

## *Launching of the Nicol David International Squash Centre*

The international squash centre in Bukit Dumbar was renamed as the “Nicol David International Squash Centre” on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 by the Penang Chief Minister Y.A.B Lim Guan Eng, in honour of Penang’s reigning squash queen,

Penang Chief Minister Y.A.B. Lim Guan Eng said the re-naming of the centre was an appropriate and meaningful gesture because “it is here, right here, that she first played, she first trained and she first won. Over the past 10 years, Dato’ Nicol has shown the world who she is and what she can do. In doing so, she has shown thousands of people all over the world what Penang and its people can do. Penang is giving her something back for all the good that she has done for us, and on our behalf. With this in mind, we would like to honour Dato’ Nicol by renaming this centre after her.”

Dato’ Nicol said she was touched by the gesture because both the centre and Penang will always be close to her heart. “This is where it all started for me and I will always remember this place and the people who helped me along the way. I hope more young players, from Malaysia and all over the world, will make good use of its facilities and the SRAP’s coaching services. This is a great place to start your career in competitive squash,” she said.

The centre was built in 1986 by 5 squash enthusiasts namely Dato’ Lim Tiong Chin (the current Chairman of SRAP), Mr. Oh Siong Tit (the past chairman and also the civil engineer who oversee the development of the centre), Mr. Danny Goon (the long serving Treasurer of SRAP), Mr. Oh How Tat (Deceased a year ago, who was the architect of this world class centre) and Mr. Heah Siew Tee. Collectively, they incorporated Squash Development Sdn Bhd to lease from PBA and to build the original 8 squash courts complex known as the “Bukit Dumbar Squash Centre”, then later as the “Pepsi Squash Centre” with sponsorship from Permanis Bhd. The centre was upgraded by PBA in 1999 to host the SUKMA Game in year 2000, then further upgrade to international standard squash centre to host the World Junior Women Squash Championship and also the SEA Game in 2001. Nicol set the record being the 1<sup>st</sup> player who has won the world junior title back to back (1999 in Belgium & 2001 in her hometown). The centre was then known as “Penang International Squash Centre” which was widely known by most of the international players and officials.

In conjunction with the renaming of the centre, it was upgraded to incorporate a players’ lounge and relocating the cafeteria. The front lobby was re-decorated to incorporate the posters that share the history and achievements of Dato’ Nicol. With that we would like to thank PBA for their continuing financial and moral support for this centre and also to Mr Thomas Chan for his contribution to the recent upgrading of the centre.