

MALAYSIA SQUASH



SRAM

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- Athlete Development Manager
Mr. Christopher Brodie
- Coaches, Referee & Technical
Official Manager
Mr. K. Sivanesen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CONGRATULATION!

SRAM would like to take this opportunity to Welcome our new Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ismail Sabri Yaakob. We look forward to your innovative guidance in our attempt to achieve our Vision of becoming the Powerhouse in World Squash by 2010.

Firstly, it gives us great pleasure to welcome our new Youth and Sports Minister YB Dato' Ismail Sabri Yaakob to his new and first Cabinet Minister portfolio.

From my little interaction with YB Minister when he was the Chairman of the Merdeka Stadium Board, I believe that SRAM can look forward to continued good teamwork in our pursuit of our Vision Plan of 2010!

Whilst the last few months have been fraught with uncertainty in the programmes jointly developed with MSN viz. the Core Sports and the Pelapis Programmes, I would very much hope that the direction the MSN points us to would get much clearer.

We have just had our first ever Convention in our 36 year history last 5-6 April 2008. I heartily congratulate one and all who had contributed so much to have made it a great success. And now, we can look forward to reaping the results to be derived, in particular our supporting Strategic Plan to our Vision Plan.

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British Junior Open 2008

Date: 2 – 6 Jan 2008
 Place: Sheffield, United Kingdom
 Manager: Ms. Leong Yie Mun

I. The Malaysian Team



Front row from left: Low Wee Nee, Tan Yan Xin, Yong Sue Ann, Andrew Cross(Coach), Ng Jo Wern, Shaun Kwan, Al Nick Ally & Leong Yie Mun (Manager)

Second row from left: Low Wee Wern, Nesslerine Ariffin, Ivan Yuen, Kamran Khan, Ajaz Azmat(Coach) & Cheong Kah Wah

Due to the National Sports Council's (NSC) belt-tightening measures, SRAM's annual grants has been slashed from RM6 million in 2007 to RM2 million in 2008. This drastic measures has forced SRAM to forego this year's Scottish Junior Open and trim down the squad to the British Junior Open.

From the initial list of 25 hopefuls, only 9 players were in the final list. The additional two players, namely Shaun Kwan and Al Nick Ally were sponsored by their own State Association.

II. Background

The Championship was hosted by the England Squash Federation (ESF) and its' current major sponsor is Tecnifibre, who has just concluded a three-year title sponsorship agreement. The event will now be known as the Tecnifibre British Junor Open. The three year deal is the biggest ever sponsorship agreement in its' history.

III. Participants

A total of 450 players from 43 countries participated in this tournament, which is considered as the world's most prestigious and longest-established junior event. on the world calendar.

IV. Tournament Format

All categories are played under the MONRAD basis which guaranteed each player at least 3 matches. The event took place at two venues, namely Abbeydale Squash Club and Hallamshire Squash Club, while all the final matches were being played at Abbeydale.

V. Accomodation

The team stayed at the Novotel Sheffield, a New Generation hotel in the centre of Sheffield.

VI. Results

A round-by-round analysis for each player is as follows:
 [W – Won L – Lost B – Bye]

NAME	ROUNDS						Rank
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	
1. Ivan Yuen	W	W	L	W	L	W	10
2. Kamran Khan	W	W	L	L	B	L	13
3. Ng Jo Wen	L	L	L	-	-	-	-
4. Cheong K.W.	W	W	W	L	W	L	6
5. Al Nick Ally	B	L	W	L	-	-	-
6. Shaun Kwan	B	L	W	W	-	-	-
7. Low Wee Wern	B	W	W	W	L	W	3
8. Low Wee Nee	B	W	W	L	L	L	8
9. Nesslerine	B	L	W	W	-	-	-
10. Tan Yan Xin	B	W	W	L	W	W	5
11. Yong Sue Ann	W	W	W	L	L	-	4

In term of SRAM's Quarter-final bench-marking, this year's result is one short of our 2007 achievement, where Choong Kam Hing (7th), Ivan Yuen (3rd), Low Wee Wern (3rd), Low Wee Nee (2nd), Tan Yan Xin (7th) and Yong Sue Ann (8th) performed to their level best.

VII. 2008 Top Performer



Yong Sue Ann (G 13)



Low Wee Wern (G 19)

asian senior championship

Date: 13 – 22 Feb 2008
 Place: Kuwait City, Kuwait
 Manager: En. Amran b. Ahmad

I. The Malaysian Team

Men's Team	Women's Team
1. Mohamad Azlan Iskandar	1. Nicol Ann David
2. Ong Beng Hee	2. Sharon Wee
3. Mohd Nafiizwan Mohd Adnan	3. Delia Arnold
4. Muhammad Asyraf Azan	4. Low Wee Wern
5. Jamshed Gul (Coach)	5. Ahmed Malek (Coach)

II. Background

The 14th Asian Senior Squash Championship was hosted by the Kuwait Squash Federation and is sponsored by Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The venue of the Championship was at the Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah International Squash Complex, situated a short 15-minutes drive from the team's hotel. The newly-built complex is equipped with 8 ASB glass-back courts and a permanent 4-sided all-glass centre court..

III. Participants

A total of 13 countries participated in this tournament and the seeding list is as follows:

Men's Team: 1. MALAYSIA 2. Pakistan, 3. India, 4. Kuwait, 5. Hong Kong, 6. Japan, 7. Korea, 8. Sri Langka, 9. Chinese Taipeh, 10. Iran, 11. Qatar, 12. Macau, 13. China

Women's Team: 1. MALAYSIA, 2. Hong Kong, Japan, 4. Korea, 5. India, 6. Chinese Taipeh, 7. China, 8. Macau

IV. Championship Format

The Championship started with the Men's and Women's individual event from 13 – 17 Feb, followed by the team event from 18 – 22 Feb. The Men's team event were played in 2 stages. In the first stage, the teams were placed into 4 groups; each team playing each other in a 'round-robin league'. The top two teams from each group will advance to the knockout phase (1 – 8) while the remaining teams will play for position 9 – 13. Likewise the women's team were divided into two groups of 4 teams each in the round-robin phase, and the top two qualifiers advanced to the semi-final knock-out phase.

V. Accomodation

The team stayed at the Crowne Plaza Hotel throughout the duration of their stay; a 5-star hotel situated in the district of Farwaniya. The free internet access provided by the Hotel is a blessing to all the managers and reporters, enabling them to disseminate results back home instantly.

VI. Results

Malaysia achieved a clean sweep of all the 4 titles at stake.



Women's Individual Final:

Nicol Ann David beat Rebecca Chiu 9-5, 9-2, 9-2

Men's Individual Final:

Mohd Azlan Iskandar beat Ong Beng Hee (5), (8), 5, 0, 7.



Women's Team Final: Malaysia beat Hong Kong 2 – 1

Nicol David beat Rebecca Chiu 9-1, 9-5, 9-0

Delia Arnold lost to Joey Chan 3-9, 3-9, 9-5, 2-9

Sharon Wee beat Elise Ng 9-6, 9-2, 6-9, 9-1

Men's Team Final: Malaysia beat Kuwait 2 – 1

Mohd Azlan beat Abdullah Kh Al-Mezeyan 10-8, 9-2, 9-6

Mohd Nafiizwan lost to Ali Al-Ramezi 2-9, 8-10, 4-9

Ong Beng Hee beat Salem Fayeez 9-3, 9-0, 9-8

SYABAS MALAYSIA! for defending the CLEAN SWEEP.

CIMB KL Open 2008

Date : 3 – 8 Mac 2008
Place : Kuala Lumpur

I. Background

The KL Open Squash Championships was introduced by SRA of Kuala Lumpur in 1999 as one of the activities of the KL City Day Celebrations. It started as a satellite event to enable our local budding professional players the opportunity to gain world ranking points. The KL Open grew steadily to become a major and popular event in the professional Men's and Women's World Tour Calendars

The CIMB KL Open of 2006 and 2007 had created huge interest locally and internationally with the later round main draw matches played in a portable glass court mounted at the concourse area of the Berjaya Times Square Kuala Lumpur. This arrangement is one of the best approaches to bring the game to the public in general. We hope more sports can adopt this approach to encourage greater awareness and interest in sports in the country

II. Participants

The CIMB KL Open 2008, in its third year; received an even bigger interest and publicity as the Women's event has been upgraded to become a Gold-45 Championship with a prize money of USD 53,500.00, whereas the Men's event has been upgraded to a 5-Star Championship with a total prize money of USD 50,000.00.

The women's event featured 15 of the current top 16 players in the world, including our very own World No. 1, Nicol David. The Men's Challenge were spear-headed by World No. 14 Stewart Boswell and No. 15 Adrian Grant while Mohd Azlan Iskandar and Ong Beng Hee provided the local ammunition.

III. Results



From left:

1. YBhg Dato' Syed Mustaffa – Organising Chairman
2. YBhg Dato' A. Sani Karim – SRAM's President
3. Mohd Azlan Iskandar – Men's runner-up
4. Natalie Grinham – Women's runner-up
5. Nicol David – Women's Champion (5th. title)
6. Ong Beng Hee – Men's Champion
7. Mr. Charon Wardini Mokhzani – CIMB Deputy CEO

Final Score:

Ong Beng Hee bt. Azlan Iskandar 11-8, 15-13, 12-10

Nicol David bt. Natalie Grinham 9-4, 9-2, 9-2

IV. Encore: Nicol David

The CIMB Group has agreed to renew their sponsorship with Nicol David for a further term of 2 years until 6 March 2010. CIMB's involvement and commitment to Nicol David is indeed an excellent example of a corporation that is fully aware that through their contribution and sponsorship, they can make an enormous impact to help Malaysians be among the elites in world sports.

SRAM would like to express our profound gratitude to CIMB, in particular YBhg Dato' Nazir Razak, Group Chief Executive of CIMB, for his continuous belief in Nicol David, which has translated in this huge support for her.

Since August 2006, Nicol has slowly but firmly entrenched herself as the numero uno women's player in the World. Her consistence is a source of admiration to all Malaysians. Her achievements have significantly high-profiled the game of squash in the country and helped promote it among youngsters in Malaysia. For her dedication, commitment, perseverance and demeanor on and off the court, she is a role model par excellence to all young sportsmen and sportswomen in Malaysia.

To cap her sterling performances in 2007, Nicol David was awarded the Inaugural Asian Sportswoman of the Year. Nicol David is today, an icon on the face of Malaysia which makes all Malaysians proud. Both SRAM and CIMB would like to register our pride and gratitude to Nicol David for all her achievements and contributions to squash in Malaysia.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chairman: YBhg Dato' Syed Mustaffa Syed Ali
Deputy Chairman: Mr. Steven Kwan
Tournament Director: Mr. K. Sivanesen
Tournament Referee: Mr. Leslie Ponnampalam
Tournament Finance: Mr. Lim Eng Siang
Tournament Secretary: Ms. Sarah Lee

CIMB Junior CIRCUIT

I. 1st. Leg (23 – 27 Jan: Kuala Lumpur)

No.	Boys	Girls
	Under 9	
1.	Eugene Heng (Sel)	Britney Tan (Sel)
2.	Thoo Jun Yi (Per)	Sivasangari (Kdh)
3.	Ong Sai Hung (Kdh)	Nur Aliah Izzati (Kdh)
4.	Vishnoo Ravi (Prk)	Rushdina Atiqah (NS)
Under 11		
1.	Ng Eain Yow (FT)	Lee Ka Ern (Sel)
2.	Nicholas Tan (Sel)	Siti Nurul Jannah (Trg)
3.	Alwin Chai (Sel)	Zoe Foo (Sel)
4.	Mohd Aqif (FT)	Raihana Aqilah (NS)
Under 12		
1.	Vincent Tan (Sel)	Sofea Najwa (Jhr)
2.	Agil Raj (Phg)	Rebecca Ooi (Kdh)
3.	Chai Bing Lih (Phg)	Esther Yan (Phg)
4.	Shyan Kwan (FT)	Kaveisha Saba (Phg)

II. 2nd. Leg (28 – 30 Mac: Kelantan)

No.	Boys	Girls
	Under 9	
1.	Eugene Heng (Sel)	Sivasangari (Kdh)
2.	Ong Sai Hung (Kdh)	Britney Tan (Sel)
3.	Vishoo Ravi (Prk)	Nur Aliah Izzati (Kdh)
4.	Lee Wen Long (Kdh)	Rushdina Atiqah (NS)
Under 11		
1.	Nicholas Tan (Sel)	Natasha Chin (Sbh)
2.	Mohd Aqif (FT)	Zoe Foo (Sel)
3.	Alwin Chai (Sel)	Danielle Wee (Swk)
4.	Ammar Naim (Mel)	Raihana Aqilah (NS)
Under 12		
1.	Calveen Choh (Phg)	Sofea Najwa (Jhr)
2.	Andrew Lee (FT)	Rebecca Ooi (Kdh)
3.	Chai Bing Lih (Phg)	Esther Yan (Phg)
4.	Ahmad Afiq Roslan (Prk)	Kaveisha Saba (Phg)



Launching Of CIMB National Junior Squash Circuit 2008
Venue: Commonwealth Room, Bukit Jalil Date: 24/1/08

CIMB have increased their sponsorship of the National Junior Circuit from RM300,000 annually in the past two years to RM500,000 in 2008. With the increase, SRAM has introduced a new category, the Under 12; thus providing more competition opportunities for primary school children.

SPORTEXCEL CIRCUIT

I. 1st. Leg (29 Feb – 2 Mac: Penang)


No.	Boys	Girls
	Under 13	
1.	Pang Ka Hoe (S'pore)	Nurdiana Laili (MLK)
2.	Ng Eain Yow (FT)	Sofea Najwa (Jhr)
3.	Ryan Pasqual (Pg)	Goh Jing Xin (MLK)
4.	Shyan Kwan (FT)	Teh Min Jie (Kdh)
Under 15		
1.	Darren Subramaniam (Sel)	Michelle Wong (Swk)
2.	Adeen Idrakie (BJSS/Sel)	Nattasha Ariffin (Pg)
3.	Raja Adam (FT)	Rachel Arnold (FT)
4.	S.Kaladevan (Sel)	Dahlia Abd Basik (Phg)
Under 17		
1.	Leong Elroy (Sel)	Vanessa Raj (Pg)
2.	Ng Eain Wei (FT)	Raja Nurul Sarah (BJSS/FT)
3.	Lim Eu Jin (Sel)	Yong Sue Ann (Sel)
4.	Nicholas Pasqual (Pg)	Celine Yeap (Pg)
Under 19		
1.	Ng Jo Wen (Pelapis/Sel)	Low Wee Nee (Pg)
2.	Cheong Kah Wah (Prk)	Rachael Goh (Swk)
3.	S. Mithran (Pelapis/Prk)	Mao Shi Hui (S'pore)
4.	Samuel Kang (S'pore)	Heng Yi Lian (Pg)

Satellite

I. Satellite No. 1 (15 – 19 Feb: Bukit Jalil)

Men		Women	
W I N N E R			
	Shamsul Islam Khan (Pak)		Lisa Camilleri (Aus)
	1st. Round	bt Wasim Shad (Pak) 11/13, 9/11, 11/11, 11/5, 11/9	Bye
	Quarter-Final	bt Kamran Khan (Mas) 11/7, 18/16, 11/8	bt Zulhijjah Azan (Mas) 9/0, 9/1, 9/3
	Semi-Final	bt Aqib Hanif (Pak) 11/8, 11/8, 11/8	bt Siti Munirah (Mas) 9/2, 9/1, 9/2
	Final	bt Elvinn Keo (Mas) 11/9, 11/3, 11/7	bt Georgina Stoker (Eng) 9/2, 9/3, 9/4



II. Satellite No. 2 (20 – 24 Feb: Bukit Jalil)

Men		Women	
W I N N E R	Arshad Iqbal Burki (Pak)		
			Lisa Camilleri (Aus)
	1st. Round	bt Andrew Wagih (Egy) 13/11, 7/11, 6/11, 11/8, 11/6	bt Tan Yan Xin (Mas) 9/1, 9/5, 9/2
	Quarter-Final	bt Mike Corren (Aus) 11/9, 14/12, 11/4	bt Low Wee Nee (Mas) 9/0, 9/0, 9/5
	Semi-Final	bt Gary Wheadon (Rsa) 11/8, 11/7, 5/11, 13/11	bt Siti Munirah (Mas) 9/1, 9/0, 9/0
	Final	bt Nafzahizam (Mas) 11/6, 12/10, 12/10	bt Amelia Pittock (Aus) 9/6, 9/4, 4/9, 10/9

III. Satellite No. 3 (26 – 30 Mac: Bukit Jalil)

	Men	Women	
W I N N E R			
	Zac Alexander (Aus)		Low Wee Wern (Mas)
	1st. Round	bt Mithran Selvaratnam (Mas) 11/8, 11/8, 13/11	bt Hengameh Habibpour (Iri) 9/0, 9/2, 9/0
	Quarter-Final	bt Nafzahizam (Mas) 11/9, 11/8, 4/11, 7/11, 11/9	bt Misaki Kobayashi (Jpn) 9/1, 9/2, 9/1
	Semi-Final	bt Graeme Wilson (Nzl) 11/8, 11/7, 11/6	bt Lisa Camilleri (Aus) 9/5, 9/1, 9/7
	Final	bt Elvinn Keo (Mas) 11/9, 4/11, 8/11, 11/9, 11/4	bt Siti Munirah (Mas) 9/1, 10/8, 9/0

1 star no. 1 (21 – 26 Mac)

	Men	Women	
W I N N E R			
	Mohd Nafizwan (Mas)		Jaclyn Hawkes (Nzl)
	1st. Round	bt Choong Kam Hing 11/5, 11/6, 11/7	bt Mami Nishio (Jpn) 9/1, 9/1, 9/0
	Quarter-Final	bt Graeme Wilson (Nzl) 11/5, 11/7, 11/4	bt Lim Yoke Wah (Mas) 9/4, 9/2, 9/3
	Semi-Final	bt Shamsul Khan (Pak) 10/12, 11/1, 11/4, 6/11, 11/4	bt Luouse Crome (Nzl) 5/9, 9/2, 6/9, 9/4, 9/5
	Final	bt Bilal Zaman (Pak) 11/6, 11/13, 5/11, 11/3, 11/9	bt Joshna Chinappa (Ind) 9/1, 9/2, 10/8

ASF 2007 Performance Award**Hassan Musa Award (Outstanding - Junior)**

Boy : Ivan Yuen (Malaysia)
 Girl : Annie Au (Hong Kong)

Datuk Alex Lee Award (Outstanding Senior)

Men : Mohamed Azlan Iskandar (Malaysia)
 Women : Nicol David (Malaysia)

ASF Award - Outstanding Team

Men : Malaysia Senior Team
 (Ong Beng Hee, Mohamed Azlan Iskandar,
 MohdNafizwan Adnan, Mohamed Asyraf Azan)
 Women : Malaysia Junior Team
 (Low Wee Wern, P.T. Pushppa Devi,
 Low Wee Nee, Nesserine Ariffin)

ASF Development Award

Most Improved Team: Japan's Women Team

ASF Coaching Award

Coach of the Year : Fahim Gul (Pakistan)
 Junior Coach of the Year : Dick Leong (Hong Kong)
 Development Coach of the Year: Hari Om Tripathi (India)

Certificate of Recognition

V. Laxman (India) Faizal Shah (Pakistan)
 Cheong Pak Kau (Malaysia) Ahmad Malik (Malaysia)

Flashback - The World Junior Women's Team Championship (Hong Kong: August, 2007)

For a coach it is why we do what we do, not only doing it well, because that is happening often in Malaysian squash; and through a coaching career one would expect many successes. Every now and then though we witness something extra special; something that goes beyond expectation and hope. I was privileged to witness such an event at the previous World Junior Women's Team Championship in Hong Kong. I was a witness to MAGIC!

This article is for the Malaysian Junior Women's Team, in recognition and praise for their efforts; finishing 2nd from a 5th seeding, highlighting 5 moments of MAGIC they will likely remember forever.

Magical Moment # 1: Having lost to Hong Kong in the pool matches we had to wait for the luck of the draw to see who our 1/8 final opponent would be; beatable England or invincible Egypt. Yes, unfortunately luck is involved and we came out smiling when the Swiss coach pulled us against England. Thank you Switzerland.

Magical Moment # 2: We had to make the best of the good draw. With Nesserine going on first we felt we needed to win at 1 and 3 as the English no. 2 had played well with a quarter final berth in the Individual Event. Nesserine succumbed to nerves. She was unable to compete and the English girl held it together to go 2-0 up. Coach Hickox was at a loss and questioning; should we have fielded Pushppa? She has great match composure. Ironically, it was Pushppa to the rescue. As I finished my words with Nesserine between the 2nd and 3rd, Pushppa sidled up to Nesserine and put her arm around her. I could see Nesserine visibly release and relax, letting all the pressure out. In the 1-2 break I said my (quick) piece to Nesserine and got Pushppa to do her bit. Suddenly we were 2-2 (This is not Pushppa's first coaching success).

Magical Moment # 3: As a coach you try to think of everything and more. I had been telling the girls to take their space in the middle court and to sometimes hold their swing; the opponent may run into your swing and give you the stroke. In the same England match, at 6-7 in the fifth Nesserine pulled this move not once but twice which help clinched the game and the tie; an excellent win. With Wee Wern on next we were quietly confident.

Magical Moment # 4: After Pushppa had gone down fighting to the New Zealand no. 3, Wee Wern went on against the strong and powerful Joel King. Wee Wern came out and played superbly showing off the squash she has shown us from time to time. It was incredible. Superb racquet skills, perfect shot choices, excellent composure and in the fourth she dug a little deeper than we thought she could. These Kiwi's do not go down without a long, hard struggle and Wee Wern was up to the challenge.

Magical Moment # 5: At 1-all in a team event match, there are few people who you would put forward with confidence. Wee Nee is one of those people though; she is one of the most composed athletes I have ever seen. Still we held little confidence of the petite 15 year old taking down the mighty, powerful Kiwi no. 2. My vision of what had to happen for the win was hopeful at best. Wee Nee had to play her best 'dink and chip' (lob and drop) game to unsettle the Kiwis' power, volley game. I could not have written the script better as this is exactly what happened. On top of the strategy, Wee Nee had to rise to the New Zealander's challenge in the 4th where the Kiwi came back from 1-7 to 6-7.....and rise she did, playing 3 excruciating long and hard rallies to win the game, the tie, the match and a place in the final; absolutely sensational.

A special thank you to Team Manager Mary Lee for looking after us all, but the warmest thank you goes to the girls for such a gift as these five magical moments -Well done girls!



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