

NATIONS, & THEIR SQUASH BEGINNINGS

(*alphabetic by country*)

Updated to 31 December 2025

FEDERATION FORMATION


Squash Library
 2 December at 08:19 · 🌐

From oldest to youngest, here is a Squash Library feature charting the year in which national squash federations around the world were founded. See it at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/features>. When was yours formed? [World Squash Federation](#) [Federacion Panamericana de Squash](#) [The European Squash Federation](#)

1964	Switzerland	1973	Norway	1978	Lebanon
1965	Belgium	1974	Indonesia	1979	Macau
1968	France	1974	St Vincent & Gren	1979	New Ca
1968	Greece	1974	Samoa	1979	Colomb
1968	Namibia	1974	Thailand	1979	Iceland
1969	Nigeria	1974	Isle of Man	1980	Liechter
1970	Spain	1974	Jordan	1980	Nepal
1970	Germany	1975	Sri Lanka	1981	Hungar
1970	Luxembourg	1975	Israel	1982	Korea
1971	Jamaica	1977	Argentina	1983	Russia
1971	Papua New Guinea	1977	Cyprus	1983	Brazil
1971	Trinidad & Tobago	1977	Malta	1983	British V
1971	Austria	1978	Andorra	1984	Cook Is
1972	Bangladesh	1978	Qatar	1984	Czech R

ARGENTINA


Squash Library
 1 June · 🌐

The start of squash in Argentina is clear – 4 December 1929. That is the date that a British group in Buenos Aires founded the less than imaginatively titled The Squash Club (see photo).

Soon after, Prince Albert of York (later George VI King of Great Britain) was a visitor, as were Hashim Khan and more recent stars. It is still on Florida Street in downtown Buenos Aires.

In the 1950s Buenos Aires also featured squash at the Jockey Club, Hurlingham Club, Naval College and in Rosario – with the Squash Club professional, M.A Filone, travelling to New York to play the US Open in 1954 too.

Real expansion came from the 1980s with court building taking place that now means squash courts can be found in a number of provinces.

The country hosted the first squash event to be part of the PanAm Games – in 1995 when the event took place in the city of Mar Del Plata, and has regularly hosted PSA & PanAm Championships.

[Asociación Argentina de Squash Rackets](#)



THE SQUASH CLUB
INAUGURATION
April 17th 1929

AUSTRIA


Squash Library
 2 September · 🌐

Austria opened its' first courts in 1976, when, possibly uniquely, five were built in Vienna-Oberlaa in a tent! The tennis & general sports club was later expanded to 19 courts and was the venue of European Teams 2000 and Men's World Teams 2003. (It was demolished in 2008 to make space for a large Spa & Leisure Centre). The Austrian Federation was founded in 1978 and first national championships held the same year in Salzburg. Silvia Seidl won the women's event and Hans-Wolf Selden (pic) was the men's winner. Selden had learnt to play squash when living in South Africa and also won the national title the next two years in 1979 and 1980. The last title was at Club 19 in Vienna, his own newly opened club, which is now the oldest existing squash club in Austria.





Squash Library
 22 September at 08:39


In 1957 the Australian Squash Rackets Association reported growth, saying 'Blocks of squash courts erected as a commercial proposition are springing up rapidly, particularly in Sydney, where the game is enjoying unexampled prosperity. It is only a matter of time before Australia begins to produce players who will at least equal the best that England can show'. It certainly happened! [Squash Australia](#)



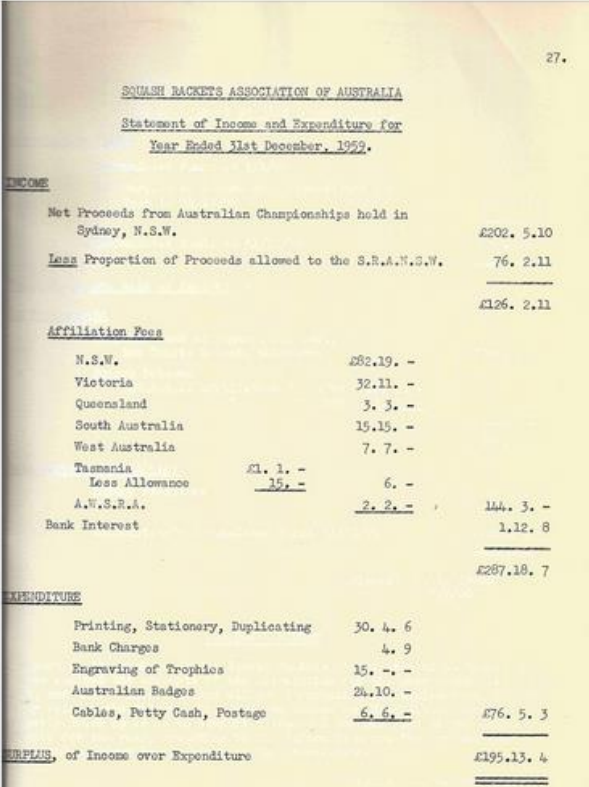
THE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
 AFFILIATED WITH THE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION, LONDON

ANNUAL REPORT
 - and -
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For Year Ending 31st. December, 1957


Squash Library
 28 November 2019

Two Australian snapshots from 60 years ago. Here are the Squash Australia accounts from 1959 with their tiny turnover. [Squash Australia](#)




27.

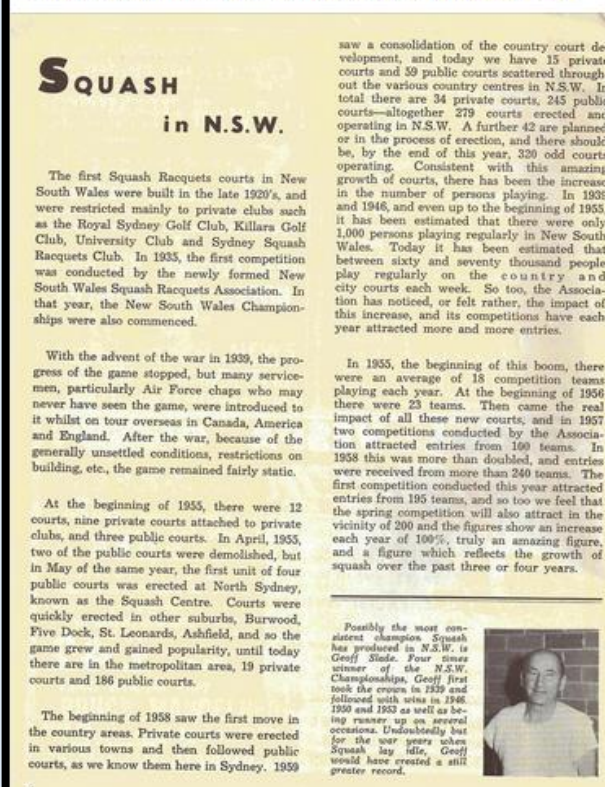
SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Statement of Income and Expenditure for
Year Ended 31st December, 1959.

INCOME

Net Proceeds from Australian Championships held in Sydney, N.S.W.	£202. 5.10	
Less Proportion of Proceeds allowed to the S.R.A.N.S.W.	76. 2.11	
		£126. 2.11
<u>Affiliation Fees</u>		
N.S.W.	£82.19. -	
Victoria	32.11. -	
Queensland	3. 3. -	
South Australia	15.15. -	
West Australia	7. 7. -	
Tasmania	£1. 1. -	
Less Allowance	35. -	
A.N.S.R.A.	2. 2. -	144. 3. -
Bank Interest		1.12. 8
		£287.18. 7
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Printing, Stationery, Duplicating	30. 4. 6	
Bank Charges	4. 9	
Engraving of Trophies	15. -. -	
Australian Badges	24.10. -	
Cables, Petty Cash, Postage	6. 6. -	£76. 5. 3
<u>SURPLUS, of Income over Expenditure</u>		£195.13. 4


Squash Library
 28 November 2019

Also in 1959 Squash News was launched for the Australian State of New South Wales. It provides an insight into the development of the sport in Sydney and surrounds at that time. [Squash Australia](#)



SQUASH in N.S.W.

The first Squash Racquets courts in New South Wales were built in the late 1920's, and were restricted mainly to private clubs such as the Royal Sydney Golf Club, Killara Golf Club, University Club and Sydney Squash Racquets Club. In 1935, the first competition was conducted by the newly formed New South Wales Squash Racquets Association. In that year, the New South Wales Championships were also commenced.


With the advent of the war in 1939, the progress of the game stopped, but many servicemen, particularly Air Force chaps who may never have seen the game, were introduced to it whilst on tour overseas in Canada, America and England. After the war, because of the generally unsettled conditions, restrictions on building, etc., the game remained fairly static.

At the beginning of 1955, there were 12 courts, nine private courts attached to private clubs, and three public courts. In April, 1955, two of the public courts were demolished, but in May of the same year, the first unit of four public courts was erected at North Sydney, known as the Squash Centre. Courts were quickly erected in other suburbs, Burwood, Five Dock, St. Leonards, Ashfield, and so the game grew and gained popularity, until today there are in the metropolitan area, 19 private courts and 186 public courts.

The beginning of 1958 saw the first move in the country area. Private courts were erected in various towns and then followed public courts, as we know them here in Sydney. 1959 saw a consolidation of the country court development, and today we have 15 private courts and 59 public courts scattered throughout the various country centres in N.S.W. In total there are 34 private courts, 245 public courts—altogether 279 courts erected and operating in N.S.W. A further 42 are planned or in the process of erection, and there should be, by the end of this year, 320 odd courts operating. Consistent with this amazing growth of courts, there has been the increase in the number of persons playing. In 1939 and 1948, and even up to the beginning of 1955, it has been estimated that there were only 1,000 persons playing regularly in New South Wales. Today it has been estimated that between sixty and seventy thousand people play regularly on the country and city courts each week. So too, the Association has noticed, or felt rather, the impact of this increase, and its competitions have each year attracted more and more entries.

In 1955, the beginning of this boom, there were an average of 15 competition teams playing each year. At the beginning of 1956 there were 23 teams. Then came the real impact of all these new courts; and in 1957 two competitions conducted by the Association attracted entries from 109 teams. In 1958 this was more than doubled, and entries were received from more than 240 teams. The first competition conducted this year attracted entries from 195 teams, and so too we feel that the spring competition will also attract in the vicinity of 200 and the figures show an increase each year of 100%; truly an amazing figure, and a figure which reflects the growth of squash over the past three or four years.

Possibly the most consistent champion Squash has produced in N.S.W. is Geoff Slade. Four times winner of the N.S.W. Championships, Geoff first took the crown in 1939 and followed with wins in 1948, 1950 and 1953 as well as being runner up on several occasions. Undoubtedly but for the war years when Squash lay idle, Geoff would have created a still greater record.





Squash Library
 21 January at 08:20


In 1981, after 42 years operating separately, the Australian Men's & Women's national associations amalgamated as the Australian Squash Rackets Association (now Squash Australia). Although the States already had full-time staff, the national body employed their first in September that year. [Squash Australia](#)




BAHRAIN


Squash Library
 10 August · 🌐


In 1954 Bahrain reported on the problem of not having air-conditioned courts at the Bapco Club: 'Interest was maintained at a high level during the winter and courts were in great demand. Throughout the hot months conditions are rather trying and only the die-hards are in action'.




BARBADOS


Squash Library
 4 November at 08:00 · 🌐


The first squash court in Barbados was what is now known as Court #3 at the Barbados Squash Club, Christ Church, opened in 1972. In 1981, a further two glass backed, fully air-conditioned courts were added to the facility. The Barbados Squash Association (formed 1978) hosts national championships there.

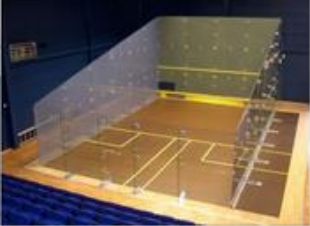



BELGIUM


Squash Library
 27 May at 08:58 · 🌐

Until 1975 there were only ten courts in Belgium. The first courts dated back to 1939, built in the Shell Building in Brussels, with a further two added to the Beerschot Club in Antwerp after WW2. But by 1970 both were closed. However after the Shell courts lease finished, in 1971 the owners built the five court Brussels Squash Club in the grounds of the Royal Leopold Tennis Club. Following on from the formation of the Belgian Federation in 1974, the nation began entering and hosting European Championships, the first hosting being the Men's Team Championship in 1976. The Belgian Squash Federation was split up in 1995 into the Ligue Francophone de Squash and Squash Vlaanderen. After this, in 2003, Squash Vlaanderen initiated a Flemish Squash Centre in Herentals. Currently the nation features around 75 affiliated Clubs and 300 courts. [Squash Vlaanderen vzw](#)






Squash Library
 13 November at 08:29 · 🌐

According to an article in Australian Squash Player magazine in 1972 the first court in Australia was one at the Flinders Naval Base, made from the sides of an old submarine hull! Bert Armstrong, renowned Australian collector and font of knowledge reckons this may not be correct, but he is certain that the Royal Melbourne Club was the first to appear in 1913. It also reports on a court with round corners! [Squash Australia](#)

The first public court in Melbourne was situated in Little Collins Street, at Pearce Bjelke-Petersen's gymnasium, but it was an odd shaped court with a low roof and round corners.

The next public court was built in the Empir Arcade. One of the interesting sidelights to this court was the rumour that there may have been peep holes drilled through the wall to the ladies' changing room.

Frank Findlay's gymnasium in Prescott Arcade, off Little Collins Street, had the first court available to rent for the general public.

Frank could not recall the exact year, but remembers that in 1932, Gardner and Lang (the owners) refused him permission to erect a court on the roof of the building. Subsequently in either 1933 or 1934 he was able to incorporate a court inside his gym.

Next came Bickham's court in Elwood and then public courts at St. Kilda railway station.

The first court in the city of Melbourne was at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club at the top of Exhibition Street and is there to this day. The club had two courts, one orthodox and the other an odd size.

Then the Naval and Military Club built a court in their old premises in Alfred Place. The Athenaeum Club in Collins Street followed with an odd shaped court which is almost two feet wider than standard.

In 1935 the Sandringham Club copied the Naval and Military court as in quick succession did the Alma, South Yarra, L.T.A.V. and the Royal South Yarra Tennis Clubs.


Squash Library
 28 December at 07:55 · 🌐

The Squash Racquets Association of Australia (now Squash Australia), was formed 90 years ago in 1934. A group of enthusiasts met in Melbourne and proposed these principles initially: '.... the association is to act as a central authority for all matters connected with the game, with central reference to the rules, championships, international matches and disputes, and matters relating to the game in the interests of amateurs and professionals.' (There was a separate Australian women's association until a merger in 1981). [Squash Australia](#)



BAHAMAS


Squash Library
 29 April at 08:16 · 🌐

1971 was a key year in the Bahamas squash story. In January the Bahamas Squash Association was formed, followed by November when the first Bahamas Championship were held in Nassau.

In 1980 Bahamas took part in the 1st Men's World Junior Team Championship in Sweden, finishing 14th, above Denmark and Norway. [Federacion Panamericana de Squash](#)

Men's World Junior Team Championship 1980.

EVENT FINAL POSITIONS

1 Australia, 2 Pakistan, 3 New Zealand, 4 England, 5 Canada, 6 Scotland, 7 Sweden, 8 Wales, 9 Netherlands, 10 Finland, 11 Ireland, 12 Germany, 13 Switzerland, 14 Bahamas, 15 Denmark, 16 Norway

BOLIVIA



Squash Library

21 June at 08:41 · 🌐

Bolivia is not the first place that comes to mind as a squash nation. With its two capital cities – La Paz the seat of government - considered to be the highest 'capital' in the world at over 3,500m - and Sucre the actual capital at only slightly lower 2,800m, it may be an environment needing altitude balls, but has a new Federation that is flying high too!

February 2014 saw Bolivia enter their first international event – even before the first court had been built in the country! They took eleven players to the South American Junior Championship in Asuncion, Paraguay - and came away with a medal. Adapted racquetball courts had been used for training.

The first three international courts were built in 2014 and only a year later the Bolivian Federation was formed and the 2015 South American Championships were played on the courts. Extra courts were built and in 2018 it meant that squash could be included in the South American Games played in the city of Cochabamba. Now Bolivia has nearly 20 courts. Cochabamba has several, with others at Oruru, Santa Cruz with two outdoor courts, Sucre too - and Potosi with "Raquet Squash Alegría" at 3854 meters above sea level, a Squash court in the sky! [Federación Boliviana de Squash](#)

In 2020, the young squash nation secured 4th place at the South American Squash Championship in Ecuador. (2019 junior squad pic)



Squash Library

28 February at 08:22 · 🌐

Ten years ago in February 2014 Bolivia entered their first international event – even before the first court has been built in the country! They took eleven players to the South American Junior Championship in Asuncion, Paraguay - and came away with a medal.

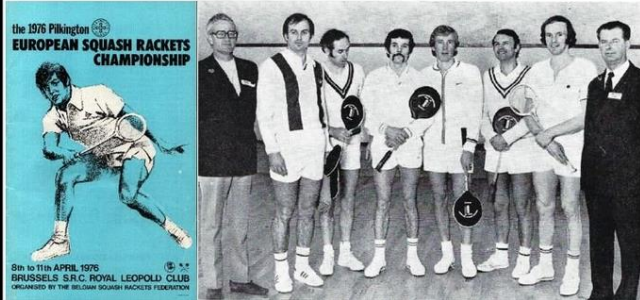
Adapted racquetball courts were being used, but their initiatives bore fruit with squash courts built and a national federation being formed. [Federación Boliviana de Squash](#) [Federación Panamericana de Squash](#) [Confederación Sudamericana de Squash](#)



Squash Library

15 July at 08:20 · 🌐

The Belgian Squash Association was founded in 1974 by Count Hubert Dumonceau de Bergendael, Georges Lazar and Mr de Borman. This, two years after arranging the move of the Brussels squash club from the centre of Brussels. They agreed with the Leopold Club in Uccle a 100 years lease of a spot of ground located next to the clubhouse of the Club. There they built a five court club which at this time also hosted the Belgian Squash Association, which later on moved to other premises. In 1976 the Brussels squash, hosted the European Team Championships, after their team participated in Dublin the year before (pic L to R: Cooper, Sheridan, Vaudrey, Laker, Masterson, Seddon-Brown, Gaw, Dumonceau). A fire that started in the kitchen of the club in December 1977 led to only two of the courts being repairable. [Ligue francophone de squash](#)



BERMUDA

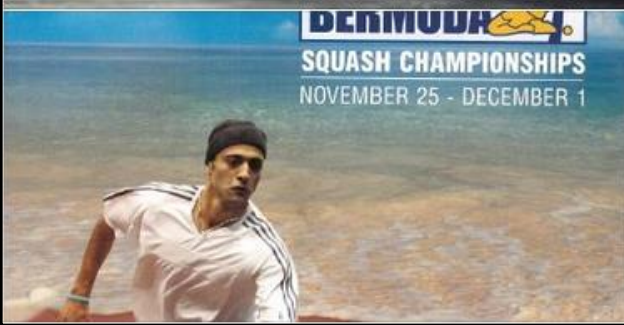


Squash Library

23 January · 🌐

Squash was first played in Bermuda around 1930 when two courts were built by the British Military. Later, in 1959 a group of keen players decided to form the Bermuda Squash Rackets Association. In 1968 squash took off with two courts, followed by two more in 1974 at the Association's Devonshire clubhouse.

A glassback followed. Despite being essentially a club, in 1992 Bermuda managed to send a team to the World Junior Team Championships in Hong Kong. They have also sent a squad to the Men's World Team Championship three times from 2003 onwards. The small North Atlantic territory with a population of only around 70,000 took squash promotion to a new level when it hosted the Men's World Open in 2007. Small island, impressively vibrant! [World Squash Federation](#) [Bermuda Squash Racquets Association](#).



BRAZIL

Squash Library
3 April · 🌐

Squash arrived in Brazil in 1920, brought by Englishmen who went to look for gold in Nova Lima, in Minas Gerais. The first squash court was a new facility at Clube das Quintas which opened in 1896 in that city.

In São Paulo, the first court was built in 1930 at the Clube dos Ingleses, SPAC (São Paulo Athletic Club).

More recently Brazil has hosted Tour and PanAm events, and the World Juniors 1997 in Rio de Janeiro. [Confederação Brasileira de Squash](#)



CANADA

Squash Library
30 May at 08:37 · 🌐

In 2015, Squash Canada celebrated its centenary. Their history from the start in 1915 is detailed on their website at <https://squash.ca/history/>. At the time of the anniversary a booklet was produced featuring information along with biographies of so many of the people who have been key in the playing and administrative Federation timeline. [Squash Canada](#)




Squash Library
3 August · 🌐


Courts in Canada first appear to have been in private homes in the late 1800s, e.g. in a house in Vancouver in 1892. Club courts followed - in St John's, Newfoundland (1904), Montreal (1911), Toronto (1905), Hamilton, Winnipeg (1909), the Vancouver Club (1894) and in Quebec City too.

The first Canadian Squash Championship was played 20 to 23 March 1912, at the Montreal Racket Club. It was won by Kenneth Molson 12-15, 15-5, 15-12, 15-9, beating Phil MacKenzie in the final. (Pic of club / players courtesy Rackets in Canada, Chris Marks)


[Squash Canada](#)



K. Molson



P. MacKenzie



Squash Library
8 September at 08:48 · 🌐


The first Canadian Men's Championship was played on 20 March 1912 at the Montreal Racket Club, won by Kenneth Molson, who beat Peter Mackenzie 12/15, 15/5, 15/12, 15/9 in an all-Montreal final. (Mackenzie secured the title the following year when he beat Arthur J Hills 18/17, 8/15, 10/15, 15/12, 15/11).

This was three years before the Canadian Squash Racquets Association was formed in 1915. The five founding members were the Montreal Racket Club, Toronto Racquet Club, Hamilton Squash Racquets Club, University Club of Toronto, and the Ottawa Squash Racquets Club. The Montreal Racket Club was built in 1889 as a rackets club, with a squash court subsequently added. [Squash Canada](#)







CAYMAN ISLANDS



Squash Library
23 November 2019 · 🌐


The start of squash in the Cayman Islands was in 1977 when the Cayman Racquet Club opened its' first court, as pictured here. A second court followed a year later.
Then South Sound Squash Club arrived with three in 1984, and now has seven courts. It hosted the Women's World Championship in 2012, where Nicol David won her 7th title of 8. [South Sound Squash Club Nicol David World Squash Federation](#)





Squash Library
26 February at 08:14 · 🌐

The start of the Chinese city of Dalian becoming a major squash force in that country began in 1996 when two courts were opened at the Furama Hotel. Other courts followed, and after the Xinghai International Tennis Center added three courts in 2008, squash in Dalian really came of age when the Xigang Stadium built four CGG all-glass showcourts.
These four courts as well as two more put up on another floor of the building (pic) were used for the first world event played in China, the WSF Women's World Team Championship 2018. This came after the city had hosted the Asian Masters two years earlier.



CHINA



Squash Library
24 April at 08:51 · 🌐

Squash arrived in China around 1984 when two courts were built at the White Swan Hotel in Guangzhou. More courts followed in five star hotels and embassies until the mid-1990s when demand from travelers from Hong Kong / internationally, and the inclusion of squash in residential developments fueled growth.
In 1999 the Chinese Squash Association was formed and the same year the first national championships were played in Kunming. Following on from this China participated in the Asian Games in Busan, Korea in 2002. International events began after China's first National Squash Conference 2004 (below), in November 2004 when the WISPA Women's WorldStars \$40,000 event was staged with finals played on the Bund in Shanghai.
Four years later in 2008, the Men's & Women's China Open began, growing to become a major Tour stop in recent years.
There are now over 200 courts spread across many cities in the nation.





Squash Library
15 January at 08:06 · 🌐

In 1986 the few squash courts in China were found primarily in hotels, after which courts in apartment blocks did begin to appear. The list features these courts:

Zhenjiang Hotel	Zhenjiang	2
East Lake Hotel	Shenzhen	2
Silver Bay Complex	Zhuhai	2
Dong Fang Hotel	Guangdong	2
Garden Hotel	Guangdong	2
Long Bai Apartments	Shanghai	2
China World Trade Centre	Beijing	2
Lido Hotel	Beijing	6

CHINESE TAIPEI



Squash Library
18 February at 08:57 · 🌐

After World War II, squash began in Chinese Taipei, the island of Taiwan, with courts being built in Taichung Qingquangang Air Force Base and Linkou Military Police Base.
General expansion followed with the Chinese Taipei Federation founded in January 1995 (inauguration below). Their first national team came on stream the following year (also below), and they hosted the Asian Squash Championships in February 2006, featuring twelve nations. Since then The World Games 2009, Asian, East Asian and PSA events have been staged, and there are now over 500 courts on Taiwan.



COLOMBIA

**Squash Library**
5 November at 09:24 · 🌐

The first club to have a court in Colombia was the Country club of Bogota from the late 1970s, where coaching was handled by Angel Rodriguez (father of 2018 British Open champion Miguel Angel Rodriguez).

The Colombian Squash Federation was formed in 1989, originally by five clubs in the South American country,

Today with clubs in many cities, and including some public facilities, the country has more than 700 courts, has won many PanAm titles, and has a British Open champion too!

[Federación Colombiana de Squash](#)



COSTA RICA

**Squash Library**
26 August · 🌐

The first national championship in Costa Rica was held in 1976 at Le Club Squash. At that time there were ten courts including at Squash de Monterreal, all 'American' sized but with 'international' squash being played upon them.

At that time courts had arrived in El Salvador, and regular friendlies followed.



CZECH REPUBLIC

**Squash Library**
11 November at 08:03 · 🌐

The first squash court in the Czech Republic was built at Forum Praha Hotel at Vyšehrad, Prague – opened in June 1988.

The towering hotel (pic) used the top two floors of the hotel (25th and 26th) for the first hotel fitness center in Prague, including a squash court and a panoramic view of Prague! [European Squash Federation](#)



The court had to be slightly reduced in size to fit in the space that was available. It was slightly narrower than the standard dimensions and the ceiling height was a little low too. But squash had arrived in the country.

(The Forum was bought in 1998 Corinthia Hotels, renamed, and eventually the court was swallowed up by the gym and fitness expansion).

The Czech Federation arrived four years after the court in 1992, and although that court is not there anymore there are approaching 500 in the country now.

DENMARK

**Squash Library**
19 March · 🌐

Squash started in 1936 in Denmark when courts were opened at two spots in Copenhagen. At Frederiksberg (in the factory building pictured) 3 courts sprung up, with another three at Vestersøhus, a fashionable building in the centre of the city - still open today, called Københavns Squash Klub – Copenhagen Squash Club.

From the 1970's courts were built in other cities, including Odense, host of the WSF World Women's Team 2002 & Men's Team 2009. [DIF](#)



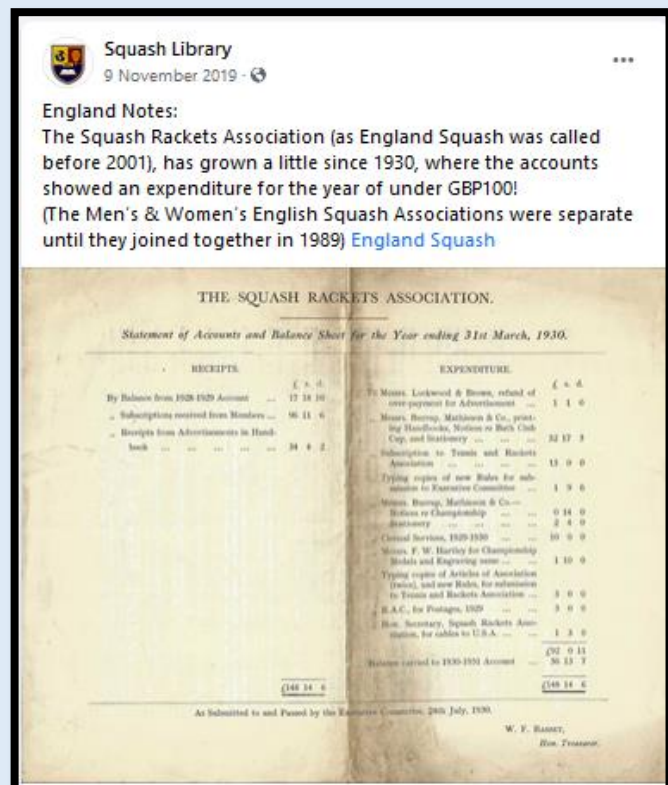
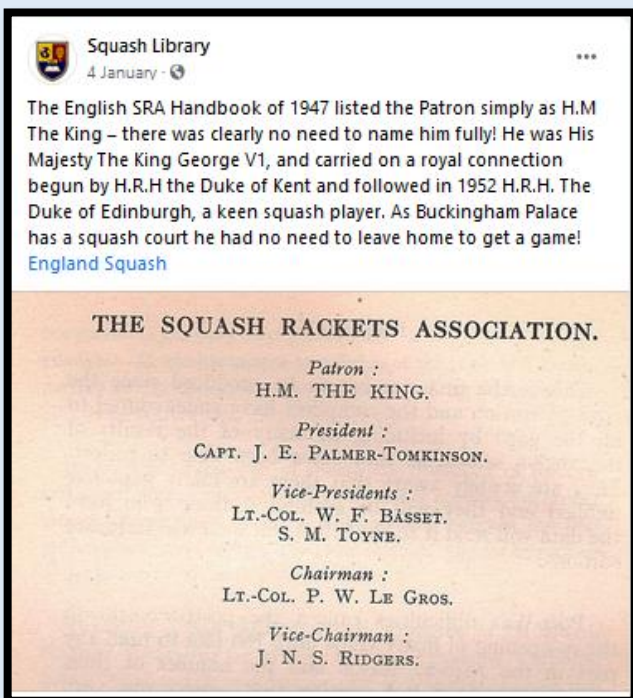
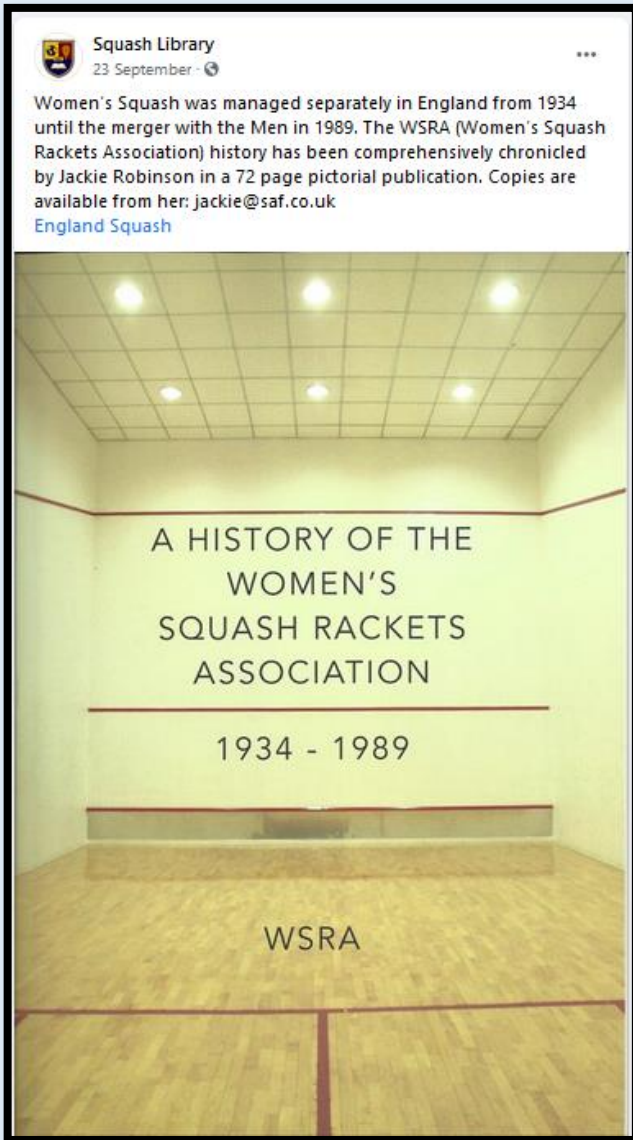
EGYPT



DUBAI



ENGLAND

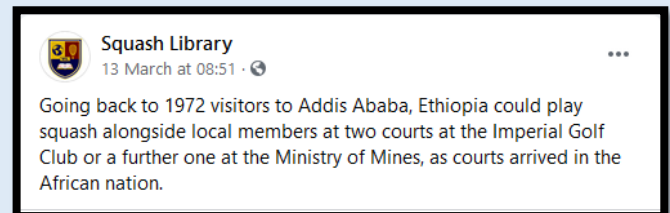




ESTONIA



ETHIOPIA



EUROPE




FIJI

Squash Library
19 November at 09:11 · 🌐

Squash first landed in Fiji as early as 1920 when the Governor had a court erected at Government House. But growth in the main of the around 300 South Pacific islands that make up Fiji didn't begin until the 1960 when Oceania visitors prompted interest. In 1966 the court built in the grounds of his house in the 1930's by solicitor Sir Howard Ellis was re-opened as the Suva Club, followed by the Defence & United Clubs. Public courts were added and the Fiji Federation, formed in 1968 is active in Oceania Region Championships.

[Squash Fiji](#)



FINLAND

Squash Library
5 May · 🌐

Squash came to Finland very briefly in 1940 when three tennis players built three courts in an apartment building in Helsinki. But WW2 took them away and it was nearly 30 years later in 1968 when another Finnish tennis player, national champion Sakari Salo re-started squash – in the same vacant building, by coincidence.

The first club, Helsinki Squash Club, had been founded in 1970, and while the Finnish Squash Association was founded in 1971 it was not initially recognised because the authorities demanded that there must be at least three Clubs. Poku Salo, pictured below winning the first Finnish National Championship in 1970, then founded two new clubs and the authorities approved the Finnish Squash Association officially in 1971. (Note: the visible sidewall door led to a store-room, while the entry to the court was further up the sidewall)

Now, there are clubs in 40 cities, the country has had a World Junior Champion (Juha Raumolin, 1992) and highly ranked pros such as Sami Elopuro & more recently Olli Tuominen. World & European Championships have also been hosted multiple times. [Squash Suomi Finland](#)



FRANCE

Squash Library
23 March at 08:37 · 🌐

The French Squash Federation started life as the Comité du Squash, a branch of the French Tennis Association, in 1974. However, the first courts of the nation were built at the Jeu de Paume Club in Paris 1927. It was on 17 January 1981 that the Comité du Squash was upgraded into a fully-fledged independent Federation, at a point where there were over 100 courts and 350 in the country. (Within ten years clubs and courts had increased three-fold).

Since then France has had two World Open Champions, Thierry Lincou and Gregory Gaultier in 2004 & 2015 respectively, as well as Camille Serme, winner of the British & US Open titles in 2015 & 2016.

[FFSquash - Fédération Française de Squash](#)




Squash Library
27 November 2019 · 🌐

With Greg Gaultier returning to action at the WSF Men's World Team Championship next month it is interesting to recall that it was as recently as 1975 that the French Squash Federation was formed. This, after squash was kick-started there by the opening of Squash Montparnasse in Paris, to add to the trio of old rackets clubs already in existence.


More clubs and European / World Championship hostings have followed on from the Montparnasse opening. As for players, European titles have been won, Thierry Lincou & Greg Gaultier won the World Open and reached world #1 ranking, while Camille Serme has won both the US & British Open titles. [FFSquash - Fédération Française de Squash World Squash Federation](#) Gregory Gaultier Thierry Lincou Camille SERME






Squash Library
29 May at 08:29

Only a few years after the German federation was formed in 1975, Peter Helleman, Vice-President, summed up progress. "In 1978, there were 80 squash centers, this number increased to 130 in 1979. At the end of 1980, we had 200, which corresponds to 1,300 courts, for ± 170,000 players. Not included in these figures are the 172 private clubs with a total of 17,500 members. We are therefore, at the end of the 1980s, at ± 185,000 squash players in Germany. [Deutscher Squash Verband e.V.](#)



It is estimated that in 1985, there will be approximately 600 centers for 4,000 sites. The number of players will amount to ± 500,000 players and 50,000 members of private clubs. Such growth testifies to the scale that squash is gaining in Germany. The Federation has put together an excellent training program for juniors. This is already bearing fruit: the junior and senior squash champion of the Federal Republic is none other than a 17-year-old: Carol Martini (right). In the national ranking, he is followed by the talented and intelligent Conny Hassebach (left)."


GIBRALTAR



Squash Library
22 October at 09:16

Squash at 'The Rock' moved forward when The Gibraltar Squash Rackets Club was founded in 1969. It had no courts to its name and used the only civilian court at Victoria stadium and used various Military courts by arrangement. In 1993 the Government of Gibraltar gave the court building and site to GSRC on the understanding they would form an Association and become the governing body for squash in Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Squash Association was then formed. The building was refurbished and two new courts were built and these were used together with the existing court. Five years later this former military court was demolished and replaced by two new courts. This was the home of GSA until the end of 2019 when the Association moved to a brand new 6 court facility within a large sports complex at Europa Point built for the 2019 Island Games. The Association has been hosting PSA events in its former premises since 2012. This week it is holding the Gibraltar Open at Europa Point for the first time. [Gibraltar Squash](#)





Squash Library
22 November at 08:41

Here was the armed-forces led squash state of play in Gibraltar as reported in the British Tennis and Squash magazine in 1957. [Gibraltar Squash](#)

1957 GIBRALTAR SQUASH


Although squash rackets has its keen followers in Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium and France the game has not yet gained a foothold in Spain. A mile from the Spanish frontier at the gateway to the Mediterranean, however, lies the British outpost of Gibraltar, and here squash has once again been flourishing during the past season.

The leading centre for the game on the Rock is the Naval Officers' Pavilion, which has an excellent standard court, on which many matches are played between the club and Service units. Other courts are attached to the Officers' Mess of the Royal Artillery, at Europa, and at Rosia, the latter administered by the Fortress Engineer Regiment of the Royal Engineers. In addition there is a particularly fine private court in the grounds of Government House (known, incidentally, as 'The Convent'). This was built by General Sir Charles Harrington when he was Governor of Gibraltar in 1936, and the court is well maintained under the present Commander-in-Chief of the Rock, General Sir Harold Redman, himself a squash player.

As yet Gibraltar have not formed their own S.R.A., but since there are a number of keen civilian players the formation of a representative association may not be far distant. The best player on the Rock for some years has been Keith Hoare, son of the former Gibraltar rackets professional and a regular winner of post-war tournaments at the N.O.P. Usually Hoare finds few opponents to extend him, but Commander Alan Seymour-Haydon, now Naval Attaché at Madrid, occasionally visits the Rock on duty, and among officers recently there with the Home Fleet was another former Navy champion in Lieut-Col. Mike Annworth. The Seaford Highlanders, whose first battalion is now garrisoning Gibraltar, have been among the keenest units on the squash court, their commanding officer, Lt-Col. I. A. Robertson, being the best Service player stationed there.


Apart from officers attached to units serving on the Rock, and naval teams from ships of the Mediterranean and Home Fleets few English players seem to find their way to Gibraltar during the squash season but Gerald Pawle spent a month at the Rock recently and played in two matches in which Gibraltar's leading players took part. In the first, in which a team of past and present Service players led by Lt-Col. Robertson was narrowly beaten by Keith Hoare's side, Pawle won an exciting match with Hoare lasting 12 hours after choosing sudden death in the third game, having lost the first two. The scores were: — Lt.-Col. S. G. S. Pawle (R.N.V.R.) b W. K. Hoare (Gibraltar) 4-9, 5-9, 9-8, 9-6, 9-4, Lt.-Col. A. Robertson b W. M. Isola (Gibraltar) 5-9, 9-2, 9-5, 9-7, Cdr. J. V. C. Roxburgh lost to S/Ldr. E. G. Downes (Gibraltar) 4-9, 9-7, 3-9, 4-9, Capt. J. S. Houston lost to R. Andlaw (Gibraltar) 9-7, 5-6, 8-10, 1-9, 5-9, 2nd-Lt. F. Scott lost to C. Cabedo (Gibraltar) 9-5, 6-9, 4-9, 3-9.

In the second match, which Hoare's team again won 3-2, Hoare dropped only five points in the top set to Robertson but Downes, the R.A.F.'s best player, was beaten in straight games by Pawle. Houston beat Isola 3-1, but Scott lost a long match with another R.A.F. player, Flight-Lt. O. Cussen by two points in the fifth game to level the scores. In the remaining set Flight-Lt. F. Pearce won a marathon match against J. Wolf-Murray of the Seaford Highlanders 10-8, 5-9, 7-9, 10-9, 9-5.



Squash Library
28 July at 07:49

The 1980s boom in squash that Germany experienced during the 1980s was underway before the start of the decade as this 46 year old national magazine list of clubs from 1979 indicates; the largest being Squash-Land-Jenfeld with 18 courts.



AMTLICHE MITTEILUNGEN
Deutscher Squash Rackets Verband e.V.
Nachdruck, auch auszugsweise, nur mit Genehmigung des DSRV, Lichtenauer Weg 11, 2100 Hamburg 90, Sekretär: Niels Härtel, Telefon 0 40 / 7 92 55 83
4/79

Hallenverbandsmitglieder des Deutschen Squash Rackets Verbandes e.V.

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GREECE



Squash Library
8 January at 08:50

The first two squash courts in Greece were completed at the Athens Lawn Tennis Club (pictured) in 1940. Initially only one of the courts was roofed but the other was covered in 1947.

While 1947 was also the year that the Greek National Championship was initiated, two years earlier in 1945 the Greek Open had begun – a title won by many stars including Jonah Barrington, Mohibullah Khan, Gamal Awad and Peter Nicol amongst others.

A third court was added at Athens LTC in 1966, initially doubles width before being adapted for singles.

It was built with the encouragement of King Constantine II, who was an enthusiastic player of both singles and doubles, the latter with his brother in law King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

In 1967 squash became part of Greek Tennis Federation, and an early member of the European Squash Federation which was founded in 1973 – the year when the Greek Men's Team (pictured, back: I. Diamantopoulos, G. Zervos, E. Gavalas, front: G. Barletis, K. Vranas) took part in the first European Team Championship.

There are now around 27 courts in 12 locations, squash given a boost in 2004 when top player Petros Tzamaloukas (pic, in white) was selected to carry the Olympic torch on its way to the Athens Games.

It was Tzamaloukas who in 2016 brought forward a junior structure that led to Greek junior teams beginning their European event participation. [Greek SquashPetros Tzamaloukas](#)



GUYANA



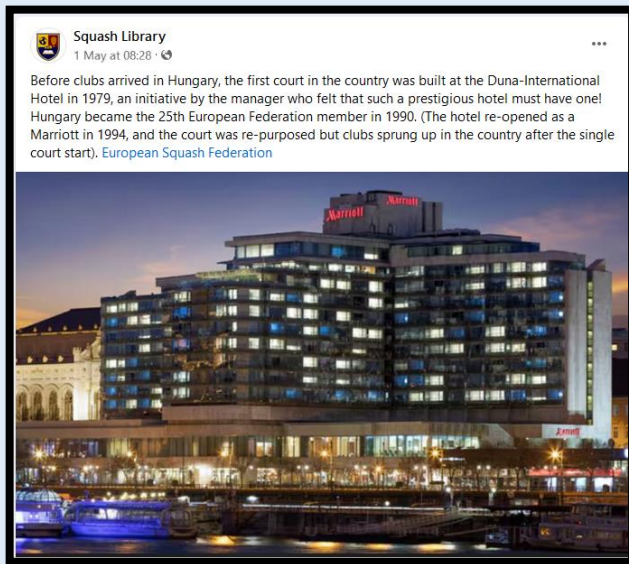
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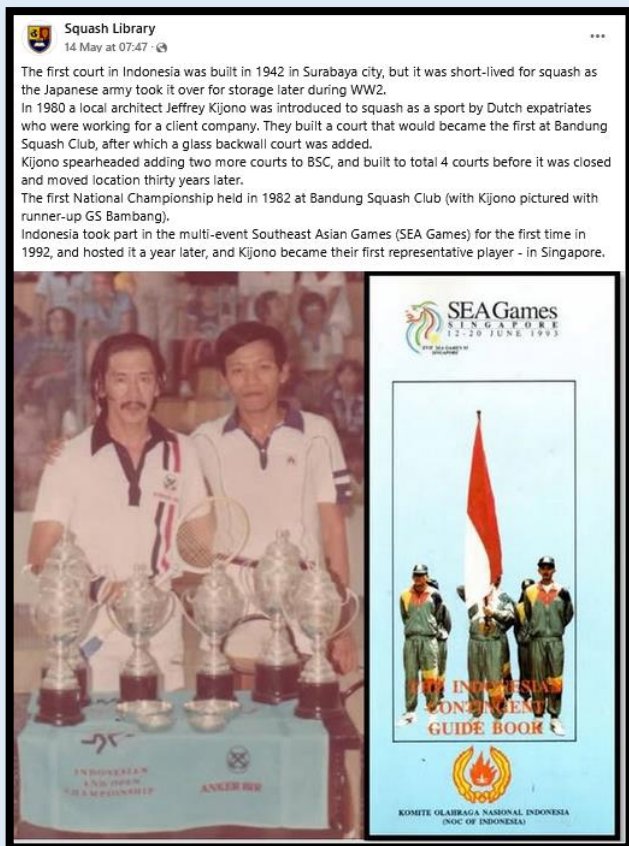
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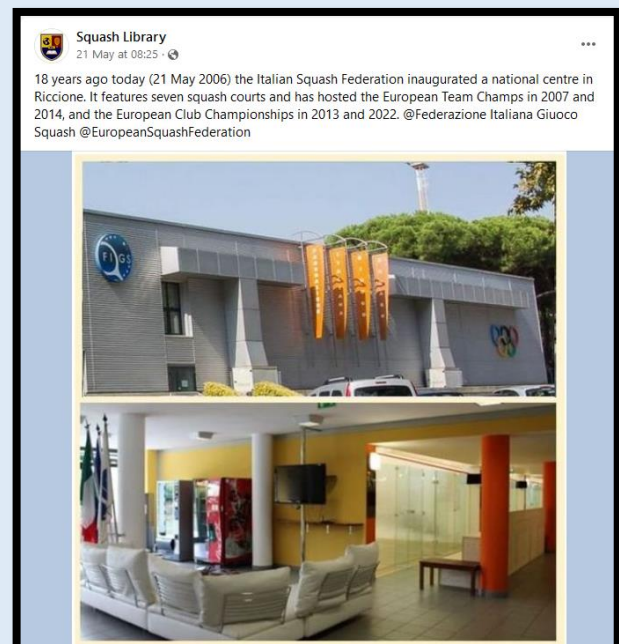
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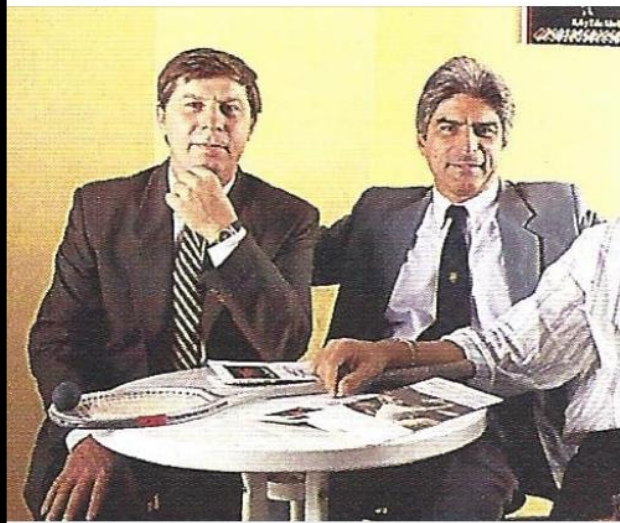
Squash Library

10 July at 08:42 · 🌐

Although there had been a squash court in the British Embassy in Rome for some years before, the real start for squash in Italy came in 1964. It was then that Coats Paton, a Milan based British company built two courts for their staff. Expats used them too, and in 1969 it was expanded into a club.

But it was in 1976 that a five court facility was built in Bologna by Guerrino Sisti (right), the same year as the Italian national body was formed, led by brother Giuseppe. Initially, it fell under the tennis Federation umbrella, along with badminton

These courts were closely followed by more constructed in Bologna and Milan, along with Rome, Bergamo, Florence, Rimini, Lecce, Trieste, Como and elsewhere by the early 1980s. [Federazione Italiana Giuoco Squash](#)



INDIA

Squash Library

27 July · 🌐

The Calcutta Racket Club in India was founded in 1793, making it one of the oldest clubs in the world, and the first in the Indian sub-continent. But it was shortly after the 1st World War ended in 1918 that it built its' first squash courts, before adding a further two which were opened on 19 January 1951 by H.E. Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, Governor of Bombay. It currently has seven courts. [Squash Rackets Federation of India](#)



Squash Library

14 February · 🌐

A recent study showed that around 50% of WSF member nations have a designated national centre. Twenty years ago today an important and very successful one opened. The Indian Squash Academy in Chennai featuring eight courts, including a glass showcourt has hosted several WSF World Championships, Asian Junior & Senior Championships and PSA Tour events, as well as producing many Indian national champions & squad members. [Indian Squash Academy](#)[Squash Rackets Federation of India](#)



IRELAND

Squash Library

7 January at 08:44 · 🌐

The first court in Ireland was built at Dublin's Fitzwilliam Club in 1902, but there were a number of other ones dotted around in the early years of the 20th century, with league squash going on too. After the formation of the British SRA in 1928 it was thought that a logical step would be to set up an Irish Federation; and in 1935 articles were drawn up. These were approved and on 20 December 1935 the first AGM of the Irish SRA was held at Fitzwilliam. The Irish Men's Open had already started to be held in 1932, and representative matches began in 1938 when a five man men's team travelled to Edinburgh to play Scotland (losing 4-1). Irish teams played in the first European Men's and Women's Team Championships in 1973 and 1978 respectively.



JAMAICA

Squash Library
5 June · 🌐

Squash in Jamaica was introduced by British garrisons stationed there – normally open air, concrete floor courts, but general play really started in 1962. This was when the Liguanea Club in Kingston (pic, 1966) built its' first roofed, wooden floor court.

The start of representative matches came in 1966 when a Jamaican team from the club competed against Bahamas & Bermuda club teams in the first of a regular triangular 'Rosebowl' series.

Jamaica Squash Association formed in February 1977 and with the Liguanea club courts expanding from 1978 to the current six, a number of events have been staged on the island.

Jamaican Chris Binnie (pic) has won four PSA Tour events as well as nine Caribbean Championships. [Jamaica Squash Association](#)



JAPAN

Squash Library
5 December 2019 · 🌐

The first squash court in Japan was built in English Embassy in 1927.

Meanwhile, Yasuhito, Prince Chichibu (pictured), born 1902, fell in love with squash during a study period in England, built one in his house after he returned home around the same time.

These courts were lost and until around 1970, the only two Japanese courts were one was at Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, and the other was at another international club in Kobe.

In 1971 the Japan Squash Racket Association was established and the first public court was built in the same year in Yokohama, the pictured Morinaga Angel Squash Club.

During the 1990's, the worldwide biggest prize money event of the time, JSM Supersquash, was held in Tokyo and Yokohama, and in 2021 Kansai city World Masters Games includes squash events.

Japan Squash Association [Asian Squash Federation](#)



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Squash Library
14 August at 08:12 · 🌐

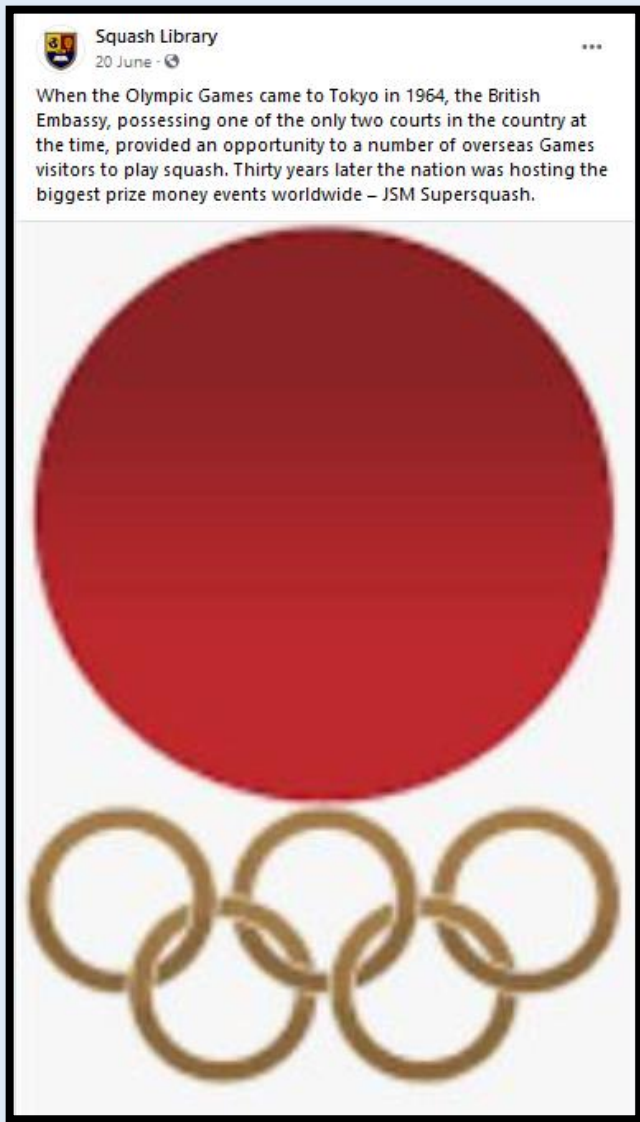
After the Japanese Squash Association (JSA) was formed in 1971, growth was steady during the next two decades, with 66 clubs with 139 courts being listed in 1989, mostly in the Tokyo and Osaka areas. @Japan Squash Association



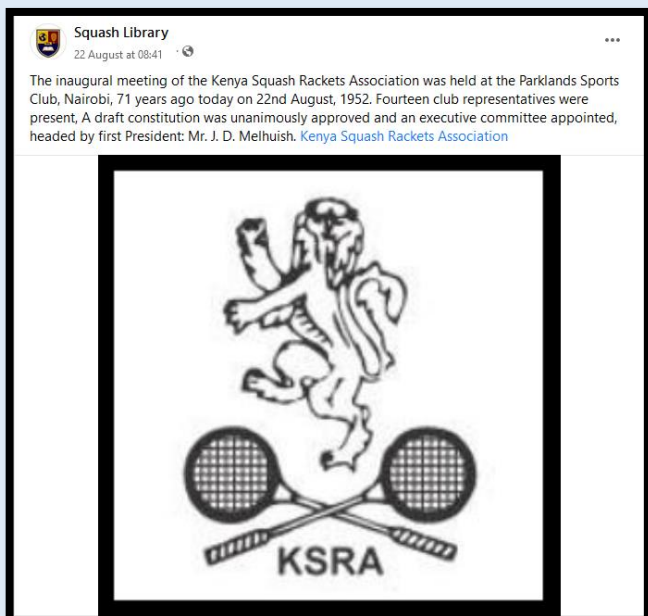
Squash Library
1 January at 08:47 · 🌐

In 1971 the Japanese squash community had three courts to play on, at Yokohama Country Club (2) and International club in Kobe (1). They reported that they would form a national association with the ambitious aim of building 7,000 courts – which was more than the rest of the world combined at that point! While the latest court figure is 324, Japan can boast hosting the highest prize money event during the 1990s, JSM SuperSquash, and has been a consistent participant in Asian & World Championships. Japan Squash Association





KENYA



KOREA



KUWAIT



LITHUANIA



LUXEMBOURG



MALAWI

 Squash Library
12 September · 🌐

The Malawi SRA became affiliated internationally in April 1970, embracing eight clubs in the African country. Two sports clubs, Zomba Gymkhana and Cholo Sports, along with six government and commercial concerns. [Squash Malawi](#)



 Squash Library
11 June · 🌐

Geopolitics in African squash in 1964.

The changes to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) & Nyasaland (now Malawi) left Northern Rhodesia squash affiliating to the South African Association. Later in that year when Northern Rhodesia secured independence and became Zambia the association terminated its' brief liaison with South Africa and Zambia Squash Association followed. Sorted! [Zim squash Zambia Squash Association](#)

[Squash Malawi](#)



MALAYSIA

 Squash Library
24 March at 08:39 · 🌐

The beginnings of squash in Malaysia is thought to have occurred in the 1920s when the British introduced it to the country (then called Malaya). The first event landmark came in 1939 when a championship was held at the Malay College in Kuala Kangsar, won by HRH Tuanku Ja'afar, ruler of the State of Negri Sembilan. Fast forward to 1973, a year after the formation of the Malaysian Squash Federation (SRAM) the first National Championship was held – won by Tunku Imran, the son of Tuanku Ja'afar! Tunku Imran went on to become not only President of SRAM, but also of WSF (1989-1996).


A turning point for squash in Malaysia was the awarding of the Commonwealth Games 1998 to Kuala Lumpur. A national centre was built at Bukit Jalil, and programmes initiated to bring forward squadrons of young players intensified. Included among these were Ong Beng Hee and Nicol David who became World Junior Champions and senior tour pros. In the case of David, a wonderful career embracing eight World Championship titles. These two have been followed by a number of top line performers, and Bukit Jalil preceded many new facilities being built. There are 600+ courts in the country now. The nation has already hosted 18 world title events.

[Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia](#)





Top L to R: Ong Beng Hee, Tunku Imran, Nicol David. Bottom: Malay College

MAURITIUS

 Squash Library
20 August · 🌐

In 1960 there were five clubs offering squash on the island of Mauritius, with some extra courts on sugar estates. That year a cyclone damaged some of the courts, but the National Championship with sixty entries was still completed, won by Benoit Espitalier-Noel who beat his brother Noel 10-9, 8-10, 9-7, 9-4 in the Men's final. [Mauritius Squash Rackets Association](#)




MONACO

Squash Library
28 August at 07:55 · 🌐

It was during the 1930s that squash arrived in the Principality of Monaco when the Monte Carlo Country Club was built. However, it was not until the 1960s until H.H. Prince Rainier, who had played in England and had a court in his Palace, suggested that a squash club would popularise the sport. Thus the Monte Carlo Squash Club was formed in 1968, featuring three courts. The following year Prince Rainier reached the final of the 1969 Monaco International Championship, beaten by Aris Vatimbella 9-6 10-9 2-9 9-7, who was instrumental in the growth of interest at the time. (Vatimbella was a European Federation Vice President 1973-78). In 1978 the Federation Monegasque de Squash Rackets was formed, and teams from the Principality began to enter European Team Championships. A major Men's Tour event followed for a period during the 1980s, and the Women's Monte Carlo Classic was first played in 1995 and until paused by Covid has brought top players to the Principality since then.

[pic: Monaco Junior Championship 1974. Prince Albert (who presented the trophies), Bruno Fissore (winner), Prince Rainier (who donated the cup), Michel Ballerio (R-up), Aris Vatimbella]].



MONGOLIA

Squash Library
12 April at 08:47 · 🌐

Squash in Mongolia was introduced in late 2014 with the first two squash courts built at the Encanto Sports Complex in the capital Ulaanbaatar.

With the support of the Mongolian Tennis Squash Federation, a Mongolian Squash Federation was formed to support the increasing interest in squash. Federation Sec Gen Altanhuyag Otgon (seen here with a group of young players) leads the coaching. [Монголын сквош теннисний холбоо](#) - [Mongolian Squash Federation](#)



NETHERLANDS

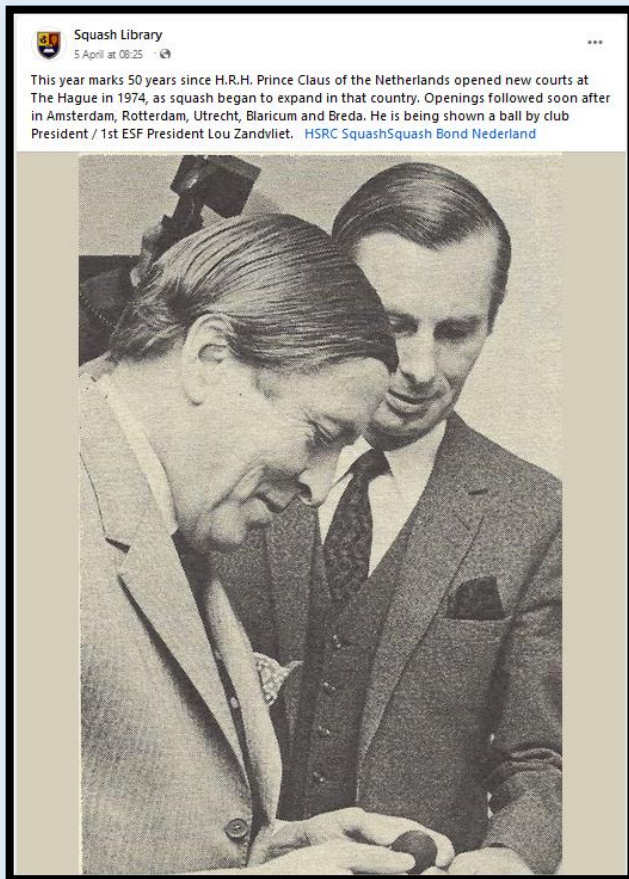
Squash Library
14 January · 🌐

The general beginnings of squash in Netherlands can be traced back to 1936 when businessman J.M. Fentener van Vlissingen had a squash court constructed in Utrecht in 1935; with squash being introduced in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague shortly afterwards. This led to the formation of the Dutch Squash Federation in 1939.

However, the first court in the country dates back to 1914 at Middachten Castle, which itself has a history from the Middle Ages. In that year, William Count Bentinck commissioned a court so that he could play squash there. While the space was used later as a carpentry workshop and storage area, in 2013 a restoration project was started, supported by the Federation, and squash is again being played at Middachten Castle, as it was over a century ago. Note the skirting board nick! [Squashbond Nederland](#)



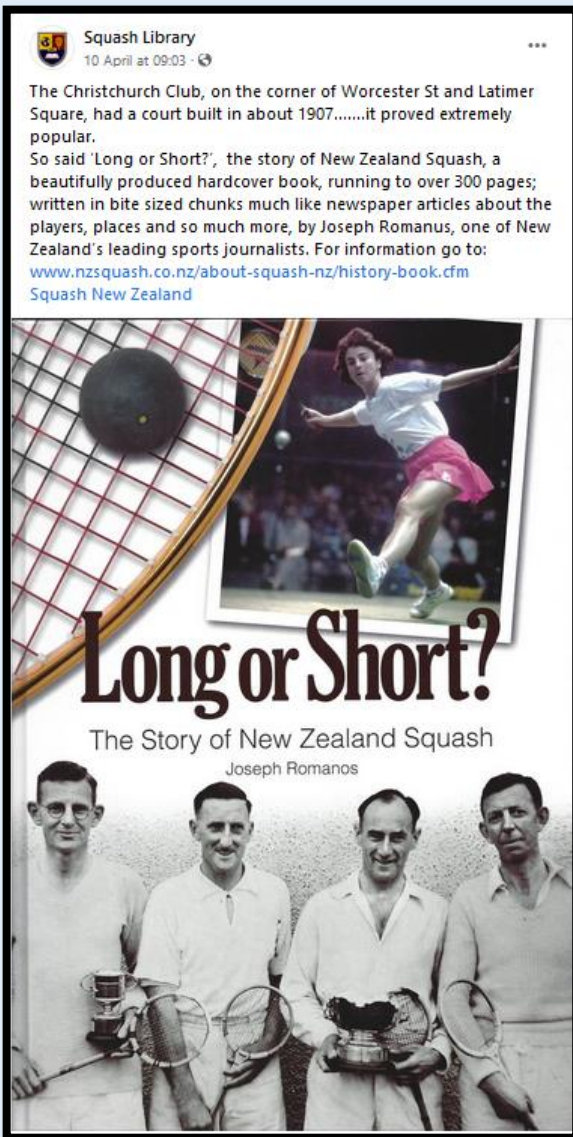

NEW ZEALAND



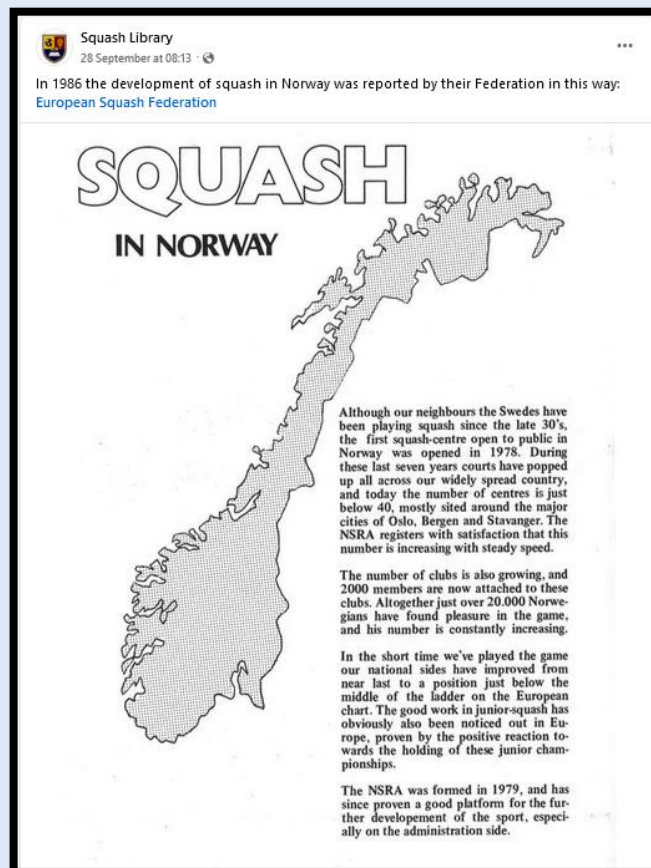
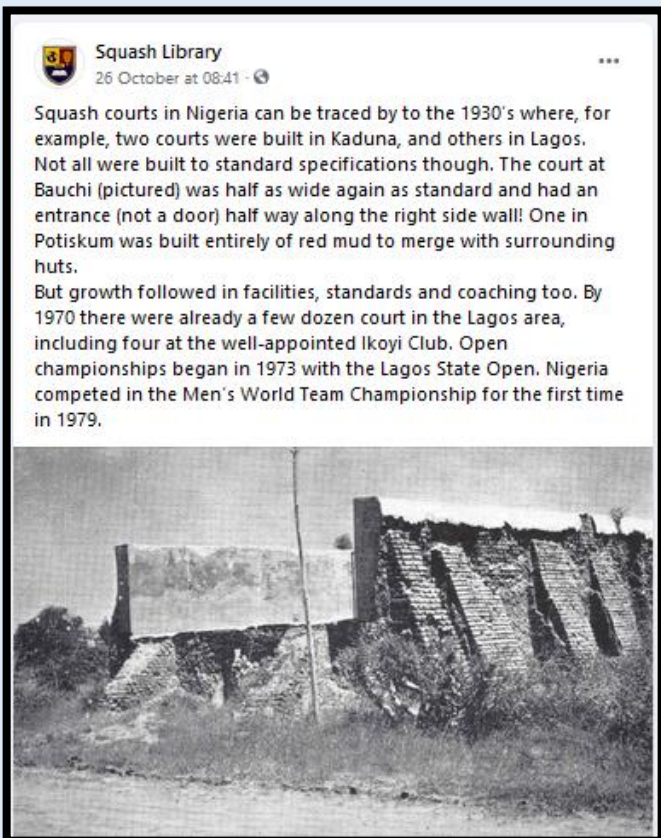
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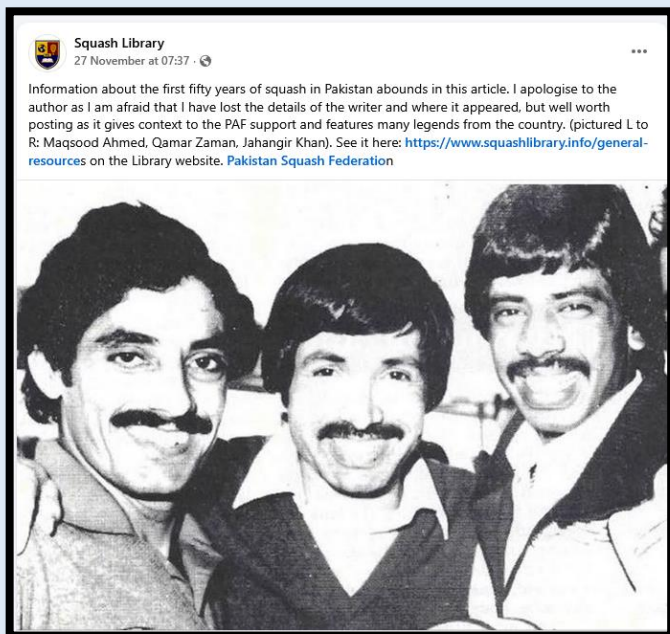
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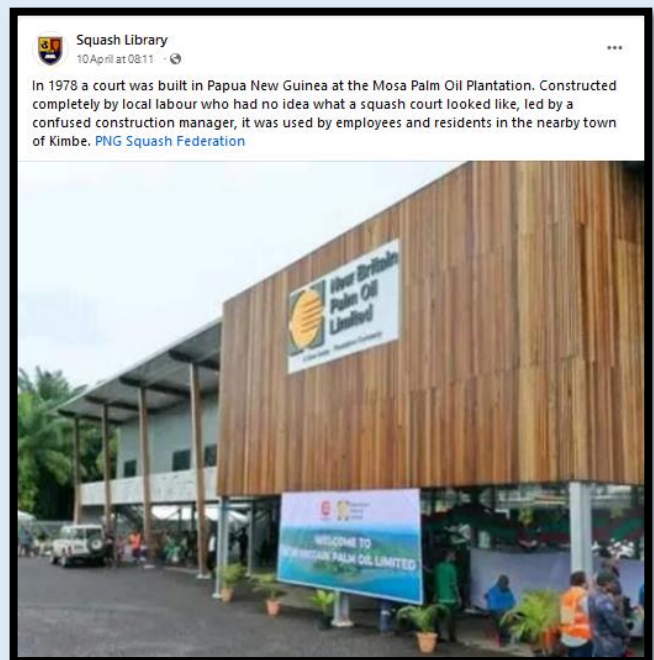
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PAKISTAN



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



PARAGUAY



Squash Library
26 July at 08:24 · 🌐

Federico Franco, the President of Paraguay, cut the ribbon to open the Centro Nacional de Squash – Paraguay, in the South American country's capital Asunción in 2013.

The National Centre featured both three singles courts and a moveable-walled international doubles court. Pictured (L to R) are: Sports Minister Marcelo Bedoya; Paraguay President Federico Franco; Paraguayan Olympic Committee President Camilo Perez; and Paraguay Squash Association President Marcos Vaisenbrut.


[Squash Paraguay](#)



PHILIPPINES

Squash Library
12 June at 09:35 · 🌐

Squash began in the Philippines in 1932 when the Manila Club built two courts, but they and a court at Army & Navy Club were both destroyed during WW2. In the years that followed a few 'American sized' courts were built at US Forces facilities, but then squash jumped forward in 1970 when the Manila Boat Club opened its first court – closely followed by two more by 1972. (The 'international' dimensions were agreed using Encyclopaedia Britannica for reference!) The Philippines Squash Federation was formed in December 1974.



Manila Boat Club

POLAND


Squash Library
5 December at 10:47 · 🌐

Poland may boast the largest club in the World (Hasta La Vista in Wroclaw, 32 courts) but its' introduction to squash came relatively recently. The start of squash in Poland came in 1976 when some Swedish contractors working in Brodnica on a hotel construction built a court that they could play on.

Following on, in 1982 the first sport club with squash was established in Warsaw. It was the British Embassy Country Club and it offered access only for the Embassy's employees and their guests initially, before being opened as a public centre more recently.

In 1994, the first two public courts were built at the University of Physical Education in Warsaw. These, the Magnum Club, are known as the birthplace of squash for Polish players.

Now there are approximately 600 courts nationwide, and the country has hosted the World Junior Championships 2013 & 2016; and Hasta La Vista was a natural choice for the many hundreds of entries for the postponed World Masters 2020. Polska Federacja Squasha



Right: Olsztyn University

QATAR

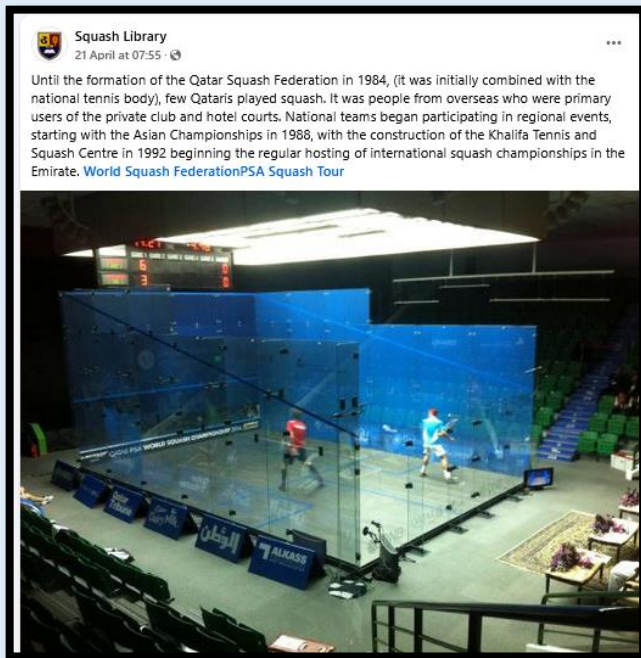
Squash Library
6 September at 11:49 · 🌐

The first squash court seems to have come to Qatar in the 1940's, built at Dukhan on the west coast by British staff who were working in the oil industry in Qatar at that time.

The first squash court built by a Qatari citizen at his private residence was installed in 1957 by the late Mr. Ebrahim Algozaibi, the father of Hisham Algozaibi (pic) a leading light of the Qatar Squash Federation over many years. [Qatar Squash Federation](#)



RUSSIA



ROMANIA





Squash Library

16 November at 08:40 · 🌐

...

Twenty years ago today (16.11.2001) saw the opening of the first dedicated squash facility in Russia. The five court Hypersquash Centre built by owner Irina Podubnaya (inset) in St Petersburg marked the start of strong bases for playing, coach and tournaments.

Since then while Hypersquash is no more, centres have been built in several cities and squash has come a long way since 1987 when the only court in the country was in the Indian Embassy in Moscow.

[Федерация сквоша России](#)



Squash Library

8 February at 08:46 · 🌐

...

The Moscow authorities initiated the first pay-for-play squash centre in the Russian capital in 2016, with the completion of seven courts built by Courtwall at the Velodrom Krylatskoye. The venue of the cycling competition of the Moscow 1980 Olympic Games featured six singles and one permanent doubles court. <https://www.russiasquash.ru/>



Squash Library

5 August at 09:05 · 🌐

...

Dr Cecil Cyrus introduced squash to the Caribbean islands of St Vincent & the Grenadines in 1964 when he converted a fowl coop at his home in the suburbs of Kingstown into a miniature squash court.

Then in 1996 when he built a medical clinic there he incorporated a full size court into the ground floor – leading to teasing that the clinic was just an excuse to construct the court!

Cyrus built a second court on St V at Salt Pond, Brighton in 1979, and the same year saw the formation of the St Vincent & Grenadines Federation.

In 1981 the first Caribbean Junior Individual Championships was played on the Salt Pond court following its initiation by Cyrus, who was the Federation's first President.

His next initiative was to lease a site in the grounds of the Kingstown Bishop's College grounds where three courts came on stream in 1984. [SVG Squash Association](#) [Federacion Panamericana de Squash](#)



ST VINCENT & GRENADINES

SAUDI ARABIA



Squash Library

23 December at 08:45 · 🌐

Although it was 1992 when the Saudi Arabian Squash Federation was formed, squash had been played in the country for a few decades before that. The growth came from expatriate companies providing recreational opportunities for their staff. As early as the 1970s there were leagues in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran. Club numbers grew, and in 1992 the Saudi Squash Federation was formed. Milestones since then include the hosting the PSA Men's World Championship in 2010 in the easte... See more




Nick Matthew, World Champion 2010 (photo: Steve Line) & Saudi Women's entries 2018



SCOTLAND



Squash Library

16 September at 12:26 · 🌐

Squash become organised in Scotland from 1936 when the Scottish Squash Rackets Association was formed, but the sport was played at a number of centres in Scotland for many years before then. Aberdeen and Glasgow both had squash clubs and in Edinburgh the Watsonians (formed 1934) and Edinburgh Academicals owned courts as an adjunct to their other activities. In addition, there were a number of private courts. The opening of the Edinburgh Sports Club, also in 1936, gave impetus to the game in the capital and the club rapidly became the largest in Scotland, its original three courts being increased in 1938 to five, with a doubles court in addition. The Aberdeen Squash Rackets Club, the oldest in the country established in 1913, had its courts destroyed during the WW2 before being re-built. Scotland started entering teams in World Championships after being part of GB teams in 1980, reaching the Men's Team Championships semi-finals in 2001. Just before this Peter Nicol had become World Champion in 1999 (having lost in the two preceding finals), while another team member John White reached the World Open final in 2002. But other high-points came when Scotland Men won the European Team Championship 1992 and their women reached the final in 2002. [Scottish Squash Edinburgh Sports Club](#)



SERBIA


Squash Library
 12 January at 09:06 · 🌐

Interestingly, the Royal Palace in Belgrade (at that point the capital of Yugoslavia) was featured in a 1937 Squash Court advertisement. The now Serbian capital has a long association with squash.

[Serbian Squash Association - CKBOШ Асоцијација Србије](#)



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SINGAPORE


Squash Library
 16 September · 🌐

In 1971 the boom in squash was being felt in Singapore where there were 47 courts, with seven more under construction. Although glass backwalls had only existed for a couple of years the Singapore Island Country Club already had six, with a further one at the Tanglin Club.

Then in 1977 the imposing Fort Canning building (pic), an ex-barracks, converted a block into what was boasted as the world largest facility with 25 courts – all of which were reputedly slightly different sizes! These were converted into other varied uses before the Millennium. [Singapore Squash](#)



SLOVENIA


Squash Library
 6 March · 🌐

Slovenia may only be a country of two million people – but what they lack in numbers they make up for in innovative ideas. Goran Miličević opened the second squash facility in Slovenia in 1991 – Squashland in Ljubljana, in a rented warehouse. The club had 8 courts and flourished for a decade and a half, only to close its doors in 2006 when the landlord sold the building.

But in September 2018 he opened the first primarily wooden squash centre – the new Squashland, with 6 CourtTech courts. The building is self-sufficient in many ways: energy passive, heated with water to water heat exchange technology and solar panels on the roof. The roof has a vegetable garden, providing vegetables for their vegan restaurant.

It has already hosted Balkan & ESF events.

Overall, Slovenia has around 30 courts, scattered all over the country, including the first two built at the Rogla Ski resort in 1989.

[Squashland Ljubljana](#)



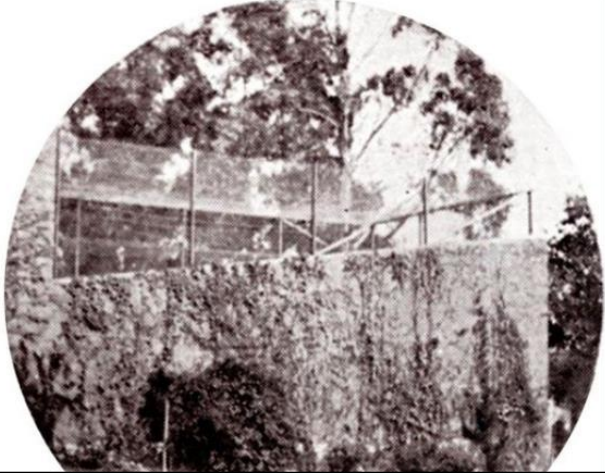

SOUTH AFRICA

Squash Library
8 October at 08:27 · 🌐

The first court built in South Africa was in 1906 at the Johannesburg Country Club (pic), and only four years later in 1910 a national federation was formed – the first softball federation, only preceded by the USA (Hardball) Federation. A first national championship was held in 1910 too.

The Country Club court was roofed in 1930 and reduced to the standard size, as was the Pretoria Club court; shortly after similar sized courts were built at Durban, Cape Town and more in Johannesburg.

In 1967, South Africa became a founder member of the World Federation, and in 1973 hosted the World Men's Individual and Team Championships, after which apartheid meant that the nation could not able to compete in team championships for a number of years. It bounced back by hosting the Men's & Women's World Opens in 1992 and 1993, with three World Masters hostings in recent years too. [Squash South Africa](#)



Squash Library
9 June at 08:49 · 🌐

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

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

[Squash South Africa](#)



SPAIN

Squash Library
25 September · 🌐

The formation of the Spanish Squash Federation in 1975 was reportedly entirely due to the enthusiasm of Juan Couder, the former Davis Cup tennis player who was then the President of the International Club de Tennis in Madrid (pic). He presided over the building of four courts at the Club and also formed a company that would help to expand the number of courts in the country. [REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE SQUASH](#)



Squash Library
22 January at 08:41 · 🌐

The Spanish national association was initially formed in May 1978 (before in 1985 it became the Royal Spanish Squash Federation, with King Don Juan Carlos its Honorary President) and entered its first team in the European Team Championships in 1979.

It featured Carlos Sainz Snr, the World Rally driving Champion, tennis star Manolo Santana and Santi Nieto who was instrumental in the development of Spanish squash. The squad, L to R were Manolo Manero, Sainz, Eduardo De Gongora (President), Santana, Nieto, Tomas Lara.

Sainz, then aged 16 was also the first Spanish National Champion in 1979, beating 13 year old Austin Adarraga, who went on to forge a career on the pro Tour. Both pictured. [REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE SQUASH](#)



SUDAN

Squash Library
20 May · 🌐

Seventy years ago Sudan was seeing a good deal of squash being played, not just in capital Khartoum, as shown by this abbreviated 1952 report:

'Squash rackets is played here in the winter months only, but during these months quite extensively. The Sudan Club, Khartoum, has six good courts, usually full on a winter evening. And the Red Sea Club, Port Sudan, two courts. There are in addition two squash courts at Atbara and single courts scattered throughout the country in practically every town. All courts are unroofed for coolness'.



SWEDEN

Squash Library
26 June · 🌐

Squash was introduced into Sweden by top tennis player Jotte Soderstrom in 1936 with courts being built in Sveavagan in Stockholm. Soderstrom had been exposed to the game by a tennis friend in Denmark and thought it suitable for Sweden too. Sveavagan closed during WW2, but the Stockholm Squash Club (Wittstocksgatan) which had opened in 1937 hosted Sweden playing their first international match, against Denmark in 1940.

In 1964 the club hosted the full Egyptian national team, as pictured front row, L to R: Abdel Wahed Abdel Aziz, Kamal Zaghloul, Ibrahim Amin, Tewfik Shafik, Maged Abaza

A national squash federation was established in 1965.

The country hosted the first Men's World Junior Championships in Kungälv in 1980, the Men's Championships in Stockholm in 1981; and in 1983 the Swedish Men won the European Men's Team Championship, beating England 3-2 in Munich.





SWITZERLAND

Squash Library
8 January at 08:54 · 🌐

In one year – 1973 – Switzerland experienced a 500% increase in courts, from one to five!

The one court was built in 1932 by Geneva industrialist Hugo Firmenich for his two sons. The initial additions were the Geneva Squash Club that built three, and the Racing Club, also in Geneva, with two more. This was the stimulus for the Swiss Squash Federation to be formed in the same year.

A year later the first two courts at the Grasshoppers Club in Zurich arrived, and by the end of the decade there were over two hundred courts in the country, continuing the boom.

The Swiss Open, which began at the Geneva Squash Club (Geneva club & Open banner pictured) in 1974 is ongoing, and the same year Switzerland entered the European Men's Team Championships in Stockholm, recording a win against Belgium on their debut.

[Swiss Squash](#)




TANZANIA

Squash Library
30 July · 🌐

In the late 1940 & early 1950's, squash was thriving in the East African nation of Tanzania (then called Tanganyika). It was reported: 'Squash Rackets is a very popular game in Dar-es-Salaam and generally speaking throughout the Tanganyika Territory – and its followers would undoubtedly be more in number if more courts were available. The Dar-es-Salaam Club has one court and could do with two. There is an open-air stone-floored court at Government House on which the Governor graciously allows residents to play. There are also courts at Tanga and at the Southern Highlands Club. The courts in most cases are open to men and women players and in Dar-es-Salaam there are many keen and useful lady players'. The Gymkhana Club celebrated its centenary in 2017

[Squash Tanzania](#)



To Celebrate the 100 years Anniversary of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



Squash Library

16 December at 08:22 · 🌐

...

1938 is definitely the starting point of squash in Trinidad & Tobago. This is when the first court was built by a fuel company at their Forest Reserve site. It featured a floor composed of reddish brown rectangular tiles which were intricately interwoven to form a slightly cushioned surface, similar to the sprung floors of today.

The refinery link continued with a court being built at the Pointe-A-Pierre base amongst other sports facilities for their staff. Called 'Higgins' after local engineer George Higgins, it was followed by 'Hardy', before a number of other courts were erected at clubs and hotels on the islands.

Trinidad & Tobago, competes regularly in Caribbean & Pan American Championships; and has hosted the Caribbean Senior Squash Championships at (Cascadia Squash Club and QPCC Indoor and Racquet Centre) four times, most recently in 2016.

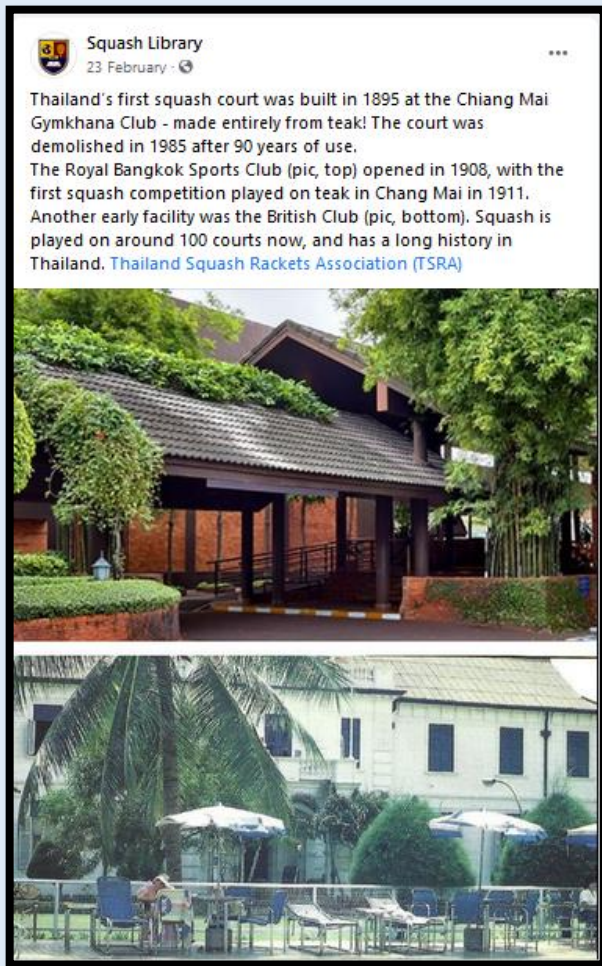
[Trinidad & Tobago Squash Association](#)



Top, Higgins & Hardy courts.



THAILAND



TURKEY



UGANDA

URUGUAY



Squash Library

18 January at 09:15 · 🌐

...

In the 1940s Uganda had courts in the three main towns of Kampala, Jinja and Entebbe, and in several up-country towns. The Uganda Championship was held at the Kampala Club (below) – for both men & Women. In August 1950 a friendly match was arranged in Nairobi between Kenya and four Uganda players who were then available in Kenya. The result was a 2 all draw'.

A year after the Uganda Squash Association was formed in 1972 their first event was staged, the Makerere University Open. – run in conjunction with the Ugandan University Games. It was won by Ugandan Cajetan DeSouza, but the second was won by an entry from Kenya, Don Ayton. [Uganda Squash](#)



Squash Library

2 July · 🌐

...

Squash began in the South American nation of Uruguay in the 1930s when the British Schools Old Boys Club built two squash courts at their original venue in Montevideo.

However expansion came beyond past pupils in 1975 when some members of the Old Boys Club contacted a local Sports club, Club Carrasco, and proposed the construction of two squash courts in the old "Paleta Court" that was not being used. It was fruitful decision, young players started to play in Club Carrasco and squash started to expand in Uruguay. In 1977 the nation first played Argentina (pic).

Club Carrasco, the main hub of squash in Uruguay, saw the leading Player Paul Bragard winning the South American Championship in 1985, and the club hosting the Montevideo Open and international matches / exhibitions. These included a women's (WISPA) visit in 2007. (from left: Jean Paul Bragard – son & national champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Nicol David, Rachael Grinham, Paul Bragard) [Club Carrasco](#)



UKRAINE



Squash Library

28 February at 08:22 · 🌐

...

Squash in Ukraine can trace its roots back to 2000 at the country's sole court at Kiev Sports Club. But so enthusiastic was a property developer Lazutenkou after a visit to Amsterdam in 2008 to support Ukraine's first appearance in the European Team Championships that he decided to build the four-court Grand Prix club in the city.

In 2018, Kiev, along with Yerevan in Armenia were the two stops of the WSF Ambassadors Programme that year (pics), led by stars Camille Serme and Ramy Ashour, along with top referee and coach Marko Podgorsek and Ronny Vlassaks.

As the citizens of Ukraine fight the unimaginable horror of the Russian invasion of their nation, thoughts are with the country and its people; including the squash community that we can only hope stay safe and can eventually blossom in peace again. [Федерація Сквишу України](#). [Ukrainian Squash Federation](#)

[Ukrainian Squash Team](#) [World Squash Federation](#) [The European Squash Federation](#)



Squash Library
23 October at 09:24 · 🌐


A look at unofficial American ranking produced in 1936 gives an indication of where squash was strongest in USA. Only one player, Andrew Ingraham from Cleveland, bucked the trend. (Pictured, Germain Glidden, US National Champion 1936,7,8). [US SQUASH](#)

UNOFFICIAL US RANKING 1936	
MEN	WOMEN
1 Germain Glidden (Harvard Uni)	1 Anne Page (Philadelphia)
2 Beekman Pool (New York)	2 Cecile Bowes (Philadelphia)
3 Andrew Ingraham (Cleveland)	3 Agnes Lamme (New York)
4 Donald Strachan (Philadelphia)	4= Rogers Dunn (New York)
5 Neil Sullivan (Philadelphia)	4= Edith Drury (Massachusetts)
6 Robert Grant III (New York)	6 Margaret Bostwick (New York)
7 Lindsay Ware (Massachusetts)	7 Elizabeth Pearson (Philadelphia)
8 Richard Wakeman (Massachusetts)	8 Alice Bierworth (New York)
9 Cyrus Polley (Buffalo)	9 Mrs H Green (New York)
10 William Coyle Jr (New York)	10 Miss C. Darling (Philadelphia)



Squash Library
10 December 2019 · 🌐

In 1884 James Conover, a teacher at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, USA, built the first squash courts outside England. Conover copied the Harrow courts by consulting with his college roommate, an Old Harrovian.
(This milestone is from the history timeline at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/history-of-squash>. Photo from A history of the Game by James Zug). [US SQUASH Federation](#)
[Panamericana de Squash](#)



Squash Library
26 August at 08:37 · 🌐

Although squash had arrived in the United States earlier, (beginning at St Pauls School in Conover, New Hampshire and in private homes); Christmas Day 1900 was a landmark date for squash in USA.
It was on this date that the first court built at a club was opened. It was at the Racquet Club in Philadelphia at their original Walnut Street location. Slightly smaller than the standardised dimensions, and built entirely of wood for \$500, it proved to be an instant success.
This prompted the club to add three more courts two years later. Again, space constraints meant that they were slightly smaller than the standard 32' by 21'. Unlike the first, they were primarily cement constructed, including the floor, with only the front wall being wooden. The building costs had risen to \$1,630! [US SQUASH](#)



WALES

Squash Library
22 March at 09:13 · 🌐

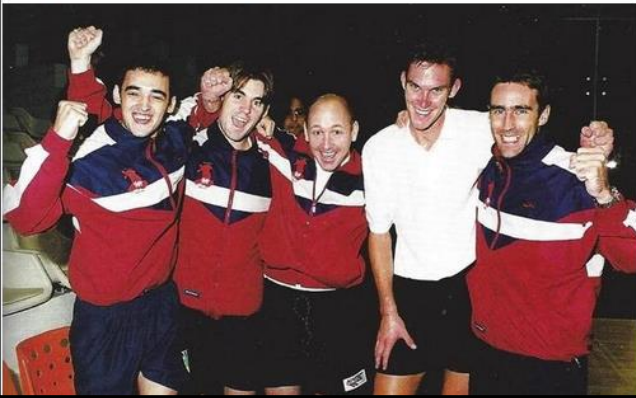
Go back to 1937 and squash in Wales consisted on one Club in the south of the country - Cardiff Squash Club - which had just built its first two courts, and a country club in the north of the country. A year later Wales formed a national federation as three more courts were built in separate locations in the south.

The south began to expand quite quickly, but by the mid-1960s the north began to catch up. In 1965 there were 27 clubs in the south, 14 in the north.

Wales started playing international matches, against Scotland and Wales in 1947, followed by England in 1951.

The Welsh men's team had their best ever World Championship finish in 1999, losing in the final to hosts, Egypt; while on an individual basis it can boast a British Open Champion, David Evans, who won in 2000. (1999 squad pictured after beating England in the semi- finals: L to R: Gavin Jones, Greg Tippings, Chris Robertson (manager), David Evans, Alex Gough).

[Squash Wales - Sboncen Cymru](#)



Squash Library
15 September at 08:44 · 🌐

South Wales did already have a few courts, but it was on 27 September 1937 that the first squash club opened in Cardiff.

Led by first Secretary, Maurice Turnbull (pictured at the start of building from the club website), nine men formed a company named Welsh Squash Rackets (Cardiff) Ltd, and spent £3,500 on a building comprising two courts, changing rooms and general amenities. Called Cardiff Squash Club it was reported that within two months it had 150 members (two thirds men). A third court was added shortly after opening, and a glassback followed in 1978. [Squash Wales - Sboncen Cymru](#)



ZAMBIA

Squash Library
11 June · 🌐

Geopolitics in African squash in 1964.

The changes to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) & Nyasaland (now Malawi) left Northern Rhodesia squash affiliating to the South African Association. Later in that year when Northern Rhodesia secured independence and became Zambia the association terminated its' brief liaison with South Africa and Zambia Squash Association followed. Sorted! [Zim squash](#) [Zambia Squash Association](#)

[Squash Malawi](#)





ZIMBABWE

Squash Library
25 November at 08:15 · 🌐

The first squash court in Southern Africa was seemingly built in the Zimbabwean second city of Bulawayo in 1898 at the Bulawayo Club. It had the dimensions used at Lords, London (42ft x 25ft) but four years later was rebuilt to the standard 32ft x 21ft.

A plaque at the club denotes not only the building date but that HRH Edward Prince of Wales played on the court in 1925. The club was also part of leagues which began locally as early as 1932.

Though the court was refurbished, currently it has been re-purposed as a small clothing and sandal factory.

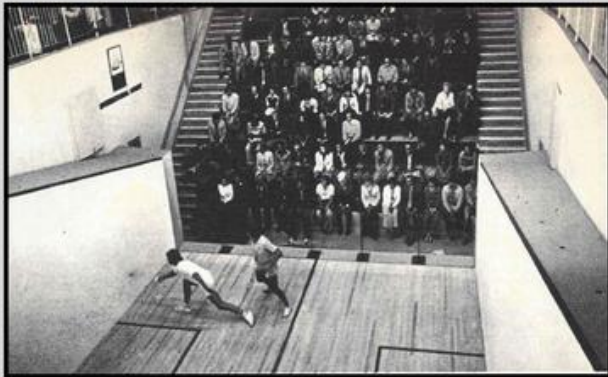


Squash Library

19 July · 🌐

...

In Zimbabwe, (formerly Rhodesia) the capital Harare (formerly Salisbury) had its first court built in a private house around 1920. It was called Princes Club (and still is), because the Prince of Wales played there when visiting when it was first constructed! In 1974 a glass back court with viewing was built at Salisbury Sports Club (now called Harare Sports Club), sunken, so that ground level was around the height (and so it has been flooded more than once!). It featured cut-away wings and viewing for up to 800 – a huge capacity before four-sided viewing arrived. In 1976 Geoff Hunt beat Jonah Barrington in the richly funded Rhodesian International event final. It remains in use now. Zimbabwe first sent a team to the Men's World Team Championship in 1981, and despite funding challenges since 1998 have been regular entrants into the World Junior Men's Team event, as well as two appearance in the Junior Women's so far.



Squash Library

11 June · 🌐

...

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[Squash Malawi](#)

