

Sporting Times

Africa beat back strong challenge

By A Correspondent

A TEAM representing Africa emerged as the champions of the Orient Irrigation International Squash Challenge, played last weekend at the Dubai Country Club.

Out of the five teams taking part, two represented England, who finished third and fourth, the Welsh-Irish contingent collected the wooden spoon while the Rest of the World were runners-up.

Every point counted as American scoring was used in this tournament with points rather than matches deciding the victors.

In the end, Africa's team consisting of Rory and Sylvia O'Connor, Fudli Talyarkhan and Robin Stamford proved to be an unbeatable combination.

Thrilling tie

Pre-competition favourites led by Phil Greenhalgh never lived up to expectations but Phil's back injury stopped him from playing his best and it was only against Rory O'Connor



that he allowed himself to get into top gear in a very exciting match where the points were tied at 40-40.

England B were looking very good until they met the African team. Although Mick Hill and Nigel Speedy both won their matches the O'Connors did great damage when Rory played Roger Headford and Sylvia demolished Arthur Davy.

After collecting a mere 116 points they went into their final game with the Rest of the World needing to beat them by 30 points for the runner-up slot.

After good victories by Arthur Davy over Ian Everingham, Mick Hill over Maurice French and Nigel Speedy over Shaheen Butt, a very close finale was played between Roger Headford and Roger Tuck.

After coming back well to win the first game 15-14 Headford seemed to lose concentration and Tuck, who

played as substitute won the next two to put the Rest of the World in the runners-up spot.

Francis Walker also played for R.O.W. and put up fine performances.

Mixed fare

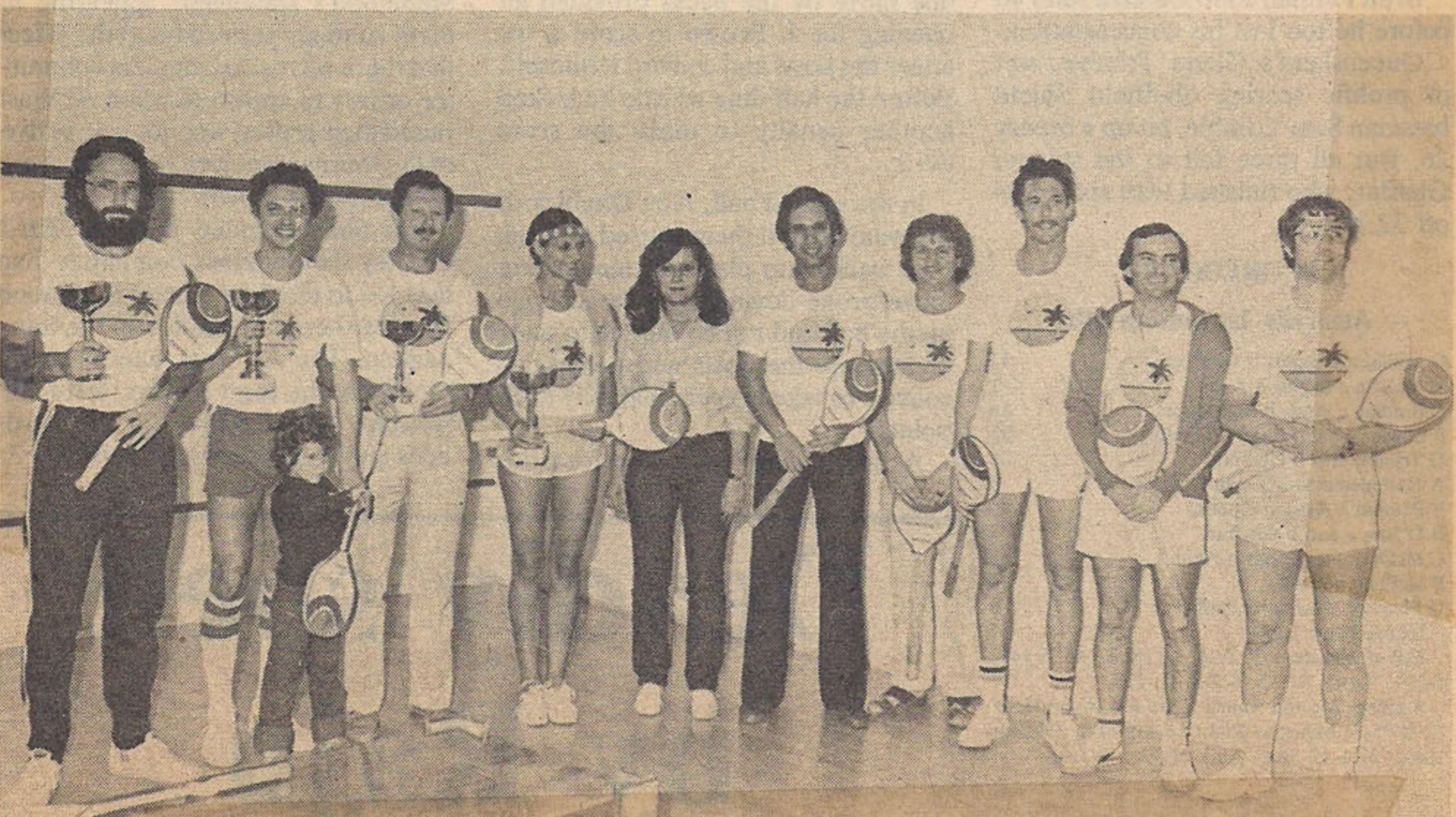
Both the O'Connors were unbeaten together with Mick Hill and Nigel Speedy, while Jack Moffett, Nikki Harradine and Robin Stamford all failed to win a match.

The organisers Richard Moody, Mick Hill and Nikki Harradine contrived the teams so well they all missed out on the prizes but great thanks were offered by the players for arranging such an enjoyable competition and it is hoped that the sponsors would make this an annual event.

Results

England B bt England 'A' 165-142, Africa bt Ireland 173-125, Africa bt Rest of the World 167-151, England A bt Ireland 159-146, Rest of the World bt England 'A' 161-142, England B bt Ireland 158-138, Rest of the World bt Ireland 157-145, Africa bt England 'B' 145-116, Africa bt England 'A' 155-147, England B bt Rest of the World 161-147.

	P	W	L	Pts
Africa	4	4	0	640
ROW	4	2	2	616
England 'B'	4	3	1	600
England 'A'	4	1	3	590
Wales/Ireland	4	0	4	554



• The Africa and Rest of the World teams after their squash battle at Dubai Country Club on Friday.—
Khaleej Times photo