

NATIONS, & THEIR SQUASH BEGINNINGS

(*alphabetic by country*)

Updated to 30 November 2024

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](#)



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.



AUSTRALIA

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

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.

In 1955, the beginning of this boom, there were an average of 18 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 1946, 1950 and 1953 as well as being runner up on several occasions. Undoubtedly best for the war years when Squash lay idle, Geoff would have created a still greater record.

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

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](#)

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
Affiliation Fees		
N.S.W.	282.19. -	
Victoria	32.11. -	
Queensland	3. 3. -	
South Australia	15.15. -	
West Australia	7. 7. -	
Tasmania	£1. 1. -	
Less Allowance	35. -	6. -
A.W.S.R.A.	2. 2. -	144. 3. -
Bank Interest		1.12. 8
		£287.10. 7
EXPENDITURE		
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
SURPLUS, of Income over Expenditure		£195.13. 4


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](#)

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](#)

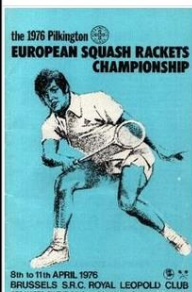


Squash Library
15 July at 08:20

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](#)

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

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'.



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.


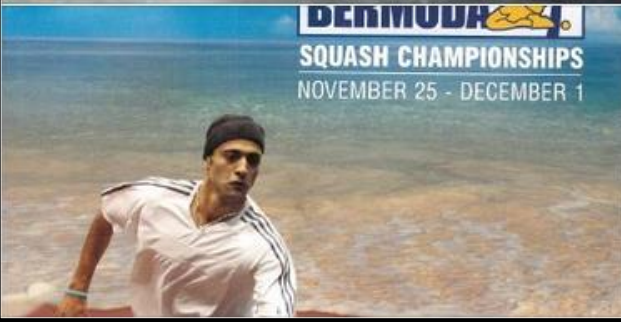
Then the Naval and Military Club built a court in their old premises in Alfred Place. The Athenaeum Club in Collins Street followed with an odd shaped court which is almost two feet wider than standard.

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.

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](#).

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 Alegria" 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](#)



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](#)




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



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](#)



CHINA

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
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
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 CCG 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.



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](#)



Squash Library
15 August · 🌐

Denmark (pictured) became the first national team from Europe to play against the British nation when in 1950, when they played against Scotland and England in Edinburgh and London. At the time it was reported 'England remain unquestionably the strongest country at present, but it seems probable that Belgium or Sweden might well give Scotland, Ireland or Wales a good match; and it is much to be hoped that one or both of these countries will soon enter the international arena'. The Danish team, L to R: B.O Smith, H.E. Kastoft, C. Bauder, E Bjerre-Petersen (Captain), O. Rasmussen. [Dansk Squash Forbund](#)



DUBAI

Squash Library
15 February at 08:30 · 🌐

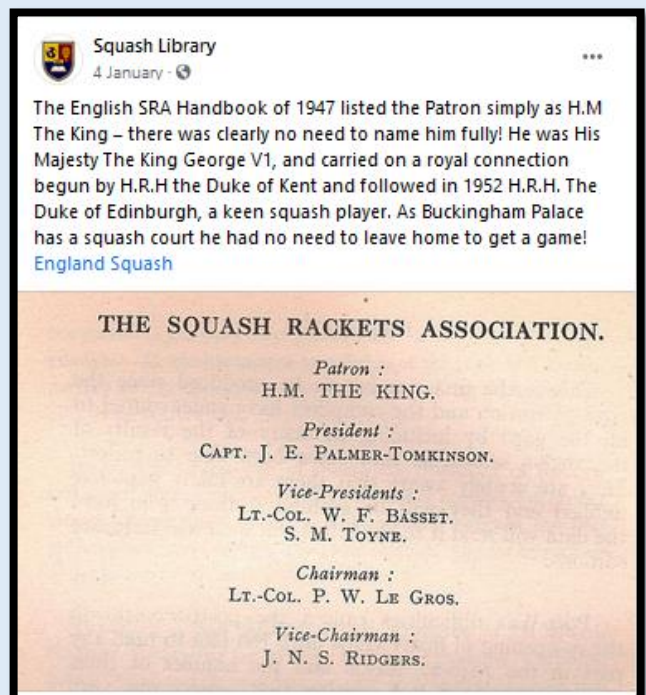
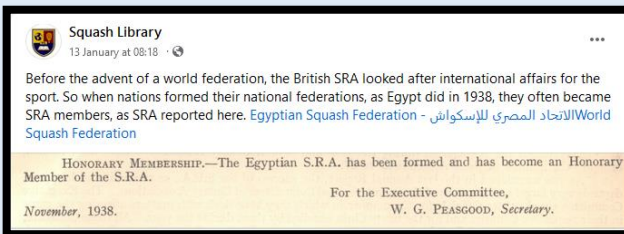
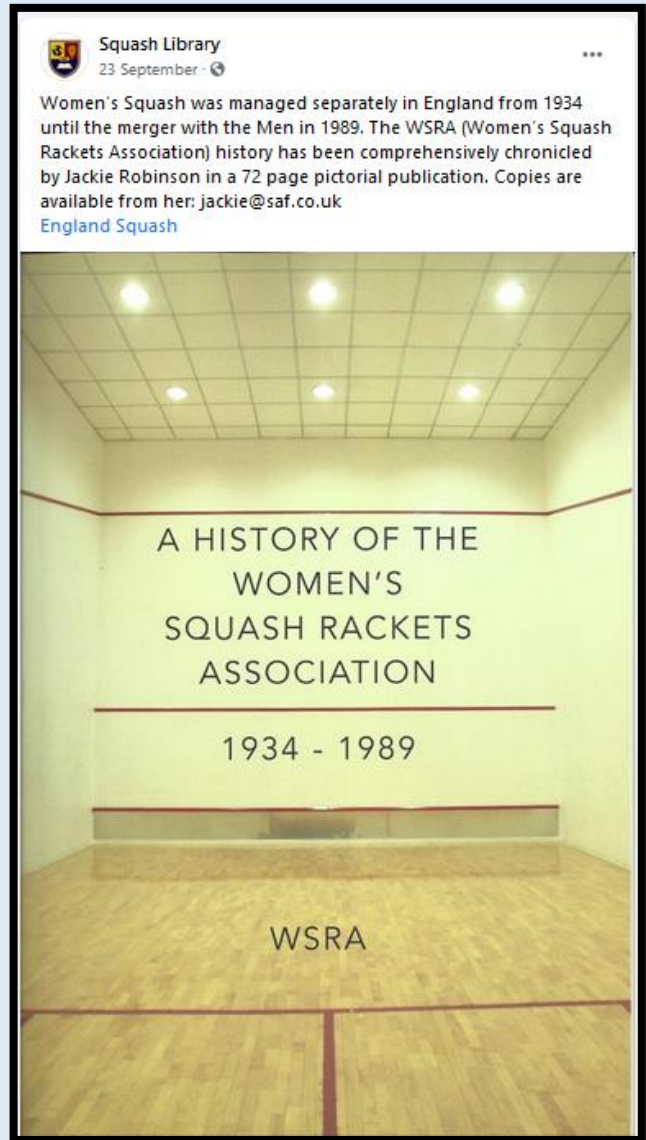
The first public squash courts in Dubai were built by the Al Ahli Club in the 1970s to help its soccer players keep fit when the summer heat stopped them training outdoors. This, a few years after the police opened two courts at their headquarters, and hotels and private clubs had begun to sprout.

In 1986 the United Arab Emirates Squash Association was set up to support and promote squash in the Gulf Emirates. [DUBAI Squash Dubai squash group](#)



EGYPT

ENGLAND





Squash Library
15 July · 🌐

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On 15 July 1989 the separate Men's & Women's squash federations in England (SRA & WSRA) combined after being separate since their formation in 1928 & 1934 respectively; agreeing to become a single governing body for the country. The 1989 Presidents, Norman Borrett & Ann Jackson (pic) signed the articles of the joint association at a meeting that day in London, with the new entity coming into effect from 1 Sept 1989. (The SRA – Squash Rackets Association name was used until changed to England Squash in 2001).
[England Squash](#)



Squash Library
2 October at 09:16 · 🌐

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When the English SRA celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 7 December 1978, a feature of the dinner held to mark the occasion was an assembly of top British players, including, Dugald Macpherson, who had won the British Amateur Championship in 1924 & 28. SRA Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was guest of honour. [England Squash](#)



Left to Right: Philip Kenyon, Jonny Leslie, Philip Ayton, Jonah Barrington, Mike Oddy, Nigel Broomfield, Roy Wilson, Alan Fairbairn, Norman Borrett, Dugald Macpherson

ESTONIA



Squash Library
13 December 2019 · 🌐

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Estonia's first squash club was opened on 7th of August in 1993, with 4 courts in Harjuoru gym (pictured) in the Centre of capital Tallinn. From that start, in 1997 the national federation was formed; and in 1999 Metro Squash Club with 8 courts opened (then the biggest in the Baltics), prompting the growing popularity of squash there with other courts being added across Estonia. In 2005 Metro hosted the European Nations Challenge Cup at Metro.

This 1996 photo shows Philip Ver... See more



Squash Library
9 November 2019 · 🌐

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England Notes:

The Squash Rackets Association (as England Squash was called before 2001), has grown a little since 1930, where the accounts showed an expenditure for the year of under GBP100!
(The Men's & Women's English Squash Associations were separate until they joined together in 1989) [England Squash](#)

THE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION.

Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the Year ending 31st March, 1930.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s d.		£ s d.
By Balance from 1928-1929 Account	17 14 10	To Messrs. Lockwood & Brown, refund of over-payment for Advertisements	1 1 0
Subscriptions received from Members	96 11 6	Messrs. Baring, Mathiasen & Co., printing Handbooks, Notices on Black Club Cup, and Stationery	32 12 3
Receipts from Advertisements in Hand- book	34 4 2	Subscription to Tennis and Rackets Association	13 0 0
		Printing copies of new Rules for submission to Executive Committee	1 9 6
		Messrs. Baring, Mathiasen & Co.	0 14 0
		Stationery	2 4 0
		Central Services, 1929-1930	10 0 0
		Messrs. F. W. Hartley for Championship Medals and Engraving same	1 10 0
		Printing copies of Articles of Association (Draft), and new Rules, for submission to Tennis and Rackets Association	3 0 0
		R.A.C. for Postage, 1929	3 0 0
		Miss. Secretary, Squash Rackets Association, for cables to U.S.A.	1 3 0
		Balance carried to 1930-1931 Account	36 13 7
	<u>£148 21 6</u>		<u>£148 21 6</u>

As Submitted to and Passed by the Executive Committee, 24th July, 1930.

W. F. RANNEY,
Hon. Treasurer.

FIJI

Squash Library
27 November at 09:02 · 🌐

The Estonian Squash Federation gained a national training centre in 2016 through an agreement with the Tere Tennis Club in Tallinn, one of the largest Baltic facilities, with four new courts as the Federation training base.

At the time Estonian Squash Federations' Ardo Nomm commented 'These new courts give us completely new opportunities to develop squash in Estonia. We have better training conditions and we can now organize international tournaments at any level. There is also space to bring a glass court if necessary.'

[Eesti Squashiföderatsioon](#)



ETHIOPIA

Squash Library
13 March at 08:51 · 🌐

Going back to 1972 visitors to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia could play squash alongside local members at two courts at the Imperial Golf Club or a further one at the Ministry of Mines, as courts arrived in the African nation.

EUROPE

Squash Library
5 July · 🌐

While Sweden had already begun a growth spurt, according to the reported number of courts in mainland Europe in 1974, a range of countries were just about to start theirs. The boom in France, Germany and Netherlands, for example, would begin soon after.

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


MAINLAND EUROPE REPORTED COURTS 1974			
NATION	Courts	NATION	Courts
BELGIUM	4	MONACO	2
DENMARK	8	NETHERLANDS	24
FINLAND	30	NORWAY	1
FRANCE	5	PORTUGAL	1
GIBRALTAR	2	SPAIN	1
GREECE	2	SWEDEN	185
ITALY	1	SWITZERLAND	5
LUXEMBOURG	1	WEST GERMANY	7
MALTA	6		

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 Comite 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 Comite 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](#)

The French Squash Federation was formed in 1975, but such was the growth of squash in the country that only ten years later the number of clubs had grown rapidly, including this 1985 list for the Paris region. [FFSquash - Fédération Française de Squash](#)

OÙ JOUER AU SQUASH A PARIS et REGION PARISIENNE

PARIS	ILE de FRANCE	SQUASH de la MARCHE
TENNIS CLUB DE PARIS (1 court) 11, av. J. d'Albion 75001 PARIS 92.36.42	TENNIS CLUB DES VEVELINES (1 court) 82, av. de Metz 92040 MORNIMONT 90.14.37	SQUASH de la MARCHE (1 court) 1, rue Yves Carlier 58000 MONTRE LA COQUETTE 740.13.00
SQUASH CLUB CESSON (1 court) 71, rue Clémence 75011 PARIS Mr. QUIGNARD / 344.38.22 poste 206	FOREST HILL SQUASH (1 court) 111, av. Victor Hugo 93000 ALGERVILLELLES 83.75.10	AVON SQUASH (4 courts) 41, rue du Calvaire 72020 AVON Mme MOER / 422.16.59
SET SQUASH ELISEES (1 court) 2, rue de Valenciennes 75001 PARIS Mr. VANOVERBERGHE / 27.16.00	CLUB CARADAM (1 court) 71, Bd Jean Jaurès 93000 BOULOGNE Mme FICOLI / 90.60.00	TENNIS SQUASH de BELLE (1 court) 1, rue de la République 41000 BELLE Tél: 02 47 81 10 00
CLUB JEU DE PAUME (4 courts) 74, rue des Laitiers 75011 PARIS Mr. MASIP / 27.46.86	ROYAL TENNIS CLUB BEC (1 court) 1, rue de la République 95000 BEC 70.50.12.31	WINDSOR TENNIS CLUB (2 courts) 40, rue Lavoisier 93200 WINDSOR Mr. ROYER / 81.63.68
SQUASH MONTFARNAISE (1 court) Tour Mont Farnaise 75001 PARIS 198.66.20	CLUB DE SQUASH ET DE LON (1 court) 48, avenue des Cordeliers 92000 COLOMBES Mme MARILLÉ / 773.61.21	COMPLEX SPORTIF Mme. Denise AVALON (4 courts) 1, rue de la République 75011 PARIS
CLUB LOUIS BREYER (1 court) 47, av. de Grande Armée 75001 PARIS CEDEX 10 Mr. GERMAIN / 301.70.74	TENNIS CLUB (1 court) 10, rue de la Fontaine 92000 GAGNY Mr. P. GILLET / 301.20.50	SQUASH CENTER (1 court) 97, av. de la République 94000 VINCENNES Mr. DELBAET / 808.73.28
CERCLE INTERALLEI (1 court) 15, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. PONT, Mr. SCEAU / 20.80.40	SQUASH CLUB PAGEL (1 court) 1, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. P. GILLET / 301.20.50	SQUASH DU MOULIER (1 court) 1, place J.-B. Chéron 78000 GARGES Mr. CHAINTRON / 47.23.48
CITE UNIVERSITAIRE (1 court) A.C.U. 127 15, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. TROFFER / 199.53.54	TENNIS COUNTRY CLUB (1 court) 34, Grande Rue 92000 GAGNY Mr. P. GILLET / 301.20.50	CLUB I B M (1 court) 1, rue de la République 75011 PARIS Mr. VINET / 304.80.33
SQUASH DU FRONT DE SEINE (10 courts) 21, rue de Grande Armée 75011 PARIS Mr. ETCHEVERRY / 371.33.37	TENNIS SQUASH VILLAGE (1 court) 10, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. P. GILLET / 301.20.50	BOULE JA REINE (1 court) 1, rue de la République 75011 PARIS Mr. VINET / 304.80.33
STADE FRANÇAIS (1 court) 2, rue de la Grande Armée 75001 PARIS Mr. FRANKENRIS / 481.68.53	PARIS UNIVERSITE CLUB (1 court) 15, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. FACLET / 134.97.69	PARIS SUD TENNIS ASSOCIATION (1 court) 14, rue de la République 92000 GARGES Mr. VINET / 304.80.33
CENTRE CLAMENS (1 court) 178, rue de la Harpe 75011 PARIS 199.53.52	SQUASH RAOUQUET CLUB DE FRANCE (1 court) 15, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. FACLET / 134.97.69	SQUASH CLUB 93 (1 court) 1, rue de la République 93000 GARGES Mr. VINET / 304.80.33
STADIUM (4 courts) 66, av. J. d'Albion 75011 PARIS 382.39.06	SQUASH ATHLETIC CLUB (1 court) 10, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. FACLET / 134.97.69	SQUASH CLUB DE MANET (1 court) 1, rue de la République 93000 GARGES Mr. VINET / 304.80.33
SQUASH MARAIS (1 court) 1, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. AKANTOS / 277.67.37	SQUASH CLUB de St CLOUD (1 court) 10, rue de la Harpe 75001 PARIS Mr. FACLET / 134.97.69	ASSER SQUASH (1 court) 1, rue de la République 93000 GARGES Mr. VINET / 304.80.33

80 000 Joueurs pratiquent actuellement le Squash en France. 610 courts sont affiliés à la FFSR. Une liste exhaustive des clubs français peut être retirée à la FFSR.

GERMANY

Squash was born twice in Germany. The first time was in Berlin in 1930, when the first four courts were built. Dr. Ernst von Siemens of the Siemens Company had been exposed to the sport in England and initiated the construction of sports facilities for employees.

In addition to Siemens courts, there were two other Centres prior to the WW2. The Berlin Hallen Tennis Club had a court, and in 1936 a number of squash courts were built in the house of the German Aviation Association, which were used by pilots.

The second beginning came in 1968 when a German Businessman, Henning Harders, returned from Australia where he had played and built three courts in Hamburg – which became the nucleus of the sport, with the German Squash Rackets Association (DSRV) founded in 1973.

In the ten years after the three Hamburg courts were built there were around 100 centres with 600 courts and over 35,000 players. Expansion from this base led to estimates that there were nearly 7,000 courts in around 1,300 clubs by the mid-nineties. (An early centre in Nurnberg pictured). [Deutscher Squash Verband e.V.](#)



The historic Jeu de Paume Club in central Paris is located on the top floor of a building between the Arc de Triomphe and the Trocadéro.

The club originated in 1908, and replaced one of its Paume (real tennis) courts with four squash courts in 1927, at a time when squash (or squash rackets as it was then called), was almost unknown in France. These courts became the starting point for squash in the country.

One court had part of a sidewall replaced with glass and now opens into the club lounge. The club hosted some matches in the WSF Women's World Team Championship in 2016.

[Société Sportive du Jeu de Paume FFSquash - Fédération Française de Squash](#)



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 Hasselbach (left)."

GIBRALTAR

GREECE

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
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 Squash Petros Tzamaloukas](#)



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.-Cdr. Mike Answorth. The Seaforth Highlanders, whose first battalion is now garrisoning Gibraltar, have been among the keenest units on the squash court, their commanding officer, Lt.-Col. T. 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 H hours after choosing sudden death in the third game, having lost the first two. The scores were: — Lt.-Cdr. S. G. S. Pawle (R.N.V.R.) b W. K. Hoare (Gibraltar) 4-9, 5-9, 9-8, 9-6, 9-4, 11-Col. A. Robertson b W. M. Isola (Gibraltar) 5-9, 9-2, 9-5, 9-7, Cdr. J. Y. 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, 9-6, 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. Cussons 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. Wolfe-Murray of the Seaforth Highlanders 10-8, 5-9, 7-9, 10-9, 9-5.

GUYANA

Squash Library
27 January at 08:25 · 🌐

Squash was introduced in Guyana in 1965 when the Georgetown Club (below) added a squash court. A second court was added in 1976, and in the same year Georgetown Cricket Club built a court too.

Guyana has already provided several Caribbean Champions including five times women's winner Nicolette Fernandes (below). [Guyana Squash](#)



HONG KONG, CHINA

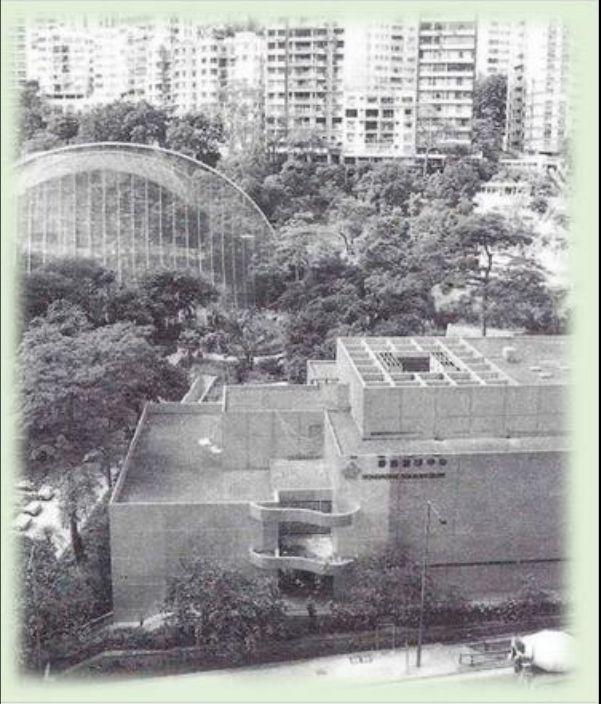
Squash Library
1 October at 07:43 · 🌐

Hong Kong Squash's federation was formed in 1961, spearheading the growth of public courts from that point, and this week have celebrated their 60th anniversary at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. At the ceremony Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, presented the "Excellence Leadership Award" to David Mui, Hong Kong Squash President, in appreciation of his tremendous contribution in developing squash in Hong Kong over the past two decades (pic). [Hong Kong Squash](#)



Squash Library
2 May · 🌐

Squash was first played in Hong Kong when two rackets courts were converted into six squash courts at Victoria Barracks, thought to be during the 1920's. The British Army built a few more but squash really began to expand in the 1960s after the Hong Kong SRA was formed in 1961, public courts opened. Then in the 1970's a real boom started by the start of the Island Club (Host of the early Hong Kong Opens), and then in 1986 with the opening of the 18 court Hong Kong Squash Centre (on the site of the demolished Victoria Barracks). Since then the number of courts has risen to 500+ now, and a number of World & Asian Senior & Junior Championships have been staged in Hong Kong, China.



HUNGARY

Squash Library
29 January · 🌐


City Squash Club was the first squash club in Hungary, opened in 1991 in central Buda district of Budapest. Only two years later it held a PSA event, the Budapest Open.

From those four initial courts Hungary now has around 150 courts in 63 different locations. The city of Szeged staged the World University Squash Championships in 2006, and since then Hungary has hosted four Junior, Club and Team European Championships. [The European Squash Federation](#)[Hungarian Squash](#)[City Squash & Fitness Club FISU](#)

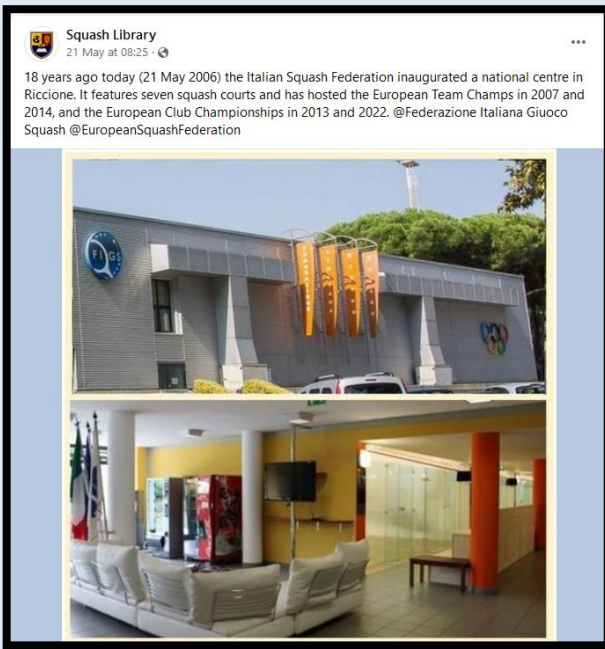


Squash Library
1 May at 08:28 · 🌐

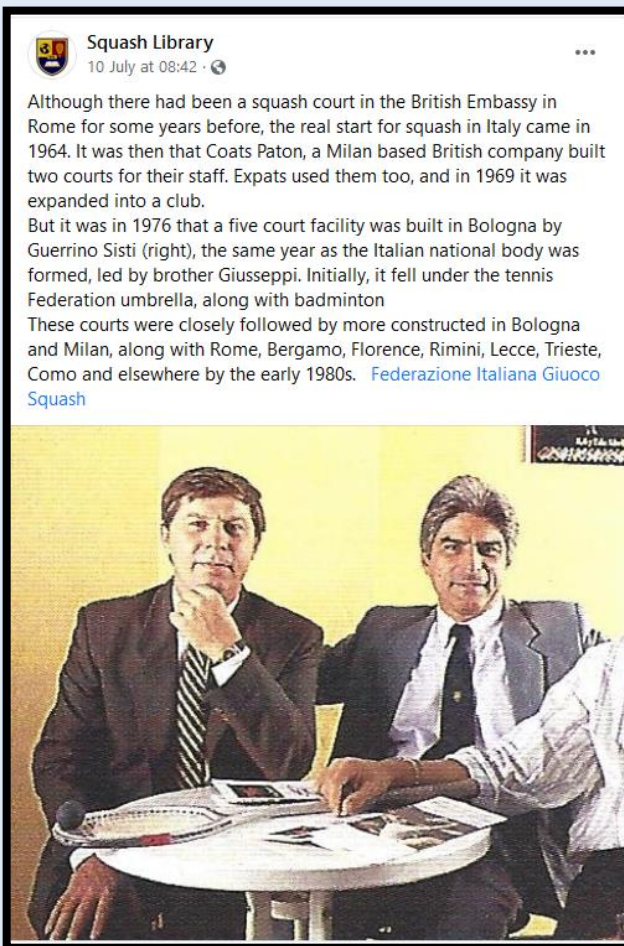
Before clubs arrived in Hungary, the first court in the country was built at the Duna-International Hotel in 1979, an initiative by the manager who felt that such a prestigious hotel must have one! Hungary became the 25th European Federation member in 1990. (The hotel re-opened as a Marriott in 1994, and the court was re-purposed but clubs sprung up in the country after the single court start). [European Squash Federation](#)



ITALY



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](#)



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](#)



KENYA


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




Squash Library
22 August at 08:41 · 🌐

The inaugural meeting of the Kenya Squash Rackets Association was held at the Parklands Sports Club, Nairobi, 71 years ago today on 22nd August, 1952. Fourteen club representatives were present. A draft constitution was unanimously approved and an executive committee appointed, headed by first President: Mr. J. D. Melhuish. [Kenya Squash Rackets Association](#)



Squash Library
20 June · 🌐

When the Olympic Games came to Tokyo in 1964, the British Embassy, possessing one of the only two courts in the country at the time, provided an opportunity to a number of overseas Games visitors to play squash. Thirty years later the nation was hosting the biggest prize money events worldwide – JSM SuperSquash.



Squash Library
24 January · 🌐

Around 1950 a few English expats built an open-air squash court on the slopes of Mount Kenya, the highest peak in the country, and which went on to give its name to the country as a whole. The officials 'station' where it was built was over 6,000ft high, and so cool, despite being only five miles from the equator. Note the platform for viewing over the backwall. Quite how fast the ball of the time was at this altitude is an interesting unknown! [Kenya Squash Rackets Association](#)



KUWAIT


Squash Library
4 April at 08:48 · 🌐

The beginnings of playing squash in Kuwait date back to 1948, when the Kuwait Oil Company built 4 squash courts in Al-Ahmadi City, Kuwait.

Then, in 1950, the Ministry of Education in Kuwait built 4 squash courts in Shuwaikh Secondary School, then the Ministry built several other squash courts in several secondary schools to serve students and families living next to these schools.

In 1967, the first two squash courts were built in Al-Qadisiyah Sports Club. The Ministry supervising sports in Kuwait built squash courts, successively, in the sports clubs in Kuwait. This was the start of the game at the popular level in Kuwait.

The Kuwait Federation was formed in 1968, became a World Federation member in 1975; a year later debuting at the 1976 Men's World Team Championship in England. (The squad, pictured from left: Munther Al-Mutara (Manager), Nasir Saleh, Sabir Suidan, Abdulkareem Atiya). [Kuwait Squash Federation](#)



LITHUANIA

Squash Library
19 February · 🌐

Klaipeda, a port city, is the birthplace of squash in Lithuania. The Jurando Sveikatingumo Centras opened two squash courts in 1998. Since then courts have opened in the capital Vilnius, as well as Kaunas, Siauliai and Druskininkai.

Lithuania participated in their first European Team Championship when they sent a team to the European Nations Challenge Cup Tallinn in 2005. [SquashLTThe European Squash Federation](#)



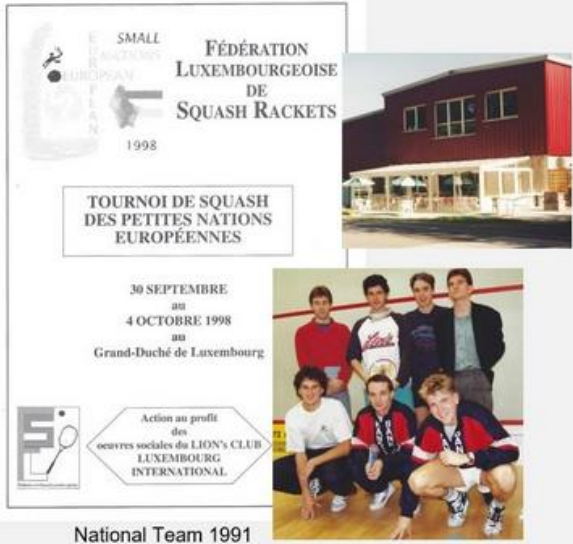
LUXEMBOURG

Squash Library
17 May at 08:50 · 🌐

A club, Squash Club Luxembourgeois, was initiated in 1972, and opened in March 1973 - the first court in Luxembourg in a converted barn in Findel. Squash became more widely established when a new four court club was built at Cloche d'Or in 1978, which was preceded by the formation of the Luxembourg Squash Federation in 1975.

These and other courts came and went, but at the start of the 1990s the focal point of squash in the Grand Duchy became and remains in Sandweiler with the opening of the eight court Top Squash facility (pic).

The first of its hostings of European events came in 1989 & 1990 with the European Club Championships, followed by the then called the European Small Nations Tournament in 1998.




National Team 1991

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](#)



MAURITIUS

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](#)



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](#)



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


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](#)




Squash Library
21 April · 🌐

Squash first came ashore in New Zealand in the city of Christchurch, on the South Island. It was a wooden court built around 1907. The Christchurch Club replaced it with a standard one in 1928. Meanwhile, North Island saw its' first court in 1913, when the national capital had one built in Government House. It is still there (pictured), but used for Government House storage now. Following on from the national federation being created in 1932, New Zealand has been a force in squash, their nearly one thousand courts producing world Champions Susan Devoy and Ross Norman, as well as multiple hosting of World Championships, the next being the WSF Men's World Teams 2021 in Tauranga. [Squash New Zealand](#)



Squash Library
5 April at 08:25 · 🌐

This year marks 50 years since H.R.H. Prince Claus of the Netherlands opened new courts at The Hague in 1974, as squash began to expand in that country. Openings followed soon after in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Blicum and Breda. He is being shown a ball by club President / 1st ESF President Lou Zandvliet. [HSRC SquashSquash Bond Nederland](#)



NEW CALEDONIA



Squash Library

5 February at 08:34 · 🌐



The first courts in the South Pacific archipelago of New Caledonia was built in the capital Noumea in 1976. The four court complex - Squash Club Calédonien (early pic) - has been followed by six courts at Olympique and three at Dumbia.

Only three years later in 1979 New Caledonia entered the South Pacific Games (now called Pacific Games) in Suva, Fiji, and after the Oceania Squash Federation was formed in 1992, the New Caledonia Men's Team became the first Oceania Championship winners in 1993.
[Ligue Calédonienne de Squash](#)



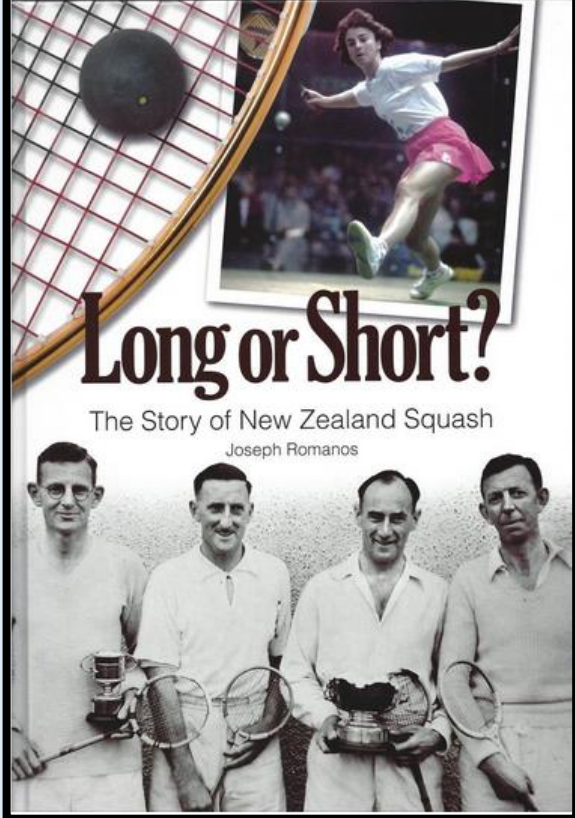
Squash Library

10 April at 09:03 · 🌐



The Christchurch Club, on the corner of Worcester St and Latimer Square, had a court built in about 1907.....it proved extremely popular.

So said 'Long or Short?', the story of New Zealand Squash, a beautifully produced hardcover book, running to over 300 pages; written in bite sized chunks much like newspaper articles about the players, places and so much more, by Joseph Romanos, one of New Zealand's leading sports journalists. For information go to:
www.nzsquash.co.nz/about-squash-nz/history-book.cfm
Squash New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND

NIGERIA



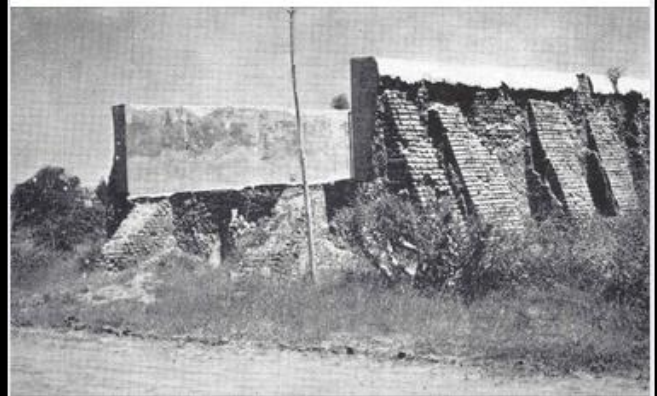
Squash Library

26 October at 08:41 · 🌐



Squash courts in Nigeria can be traced by to the 1930's where, for example, two courts were built in Kaduna, and others in Lagos. Not all were built to standard specifications though. The court at Bauchi (pictured) was half as wide again as standard and had an entrance (not a door) half way along the right side wall! One in Potiskum was built entirely of red mud to merge with surrounding huts.

But growth followed in facilities, standards and coaching too. By 1970 there were already a few dozen court in the Lagos area, including four at the well-appointed Ikoyi Club. Open championships began in 1973 with the Lagos State Open. Nigeria competed in the Men's World Team Championship for the first time in 1979.



NORWAY

Squash Library
29 July at 08:24 · 🌐

One court in the city of Stavanger, built in 1976 was where squash in Norway began. A further court arrived in Bergen a year later, but within two years courts came to Kristiansand and six at Baerum in the capital Oslo. It was then, on 20 December 1978 that the Norwegian Squash Federation was formed.

Almost immediately the first Norwegian men's team entered the European Team Championship 1979 in Hamburg.

The first team, L to R: Per Tyvand, David Dunsmuir, Alan Richardt, Tor J Honningstad, Gorn Bretteville-Jensen and Emil Steen. [Norges Squashforbund](#)



PAKISTAN

Squash Library
13 August · 🌐

Hashim Khan had already won the first four of his British Open titles when a national association was formed in Pakistan in 1954, initially primarily to liaise with overseas associations. It was said to have been inspired by the success of brothers Hashim & Azam Khan (seen here playing a British Open final). With government approval the Pakistan Squash Rackets Association came into being, with Commodore Khalid Jamil being elected as first President. [Pakistan Squash Federation](#)



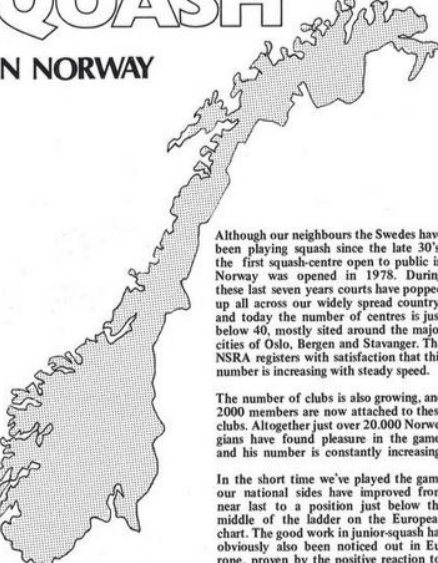
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Squash Library
28 September at 08:13 · 🌐

In 1986 the development of squash in Norway was reported by their Federation in this way: [European Squash Federation](#)

SQUASH

IN NORWAY



Although our neighbours the Swedes have been playing squash since the late 30's, the first squash-centre open to public in Norway was opened in 1978. During these last seven years courts have popped up all across our widely spread country, and today the number of centres is just below 40, mostly sited around the major cities of Oslo, Bergen and Stavanger. The NSRA registers with satisfaction that this number is increasing with steady speed.


The number of clubs is also growing, and 2000 members are now attached to these clubs. Altogether just over 20,000 Norwegians have found pleasure in the game, and his number is constantly increasing.

In the short time we've played the game our national sides have improved from near last to a position just below the middle of the ladder on the European chart. The good work in junior-squash has obviously also been noticed out in Europe, proven by the positive reaction towards the holding of these junior championships.

The NSRA was formed in 1979, and has since proven a good platform for the further development of the sport, especially on the administration side.

Squash Library
10 April at 08:11 · 🌐

In 1978 a court was built in Papua New Guinea at the Mosa Palm Oil Plantation. Constructed completely by local labour who had no idea what a squash court looked like, led by a confused construction manager, it was used by employees and residents in the nearby town of Kimbe. [PNG Squash Federation](#)



PARAGUAY

Squash Library
8 October at 08:36 · 🌐

Squash in Paraguay seemingly started when English contractors in the northern town of Puerto Casado included a court in their tannin factory. But the real beginning came with three courts at the Club Internacional Club de Tenis in 1987. Other courts were added in capital Asunción, which included a National Centre in 2013 which has 4 courts, one of them with a movable (doubles) wall and a 3 glass walls centre court. This Centre has hosted the PanAm Junior Championships in 2017 as well as the PSA Tour Men's Paraguay Open Club, which began in 2009 at the Internacional Club de Tenis. [Asociación Paraguaya de Squash](#)



Asociación Paraguaya de Squash

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

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 Olympic Committee President Federico Franco; Paraguayan Olympic Committee President Camilo Perez; and Paraguay Squash Association President Marcos Vaisenbrut. [Squash Paraguay](#)



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 Algosabi, the father of Hisham Algosabi (pic) a leading light of the Qatar Squash Federation over many years. [Qatar Squash Federation](#)



ROMANIA

Squash Library
23 February at 08:45 · 🌐

Romania's first squash court, a single one in the French Quarter of Bucharest, was built in 1994. As more courts came on stream, in 2011 a Romanian Squash Association was formed headed by George Constantinescu, with the first national championship taking place in October 2012.

Romania participated for the first time in a European Team Championship in 2015 in Slovenia (Pic L to R: Cristian Stroe, Andrei Luchian, Ollie Olabinri [coach], Vasile Hapun, George Constantinescu, Horia Naumescu).

Since then, after hosting the European Team Division 3 in 2015, Romania began an annual PSA event, and in 2019 organized the European Individual Championship. Public promotion has taken place at Park Lake Shopping Center in Bucharest (pic), and from one court there are now twenty clubs in the country. [The European Squash Federation](#)



RUSSIA

Squash Library
16 March at 09:47 · 🌐

When Russia became the 63rd member of the WSF in 1991 (then still called ISRF), it covered eight of the fifteen Soviet Republics then existing: Russia, Byelorussia, Latvia, Ukraine, Estonia, Uzbekistan, Georgia and Moldova. The Russian Federation President at the time of joining was Dr Vasily Borisov (pic).



Squash Library
19 June · 🌐

Until 1987, the only court in Russia was to be found in the Indian Embassy in Moscow (pic). But in that year Russian players could start to play on a court at the Physical Culture Centre of Club Prometey. Three years later in 1990 the Russian Federation was formed and further courts reached the city of Krasnoyarsk, Moscow and St. Petersburg.


In 1992 Russia began international participation, sending a team to the European Junior Championships in Norway.



ST VINCENT & GRENADINES


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](#)



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 became 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 - CKBOŠ Asocijacija Srbije](#)



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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 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](#)



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](#)



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](#)



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](#)



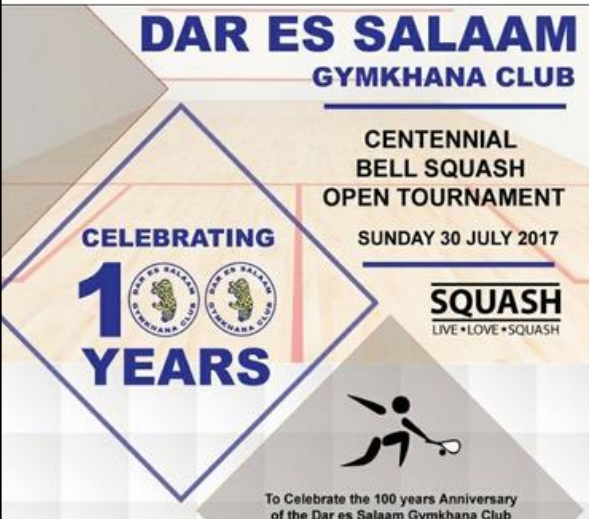
TANZANIA

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](#)



DAR ES SALAAM GYMKHANA CLUB

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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

Squash Library
23 February · 🌐

Thailand's first squash court was built in 1895 at the Chiang Mai Gymkhana Club - made entirely from teak! The court was demolished in 1985 after 90 years of use. The Royal Bangkok Sports Club (pic, top) opened in 1908, with the first squash competition played on teak in Chang Mai in 1911. Another early facility was the British Club (pic, bottom). Squash is played on around 100 courts now, and has a long history in Thailand. [Thailand Squash Rackets Association \(TSRA\)](#)



Squash Library
13 February at 09:17 · 🌐

The start of squash in Turkey seems to have come at the Hilton Hotel in Istanbul, where in 1980 two courts were built. Initial expansion came in member clubs and hotels, including Istanbul's Hillside Club which introduced six courts in 1990; but more recently the breadth of facilities has expanded substantially, including at least 15 universities adding squash to their sites, along with a number of public courts. By 2005 there were already around one hundred courts in the country. The Turkish Squash Federation first came into being in 2003, and the nation first started sending teams to European Nations Challenge Cup in 2005.



UGANDA

Squash Library
18 January at 09:15 · 🌐

In the 1940s Uganda had courts in the three main towns of Kampala, Jinga 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 Ugandan 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 Makerete 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](#)





URUGUAY

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



Squash Library
23 October at 09:24 · 🌐

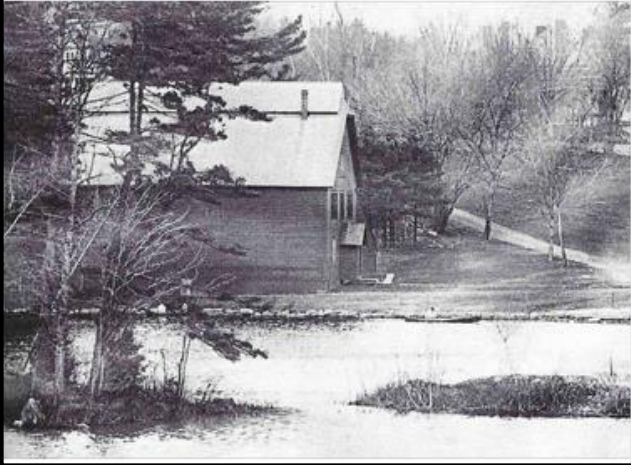
A look at unofficial American ranking produced in 1936 gives an indication of where squash was strongest in USA. Only one player, Andrew Ingraham from Cleveland, bucked the trend. (Pictured, Germain Glidden, US National Champion 1936,7,8). [US SQUASH](#)

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 Federacion 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 · 🌐

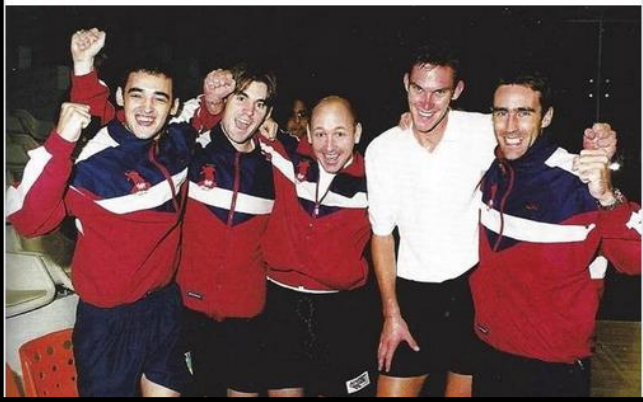
Go back to 1937 and squash in Wales consisted on one Club in the south of the country - Cardiff Squash Club - which had just built its first two courts, and a country club in the north of the country. A year later Wales formed a national federation as three more courts were built in separate locations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

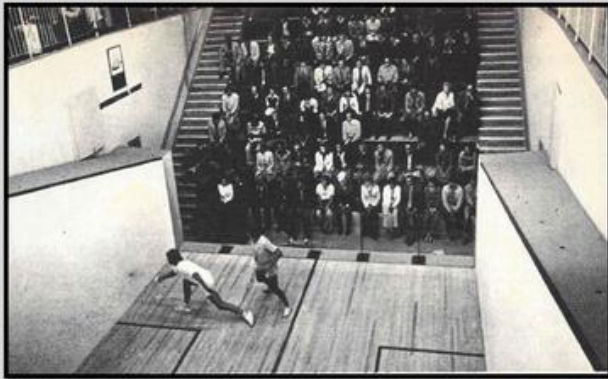
19 July · 🌐



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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