

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

cc: WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Committee Members, PSA members, Accredited Companies

SQUASH WELCOMES NEW IOC 2020 VISION



The outcome of the IOC Session in Monaco last month continues to raise the prospect of a place for Squash at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

It was after Squash lost out to Wrestling in the vote for a 'new sport' for the 2020 Games that the 2013 IOC meeting in Buenos

Aires elected Thomas Bach as IOC President. The new President promised change and initiated his Olympic Agenda 2020 consultation initiative to look at many aspects of the Games - including the composition of the Olympic Games Programme and how it will evolve.

The 40 recommendations presented to the Session were all unanimously passed, paving the way for more flexibility for the Olympic Games, as changes to the way Games are awarded, staged and formatted were ratified.

World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran (*above*), who was in attendance at the IOC Session, heard confirmation that a more flexible approach will be introduced - based primarily on athlete numbers rather than sports - and that change could come as early as 2020.

Measured Optimism

He is cautiously optimistic about the outcome: "I have always said that my task has been to keep pushing at the Olympic Games Programme door for Squash. Now that I can see that a little light is coming through at the edges I am delighted of course.

"However, we cannot get ahead of ourselves," he added. "We simply remain hopeful that the changes that President Bach and his Executive Board make will take us forward onto the next stage of our dream being realised at the earliest opportunity."

Two of the approved recommendations have a very positive impact on our efforts to achieve a place on the Olympic Games programme. In essence, them being passed means that the programme will not be limited to a maximum of 28 Sports; instead the determining factors will be a cap of around 10,500 athletes and 310 events. This provides the flexibility to remove some disciplines in existing sports and add new sports such as Squash.

Equally important is the agreement that sports do not need to be fixed seven years in advance of the Games and that the IOC Executive Board can make recommendations. Taken together, this is another real step forward for Squash as it paves the way for change.

With this in mind, led by President Ramachandran, Squash is pushing to be put forward by the IOC to be the 'new' sport for Tokyo.

DOUBLES RULES UPDATED

At the WSF AGM in October the meeting approved a revised version of the Rules of Doubles Squash.

Since 12 of the 15 Rules are identical (or almost identical) to the Singles Rules squash players, referees and spectators will need to make very few adjustments. Only Rules 5 (The Serve), 8 (Interference) and 9 (Ball Hitting A Player) contain major differences from the Singles Rules. With regard to the principles of play, these Rules do not change the concepts already found in the current Rules. In fact, there is only one aspect that these revised Rules has attempted to clarify: the obligation of the outgoing striker or that striker's partner to make an effort to avoid interference if the ball is struck and returns close to one of them (Rule 8.10). For the rest, the language has been simplified in order to clarify the complications that arise when four players are on the court.

Also approved was the addition of an Annexure to the Rules of Singles Squash; this to advise coaching limitations and to allow the use of player analysis technology.

<http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/rules/rules-of-squash-2>

2015 HAS ARRIVED, AND HOPEFULLY A YEAR FULL OF SAFETY, GOOD HEALTH, SQUASH VICTORIES AND PROGRESS TOWARDS TOKYO 2020!

INDIA AND HONG KONG SHARE ASIAN BEACH GAMES HONOURS

Harinder Pal Sandhu of India and Liu Tsz-Ling from Hong Kong (*pictured below*) claimed the gold medals in the inaugural Squash events in the Asian Beach Games, which were staged on a spectacular all-glass showcourt erected on Karon Beach in Phuket, Thailand.

With entries from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Iran and Qatar, Squash was making its debut in the fourth edition of the Asian Beach Games which featured 26 disciplines. Matches were played to a shortened seven-point, best-of-three-game format, taking place after sunset.

Top seed Sandhu, fresh from winning the Indian championship, was fully stretched in the men's gold medal match, ultimately beating Hong Kong's second seed Tsz Fung Yip 7-2, 5-7, 7-3.

The women's event climaxed in an all-Hong Kong final, with No2 seed Liu Tsz-Ling upsetting favourite Tong Tsz-Wing 7-2, 7-0 to take gold.



WSF President N Ramachandran was delighted with the sport's debut in the Games: "WSF is pleased to have squash included as a medal sport at the 4th Asian Beach Games. We are very grateful to OCA & ANOC

President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and H.E. Kanokphand Chulakasem, Governor of Sports Authority of Thailand, whose vision has made our inclusion possible.

"The site selected was picturesque and truly showed that our sport can be played anywhere. ASB has supported the event greatly by providing an ASB ShowCourt on the beach, which looked fantastic.



"I personally wish to thank ASF President David Mui, ASB, WSF and all member nations of ASF who have supported this inaugural event." After his gold medal triumph, Sandhu said: "This is a superb tournament and I am proud to win a gold medal for my country. It has been a memorable week - I was honoured when I was selected by the IOA to carry the Indian

flag at the opening ceremony and now I am going home with a gold medal".

ANTI-DOPING UPDATE

The WADA 2015 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods which has now come into effect features some clarifications and a few additions to some of the categories. (There is nothing that has been removed from the list and no substantive changes).

The full list can be found at: <https://wada-main-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/files/wada-2015-prohibited-list-en.pdf>

All players need to always check the current Prohibited List if prescribed any medications or think of taking over the counter medicines. There are also some differences between in-competition and out-of-competition prohibited substances which might affect players around taking medications for colds and flu.

Details for players

The 2015 Anti-Doping Code insist that all athletes must take responsibility for what they ingest, meaning anything eaten or drunk and anything that enters the body. If a substance is in your body you are responsible for it.

In legal terms, this is called strict liability. In the new Code, it is no excuse that you did not know what was in a substance that you have taken. The basic rule is: if you don't know what is in a substance or whether it is acceptable – don't take it. If you are prescribed a medication, make sure the physician checks the Prohibited List before you accept the prescription. Any number of common medications including some painkillers that are narcotics or contain narcotics and treatments for colds and the flu can contain prohibited substances. Simple painkillers that are single agents (not a mixture of drugs) such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen or aspirin are acceptable.

Regulation of dietary substances can be very lax. It is not unusual for supplements marketed in health food stores or over the internet to contain prohibited substances that are not disclosed on the product label. A significant number of positive anti-doping tests are attributed to mis-labeled or contaminated supplements. Be wary of products that, among other things, claim to build muscle, aid in recovery, provide energy or help with weight loss. Because you will be held strictly liable for the consequences of a positive test caused by a mis-labeled supplement, the best advice is: do not take the supplement if there could be any doubt as to what it might contain.

WSF EYEWEAR POSTERS

To help promote awareness of eye protection, don't forget that the scalable-poster is available that can be downloaded by centres and placed on court doors, notice boards or in changing rooms.

It can be found at:

www.worldsquash.org/ws/resources/eyewear-poster

ENGLAND RECLAIM WOMEN'S WORLD TITLE

In a dramatic climax to the SHOP.CA WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship in Canada, second seeds England defeated first-time finalists Malaysia 2/1 to win the biennial WSF event for the seventh time.

It was less than 24 hours earlier that third seeds Malaysia created the upset of the championship at White Oaks Conference Resort & Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, by dethroning title-holders and favourites Egypt. Meanwhile England established a new record 11th successive appearance in the final by seeing off Hong Kong China.

In the superb Squash Canada hosted event England (*pictured below*) began their final in convincing style when squad number three Sarah-Jane Perry beat



Malaysian Delia Arnold 11-8, 11-9, 11-7. "That was so, so, different from yesterday," Perry said, referring to the semi-final decider in which she won the decider to put England into the final. "I wanted to get the girls off to a good start.

Next on the all-glass showcourt were the two teams' top-strings - world number one Nicol David facing England's world number two Laura Massaro. The Malaysian was in dominant form - extending her ten-year unbeaten record in the event to beat Massaro 11-8, 11-9 11-3 and force a decider.

"I'm so pleased with my performance today," David said later. "Beating Laura is never easy, I had to dig deep, and beating Laura 3/0 is a great result. I'm so glad I brought a point to the team, it was such a wonderful feeling to be in the final. It was a dream for us."

Low Wee Wern Delays

England looked set to claim the title in straightforward style when Londoner Alison Waters took the first two games and led 8-6 in the third. But plucky Low Wee Wern - the world No.7 who had clinched Malaysia's historic place in the final the day before by winning the decider - reeled off five points in a row to reduce world No.5 Waters' lead.

But, from 2-3 down, the England number two picked up seven successive points before Wee Wern again took serve - then grabbed the next two points to

close out the match 11-8, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4 after 69 minutes and give the title to England.

England's Seventh

The triumph marks England's seventh title since 1985 - but the first since 2006, won in Edmonton, Canada.

Waters had made an impressive comeback after the loss to a lower-ranked Hong Kong opponent on Friday which forced a surprise decider in the semi-final. "Yesterday was probably the hiccup I needed. I got my game wrong and my tactics wrong. Today I just played my game," said Waters. "Even after losing the third game, I was able to keep my composure. We have absolutely amazing support - we're so lucky to be here with the support we get. I'm just so happy for the team."

World individual champion Massaro echoed her teammate's view. "This has been an amazing event from every point of view and thanks to Squash Canada for doing such a great job. A massive congratulations to Malaysia for what they've achieved this week - it was a great final".



(Championship debutants, Guatemala)

Malaysian team manager Sharon Wee was more than happy with her team's performance. "Being in the final is a fantastic achievement - this is a very special moment for us. It has made us believe we can win. I am very proud of our team. Wee Wern never gave up, but Alison was very calm.

Congratulations to England for their win and to Squash Canada for hosting a great championship. The event has shown that women's squash is fantastic!"

In the play-off for third place, Egypt beat Hong Kong China 2/0. "After yesterday, we needed to win that to restore our players' confidence," said Egyptian coach Omar Elborolossy. "They are a very strong team and I am proud of them".

Sixth seeds USA beat France 2/0 in the fifth place play-off to record their best ever finish in the event, while Wales, the No.10 seeds, also achieved their best finish since 1987 after beating New Zealand in the play-off for 9th place.

With massive support from local fans, hosts Canada beat South Africa in the play-off for 11th place.

Final: [2] ENGLAND bt [3] MALAYSIA 2/1

Sarah-Jane Perry bt Delia Arnold 11-8, 11-9, 11-7, Laura Massaro lost to Nicol David 8-11, 9-11, 3-11, Alison Waters bt Low Wee Wern 11-8, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4

3rd place P/O: [1] EGYPT bt [4] HONG KONG CHINA 2/0

Omneya Abdel Kawy bt Liu Tsz-Ling 11-6, 11-9, 11-5, Raneem El Welily bt Annie Au 11-8, 11-7, 11-5

5th place P/O: [6] USA bt [5] FRANCE 2/0

7th place P/O: [7] AUSTRALIA bt [8] IRELAND 2/0

9th place P/O: [10] WALES bt [9] NEW ZEALAND 2/1

11th place P/O: [11] CANADA bt [12] SOUTH AFRICA 2/0

13th place P/O: [13/16] MEXICO bt [13/16] INDIA 2/0

15th place P/O: [13/16] GERMANY bt [13/16] COLOMBIA 2/0

17th - 20th place play-offs:

[17/20] CHINA bt [17/20] AUSTRIA 2/1, [17/20] SPAIN bt

[17/20] GUATEMALA 3/0 Final positions: 17 Spain, 18 China, 19 Austria, 20 Guatemala



SINCLAIR HANGS UP HER PAD



Refereeing at the highest level is such a difficult role and those that do it deserve our greatest respect. A number of men do so, but very few women. One exception has been Chris Sinclair.

Chris has been a foremost international referee since joining the WSF top group in 1987 - so nearly 30 years!

From her home in Australia she has travelled all over the world to major men's and women's championships and refereed with great distinction. Respect for her ability was universal, even from players who would inevitably disagree with a decision that didn't go their way.

The Women's World Team Championship last month marked her retirement from taking her pad (or decision card or console) to the gallery to officiate and to mark this WSF Vice President Linda MacPhail (*left*) made a WSF presentation to her on finals day.

Thankfully, the woman who given countless courses, served on international refereeing committees, assessed and mentored younger referees who have become WSF Referees themselves will be continuing to actively impart wisdom from her experience.

SPIN INFORMATION

For players, all players who wish to play in all World Individual and Team Championships, Regional Events and World Junior Circuit events at all age levels will need to be registered. They will then be provided with their SPIN (Squash Personal Identification Number), which stays with them for life.

For individual events where national federations enter their players they will do so using the SPIN of the players. Similarly, in those events where players enter themselves e.g. World Masters, they will do so using their SPIN.

For team events of all ages competing in World and Regional Championships, Member Nations will enter their teams into the event using the on-line system. Squad and Team submissions would also be made on-line.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

Any player, irrespective of age, can register themselves - or their federation can do so on their behalf - by completing the on-line registration form. They should also let their national federation know that they are doing so.

The current SPIN registration fee - paid on-line - is a once only lifetime fee of GBP10.00 (not annual).

Notes: Half of all the fees paid by the players (or Member Nations on their behalf) is split equally between the five Regional Federations to help fund development initiatives.

Tournament Planner software is used to take entries for National Junior Opens, with players at U19 level able to claim World Junior Circuit ranking points.

WHERE DO PLAYERS REGISTER?

Simply go to www.worldsquash.org/spin

MEMBER NATION LOGIN

Separately, all WSF Member Nations have their login so that they can view all registrations from their country, enter WSF Championships and do so for WSF individual events.



Official WSF Magazine

Egypt's Nour El Sherbini and Nour El Tayeb, Colombia's Miguel Angel Rodriguez and England's Adrian Waller are the inaugural winners of the magazine's Player of the Month Awards.

Also, Allistair McCaw, fitness guru to triple world champion Ramy Ashour, investigates the most important element in being a great mover on court.

For these features and more, please click here:
<http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/features/features.htm>



ASHOUR'S STUNNING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TRIUMPH

Egypt's Ramy Ashour claimed his third World Championship crown, beating compatriot and world number one Mohamed Elshorbagy in a thrilling final in Qatar.

The 27-year-old, appearing in his first competitive tournament since the Allam British Open in May after being plagued by injuries, completed a miraculous return to action to come through 13-11, 7-11, 5-11, 11-5, 14-12 in a dramatic 90-minute encounter. Both players squandered match points before Ashour eventually prevailed in a repeat of his 2012 triumph over Elshorbagy (*below*) at the same venue. "I'm speechless," said Ashour afterwards. "It's an unbelievable feeling and I just can't believe it. I have worked so hard both mentally and physically to get myself ready for this tournament and I have pushed myself so hard - It doesn't get any better than this."

Both players displayed nerves in the early stages, making some errors, but it wasn't long before the capacity crowd at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha, which was packed with over 1,200 fans for the all-Egyptian encounter, were treated to squash of the highest standard.

"It was dramatic and it was brutal - it was like a fight," added Ashour. "Mohamed is an amazing player and he will win a lot more tournaments but I was very proud of the way both of us represented Egypt in such a great manner today and it makes me proud of my country."



Holder Matthew out

World No.1 Mohamed Elshorbagy defeated 2013 title holder Nick Matthew 3-0 in their semi-final showdown, with Elshorbagy having stated that Matthew 'wouldn't be able to handle the pace' the 23-year-old from Alexandria lived up to his prediction, out-muscling Matthew in an intense 60-minute battle.

Ashour, meanwhile, was in majestic form as he withstood everything number one seed Gregory

Gaultier threw at him in their semi to come through 3-0 in 56-minutes.

The biggest surprises came from unseeded Stephen Copping (*below*), from South Africa, who pulled off what he described as the biggest win of his career when he beat Egyptian Tarek Momen to move into the quarter-finals.

The 30-year-old, who knocked out World No.11 Daryl Selby in round one, put in a thunderous performance to get past Momen in an 85-minute thriller, completing the victory with a dramatic final rally to take the match 12-10, 9-11, 14-12, 8-11, 11-8.

It's a victory that saw him become the first South African since

Roland Watson in 1979 to reach the quarter-finals.

Results: 2014 Qatar PSA World Championship

Final: Ashour bt Elshorbagy 13-11, 7-11, 5-11, 11-5, 14-12

Semi Finals: Ashour bt Gaultier 17-15, 11-7, 11-5 , Elshorbagy bt Matthew 11-9, 11-5, 11-8

Quarter-finals: [1] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) bt Cameron Pilley (AUS) 11-3, 11-4, 11-5 , [4] Ramy Ashour (EGY) bt [6] Borja Golan (ESP) 9-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-6, [3] Nick Matthew (ENG) bt [5] Amr Shabana (EGY) 11-3, 12-10, 11-7, [2] Mohamed Elshorbagy (EGY) bt Stephen Copping (RSA) 11-8, 11-9, 11-7]



Photographs:

Many with thanks from SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

WSA AND PSA HAVE BECOME ONE

The Professional Squash Association (PSA) and Women's Squash Association (WSA) merger came into being at the start of this month; the male and female squash professional ranks are now both administered under the one umbrella name, PSA.

The re-formed organisation will be responsible for running the men's and women's professional game with the strategic aims of increasing the level of equality and parity in prize money and playing opportunities across the professional game.



In terms of make-up, the merged body will be based at the current PSA office in Leeds, England, and be managed by the current PSA Chief Executive Alex Gough (*left*) and Chief of Operations Lee Beachill (*below*), with WSA Interim Chief Executive Tommy Berden added to the office team as New

Business Director.

The combined Board is expected to grow in size from seven to nine to accommodate three of the WSA moving across, although the only mandatory female place will be the Women's Tour President.

All women's events will be classed under the PSA Women's World Tour. Similarly the men's events will be classed under the PSA Men's World Tour. The same principle will apply to the World Rankings, i.e. PSA Men's World Rankings and PSA Women's World Rankings.



There will not be separate Tour departments, with the PSA office handling events, as registered, whether men's, women's or combined.

Merger Benefits

Asked what prompted WSA to consider joining with PSA, Berden (*below*) said, 'The many benefits that come along with the merger, in combination with the desire to reach gender equality, have prompted the WSA and PSA to join forces. We can already see that the merger has a significantly positive impact on the prize money levels of the Women's Tour. The Tournament of Champions has just nearly tripled the women's prize fund to reach parity and



follows suit to the US Open and Windy City Open. We expect this trend to continue. On top of that striving towards gender equality will ensure the women's tour will get more exposure, equal draw sizes, court time, etc. for the top-tier events'.

On the question of what currently different operation and Rules areas are now likely to be joined together,

Berden said, 'We will share resources and staff members to start with, and will align membership categories and tournament prize bands. Then over time, either after the 2014-2015 season or after the 2015 calendar year, we will consider aligning all rules and regulations for the men's and women's world tour, including lowering the tin height for women, changing the ranking system, etc'.

LINDA ELRIANI AWARD

A Women's Squash Leadership Award will be presented to Linda Elriani at a luncheon at the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions in Grand Central Terminal on 21st January.

"We are so pleased to recognize Linda's varied contributions to our sport," said Tournament Chair, John Nimick. "As a professional player, Linda's passion for squash was evident every time she stepped on court. Her enthusiasm and never-say-die attitude endeared her to the ToC fans. She now shares that passion as Director of Squash at the Heights Casino in Brooklyn, NY and also as Tournament Director of the Carol Weymuller Open."

Elriani enjoyed a glittering professional playing career, reaching a career-high world No 3 ranking in January 2000 and maintained an unbroken presence in the world top 10 between March 1999 and July 2006, the month before she retired. Off court, Elriani served as Chairman of the Women's Squash Association. She now oversees all squash programming at the Heights Casino in Brooklyn, NY and also acts as Tournament Director of the Carol Weymuller Open, a Women's Gold event.



PROTECTED DATES 2015

In conjunction with PSA, next year there will again be designated protected dates when it is

highly recommended that Regional and National Championships are held - allowing hosts more confidence when making arrangements; giving regions and nations certainty about player participation that is not possible at other times and players the opportunity to commit knowing that there will be no conflicting events.

The 2015 protected weeks are:

National championships: 7 days from second Monday in February and June

Regional championships: 7 days from the last Monday in April*

*Where there is regional agreement that one of the designated National Championship weeks is not used then an additional Regional Championship can be held then, of course.

ELIAS AND GOHAR TOP WORLD JUNIOR RANKINGS



Diego Elias (*left*) and Nouran Gohar (*below*) - from Peru and Egypt, respectively, and both aged 17 - head the latest WSF World Junior Rankings, published in November.

Elias, from Lima, made history in August by winning the 2014 WSF Men's World Junior Individual Championship in Namibia without

dropping a game - thereby becoming Peru's first ever world squash champion. Pakistan's Tayyab Aslam is in second place in the men's list after winning the Asian Junior Championship, with Hong Kong's Tsun Hei Yuen, the 2014 Hong Kong Junior Open and Dutch Junior Open champion, at No3.

Gohar tops the women's list after success not only in major junior events but also in senior National Opens - criteria which now contribute towards the WSF World Junior Rankings (*see below*). The Cairo-based teenager was runner-up in the 2014 WSF Women's World Junior Individual Championship - but also competed in the main draws of the US Open, China Open, Hong Kong Open and Malaysian Open on the WSA World Tour.

Fellow Egyptian Habiba Mohamed, aged just 15, takes up second place in the new list after winning the WSF World Junior Individual title in Namibia. In an all-Egyptian top three, 18-year-old Salma Hany Ibrahim moves up to third place, boosted by reaching the semi-finals of the China Open.

New system

The *WSF World Junior Rankings* - based on the under-19 age grouping - are issued quarterly, based on results achieved in national junior and senior opens, regional championships and WSF World Junior Individual Championships. Adding results in senior national opens is intended to overcome the issue of dealing with top juniors who tend not to play many Under 19 events and so undermining the credibility of the list.

Essentially, for a trial period, the main draw results achieved by Under 19 players in National Open Events registered with PSA / WSA are included so that events such as the US Open, Swiss Open,

Swedish Open, Hong Kong Open and many more will be included over the year. \$50,000+ main draws are in Tier one for points awarded, others in Tier 2.

The quarterly ranking list is now a World Junior one rather than a World Junior Circuit list.

Men's Top 10:

1	Diego Elias (Peru)	175.00
2	Tayyab Aslam (Pakistan)	135.00
3	Yuen Tsun Hei (Hong Kong)	92.67
4	Kush Kumar (India)	81.33
5	Syed Ali Bokhari (Pakistan)	66.67
6	Claudio Pinto (Portugal)	63.33
7	Jami Aijanen (Finland)	56.67
8	Omar El Atmas (Egypt)	54.67
9	Lau Tsz Kwan (Hong Kong)	51.00
10	Andres Felipe Herrera (Colombia)	50.00

Women's Top 10:

1	Nouran Gohar (Egypt)	200.00
2	Habiba Mohamed (Egypt)	126.67
3	Salma Hany Ibrahim (Egypt)	120.00
4	Sabrina Sobhy (USA)	81.67
5	Mariam Metwally (Egypt)	79.33
6	Marie Stephan (France)	63.33
7	Nele Gilis (Belgium)	58.33
8	Vanessa Raj (Malaysia)	55.00
9	Tinne Gilis (Belgium)	51.00
10	Choi Uen Shan (Hong Kong)	51.00

WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT: Jan/Feb 15

January

- 02 – 06 British Junior Open
- 09 – 11 Scottish Junior Open
- 16 – 18 Czech Junior Open

February

- 06 – 08 Spanish Junior Open
- 13 – 15 Liechtenstein Junior Open
- 19 – 22 French Junior Open
- 27 – 01 Austrian Junior Open



WSF APPROVED BALLS



WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

David Survives Four Match-Balls To Claim Record Eighth World Title

In a dramatic climax to the 30th Women's World Squash Championship, Malaysia's world number one Nicol David saved four match-balls in the final to overcome home favourite Raneem El Welily in a five-game 66-minute display of exhilarating squash at the Wadi Degla club in Cairo - and extend her record to eight titles!

The 31-year-old from Penang who won her first world title in Hong Kong in 2005, came into the 2014 event looking for revenge after crashing out of the 2013 event semi-finals. But world No.3 El Welily is in the form of her life - and was enjoying all the benefits of home advantage, playing at the Wadi Degla club where she has been based for many years.

Much to the delight of the crowd, El Welily took the opening game - but David came back to draw level before again the local heroine grabbed the third to take a 2/1 lead. At 6-2 down in the fourth, the Malaysian favourite claimed four points in a row to even matters - but, carried by the crowd, El Welily again reclaimed the advantage to win four points in succession to reach match-ball at 10-6.

A point away

Just one point away from a maiden world title, El Welily was unable to convert - hitting the tin three times as David inexorably clawed back the



deficit to draw level again before eventually taking the game after a tie-break to force a decider. David was now in the ascendancy and stormed through to take the title 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 14-12, 11-5 after 66 minutes and become world champion for a record eighth time.

"I told myself I wanted to win the last point," the jubilant Malaysian said later. "I just kept repeating that: 'it's not over until it's over. Raneem was just playing too well, I just had to find something in me. I just wouldn't let go, and just kept fighting".



In the semi finals El Welily faced Alison Waters, the fifth seed who dethroned reigning champion Laura Massaro, her England team-mate, in a major quarter-final upset. "I'm very happy, and the people around me make this happy feel ten times stronger," said the delighted El Welily after her 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5 victory in 48 minutes.

World number one Nicol David, who was a shock semi-final casualty in the 2013 championship, has been determined to make amends this year. But the firm favourite was fully tested by career-long rival Omneya Abdel Kawy - the No.10 seed from Cairo who was bidding to make it an all-Egyptian final.

After a wobble David regained control from early in the fourth and never looked like relinquishing it as she took the final two games to deny Abdel Kawy a second appearance in the final since 2010. "It was a great match, a tough one. Omneya was carried by the crowd today, it was a great atmosphere, I enjoyed every minute of it!", said David.

Final: David bt El Welily (EGY) 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 14-12, 11-5 (66m). **Semi-finals:** David bt Abdel Kawy 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5 (64m), El Welily bt Waters 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5 (48m). **Quarter-finals:** [1] Nicol David (MAS) bt [6] Camille Serme (FRA) 11-9, 11-7, 13-11 (43m), [10] Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) bt [7] Low Wee Wern (MAS) 12-10, 11-3, 11-4 (30m), [3] Raneem El Welily (EGY) bt [8] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) 11-7, 11-9, 11-13, 11-5 (43m), [5] Alison Waters (ENG) bt [2] Laura Massaro (ENG) 12-14, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9 (52m)



ELSHORBAGY RETAINS TOP SPOT

23-year-old Egyptian Mohamed Elshorbagy has maintained his grasp on the squash World No.1 slot for a third consecutive month to ensure he begins 2015 as the world's highest ranked player.

Elshorbagy topped the charts for the first time in his career in November 2014 and remains narrowly in front of previous incumbent, Frenchman Gregory Gaultier.



35-year-old Egyptian Amr Shabana, a Four-time World Champion (*pictured*), rises up to World No.3 - his highest ranking since October 2010 - leapfrogging England's three-time World Champion Nick Matthew in the process while 2014 World Champion Ramy Ashour retains his place at World No.5.

Colombian Miguel Angel Rodriguez has become the first South American player ever to break into the elite top ten list, rising four places from No.12 to No.8 following an impressive end-of-year run in which he reached the semi-finals in three consecutive PSA International Events.

Men's Rankings January 2015 – Top 20

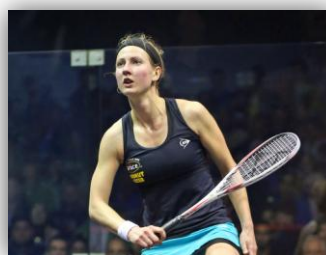
1	Mohamed Elshorbagy	EGY	1385.000
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA	1266.000
3	Amr Shabana	EGY	843.500
4	Nick Matthew	ENG	830.500
5	Ramy Ashour	EGY	808.500
6	Peter BarkeR	ENG	573.500
7	Tarek Momen	EGY	491.000
8	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL	457.000
9	Omar Mosaad	EGY	435.000
10	Simon Rösner	GER	429.000
11	James Willstrop	ENG	427.500
12	Borja Golan	ESP	422.500
13	Mathieu Castagnet	FRA	368.500
14	Daryl Selby	ENG	367.500
15	Marwan Elshorbagy	EGY	337.500
16	Max Lee	HKG	296.500
17	Cameron Pilley	AUS	285.000
18	Stephen Copping	RSA	279.500
19	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY	270.500
20	Nicolas Mueller	SUI	269.000

DAVID'S NINTH ANNIVERSARY

Less than two weeks after becoming World Champion for a record eighth time, Malaysia's Nicol David celebrates the ninth anniversary of first becoming world number one by topping the January 2015 Women's World Rankings.

It was in January 2006 that David, aged 22, first headed the WSA list. After slipping to No2 in April, the 31-year-old from Penang reclaimed pole position in August 2006 - since when she has reigned supreme for a record unbroken 102 months!

Raneem El Welily, the No.3 seed from the Wadi Degla club in Cairo who reached the World Championship final is rewarded by moving up to No.2 in the January rankings, returning to second place for the first time since March 2013.



England's Laura Massaro slips to three with Egypt's Nour El Sherbini at No.4, and Londoner Alison Waters (*pictured*) - who denied Massaro, the defending

champion, a third successive appearance in the final after a shock quarter-final upset in Cairo - in fifth place.

Women's Rankings January 2015 – Top 20

1	Nicol David	MAS	3,681
2	Raneem El Welily	EGY	2,139
3	Laura Massaro	ENG	2,137
4	Nour El Sherbini	EGY	1,403
5	Alison Waters	ENG	1,336
6	Camille Serme	FRA	1,166
7	Low Wee Wern	MAS	1,132
8	Nour El Tayeb	EGY	1,098
9	Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY	923
10	Annie Au	HKG	778
11	Amanda Sobhy	USA	774
12	Joelle King	NZL	712
13	Rachael Grinham	AUS	649
14	Dipika Pallikal	IND	622
15	Madeline Perry	IRL	614
16	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG	588
17	Nouran Gohar	EGY	559
18	Emma Beddoes	ENG	550
19	Jenny Duncalf	ENG	549
20	Sarah Kippax	ENG	520

CAYMAN SNATCH GOLD

The Caribbean and Central American Games held in VeraCruz, Mexico saw Cayman mixed pair Marlene West and Cameron Stafford win the country's first ever Gold when Stafford slammed in a nick on the dramatic deciding point of their match against Mexican pairing of Diana Garcia and Alfredo Avila. A repeat of the ending of their semi final!

An elated Janet Sairsingh (Cayman Squash President) commented "Cayman has been building squash on an international level, so winning the gold was the culmination of our development efforts. We anticipate increased encouragement and support of squash in the future."

Despite losing the Doubles final Mexico did have a big medals haul which comprised five Golds, two Silvers and a Bronze. "Winning gold in men's and women's teams is one more stop on the way to the PanAm Games in 2015, where our goal is to win Gold", said Mexican Squash President Federico Serna.



(Pictured: some of the competing countries)

MEN'S SINGLES:

S Finals: Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) (1) bt Arturo Salazar (MEX) (3/4) 11/8 9/11 11/4 11/6, Cezar Salazar (MEX) (2) bt Lewis Walters (JAM) (3/4) 11/4 11/8 4/11 11/8. **Final:** Rodriguez bt C Salazar 5/11 11/7 11/7 6/11 11/3

WOMEN'S SINGLES:

S Finals: Samantha Teran (MEX) (1) bt Catalina Pelaez (COL) (3/4) 11/9 11/5 11/5, Laura Tovar (COL) (2) bt Diana Garcia (MEX) (3/4) 11/7 11/2 11/5. **Final:** Teran bt Tovar 11/6 11/8 11/2

MEN'S DOUBLES:

S Finals: A Salazar / C Salazar (MEX) (1) bt De La Torre / Enriquez (GUA) (3/4) 11/8 11/6, Herrera / Vargas (COL) (3/4) bt Molina / Abrego (ELS) (2) 5/11 11/5 11/8.

Final: A Salazar / C Salazar bt Herrera / Vargas 11/10 11/9

WOMEN'S DOUBLES:

S Finals: S Teran / K Urrutia (MEX) (1) bt Anckermann / Bonilla (GUA) (3/4) 11/8 11/8, Gonzalez / Tovar (COL) (2) bt Degroot / Khalil (GUY) (3/4) 11/2 11/1.

Final: Teran / Urrutia bt Gonzalez / Tovar 11/5 11/10

MIXED DOUBLES:

S Finals: West / Stafford (CAY) (3/4) bt Pelaez / Rodriguez (COL) (1) 10/11 11/6 11/10, Garcia / Avila (MEX) (2) bt Meakins / Cumberbatch (BAR) 11/9 11/2.

Final: West / Stafford bt Garcia / Avila 11/10 7/11 11/10

MEN'S TEAM:

S Finals: Mexico (1) bt Jamaica (5/8) 2/1, Colombia (2) bt Guatemala (3) 2/0. **Final:** Mexico bt Colombia 2/1

WOMEN'S TEAM:

S Finals: Mexico (1) bt Guyana (3/4) 2/0, Colombia (2) bt Guatemala (3/4). **Final:** Mexico bt Colombia 2/0

COURT ACCREDITATION CATEGORIES UPDATED

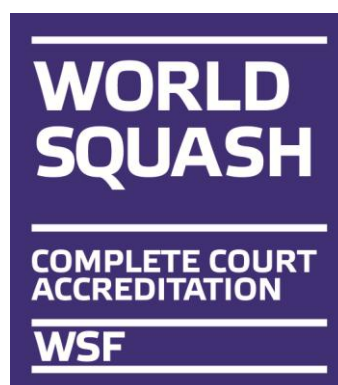
The WSF Complete Court Accreditation (CCA) Registration scheme ensures that centre operators know that they are buying courts of a high and suitable standard, and their users will be playing in the right conditions.

However, with CCA registration being required for all World, Regional, PSA Men's and Women's Tours, and Junior Circuit events using newly built courts and expanding to other events run under the auspices of national federations, WSF has taken two steps.

The first concerns registration of courts. Recognising that there will be occasions where the court owner does not wish all or some of the courts to be *Registered* where they are not intended for national and international competition. In these circumstances they can *List* these courts using the same form but without paying a fee. The *List* will not be published but will be on our database making it easy to upgrade in the future from 'non-competition' to 'competition' use if required.

The second step concerns the addition of Accreditation categories for courts with viewing facilities. In addition to the general CCA mark, companies may apply for *Registration* or *Listing* under any or all of the four categories as appropriate. The WSF Accredits courts in four viewing categories: Club Courts '**CL**', Competition Courts with a glass back wall '**CO**', Championship Courts '**CH**' with some or all glass walls and Stadium Courts '**ST**' fully demountable all-glass show courts which can adapt for doubles play.

Full details of CCA can be found on the WSF website.



SOCIAL MEDIA, A REMINDER

Whether you are a player, organiser, referee, coach, administrator or volunteer you will need to balance the benefits of instant and wide communication afforded by social media with the care of use needed with the medium.

- Social media communications are public statements at all times — even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, remember that your communication may be read by anyone at anytime.
- *Once you have put something online, there is almost no taking it back and it is almost impossible to delete.*
- Your personal reputation and those you mention can be affected by what you say. Be respectful to others, organisations, companies and the sport.
- Always remember that anything said that is untrue could result in legal action at its' most serious, in addition to breaching the WSF Code of Conduct (Article 2. General Behaviour. B. Disrepute).
- *Be aware that uploaded photos may be taken out of context and used by other people or the media so if you are not happy for the image to be shared publicly, don't put it online.*
- Be careful in sharing any personal information. Adjust your security settings accordingly.
- Be mindful that communications and links made need to be considered appropriate by others. This is especially true in all 'friending' actions.

If you are a player, referee or coach (and also generally for others):

- Promote playing and officiating in a positive manner in a way that does not reflect badly or impugn others.
- The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of public speech also apply to social media. It is inappropriate to communicate specifics about your matches played, coached or officiated where they may cause issues for opponents, referees, coaches or any related personnel.
- Communications between yourselves as players, coaches or referees should be done

privately and not through the use of social media. Be mindful that emails and other forms of direct communication can be transmitted onwards.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS ON USAGE:

Respect secrecy and privacy. Think how you will feel if private information about you is published and take care with the rights of others.

Use humour to amuse, not offend.

Remember that there are young and old using social media so foul or abusive language should be avoided.

If you make a mistake, admit it quickly and apologise.

Take a moment to consider whether you will create issues for others or yourself before you press 'send'.

PLAY CLEAN TIP CENTRE

WSF is unwavering in its belief that every athlete has the right to compete on a clean and level playing field, free from the pressures and influences of performance-enhancing drugs.

For this reason, WSF makes available a form that enables players, coaches or others to report possible abuse of performance-enhancing drugs in sport in an effort to protect clean athletes and promote clean competition.

All such reports are completely confidential. Details at: <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/playclean>

EUROPEAN MASTERS CIRCUIT STARTS

February seeing the first event of a new Masters circuit coordinated by ESF featuring a number of national Masters Open titles including the Spanish (27 Feb-01 Mar), Czech (10-12 Apr), Hungarian (15-17 May), German (26-28 Jun), Italian (11-13 Sep), Polish (23-25 Oct), Dutch (27-29 Nov). Added to these are the European Masters in Malmo, Sweden (27 – 30 Aug) and The European Masters Games in Nice, France (1 – 10 October).

Details on all these events at:

<http://www.europeansquash.com/page/25689/Masters-Circuit>. These and worldwide event details can be viewed at: <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wsf-calendar>

CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2015

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are the only brands permitted for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events.

When buying new products, look for the WSF Certified Tested logo. Brands that become certified will be added to the WSF website and featured in Instant Updates.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL
Black Knight 	Turbo (AC 114) Turbo Junior (AC 114 Jr) Lasers (AC 111) Sight Guard (AC 112) Kona (AC 119) Kona Junior (AC 119 Jr) Lynx (AC 122) Stiletto (AC 620)
Dunlop 	Dunlop I-ARMOR
Grays 	Grays GT Eyewear
i-Mask 	i-Mask
Karakal 	2500 (9903 Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43)
Oliver 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
Reydon (Mantis) 	Mantis Protective Eyewear
Prince 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
Tecnifibre 	R615

SNIPPETS

Selected Squash Writings

is an anthology of sixteen selected articles about the game of squash by American squash historian and author Rob Dinerman. They are from a gifted writer, whose prose is definitely better than this book title! It is on Amazon and recommended.

WSF World Championship Regulations

have been updated. The 2015 Regulations can be viewed at <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Championship-Regulations-V7.1.pdf>

WSA Prize-Fund Boost Brings ToC Parity

The J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions will nearly double in size to \$118,000 to ensure prize money parity for the women's draw when it takes place for the 18th year at New York's iconic Grand Central Terminal, from 16-23 January.

A great anti-doping video

has been produced by the Irish Sports Council. Don't miss it: <http://vimeo.com/112085315>

Squash at the airport

now that Hamad International Airport (HIA) in Doha, Qatar has opened its new Vitality Spa, which includes a 25-metre swimming pool, full-service gym, two squash courts, a hydrotherapy bath and three treatment rooms where travellers can have a massage.

The opening of the spa, which any transit passenger can pay to access, coincides with the opening of the new Airport Hotel. Guests can choose from superior, deluxe and executive rooms, which can be reserved from anything between three and 24 hours.



Executive Office: Maison du Sport International, Avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

Administrative Office: 25 Russell Street, Hastings, East Sussex, UK TN34 1QU

Tel: +44 1424 447440 Fax: +44 1424 430737

Website: worldsquash.org

Chief Executive – Andrew Shelley: andrew@worldsquash.org

Operations Manager – Lorraine Harding: lorraine@worldsquash.org

Assistant Operations Manager – Jasmine Pascoe: Jasmine@worldsquash.org

WORLD SQUASH

WSF