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AJBell WELCOME



Like England Squash & Racketball, AJ Bell is a Manchester-based organisation with a national reach.

Our company was founded back in 1995, and since then we have grown to become one of the largest investment and stockbroking companies in the country, with over 500 employees and offices in Manchester, London and Tunbridge Wells. Manchester is our head office, and we remain extremely proud of our Northwest roots. That is why, when the biggest tournament in squash came to our home town, we immediately seized on the possibility of sponsoring it. The result is the AJ Bell World Squash Championship 2013.

Today AJ Bell is one of the fastest-growing companies in its sector, looking after £20 billion of assets for over 80,000 clients. We achieve all of this by staying true to our guiding principles of being intelligent, principled, focussed, straightforward, energetic and personal - a set of values that will probably be very familiar to anybody with an interest in the world of squash.

These guiding principles are in our DNA; they help us think like our customers while continually striving to make investing easier. In this way we ensure that:

- our prices are highly competitive
- our service is first-class
- we give our customers what they want

Whether you are a DIY investor or prefer to work with the support of a financial adviser, AJ Bell can provide you with access to low-cost SIPPs, ISAs, funds and shares.

We are delighted to be in a position where we can sponsor this fantastic event, and we wish all competitors well. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the tournament organisers for the first-class work that has gone into making it happen.

Billy Mackay, Marketing Director, AJ Bell



uk sport
Gold Event Series

A Stage to Inspire

UK Sport is proud to support the 2013 AJ Bell Squash World Championship in Manchester. Through its National Lottery funded Gold Event Series, UK Sport aims to build on the success of London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 by bringing over 70 of the world's most prestigious events to the UK.

Coming soon:

UCI Track Cycling World Cup 2013
1-3 November
Manchester
www.trackworldcup.co.uk

Rugby League World Cup 2013
26 October -30 November
England & Wales
www.rlwc2013.com

FIG Gymnastics World Cup 2013
7 December
Glasgow
www.british-gymnastics.org

WTF Taekwondo Grand Prix 2013
13-15 December
Manchester
www.taekwondoGP.com

These events are only possible thanks to people buying National Lottery tickets. If you've bought a ticket, you're part of the team. Thank you.

More information at
www.uk sport.gov.uk/events



WELCOME TO MANCHESTER

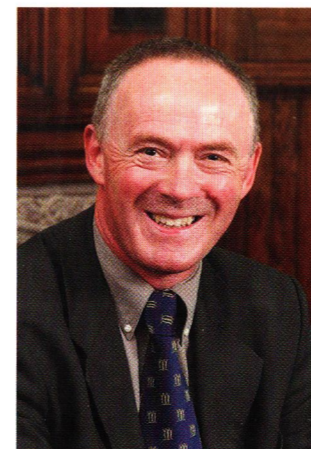


On behalf of Manchester City Council it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the AJ Bell World Squash Championship.

Manchester's squash heritage is now well-known across the globe and we are proud of our partnership with England Squash & Racketball, UK Sport and AJ Bell, which will deliver a great event.

This event sits alongside a number of major sports events taking place in the City in the coming weeks. These include the UCI Track Cycling World Cup, the World Taekwondo Grand Prix and the Rugby League World Cup final. I must also mention our dedicated team of volunteers, who play a vital role in this event and many more across the city.

Finally, I would like to wish the best of luck to all competitors and hope that they and all spectators enjoy their visit to our sporting city.



Sir Richard Leese
Leader of Manchester City Council



On behalf of UK Sport I would like to welcome you all to the AJ Bell World Squash Championship here in Manchester.

UK Sport is delighted to be supporting this prestigious event through an exciting new initiative: the National Lottery funded Gold Event Series. This ambitious programme will invest approximately £27 million in supporting the bidding for and staging of major events on home soil to build an enduring legacy from the wonderful success of London 2012.

UK Sport also draws upon the technical knowledge and experience it gained while helping to stage more than 100 world-class events in the build-up to London 2012 to help our athletes prepare.

The Gold Event Series will aim to bring over 70 of the world's most prestigious sporting events to the UK, including 36 World and European Championships. This programme will support British athletes' preparation and qualification for Rio 2016, generate approximately £287 million of additional expenditure in host cities and regions and bring an estimated 250,000 overseas visitors to the UK.

Events already secured include the 2017 World Athletics Championships at the Olympic Stadium in London and the 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Glasgow.

I know our athletes relish the opportunity of competing in front of a passionate and knowledgeable home crowd and the UK is now building an enviable international reputation for hosting world-class sporting events.

It's not just a valuable experience for the competitors though, but also for the officials and volunteers as well.

Finally I would like to wish everyone competing this week the very best of luck and would also like to thank all involved in staging this event including our partners: the PSA, WSF, England Squash & Racketball and Manchester City Council.



Liz Nicholl, OBE
Chief Executive, UK Sport



On behalf of England Squash & Racketball, I'd like to welcome you to the AJ Bell World Squash Championship Manchester 2013.

It is our great honour to host the event for a second time alongside Manchester City Council after a successful 2008 World Championships. It is fantastic that Manchester continues to support and attract major sporting events to the capital of the North West - we're working hard with them to ensure these events leave a genuine legacy in the city. My thanks also go to UK Sport for their great support as an event partner - the Championship is one of their Gold Event Series and they're helping us to deliver a truly world-class championship.

It is wonderful to have title sponsor AJ Bell supporting the event. As a Manchester-based company they have really embraced the World Championships and helped to ensure a really spectacular tournament.

Squash and racketball continue to remain popular recreational sports in England with hundreds of thousands of people taking part on a regular basis, whilst at an elite level we continue to excel with England the current Men's World Team Champions.

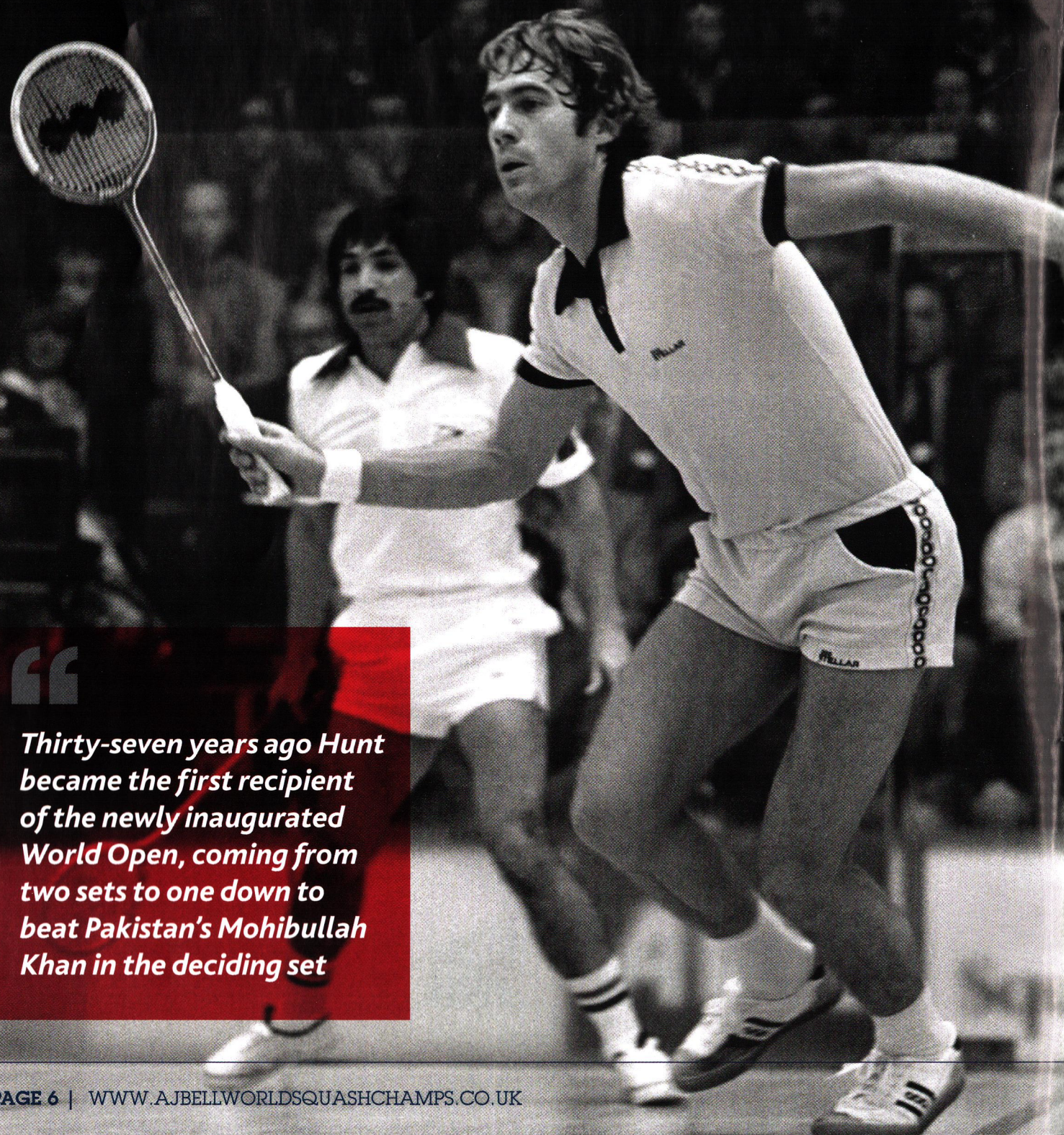
The AJ Bell World Squash Championship promises to be one of the most exciting and competitive events in the sport's history, so please get behind the players, make plenty of noise, and enjoy!



Nick Rider
Chief Executive
England Squash & Racketball

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was a long hot summer, the year the Sex Pistols launched themselves, spitting and snarling, onto the unsuspecting British music scene and when Southampton caused one of the greatest ever FA Cup Final shocks against Manchester United.



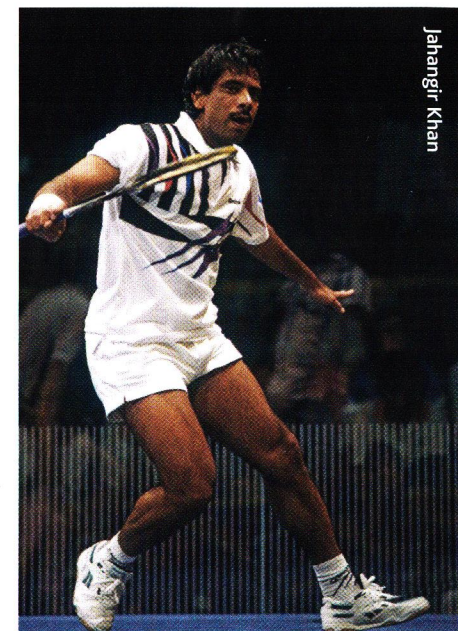
“
Thirty-seven years ago Hunt became the first recipient of the newly inaugurated World Open, coming from two sets to one down to beat Pakistan's Mohibullah Khan in the deciding set

1976 also marked a significant landmark for the game of squash and in particular for Australian Geoff Hunt.

Thirty-seven years ago Hunt became the first recipient of the newly inaugurated World Open, coming from two sets to one down to beat Pakistan's Mohibullah Khan in the deciding set.

Melbourne born Hunt had already been a three-time winner of the world amateur equivalent and transferred his dominance to squash's bright new era.

And boy didn't he turn the World Open into his own personal property? For three of the next four years Hunt was untouchable, making the World Open his own.



Jahangir Khan

He didn't win in 1978, but only because the tournament wasn't staged. Normal service was resumed in 1979 and 1980 before a significant changing of the guard in 1981.

Hunt reached the final again but in Toronto it was very much a case of the 'king is dead, long live the king.'

The new monarch of the court was Jahangir Khan, the third Pakistani to contest a World Open final after Khan and Qamar Zaman, but the first to be crowned champion.

To many squash insiders it had only been a matter of time before the Karachi born player succeeded Hunt. He was the world amateur champion at the age of

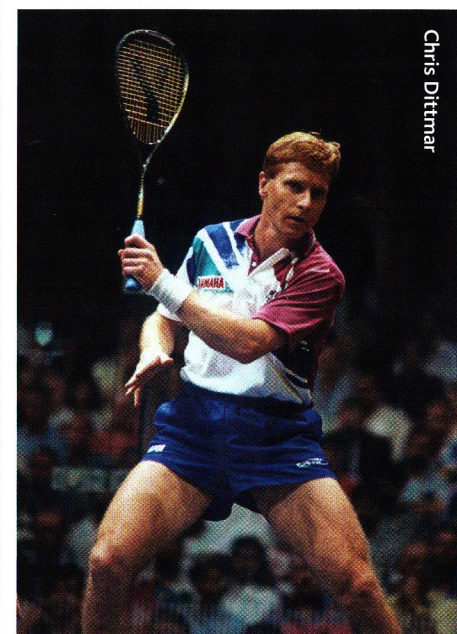
15 and just 17 years old when he ended Hunt's reign, coming from a set down to take the match.

Khan's elevation to the squash summit came against the backdrop of personal tragedy. Older brother Torsam died of a heart attack, at the age of just 27, while playing in a tournament in Australia and Jahangir considered quitting the sport.

As a boy, Jahangir also suffered from poor health but he overcome all setbacks to rule the game. He based himself in London with his cousin, Rehmatullah, and trained at Wembley Squash Centre.

From the capital he ruled the world, retaining his title in 1982 by defeating Hunt's compatriot, Perth born Dean Williams in four sets, and adding three more World Open triumphs against Chris Dittmar, Qaman Zaman and New Zealander Ross Norman.

However, in 1986 came another power shift as Norman gained revenge when the tournament was staged in Toulouse on the first of two occasions. Khan hadn't lost for five years but Norman, then 27, and a runner-up to Khan in the same year's British Open, rocked the sport with a four game win.

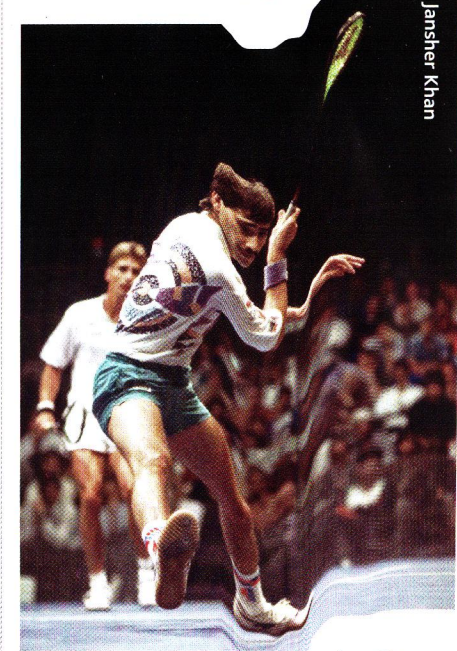


Chris Dittmar

But Norman, almost lost to the game due to a parachute accident in his early years, couldn't retain his title as another Khan strode into the spotlight... Jansher. Born in Peshawar in June 1969, Jansher - no

relation to his name... dominated the game like never before; no mean feat in the eras of Hunt and Jahangir.

In 1987, the World Open returned to the UK and an enthralled audience saw Jansher win the first of his eight titles, beating Dittmar in four games. It was Khan versus Khan 12 months later in Amsterdam as Jahangir dethroned only 10 points in getting his trophy but that was Jahangir's last hurrah, though he did progress to two more finals.



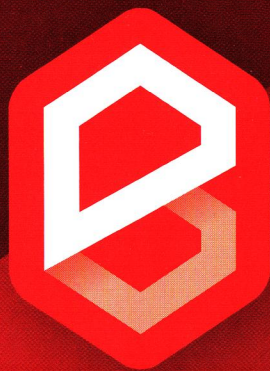
Jansher Khan

In 1989, Jansher was back in charge, leaving unlucky Dittmar to collect a runner-up prize for a third time. This year also marked a change in the scoring with setting to 15, as Dittmar faded after taking a 2-0 lead.

The same two met again in 1990 with the same outcome, before Dittmar made home advantage tell and inflicted defeat on Jahangir.

In 1992, Adelaide born Dittmar reached his fifth final and for the fourth time finished with the consolation prize against Jansher. A bit like snooker champion, Dittmar is regarded as the greatest player never to have won the ultimate prize.

Khan's triumph was the overture to five successive wins including victories over England's first ever finalist in



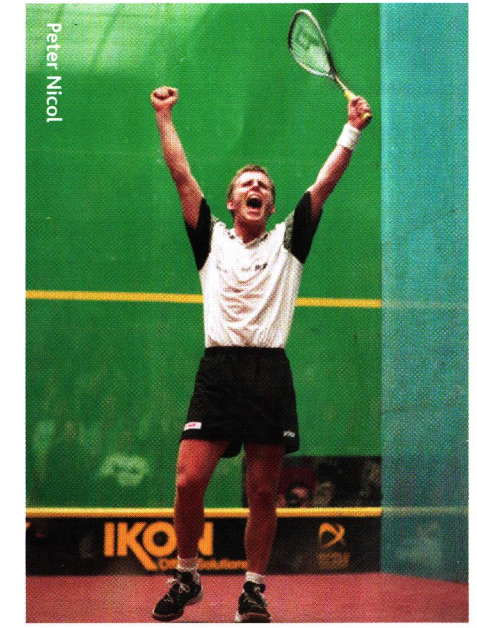
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1994, Nottingham born double handed Peter Marshall, and former World Junior Champion and future Essex fireman, Del Harris.

Khan won his eighth and last World Open in 1996. In 1997, Khan didn't attend due to a court dispute over maintenance payments for a son.

For two decades only five names were inscribed on the trophy but in the next six years, there were six different winners: Rodney Eyles, Jonathon Power, Peter Nicol, David Palmer, Amr Shabana and Thierry Lincou.

Nicol's success in 1999 - 12 months after winning Commonwealth Games Gold in Kuala Lumpur - made it third time lucky after he had lost to Australian Eyles and Canadian Power.

Ahmed Barada, the first Egyptian to contest a world final but certainly not the last, offered solid resistance but was dismissed in three games.

Nicol won in Cairo for Scotland but by the time he came to belatedly defend his title three years later he had controversially switched his allegiance to England. However, it was to be another eight years until an 'Englishman' got his hands on the trophy.

Nicol was swept aside in the semi-finals by John White in only 31 minutes. Former champion Power came unplugged in painful fashion, forced to retire after being hit in the face by eventual champion



Palmer. Australian Palmer had made his home in the city of diamonds so there was plenty of Belgian joy as he outlasted White in Antwerp in a 102 minute, five-set thriller.

In 2003, Amr Shabana, seeded nine and ranked 11th in the world, upset World No.1 Thierry Lincou with a spectacular four game win. Shabana, at the time, was the lowest ranked player to ascend the squash throne.

Twelve months later Lincou wasn't to be denied - sorry PSA chairman Lee Beachill if you are reading this article! Beachill was top seed and reached the final dropping only one set. He also claimed two of the first three sets in the final and led 6-4 and 10-9 in the fourth before Lincou hit back to take the match 12-10 11-8.

Shabana regained his title in 2005 but runner-up Palmer thwarted Gregory Gaultier over five sets in 2006.

Shabana was top dog once more in 2007 as the tournament switched to Hamilton, Bermuda. However, he didn't

find Manchester to his liking in 2008 as Ramy Ashour defeated compatriot Karim Darwish at the National Squash Centre.

Another all-Egyptian final took place in 2009 as Shabana captured his fourth title, before a historic moment for English squash in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

The final was an unofficial clash for the Yorkshire title as Nick Matthew met James Willstrop. Willstrop drew first blood but Matthew dropped just eleven points in taking the next three games for victory.

Matthew then became the first player since Jansher Khan in 1996 to retain the title when he recovered from a set down to overcome Gaultier in Rotterdam.

There was to be no hat-trick for the Sheffield star in Doha last year as Ashour defeated Bristol based student Mohamed El Shorbagy in the first five-set final since 2006. And so to Manchester.

There have been 13 different winners of the World Championship since 1976. Will we see number 14 this year or will it be a familiar face? Find out on 3 November.

STRUT LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

RAMY ASHOUR SEEKS WORLD TREBLE

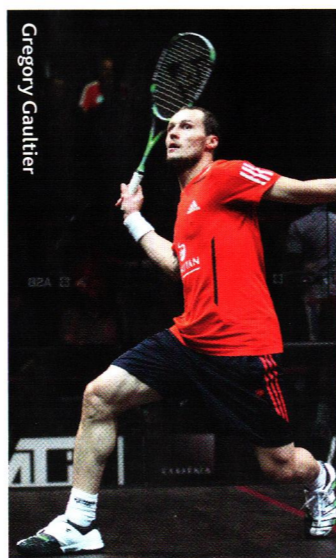
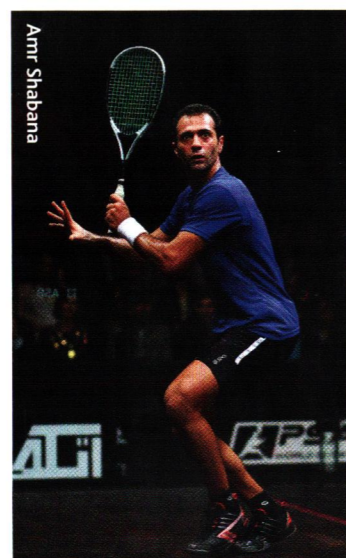
If the form book is any kind of guide then Ramy Ashour is a hot favourite in Manchester this week to be crowned World Champion for a third time.

The Cairo born star has walked the sport like a colossus in the past 12 months and is one of the modern wonders of the squash world.

World No.1 and top seed Ashour is bidding to become only the fifth player in history to win three titles or more. He is also looking to repeat his victory in Manchester five years ago when he defeated his compatriot Karim Darwish.

So, if Ashour doesn't complete a hat-trick who might dethrone him? Being patriotic, the home crowd would love to see a Brit lifting the trophy on 3 November.

However, the overseas challenge is formidable, particularly from Ashour and his chums. Nick Matthew knows the threat posed better than most, having battled against the planet's best since his 1999 World Championship debut, played against the spectacular backdrop of the Pyramids.



So, we turned to the Steel City star and asked him about the threat posed by the overseas challenge, specifically, why are the Egyptians so dangerous at the moment?

"The senior Egyptian players seem to take a fearless attitude through with them from the juniors," explains Matthew.

"They have carried so much competition in Egypt from such a young age and this is clearly carried through into the senior game in recent years. They play a high risk reward game which is hard to contain.

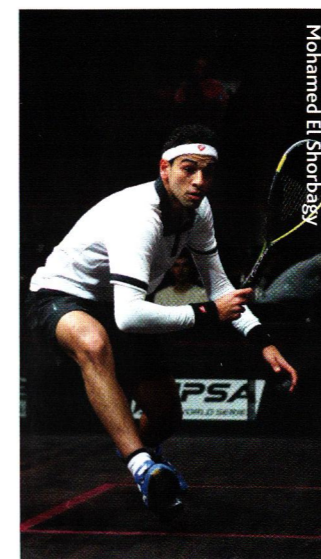
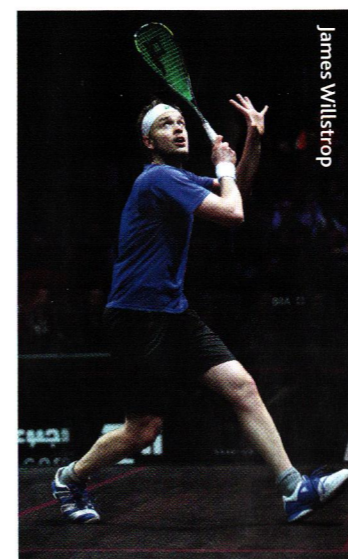
"Ramy will be clear favourite because he has been unbeaten on the PSA World Tour for over a year. I would say myself, Greg Gaultier and James (Willstrop) have been his closest challengers.

"But Mohamed El Shorbagy is young and hungry and he reached the world final last year. And you can never write off Amr Shabana. You never know, he may have one more big win in him."

Shabana and Australian legend Geoff Hunt are the only players to have won a total of four world titles. Shabana's first denied Thierry Lincou in Lahore in 2003, while his last victory was six years later.

Now 34, Shabana is in his 19th season on the PSA World Tour. Indeed, it is two decades since the clever left-hander, dividing his time these days between Cairo and Toronto, lost to compatriot Ahmed Faizy in the British Junior Open Under 14 final.

Shabana, surprisingly never a winner of the British Open, was seeded nine when he won his first world crown. And it will be



another surprise this year if someone as low in the seedings upsets the favourites.

"The guys down the rankings are capable of beating anyone," warns Matthew. "However the titles have been shared among the top guys in recent years.

"The problem for the lower ranked players is perhaps they are not quite ready to string four or five wins together to win the event.

"If I was looking for someone to cause a potential upset I would look at the young Egyptians. I would also think Simon Rosner from Germany and Switzerland's Nicolas Mueller are in with a chance."

Zurich born Mueller was PSA young player of the year in 2011 and is the highest world ranked Swiss player of all-time. Just for good measure he also won his seventh National title earlier this year.

Mueller was a semi-finalist at the KL Open back in March where he lost to another Manchester contender, Karim Darwish, and also reached the last eight of the Grasshopper Cup in Zurich.

"It's hard to say if the strength in depth has increased since I started," adds Matthew. "But it has certainly diversified across more countries with South America, Asia and the Middle East and Africa coming to the fore."

However, a notable omission at the top level is a Pakistani presence. Teenager Nasir Iqbal is the highest ranked player and he's not even in the top 50.

And that's a major fall from grace for a nation that has accumulated 14 World Opens through Jahangir and Jansher Khan. Mohibullah Khan and Qamar Zaman have also tilted for the title. However, since Jansher won for the eighth and last time in 1996, there hasn't been any Pakistani representation in a world final.

"Eventually, they will become a force again but it will be a long tough road," believes Matthew. "It's difficult to say why they have fallen away. Any good young player has a lot to live up to and there is a lot of pressure on them.

"But they don't seem to have had the discipline like the greats from the past. It's even tougher now due to the lack of international sport in their country but tournaments are slowly being allowed in Pakistan again."

Matthew suspects the next global powerhouse will be based in Asia, though the rankings suggest the first champion from the Far East won't be crowned this year. Malaysia's Ong Beng Hee, 33, is the highest placed player and certainly well known in the UK, where he has been coached by Neil Harvey and Malcolm Willstrop.

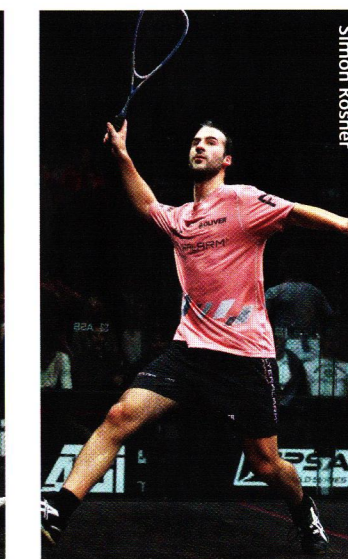
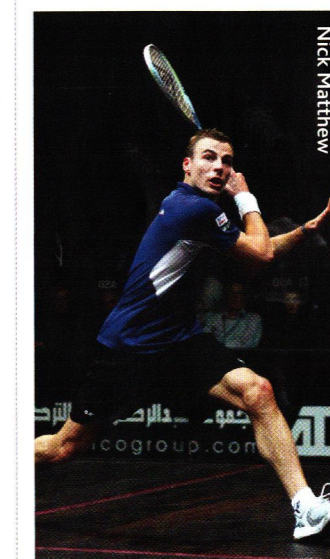
A winner of four successive Asian Championship titles, 12 PSA World Tour titles from 20 final appearances, and with a career-best world ranking of seventh, Ong has become Malaysia's most successful male squash player of all-time.

Indian Saurav Ghosal won't lack 'home' support this tournament. Coached by Willstrop in Pontefract, the 27-year-old from Kolkata became the first ever Indian player to claim a place in the world's top 20.

Ghosal, who joined the World Tour as a 16-year-old, says of Willstrop's guidance: "He has made me the professional player I am and I wouldn't be here if not for him." Ghosal is an eight-time winner of the Indian National title and reached the last 16 of the 2012 World Championship.

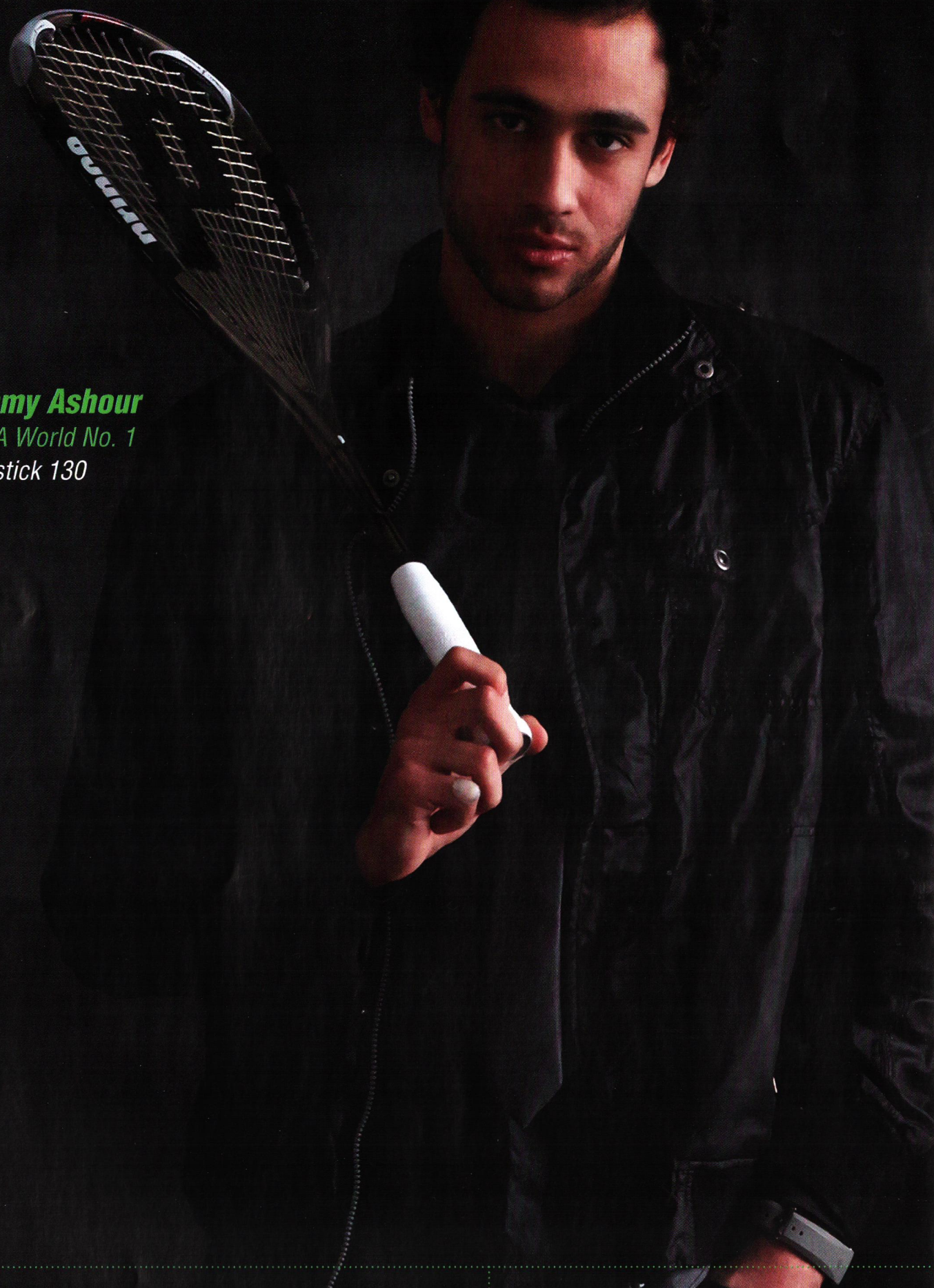
A clever player, he is also a brainy individual away from the court, graduating from Leeds University in July 2008 with a 1st class Honours degree in Economics.

Since the inaugural World Open in 1976, when 41 of the 64 main draw places were filled by overseas players and the £1,900 first prize went to Aussie Hunt, 26 different players have featured in the finals.



Of the 26, just 13 players have been crowned champion: four Australians, two Pakistanis, two Egyptians and one each from Canada, England, France, New Zealand, and Scotland. So, will the status quo be maintained in Manchester or will a new star be born?

Ramy Ashour
PSA World No. 1
Airstick 130



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No.1 SEED
RAMY ASHOUR
Nationality: Egyptian
Born: Cairo
Date of birth: 30th September, 1987

The defending champion and man to beat in Manchester. Ashour won his second World Open crown last December with victory over compatriot Mohamed El Shorbagy, over five sets in Doha.

His first, five years ago, came at the National Squash Centre here in Manchester where he ousted another Egyptian ace, Karim Darwish, 5-11 11-8 11-4 11-5.

He became the first Egyptian for 47 years to capture the British Open title when defeating Frenchman Gregory Gaultier 7-11 11-4 11-7 11-8 in 64 minutes at Hull's KC Stadium back in May.

Ashour first announced his arrival on the global stage in 2004 when, at the age of 16, he became the youngest ever winner of the World Under 19 title. Just for good measure he became the first player to win it twice two years later in New Zealand.

He followed up three months later by joining a select group of players to have claimed a PSA title on their senior Tour debut, winning the Athens Open.



No.2 SEED
GREGORY GAULTIER
Nationality: French
Born: Epinal
Date of birth: 23rd December, 1982

Three times a World Open runner-up (2006, 07, 11), the former British Open and European Junior champion would love to make it fourth time lucky at Manchester Central.

A former world number one, Gaultier already holds one world award before returning to the North West. The 30-year-old star achieved an honour even Ramy Ashour hasn't got his hands on – a gold medal from the World Games.

Gaultier ensured the long trip to Cali in Colombia wasn't wasted when he defeated German Simon Rosner 9-11 11-7 11-5 11-4 in the final at this multi sport festival.

The dad of one is one of only three current players to accumulate at least 50 PSA World Tour finals. His landmark came in the Swedish Open – which he won – but his 51st ended in defeat to Ashour at the British Open.

He topped the world rankings for the first time in 2009, matching the achievements of countryman Thierry Lincou. He defeated Lincou in the 2007 British Open final, becoming the first French winner in 77 years.



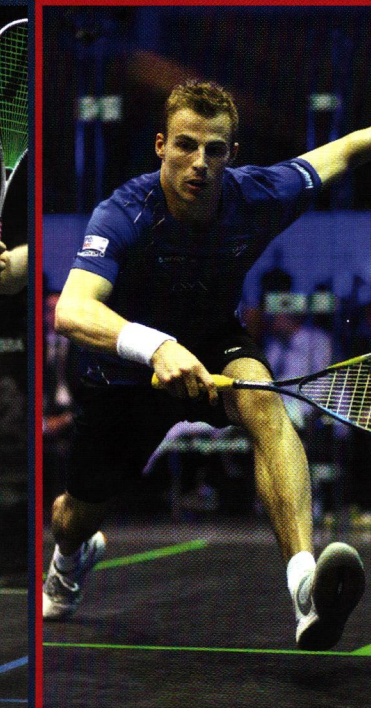
No.3 SEED
JAMES WILLSTROP
Nationality: English
Born: North Walsham
Date of birth: 15th August, 1983

2013 has already been a memorable year for the articulate Yorkshireman. He reached the finals of the North American Classic and Kuwait Cup before making it third time lucky with victory over Peter Barker in the final of the Canary Wharf Classic. It was his fourth victory in the event and the 17th Tour title of his career.

Better was to follow as Willstrop guided England to success over favourites Egypt at the World Team Championships. Victory was extra special as he won the title decider against Karim Darwish.

Willstrop headed the world rankings for the first time in his career in January 2012. And despite briefly losing his grip on the top spot to Nick Matthew, he hit back to look down on his rivals for the rest of the year.

A winner of the North American Classic in 2012, he relinquished the trophy this year. But the tournament still proved memorable because of his double fake shot against Ramy Ashour that went viral when shown on the internet. Willstrop is trained by his dad, Malcolm, at Pontefract Squash Club.



No.4 SEED
NICK MATTHEW
Nationality: English
Born: Sheffield
Date of birth: 25th July, 1980

A professional since 1998 and still going strong. Twice a winner of the World Championship but not yet on home soil. Another former British World No.1, Matthew won the world crown for the first time in June 2010.

In doing so he became the first British winner in 35 years. Not content with one piece of history, Matthew repeated his success in Rotterdam 12 months later, a feat not achieved previously for 15 years.

James Willstrop was beaten in 2010 while Gregory Gaultier failed to stop the determined Sheffield battler in 2011. Matthew's bid for a hat-trick of World titles in 2012 ended at the semi-final stage to Ramy Ashour.

A runner-up this year in the Swedish and North American Opens, Matthew did pick up a piece of silverware with victory over James Willstrop to register a record fifth National title in Manchester.

On a personal note, this year Matthew married British Cycling psychologist Esme Taylor in July, was inducted into Sheffield's walk of fame alongside Olympic heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis-Hill and actor Sean Bean, and completed his autobiography, 'Sweating Blood'.

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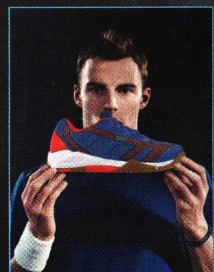
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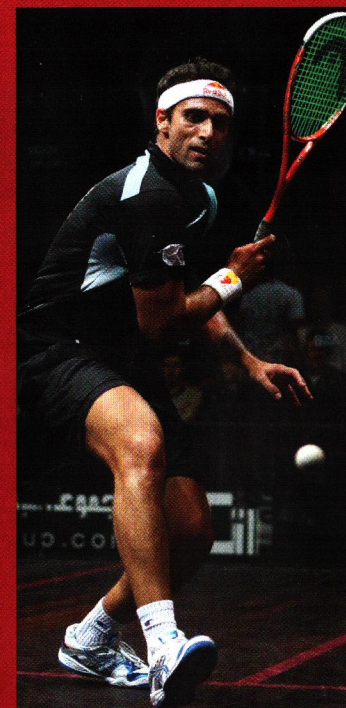
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Developed in conjunction with World Squash Professional Nick Matthew



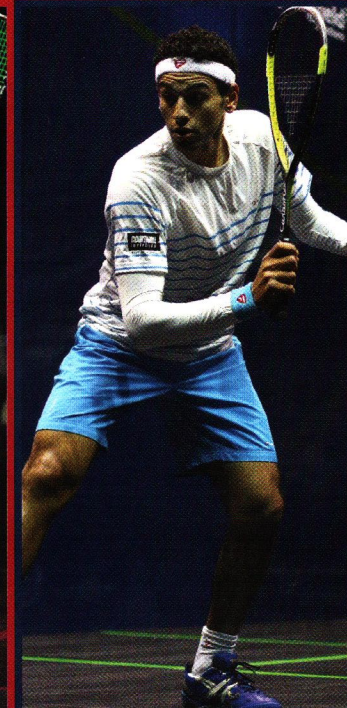
No.5 SEED
KARIM DARWISH

Nationality: Egyptian
Born: Giza
Date of birth: 29th August, 1981

A former British Open and World Junior champion, Darwish hopes to go one better than he did when the World Championships were last staged in Manchester. However, his 2008 defeat to Ramy Ashour proved a stepping stone to the top of the PSA world rankings for the first time in January 2009. Darwish, stepping out of the shadow of Amr Shabana, stayed out in front for all but one month in 2009 and was awarded the PSA Player of the Year to mark his achievement.

A beaten finalist by Shabana at this year's Motor City Open where injury forced him to withdraw, Darwish recovered to contest the KL Open final in Malaysia back in March. Faced by Mohamed El Shorbagy, Darwish scored an 11-9 12-10 11-7 victory to claim the 23rd Tour title of his career from his 41st Tour final appearance.

He is married to fellow squash player Engy Kheirallah. The couple's son, Omar, was born in May 2012.



No.6 SEED
MOHAMED EL SHORBAGY

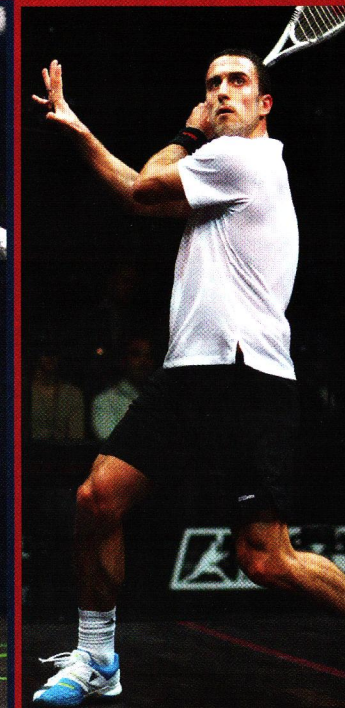
Nationality: Egyptian
Born: Alexandria
Date of birth: 12th January, 1991

El Shorbagy is an adopted Englishman after taking up residency in Bristol. He moved to the UK to study at Millfield School, where he was coached by Jonah Barrington.

He has continued his education at the University of the West of England. El Shorbagy is an articulate young man and would be a popular winner of the title. He was a qualifier for the main event back in 2008 and reached the quarter-finals, upsetting sixth seed and former champion Thierry Lincou on the way, before losing to his fellow countryman Amr Shabana.

El Shorbagy, whose younger brother Marwan is also a leading professional, made it to the final of the 2012 World Championship, with an epic semi-final victory over James Willstrop, but came up just short against Ramy Ashour.

He added his name to the PSA Tour Roll of Honour in 2010 with a maiden senior victory at the Indian Challenge No7. More trophies came in the following year, including the Motor City Open in Detroit, the Internationaux de la Reunion, the Colombian Open in Bogota and the Macau Open.



No.7 SEED
PETER BARKER

Nationality: English
Born: London
Date of birth: 26th September, 1983

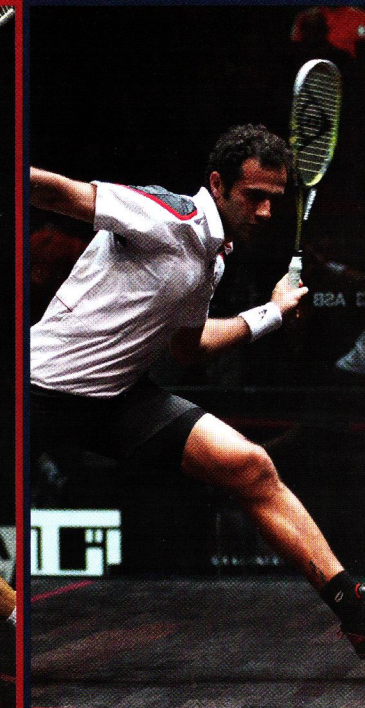
If Peter Barker could move the World Championships to Bogota he might be in with an outstanding chance.

Four times the consistent left-hander has travelled to South America and returned as Colombian Open Champion. Previously a winner in 2005, 06, 07, Barker made it four from four and claimed a 14th Tour title at the expense of Egyptian Omar Mosaad, 11-4 11-4 8-11 11-3. In the semi-finals, he ousted Australia's Cameron Pilley in straight sets.

Londoner Barker just failed to make capital gains when he contested the final of the Canary Wharf Classic earlier this year. Certainly, he held high expectations after defeating top seed Nick Matthew in the last four. However, James Willstrop denied him in three sets in the final.

Barker reached the last 16 of the Worlds in Manchester last time, taking a set off champion Ramy Ashour, before losing in four.

Barker is a former pupil of Brentwood School whose old boys include: Noel Edmunds, Keith Allen and Sir Neville Chamberlain, army officer and credited with inventing the game of snooker!



No.8 SEED
AMR SHABANA

Nationality: Egyptian
Born: Cairo
Date of birth: 20th July, 1979

Dubbed the 'Prince of Cairo', Shabana may be in the twilight of his career but he still plays a mean game as Brits Nick Matthew and James Willstrop found to their cost at the start of 2013.

Shabana, now contesting his 19th year on the World Tour, defeated both to successfully defend his PSA World Series title at Queen's Club. Not content with a 30th PSA title, the 'Prince' travelled to Detroit and won the Motor City Open, including successes against younger compatriots, Mohamed El Shorbagy and Karim Darwish.

Shabana became the first ever Egyptian to top the world rankings in April 2006 and stayed at the top for nearly three years.

Only Pakistanis Jansher Khan and Jahangir Khan, Englishman Peter Nicol and Australian Geoff Hunt have enjoyed a longer unbroken run as world number one. Indeed, only Hunt plus Jansher and Jahangir have emulated his achievement of four World Open wins – the last a straight sets win over Ramy Ashour four years ago in Kuwait City.

ROUND 1 MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER	ROUND 2 TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER	ROUND 3 WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER	QUARTER FINAL THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER	SEMI FINAL SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER	SEMI FINAL SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER	QUARTER FINAL FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER	ROUND 3 WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER	ROUND 2 TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER	ROUND 1 MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER																						
[1] Ramy Ashour (EGY) v Laurens Jan Anjema (NED)	Alan Clyne (SCO) v Qualifier	Mohd Nafiizwan Adnan (MAS) v Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry (EGY)	[14] Cameron Pilley (AUS) v Campbell Grayson (NZL)	[15] Alister Walker (BOT) v Qualifier	Saurav Ghosal (IND) v Joe Lee (ENG)	Henrik Mustonen (FIN) v Qualifier	[7] Peter Barker (ENG) v Ryan Cuskelly (AUS)	[8] Amr Shabana (EGY) v Adrian Grant (ENG)	Mathieu Castagnet (FRA) v Omar Abdel Meguid (EGY)	Leo Au (HKG) v Qualifier	[16] Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) v Gregoire Marche (FRA)	[11] Omar Mosaad (EGY) v Christopher Gordon (USA)	Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) v Ong Beng Hee (MAS)	Max Lee (HKG) v Jonathan Kemp (ENG)	[4] Nick Matthew (ENG) v Qualifier	[3] James Willstrop (ENG) v Qualifier	Tom Richards (ENG) v Ben Coleman (ENG)	Shawn Delierre (CAN) v Qualifier	[9] Borja Golan (ESP) v Chris Simpson (ENG)	[12] Simon Rosner (GER) v Qualifier	Abdullah Al Muzayen (KUW) v Qualifier	Julian Illingworth (USA) v Omar Abdel Aziz (EGY)	[6] Mohamed El Shorbagy (EGY) v Adrian Waller (ENG)	[5] Karim Darwish (EGY) v Qualifier	Olli Tuominen (FIN) v Qualifier	Stephen Copping (RSA) v Qualifier	[13] Daryl Selby (ENG) v Qualifier	[10] Tarek Momen (EGY) v Qualifier	Nicolas Mueller (SUI) v Marwan El Shorbagy (EGY)	Mohd Ali Anwar Reda (EGY) v Qualifier	[2] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) v Qualifier
					FINAL SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER																										



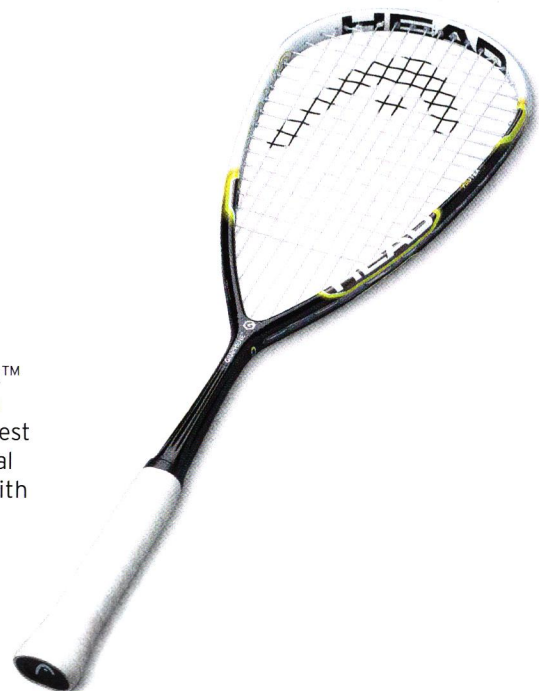


TEAR DOWN THE WALLS.

- KARIM DARWISH
- JENNY DUNCALF

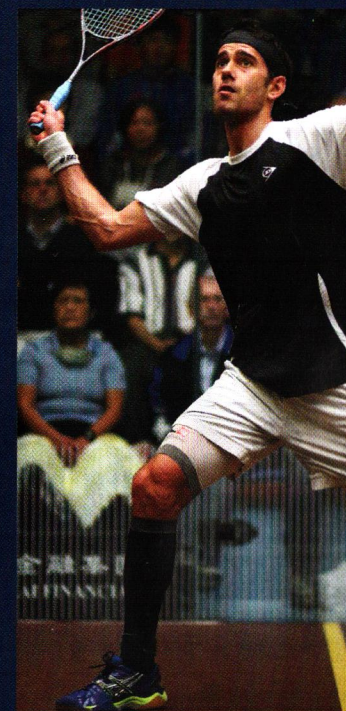
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No. 9 SEED **BORJA GOLAN**

Nationality: Spanish
Born: Santiago de Compostela
Date of birth: 6th January, 1983

Spain's footballers may rule the football world but the country's squash players don't have the same dominance. However, this 30-year-old from the historic Galician city of Santiago is doing his bit to raise the profile.

Golan has reached the heights to become Spain's highest ever world ranked player, eclipsing the achievements of Austin Adarraga in the 1990s. And he's done it after recovering from a serious knee injury that kept him off court for nine months.

His inactivity saw him fall out of the top 100 but he's recovered superbly to climb into the top 10 for the first time. The high spots of his year so far include victory at the Windy City Open to bring him a 28th Tour title and marriage to girlfriend Chelo Suarez.

At last year's World Championship, Golan took the scalps of Scotsman Alan Clyne and England's Peter Barker before losing in straight sets to James Willstrop at the quarter-final stage. He reached the last 16 in 2011. Other career hotspots include victories in the Manitoba and Dayton Opens during 2012.



No. 10 SEED **TAREK MOMEN**

Nationality: Egyptian
Born: Cairo
Date of birth: 23rd February, 1988

Yet another from the seemingly endless production line of top-class Egyptian stars, Momen broke through into the World's top 10 for the first time back in June but he is yet to win his maiden title of 2013. However, he did reach the British Open quarter-finals, beating players including Peter Barker.

He showed he can mix it with the best by capturing last season's Malaysian Open, doing so with victory in the penultimate round over Spaniard Borja Golan and then eclipsing Mohamed El Shorbagy in a five set, 109 minute final marathon. The women's Malaysian Open Champion was Raneem El Welily, who is now Momen's fiancée.

Momen has also won the Irish Open and Colombian Open. He collected a silver medal in Mulhouse earlier this year as a member of Egypt's World Team Championship squad.

He is a bright spark off court as well as a livewire on it, graduating from the American University in Cairo with a degree in electronic engineering. He lists his hobbies as reading, tennis and music.



No. 11 SEED **OMAR MOSAAD**

Nationality: Egyptian
Born: Cairo
Date of birth: 17th March, 1988

The sixth and last Egyptian ranked among the top 16 seeds but possessing the talent to move up into more rarefied territory. Mosaad has been marked out as a top international player ever since he captured the British Junior Under 17 and Under 19 titles. Mosaad was also runner-up to Ramy Ashour in the 2006 World Junior Championships in New Zealand.

His tag as 'one to watch' increased in 2008 when he was chosen as the PSA's Young Player of the Year. A winner of the KL Open in 2012, he also reached the final of the PSA International 70 tournament in Mexico before going down to Gregory Gaultier.

Mosaad lost in round three of last year's World Championships to the eventual winner, Ramy Ashour. But he made Ashour work for his victory, taking the first set 13-11 before losing 12-10 11-2 14-12. Ashour enjoyed an easier workout when they met again in the first round of the 2013 British Open. Mosaad has won eight Tour titles since 2005.



No. 12 SEED **SIMON ROSNER**

Nationality: German
Born: Wurzburg
Date of birth: 5th November, 1987

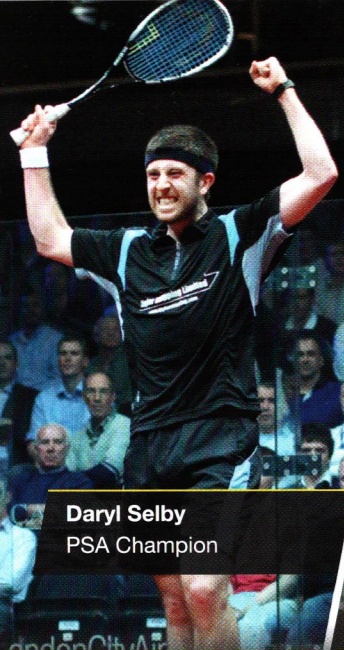
Germany's only top 16 ranked player reached the squash final at the World Games back in August after a landmark victory over Peter Barker. Rosner, seven times his country's National Champion, had never previously beaten Barker in three years.

However, he ended that sequence with a straight sets win before losing to Gregory Gaultier in the gold medal match.

Rosner, the son of a baker, came to the rise in 2006 when he became Germany's first European Junior Champion. Just for good measure the Rosner-led Germans ended England's two-decade long reign as European Team champions.

Rosner has won a total of six PSA titles, including three in 2009, and last year's impressive displays at the Santiago Open in Spain. Rosner lost to Karim Darwish in the last 32 of the 2012 World Championships.

He is bidding to become the highest ever ranked German, bettering the eighth place achieved by Hansi Wiens, currently head squash coach at Dartmouth College in America.



Daryl Selby
PSA Champion



Joelle King
WSA Champion



David Palmer
4 x British Open Champion
2 x World Open Champion

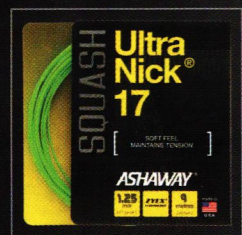
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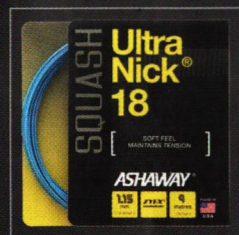


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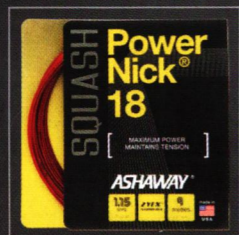
FOR OVER SIX
GENERATIONS



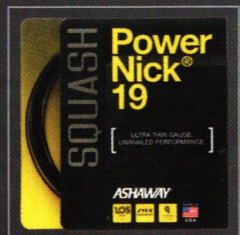
SOFT FEEL
MAINTAINS TENSION



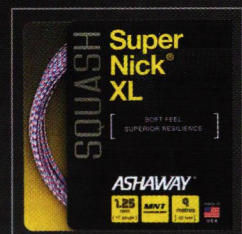
SOFT FEEL
MAINTAINS TENSION



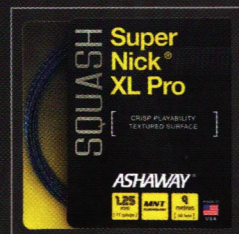
MAXIMUM POWER
MAINTAINS TENSION



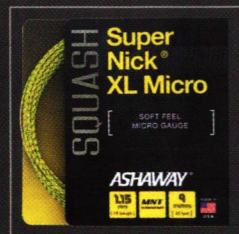
ULTRA THIN GAUGE
UNRIVALED PERFORMANCE



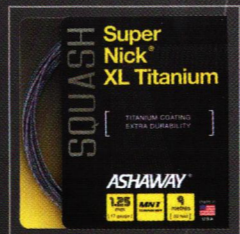
SOFT FEEL
SUPERIOR RESILIENCE



CRISP PLAYABILITY
TEXTURED SURFACE



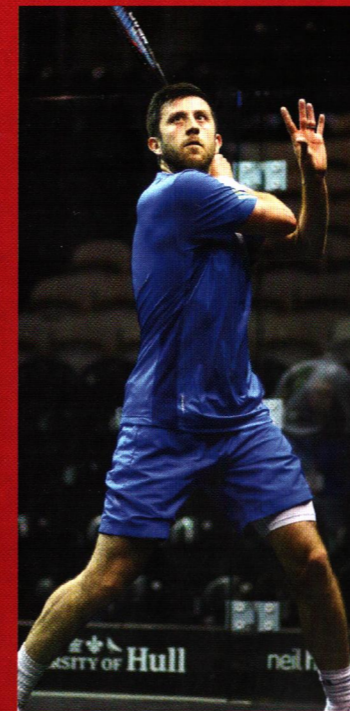
SOFT FEEL
MICRO GAUGE



TITANIUM COATING
EXTRA DURABILITY

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No.13 SEED
DARYL SELBY

Nationality: English
Born: Harlow
Date of birth: 3rd November, 1982

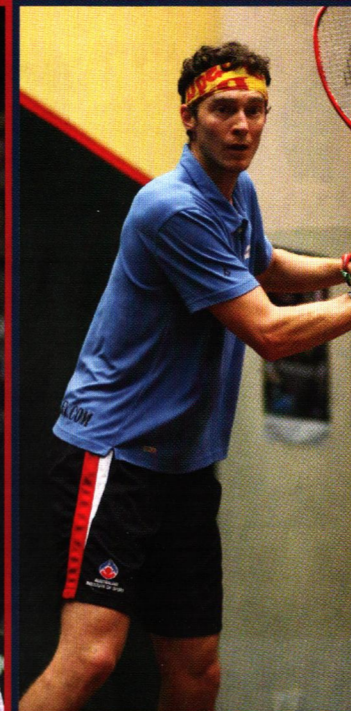
Essex boy Selby won his first Tour title in Canada eight years ago and has subsequently appeared in 17 more. He claimed his only British National title in Manchester in 2011, upsetting favourite Nick Matthew in the final.

Selby made his second appearance for England in this year's World Team Championships and duly won all six matches as the trophy came home for the first time in six years.

He lost to Karim Darwish in four sets in the last 16 of the 2012 World Championships and also at the same stage to Australian David Palmer when Manchester played host in 2008.

He attended the same school, Brentwood, as Peter Barker, later graduating from Loughborough University. Sister Lauren, two years his junior, is a professional player on the women's Tour.

Selby would love to mark his 31st birthday on the final day of the tournament with a final appearance.



No.14 SEED
CAMERON PILLEY

Nationality: Australian
Born: New South Wales
Date of birth: 27th October, 19822

Hard hitting Pilly progressed to the last 16 of the 2012 Championships, losing to Mohamed El Shorbagy in four sets. He is the latest in a long line of Australian aces and for four years trained at the Australian Institute of Sport in Brisbane under the auspices of legends Geoff Hunt and Rodney Martin.

He was born to be a squash player and reports suggest that he could hit the ball at the age of two!

He entered his first tournament at the age of six and promptly won it. Two years later his mum and dad bought the squash club! Holland based Pilly has converted 26 of his PSA Tour final appearances into 13 wins. He won the Commonwealth Games mixed doubles gold with Kasey Brown at Delhi 2010, where he also took bronze in the men's doubles with Ryan Cuskelly. He is credited with the hardest shot in squash – 175mph.

Pilly celebrates his 31st birthday during this year's tournament. He lists one of his hobbies as 'Beach', but will probably stick to another of his pastimes, backgammon, if he has spare time in Manchester.



No.15 SEED
ALISTER WALKER

Nationality: Botswana
Born: Gaborone
Date of birth: 19th September, 1982

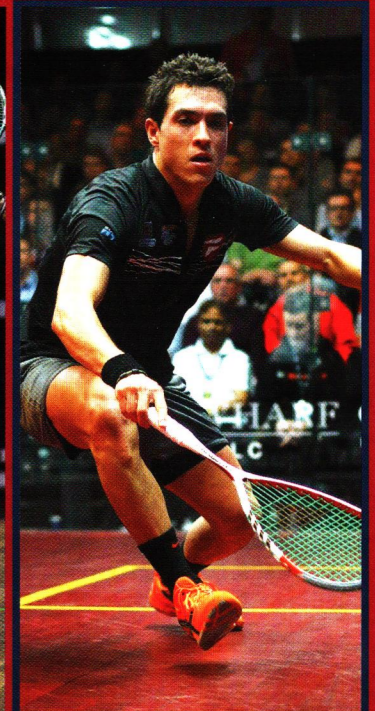
Born in Africa, son of a National squash playing mum, Walker moved to the UK in 1998 after winning a squash scholarship to Wycliffe School in Gloucestershire.

Four years later Walker joined the PSA and went on to represent his adopted country at the European and World Team Championships.

He reached a career high ranking of twelve in 2009 and has since become Irish Open, Grasshopper Cup and Hong Kong International champion. He resigned from the national performance programme in 2010 as a protest against the treatment of former National coach David Pearson and accused the governing body of a "lack of integrity."

Formerly based in Leeds, but now living in New York, dreadlocked Walker hankered after a return to represent the nation of his birth. And he did so for the first time in February after transferring his international allegiance. It proved a winning comeback as he defeated Kelvin Ndhlovu of Zambia to become All-African Singles Champion. Botswana finished fourth in the team event.

Botswana also made their bow in this year's World Team Championships, finishing 24th.



No.16 SEED
MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ

Nationality: Colombian
Born: Bogota
Date of birth: 20th December, 1985

1st September, 2013 was indeed a red letter day for Miguel Angel Rodriguez as he became the highest ranked South American player of all-time.

Coached by former World Open Champion, David Palmer, the 27-year-old from Bogota finally overhauled Argentinean Federico Usandizaga, who attained 17th place 20 years earlier.

Rodriguez, introduced to the sport by his dad as a four-year-old, reached the last four of his home tournament, the Colombian Open, in July. That followed the 30th PSA World Tour final appearance of his career in Guatemala where he beat Stephen Copping to claim his 22nd title.

Twice winner of Pan American Games gold, Rodriguez, noted for his fitness and speed on court, collected a bronze medal from this year's multi sport World Games in Cali, Colombia.

Victory over Aussie Cameron Pilly sent the local hero into the semis where he took third spot after Peter Barker's withdrawal through injury.

Acrobatic Rodriguez is a great crowd pleaser, as spectators at this year's Canary Wharf Classic discovered during an epic battle with Britain's own Nick Matthew.

WORLD SQUASH

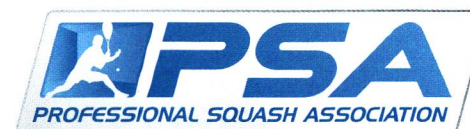
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WELCOME TO MANCHESTER

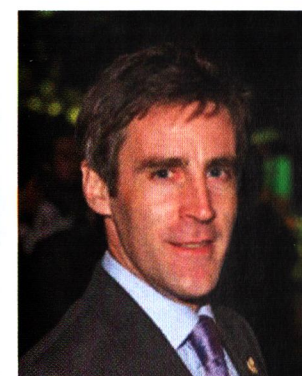


On behalf of the Professional Squash Association (PSA) I am delighted to welcome you to the AJ Bell Men's World Squash Championship 2013.

The World Squash Championship boasts the best squash players from across the globe competing to be crowned PSA World Champion, in what is set to be a truly memorable event in Manchester. It has already been a very exciting year on the PSA World Tour with the competition being led by World No.1, Ramy Ashour, who will surely be the man to beat this week. Ashour faces British hopefuls James Willstrop and Nick Matthew, who will be hoping to impress on home soil.

PSA is very fortunate to have such excellent partners as Manchester City Council and all the stakeholders hosting such a prestigious event. We also welcome AJ Bell as title sponsor for the first time.

Good luck to all of the competitors. Let's hope they give us another exciting week of world-class squash.



Alex Gough
Chief Executive, Professional Squash Association

WORLD SQUASH

WSF

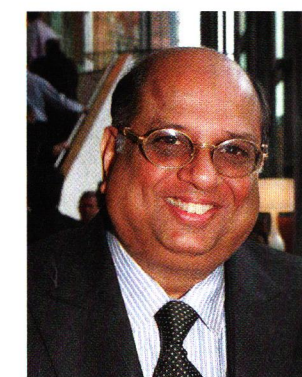
On behalf of the World Squash Federation I should like to warmly welcome all players and officials to the 2013 Men's World Squash Championship.

Our thanks go to PSA, Manchester City Council, England Squash and all involved for having the vision and initiative to bring back this World Championship to Manchester.

We remember well the Commonwealth Games in 2002 and then the Men's and Women's World Championships so successfully staged at the National Squash Centre in 2008; and now we have the exciting prospect of the final rounds being played at Manchester Central.

Of course any event needs sponsors, management, volunteers, referees and media support and so much more – so in advance may I thank all those involved in running these Championships.

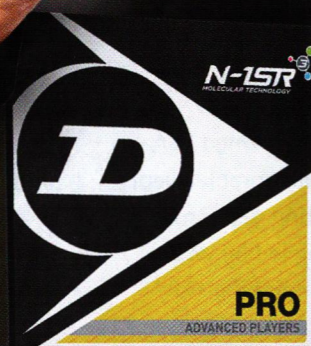
Best wishes for a successful Manchester experience.



Mr N Ramachandran
President, World Squash Association

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MANCHESTER SQUASH DEVELOPMENT

The Squash Development Team in Manchester is a partnership between Manchester City Council and England Squash & Racketball.



Both organisations have invested in two full-time roles, giving the city a Squash Development Officer and a Head Coach. The two roles work side by side to ensure squash and racketball are accessible to all Manchester residents regardless of ability, gender, age and location.

Manchester is already recognised as the leading city in the UK for squash, with two major events taking place every year bringing significant investment to the development programme. The vast citywide development programme, recognised as the largest in the UK, has given Manchester residents and people from the surrounding areas the opportunity to take up the sport,

resulting in an increase in squash participation within the past ten years.

Manchester's year-round squash development programme provides an integrated range of activities and opportunities for the communities of Manchester, targeting all ages. The programme reaches out to communities, clubs, schools and performance activity. Manchester primary and secondary schools benefit from a team of eight coaches delivering weekly sessions throughout the city. Young people from across Manchester are given opportunities to access the Manchester squash programme and progress to the Manchester Academy which runs from

the National Squash Centre, giving each individual access to coaching, playing and competitive programmes. The Manchester programme also provides extensive opportunities on a weekly basis for adults of all standards to play squash and racketball throughout the city.

In addition to the day-to-day activities, a comprehensive delivery programme has been running for the past twelve months with junior and adult sessions established at all four of Manchester's community facilities as part of the World Squash Championship Legacy initiative.

Working in partnership with England Squash & Racketball, Manchester City Council have been running a host of

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community squash and racketball legacy programmes within the North West and also throughout England with the specific aim of involving local people in activity using the inspiration of a world-class event to get people excited and enthused about squash and racketball.

The Legacy programme builds upon the hugely successful existing structure within the city. So far over thirty primary schools and ten secondary schools have received coaching and taken part in school competitions. To complement this we have had over a dozen local club members qualify as UKCC Level 1 & 2 squash coaches, who are now directly involved in the delivery of Manchester's community and/or club programmes.

2012/13 has been an exciting time for squash development in Manchester with many landmark achievements. There has been significant growth in the numbers participating in weekly community sessions in both junior and senior level.

We have recorded over 4,000 visits citywide with many newcomers to the sport. Due to the increase in participation the number of weekly community squash and racketball sessions has increased, with investment in community facilities confirmed.

Linked with the legacy is the Greater Manchester Junior Squash League, which provides competition for all standards from under 12s up to under 17s. The league runs for six months of the year with boys and girls competing against one another from clubs based all over the North West of England. The league helps raise participation levels for younger players and with over 40 teams entered in the 2012/13 league has enabled more than 180 juniors to play competitive squash.

The promotion of squash and racketball in both Manchester and throughout England will continue after this event, and hopefully the legacy of the activities

that have been associated with the AJ Bell World Squash Championship – Manchester 2013 will act as a further platform for people young and old to try, have fun with, and get involved in playing the best sport in the world!

To find out more about squash and racketball in Manchester, contact:

Paul Hulme,
Sports Development Officer – Squash

Manchester City Council
p.hulme1@manchester.gov.uk

Chris Lengthorn,
Manchester Head Coach
England Squash & Racketball
chris.lengthorn@england.squashandracketball.com

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PUBLIC BUY INTO THE BIG HIT

Over the past year The Big Hit has been at the heart of raising the profile of squash and racketball across the country, making it easier for people to pick up a racket and give it a go!



“
7 million people saw our 'POP UP' Squash Shop on BBC Breakfast

During the summer we successfully launched 'Squashercise', a new fitness class designed for women based on squash and racketball fitness, movement and skills. E4's Made In Chelsea star Cheska Hull stamped a celebrity seal of approval on the new programme, which is now launching at clubs and leisure centres across the country.

The Big Hit website is the perfect place for people to find out about squash and racketball and more importantly makes it easier for new players to find a social 'Play It' session or just their nearest court.

You may have seen a Big Hit 'Pop Up' squash court on your high street. The concept is simple: take an empty retail unit and turn it into a temporary squash court. Following a trial go, interested players are then offered vouchers for free sessions at nearby clubs and leisure centres. The initiative has allowed us to

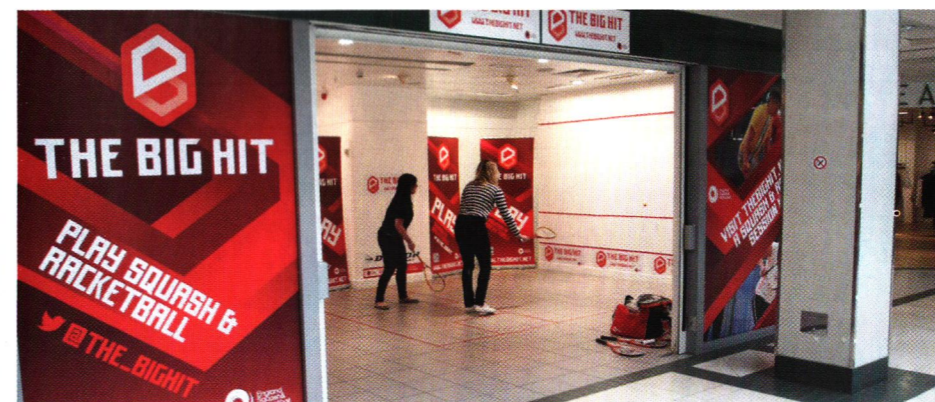
interact with members of the public and quite literally take squash to the streets.

Manchester, Birmingham, Hull and London are some of the cities we have visited over the past few months, including a month-long promotion at Europe's largest shopping centre, Westfield Stratford City in East London. With a staggering average monthly footfall of 4.16 million customers, the 'Pop Up' squash court allowed us to reach out to people who may have never previously considered playing squash or racketball.

We have also been attending plenty of University Freshers' Fayres, promoting a unique Big Hit university offer to thousands of students. We already have 1,000 students signed up to The Big Hit, with social 'Play It' sessions taking place across 59 universities.

The Big Hit will continue to be a key part of how we encourage more people to get involved in our fantastic sports.

If you'd like more information on The Big Hit visit www.thebighit.net

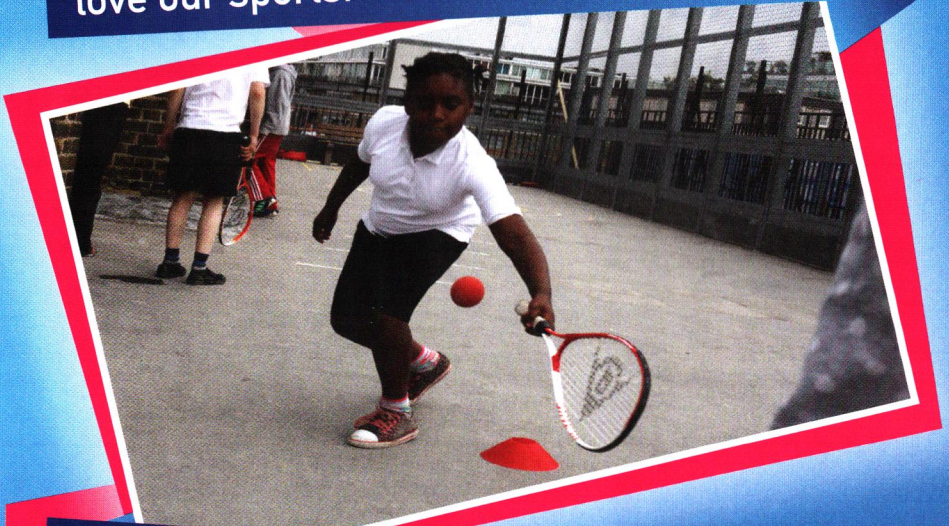


The Squash & Racketball Foundation

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RAMY CALLS THE SHOTS

LIFE STRUGGLES ARE MAKING OF WORLD CHAMPION

Ever wondered why Ramy Ashour is so good? Is it fitness, temperament, out-and-out skill?



Probably a mixture of all three, but the twice World Champion believes there is another key ingredient, also transferable to the current crop of outstanding Egyptian stars.

And that's down to his everyday existence; the day to day struggle of living in Egypt with its myriad of complex political issues.

Ashour, the defending champion and World No.1, puts it bluntly. "Just to survive everyday is an achievement."

So when you constantly live life on the edge, facing match ball down in a major tournament doesn't bring the same fear or pressure as it does to many of his rivals.

Yet despite the turmoil and uncertainty Ashour refuses to move away from his Cairo home.

Indeed, reporter Trevor Baxter caught up with him during an extended break

from the tournament circuit and spoke to him from the Egyptian capital.

"I have considered moving out and basing myself overseas," admitted 26-year-old Ashour. "But at the same time I have got used to it."

"I am kind of convinced my struggles here in Egypt have made me what I am. I am a pretty positive person and all the hard times have made me stronger."

"Maybe if I had lived outside Egypt things would have been easier but I don't think, for my life and for my future, I would be as strong as I am now."

"To make it through the day in Egypt is a feat. So, to finish a day and still accomplish things and be productive is something of which all Egyptians should be really proud."

Certainly, Ashour and his compatriots are the dominant squash nation at

the moment, though England have a strong case after their success at the 2013 World Team Championships in Mulhouse.

However, Ashour became the first Egyptian winner of the British Open for 47 years in Hull earlier this year to claim an eighth successive PSA tournament victory and 41st consecutive individual win.

And of the last 10 World Championships, Ashour and Amr Shabana have won six between them.

"Pretty much all the time in Egypt, we live an edgy life: the way people deal with each other, the way the streets are, the way the system goes," explains the title favourite. "Anything can happen at any time."

"I wouldn't say there are no rules. But there are lots of ways to live in Egypt and you have to adapt."



RAPHAEL KANDRA

"You don't wake up in the morning and have the whole day planned in your head. Instead, you have only five or 10 per cent of the day planned in your head.

"Then, it's down to whatever else happens. There are a lot of circumstances in Egypt you just can't control. It's unlike Europe or America where you know in a day what you are going to do and it will work as you planned it.

"There is more stability, whereas in Egypt things change in a second. There are a lot of circumstances you just can't control. So, I believe these circumstances can be related to the way we play.

"We are always edgy and always prepared to adapt to situations and circumstances. On the streets when we talk or when we drive there are not many rules.

"So, whenever you find an opening you go through it. It's the same in squash - whenever you find an opening you go for your shots. We are always alert and vigilant just as we are on the streets or when we are driving."

Ashour also expresses a less harrowing theory for Egypt's continued success. "Obviously there are a lot of champions to inspire people to want to play. Every kid in Egypt has someone to look up to in squash.

"Whoever wins the World Open is in the papers and on the TV so it acts as motivation for the young ones who want to get to the top themselves."

Ashour was hooked on the sport at an early age, his father taking him to watch the legendary Jansher Khan play. It's doubtful whether he will overtake Khan's record eight World Open victories, but Ashour has already left an indelible mark on the sport.

His British Open success at the KC Stadium brought his 31st Tour title in his 46th final from the 83rd Tour event of his career.

Ashour announced his arrival onto the global stage in August 2004 when, aged

“

I always enjoy playing in the Tour and am happy to be competing against such incredible athletes. All I am thinking about is to stay injury-free to play squash as long as I can.

just 16, he became the youngest ever World Junior (Under 19) Champion. Three months later, on his senior PSA Tour appearance in Greece, he won the Athens Open.

In July 2006, Ashour successfully defended his world junior crown in New Zealand to become the first man in history to win the world's leading junior title twice.

Two years on and seeded four came the first of his World Open triumphs, defeating Karim Darwish in four sets at Manchester's National Squash Centre. Four years later he converted another world appearance into victory over Mohamed El Shorbagy in Doha.

"It's good to be back in Manchester and hopefully it is a good omen and I can do something good this time as well," laughed Ashour, also a winner of the 2010 and 2011 Rowe British Grand Prix titles over James Willstrop and Nick Matthew on the Sportcity courts.

"I have good memories of 2008. I had hoped to play but I had only just come out of the junior ranks a couple of years earlier. I had won the Super Series but I never thought I would win the World Open.

"However, when I got to the final I didn't want to waste all the effort so I just gave it one more big push. That first time though was a surprise and I didn't really understand what was happening. It was amazing but I was still too young to handle it.

"The second time was very special because I was more mature and I trained really hard.

"The competition was so tough and everyone was eager to win. So, for me

to win the World Open in Qatar, when squash was at its best, skill-wise and physical-wise, made me very proud."

Ashour has played sparingly in the second part of 2013 and opted not to defend another of his titles at the US Open at Drexel University, Philadelphia. His last hit out came at the San Francisco Open.

He denied his inactivity had been because of a desire to protect his astonishing unbeaten sequence of results: "I just thought the US Open was a bit too close to the World Open and my doctors advised that I shouldn't play too much because of my knees and my physical abilities.

"It was a big decision not to play. There was no way I could have gone to the US Open and given 100 per cent and then given 100 per cent in the World Open five or six days later.

"This way my body is prepared for Manchester. I know my ability and what I can do.

"I wouldn't stay away from tournaments or from players because I wanted to keep the run going. This makes no sense.

"If I thought like that it would mean I am scared of facing players and I don't think I am.

"I always enjoy playing in the Tour and am happy to be competing against such incredible athletes. All I am thinking about is to stay injury-free to play squash as long as I can."

And with the exception of his title rivals, everyone in squash hopes to see him around for a long time to come.

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BRITISH CHALLENGERS MARSHALLING THE TROOPS

The world was a very different place when Peter Marshall wrote his name into British squash history in 1994.

Almost two decades on, Marshall is still playing, albeit with less grand ambitions, and retains a keen interest in a sport where he has a special place in the archives.

Nineteen years ago, the Nottingham born rackets ace reached the final of the World Open, becoming the first Brit to achieve the feat. In doing so Marshall gatecrashed a 17-year party previously only attended by Australians, Pakistanis and a solitary New Zealander, Ross Norman.

The record books show Marshall, now 42 and a health care consultant for Ernst & Young, lost in four sets to Jansher Khan, hardly a disgrace as the 'Prince of Peshawar' reigned supreme in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Having waited so long for a home nations player to challenge for the ultimate prize, like buses, two came along in quick succession. Del Harris became England's second finalist in 1995 but suffered the same fate as his compatriot against the same player.

Finally, in Cairo in 1999, Peter Nicol, a son of Inverurie in Scotland, ascended the world squash throne and Britain rejoiced. Unfortunately, the Union Jack fluttered only briefly as continental dominance resumed after a three-year hiatus between Opens.

And it wasn't until 2010 when Nick Matthew succeeded where Marshall and Harris had failed by becoming the first Englishman to win the World Championship. Having discovered the secret and learned from past disappointments, Matthew doubled up his world titles 12 months later.

However, as yet, British crowds haven't enjoyed an Andy Murray Wimbledon moment, winning the sport's highest accolade in front of a partisan home audience. Four times squash's blue riband tournament has been staged in the UK but each time the trophy has gone overseas. So, will Manchester Central in 2013 rewrite history?

Marshall looks at the prospects for Matthew, James Willstrop and other British hopes. But first he turns the clock back to 1994 and his own bid for top honours.

"I was number two in the world at the time and kind of expected to get to the final," he recalled. "But Jansher was red-hot favourite to win.

"And my feelings at becoming the first Englishman to reach a World Open final

were more of excitement than anything else because I was regarded as the underdog.

"Jansher was a living legend so it was a privilege for me to be in that position. I didn't have a good record against him but you have to go in believing you can win.

"Not many players go into a major final thinking they can't win and I am sure that is very much the case today when players are up against Ramy Ashour.

"I actually had a really good start and won the first game but Jansher was just too strong."

Marshall, he of the famous double-handed approach, says the sport has taken big strides since he was at the peak of his powers.

"Squash has evolved and the overall standard has got better. There are certainly more good players down the rankings than ever before. The strength in depth is greater.

"But I don't think it is so clear that Nick or Ramy would necessarily beat Jansher Khan. You think they would because of how the sport has changed: players are more attacking and have greater explosive power. Rackets have also got lighter too so swings become shorter, enabling players to generate more power.

"However, I am not so sure it would be so clear cut who would be the better player.

"You can draw parallels with what Ramy is doing now and what Jansher did when I played. But I still don't think there are any guarantees who would come out on top."

"In terms of current form, Ramy is clear favourite to win. I don't think anyone can dispute that. So, the likes of Nick and James are going to have their work cut out.

"But they definitely have a chance, especially as they have home advantage; they know the courts and the vast majority of the crowd will be cheering for them.

"So, they will be trying to peak for Manchester and will probably try to play beyond their current level.

"Certainly for Nick, winning a third world title will be one of the achievements he has set himself. He is 33 now and this is going to be one of his last opportunities to win a really big title.

"Peter Nicol had a similar situation when he was coming to the end of his career where he wasn't the best player in the world and

wasn't winning all the tournaments. But he won Commonwealth Games gold in 2002 because he put everything into that one main championship.

"And I would imagine that's what Nick and James will have been doing this year. They have got a chance but if you were a betting man you would have to put Ramy Ashour as firm favourite.

"However, I would certainly put Nick, James and Gregory Gaultier as the next three favourites."

Certainly, Matthew and Willstrop are the best equipped of the Brits to mount a serious challenge for the title. They have won seven of the last eight British Nationals, with Daryl Selby upsetting the odds in 2011.

Selby and Adrian Grant teamed up with Matthew and Willstrop to secure the World Team Championship at the expense of Egypt earlier this year. Selby was charged with opening the final against Tarek Momen and duly did his bit with a straight sets win.

The Harlow hitman is one of four seeded Englishmen, with Peter Barker making up the quartet. It's been quite a year already for Barker, who became a dad for the first time shortly after the British Open back in May.

He took self-introduced paternity leave after wife Alex gave birth to baby William and then celebrated his first tournament as a dad by winning the Colombian Open.

"I ruled myself out of the team championships pretty early on," he explained. "I wanted to give my wife some support as she supports me all the time with all the travelling I do in this sport.

"I felt it was the right thing to spend the first six weeks at home before I hit the road again. And I just about made the birth after playing at the British Open," added Barker, a world semi-finalist in 2010 when beaten by Willstrop.

When the World Championships were last staged in Manchester five years ago, Grant reached the quarter-finals. On the way he knocked out Gregory Gaultier, who had been runner-up in 2006 and 2007.

Grant hasn't been as far as the last eight before or since 2008, so he will hope Manchester will provide him with similar inspiration.

"It would be fantastic for the sport in this country if we could provide a home winner at last," adds Marshall. "I think we have waited long enough."



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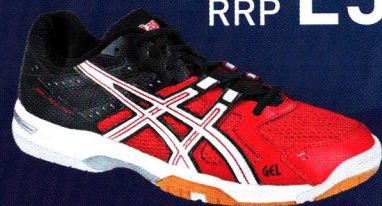
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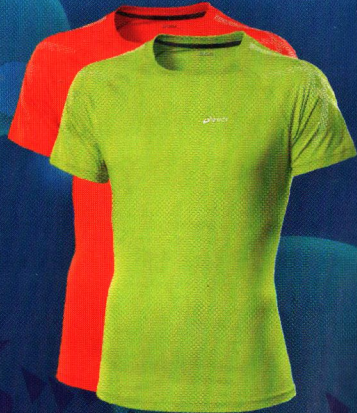
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BEN COLEMAN, THE WILD CARD

Pity the opponent who gets under the skin of British Under 23 Champion Ben Coleman in Manchester this week.



British Under 19 champion, wasn't complaining with his pairing against Guildford born Richards, 27.

"Shabana is one of my idols but I was never going to be disappointed by any draw," confirmed Coleman.

"Sure, it would have been great to play someone from outside England but playing someone like Tom, who is also up and coming, is going to be a fantastic opportunity.

"He is a friend of mine and we train together quite a bit. Squash is such a small community you quite often play mates so it's not going to be tough.

"Once you step on that court you totally respect each other but you are only there for yourself." And Coleman, son of a former county standard player, is definitely out to make the grade.

"In the last six months I feel I have learned more than during the rest of my career simply from being around some of the top guys and watching them at close quarters.

"I try to take a leaf out of their books and replicate that in my training. It's not just getting on court and hitting balls because squash is such an all-over game.

"You can't be weak in any single area, otherwise you will be exposed. You see what the top boys do and there is no luck involved.

"They are unbelievable competitors. Every 't' is crossed and every 'i' dotted. So, I know all the blood, sweat and tears will eventually make a match player.

"I just need more experience and playing in more tournaments will help me. I have heard from my coaches, winning does become a habit.

"You get one or two good wins and all of a sudden you are on cloud nine. It's unbelievable mentally what it can do for you. So, imagine how I will feel if I win a match at the World Championship?"

Before squash consumed his life the Chelmsford born prospect got his kicks from another sport.

So much so that by the age of 10 Coleman was a triple world karate champion. "Not a lot of people know that," admitted the 22-year-old AJ Bell World Championship debutant.

"To be honest, it's not something I have talked about in case some people get the wrong idea.

"But it was one of the many sports I did when I was young. My dad used to take me and my older brother all the time because I have always had that competitive edge.

"One day I would love to go back, do

some karate training and see if I can pick it up again. But now all my focus is on squash and there are so many things that can happen with karate and I don't want to get injured."

Coleman certainly didn't need anything to wreck his eagerly awaited World Championship appearance against friend and occasional training partner Tom Richards. He booked his ticket to the final stages by winning the wild card qualifying tournament at the National Squash Centre back in September, courtesy of an 11-9 9-11 11-9 11-7 victory over Declan James.

And while he wanted four-time World Champion Amr Shabana in his first match, Coleman, a former

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