

LIBRARY DAILY POSTING INDEX: OBITUARIES

Year	Month	Day	(features, bold)
2020	Mar	28	Azam Khan (PAK, past Champion)
2020	May	30	Susie Simcock (NZL, former WSF Pres)
2020	Aug	26	Stuart Hailstone (RSA, player)
2020	Nov	16	Jade Wilson (NZL, suicide 1998)
2021	Jan	15	Hany Hamouda (EGY, African Fed President)
2021	Mar	19	Dick Hawkey (ENG, author 1991)
2021	Apr	09	HRH Duke of Edinburgh
2021	May	12	Sergio Rodriguez (Pan-America) 2011
2021	May	24	John Le Lievre
2021	June	20	Dicky Rutnagur (journalist)
2021	Aug	18	Hashim Khan (PAK, past Champion)
2021	Sept	01	Philip Van Der Ven (ESF Pres & WSF VP)
2021	Sept	27	Torsam Khan (PAK, born 70 years ago)
2021	Nov	29	Fran Marshall (British Open winner 1961)
2021	Dec	03	Kevin Shawcross (World Amateur Cham 76)
2022	Jan	20	Paul Vear (administrator, Australia)
2022	Mar	16	Eleonora Sears (USA)
2022	Mar	23	Murray Day (former WSF President)
2022	June	20	Abdul Bari
2022	Aug	10	Dick Carter (Australia)
2022	Oct	26	Jack Herrick (USA)
2022	Nov	01	Clive Francis (ENG)
2022	Nov	17	Rex Bellamy (journalist)
2022	Dec	02	Dr Assem Allam (Sponsor)
2023	Jan	21	Tetsuya Kobayashi (Japan)
2023	Jan	30	Haridas Nair (Singapore)
2023	May	13	Jade Wilson (25 years)
2023	June	16	Mark Cowley (World 055 champ)
2023	July	29	Ahmed Safwat (Egypt)
2023	Aug	01	John Horry (SRA/ISRF sec)
2023	Aug	16	Geoff Kingscote, NZ squash 'father'
2023	Oct	06	Ibrahim Amin (Egypt)
2023	Oct	23	Malcolm Gilham (Masters winner)
2024	Apr	01	Lionel Robberds (Australia)
2024	Apr	15	Lenny Bernheimer (USA)
2024	July	24	Trevor Johnston (NZL)
2024	Nov	06	Gamal Awad (20 years)
2024	Nov	19	'Monty' Cumberbatch (Barbados)

Updated to 31 December 2024

2024

Squash Library
19 November at 08:23

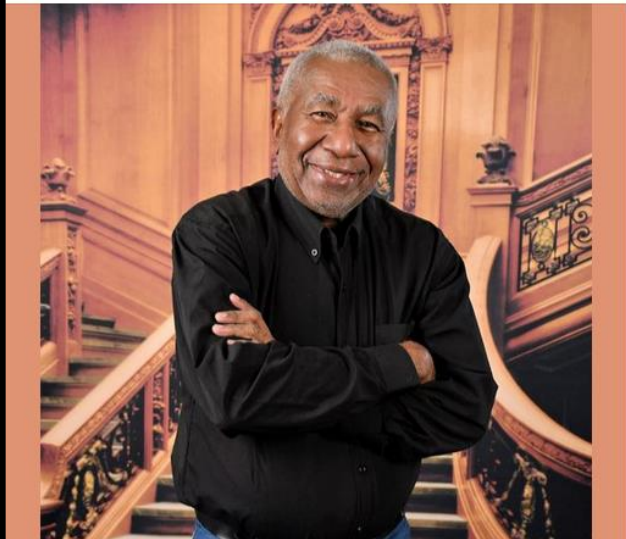
The Library was saddened to hear of the passing of 'William 'Monty' Cumberbatch, aged 70 two days ago.

Monty was well known both in Barbados but across the Caribbean and beyond. He managed Barbados teams in the region and indeed the Commonwealth Games most recently in 2022. Always affable and with a light touch.

His family has been a Barbados dynasty. All four of his sons (Gavin, Rhett, KhamaI and Bryant) played for both the national junior and senior squash teams on multiple occasions. Three of them were national squash champions at some point, and all four won multiple CASA (Caribbean Area) junior age group titles over the past three decades.

Monty was a well-respected statesman and administrator in both Barbados and Caribbean squash, and his passing has left a huge void right across the region. He was beloved by many. With condolences to his family, RIP Monty.

[Barbados Squash Club](#) [Federacion Panamericana de Squash](#)




Squash Library
6 November at 07:57

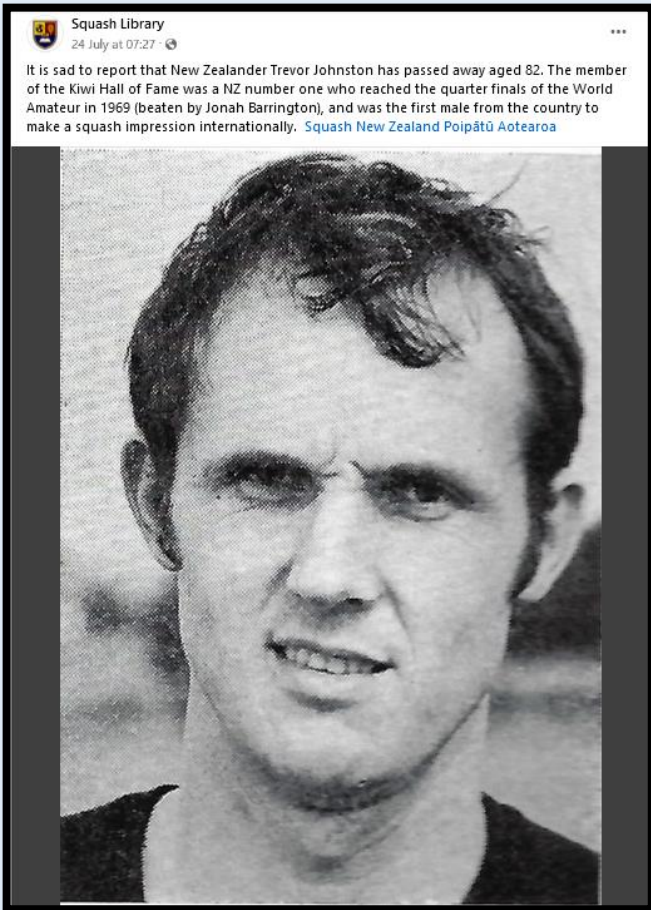
20 years ago today (6 Nov 2004) Egyptian player Gamal Awad died aged 49. From Alexandria, the 'rubber man' or 'grasshopper' was aptly described, summing up his extraordinary athleticism. Born 9 August 1955, Awad experienced early success, he won the Egyptian Under 13 title in 1968, and later crowned his amateur career by winning the British Amateur twice in 1978 and 79, beating Pakistanis Maqsood Ahmed and Atlas Khan (pic with trophy).

Turning pro, he came close to major titles but Geoff Hunt and the Jahangir Khan blocked him – including Hunt winning their British Open 1981 semi-final (where he was comforted by Abbas Kaoud - pic).

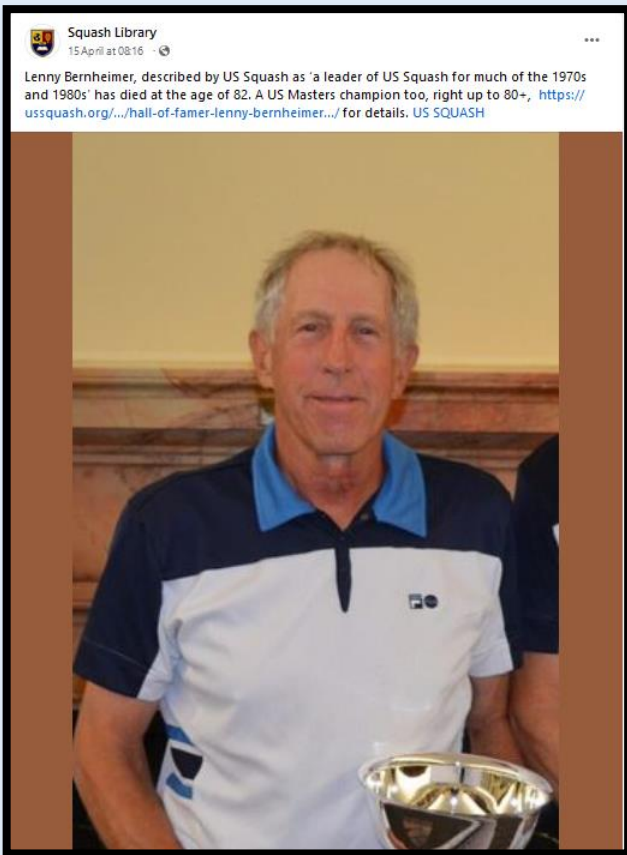
Famously, he tried to outlast Jahangir Khan in the 2 hour 46 minute four game Chichester Festival final in 1983, a match that he never really come back from.

An open, simple spirit, he did lose his way a little after retiring; coaching in England, Belgium, Greece and finally Alexandria, before being taken too young by a heart attack. Poignantly, he passed away on the day that Amr Shabana became the first Egyptian to reach a British Open final since he had done so in 1983. [Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للاسكواش](#) [IPSA Squash Tour](#)





2023



Squash Library
6 October at 08:00


The Library is saddened to report that Ibrahim Amin, one of the early 'greats' of Egyptian Squash, passed away last night. Born in Cairo in 1934, he took up the sport aged fourteen at the Alamein Club, and his early talent was clear when he won the Cairo Under 16 championship.

In 1955 he travelled to UK and won the British Amateur championship on his debut. This title was followed up by two runner-up spots in 1957 and 1958 before winning again in 1959, beating countryman Tawfik Shafik in the final. Another two years of losing finals followed.

In December 1964 he reached the British Open final, losing 3-1 to another star Egyptian Abdul Fattah Abou Taleb, who was winning the second of three consecutive titles.

When Egypt played in the 2nd Men's World Team Championship in England in 1969, tall and stylish Amin was their player manager.

Not surprisingly, as Amin combined charm with effectiveness, in 1972 he was appointed as Honorary Secretary of the Egyptian Association, and continued supporting and pushing Egyptian squash forward for many years afterwards. [Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش](#)




Squash Library
1 August

30 years ago in 1993, the 'Mr Squash' of his era died aged 87. Englishman John Horry MBE became the first full time CEO (then called Secretary) of the British SRA in 1955 when it was the unofficial world body, then doubled up as the first Secretary of the fledgling world body itself (ISRF) when it began in 1967. He held the ISRF position until he retired in 1975, having stepped down from the SRA three years earlier.

Managing all the duties on his own, he did take on assistants who would do a little work while being given the opportunity to train. Jonah Barrington was one, Tony Swift and Mike Corby amongst others too.

Only a modest player himself, his organisational skills and attention to detail enabled him to ensure that the management of what became a growing sport was in good hands. Irrascible at times, but with a drive and a generosity of spirit, John Horry was not only known by all, but respected by all too.

[World Squash Federation](#)[England Squash](#)




Squash Library
16 August at 08:23

Geoff Kingscote had a full life, which included being termed the father of New Zealand Squash. English born in 1888, he served in the first World War, and had been a regular player at the Bath Club in London before traveling to New Zealand to work and becoming their first national champion at Christchurch Club in 1932.

He did so having been credited with introducing the drop shot to the country!

A businessman, he found time to be the French Consular-General in Christchurch from 1934 and to command troops in the second world war. Oh, and in 1939 to become the first NZ SRA President! Photo courtesy Joseph Romanos from The Story of New Zealand Squash. [Squash New Zealand](#)
[Poipātū Aotearoa](#)




Squash Library
29 July at 08:29

Ahmed Safwat would have been 76 years old today, but 20 years ago today he died aged aged 56. The Egyptian professional had not realised that he had an enlarged heart, and died of heart failure.

Jonah Barrington summed him up so well, saying, 'He was a lovely man, a natural gentleman who was great to play – there was hardly ever a let. Everybody warmed to him, adults and youngsters alike.'

Reaching a career high ranking of seven in 1977, he continued playing Masters squash winning the British Open Over 35, and World Masters Over 40 and 50 titles.

[Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش](#)



Squash Library
16 June at 23:05 · 🌐

Mark Cowley, World Over 55 champion 2010, sadly died today (16 June), aged 68. The England senior international was hospitalised for several months having caught Covid at the start of the pandemic. Only narrowly surviving, being as tough in the fight as he was on court, his slow recovery was hampered by complications that finally caused his death.

A photograph of Mark Cowley, a middle-aged man with short grey hair, wearing a black t-shirt and black wristbands. He is standing on a squash court, smiling broadly with his right arm raised in a fist, celebrating a victory. The background shows the white walls and red lines of a squash court.

Squash Library
30 January at 08:25 · 🌐

Squash Library reports the death of Haridas Nair, aged 86. Hari, a quietly effective, tireless and genial administrator managed the Singapore Squash Association from 1980 to 1997 having been a teacher; and from 1986 to 1997 doubled up as Executive Director of the Asian Squash Federation. (Pic 2019). [Singapore Squash](#)

A portrait of Haridas Nair, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt. He is sitting in a dark leather chair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

Squash Library
14 May at 07:54 · 🌐

25 years ago today 1995 World Junior Champion Jade Wilson took her own life. The prodigiously talented New Zealander was aged only 21, the first New Zealander to win the World Junior. Even though her career was so short she was later inducted into the New Zealand Squash Hall of Fame. Sadly gone, but certainly not forgotten. [Squash New ZealandWorld Squash Federation](#)

A photograph of Jade Wilson, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling and holding a large silver trophy. She is wearing a black t-shirt and a necklace. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Squash Library
21 January at 08:51

Mr Tetsuya Kobayashi from Japan has passed away, aged 85. A genial businessman who became attracted to squash when seeing it, he was instrumental in supporting the development and profile of squash in Japan in the 1990s through his JSM (Japan Squash Merchandising Company). Not only did he build the Cote-A-Cote Squash Club in Yokohama, but constructed JSM glass and movable wall courts too.

During the period 1993 – 1995 period his Men's and Women's JSM SuperSquash events set the record for the largest Tour prize money at the time. He also supported the Women's Tour with WISPA sponsorship (he is seen here with Michelle Martin, 1993 & 94 winner). His death comes just before son Masaya opens a new three court club – all four-sided glass - in Kyushu this month. Japan Squash Association



Squash Library
2 December at 18:08

Dr Assem Allam sadly passed away today (2 Dec 2022) at the age of 83 after a prolonged illness. Heading Allam Marine, he took over the sponsorship of the British Open in 2012 with that year being played at the O2 in London. It then relocated to Hull, where he had lived since 1986, with the 10th edition taking there earlier this year; and so eclipsing the nine sponsored by Hi-Tec ending in 1994.

A squash enthusiast as well as a supporter, all event players would remember him sitting in the front row at almost all matches, and genially welcoming them off court at the end of their matches. Squash has lost a great man and great benefactor.

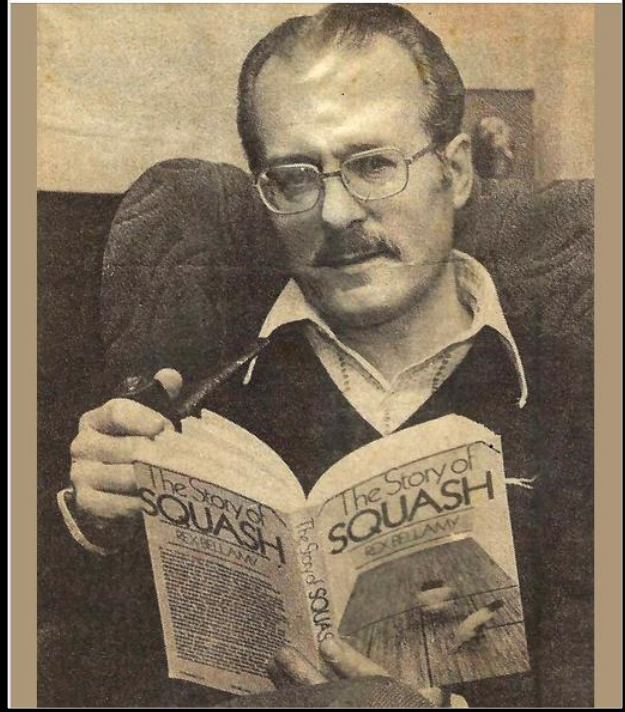
(Dr Allam seen here with the 2022 winners) [British Open Squash](#)



Squash Library
17 November at 16:35

Sadly, Rex Bellamy (pictured), the leading squash writer, died today aged 94. Living in Midhurst UK, he was an international award-winning tennis journalist, but a keen squash player too; and was the Times Newspaper (UK) tennis and squash correspondent for over two decades. Bellamy's book, the Story of Squash, was a comprehensive telling of the history of the sport, and he was the joint author of Teach Yourself Squash Rackets.

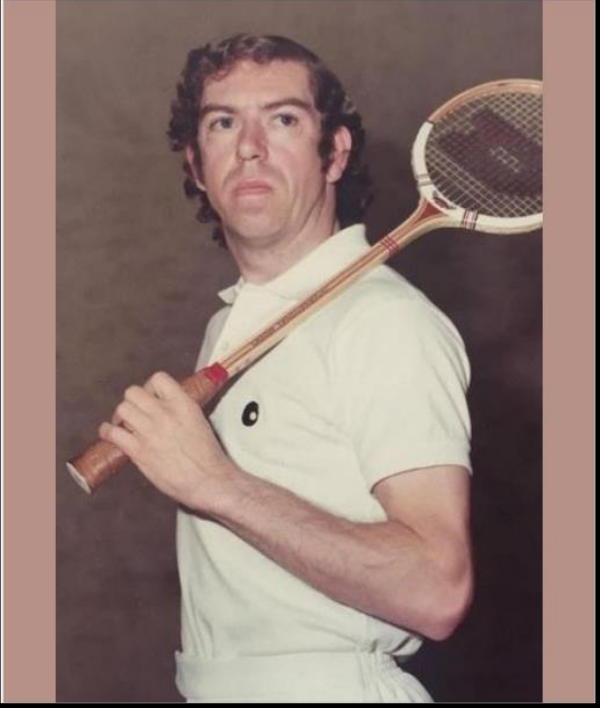
But it is as a much-travelled tennis and squash c... See more



2022

Squash Library
1 November at 18:00 · 🌐

Clive Francis, a leading British player and coach, has died this week, aged 81. From Lancashire, he won the British Professional Championship in 1968, and had a hand in the development of many players, including Philip Kenyon, David & Bryan Pearson, Rebecca Best, Barry Watkins and Leslie Moore.



Squash Library
10 August at 21:08 · 🌐

Richard 'Dick' Carter, a member of the Australian team which won the first three World Team Championships (1967, 69 and 71) has sadly passed away, aged 83. Carter was also runner up to Aftab Jawaid & Jonah Barrington in the British Amateur in Jan 1966 & 67. Pic: (L to R) Cam Nancarrow, Carter, Geoff Hunt & Ken Hiscoe with the 1967 World Team Trophy. [Squash Australia](#)



Squash Library
20 June at 08:42 · 🌐

Abdul Bari, a distant relative of the 'Khan Dynasty' had been British Open runner up in 1950 when beaten by Mahmoud Karim.


Two years later he became the first Pakistani to become a professional coach in England when he was appointed by the Junior Carlton Club in London in 1952. But two years later on 9 December 1954 he died from a brain haemorrhage aged only 33.

Almost immediately a memorial match was arranged to raise funds for his wife and two year daughter.

Played on the Bruce Court at the Lansdowne Club in London, led by his family, all the Pakistani pros in UK came together to play a selected English team; the outcome being a comfortable win for the Pakistani pros, on a night when the result didn't matter.

Hashim Khan bt Roy Wilson 9-6, 9-4, 7-9, 9-1. Roshan Khan bt Jack Giles 9-2, 9-6, 7-9, 9-1. Azam Khan bt Alan Seymour-Haydon 9-5, 9-2, 9-4. Jamal Din bt Ian de Sales la Terriere 9-5, 3-9, 9-1, 9-0. Safirullah Khan bt Norman Borrett 9-5, 9-2, 9-4.

(Pic: L to R: Hashim Khan, Abdul Bari, Nasrullah Khan, Roshan Khan, Azam Khan)



Squash Library
26 October at 08:05 · 🌐

John F. Herrick, died yesterday (25 October) at the age of 84.

'Jack', as he was known, was the American President of PSA Men's Tour from 1994 to 2008, having spent decades at the vanguard of US Squash, including a term as President from 1982 - 1984.

He was the U.S. men's team manager at the World Championships four times, was a member of several World Squash Federation committees and served as commissioner of WPSA hardball tour from 1988 to 1993.

As one of the most influent... See more



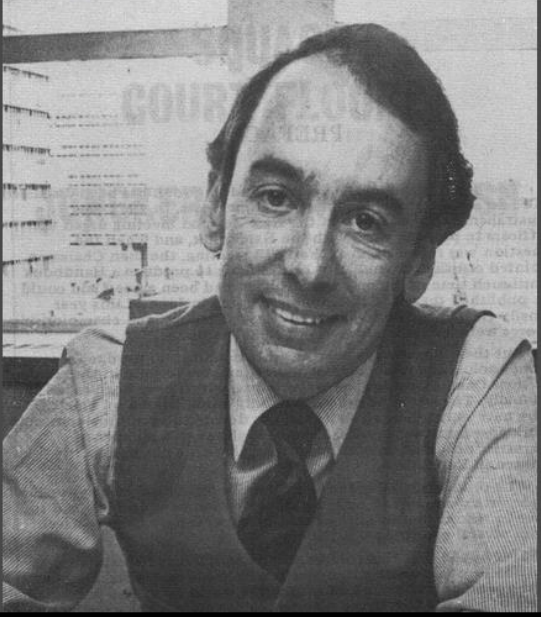
Squash Library
23 March · 🌐

New Zealander Murray Day, the second President of the WSF (then called ISRF) passed away at the age of 90 (18 March) in Waikato, NZL. Day took the helm of ISRF in 1975 when the head role was called Chairman, and such was his success in moving the body forward, the member nations voted to extend the maximum period in position from four to six years, so allowing him to serve until 1981.

He spearheaded the break from the sports' administration being UK-centric, streamlined communication, and modernised the sport.

Day presided over the game going 'open' (<http://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-abolishes...>), and started the process of amalgamating the management of men's and women's international bodies.

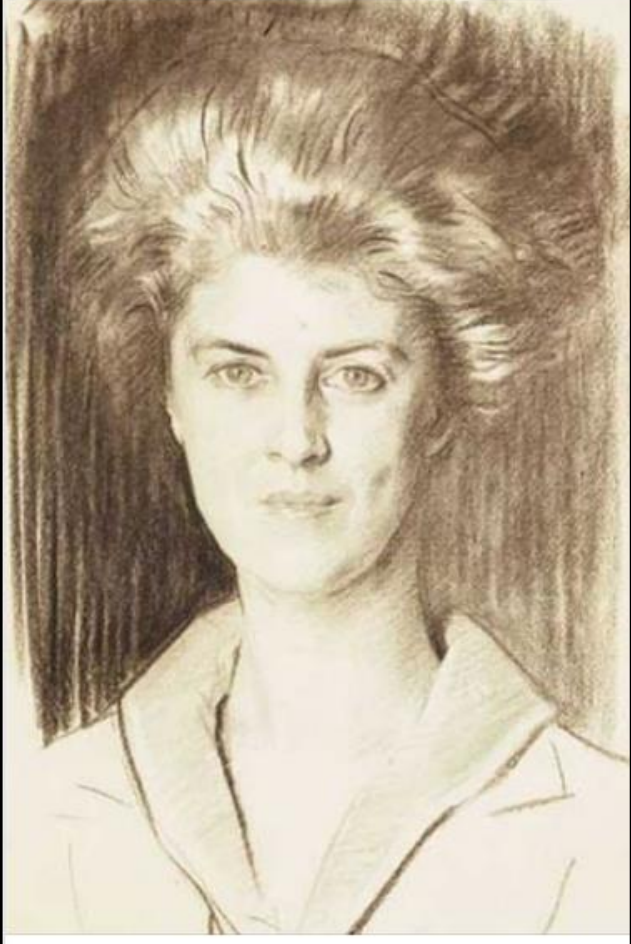
Genial and popular, the accountant maintained his enthusiasm for and interest in the development of squash throughout his life, and was married to Ann for 67 years. [Squash New ZealandWorld Squash Federation](#)



Squash Library
16 March at 08:37 · 🌐

On this day 54 years ago (16.03.68) Eleonora Sears died. She had become the first US Women's squash champion, at the age of 46 in 1928. She did so having been involved in the formation of the United States Women's Squash Racquets Association that year. She also captained early Wolfe Noel international matches (www.squashlibrary.info/post/wolfe-noel-challenge-cup) in its early years.

Thought to be one of the greatest all-round sportswomen of her era, her achievements included being inducted into the US Tennis Hall of Fame. [US SQUASH](#)





Squash Library

20 January at 23:25 · 🌐



Squash Library is very saddened to hear of the death of Paul Vear, the incomparable administrator and promoter from Australia for over 50 years.

It was he who masterminded the bringing of the World Men's & Women's Opens, Men's Team and Masters Championships to Melbourne in 2001, as well as being involved in the delivery of a number of other events including the Commonwealth Games in 2006, World Deaf and Australian Opens.

He was also a leading light in the promotion of Racketb... See more

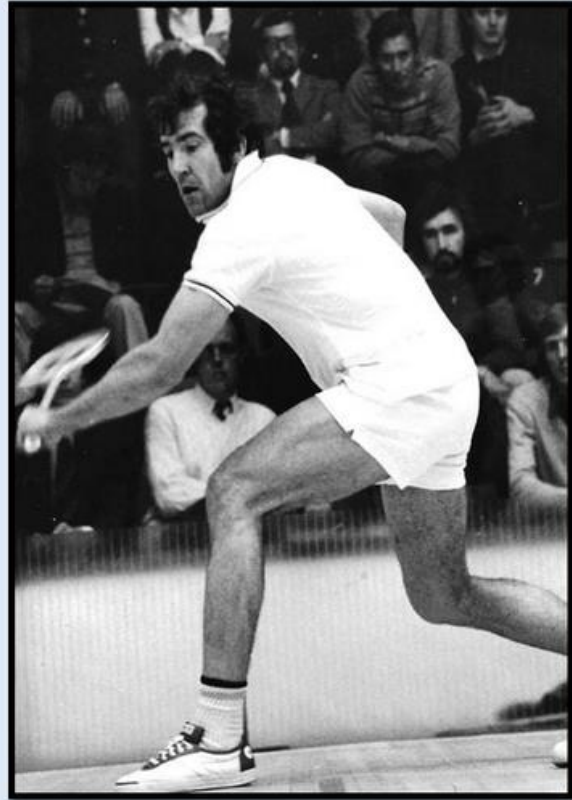


Squash Library

3 December at 08:39 · 🌐



On this day 34 years ago Australian Kevin Shawcross, World Amateur Champion in 1976, passed away at the age of 38. Born 3.12.1948, he had won the British Amateur title before turning professional, and the New Zealand Open in 1981 afterwards. Huge in talent, large in frame and also as a character; he died from a heart attack back home in Lithgow, NSW, leaving a mass of memories and stories about the player affectionately known as 'Herman'.



2021



Squash Library

29 November at 08:55 · 🌐

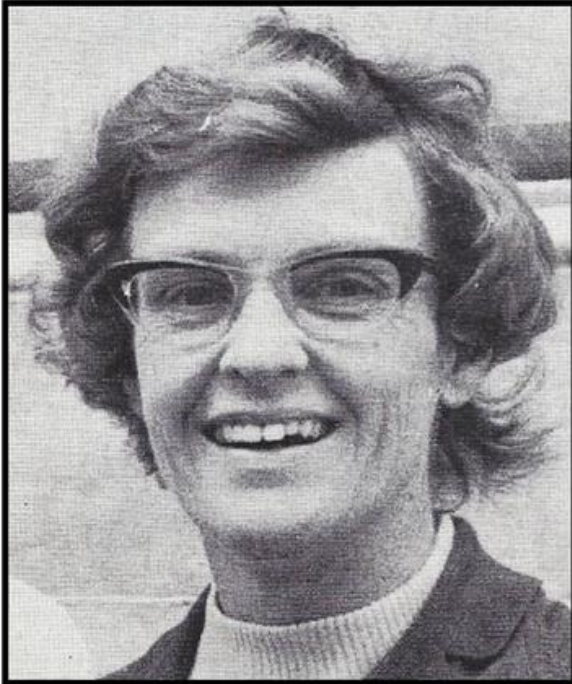


1961 Women's British Open champion Fran Marshall passed away aged 81 ten years ago. She was famous for being the last person to beat Heather McKay before the Australian went on an unbeaten streak in the sport that lasted an incredible sixteen years. The win was a 3/2 victory in the Scottish Open final 1962 which took an hour and a half to secure.

Marshall was also runner-up in the British Open five times and English number one for over ten years.

She had been raised in Kenya before returning to Yorkshire and, after her competitive retirement, coached before moving to Spain in 1983.

[England Squash](#)[British Open Squash](#)



Squash Library

1 September at 14:11 · 🌐



Philip Van Der Ven, President of the European Squash Federation (1999 – 2001) and Vice President of World Squash Federation (1992 – 1996) has passed away, aged 75. The Dutchman (20.09.1945 – 22.08.2021), suffered ill health in recent years, and leaves his wife Patricia, children and grandchildren. [World Squash Federation](#)[The European Squash Federation](#)[Squash Bond Nederland](#)



Squash Library

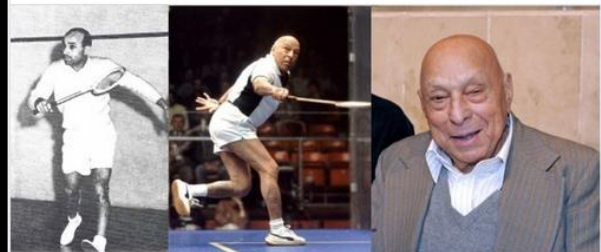
18 August at 08:53 · 🌐



Hashim Khan, a father figure of modern squash, died on this day (18 Aug) in 2014, just after what was believed to be his 100th birthday. Born near Peshawar in Pakistan (possibly on 1 July 1914, but he never had a birth certificate), Khan led his country's pre-eminent status in the sport in the 20th century. In the 1950s he won a then record seven British Open titles - his first in 1951 at an age when most players have long retired.

He moved to the USA in the 1960s and died at his Colorado home. He had been based at the Denver Athletic Club and was still giving advice from the gallery after finally hanging up his rackets aged 93.

Three phases of Hashim Khan's life (Middle: playing in the final of the British Open Vintage Over 65 in 1985). [Pakistan Squash Federation](#)



Later photos: Steve Line



Squash Library

27 September at 08:41 · 🌐



On this day 70 years ago (27.09.1951), Torsam Khan was born. Torsam, son of 1957 British Open winner Roshan Khan and brother of ten times British Open winner Jahangir Khan, tragically collapsed and died on court playing the Australian Open in Adelaide on 28 November 1979. The Rawalpindi born Pakistani was aged just 28.

Ranked 13 in the world at the time the engaging and popular player had already made his mark as a leader, having become President of ISPA (now PSA) nine months earlier.

(Torsam Khan seen here, foreground, playing Qamar Zaman in the 1978 British Open) [Pakistan Squash Federation](#)





Squash Library

20 June at 08:18 · 🌐



Eight years ago today (20 June 2013) Dicky Rutnagur, the highly-respected Indian-born British-based journalist who covered squash, badminton and cricket for the Daily Telegraph died in London aged 82. He also authored, Khans Unlimited – A history of Squash in Pakistan.

In an era before the reporting world changed with the advent of internet, Dicky Rutnagur was already a doyen of the craft. His encyclopaedic knowledge of squash players and championships, his direct and accurate mode of reportage - whether it be squash or his other love cricket – along with his wicked sense of humour, led Dicky to be held in the highest esteem by players, promoters and his publications alike.



Squash Library

24 May at 10:58 · 🌐



England international John Le Lievre (born 9 June 1956) died yesterday (23 May 2021) after lengthy suffering from Lewy Body Dementia disease.

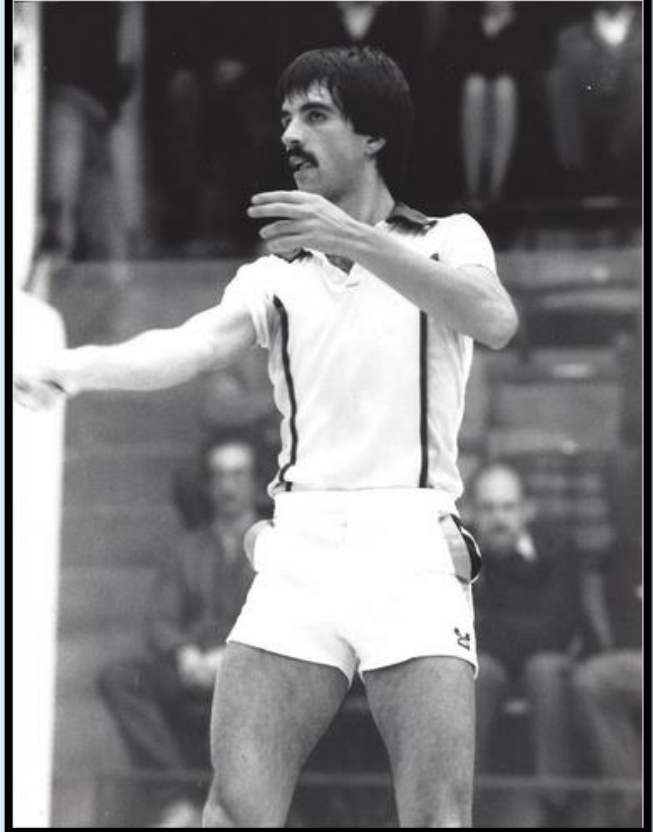
John was born on the island of Guernsey and represented England at both junior & senior level, winning 16 senior caps between 1977 – 1982.

Based in Nottingham, on court he will be remembered as a precise player who operated at very much his own pace, frustrating opponents, who reached 24 in the world. While off court he was genial, endearing and immensely popular.

The phrase 'nobody had a bad word to say about him' was so true of John Le Lievre.


He was Chairman of ISPA (former name of PSA) in 1983.

[Squash - PSA World Tour](#)



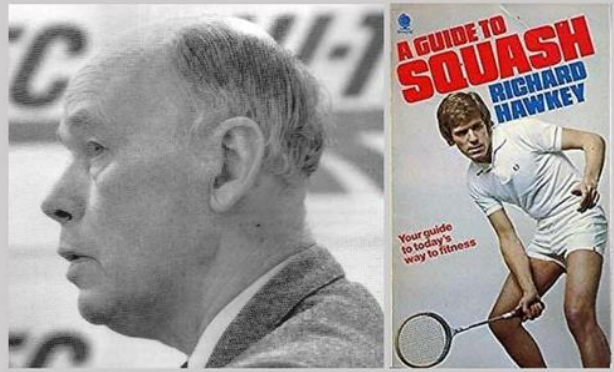
Squash Library
12 May at 09:03 · 🌐

Ten years ago this month squash lost Sergio Rodriguez Jaramillo, Founder and President of the Pan-American Squash Federation (FPS). He was aged 52 when he was killed in Medellin, Colombia. Rodriguez was a member of the Executive of the Colombian Olympic Committee - and later became Treasurer. His work both in the Olympic movement and in Squash made him an internationally respected sports leader. In lamenting the loss of Rodriguez, then WSF President N Ramachandran said: "The untimely death of Sergio Rodriguez is a great shock and a terrible tragedy. First and foremost for his loved ones, but squash and sport in general has lost a great friend whose contribution has been enduring. He will be greatly missed." [Federacion Panamericana de Squash](#)



Squash Library
19 March at 08:44 · 🌐

Thirty years ago today (19.03.91), the most prolific author of squash books died aged 67. Richard (Dick) Hawkey wrote over a dozen playing, coaching and refereeing books, along with booklets and magazine articles during the 1960's and 70s, with later updating. He was a British squash international then later a school teacher.



Squash Library
9 April at 13:41 · 🌐

The sad news of the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh today, reminds of the recent Library feature on his support & involvement in squash, which he played. It is at <https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../h-r-h-prince-philip...>



SQUASHLIBRARY.INFO
H.R.H Prince Philip was President of the British Squash Rackets Association

Squash Library
15 January at 17:55 · 🌐

Squash Library has learned with great sadness of the passing of Hany Hamouda today, from Covid. Hany was a leader of squash in Alexandria, Egypt nationally as was President of the African Federation too. But more than this a lovely, kind man. Hany, who I first met in 1980 is a huge loss to our world. RIP, Andrew [World Squash Federation](#) [Egyptian Squash Federation](#) - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش



2020

Squash Library
16 November at 08:40 · 🌐

The world of squash lost a great talent tragically early when seemingly sparkling New Zealander Jade Wilson took her own life aged just 21 in May 1998. Wilson, won the World Junior title in 1995 in Sydney, Australia, had already reached the Women's World Top 20, and had been selected for the 1998 Commonwealth Games. In 2013, Squash New Zealand recognised her achievements and burgeoning talent and inducted her into the New Zealand Squash Hall of Fame. [Squash New Zealand](#)

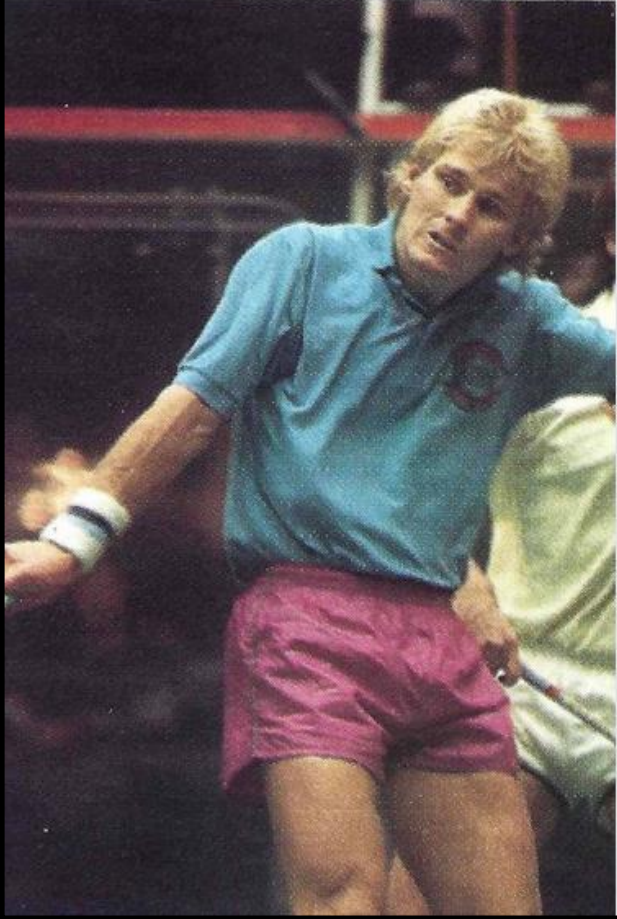
A portrait of Jade Wilson, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling and holding a large silver trophy. She is wearing a black top and a necklace.

Squash Library
26 August · 🌐

The Library has been saddened to hear that Stuart Hailstone (DofB: 12.04.1962) has died due to a stroke sustained in hospital while recovering from sepsis.

Stuart was born in South Africa, raised in Zimbabwe, and was England based during his squash career, reaching a World ranking high of 14 (August 1987).

Following the end of apartheid he represented South Africa in the Men's World Team Championship 1993. RIP.

An action shot of Stuart Hailstone playing squash. He is wearing a light blue polo shirt and pink shorts, looking intently at the ball.

Squash Library
30 May · 🌐

The Library is very saddened by the news that Susie Simcock, past President of WSF, has passed away aged 82. The New Zealander, universally regarded as a 'very special person' had a formidably fulfilling life. A Library appreciation is here www.squashlibrary.info/post/susie-simcock World Squash Federation

A portrait of Susie Simcock, a woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top.



Squash Library

28 March · 🌐

...

Squash has lost a great champion to Coronavirus, with the announcement of the death of Azam Khan in London today, aged 95.

Azam, younger brother of Hashim Khan, won four consecutive British Open titles (1959-62) as well as being runner up to Hashim in three earlier finals, after travelling to UK from Pakistan in December 1952.

A true great who had his on-court career cut short by an Achilles tendon injury, and a real gentleman off the court.

In 2008 at the World Championships, Hashim and Azam (right) received Lifetime Achievement Awards, and they are pictured together, (Azam, left) during their period of dominance.

Squash Library sends condolences to his family on his passing, a great loss for squash too.

