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championships '96

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WORLD
SQUASH
championships
Petaling Jaya • Malaysia



message by
Y.A. BHG

DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH HJ MOHD. ALI

It is an honour for Malaysia to host the Perrier 11th Women's World Championships. The top players will pit their skills against each other for their own and their country's honour.

Squash is one of the fastest growing sports in the country especially amongst the younger generation. The performance of our juniors in international events has been very encouraging and augurs well for the future. This would not have been possible without the untiring and relentless efforts on the part of Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM). The government has always on its part been willing to lend a helping hand, be it in the development of new infrastructure or the upgrading of existing facilities. I am confident that with this cooperation of all, our goal of producing world beaters would be realised.

I wish all the participants players and officials 'Selamat Datang' to Malaysia. I hope they will bring home fond memories of our country.



Y.A. Bhg Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Binti Hj Mohd Ali

message by

**PRESIDENT OF
WORLD SQUASH FEDERATION**

I have been privileged to spend the last seven years as President of the World Squash Federation and have seen many positive trends for our sport, above all its growth at both grass roots and world championship levels. Squash is now played in 126 countries and 109 of them are active members of the World Squash Federation, but two of the trends that have given me the most personal satisfaction are the growth of Malaysia to become one of the most important squash nations in the whole world, and the development of women's squash.

For three years, Malaysia will be the focus of the world of squash. A massive programme of promotion commenced in May this year by Malaysia hosting the first ever World Cup of Squash. Next year Malaysia will have the World Men's Team Championship and World Open, with the programme reaching its climax with squash doubles and singles played in the Commonwealth Games 1998.

Now the stage is set for the second major event in this programme - the Perrier Women's World Championships. The WSF has been committed to the growth of women's squash for many years, creating the women's world championships in 1979 and instituting an annual World Open in 1993 to complement the biennial team event. The world's professional game has come a long way since the first world championships and WISPA can be justifiably proud of their record and of the current excellent management of the game by their dedicated officers and staff. We know that together, supported by such great friends as the SRA Malaysia, Perrier and Majlis Perbandaran Petaling Jaya, we can achieve even greater success in the future.

I send my best wishes for a successful world championship to the organisers, sponsors, press, spectators and above all, to the players.



YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran Ibni Tuanku Ja'afar

message by

PRESIDENT OF SRA MALAYSIA

On behalf of the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM) and the Organising Committee, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to YA Bhg Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Bte Hj Mohd Ali for graciously consenting to take leave from her hectic schedule to officiate the opening ceremony of the Perrier Women's World Squash Championships 1996. The presence of YA Bhg Datin Seri at the Opening Ceremony would undoubtedly add glamour and prestige to the championship and serve as an inspiration to all of us.

It is indeed a privilege and honour to welcome once again, the cream of the squash world to Malaysia. This time around, the top women squash players would pit their skills in both the open and team events of the Perrier Women's World Squash Championships. With the hosting of this championship, SRAM would have the proud record of having hosted all the major events of the World Squash Federation (WSF). For this feat, I would like to thank YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran Ibni Tuanku Ja'afar, President of WSF, for his continued support and confidence in SRAM's ability to host these prestigious championships.

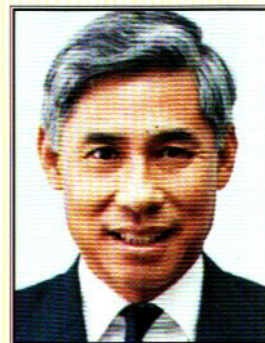
I would like to express our appreciation to our major sponsor, Perrier Vittel Far East Limited for their contribution to the successful running of this championship. We look forward to a cordial working relationship with Perrier in the years to come. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sharp Roxy Sales and Services Sdn Bhd for their continuous support. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to Majlis Perbandaran Petaling Jaya (MPPJ) for their magnanimous and unfailing support. The Astaka Squash Centre and the PJ Civic Centre, boast of world class facilities.

I have relied upon the proven combination of the Joint Chairmen of the organising committee, YB Dato' Mohd Aini Hj Taib and Encik Mokhzani Mahathir. With their experience and guidance they have been able to steer the championships to greater heights.

With the quality of entries, I am confident that Malaysian squash fans would once again be able to witness world class squash. Our compliments go to TV3, the electronic and print media for their relentless effort to promote and cover the game of squash.

Lastly, to all the players and officials, enjoy your stay here and do take time off your hectic schedule to explore the many lovely sights that abound in and around Petaling Jaya.

Thank you and best wishes.



YBhg Dato' Alexander Y L Lee

message by

JOINT CHAIRMAN OF ORGANISING COMMITTEE

It gives me great pleasure once again to be co-chairman for yet another prestigious tournament, an all ladies affair, this time.

As the Organising Co-chairman, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the ladies from the various participating countries to Malaysia and in particular to Petaling Jaya, a town in the state of Selangor. I am sure that most of them will be playing for the very first time in this part of the country and would like to take the opportunity to explore the offerings of the city. For this I am sure my able committee members would be of great help to you.

To all participating countries, may I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best and hope that you will have a memorable stay in Petaling Jaya. To the sponsors, in particular Perrier, I say thank you very much for the help rendered in running the event which needless to say will be a resounding success once again after the recent World Cup. And not forgetting too, the Petaling Jaya Municipal Council for the usage of the courts and also help in one way or another.

'Selamat Bertanding' and compete in the true spirit of the game.



YB Dato' Mohd Aini b. Hj. Taib

message by

**JOINT CHAIRMAN OF
ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

after the recent successful completion of the inaugural YTL Squash World Cup, Malaysia is once again honoured to be given the task of hosting another top class squash event. This time around, it is the Perrier Women's World Squash Championships 1996. As the Joint Chairman of the Organising Committee, I feel honoured and privileged for the faith and confidence placed on me.

This championship would not only allow us the pleasure and pride of running a world class squash event, but would also serve as a prelude to the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games in 1998. The exposure and experience gained in organising such an event would be invaluable and would stand us in good stead to better prepare ourselves for the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

To all participants of the championship, I bid a very warm welcome. My organising committee and I would strive to make your stay here an enjoyable and memorable one. If there is any way we can assist you, do not hesitate to approach me or any of my committee.

Last but not least, I wish you every success in the championship and do have a pleasant stay in Malaysia.

Happy Squashing.



Mokhzani Mahathir

message by

**MANAGING DIRECTOR
PERRIER VITTEL FAR EAST LIMITED**

perrier is very pleased to be the lead sponsor for the 11th Women's World Championships. This is a mega event and it is fitting that Malaysia is hosting it.

During the last five years, Malaysia has become the squash capital of the world. We at Perrier have worked closely with SRAM. The Asian Junior Circuit and the Asian Under-16 have come about as a result of this. Perrier has sponsored two of the last three Asian championships.

Last year, we were co-sponsors of the Women's World Open. 1996 has provided us with the opportunity to support the game in an even bigger way. To us, the sponsorship means a lot more because we would like squash to become part of the lifestyle.

We wish all the players the very best and look forward to an enjoyable fortnight. We know that a lot of hard work has gone into putting this event together and would like to thank everybody involved for their efforts.



Vincent Wan

message by

MANAGING DIRECTOR, STMB

Once again Malaysia takes centre stage in the squash arena by playing host to the Perrier Women's World Squash Championships '96. TV3 is honoured to be involved as the official station in this world-class event, just as we were in the recent Squash World Cup held in Malaysia, earlier this year.

We at TV3 will always have a special place in our hearts for sports; sports has played a prominent part in our daily programmes, be it the daily sports reports during our news segments or sports specials screened over weekends and as and when the need arises.

Tiga Events Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of TV3, was set up specifically for the purpose of marketing and promoting sports, and other special events. Being only over a year old, we are proud to be associated with six local sports bodies and having supported the events that have been organised by these associations within this space of time.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the sponsors who have come forward to lend their support to this event. Special thanks also to SRAM and its industrious President, YBhg Dato Alex Lee, for their commitment to the game.

To all our foreign teams and players here for the championship, I wish you all the best and enjoy your stay in Malaysia.



Zahari Omar

message by

PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL SQUASH PLAYERS ASSOCIATION (WISPA)

In every sport a world title represents the very pinnacle of achievement. It is no different in squash. Why else would the World Championships be the first date in our diary each year? And why do all the players set such store by getting into their national squad for the team event?

I have been fortunate enough to be a member of the Australian team for several years, but that doesn't diminish the expectation as the year progresses. We Australians are looking to win a hat trick of titles (a fact I enjoy repeating!), but the same enthusiasm fills all the players.

But not all day is spent on court. So where better to train, relax and drop by the shops than Malaysia. The Malaysian Open has always been one of the most popular events on the calendar, and there is no reason to think that it will be any different having been upgraded to a world title this year.

Many players came to Petaling Jaya for the first time earlier this year for the World Squash Cup, and found it a good setting for a world event. The Civic Centre will again provide an excellent Finals venue where the medals will be decided.

But even more than this, we know that we can rely on the Persatuan Squash Malaysia team to run an efficient event, coupled with a warmth and hospitality which may sometimes be equalled but never surpassed. We also notice the superb press and TV coverage of squash in Malaysia - which is important to us. Without it, we will never raise the profile of squash.

So, in advance of our arrival, we, together with the World Squash Federation, thank all the organisers, venues, Perrier and other sponsors for taking on the responsibility of running our most important Championship this year, and surely doing it with great aplomb.



Sarah Fitz-Gerald

a preview

PERRIER 11th WOMEN'S WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Colin McQuillan

It is tempting on recent form to assume that the Perrier Women's World Open Championships in Petaling Jaya will be another instalment of the round-the-globe battle between Michelle Martin, the defending champion, and Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the former world junior champion who has become Martin's closest pursuer.

Certainly these two have dominated the finals of all but one major event since the last World Open at Hong Kong last July when Martin defeated Fitz-Gerald 8-10, 9-2, 9-6, 9-3 in 51 minutes to become the first woman ever to win the world title three times in a row.

In a very thin year on the women's international circuit since then, Martin defeated Fitz-Gerald at the 1995 Singapore Open, the Detjen Grand Prix at Nicosia, the Leekes British Open at Cardiff (her fourth successive British Open title) and the Australian Open, but lost to her at the JSM Supersquash '95 and the Jain International at Pusan. At the Singapore Open two months ago, Martin was forced to withdraw from the final due to food poisoning.

"I am not afraid of Michelle any more", Fitz-Gerald said recently in Cairo where she flew down specially to play an exhibition against Salma Shabana during the Gezira Open. "I had the first game in last year's world open final at Hong Kong and still do not understand why I stopped playing the way I got that lead. I am looking to take the world title away from her this time".

Martin, of course, has the ability to raise her game even under extreme pressure when the main titles are at stake. It is also noteworthy that all her defeats in recent years have taken place when she is travelling without her coach and mentor, Lionel Robberds, for whom Fitz-Gerald acknowledges a healthy dislike.

Martin's least expected loss without Robberds in attendance came in the Abshott Open last year when she went down for the first time to British champion Suzanne Horner in the semi-finals. But, Fitz-Gerald was there to mop up for Australia by beating Horner in a straight games final. Just a few days later, Martin produced possibly the best fighting performance of her life to frustrate Fitz-Gerald 1-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7 in what many saw as the best women's British Open final of all time.

The symbiosis between Martin and Robberds, her uncle on her mother's side, began when she was unexpectedly defeated by her then closest friend Danielle Drady in the World Open in Sydney in 1990 and sat down to seriously consider her future. "It seemed to me then I was

a preview

PERRIER 11th WOMEN'S WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

going nowhere", said Martin, "I was not winning and not making any money. I was just about ready to quit and get into something else before it was too late.

Three things stopped her giving up the game. Robberds had watched her performances in Sydney, where he is a leading lawyer, and he convinced her that he could still train her to live with and beyond the best in the game. Her manager, Phil Harte was adamant that he could spin a commercial framework around her glamour if she could just start winning. And her new boyfriend, Steve Lacey kept telling her she was already the best thing in the world and far too good to think of quitting the game.

Robberds claimed he made her ten per cent stronger in the following year and certainly she was far ahead of the rest of the field in Vancouver, where it took a career best retiring performance from New Zealand's Susan Devoy to stop her lifting the title. Lacey married her and took over her business management. The change in Martin was marked. Gone was the shy uncertainty to be replaced by a confident understanding of her self worth and a concentrated aggressive court presence that seems to deny the very idea of losing any important final to any challenger.

Along the way, she parted company with Phil Harte in a now famous dispute that involved both her best friend, Danielle Drady and her former world champion brother Rodney, to whom Drady was briefly married. The divorce and business court cases are still active in Australia, but Rodney is off the men's circuit with back and leg problems while Danielle is back in action under her new married name of Drady-Harte.

Fitz-Gerald was very supportive of Martin throughout that schism, but that sympathy ends at the door of the squash court. For a time it seemed injury would curtail Fitz-Gerald's career when ankle weakness caused her to think of moving into management of the game as Chairwoman of WISPA. But careful training and treatment brought her through that crisis and now her big-hitting style of squash takes her through most opponents to the final stages of most competitions.

There are other Australians at the top of the seedings and it would be a foolish commentator who dismisses the experience of world number five, Liz Irving, or the rising toughness of world number six Carol Owens. Both have had their moments in this part of the world, Irving winning the 1995 Sharp Malaysian Open and Owens always flourishing in the JSM Japan Supersquash.

a preview

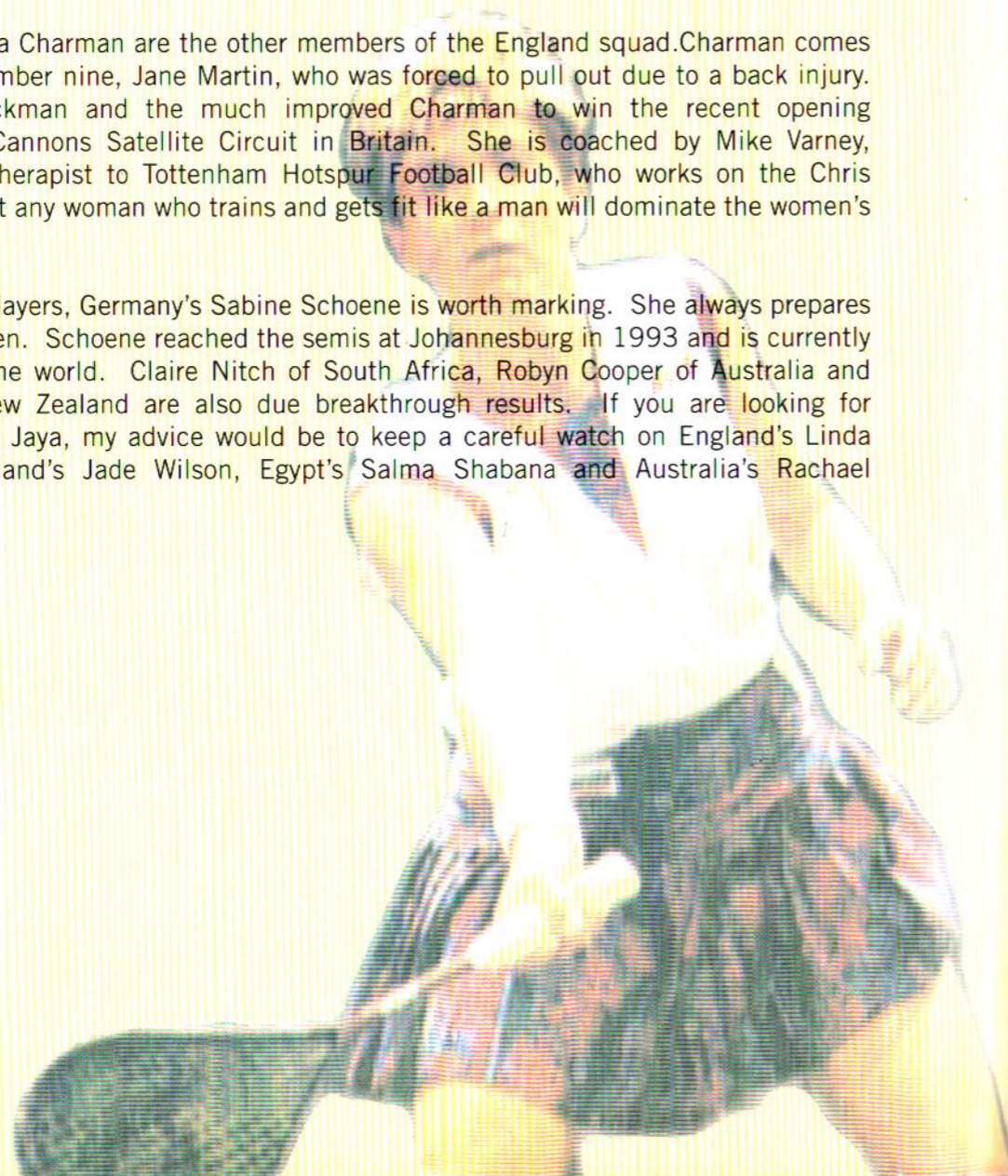
PERRIER 11th WOMEN'S WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

A more likely challenge could arise however from the English camp who have been gearing themselves in recent months to deal with the Australian superiority. Suzanne Horner at 33 is still playing at the top of her plain but hard hitting game, well enough to have taken the British national title in January and to lead the English presence on the world list at number three.

Just behind her is Cassie Jackman, the 1991 world junior champion. She made an immediate impact on the senior circuit as a 19 year-old, reaching a series of semi-finals and finals. But, Jackman has still to add to the U.S. Open title she won in the absence of the Australians back in 1993. This year, she has begun working on her physical approach and technique with David Pearson, the new England coach who is hopeful that the benefits of this training would be seen at Petaling Jaya.

Sue Wright and Linda Charman are the other members of the England squad. Charman comes in place of world number nine, Jane Martin, who was forced to pull out due to a back injury. Wright defeated Jackman and the much improved Charman to win the recent opening tournament of the Cannons Satellite Circuit in Britain. She is coached by Mike Varney, formerly the physiotherapist to Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, who works on the Chris Dittmar principle that any woman who trains and gets fit like a man will dominate the women's game.

From the other top players, Germany's Sabine Schoene is worth marking. She always prepares well for the world open. Schoene reached the semis at Johannesburg in 1993 and is currently ranked at eight in the world. Claire Nitch of South Africa, Robyn Cooper of Australia and Leilani Marsh of New Zealand are also due breakthrough results. If you are looking for surprises at Petaling Jaya, my advice would be to keep a careful watch on England's Linda Charman, New Zealand's Jade Wilson, Egypt's Salma Shabana and Australia's Rachael Grinham.



Roll of Honour

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Year	Venue	Individual Winner	Team Champion	Participating countries
1979	Birmingham, England	Heather McKay (Australia)	Great Britain	6
1981	Toronto, Canada	Rhonda Thorne (Australia)	Australia	14
1983	Perth, Australia	Vicki Cardwell (Australia)	Australia	9
1985	Dublin, Ireland	Vicki Cardwell (Australia)	England	14
1987	Auckland, New Zealand	Susan Devoy (New Zealand)	England	14
1989	Warmond, Australia	Martine Le Moignan (England)	England	18
1990	Sydney, Australia	Susan Devoy (New Zealand)	England	18
1992	Vancouver, Canada	Susan Devoy (New Zealand)	Australia	18
1993	Johannesburg, South Africa	Michelle Martin (Australia)	No team event	
1994	Guernsey, Channel Islands	Michelle Martin (Australia)	Australia	22
1995	Hong Kong	Michelle Martin (Australia)	No team event	

SCALE NEW HEIGHTS

by Raju Chainani

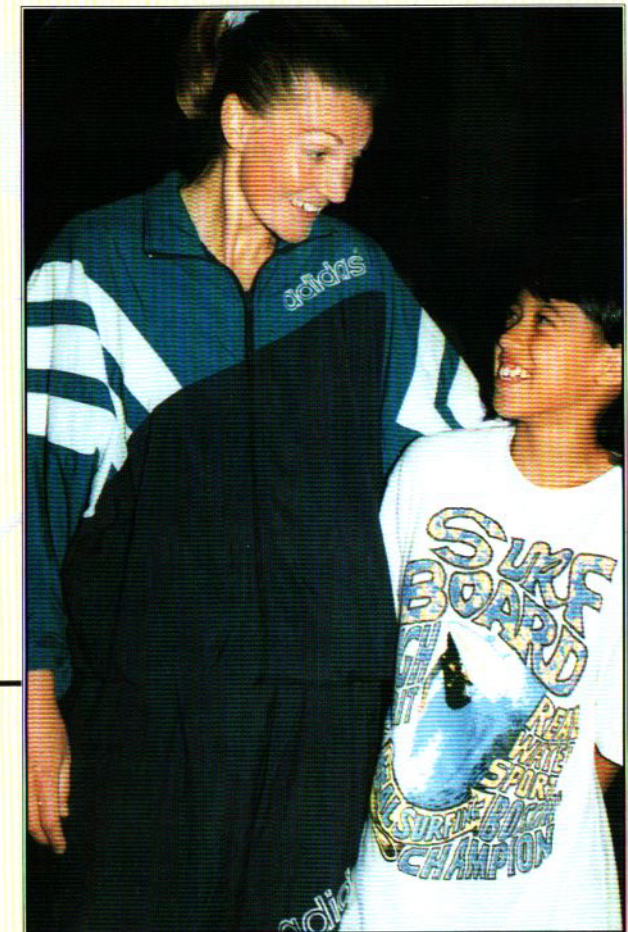
January '96 saw Leong Siu Lynn become the youngest player to win the Asian seniors title. The fifteen year-old from Kelantan beat top seeded Misha Grewal-Jehangir (India) in the final. It was no flash-in-the-pan because the Malaysian southpaw defeated Rebecca Chiu (Hong Kong) in the quarter-finals and then scored her first ever tournament victory over her colleague Carrie Yeo. The best had been reserved for the final. Siu Lynn was outplayed in the initial stages, but once she had overcome her battle of nerves, the finish was devastating. "That was a fantastic performance. She took time to settle. It was a major final and for a fifteen year-old, it was a pressure situation. Once she got firing, there was little Misha could do," said elite coach Jamie Hickox.

Siu Lynn arrived for the Asian seniors at Amman in Jordan immediately after the British Junior Open where she had lost in the under-16 final. The Malaysians did however give the British plenty to remember as Nicol David won the under-14 title, Ong Beng Hee the boys under-16 and Mohamed Azlan was runner-up in the under-14. Nicol David kept up her good work, winning the Australian under-13 and under-15 titles earlier this month. Adelaide proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Malaysians with Mohamed Azlan taking the boys under-15 and Marcus Yeap losing a very close five game match in the boys under-13 final.

Success for Siu Lynn has resulted in a lucrative contract with Adidas. The sixteen year-old is currently ranked at 73 on the WISPA list. Siu Lynn trains at Kota Bahru with Amjad Iqbal. She is one of four Malaysian players in the main draw of the Perrier 11th Women's World Open, the others being Kuan Choy Lin, Chow Chooi Yeen and Cheryl David. Thirteen year-old Nicol David is in the qualifying draw along with Carrie Yeo. Nicol is from Penang where she is coached by Richard Glanfield.

Immediately after the world championships, Siu Lynn leaves for America to play two WISPA events. She will then train for the Scottish, British and Asian Junior championships along with Nicol David. It's a tough call for the juniors as they divide their time between their academic duties and the squash courts. They are being groomed for the 1998 Commonwealth Games. Hopefully by then, Malaysia would have a player in the top twenty.

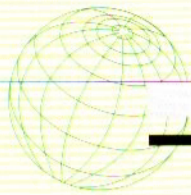
SCALE NEW HEIGHTS



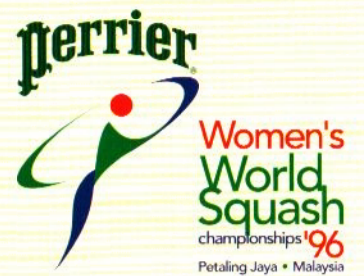
Current champion, Michelle Martin, giving advice to future champion (?), Nicol David of Malaysia



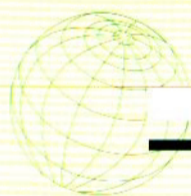
Malaysian Junior, Leong Siu Lynn



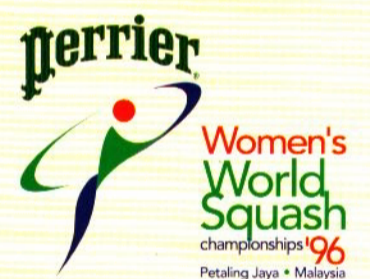
participating COUNTRIES & TEAMS



COUNTRY	PLAYER 1	PLAYER 2	PLAYER 3	PLAYER 4	MANAGER / COACH
AUSTRALIA	MICHELLE MARTIN	SARAH FITZ-GERALD	LIZ IRVING	CAROL OWENS	DIANNE DAVIS
BRAZIL	FLAVIA ROBERTS	ADRIANA MOURA	CARMEN AMAZONAS	MARIANA PONTALTI	JOHN HUGHES / LAWRENCE MAGRATH
CANADA	HEATHER WALLACE	MELANIE JANS	KELSEY SOUCHERAEU	LAUREN WAGNER	ANNE SMITH
DENMARK	ELLEN HAMBORG- PETERSEN	JULIE DORN-JENSEN	ELSEBETH JENSEN	BIRGITTE JENSEN	ANDREW DUNLOP / KEN WATSON
EGYPT	SALMA SHABANA	MAHA ZEIN	MAY HEGAZY	RASHA HEGAZY	AHMAD SAFWAT
ENGLAND	SUZANNE HORNER	SUE WRIGHT	CASSIE JACKMAN	LINDA CHARMAN	ALEX COWIE / DAVID PEARSON
FINLAND	TUULA MYLLYNIEMI	NINA TAHIMIAHO	KIA PAASIVIRTA	PIA KAONNEN	JYRKI HAMALAINEN/ POKU SALO
FRANCE	CORINNE CASTETS	CORINNE VEZIN	ISABELLE STOEHR	LAURENCE BRUNIERA	ALBERT MEDINA
GERMANY	SABINE SCHOENE	SABINE BAUM	SILKE BARTEL	KARIN BERIERE	KEVIN DIQUE
HONG KONG	DAWN OLSEN	REBECCA CHIU	KAREN CHEUNG	CHRISTINA MAK	CHRIS CLARK / TONY CHOI



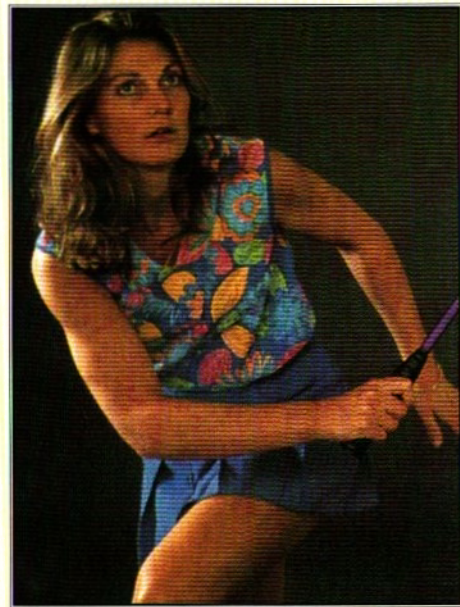
participating COUNTRIES & TEAMS



COUNTRY	PLAYER 1	PLAYER 2	PLAYER 3	PLAYER 4	MANAGER / COACH
IRELAND	AISLING McCARDLE	LOUISE FINNIGEN	OLMA FRENCH	MADELINE PERRY	HILDA WISE
ITALY	TERESA BERESFORD	SONIA PASTERIS	ELENA CAMI	ANNA STREHELE	STEFANO FACCIANI/ SERGIO FACCIANI
JAPAN	YUKO KIMURA	YURIKO SAKAI	MIYUKI ADACHI	MISAKO SUGO	COURTNEY DIGGINS/ HITOSHI USHIOGI
MALAYSIA	KUAN CHOY LIN	LEONG SIU LYNN	CARRIE YEO HENG KOOI	CHOW CHOOI YEEN	RAYMOND ARNOLD / JAMIE HICKOX
NETHERLANDS	VANESSA ATKINSON	HUGOLINE VAN HOORN	NICOLE BEUMER	DENISE SOMMERS	JONAH BARRINGTON
NEW ZEALAND	PHILLIPPA BEAMS	LEILANI MARSH	JADE WILSON	SARAH COOK	DONNA NEWTON / PAUL WRIGHT
SCOTLAND	SENGA MACFIE	CLAIRE WADDELL	PAMELA NIMMO	WENDY MAITLAND or HELEN MACREE	DEREK DAVIDSON
SOUTH AFRICA	CLAIRE NITCH	CHANTAL CLIFTON-PARKS	ANGELIQUE CLIFTON- PARKS	CARLA VENTER	SUE COGSWELL
SPAIN	NATALIA MENUÉ	NURIA SALVIA	ELISABET SADO	ELENA SANCHEZ	BRENDA MUNRO
USA	DEMER HOLLERAN	ELLIE PIERCE	BERKELEY BELKNAP	ALICIA MCCONEN	BETH RASIN / CRAIG THORPE-CLARK

player's

PROFILE



name: **MICHELLE**
MARTIN

born: **29th** April, 1967

lives: Sydney,
Australia

current world ranking: **1**

The world number one had been on the scene for some years before taking up the top spot vacated by Susan Devoy at end of 1992.

The turning point appeared to be when her uncle, Lionel Robberds, himself a noted player, took her in hand and forced a more disciplined approach to training and competing. Weight was lost and technique improved.

Since then she was scooped three World Open title, most recently in Hong Kong in July 1995. Also hers were the first two JSM Supersquash titles in 1993 and 1994 and many other besides.

With the exception of the occasional lapse against Liz Irving she won title after title until the summer 1995. Then in the Malaysian Open Irving triumphed in the semi-finals, and though Martin took the world title, she lost in the next two finals, the JSM Supersquash in Japan and Jain International in Korea, both to Sarah Fitz-Gerald. These unexpected defeats showed that a re-valuation would be necessary, and Robberds offered guidance before she ended 1995 by exacting revenge on Fitz-Gerald at the Detjen Grand Prix in Cyprus.

1996 began with a semi-final defeat at the Abshot Open to Suzanne Horner but she soon re-focused to retain her British Open title beating Sarah Fitz-Gerald in a thrilling final encounter.

Success followed at home where she again won the Australian Open, but having reached the final of the Singapore Open she was forced to withdraw due to food poisoning.

Her squash upbringing at the club owned by her parents led to several family members taking up the game, and going on to the highest levels. Brothers Rodney and Brett have been top flight players themselves, Rodney being a former World Champion.

Michelle continues a long line of married women taking the world number one position; following Heather McKay, Vicki Cardwell and Susan Devoy most recently.

MARTIN

player's

PROFILE



name: **SARAH**
FITZ-GERALD

born: **1st** December, 1968

lives: Victoria,
Australia

current world ranking: **2**

1995

saw Sarah Fitzgerald move to her highest ever world ranking. The world number two reached the semis of the Guernsey Open and the British Open earlier that year, but her best moment as the second half of the year started, was getting into the World Open final in Hong Kong. She was beaten there by Michelle Martin, but showed how much closer she was getting to her. Indeed in the Malaysian Open Fitz-Gerald squandered match points against Martin.

Even better was to follow through. First a final place in the Singapore Open, then a pulsating 3/2 win in the JSM Supersquash final against Martin in Japan. Only seven days later in the World number one was beaten again by Fitz-gerald in the final of the Jain International in Korea.

While the circuit concluded with the pair again contesting a final - the Detjen Grand Prix in Cyprus - this time Sarah couldn't make it three times in a row as Martin prevailed.

1996 started on a high note when she won the Abshot Open in March and was runner up at the Leekes British Open in early April. Whilst Martin beat her to take the Australian Open title during August Fitz-Gerald took the Singapore Open; though was unable to actually do so against Martin on court in the final, as the World Champion was forced to withdraw with food poisoning.

The 27 year old Australian kick-started her career by becoming World Junior Champion in 1987, and has been in the elite pack ever since.

There have been times when back problems hindered her training but in full flow she is very much a force to be reckoned with.

Not content with playing she uses her energies for the good of her fellow players in her role as President of the Women's players body (WISPA)

Sarah Fitz-Gerald is a great asset to the Tour, both on and off court.

SARAH FITZ-GERALD

player's

PROFILE



name: **SUZANNE**
HORNER

born: **23rd** February, **1963**

lives: **Yorkshire,**
England

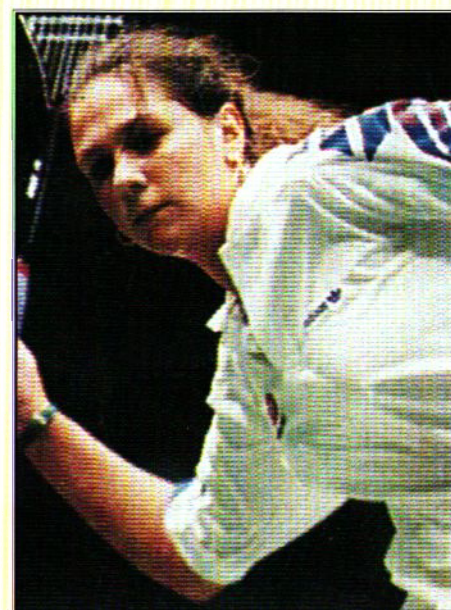
current world ranking: **3**

Suzanne Horner has only recently relinquished the World Number two slot, but even though she is thirty three years old, she should not be written off just yet. The last couple of years have seen the Englishwoman playing some of her best squash. In 1994 the past British Open runner up won the US Open, and in 1995 won the European Champions title as well as reaching the last four in the Guernsey Open, British Open and Jain International in Korea. Indeed, 1996 started on a high note when she captured the British championship title, having been forced to retire during the semis with a back injury the year before. This was followed by reaching the final of the Abshot Open by virtue of a superb win over World number 1 Michelle Martin in the semis, and a quarter final slot at the British Open. More recently she won the El Shams event in Egypt, and was beaten in the quarter finals of the Singapore Open by Caro Owens. Her determination is much heard on the circuit as she attempts to dominate and eventually destroy her opponents. She is fine athlete and were it not for recurring knee problems in earlier years, she would surely have won one of the very top titles.

SUZANNE
HORNER

player's

PROFILE



name: **CASSIE**
JACKMAN

born: **22nd** December, **1972**

lives: **North Walsham, Norfolk,**
England

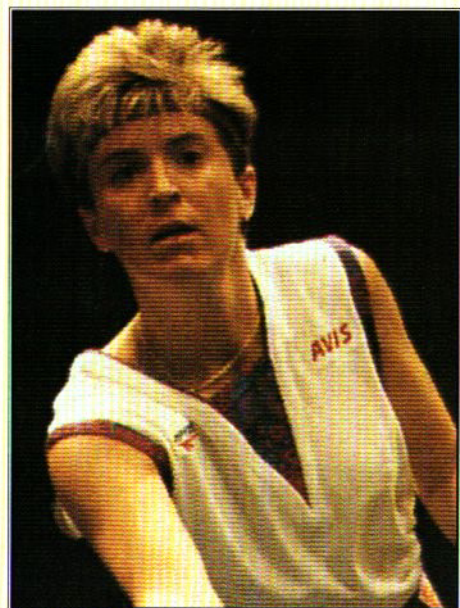
current world ranking: **4**

Cassie Jackman has been on the threshold of ultimate success for a little while, despite being only aged 24. In 1991 she won the World Junior title and in 1992 was nominated as her possible successor by Susan Devoy. The hard hitting Englishwoman was runner up in the JSM Supersquash in 1993 and in 1994 reached the final of the World Open. More recently her world ranking has dipped from a high of number 2, achieved July 1993, and although there have not been any major titles falling to the English girl, she has always proved to be a difficult obstacle for anybody wishing to reach a final. Indeed in 1995 when Liz Irving just managed to beat her in the quarters of the Jain International in Korea, Irving pronounced it one of the hardest matches she had ever had. Her formative years were spent playing against top junior boys as there were no women good enough to provide opposition locally. This is evident in her strong mobile game. Cassie has been coached since her early teens by England coach, Alex Cowie, in a combination which has founded on great affinity and respect. She could also be dangerous to anybody proving difficult off-court as she is an orange belt judo! Her slightly lower ranking in 1996 meant coming up against Michelle Martin in the quarters of the Singapore Open for example, but during this year Cassie has reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open and was runner up in the Heliopolis Open in Egypt. There are occasional lapses when distractions cause defeats and an extraordinary losing jinx against her friend, Jane Martin; but these aside Jackman is very definitely a player who will continue to figure at the top tier of the rankings in the coming years.

CASSIE
JACKMAN

player's

PROFILE



name: **LIZ**
IRVING

born: **7th** February, 1965

lives: **Brisbane,**
Australia
current world ranking: **5**

Australian Liz Irving has already had a distinguished playing career and having turned thirty years of age she is producing some of her best squash.

Evidence of this was clearly shown in 1995 when she beat Michelle Martin in the final of the Malaysian Open, having already reached the final of the British Open.

She is no stranger to beating Martin. Each year she seems to accomplish the feat! As the 1995 summer progressed Liz reached the last four in the Singapore Open, JSM Supersquash and Jain International in Korea. In Japan she came very close again against Martin, but lost 3/2.

The semi-finals continued in the Carol Weymuller (USA) and Detjen Grand Prix (Cyprus), but she did break the pattern by winning the Philadelphia Open.

So far in 1996 she has not quite reached the peaks of 1995, losing to Jane Martin in the quarters of the British Open, Carol Owens at the same stage of the Australian Open and a round earlier to Jane Martin in the Singapore Open.

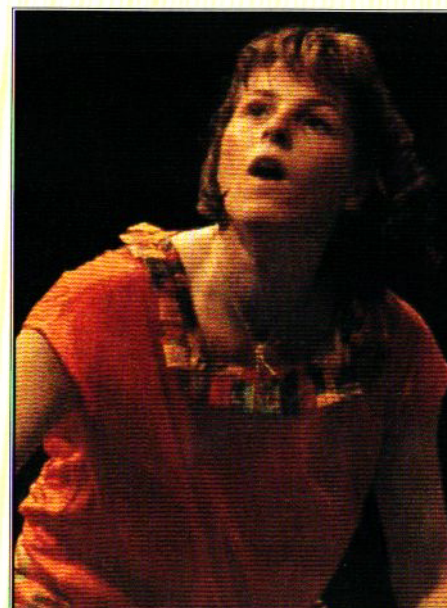
Irving emerged as a top player in the middle of the nineteen eighties and has been consistently in the upper rankings since then. She has led Australian teams that have won the World Team Championships and herself taken a number of individual titles.

In addition to being a WISPA Board member, Irving is also the player's representative on the World Federation Rules Committee.

IRVING

player's

PROFILE



name: **CAROL**
OWENS

born: **4th** June, 1971

lives: **Victoria,**
Australia
current world ranking: **6**

Carol Owens, aged 25 has been making steady progress up the rankings ladder. The Australian from New South Wales has been reaching the latter stages of many events, having already achieved some earlier success as a junior. In 1989 she took third spot in the World Junior Individual event.

She became well known to Asian squash spectators having reached the JSM Supersquash final in 1994, but last year she did not build on this quite as much as she would have hoped. She did win the North American Open in April 1995, but that together with runner up slot (to Michelle Martin) in the Carol Weymuller (USA) were to be her only final appearances of the year. Carol best Liz Irving in the Weymuller semis. It was these successes, together with semi final slots in Singapore and Australian Opens, together with several quarter final berths, that took her to the World Top five.

While 1996 started slowly, a quarter final slot in the British Open was followed by reaching the final of the Victor an Open in her native Australia (where she lost to Sarah Fitz-Gerald) and semi-final of the Australian Open, again beaten by Fitz-Gerald. To fulfil the hat-trick, she beat Suzanne Horner to reach the semi-final of the Singapore Open in August - only to be beaten by Fitz-Gerald!

She is a strong athletic performer and nobody has any doubt that she will step forward from this period of consolidation into one where she challenges for a place in the top three in the coming years.

Even when she is not winning prizes on court she achieves success as a karaoke specialist!

OWENS

player's

PROFILE



name: **SUE**
WRIGHT

born: **28th** June, 1970

lives: Biggin Hill, Kent,
England

current world ranking: **7**

Sue took up squash as a result of following her older sister around events - and has far surpassed her. Squash is very much a family affair for the Wrights' though. She once teamed up with sister Debbie to win the British Doubles title, and father Ken remains her coach.

Her career began to lift off when she won the British Under 16s' and later she captained the England junior side which won the World Juniors in 1987. However, the greatest moment in her career so far came in 1991 when she sensationally beat World number 1 Susan Devoy in the quarter finals of the British Open. She went on to reach the final before succumbing to Lisa Ope.

On court her opponents always find her a handful. Tigerishly chasing down every ball, she is at her most dangerous when she picks up an unstoppable momentum just as she seems down and out.

1992 saw her winning the National title, and though she has always been there or thereabouts in many events, has yet to actually land a really big title. In 1995 Sue was runner up in two events in Germany and also in Philadelphia, USA. She has also reached finals in Netherlands, Austria and Singapore in earlier years.

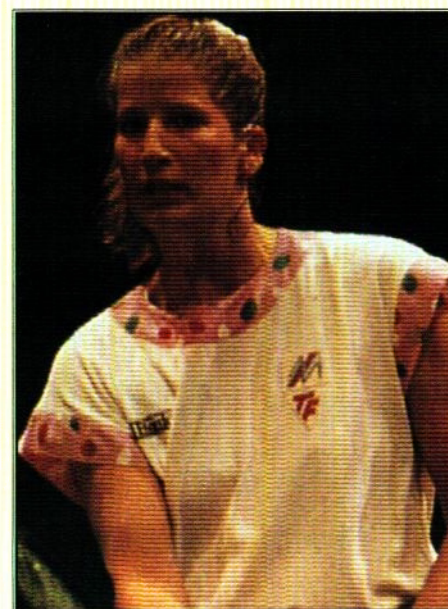
The end of 1995 saw Sue emerging from an injury driven bad patch which had lasted around eighteen months. 1996 has developed for Sue without problem and she is tenaciously staking her claim to a place in the world top five and English number one slot.

She reached the semi-finals of the Abshot Open in March, won the Hellowpolis Open in Egypt in May (beating Cassie Jackman) in the final and in August reached the semi-finals of the Singapore Open before losing to Michelle Martin.

SUE
WRIGHT

player's

PROFILE



name: **SABINE**
SCHOENE

born: **27th** January, 1974

lives: Parsdori,
Germany

current world ranking: **8**

Sabine may only be 22 years of age but she is a very seasoned performer on the international stage. For several years she has been competing in women's events, while in the early years also accumulating junior titles.

She has won the senior German championship seven times and was runner up in the World Juniors in 1991.

More recently, she reached the semi-finals of the Women's World Open in 1993, and has won four events on this WISPA World Tour. She took the Wuppertal title in Germany in 1994 and 1996, and also last year won the German Masters. She concluded 1995 on a high note winning the Finnish Open in December.

So far this year she has been runner up to Suzanne Horner in the El Shams events in Egypt and reached the quarter finals of the Singapore Open.

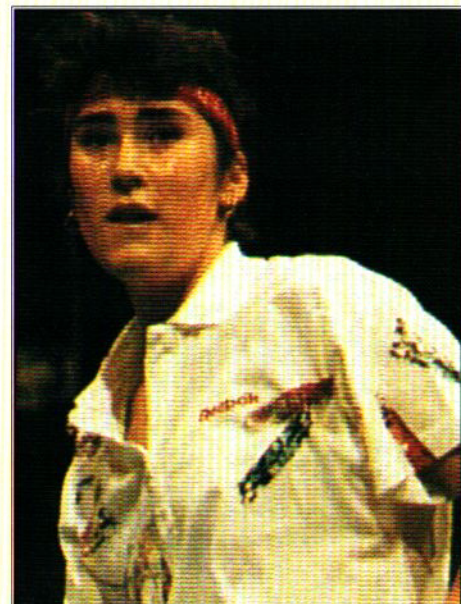
Her strength, coupled with excellent racketwork, took her into the world top 20 five year ago, she now looks set for an extended spell within the top ten.

She may keep her feet on the ground in the squash court, but includes parachute jumping amongst an extensive and varied list of other interests.

SABINE
SCHOENE

player's

PROFILE



name: **JANE**
MARTIN

born: **10th** July, 1972

lives: **Newcastle,**
England

current world ranking: **9**

Jane Martin, from Northern England, held second slot in the junior listings behind Cassie Jackman, and likewise followed her friend and adversary up the senior rankings.

Although behind Jackman she has regularly beaten her, most recently in the Malaysian Open last year.

Her reward for quarter final places in the British Open and Malaysian Open in 1995 has been an upward boost into the top ten of the world rankings.

Jane has already been a winner on the WISPA World Tour, having won the TWC (Denver) title, Spanish Open and Carclus Cup (Germany) in 1993 and the Egyptian and Osterberg (Germany) Opens in 1994.

Already in 1996 she has progressed by reaching the semi-finals of the British open (by beating Liz Irving and Sabine Schoene), the quarters of the Australian Open, and the last eight in Singapore (where she again beat Liz Irving), before going down to fellow Englishwoman, Sue Wright.

She has reached this spot with a combination of superb athleticism, an attacking philosophy, and a general carefree attitude.

There will be an increasing level of focus on improvements though, in part by her working with coach John Milton in Hertfordshire, England, and it is likely that Jane Martin will be a thorn in the side of all top players in the next period.

player's

PROFILE



name: **FIONA**
GEAVES

born: **6th** December, 1967

lives: **Gloucester,**
England

current world ranking: **10**

When she won the British Under 9 title in 1984, and reached the quarter finals of the World Juniors a year later Fiona served noticed of her potential to become a top flight player.

She has now been playing on the World circuit for ten years and decided last year that it was time to totally concentrate on her game in a bid to fulfil her potential. She started really working on her training and divested herself from off court responsibilities - notably handling WISPA player discipline.

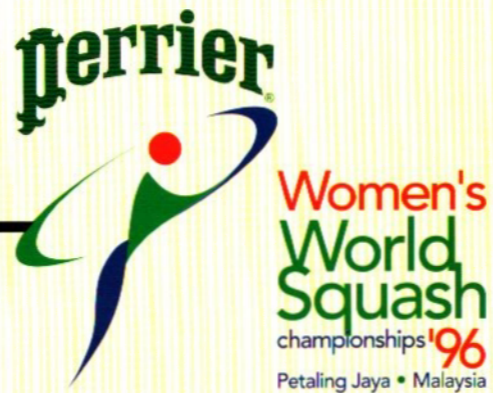
Certainly the plan has shown some evidence of success.

She won the British title in 1995, quarter final slots in several events have reinforced her status in the rankings. She also had a semi final slot in the World Open in Hong Kong, beating second seed Suzanne Horner in the quarter finals, before going down to Sarah Fitz-Gerald in the semis.

Progress was made in 1996 when she reached the semi-finals of the British Open, but not getting beyond the last sixteen in the Australian and Singapore Opens will have forced her to re-group before the next stage of the programme.

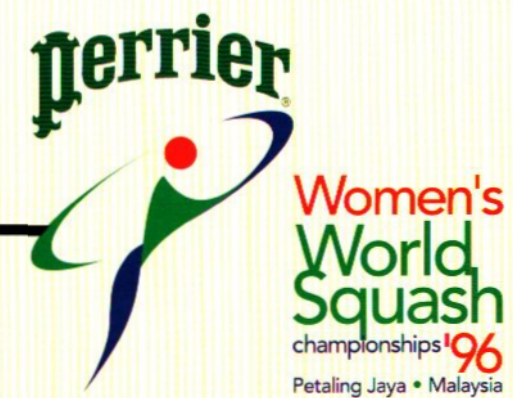
fiona
GEAVES

schedule of
EVENTS



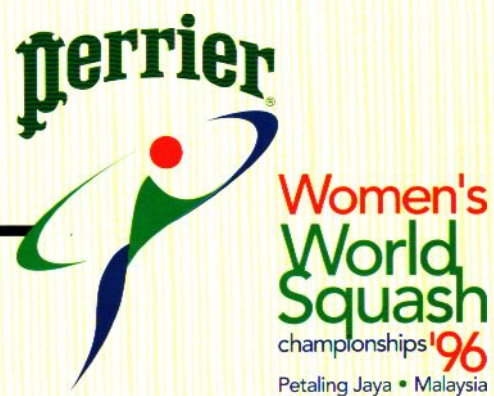
Day / Date	Time	Venue	Event
Sunday, 6 Oct	1100	Astaka	On-site Draw for Qualifying Event
	1200	Astaka	Qualifying Event 1st Round
Monday, 7 Oct	1000	Astaka	Consolation Plate 1st Round
	1400	Astaka	Qualifying Event 2nd Round
	1730	Astaka	Draw of Qualifiers into Main Draw
Tuesday, 8 Oct	1000	Astaka	Consolation Plate 2nd Round
	1400	Astaka	Main Draw 1st Round
	1800	Astaka	Main Draw 1st Round
Wednesday, 9 Oct	1000	Astaka	Consolation Plate Quarter-finals
	1400	Astaka	Plate 1st Round
	1800	Astaka	Main Draw 2nd Round
Thursday, 10 Oct	1400	Astaka	Consolation Plate Semi-finals
	1400	Astaka	Plate 2nd Round
	1800	Astaka	Main Draw 3rd Round
Friday, 11 Oct	1400	Astaka	Consolation Plate Final
	1400	Astaka	Plate Quarter-finals
	1700	PJCC	Main Draw Quarter-finals

schedule of
EVENTS



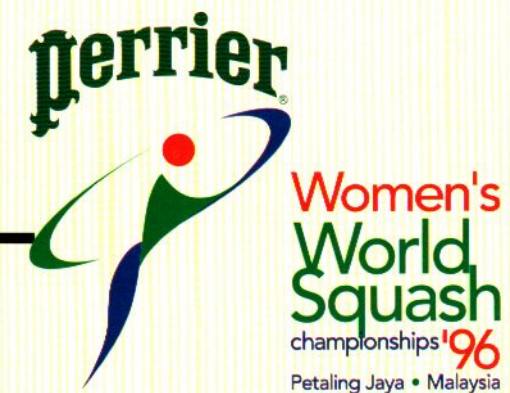
Day / Date	Time	Venue	Event
Saturday, 12 Oct	1100	Astaka	Plate Semi-finals
	1500	PJCC	Main Draw Semi-finals
Sunday, 13 Oct	1400	PJCC	Plate Final
	1600	PJCC	Main Draw Final
Monday, 14 Oct	1000	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pool E)
	1300	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pools C & D)
	1800	PJCC	Team Event Opening Ceremony
	1900	PJCC	Malaysia vs Canada
	1930	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pools A & B)
Tuesday, 15 Oct	1000	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pool E)
	1400	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pools C & D)
	1800	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pools A & B)
Wednesday, 16 Oct	1000	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pool E)
	1400	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pools C & D)
	1800	Astaka	1st Stage Ties (Pool A & B)

schedule of
EVENTS



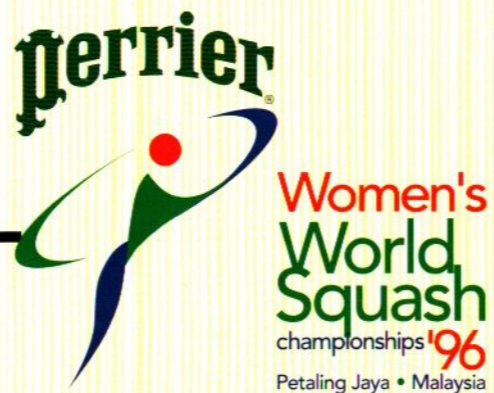
Day / Date	Time	Venue	Event
Thursday, 17 Oct	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 17th - 20th Positions
	1400	Astaka	Play-offs for 9th - 20th Positions
	1800	Astaka	Quarter-finals
Friday, 18 Oct	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 19th - 20th Positions
	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 17th - 18th Positions
	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 13th - 16th Positions
	1400	Astaka	Play-offs for 9th - 12th Positions
	1400	Astaka	Play-offs for 5th - 8th Positions
	1800	PJCC	Semi-finals
Saturday, 19 Oct	1000	PJCC	Semi-finals
	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 15th - 16th Positions
	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 13th - 14th Positions
	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 11th - 12th Positions
	1000	Astaka	Play-offs for 9th - 10th Positions
	1100	PJCC	Play-offs for 3th - 4th Positions
	1300	Astaka	Play-offs for 7th - 8th Positions
	1300	Astaka	Play-offs for 5th - 6th Positions
1500	PJCC	Final	

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PETALING JAYA
- PERRIER VITTEL FAR EAST LTD
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- ANGKATAN TENTERA MALAYSIA
- MAJLIS SUKAN NEGARA
- EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS

Best Wishes

to

SRAM

and

participating teams & players

in the

Perrier Women's World Squash Championships '96

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