



For Immediate Release

Nicol David Successfully Defends Title for CIMB Singapore Women's Squash Masters 2008

Singapore, 2 August 2008 – After a week long of gruelling competition, Nicol David reigned supreme once again as the Champion of the CIMB Singapore Women's Squash Masters 2008. Malaysia's World Number One squared off against the World Number Three, Rachel Grinham from Australia in what proved to be a thrilling encounter at the Kallang Squash Centre today in front of a packed out crowd.

The tournament was played on a single-knockout basis from 28 July through to 2 August today with 12 of the 16 players in the Main Draw pre-determined. A 16-player Qualifier took place on 28 and 29 July to determine the four qualifiers for the Main Draw.

Malaysia's Nicole David lost the first game today against Rachel Grinham from Australia showing gritty determination and running every ball down. In an intense game, Rachel won 11-8; but Nicole came back to show exactly what makes her the World Number One. Not getting discouraged and taking it to Rachel in the last three games; Nicole displayed her true fighting spirit by eventually taking the next three games and, along with it, the championship.

Nicol dominated the second and third games taking them; 11-3 and 11-5, before Rachel showed her desperation to win, pushing Nicol right to the end but eventually losing out 11-8. The final score for the game was 8-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-8.

After the game Rachel Grinham said "I was quite happy with the way I played today. It was better than the last time I played Nicol in Malaysia although I made some silly mistakes today which I feel may have cost me the game. Also I am getting used to this new scoring system and that will take some time. Right now, I feel rather panicked on court as the game can swing very quickly."

Nicol after the game said, "It was a good game and Rachael was on fire today but I kept my focus and determination. I'm really excited to have won and it always feels good to be able to play in Asia. It's always good to be close to home. These past 2 weeks have been great. I'm grateful for the support from the fans and sponsor CIMB, doing what we can to grow the sport here in the region. I just want to thank everyone for everything and hope to come back again."

Over the past six days, Singapore has bore witness to some of the most sensational talent of female squash players the world has to offer with players such as England's Jenny Duncalf, Ireland's Madeline Perry as well as Egyptian Omneya Abdel Kawy gracing our local courts. Perhaps one of the major upsets throughout the tournament this

week was the unexpected early departure of World Number Two, Natalie Grinham who lost in the first round of the Main Draw on Wednesday evening to France's Isabelle Stoehr.

This is only the second tournament the ladies are competing under the new scoring system - best-of-five-game matches, with each game scoring point-a-rally (PAR) to 11 points, with a requirement for two clear points to win the game from 10-all.

The CIMB Singapore Women's Squash Masters 2008 is a Gold 45K event sanctioned by the Women's International Squash Players Association. With a total prize money of US\$53,500 (inclusive of players compensation), the tournament also provides opportunity for points towards the WISPA World Rankings.

For more information, see SSRA website at www.ssra.org.sg or call SSRA at 63455675

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About SSRA:

The Singapore Squash Rackets Association (SSRA) is the governing body for squash in Singapore. Its primary role is to develop the infra-structure to popularise squash, both as a recreational and competitive sport.

In Singapore, the Association assists its affiliated organisations in promoting squash and at the national level it provides year-round national-level competitions with the aim of achieving higher participation. The Association

endeavours to raise the performance level of national trainees for international participation, for example the SEA Games and the Asian Games. This as well as WSF (World Squash Federation) and ASF (Asian Squash Federation) international events are key events for the elite player development programme goal setting.

As a member of the World Squash Federation and the Asian Squash Federation, the SSRA keeps abreast with all technical matters related to the organisation and conduct of the game, as well as development of squash referees and squash coaches, as laid down by the international bodies.

The SSRA's Mission Statement is to develop squash as a popular sport and maintain a steady growth in playing numbers and work towards raising the qualitative level of the sport to achieve a higher standing at international level of competition.

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