



2009 COMFORT INN OPEN JANUARY 13 – 18, 2009

DECEMBER 15, 2008 UPDATE

The PSA entries are now confirmed for the 2009 Comfort Inn Open, presented by Odlum Brown, being held at the Evergreen Squash Club during the January 13 – 18, 2009 period.

And, here are the top seeds:

- World #26 – Shahier Razik – Canada – 2007 Champion and 2008 finalist
- World #27 – Mohammed Abbas – Egypt – ranked #13 in February 2008
- World #30 – Tarek Momen – Egypt – ranked #56 in our 2008 Comfort Inn Open
- World #35 – Daryl Selby – England – consistently in the top 30

Youth will clearly have an impact in this year's event as three of our top nine seeds are 20 or 21 years old. In addition to Tarek Momen, who is 21 years old, Yasir Butt (PAK), who participated in the 2008 Comfort Inn Open, is also 20 years old and has moved his world ranking from #71 last year to #45. Similarly, Arturo Salazar (MEX) is 21 years old and his ranking has improved from #97 in December 2007 to #51. Some may remember Arturo's winning performance in the 2006 Canadian Junior at Hollyburn. Will youth be served this year?

Although we had to shrink the prize money from US\$30,000 to US\$20,000 this year due to the tight economic climate, there is an interesting point of coincidence in this year's draw. Last year our #11 seeded player, Matthew Giuffre (CAN), who, regrettably is not playing this year, was ranked #54 in the world. This year our #11 seeded player, Liam Kenny (IRL), is also ranked #54. So the draw is much more "bunched up" vs last year which should result in very competitive matches throughout every round.

As I have indicated in previous letters, the financial participation of the Evergreen members is the backbone of our tournament's success in past years. To date, we have 65 Patrons, at the \$225 (sold out) and \$175 (lots left) levels and 36 \$100 Benefactors (lots left) which is an outstanding result recognizing we still have a month to go. We would like to exceed 125 Patrons & Benefactors this year so please contact Paul Marley (pmarley@rampworth.com or 604-351-2418) if you wish to participate.

And finally, we need lots of volunteer help and silent auction items, so please contact any of the Evergreen Members listed below, or yours truly, if you can help:

Sue Foster at alanfoster@shaw.ca – food services

Ross Genge at rgenge@shaw.ca – bar service

Kim Wilson at kim.wilson@shaw.ca - registration desk

Paddy Gooderham at pgooderham@shaw.ca – billeting PSA players & pickup to & from the airport.

This is a great opportunity to have some one on one time with these fine young athletes.

Jim Miller at jjjim22@hotmail.com – Monday January 14 setup.

Blair Maclean at bmaclean@bcpip.ca - silent auction with a particular interest in Canuck tickets, Giants tickets, Lions tickets, quality booze, golf packages, restaurant coupons, etc.

As mentioned in our last letter, I wanted you to remember that you are invited to attend the Tournament Dinner on Saturday evening, January 17, 2009, to be held again at the Capilano Golf & Country Club – at a cost of \$42.00 per person - even if you are not playing. It is always a magnificent evening in a magical setting. It is also a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow members, mingle with the PSA pros and participate in the Silent Auction. Tickets will be available from Kim Wilson at the Tournament Desk during the tournament.

Finally, Christmas is just around the corner, so a Patron or Benefactor package would be a welcome gift.

Many thanks in advance for your continuing support of this event.

Merry Christmas Everybody!!!!

Paul Marley

Chair

2009 Comfort Inn Open