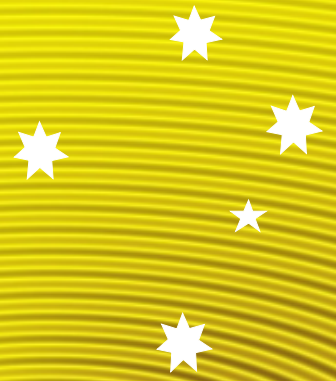




# Squash PLAYER



## MAKING HEADLINES

This publication aims to capture and celebrate the success of **Australian Squash Players** at major and professional events around the world.

This year's highlights were without doubt the gold medal winning performances of our athletes at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



Australian athletes captured two doubles titles with former World Champion David Palmer involved in both.

Palmer partnered with Cameron Pilley to win the Men's Doubles and Rachael Grinham to win the Mixed Doubles.

Coerced out of retirement to boost the Aussie team, Palmer finally captured that elusive gold medal he had been chasing for so long.

In the four Commonwealth Games before Glasgow, Palmer had captured a record 6 medals but none of them were gold.

Palmer's gold medal haul in Glasgow was a fitting end to a fantastic career.

**Zac Alexander**  
**Kasey Brown**  
**Lisa Camilleri**  
**Mike Corren**  
**Ryan Cuskelly**  
**Steven Finitzis**  
**Rachael Grinham**  
**Matthew Hopkin**  
**Christine Nunn**  
**David Palmer**  
**Cameron Pilley**  
**Donna Urquhart**

# THANK YOU



**Aussie Squash Player** has been created and compiled by **Kim Schramm**.

**ASP** would like to thank the following main contributors: **Nathan Clarke** and **Howard Harding**.

Both internationally renowned writers have agreed for **ASP** to reprint their weekly reports to form a collection of Aussie stories.

Their awesome articles are truly appreciated. They keep the world squash community well informed with event news and results.

**ASP** would also like to thank the PSA and WSA for all the information and photos used in this publication.

Thanks also to all the athletes, promoters, photographers and reporters who may have provided information and photos to the PSA and WSA.

# INSPIRE



**ASP** aims to inspire the next generation of Aussie Squash Players to strive toward success and **make headlines**.

The **ASP** collection forms a yearly summary of Aussie success stories ... our very own Squash Annual.

**ASP** is also a vehicle for athletes and promoters to thank and show support for their sponsors.

**ASP** is a FREE publication. Please send it on to anyone you consider might like to receive it. Should you wish to receive it directly each time it is updated please send your request to the email below.

Likewise if you have anything you would like to contribute please feel free to send your information to:

[kim@queenslandsquashmanagement.com.au](mailto:kim@queenslandsquashmanagement.com.au)

# WORLD RANKINGS



## Aussie Top 10

1 January 2015



<b>MEN:</b>	<b>TM:</b>	<b>HWR:</b>	<b>WOMEN:</b>	<b>TM:</b>	<b>HWR:</b>
Cameron Pilley	17	11	Rachael Grinham	13	1
Ryan Cuskelly	46	27	Donna Urquhart	36	13
Rex Hedrick	56	54	Lisa Camilleri	54	28
Steven Finitzis	60	45	Sarah Cardwell	56	51
Zac Alexander	94	36	Christine Nunn	57	57
Matthew Hopkin	99	99	Tamika Saxby	69	55
Joshua Larkin	150	139	Jessica Turnbull	91	82
Rhys Dowling	165	161	Lakeesha Rarere	96	96
Thomas Calvert	198	198	Selena Shaikh	110	101
Darcy Evans	233	233	Jasmine Chan	119	119

## 2014 Titles

Zac Alexander	PSA Challenger 5: Rochester Pro-Am	Winner
	PSA Challenger 5: Greenwich Challenger	Winner
	PSA Challenger 5: National Squash Academy Open	Winner
Mike Corren	PSA Challenger 5: Top End Open	Winner
	PSA Challenger 5: NT Open	Winner
	PSA Challenger 5: Golden Open	Winner
Ryan Cuskelly	PSA Challenger 10: Phoenix Open	Winner
	PSA Satellite: Australian Closed	Winner
Steven Finitzis	PSA Challenger 15: Loch Ness Challenger	Winner
Rachael Grinham	WSA Tour 15: Calgary Squash Week	Winner
	Commonwealth Games	Gold Medal
	WSA Tour 5: Caboolture Open	Winner
	WSA Super Challenger: Australian Closed	Winner
Matthew Hopkin	PSA Challenger 5: Shepparton International	Winner
	PSA Challenger 5: Caboolture Open	Winner
Christine Nunn	WSA Tour 5: NSW Open	Winner
	WSA Tour 5: Queensland Open	Winner
David Palmer	Commonwealth Games	Gold Medal
	Commonwealth Games	Gold Medal
Cameron Pilley	Commonwealth Games	Gold Medal
Donna Urquhart	WSA Tour 15: Victorian Open	Winner



## Comeback Player of the Year Award

The WSA Awards were staged during the Penang CIMB Women's World Championship at the SPICE Arena in Penang.



Australia's **Lisa Camilleri** won the Vicki Cardwell Comeback Player of the Year award.

"I am very proud and honoured to win the 2013 comeback player of the year award," said the 31-year-old former world No28 from Queensland.

"It is so nice to be recognized for such a hard slog back it's been. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped me come back - my physio, doctors, coaches, family and friends. I was so surprised but very happy to receive the WSA award."

**BACKGROUND:** In June 2011 Lisa Camilleri was on cloud nine. The Queenslander had won 18 professional titles and had risen to a career high 28 on the WSA World Rankings.

Then tragedy struck! Playing in a tournament in Malaysia, Camilleri sustained a cruel career threatening ankle injury.

Despite wanting to do everything possible to make a speedy return to the court, every treatment Camilleri tried ended in despair. Eventually she had no choice but to undergo surgery. It was a mighty risk because it had the potential to end her career!

Camilleri went "under the knife" in June 2012. She then worked extremely hard on her rehabilitation and was eventually given the green light to begin training again. She set her sights on returning to the court for the 2013 Australia Day Challenge. Camilleri reached the final at her first major appearance back but had to wait until October that year to once again win a title.

After winning the Queensland Open there was no stopping her. Camilleri went on to win another 2 tournaments and took her world ranking from 230 at the start of the year to 43 by the end.

### Major Sponsors



**harrow**

Natalie Grainger FURY 145g



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission





## Rachael Racks Up Title No33 In Calgary

**WSA Tour 15 Final: 28m**

**[1] Rachael Grinham (AUS) bt [2] Joey Chan (HKG) 11-8, 11-7, 11-9**

Australia's former world number one **Rachael Grinham** rolled back the years to claim her 33rd Women's Squash Association World Tour title in 16 years when she beat Hong Kong's Joey Chan in the final of the Calgary CFO Consulting Services WSA Women's Squash Week in Calgary in the Canadian province of Alberta.

Top seed Grinham, who celebrated her 37th birthday earlier this year, reached the climax of the WSA Tour 15 event at the Calgary Winter Club without dropping a game.

Chan, the second seed who was just nine years old when Grinham began her formidable WSA Tour title run at the Toulouse Open in March 1998, also made the final after winning all her matches in straight games.

But Grinham, currently ranked 16 in the world, was too strong for the 25-year-old world No25 - needing just 28 minutes to wrap up her 11-8, 11-7, 11-9 title triumph over Chan.

The win strengthens Grinham's position as the current WSA player with the second highest Tour title total - ahead of third-placed compatriot Lisa Camilleri, with 21, and behind Malaysia's world number one Nicol David who boasts 73 titles.



### **RACHAEL GRINHAM** **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 1993 World Junior Champion
- 1998 Commonwealth Games Silver Medal - Doubles with Robyn Cooper
- 2002 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Individual
- 2002 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Doubles with Natalie Grinham
- 2004 Reached the coveted World #1 ranking in August and held it for 16 consecutive months
- 2006 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal - Doubles with Natalie Grinham
- 2006 Commonwealth Games Silver Medal - Individual
- 2006 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Mixed Doubles with David Palmer
- 2007 World Champion
- 2014 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal - Mixed Doubles with David Palmer



## Zac's Back - With Title In Rochester

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 90m**

**[3] Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [6] Todd Harrity (USA) 3-11, 6-11, 11-4, 13-11, 13-11**

Australia's **Zac Alexander** marked his comeback after a seven-month layoff in impressive style when he took the Rochester Pro-Am title in Rochester, NY, USA, after surviving a marathon 90-minute final in the PSA World Tour Challenger 5 squash event at the Goergen Athletic Center at the University of Rochester.

After undergoing hip surgery in Australia last August, the US-based former World No.36 made a tentative Tour comeback at the Oregon Open in Portland in January.

Now ranked a six-year-low 111, the Brisbane-born 25-year-old entered the Rochester event as No.3 seed – and made a triumphant breakthrough in the semi-finals where he defeated top-seeded Malaysian Muhd Asyraf Azan in five games.

In the final, his 19th on the PSA Tour but first this year, Alexander faced local hero Todd Harrity, the sixth seed from the USA who ousted Peter Creed, the No2 seed from Wales, in straight games in the other semi.

The final was World No.92 Harrity's second in three weeks – and the Rochester crowd were pinning their hopes on a first home winner in the event's ten-year history.

Alexander battled back from two games down – and then from 8-9, 9-10 and 10-11 in the decider before finally clinching a mighty 3-11, 6-11, 11-4, 13-11, 13-11 victory after 90 minutes.

"I've been off for a while - had a hip operation in August back in Australia and spent six months there recovering, with no squash or training really until January," Alexander recalled as he savoured his comeback triumph. "It's harder than I thought to get back to this level!"



"It's great to win in Rochester – I had a fair few lucky escapes saving about 10 match balls in the semis and final!"

"I really need to thank Rod Martin here in America for getting me back up to fitness – and also Squash Australia for their support with my operation," added the new Rochester champion (pictured extreme left, with runner-up Harrity, centre) after notching up the 12th PSA Tour title of his career.



## Corren Captures Historic Top End Title

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 47m**

**[2] Mike Corren (AUS) bt [4] Tsz Fung Yip (HKG) 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8**

Australian veteran **Mike Corren** made squash history at the Top End Open in Darwin on home soil when he became the first 40-year-old ever to win a PSA World Tour title.

It was after notching up his 70th appearance in a Tour final since 1996 – 10 more than his nearest rival on today's PSA Tour – that the second-seeded South Australian defeated Hong Kong's No.4 seed Tsz Fung Yip 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8 in the climax of the PSA Challenger 5 event at Darwin Squash Centre to register his historic achievement.

Tsz, a 20-year-old ranked outside the world top 130, made his breakthrough in the semi-finals when he upset top-seeded Czech Jan Koukal, ranked 67 in the world, to reach a second successive Tour final. But the day belonged to Corren – the world No.77 from Adelaide who was already far-and-away the oldest player to win Tour events, with four to his name over the previous 12 months.

The latest – his first at the Top End Open after finishing as runner-up in 2012 and 2013 – brings up the 48th Tour title of his career, 14 more than nearest rival Ramy Ashour!

"This win means a lot to me for many reasons," said Corren later.

"Firstly because it has been about seven months since my last success and – let's be frank – I'm not getting any younger!

"Also, I have never won in Darwin and the conditions here are very challenging: my last four opponents were sensational movers and athletes and, as I am not, it is very satisfying to find the solution to those 'issues'.

"Lastly, to win an event at 40 I find pleasing - mostly because most folk say it can't be done!

"That aside, I just aim to continue enjoying every moment whilst it is available to me."





## Zac Defeats Diego For Greenwich Glory

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 58m**

**[2] Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [Q] Diego Elias (PER) 16-14, 11-5, 11-3**

Australian **Zac Alexander** secured his second straight title on the PSA World Tour when he won the inaugural Greenwich Challenger at the Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, USA.

But the US-based second seed from Brisbane did so at the expense of Diego Elias, a 17-year-old qualifier from Lima who made history 24 hours earlier when he stormed through an experienced field in the PSA Challenger 5 squash event to become the first Peruvian ever to reach a PSA Tour final!

After surviving two round of qualifying, the promising teenager made his mark in the opening round of the main draw when he ousted Muhd Asyraf Azan, the top seed from Malaysian, in four games.



Elias went on to take out the No.8 seed before dismissing England's fourth seed Lewis Walters in the semi-finals.

"The final began at a ferocious pace with both players playing high up on the T line trying their best to gain the first game advantage," reported event spokesman Luke Butterworth.

"What a first game it was: 37 minutes in duration and some intense tiebreaker rallies were a joy for all to see. Diego's natural glide to the ball and rapid racket head speed versus Zac's high paced attacking variety was a match made in heaven for the Greenwich locals.

"It was Zac who prevailed under the pressure to take an excellent and vital first game 16-14.

"After the confidence brewing first game, the momentum was all with Zac. He came out firing in the second and despite Diego playing a little looser, Zac nullified any sort of attack with excellent drives and precise counters. He went on to take this game 11-5.

"Zac raced to a 10-0 lead in the third. Diego's movement was laboured and his route from the qualifying was evidently hampering his third game revival."

After his 16-14, 11-5, 11-3 title triumph in 58 minutes – the 13th of his career – Alexander said: "Thank you ever so much to Phil (Barker) and Chris (Hanson) for making this event so enjoyable.

"It truly means a lot to be able to play a tournament on your doorstep so thank you to all the sponsors and families that made it happen.





## Corren Charges To Title No49

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 59m**

**[2] Mike Corren (AUS) bt [3] Tsz Fung Yip (HKG) 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 14-12 (59m)**

Just seven days after making history by becoming the oldest player ever to win a PSA World Tour title, 40-year-old Australian **Mike Corren** charged through to a second successive title triumph when he edged out Hong Kong's Tsz Fung Yip in the final of the NT Open, the PSA Challenger 5 squash event at Alice Springs Squash Centre in Alice Springs, Australia.

After being taken the full distance by unseeded New Zealander Chris van der Salm in the second round, the heroic South Australian downed his next two opponents in straight games to reach the 71st Tour final of his career.

For the second time in a week, Hong Kong's No.3 seed Tsz Fung Yip upset the event favourite Jan Koukal in the semi-finals to set up a surprise final showdown with Corren.

And despite the 72-minute ordeal a few hours earlier, 20-year-old Yip battled with the veteran Australian for almost an hour before Corren finally emerged victorious 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 14-12.

"Each tournament experience throws up something different and at no point this week did I think I could win this event," said Corren after his 59-minute victory. "I couldn't practise during the week due to a barrage of chaps knees, racquets and elbows from the weekend before!"

"I just tried to stick to that old maxim 'if you keep getting up your opponent will tire of hitting you'!  
"Yip was phenomenal though, his match against Jan in the morning was brutal and to come up like he did was quite staggering. I can't credit him enough as, whilst he has all the skills and physical attributes today, he also showed a massive amount of ticker!"

Corren's latest win brings his Tour title haul to 49 – equalling the career-long achievement of Britain's former world number one Peter Nicol.

### QUICK FACT:

*An unseeded Mike Corren won his first PSA Title in October 1996 beating Aussie Tim Manning in the final of American Club Classic in Hong Kong.*



## Corren Marks Historic Golden Tour Success At Golden Open

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 56m**

**[2] Mike Corren (AUS) bt [1] Jan Koukal (CZE) 11-8, 12-10, 9-11, 6-11, 11-6 (56m)**

Australia's **Mike Corren** upset top seed Jan Koukal in today's final of the City Of Kalgoorlie - Boulder PSA Golden Open in Western Australia to become the first squash player since the legendary Jansher Khan to notch up 50 PSA World Tour titles.

The 40-year-old from Adelaide – already the oldest player to claim a Tour title – reached his 72nd final at the PSA Challenger 5 event at the YMCA Squash Centre in Kalgoorlie after beating compatriot Joshua Larkin, the fourth seed from Canberra, in a four-game semi-final.

Top seed Koukal, the top-ranked player from the Czech Republic, survived a five-game quarter-final before beating Guyana's No3 seed Sunil Seth in the other semi.

Corren was meeting Koukal for the first time since suffering a straight games defeat by the 30-year-old from Prague in the 2012 Australian Open. The second-seeded underdog also went into today's final after crashing out of last week's semi-finals of the City of Perth WA Open.

But World No.77 Corren stemmed a fightback by his younger opponent – ranked 10 places higher – to beat Koukal 11-8, 12-10, 9-11, 6-11, 11-6 in 56 minutes to secure his historic Golden title.

"To be honest, the most satisfying aspect of this weekend was reversing the performance from last weekend, having to go through the usual self recriminations a loss brings and working hard during the week to back that up," said Corren afterwards.

"In that sense, it pleases me to still have the will and motivation to go through that process and, as long as that feeling remains, I will continue," added the tireless Aussie veteran who has now won his fourth Golden Open crown since 2009.

"Winning a 50th title may sound good on paper - but it certainly doesn't protect me from losing first round in the next event, which is what I am now focusing on for the South Australian Open.

"I must say a big thanks to the Kalgoorlie organisers who as always do a sterling job and Neil Butler for doing astounding shifts as the only referee on sight.

"Last but not least – again - to Dr Leon Musca, without whom to keep my body together I am half the player."





## Pure Gold

By Kim Schramm

The marketing slogan for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is “Pure Gold” and that’s exactly what it was for Aussie outback adventurer, **Mike Corren**.

Corren has just chalked up a wonderful milestone by winning his 50th PSA World Tour title with another gutsy performance against the #1 seed Jan Koukal.

In the process Corren picked up his 4th Golden Open, a winning cheque and a bonus nugget of gold for his victory in the City Of Kalgoorlie-Boulder PSA Challenger 5 event at the YMCA Squash Centre.



For those that don’t know, Kalgoorlie is a gold-mining town approximately seven hours’ drive, inland from Perth in Western Australia.

Corren was full of praise for the organizers. He said: “Peter Siebert, Di Watts and Richard Argus were all very accommodating but the whole crew there is just fantastic, there is a real community spirit and it shows.

“The tournament referee, Neil Butler, is also a massive part of things. Neil does that event solo and refs from morning till night. He is a real institution in WA Squash.”

Corren’s 11-8, 12-10, 9-11, 6-11, 11-6 battle lasted 56 minutes. It was a far cry from his first match up against Koukal when he lost in three in quick time at the 2012 Australian Open.

When asked if the result weighed on his mind as he prepared for their second encounter, the Moose explained: “No it didn’t weigh on my mind at all. There were circumstances around that period that were very challenging for me and the glass court compounded that.

“In saying that, Jan trounced me and deserved the win 100% ... however, any pro who worries or gets over confident about past results is asking for trouble, so it goes both ways.

“I had a plan to cover what I thought Jan would bring to the table and luckily, I was able to execute it well enough at the right times. Next time though, who knows?”

Corren now moves on to his home State for the Maggie Beer South Australian Open in two weeks where he is the #1 seed and defending champion. Is the champ looking forward to playing in front of his home crowd?

“Of course! I can’t deny there isn’t a dash of extra pressure involved with this event but that is fine with me.



## Pure Gold

Continued

“Mind you it is just an extension of the feeling I have in general regards Australians winning titles and on home soil against the foreign invaders!

“I just wish our own crowds would share this feeling. If they knew what we copped when playing overseas they may be a little more sympathetic and raucous!”

After winning three of the four tournaments on this current trip, I asked Corren if he was playing better than ever.

“Better than ever? God knows! Some days I am good and others I am not. At times that can vary from morning to afternoon!

“Look, it is that whole mixture of age v youth in the terms of say ... yes, perhaps back in the day I was fitter in a very narrow sense but I also did not know how to use that properly back then, the subtleties required or mechanics of movements, etc.

“The advantages of youth looking back were that if things were not working I would just plough on because I didn't know any better. I wasn't as aware as I am now of what is actually happening on court or with my body etc.

“Overall, I think I am a more complete player now and would not fear taking ‘me’ on in my so called prime!”

Finally, to celebrate his 50th Tour title Corren reflected back on some important people who have helped him along the way.

“Yes indeed. After being such a lone wolf on tour for so many years it does actually feel good to have folk to thank in no particular order: Gordon Young; Squash Australia; Rod Eyles; Vicki and Ian Cardwell; James Rogers; Squash SA; SASI; Oliver Australia; Leon Musca; my father Phil; Simone (who keeps me laughing); Lisa Camilleri; Head International (sponsored me for many years) and of course to legends like Hunty, Ditts, Kenny Hiscoe, Jonah, etc for all their inspiration.”

He left me out but here's hoping I get a Guernsey when we next reflect on another Moose moment! Despite not being motivated by the numbers, Corren is destined to keep breaking the record books. He is a modern day gladiator who hates losing!

### QUICK FACT:

*Mike Corren reached a career high World #38 but ranks third behind Jansher Khan (99) and Jahangir Khan (61) on the all-time list of most PSA titles won with 50.*



## PSA Acclaim Corren's Achievements

PSA Oceania Regional Representative Kashif Shuja recognised **Mike Corren's** service to Squash and PSA at the prize-giving ceremony of the Christchurch International Open in New Zealand.

Australian Corren, the 40-year-old World No.76 from Adelaide, recently became the first player since Pakistan's record eight-time World Champion Jansher Khan more than two decades ago to claim 50 PSA World Tour titles.

Earlier this month, at the South Australian Open, Corren notched up his 73rd final appearance.

"I would like to use this opportunity of a gathering of squash players and enthusiasts to highlight the achievements of one of our region's most successful active squash players," said Shuja in Christchurch.

"Mike has been on the PSA World Tour for nearly 18 years and won 50 tour titles. He has been a true ambassador of professional squash and has contributed immensely to Squash in the region."

It was in October 1996 when, unseeded, Corren reached the final of the American Club Classic in Hong Kong - and went on to defeat fellow countryman Tim Manning to win his maiden title.

Corren made a further entry in the sport's history books in May when he claimed the Top End Open trophy in Darwin to become the first ever 40-year-old winner of a PSA Tour title.

"I sincerely want to thank the PSA and Kashif for this recognition," said Corren (pictured, right, with Shuja).

"It is especially touching for this to take place in New Zealand - a country I love and one that has provided years of fantastic squash experiences and memories.

"It is difficult to sum up eighteen years on Tour and 34 years in the game - except to say that it has been a privilege to be a servant to the best sport in the world.

"I can't claim any formula or secret except that I simply love playing squash!"





## Finitsis Hunts Down Loch Ness Title

**PSA Challenger 15 Final: 61m**

**[3] Steven Finitsis (AUS) bt [8] Mahesh Mangaonkar (IND) 11-9, 11-2, 2-11, 11-5**

Australia's **Steven Finitsis** clinched the biggest PSA World Tour squash title of his career when he defeated rising Indian star Mahesh Mangaonkar in the final of the Be Personnel Loch Ness Challenger, the inaugural PSA Challenger 15 event at Inverness Tennis & Squash Club in Inverness, Scotland.

"The tournament's culmination before a packed Inverness Court No.1 was a predictably feisty affair, with both men squeezing one another's shot-making and testing muscle recovery after some tough matches this week," commented event spokesman Mike Gregson.

The two finalists denied the crowd an all-Scottish climax after dramatic semi-finals – eighth seed Mangaonkar ousting the event favourite Alan Clyne, the Scottish No.1 ranked 35 in the world, and third seed Finitsis recovering from 2/1 down to beat Inverness-born giant-killer Greg Lobban in a 116-minute five-game marathon.

Unseeded Lobban, the 21-year-old World No.71, had reached the last four after upsets over No.2 seed Omar Abdel Aziz and seventh seed Joel Hinds.

Finitsis, the Netherlands-based 31-year-old boasting a career-high World No.50 ranking, took a 2/0 lead in the final before Mangaonkar, a 20-year-old from Mumbai marking his third Tour final of the year, regained the upper hand to take the third game.

But the experienced Australian, celebrating his 24th final appearance, upped the pace again in the fourth before closing out the match 11-9, 11-2, 2-11, 11-5 after 61 minutes to claim the 12th – and biggest – Tour title of his career.

"I congratulate Mahesh on a great match, and look forward to his undoubted future success," said Finitsis afterwards.

"I can speak on behalf of the PSA players in thanking organisers, sponsors, referees and everyone involved here in Inverness – including Nessie – for a great tournament.

"I hope we are able to come back and enjoy your hospitality again."

Dave Massey of the organising committee added: "We really appreciate the pros who have given a superb exhibition. It's been a feast of squash, and Be Personnel and our other sponsors deserve our huge thanks.

"We wish all the best for Glasgow 2014 to Steve and Mahesh, and all the Scots players involved."





## Urquhart Overcomes Grinham For Victorian Victory



**WSA Tour 15 Final: 33m**

**[2] Donna Urquhart (AUS) bt [1] Rachael Grinham (AUS) 12-10, 14-12, 12-10**

**Donna Urquhart** laid claim to the title 'Australian number one' after upsetting the country's long-time top squash player Rachael Grinham in today's final of the Women's Victorian Open, the Women's Squash Association World Tour 15 event at Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre in Melbourne.

Grinham, the event's top seed and former world No1 and world champion, notched up her 67th WSA Tour final appearance - and her fourth of the year - after beating New Zealand's No4 seed Megan Craig in the semi-finals.

Second seed Urquhart, ranked ten places below world No15 Grinham, despatched third-seeded Malaysian Delia Arnold in straight games in the other semi - a win which took the 27-year-old left-hander from New South Wales into her 14th Tour final, but first for almost two years.

Each game of the final went to a tie-break before underdog Urquhart finally emerged triumphant 12-10, 14-12, 12-10 after 33 minutes.

Urquhart received her trophy from Australian legend Geoff Hunt, the eight-time British Open champion and four-time World champion (as pictured above).

The win marks up Urquhart's eighth Tour title.





## Palmer Bows Out With Double Commonwealth Games Gold For Australia

### Men's Doubles Final: 80m

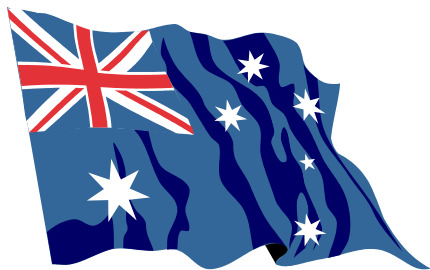
**[2] David Palmer & Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [1] Adrian Grant & Nick Matthew (ENG) 10-11, 11-7, 11-9**

### Mixed Doubles Final: 48m

**[3] Rachael Grinham & David Palmer (AUS) bt [4] Alison Waters & Peter Barker (ENG) 11-8, 11-10**

### Bronze Medal Play-off: 78m

**[1] Kasey Brown & Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [2] Joelle King & Martin Knight (NZL) 8-11, 11-9, 11-8**



A fairy-tale climax to **David Palmer's** comeback appearance in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland saw the illustrious Australian veteran win two gold medals on the final day of Squash action at the Scotstoun Sports Campus in Glasgow.

The 38-year-old former world number one and world champion retired from the international circuit three years ago. But, despite having a then record six Games medals to his credit over four events since 1998, Palmer was looking for a first ever gold.

Minutes after winning gold in the mixed doubles final with **Rachael Grinham** on the spectacular all-glass showcourt surrounded by a capacity finals day crowd in excess of 2,000, Palmer was back on the court with world No20 **Cameron Pilley** to do battle with English pair Adrian Grant and Nick Matthew, the defending champions eager to maintain England's 16-year grip on the men's doubles gold medal.

Grinham & Palmer beat England's Alison Waters & Peter Barker 11-8, 11-10 - then recovered from losing the first game in the men's final to beat Matthew & Grant, from 1-4 down in the decider, 10-11, 11-7, 11-9 in a mighty 80 minutes.

The second triumph takes Palmer's total Games medal haul to eight - a new record.

"I think that's it now," said Palmer when asked if he might compete in the 2018 Games in his homeland. "I hope I will be at the Gold Coast Games - not as player, but watching!"

"I've achieved what I wanted to - it's a dream come true.

"Before we arrived, I thought I had a better chance in the mixed with Rachael as we read each other's games well and her variation and style suits my game," explained US-based Palmer.

"The men's was always going to be tough as England have dominated the event since the beginning and Nick and Adrian are so strong - we knew it would be a huge effort to beat them.





## Continued

"We were trying to hang in there in the third game, and I dropped off the pace a bit - but Pilley really stepped up and hit some incredible shots.

"It was good that we got off 2/0 in the mixed - especially as they really got off to a good start in the second and were really focussed.

"It was better to keep going," said Palmer when asked about having to play the two matches back-to-back. "I had a quick shower after the first match to freshen up.

"I knew the schedule would be tough but I didn't play the singles - I enjoyed the first week watching the matches - Nick and James's singles final was a great match.



"It probably was the toughest day of my life - especially at 38 - but in the end I got over the line.

"This is great for me personally - but I hope it will also help Squash Australia. Winning two golds should help the funding," concluded the double gold medallist.

Matthew, the world No2, said after the match: "I thought the good start in the final game was going to carry us through but you can second-guess every shot in doubles.

"We did ourselves proud, we put our game plan into practice - but they pulled off two great shots to win.

"It's been amazing here right from the word go. It's the best Team England I've ever been part of - the spirit of the team has been fantastic. The fact that I carried the flag at the Opening Ceremony still gives me goose-bumps - it was a pity not to end on a high. Next week will probably be a bit of a comedown.

"I think the doubles came out well - with a lot more credit than it had in Delhi. Doubles is now on a high after that."

Team-mate Grant added: "Credit where it's due to the Australians, they fought hard and we fought hard - that's what the crowd wanted to see. Everyone was excited to see the doubles."

After her gold medal success in the mixed final - a win which takes her all-time medal tally to seven - Grinham said: "Doubles is so different - you can't relax for a minute or it'll get away from you really quickly.

"I think I played really well considering. They put us under a lot of pressure.

"David and I have played together so much - we've even won British Opens together! We're a bit older than the others - but to finally get this gold together is quite special for us," added the 37-year-old Queenslander.



## Continued

Barker and Waters led 9-5 in the second game of the mixed final and were unable to convert three game-balls. "We are disappointed to not convert that lead in the second game," said Londoner Barker. "We played well throughout but in the first game they just hit some unbelievable winners.

"We've got no complaints. I actually think we played the best we've played all week but they were just better. I felt it was a really good final - how doubles should be played!"

Waters added: "The Games have been absolutely brilliant, we have had a lot of success as Team England and I have loved playing here."

Cameron Pilley won a second medal of the day in the mixed doubles bronze medal play-off earlier. He and Kasey Brown beat New Zealand duo Joelle King & Martin Knight 8-11, 11-9, 11-8 in a repeat of the 2010 final.

"We won from a game down last time," said Brown. "I really wanted to come away with a medal here."



### DAVID PALMER'S CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2001 Reached the coveted World #1 ranking in September and held it for 4 consecutive months
- 2002 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Individual
- 2002 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Doubles with Paul Price
- 2002 World Champion
- 2006 Commonwealth Games Silver Medal - Individual
- 2006 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Men's Doubles with Dan Jenson
- 2006 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Mixed Doubles with Rachael Grinham
- 2006 World Champion
- 2010 Commonwealth Games Silver Medal - Men's Doubles with Stewart Boswell
- 2014 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal - Men's Doubles with Cameron Pilley
- 2014 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal - Mixed Doubles with Rachael Grinham



## Australia's Record at the Commonwealth Games

1998	GOLD	Michelle Martin	Women's Individual
	SILVER	Michelle Martin & Craig Rowland	Mixed Doubles
	BRONZE	Sarah Fitz-Gerald Byron Davis & Rodney Eyles Robyn Cooper & Rachael Grinham	Women's Individual Men's Doubles Women's Doubles
2002	GOLD	Sarah Fitz-Gerald	Women's Individual
	SILVER	Stewart Boswell & Anthony Ricketts	Men's Doubles
	BRONZE	Stewart Boswell David Palmer Rachael Grinham David Palmer & Paul Price Natalie Grinham & Rachael Grinham Robyn Cooper & Joe Kneipp	Men's Individual Men's Individual Women's Individual Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles
2006	GOLD	Natalie Grinham Natalie Grinham & Rachael Grinham Natalie Grinham & Joe Kneipp	Women's Individual Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles
	SILVER	David Palmer Rachael Grinham	Men's Individual Women's Individual
	BRONZE	Stewart Boswell & Anthony Ricketts Dan Jenson & David Palmer Rachael Grinham & David Palmer	Men's Doubles Men's Doubles Mixed Doubles
2010	GOLD	Kasey Brown & Cameron Pilley	Mixed Doubles
	SILVER	Stewart Boswell & David Palmer	Men's Doubles
	BRONZE	Kasey Brown Ryan Cuskelly & Cameron Pilley Kasey Brown & Donna Urquhart	Women's Individual Men's Doubles Women's Doubles
2014	GOLD	David Palmer & Cameron Pilley Rachael Grinham & David Palmer	Men's Doubles Mixed Doubles
	SILVER		
	BRONZE	Kasey Brown & Cameron Pilley	Mixed Doubles

**30 Medals: 9 Gold : 8 Silver : 13 Bronze**



## Zac Takes Toronto Title

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 36m**

**[2] Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [3] Shahjahan Khan (PAK) 11-2, 11-3, 11-6**

Australian **Zac Alexander**, out of action for six months following hip surgery, marked his return to top flight squash in emphatic style in Canada when he won the Colony Ford Lincoln National Squash Academy Open, the PSA Challenger 5 event in its fourth year at the National Squash Academy in Toronto.

Seeded two, the US-based 25-year-old from Brisbane had to see off a trio of Canadians to claim his place in the final – at the final hurdle taken the full distance by Toronto-based Michael McCue before beating the No.4 seed 11-2, 11-4, 9-11, 9-11, 12-10 in 67 minutes.

Alexander's final opponent Shahjahan Khan was also taken to five games in the other semi – where the Pakistani denied Dane Sharp a fourth successive title when he upset the top-seeded Canadian 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-4 in 65 minutes.

The shock win took Quetta-born 19-year-old Khan into his maiden Tour final – while the experienced Australian was celebrating the 21st of his career.

It took 36 minutes for Alexander (pictured below with Khan) to secure the 14th PSA World Tour title triumph of his career – and his third of the year – when he despatched third seed Khan 11-2, 11-3, 11-6.





## Hopkin Wins First Tour Trophy

**PSA Challenger 5 Final: 44m**

**Matthew Hopkin (AUS) bt [5] Pedro Schweertman (NED) 11-7, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8**

Just a year after joining the Professional Squash Association, 23-year-old Australian **Matthew Hopkin** has joined the ranks of PSA World Tour title winners after upsetting fifth seed Pedro Schweertman in today's final of the Shepparton International, the inaugural PSA Challenger 5 event at Shepparton Squash Centre in Shepparton in the Australian state of Victoria.

Unseeded, Hopkin made his breakthrough in the semi-finals, dismissing No2 seed and fellow Australian Joshua Larkin in four games.

It was his first Tour final, and the world No.199 from Brisbane took full advantage – overcoming experienced Dutchman Schweertman, a former world No.89, 11-7, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8 in 44 minutes.

"I'm exhausted, it was a tough tournament," said Hopkin.

"I'm really stoked to win an event in my first year as a PSA member.

"I look forward to defending my title next year and heading to Sydney for the NSW Open."

Schweertman, whose defeat in the final ended a career-best eight-match unbeaten run on the PSA Tour, was full of compliments for his opponent: "Matt played really well, it was a tough match.

"I'm now heading to Sydney and Coffs Harbour so hopefully if I meet him again, it's my turn," added the 30-year-old from Hoofddorp.

"It's my first time in Australia and I've really enjoyed the tournament."

Champion Hopkin, left, is pictured with runner-up Schweertman and City of Greater Shepparton Mayor, Jenny Houlihan





## Nunn Achieves 2014 Goal At New South Wales Open

### WSA Tour 5 Final:

**[4] Christine Nunn (AUS) bt [3] Coline Aumard (FRA) 11-9, 8-11, 11-2, 11-5**

Australian **Christine Nunn** achieved the goal she set herself at the beginning of the year by claiming the Women's New South Wales Open title - and thereby winning the first WSA World Tour title of her career!

The Canberra-born 23-year-old is reaping the rewards of a 2013 move to Melbourne, where she is now coached by former world No1 Sarah Fitz-Gerald.

Nunn, seeded four in the WSA Tour 5 event at Thornleigh Squash Centre in Sydney, made her breakthrough in the semi-finals where she ousted second-seeded New Zealander Kylie Lindsay in straight games.

Now in the second Tour final of her career, Nunn faced Coline Aumard - the No3 seed from France who also produced a stunning semi-final upset to remove Australia's top seed Lisa Camilleri.

World No65 Nunn shared the first two games with her 25-year-old final opponent, ranked 11 places higher - but the home star took control thereafter before closing out the match 11-9, 8-11, 11-2, 11-5 to clinch her maiden Tour title.





## Cuskelly Captures Phoenix Title

**PSA Challenger 10 Final: 45m**

**[1] Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) bt [2] Martin Knight (NZL) 11-7, 11-0, 11-6 (45m)**

**Ryan Cuskelly** kept the Life Time Phoenix Open trophy in Australian hands after defeating New Zealander Martin Knight in the final of the PSA Challenger 10 squash event at Life Time Fitness Tempe in Tempe in the US state of Arizona.

Both finalists survived four-game semis – top seed Cuskelly beating England's No.3 seed Ben Coleman and second seed Knight eventually getting the better of in-form Frenchman Lucas Serme, the fourth seed who won the Rotterdam Open last month.

Cuskelly and Knight were marking their seventh meeting on the PSA World Tour – and the 27-year-old left-hander from New South Wales extended his unbeaten record over the Kiwi with his 11-7, 11-0, 11-6 triumph in 45 minutes.

“Knight was saying he was still feeling his semi-final game against Serme from last night and was unable to get going today,” reported tournament promoter Andre Maur.

The win notches up Cuskelly's ninth Tour title – but his first since winning the Toronto Cup in November 2012.





## WSA President Kasey Brown To Retire



**Kasey Brown**, the world No19 from Australia and President of the Women's Squash Association (WSA), has decided to retire from the WSA World Tour after competing in next week's Delaware Investments US Open in Philadelphia.

Brown will continue to serve on the WSA Board until the end of her term of office.

A WSA member for the past 12 years, 29-year-old Brown reached 24 Tour finals and collected 11 titles including the Australian Open. Her biggest success came at the Greenwich Open in the USA in January 2011. Nine months later, she reached the US Open final for the first time and went on to achieve a career-high world No5 ranking in December 2011.

Away from the WSA Tour, Brown is a three-time Australian National Champion and became the only squash player to win three medals in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi - a gold and two bronzes - which she followed up at Glasgow 2014 with a further bronze in the Mixed Doubles.

"I think a player knows when it is time to retire from the tour and I've found great satisfaction in coaching and helping others achieve what they want out of squash," said Brown, who hails from Taree in New South Wales but has been based in Greenwich in the USA for several years. "I've been based overseas for a long time so it is great to have moved back to Australia and coaching at Tonic Squash and Gym on the Mornington Peninsula and working with Rodney Martin - you can't beat the Australian Beach!





## Continued

"My aim now is to help promote squash and encourage participation in Australia through developing new facilities through McWil court distribution.

"It is very much an honour to serve as President of the WSA and huge thanks must go to Tommy Berden, Elliot Selby and the WSA Board for all of their hard work. I know the Women's Tour is in good hands.

"Looking back at my career, I think the biggest highlight for me is the people that I have met and the amount of support I have received. I wouldn't have achieved what I did without the support of so many people and I am very grateful for that. I do want to mention and thank my family, and Rod and Amelia Martin who supported me every step of the way - and also my sponsors Delaware Investments and Harrow Sports."

WSA CEO Tommy Berden said: "Retirement decisions are never easy, even more so for such a determined and competitive professional as Kasey. She has been highly successful on the WSA World Tour for many years and has recently also shown her dedication and forward thinking in her new role as WSA President.

"It doesn't come as a surprise that she has been chosen as director of coaching of Tonic Squash and Gym in Dromana, which gives her the opportunity to return back to Australia after a long time away from home. We look forward to seeing Kasey compete one more time at the US Open and are happy that she will stay on as WSA's President for the remainder of her term."

England's world champion Laura Massaro and fellow WSA board member added: "I was really sad to hear of Kasey's retirement. She is a great player and someone I respect hugely. Every time I stepped on court with her I knew what a tough match it would be. She gave her all to her squash and I know that will continue in whatever the future brings. I wish you the best of luck Kasey.

"It's been a privilege to have Kasey alongside me on the board. Her organisation, commitment and passion for the game have shone through over the last 10 months in her role as President. She always has the best interest of women's squash at the forefront of her mind and I can't thank her enough for the work she has done for WSA."

***Thanks for your wonderful contribution to squash Kasey.***

### **KASEY BROWN'S CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 2010 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal - Mixed Doubles with Cameron Pilley
- 2010 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Individual
- 2010 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Women's Doubles with Donna Urquhart
- 2011 Reached a career high World ranking of World #5 in December
- 2014 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medal - Mixed Doubles with Cameron Pilley



## Fourth Time Lucky For Nunn In Queensland

**WSA Tour 5 Final: 42m**

**[2] Christine Nunn (AUS) bt [1] Lisa Camilleri (AUS) 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-4**

After three defeats by her higher-ranked compatriot over the past two years, Canberra-born **Christine Nunn** finally got the better of Queenslander Lisa Camilleri in the final of the Women's Queensland Open for the first time to claim the second WSA World Tour title of her career.

Seeded two in the long-established WSA Tour 5 squash event at Northern Suburbs Squash Centre in Brisbane, 23-year-old Nunn secured her anticipated place in the final after overcoming Norway's No3 seed Lotte Eriksen in a four-game semi-final.

Top seed Camilleri, the 31-year-old world No50, took the opening game and looked on course to progress to her fourth successive win over Nunn, ranked 12 places lower, since January last year.

But Nunn, now based in Melbourne and coached by 1995 Queensland Open champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald, regained control of the match to draw level - before forging ahead to claim her breakthrough 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-4 victory after 42 minutes.

"After a battle this afternoon in some brutally hot and tough conditions, I finished the winner today, 3/1," Nunn (pictured right with men's champion Robertino Pezzota) told her Facebook fans later. "Thanks Lisa for the match! Big thank you to Grant and the team at Northern Suburbs for yet another great event, already looking forward to next year.

"Thank you to my personal sponsors: AIS, ASC, OLIVER, RMIT and Kooyong LTC for your ongoing support. Special thank you to my personal coach, Sarah Fitz and Rod Eyles for their support over the weekend.

"Stoked to win my 2nd WSA title and hoping to continue the good form next week at the IJM Land Penang Women's Open."





## Hopkin Captures Caboolture Crown

### PSA Challenger 5 Final:

**[6] Matthew Hopkin (AUS) bt [5] Leandro Romiglio (ARG) 11-7, 11-7, 3-11, 11-7 - See**

**Matthew Hopkin** became the first home winner of the Caboolture Open for three years when he beat Argentina's Leandro Romiglio in the final of the PSA Challenger 5 squash event in its fifth year at the Caboolture Squash and Fitness Centre in Caboolture, Australia.

The sixth seed from Brisbane made his breakthrough in the quarter-finals where he ousted top seed Gonzalo Miranda, recovering from two games down to beat the Argentinean in five games.

It was in the semi-finals that fifth seed Romiglio upset the form book when he overcame fellow countryman Robertino Pezzota, the No.2 seed.

Both players were celebrating the third PSA World Tour finals of their careers - but the 23-year-old Australian denied Romiglio his first ever title when he triumphed 11-7, 11-7, 3-11, 11-7.

The win marks the second Tour title of Hopkins' career - and his second this year on home soil.





## Grinham Grabs Latest WSA Title

### WSA Tour 5 Final:

**[1] Rachael Grinham (AUS) bt [2] Lisa Camilleri (AUS) 8-11, 11-2, 5-11, 11-5, 11-8**

A full 16 years after winning her first, Australian **Rachael Grinham** has picked up the 34th WSA World Tour title of her distinguished career after seeing off compatriot Lisa Camilleri in the final of the Women's Caboolture Open in Australia.

The 37-year-old former world number one reached the final of the WSA Tour 5 squash event at Caboolture Squash and Fitness Centre in Caboolture without dropping a game.

But second seed Camilleri, the world No50 from Queensland, twice led Grinham as she bid to beat the world No13 for the first ever time.

The experienced favourite was too strong for 31-year-old Camilleri, however, as Grinham closed out the match 8-11, 11-2, 5-11, 11-5, 11-8 to become the oldest winner of a WSA Tour title for more than two years.

Grinham's 34th title triumph strengthens her position in second place in the list of current players with the most titles to their credit - behind world number one Nicol David, who has 77 titles to her name. Interestingly, the player in third place - boasting 21 titles - is Lisa Camilleri!



### QUICK FACT:

*Rachael Grinham had to beat her sister Natalie to win the World Title in 2007.*



## Cuskelly Throws Out Formguide to Snatch Title

By Ross Solly

### PSA National Closed Satellite Final:

**[2] Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) bt [1] Cameron Pilley (AUS) 12-10, 12-10, 12-10**

Lismore's **Ryan Cuskelly** has surprised even himself by winning the Australian Closed Squash Championship title in Victoria.

27-year-old Cuskelly, who now calls New York home, beat top seed Cameron Pilley in straight games, 12-10, 12-10, 12-10 at the Mulgrave Country Club.

Cuskelly fought his way back from 8-10 down in the third to take the match.

Pilley, currently ranked 18th in the world, had no answer for the energetic Cuskelly, currently ranked 44th in the world.

"I didn't really expect that to be honest," Cuskelly said.

"Cameron had a good result in the World Open and has been playing pretty well at the end of the year, and I've been pretty bad to be honest.

"This week I just relaxed and tried to have fun for once. That's how it should play all the time. I tried a few more shots and it came off.

I've done it too many times when I've been up against good players and let them back in, so today I just went for it."

Rex Hedrick beat Steve Finitis for the bronze medal.





## Grinham shows class

By Ross Solly

**WSA Super Challenger National Closed Final: 18m**

**[1] Rachael Grinham (AUS) bt [2] Lisa Camilleri (AUS) 11-7, 11-4, 11-4**

It took **Rachael Grinham** just 18 minutes to confirm her Australian squash supremacy at the Closed Championships in Melbourne on Saturday afternoon.

The number one seed beat second seed Lisa Camilleri 11-7, 11-4, 11-4 to secure the title at the Mulgrave Country Club.

37-year-old Grinham showed no ill effects from last week's trip to Canada for the Women's Teams Championships, where the Australian team finished seventh.

In one of the most entertaining matches of the day, fourth seed Christine Nunn beat third seed Sarah Cardwell 11-3, 12-14, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8 in the battle for bronze.



### QUICK FACT:

*Rachael Grinham has maintained her ranking in the World Top 20 since July 1997.*

