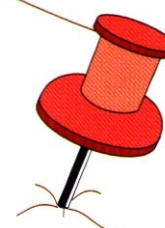
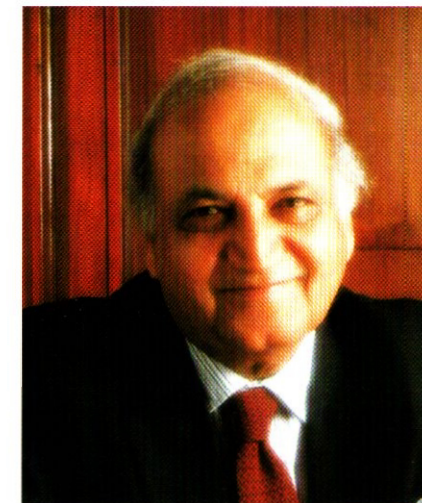
I hope the 1998 Mahindra World Open-Qatar is as exciting and memorable as our previous tournaments. We hope you enjoy the tournament as we all look forward to some great squash.

Ali Al Fardan

A MESSAGE FROM

KESHUB MAHINDRA

Chairman - Mahindra & Mahindra Limited



For the last five years we have sponsored the Mahindra International Squash Challenge held in Mumbai, India. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Mahindra World Open 1998 could not be held in India, and therefore, the decision was to hold the event in Doha, Qatar. This decision was taken in the best interest of the game and its players.

The Mahindra World Open 1998 is the largest Squash event to be ever held in the history of the game. It is good to note that players from all over the world will be participating in it, bringing global talent and also a spirit of sportsmanship which is a prerequisite for all events.

I am thankful to Mr. Ali Al Fardan, the President of QTSE, for his personal efforts and support as also I thank PSA officials and Procam Sports for their cooperation. Last, but not the least, I would like to thank all the players participating and wish luck and hope that the audience will enjoy seeing the World's best Squash players batting at the Thunderdome.

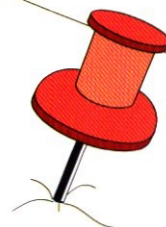
Wishing you well.

Keshub Mahindra

A MESSAGE FROM

ANIL SINGH & VIVEK SINGH

Procam Sports



Extraordinary circumstances demand extraordinary efforts and solutions.

The fact that the Mahindra World Open of Squash '98 is being conducted in Doha-Qatar is a tribute to the spirit of sportsmanship all around.

With the political environment in Bombay being sensitive to the participation of Pakistani players, the World Open Squash '98 suddenly had no home. Moving it to any other city in India would not have done justice to the event. Deliberations across the board resulted in an opening. Under the patronage of the PSA, connections were made between people of different backgrounds and diverse origins. The only binding factor being a true love of sport. Seemingly tall and immovable hurdles were quickly removed as everyone put their shoulders to the wheel.

The Qatar Tennis & Squash Federation has brought to the people of Doha some of its finest events. In keeping with that tradition they will now add another feather to their cap by conducting the Mahindra World Open Squash '98.

The generosity and commitment shown by our title and lead sponsors Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. is commendable. The squash fraternity in particular and sport in general owes them a great debt.

We at Procam Sports, have established squash in India as a high profile spectator and media extravaganza. Now together with the Qatar Tennis & Squash Federation we hope to present the largest and most effective World Open of Squash in the history of the game.

Wishing all participants the very best of luck!

Anil Singh & Vivek Singh

A MESSAGE FROM

JOHN G. NIMICK

PSA Executive Director



Dear Mahindra World Open-Qatar Supporter,

The PSA is proud to bring the 1998 Mahindra World Open to Doha. Both Mahindra and the Qatar Tennis & Squash Federation have been two of the PSA's strongest partners over the last several years and it is fitting that this year's unique World Open brings them together.

The PSA thanks Ali Al Fardan, President of the Qatar Tennis & Squash Federation, and Armand Mahindra of Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd., for their vision and flexibility in making this, the richest World Open ever, a stunningly successful event. Ninety of the world's best squash players will vie for the right to be called 1998 World Champion in an excellent squash center with superb hospitality and superior attention to detail.

While the PSA World Tour continues to break new ground and add important new events, the standards for professional squash will be raised by this event.

While our thoughts will be with India, our blood, sweat and tears will be in Qatar.

John G. Nimick

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FROM A DESERT TO AN OASIS OF SPORT

As Qatar is to play host, for the first time, to the World Squash Tournament, for many of the players competing, this will be their first visit to Qatar.

The Qatar Peninsula is situated halfway along the West Coast of the Arabian Gulf. It generally consists of flat rocky surfaces, but can boast of 60 metre high sand dunes in the south of the region. For many years, Qatar was famous for its weaving and embroidery and was the main centre for pearling and fishing. The discovery of oil here in 1939, was a great boost to the country as the market for natural pearls was falling rapidly.

Qatar gained its independence from Britain in 1971. In 1995, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, became the 8th member of the Al Thani family to take up the position of Emir of the State of Qatar.

The main religion of Qatar is Islam and the Shari'a is the principal source of legislation here.

Weather in Qatar ranges from mild winters, with temperatures dropping down to around 7 degrees Celsius in the desert areas, up to around 49 degrees Celsius in the height of summer. The humidity can sometimes be in excess of 95%, not for the faint hearted!

Ok, history lesson over with, 'What is there to do in Qatar?' I hear you cry. Well, depending on what you want, you can usually find it here in Doha, the capital of Qatar. You could try a trip to



Doha Zoo on the outskirts of the City. The zoo houses animals from all five continents as well as those indigenous to Qatar. It is open to the public in the afternoons and to ladies only on Tuesdays.

A ten-minute trip on a traditional Dhow to Palm Tree Island in Doha Bay, is another way to while away a few hours in the sunshine. Make sure you use the jetty close to the Sheraton Hotel and Resort to make your crossing to the island as the QNHC, (Qatar National Hotels Company), run their own dhow service from there. Other independent boats and dhows are not allowed to moor at the island itself, just show you around the bay and island area. The price of your crossing includes a burger meal and soft drink upon arrival. Then you can either relax under the shaded cabanas and read a book or, for a small fee, you can ride on one of the Giant water cycles or go windsurfing. If you get hungry, try the Fish market restaurant or grill corner, or even the swimming pool cafeteria, there are lots to choose from.

If you're the type to 'shop 'til you drop', then you are in for a treat! The range of shops to visit here is vast and depending on what you're looking for, you will certainly find that the price is a lot lower than you thought. 'Big brand' names such as Mexx, Versace, Gucci and Chanel are readily available in stores such as the New Trade Gallery, The Centre and The Mall.

The famous souq's in and around the city are a delight to the senses. Your eyes marvel over

the selections available in different souq's. Your nose will be filled with the aromas of different spices wafting around the enclosed 'spice souq' area. Gold, silver, and platinum jewellery glistens in the 'Gold souq' area, where the shopkeepers will often leave you alone in the shop whilst he talks with his friends outside! How's that for trust?! If you don't see what you want, just ask.

The shop might look as if it sells just clothes, but don't be surprised if it also houses a collection of good quality watches and electrical goods as well!

Want to experience an Arabian Night? Qatar Holidays

will arrange excursions to the beautiful Inland Sea, (Khor Al Udeid). Their experienced drivers will take you on a nerve racking drive across the sands and up and over the 60metre high dunes - hold on to your stomach! Once you arrive at a chosen point, you will be able to recover in a traditional Bedouin tent with carpets and cushions to collapse on.

Try your hand at sand skiing or let your feet sink into the soft sand climbing one of the many dunes. Feast yourself on a traditional meal of succulent whole sheep cooked with spices and served with salad and rice. As the night wears on, your hosts will entertain you around the campfire with music and traditional folk songs as you laze under a blanket of twinkling stars. Qatar Holidays also offer sightseeing tours in and around Doha. See the camel races or marvel at the beauty of the Arabian horses. Visit an Oryx farm in Al Shahaniya, a protected species once considered virtually extinct.



Maybe you would like to experience 'All the fun of the fair'? A trip to Aladdin's Kingdom should fit the bill then. Challenge your friends to a go-kart race around the specially built track or lose your stomach on the breath taking roller coaster. Blast away at monsters in the video arcade and save the world! There are lots of things to do at Aladdin's Kingdom and a day might not be enough to experience the fun of this fair!

Getting back to the history of Qatar, visit the Qatar National Museum, which houses some fine examples of costumes, jewellery, furniture and kitchenware, but try not to faint at the relics from the medical profession on show there.

If you're interested in weaponry, then a trip to the Weaponry Museum on the outskirts of Doha is a must. Arranged through one of the tour companies, this museum houses an extensive display of gold swords, curved daggers and old weapons dating back to around the 16th Century.

Eating out is another adventure altogether! With an extensive range of dishes from all over the world, you will have no trouble finding your favourite meal in the many restaurants dotted around Doha.

Getting out and about around Doha is easy enough. Just hail one of the numerous orange and white taxis, but be warned, the ride is as scary as any roller coaster one if you hit peak time traffic!

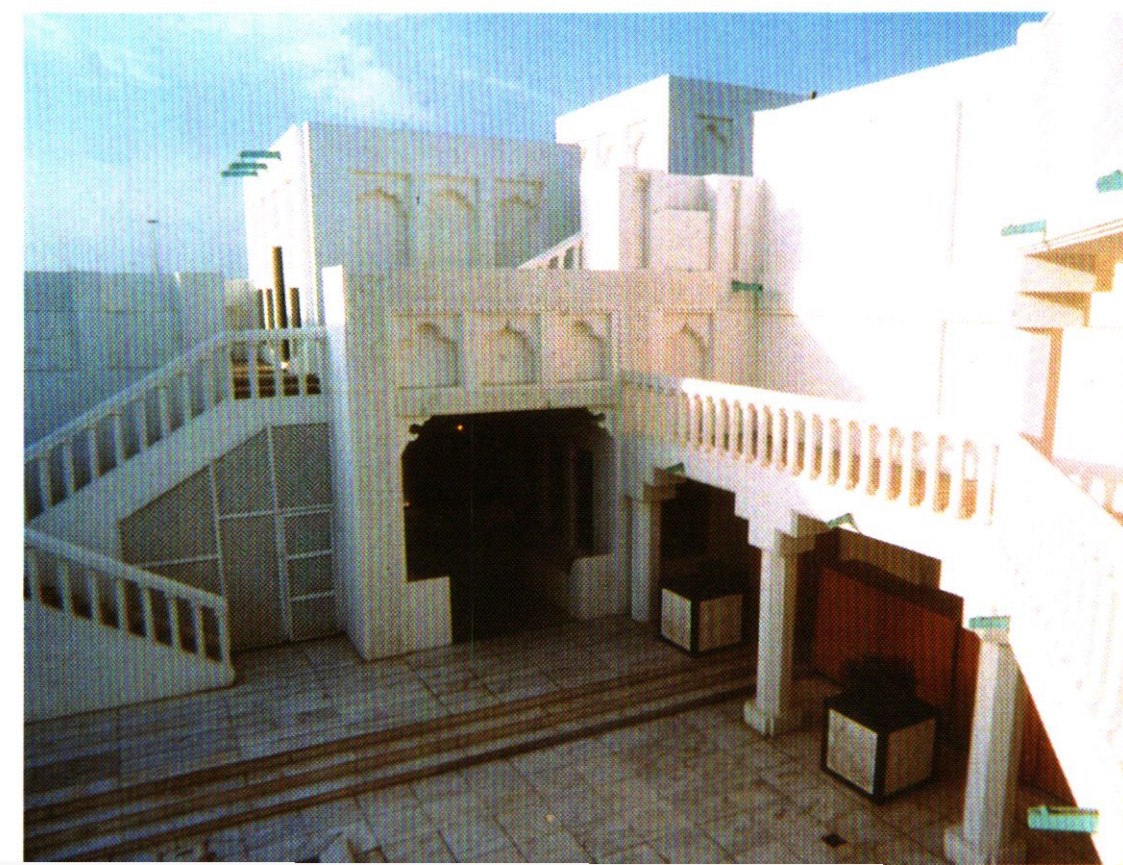
Qatar is a relatively safe place to be out at night in, certainly more so than



say London, New York or Mexico, but the 'city lights' are not the same as these places!

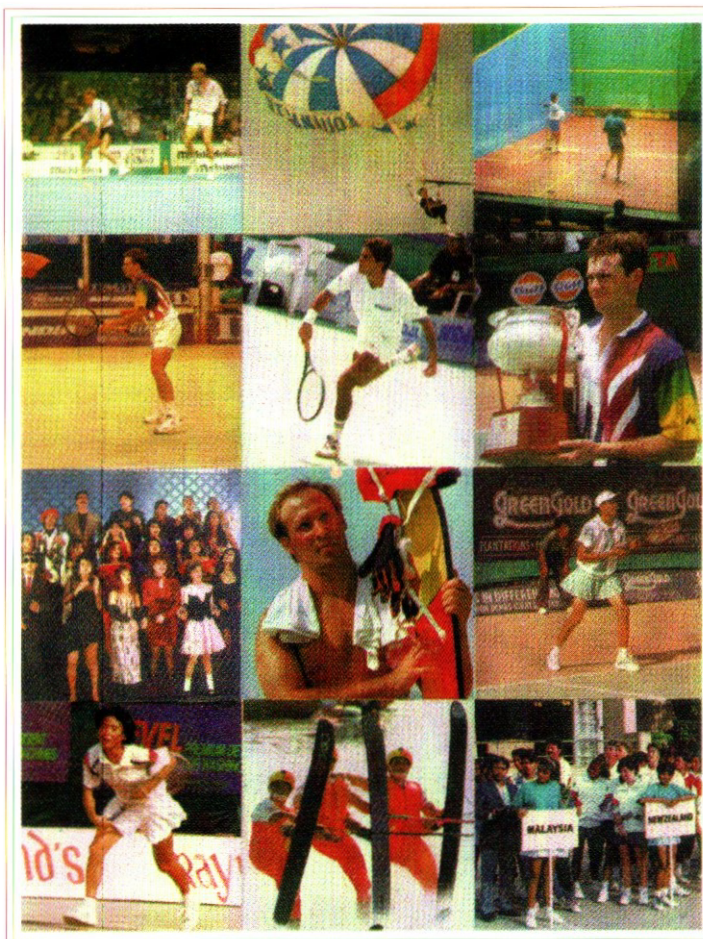
Entertainment will not 'leap out' at you when you leave the comfort of your room, but there is plenty of fun to be had if you bother to look around - or read this article!

In the meantime, these are just some of the things available to you in Qatar - Welcome to it!





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MAIN DRAW PLAYERS LIST

PETER NICOL SCOTLAND RANK: 1	RODNEY EYLES AUSTRALIA RANK: 2	AHMED BARADA EGYPT RANK: 3			
JONATHAN POWER CANADA RANK: 4	PAUL JOHNSON ENGLAND RANK: 5	JANSHER KHAN PAKISTAN RANK: 6	MARTIN HEATH SCOTLAND RANK: 7	ALEX GOUGH WALES RANK: 8	DAN JENSON AUSTRALIA RANK: 9
CHRIS WALKER ENGLAND RANK: 10	MARK CHALONER ENGLAND RANK: 11	DEREK RYAN IRELAND RANK: 12	MARK CAIRNS ENGLAND RANK: 13	SIMON PARKE ENGLAND RANK: 14	
BYRON DAVIS AUSTRALIA RANK: 15	GRAHAM RYDING CANADA RANK: 16	DAVID EVANS WALES RANK: 17	STEFAN CASTELEYN BELGIUM RANK: 18	JOHN WHITE SCOTLAND RANK: 19	ANTHONY HILL AUSTRALIA RANK: 20
AMIR WAGIH EGYPT RANK: 21	AMR SHABANA EGYPT RANK: 22	DEL HARRIS ENGLAND RANK: 23	AMJAD KHAN PAKISTAN RANK: 24	STEPHEN MEADS ENGLAND RANK: 25	
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LEE BEACHILL ENGLAND RANK: 54	NATHAN DUGAN ENGLAND RANK: 55	ANGUS KIRKLAND ENGLAND RANK: 56	QUALIFER	QUALIFER	
QUALIFER	QUALIFER	QUALIFER	QUALIFER	QUALIFER	QUALIFER

Name : **PETER NICOL**
 Date of Birth : **5TH APRIL 1973**
 Country : **SCOTLAND**
 Current World Ranking : **1**
 Highest World Ranking : **1 (OCTOBER 98)**

On the 5th of April 1998, the day he celebrated his 25th birthday, Scotland's Peter Nicol achieved the second of two squash goals he had set himself many years before. On the Perspex court in a packed auditorium at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, he raised his arms in triumph having beaten the six-times defending champion Jansher Khan in straight games to become the first Briton for 25 years to win the prestigious British Open title.

The Scot's rise through the world squash rankings has been little short of meteoric: He made his debut at No 266 in January 1992. He raced to 52 by the following January, then rose to 14 twelve months later, moving into the top five by November of the same year. It was November 1996 before he moved up to No3, finally claiming the No1 position in February 1998.

1997 was the pivotal year for Nicol – in which he won four PSA Tour events, beginning in January with the Hartford Cup, which he played instead of defending the British National Title he had won for the first time in January 1996. In April, he overcame a wretched association with the British Open in which he had failed to win a single match in four years of trying. This fifth attempt was not without incident, however, as he had to fight back from match-ball down in the third game to beat England's Paul Johnson in five games.

Indeed the match, in which Nicol avenged his defeat by Johnson in the 1996 event, will be remembered as one of the most remarkable in British Open

history – as the audience cheered a win for Johnson at his match-ball in the third, with the players shaking hands as they came off court, only for the referee to call them back to replay the disputed point – which saw the game, and match, then go to the Scot! His confidence restored, Nicol went on to defeat Brett Martin in the quarters, Eyles in the semis, and then extend Jansher Khan in the longest (126 minutes) and most gripping final on record, before succumbing 17/15 9/15 15/12 8/15 15/8.

This match proved to be the turning point for Nicol, who then beat Jansher in their next three encounters – in the final (3-1) of the Al-Ahram International by the Giza pyramids near Cairo; in the semi-finals (3-2) of the Kuwait Open in October; and, in December, in the final (3-2) of the Mahindra International as he claimed his third successive title in Bombay.

After spending his early years in Scotland, where his father Pat was the Scotland team coach, and sister Julie a leading national player, Peter now lives in Chingford, east London, where he trains with England team coach Neil Harvey. As a youngster, Peter was a talented soccer player. Today, like many of his contemporaries, he also enjoys playing golf.

He recently stated that his ambitions were "to be World No1" World Champion, and British Open Champion." Two down....one to go!

Name : **RODNEY EYLES**
 Date of Birth : **5TH SEPTEMBER 1967**
 Country : **AUSTRALIA**
 Current World Ranking : **2**
 Highest World Ranking : **2 (OCTOBER 98)**

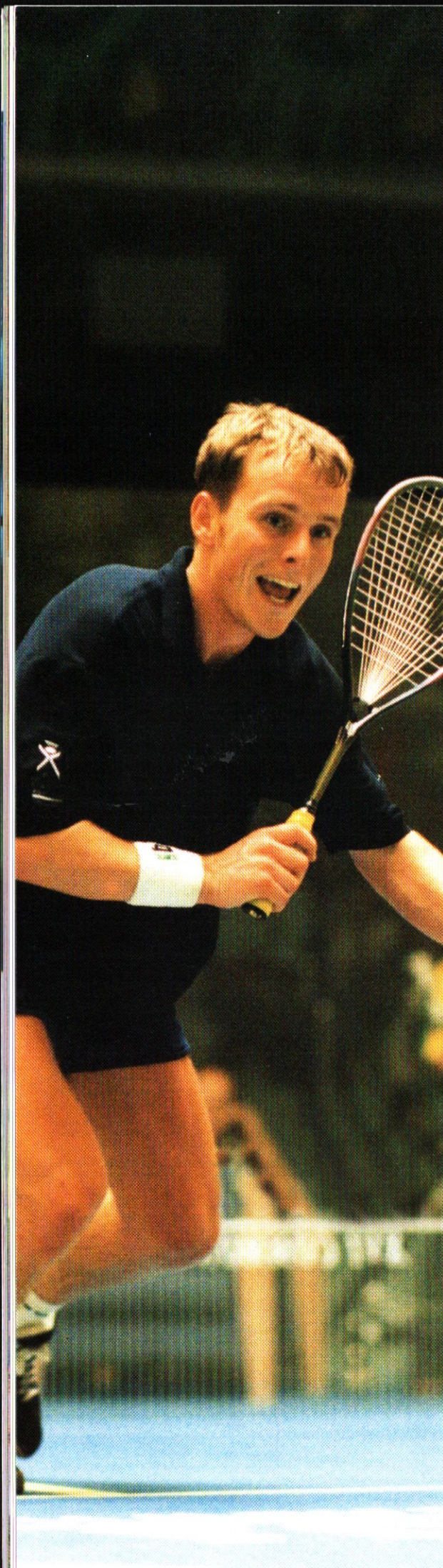
Rodney Eyles is the longest-standing member of the Professional Squash Association – first featuring in the PSA ranking list in May 1984, shortly after making his first of twelve appearances in the British Open (three years before career-long rival Jansher Khan!).

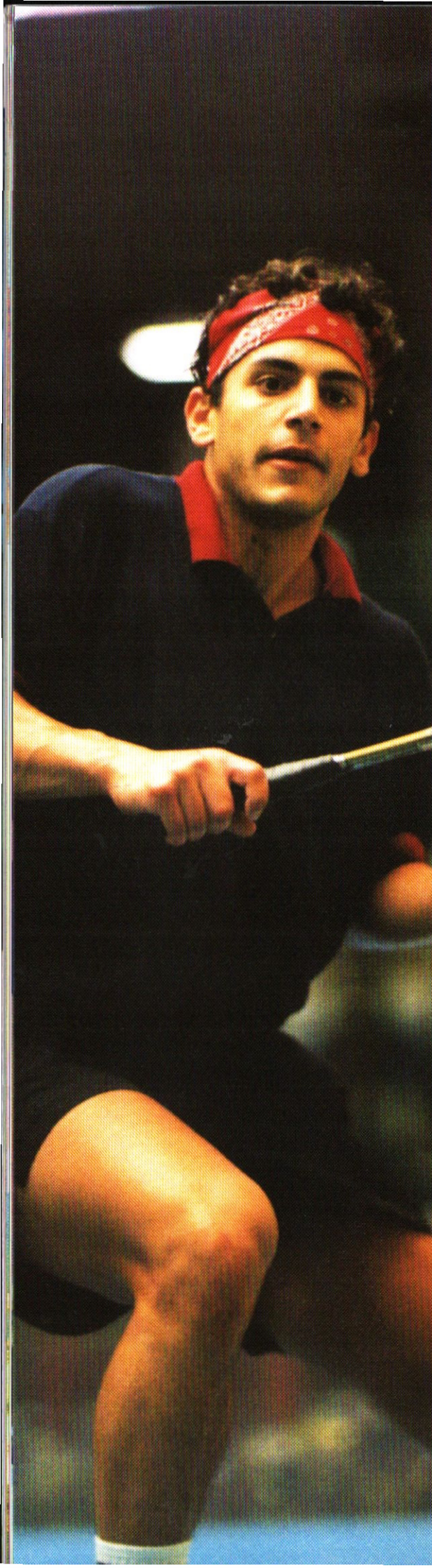
The 31-year-old Australian, born in Brisbane but until recently based in Gold Coast, Queensland, made his top 50 debut in May 1987, and entered the top 20 at No15 just a year later. He broke into the top ten, at No10, in March 1990, but not until March 1995 did he finally crack the top 5, moving up to No2 in November 1995.

In the British Open, the first Super Series event of the year, the second seeded Eyles reached the last four after fighting back from 2-1 down to beat Jonathon Power 15/13 5/15 9/15 15/12 15/11 in a 95-minute quarter-final. The world No2 had beaten the Canadian 3-0 in their previous meeting (the second round of the '96 Mahindra International in India), but was incensed by 'locker room' talk that Power, winner of four major PSA titles over the previous six months, would contest the final! Eyles' run ended in the semis, however, losing 5/15 15/12 17/14 15/2 to Scotland's Peter Nicol – who also beat the former Queensland-based Australian in the earlier Mahindra International final.

Two weeks after the British Open, Eyles reached his first final of the year, the Squash Mutualite Final in Bordeaux, where he took a two-game lead against Jansher Khan before losing 12/15 10/15 15/14 15/4 15/4.

Eyles was born into a squash family, owners of a Squash and Tennis Centre in the Brisbane suburb of Lutwyche. Encouraged particularly by his mother Ruth, he decided to pursue a career in squash after reaching the final of the World Junior Championships in his home town in 1986 – where he first faced Jansher Khan, the player who was to become his closest rival in the following decade. The Pakistani won the encounter and it took seven years for the Australian to gain his revenge – in an epic 100-minute final of the 1993 Portuguese Open.





Name : AHMED BARADA
Date of Birth : 25TH APRIL 1977
Country : EGYPT
Current World Ranking : 3
Highest World Ranking : 3 (OCTOBER 1998)

The brilliant young Ahmed Barada is leading Egypt's long-awaited return to the centre-stage of world squash. He first appeared at 253 in the PSA World Rankings in September 1992 as a 15-year-old, moving into the top 100 at 78 in July 1993. It was in January 1995 that he broke into the top 50, at 35, and eighteen months later before he crashed into the top 20, jumping 15 places to No14 in July 1996. His top ten debuts came in January 1997, at No7, and he first reached his career-best No5 position four months later in May.

Despite British Junior Open and World Junior Open titles to his name, it was in May 1996 that the teenage Barada became a star. Before thousands of supporters and millions of Egyptian television viewers, he rode a wave of talent and determination during Cairo's inaugural Al-Ahram International Championship to become the first wildcard player ever to reach the final of a PSA Super Series event.

Performed over four nights against a backdrop of illuminated pyramids and the desert sands of Giza, Barada's effort defied all expectations. Egypt has recently produced a bumper crop of young talent, but the Cairo-based Barada catapulted to the top of the pack with stunning victories over world No2 Rodney Eyles and No6 Chris Walker during the \$100,000 tournament. Only Jansher Khan withstood the young meteor and the emotional crowds, dousing Barada in the final 15-4 15-11 15-8.

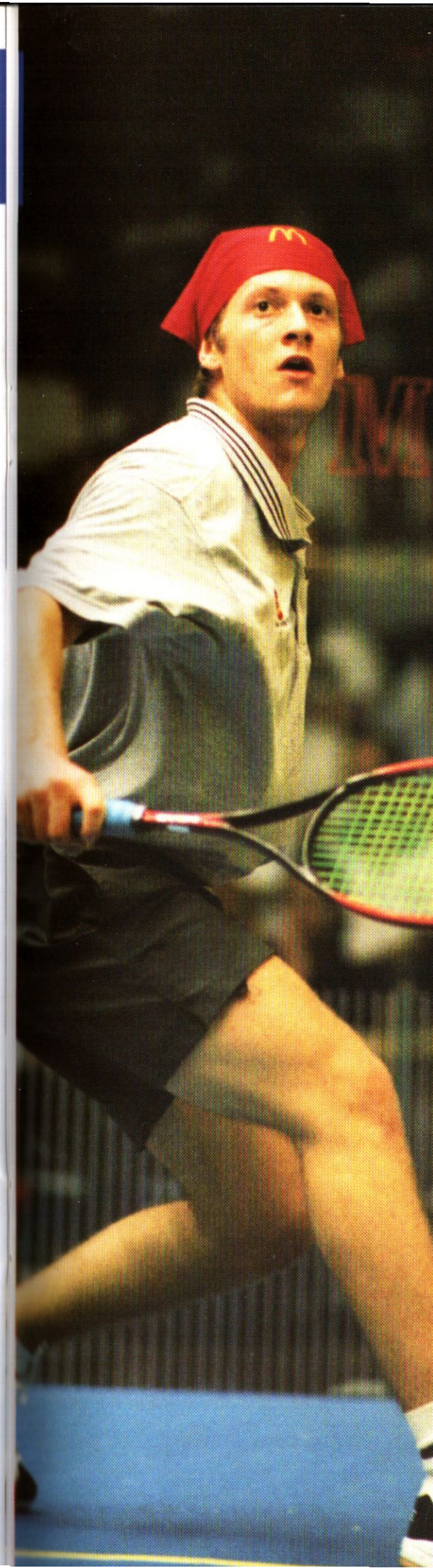
It was just before his giant-killing exploits in Giza that Barada won his only title of the year – the \$10,000

Mutualite Francaise No6 in France, a tournament which pitted his skills against those of several mid-tier touring professionals. Since then, Barada has been shown no mercy by his fellow competitors. In late August, the fast rising Canadian Jonathon Power outfought him 3-2 in a tense first round match during the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open. The Egyptian later reversed the score in a US Open quarter-final match, a Power loss which was to be the Canadian's last before sensationally winning both the Tournament of Champions and German Masters titles.

Qatar Open (again losing to Jansher); and the second round of the World Open in Pakistan and the last eight of the Mahindra International in India, on both occasions losing to world No3 Peter Nicol.

Despite qualifying for the 1997 Super Series Finals for the second successive year, Barada was forced to withdraw from the event in March '98, suffering from flu. Thus his new year debut was delayed until March, when he reached the quarter-finals of the Austrian Open, losing 3-1 to England's Chris Walker.

The young Egyptian superstar does not mince words about his future. "I have one simple aim – to become champion of the world." His impressive success to date suggests that this goal is well within his sights.



Name : JONATHON POWER
Date of Birth : 10TH AUGUST 1974
Country : CANADA
Current World Ranking : 4
Highest World Ranking : 3 (NOVEMBER 1997)

Canada's Jonathon Power joined the PSA Tour in May 1991, but not until 1996 did he truly make his mark on the international squash stage.

Outside the top 20 at the beginning of 1996, the six foot tall Toronto star went public: "My aim is to reach the top ten by 1997," he said. True to his word, he crashed into the top ten at No6 in January 1997, moving up to a career-high No3 in November to become North America's most successful player of all time.

Power claimed his first PSA Tour title in July 1992, winning the Downtown Sports Classic in Chicago, followed by two further US events in 1993, the Flagship Open in Minneapolis and Florida State Open.

Two years later (in 1995) he secured a further four titles – the San Francisco Open, Mexico's Squash Inn Open (in which he beat fellow Torontonian Graham Ryding in the final), the Pittsburgh Open and the MAAA Invitational in Canada.

The Power surge, however, revealed itself in October 1996 when he put himself and Canada on the squash map of the world when, unseeded, he won the \$40,000 Tournament of Champions in New York, thereby becoming the first North American to win a major international squash title.

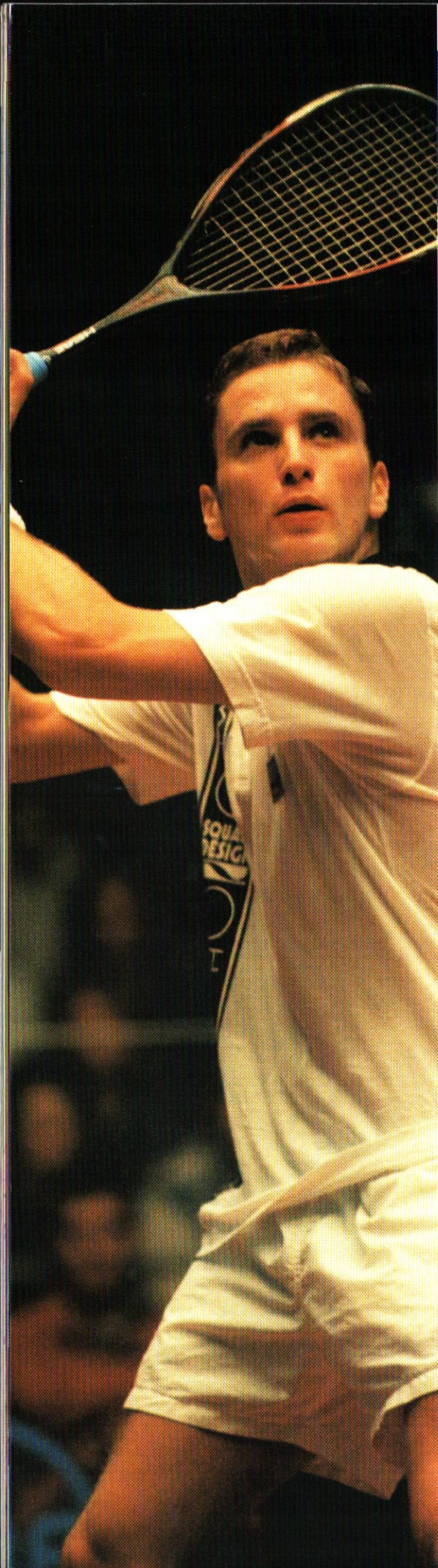
By April '97, and only the second appearance by Power in the British Open, the Canadian already had two further titles under his belt – the International Tours in France, in which he beat Egypt's Ahmed Barada 3-0 in

the final, and the Hungarian Open in Budapest, where he beat Peter Nicol 3-1 in the final. This was to be Power's first of four victories over the future world No1 in 1997, since losing to the Scot in the second round of the Hong Kong Open in August 1996.

Injury has plagued Power's progress in 1998; in February, he was forced to pull out of his Super Series Finals debut following a ligament tear in his right ankle – which he incurred during a basketball game with his father John. "I was doing the father-son thing, trying to bond with my Dad. I fell pretty hard and landed on my ankle," said a disconsolate Power from Toronto.

His first appearance in the year was short-lived – he survived the first round of the British Open, but crashed out of the second in agony after aggravating his troubled ankle against Welsh qualifier David Evans.

Power was eight when he was introduced to squash by his father, who was a national Over-40s and Over-45s champion. Jonathon also excelled in basketball and tennis. His current ambition is clear, "I want to be world No1."



Name	:	PAUL JOHNSON
Date of Birth	:	18TH JULY 1972
Country	:	ENGLAND
Current World Ranking	:	5
Highest World Ranking	:	5 (OCTOBER 1998)

Left-hander Paul Johnson first appeared on the PSA world rankings at 213 in January 1990, aged 17. By September, the Londoner had broken into the top 100 at '94, then two years later, in September 1992, he crept into the top 50 at 36. His top 20 debut at 20 in March 1994 was inconclusive, as he wavered in and out of this list until 1998 when he moved determinedly up to 14 in February, and onward to his current career-high position in July of world No5.

The turning point in his career came when he took the decision to move to Harrogate in the north of England, to work with national coach David Pearson. "My game is getting better and better – the move is bringing its rewards," he said at the time.

This new era began in 1996 – he reached the semi-finals of the Hartford Cup in the USA, then the quarter-finals of the British Open in April, after causing a major upset when he dismissed fourth seed Peter Nicol in the first round – the Scot's fourth consecutive unsuccessful attempt to win a match in this premier championship.

Johnson's first title win for four years came in February 1997 when he won the Antwerp Open in Belgium. The following month he reached the last eight of the Hungarian Open – this time losing to Nicol. His appearance later in the 1997 British Open will be remembered as one of the most remarkable matches in the event's history: Johnson, with match-ball in the third, seemed to be heading to a second successive first round win over Peter Nicol. The point was played; the players

shook hands and walked off court as the audience cheered a repeat win for the Englishman. The referee, however, called the pair back to replay the disputed point – which saw the game, and eventually the match, then go to the Scot!

1998 has seen two further PSA Tour titles claimed by Johnson – the Marsh & McLennan Apawamis Open in New York in January, and the Hungarian Open, in which he defeated compatriot Del Harris 5/15 15/8 15/9 15/10 in the final, in March.

The son of a semi-professional footballer, Johnson turned down terms with leading London club Queens Park Rangers at 16 to pursue a career in squash.



Name	:	JANSHER KHAN
Date of Birth	:	10TH JUNE 1969
Country	:	PAKISTAN
Current World Ranking	:	6
Highest World Ranking	:	1 (JANUARY 1998)

On January 1st 1998, Jansher Khan confirmed his status as one of the sporting legends of our time when he celebrated a ten-year span as the world's No1 squash player.

It was on 1st January 1998 that the Peshawar-born Pakistan, now 29, first topped the PSA world rankings. It was a position he held for 96 months in total, only slipping to second slot during the period, in all cases but one behind the sport's other great legendary figure, Jahangir Khan.

Jansher played his first event in 1998 with both knees heavily bandaged – and his pride dented by the loss of his World No1 status in February. Remarkably, this disability failed to prevent him from winning his fourth Super Series Finals title in five years, when he beat Simon Parke 15/12 13/15 15/11 15/10 in the Hatfield final, after overcoming Nicol in straight games in the semi-finals.

Consultation with specialists in England revealed a torn ligament in one knee, and misalignment in the other. Declining advice to have surgery at the time, for fear that this might prematurely end his career, he competed in the British Open at the end of March. It was the first time he had not been the No1 seed since 1990, and he was severely tested as early as the first round when he needed five games to overcome Belgium's top 20 newcomer Stefan Casteleyn.

For the second successive year, Jansher faced Nicol in the final – but this time the Scot was the victor, beating a clearly less-than-100% Jansher Khan 17/16 15/5 15/4 in front of a capacity crowd in the national Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Soon afterwards Jansher decided to undergo surgery on both knees in

Lahore, Pakistan, and expected to return to the PSA circuit in August "fitter than ever before".

Jansher Khan's original aims were always clear. "From the first day I picked up a racket, my ambition was to become World champion. I wish to be remembered as perhaps the greatest player of all time," he added. Few would deny that his wish has already been granted: He currently boasts a record eight world Open titles – two more than namesake Jahangir – and six British Open titles, four fewer than Jahangir's remarkable record of ten British Open wins.

Jansher first came to notice in 1986 when he won the World Junior title, aged 17, beating Rodney Eyles 9/3 9/0 9/2 in the final in Brisbane. The following year, on his first overseas tour, he won all three Open titles in the Far East – beating Jahangir Khan for the first time in Hong Kong.

Later in 1987 he won the World Open title for the first time, in Birmingham, England, to begin his record-breaking association with this supreme squash title. Since then he has established a formidable sequence of success – winning 10 titles in '92 and '93, 9 in '94 and '95, 8 in '96 and '97, and 1 (to date) in 98 – bringing his total career tally of major international titles to '87.

Married with three children, Jansher divides his time between his home in Peshawar and a base in London. He enjoys films and music, but dislikes travelling. "I love squash, and playing in tournaments, but I hate all the hassle of getting there!" says the indomitable world champion, who is coached by elder brother Mohibullah Khan, a former world No2 and British Open finalist in 1975.



Name : **MARTIN HEATH**
Date of Birth : 31ST JANUARY 1973
Country : SCOTLAND
Current World Ranking : 7
Highest World Ranking : 7 (NOVEMBER 1998)

Martin Heath, 25, was born in Stirling in Scotland and now lives in the coastal town of Oban in Western Highlands, one of Scotland's most idyllic tourist attractions.

He made his professional debut in 1993, appearing for the first time in the January PSA World ranking at 251. By March 1994 he reached 100, and made his top 50 debut at 45 eight months later in November. Not until September 1996 did he first break into the top 20, leaping from 29 to 19. His ranking fluctuated little in the months that followed - until November 1998, when he became one of the very few players to make his top ten debut from a position outside the top twenty - soaring from 21 to a career-high No.7.

Martin has spent most of his squash career in the shadow of his world No.1 compatriot Peter Nicol - but in the Al-Ahram International of October this year, he achieved one of his most satisfying PSATour wins when he beat Nicol for the first time since the pair were in their early teens - 12 years before.

Heath first made his mark on the PSA when he reached the quarter finals of the Sao Paulo Open in Brazil - early the following year registering his first Tour title by winning the Mazda Professional Championship in Hong Kong, then later claiming the Philadelphia Open title in the USA.

After becoming the Danish Open champion in April 1996, Heath went on to secure his richest tour prize to date - beating Pakistan's top seed Zubir Jahan Khan 3/0 to win the Singapore title in

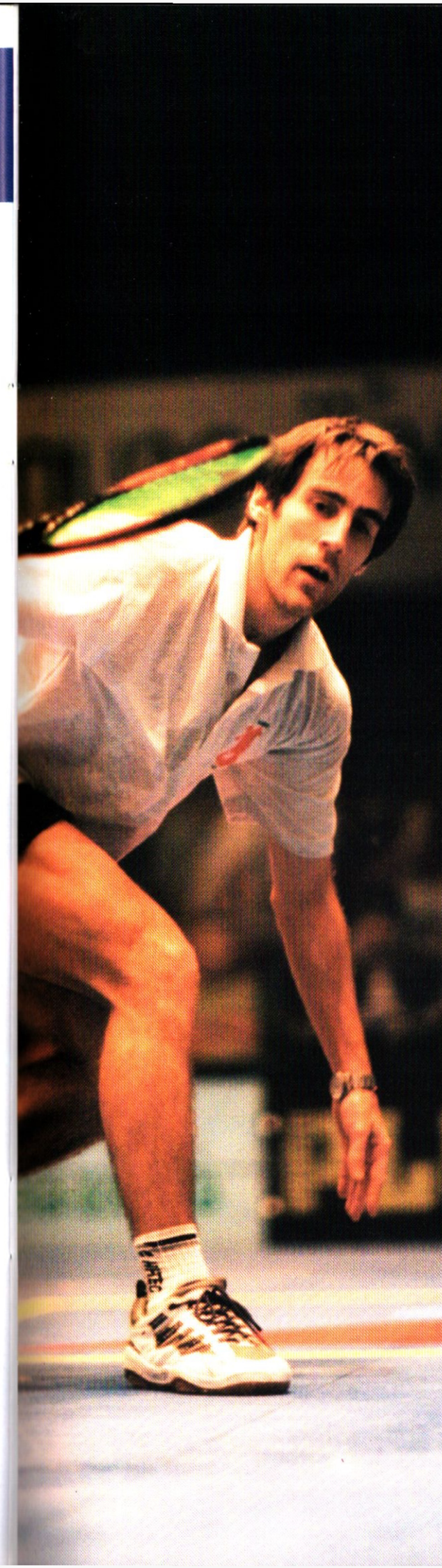
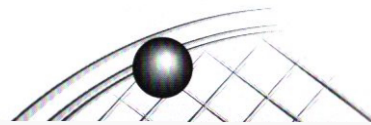
October without conceding a game. He later acknowledged that he failed to capitalise on this success "I started to get too keen after Singapore, and became ill and injured - the result of which was losing in the first round of the next eight tournaments I played".

Exactly a year later he was back on the winner's rostrum again, lifting the Singapore Open trophy for the second successive year.

Heath began 1998 by reaching the final of the Esso Handers Open in Belgium, and later failed to win his third successive Singapore Open title when he fell in a five-game quarter-final to Pakistan's Mir Zaman Gul. He followed his Al-Ahram success by reaching the quarter-finals of the Pakistan Open, losing to Canada's Graham Ryding who went on to remove the events top seed Ahmed Barada in the semi-finals.

The son of a basketball player and semi-professional footballer, Heath took up squash at the age of eight. He graduated from Glasgow University with a BSc in Physiology, Psychology and Sports Science and eventually plans to do a Masters degree in the USA. While in his early career he was influenced by Jansher Khan and Chris Dittmar, he currently seeks inspiration from the like of Herman Hesse, Buddha and Allen Ginsberg.

Of the two ambitions he listed at the beginning of 1998, only one remains outstanding: "To achieve a world top four ranking". The other? "To beat Peter Nicol when it counts"!



Name : **ALEX GOUGH**
Date of Birth : 8TH DECEMBER 1970
Country : WALES
Current World Ranking : 8
Highest World Ranking : 5 (JULY 1998)

Alex Gough was the 'youngest' player in the world top 20 at the beginning of 1998. Not, at 27 years old, the youngest in age, but the player who had been a PSA member for the shortest time.

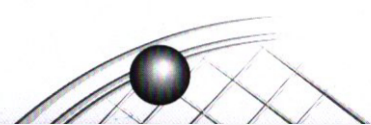
It was only in September 1993 (the same month that Jansher Khan began his unbroken 52-month reign at No1) that the Newport-born Welshman made his PSA debut at 227. He crashed into the top 100 at 52 in May 1994, breaking into the top 50 at No.50 in July. Not until July 1997, however, did he enter the top 20 - leaping from 28 to 15 - before making his top ten debut at No7 at the beginning of 1998. In July, he reached his career-best No5 position, becoming the highest-ranked Welsh player of all time.

His breakthrough came in the PSA Tour's richest and most spectacular event, the Al-Ahram International, staged in June by Egypt's famous pyramids in Giza near Cairo. After fighting through the qualifiers, he beat Australia's Anthony Hill 3-0 in the first round, then took a 2-1 lead against 4th seed Jonathon Power when the Canadian retired with a back injury. The inspired Welshman then reached his first major semi-final when he crushed Australia's Brett Martin in straight games - reversing the result of their meeting the year before. His confidence-boosting run came to an end when he lost 15/11 15/12 15/5 in the last four to top seed Jansher Khan.

Elsewhere, Gough's top ten status in 1998 brought mixed rewards - he clinched the Greenwich Open title in the USA in January, beating Belgium's

Stefan Casteleyn 15/12 15/10 15/9 in the final, but later fell at the first hurdle in his debut British Open as a seed, losing to Australian qualifier Joseph Kneipp in five games.

Remarkably, despite being the country's highest-ranked player ever, Alex Gough has never won the Welsh National Championships. In the 1997 final in December, he lost in straight games to close rival David Evans. Gough's future? When he finally hangs up his squash rackets, he plans to return to university to study for his PhD.





Name	:	DAN JENSON
Date of Birth	:	20TH JUNE 1975
Country	:	AUSTRALIA
Current World Ranking	:	9
Highest World Ranking	:	9 (OCTOBER 1998)

Dan Jenson turned professional in 1993, fresh from the squash department of the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI). The tall (1.86m) 23 year old Aussie has made steady progress up the world rankings since first appearing in July 1993 at No.213. He broke into the top 100 in May 1994, the top 50 exactly one year later, and made his first appearance in the top twenty in November 1996. January 1998 saw his world top ten debut at No.10.

It was in 1996 that Jenson first made his mark amongst the World's elite. His most notable achievement was beating fellow Australian and world top 5 player Brett Martin 3-1 in the second round of the Hong Kong Open.

Jenson truly came of age in 1997. In the first major PSA Tour event of the year, the Austrian Open, he carved his way through the field - beating Irish No.8 seed Derek Ryan, then circuit 'veteran' Pakistani Zarak Jahan Khan, and finally world No.2 Rodney Eyles - to reach the final unseeded.

The British Open audience in Wales were the next to be mesmerised by the young Aussie. Again unseeded, Jenson first removed the fourth seed Simon Parke in straight games, and then contributed towards one of the event's greatest competitive encounters of all time - a titanic 108-minute battle against England's top ten player Del Harris, in which he fought back from 2-1 down and saved two match-balls, before winning in five games.

Misfortune struck the amiable Jenson in the summer when a broken bone in his foot caused him to withdraw

from the PSA Tour in July. He made his comeback at the World Open in Malaysia in November, but rounded off the year in style - partnering Liz Irving to win the Mixed in the inaugural World Doubles Championships in Hong Kong, and with Craig Rowland reached the final of the Men's event.

After losing to Derek in four games in the final of the Hartford Cup in the USA, and reaching the quarter-finals of the Marsh & McLennan Open in New York, the Austrian Open in Linz, and Hungarian in Budapest, the highlight of Jenson's 1998 to date was reaching the last four of the British Open - in only his third appearance in the prestigious event. After beating Canada's Graham Riding in the second round in five games, he dismissed Welsh qualifier David Evans in the last eight, before losing a close-fought four-game semi-final 15/9 15/8 10/15 15/10 to defending champion Jansher Khan.

Jenson, a bright new talent from the southern hemisphere, is one of the most exciting new players to arrive on the world scene.



Name	:	CHRIS WALKER
Date of Birth	:	11TH JUNE 1967
Country	:	ENGLAND
Current World Ranking	:	10 (OCTOBER '98)
Highest World Ranking	:	1 (MARCH '97)

Born in Chelmsford, Essex, left-hander Chris Walker took up squash when his parents bought a club in nearby Colchester, also the hometown of his lifelong friend Del Harris. It was in May 1987 that Chris first appeared on the men's World ranking list - interestingly, some two years after Harris, who is two years younger. By September 1988 he had reached the top 50, and only six months later made his top 20 debut at No.19. He maintained this top 20 status until November 1992 - more than 3 years later - when he finally broke into the top ten at No.10.

He preserved this 'single-figure' standing before hitting No.4 in the final PSA ranking list of 1996 - when he also became the highest-ranked Englishman for the first time. Surprisingly perhaps, it was not until March 1997 that Chris was formally pronounced No.1 in the SRA's England ranking for the first time.

The competitive highpoint of Chris Walker's career was at the end of 1995 when he captained England to his country's first ever success in the World Team Championships, and then earned his biggest prize after beating top seed Rodney Eyles to reach the final of the Mahindra International Challenge in Bombay, where he lost to Scotland's Peter Nicol.

After resigning his position on the PSA board in late 1995 in order to concentrate on his on-court pursuits, he started 1996 on a high, claiming his first title on the PSA Tour when he won the Marsh & McLennan Apawamis tournament in New York.

Chris has represented England more than 60 times, after first being selected

in 1989. His crowning achievement for his country was to captain the England squad in their successful defence of the World Team Championship's title in Malaysia in November 1997.

His main focus for 1998 was to be selected for England in the first ever appearance of squash in the Commonwealth Games in September. With Mark Cairns, he was chosen to lead England's gold medal bid in the men's doubles in Malaysia. The World Champions' reward, however, was bronze - as they fell to the Australian pair of Rodney Eyles and Byron Davis in the semi-final in Kuala Lumpur.

Chris recently moved from Colchester to London, where he lives and trains as the Squash Professional at the Prestigious Dolphin Square complex in Pimlico. "The facilities there are tremendous, and I feel that my game has significantly improved since I've been based there," said Walker.

Like many squash players, Chris is also a keen golfer. He enjoys tennis and football and prides himself on his victory over England team coach Neil Harvey at backgammon! He is an unashamed lover of fast cars, late nights, music, films and mobile phones - but his former experience as a computer programmer will ensure that a prosperous career awaits Chris when he finally hangs up his squash rackets.