

WSF Instant Update

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WORLD
SQUASH

WSF

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

PRESIDENT RAMACHANDRAN AWARDED THE OLYMPIC ORDER



Mr. Ramachandran, WSF President and President of the Indian Olympic Committee was awarded the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement during the Olympic Games in Rio.

The Olympic Order is the highest award of the Olympic Movement and is awarded for particularly distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement, that is, recognition of efforts worthy of merit in the cause of sport. It was established in May 1975.

IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach, formally presented the award to Mr. Ramachandran, and congratulated the IOA President saying the award was in recognition of his contribution to the Indian Olympic Movement and his promotion of Squash within the IOC.

Mr. Ramachandran said, "I am humbled by the honour and it is indeed one of the best moments of my career in sports administration. I am extremely grateful to the IOC President, Dr. Thomas Bach and the IOC Executive Board for choosing me for this award." He added, "This award belongs to the entire country."

Mr. Ramachandran, is a keen follower of sports and has been actively associated with several sports organizations. He has held several positions of responsibility and contributed hugely to the Olympic movement.

In 2001 he was elected as the President of the Asian Squash Federation and was re-elected to this position in 2005. Then, in 2008 Mr. Ramachandran was elected as President of the World Squash Federation, being re-elected for a second four year term in 2012. In February, 2014, Ramachandran was elected President of the IOA.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROGRESSING

The Independent Review into the sport commissioned by the WSF - to evaluate governance, structures and relationships to maintain the process of improving practice and performance - has been progressing on its published timeline in advance of reporting to the WSF AGM in November.

I Trust Sport is carrying out this task on behalf of WSF, the objective of which is to determine whether the WSF and its partners are "fit for purpose" in their governance, structures, areas of responsibility and relationships (including relationships with the Olympic Movement and other key stakeholders) and to make recommendations within four months.

This evaluation of the components of the governance of the sport, how they work and interact from an external objective perspective will be valuable in shaping structure, policy, strategy and relationships in the years to come.

The approach that *I Trust Sport* have been taking is a combination of desk research, using a defined governance assessment process, and a 360 degree review involving interviews with individuals within the WSF and representatives of stakeholder organisations.

The governance assessment process will give a relatively objective analysis of the WSF's current state of governance, while the 360 degree review will offer insight into the opinions of the WSF's most important stakeholders. Together, the two elements will provide a detailed and nuanced independent review.

I Trust Sport founder Rowland Jack has worked on projects with International Federations, sponsors and other organisations on consultancy plans that have improving sports governance as their aim.

WSF AGM 2016

The booking arrangements and general details for the WSF AGM this year were notified to WSF Member Nations in July. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 9 November, with a one-day Conference preceding it on Tuesday 8 November, the venue being Hong Kong, hosted by Hong Kong Squash.

GOHAN & NG CLAIM WORLD JUNIOR TITLES IN POLAND



After Nouran Gohar kept the women's title in Egyptian hands for all but one year since 2003, Eain Yow Ng upset the favourite in the other VDC Dental-Care WSF World Junior Squash Championships final in the Polish city of Bielsko-Biala to become the first Malaysian since 1998 to win the men's title.

World No.5 Gohar - the highest-ranked player ever to contest the women's championship - maintained her straight-games-winning run in the World Squash Federation event at the nine-court Enjoy Squash club when she beat surprise opponent Rowan Reda Araby, a 3/4 seed also from Egypt, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7 in 39 minutes.

It was Gohar's third successive appearance in the final and her second straight win - making the 18-year-old from Cairo the fourth woman to win the title twice since Malaysian Nicol David in 2001, and the third Egyptian to achieve the feat after Raneem El Welily in 2007 and the reigning world number one Nour El Sherbini in 2012.

"I can't believe it," said Gohar after the victory over her 16-year-old opponent. "To win it more than once and join the legends who have done this before, it's a dream come true. It was a tough match, Rowan played well but I'm just so happy to finish my junior career with this win."

Second seed Ng, who was just six months old when his illustrious compatriot Ong Beng Hee made history by becoming the first world squash champion from Malaysia, faced top-seeded Egyptian Saadeldin Abouaish in the men's final.

Honours were shared after two games - but the Malaysian underdog held the upper hand thereafter to prevail 11-3, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5 after 54 minutes.

"It's unbelievable," said Ng, a beaten semi-finalist in 2015. "Becoming World Junior Champion is something I've dreamed about since I started playing squash but to actually do it, it's like a dream."

"That was a really tough match," said the 18-year-old from Kuala Lumpur. "We both had patches where we played fantastic squash and I was just lucky enough to sneak the three games at the end. Youssef is a fantastic player, one to watch out for next year for sure."

The men's final featured both of the losing semi-finalists in 2015 after top-seeded Egyptian Saadeldin Abouaish defeated Pakistan's 3/4 seed Israr Ahmed 11-5, 5-11, 11-6, 11-1 in 44 minutes.

Abouaish, who was taken the full distance in his previous two matches, was looking to end his reputation as the 'nearly man' after losing in the All-Africa Junior Championship final and three British Junior Open finals.

There was a major upset in the women's event semis when second seed Hania El Hammamy was denied a place in the final after losing 11-8, 11-4, 11-7 in 46 minutes to fellow Egyptian Rowan Reda Araby.

"Nouran Gohar, the title-holder who is ranked five in the world, brushed aside Malaysian Sivasangari Subramaniam 11-4, 11-6, 11-5.

RESULTS: VDC Dental-Care WSF World Junior Squash Championships, Bielsko-Biala, Poland.

Men's final: [2] Eain Yow Ng (MAS) bt [1] Saadeldin Abouaish (EGY) 11-3, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5 (54m)

Semi-finals: [1] Saadeldin Abouaish (EGY) bt [3/4] Israr Ahmed (PAK) 11-5, 5-11, 11-6, 11-1 (44m) [2] Eain Yow Ng (MAS) bt [3/4] Youssef Ibrahim Abdallah (EGY) 13-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-8 (63m)

Women's final: [1] Nouran Gohar (EGY) bt [3/4] Rowan Reda Araby (EGY) 11-5, 11-6, 11-7 (39m)

Semi-finals: [1] Nouran Gohar (EGY) bt [3/4] Sivasangari Subramaniam (MAS) 11-4, 11-6, 11-5 (30m) [3/4] Rowan Reda Araby (EGY) bt [2] Hania El Hammamy (EGY) 11-8, 11-4, 11-7 (46m)

Pakistan claim Men's Team Title

After three successive defeats in the final over the past six years, second seeds Pakistan upset favourites Egypt in the climax of the Men's World Junior Team Championship to win the title for a record-equalling fifth time.

The unexpected triumph in the Polish city of Bielsko-Biala marks the first world team squash title won by Pakistan - the one-time powerhouse nation of world squash - since 2008.

Underdogs Pakistan put themselves in the driving seat in the opening battle between the squads' number ones when Israr Ahmed avenged his semi-final defeat to Saadeldin Abouaish in the individual championship to earn a hard-fought straight-games win.

All three games went almost point-for-point, but the 18-year-old Pakistani from Lahore managed to find a way to take crucial leads in all three - leading 10-7 in the first before winning it 11-9; taking the last two points from nine-all in the second; and, agonisingly for the Egyptians, again pulling clear from seven-all in the third to take the match 11-9.



Order was restored in the second match when Youssef Ibrahim Abdallah levelled the tie for Egypt. After the 17-year-old Egyptian took the opening game, fellow squad number two Ahsan Ayaz drew level by taking the second - for the same score 13-11.

The Cairo teenager was on top for the remainder of the match, however, winning 13-11, 11-13, 11-5, 11-6 to set up a decider. Egypt had a brief lead early in the match between 18-year-old Pakistani Abbas Shoukat and Marwan Tarek Abdelhamid, a 16-year-old from Cairo making his championship debut.

To the joy of the Pakistani camp, however, Shoukat closed out the match 11-7, 11-9, 11-8 in 37 minutes to return the trophy to Asia after eight years.

England and USA shared third place - England celebrating their return to the top four after their only failure in 18 appearances since 1980 2 years ago, and USA making history by reaching the semi-finals for the first time ever.

Host Maciej Klis reported: 500,000 cars passing by the city centre glass court. Over one million reached on the event Facebook profile. Around three million of the five million population in the Silesia region of Poland exposed to information/visuals of the event.

Despite failing to make their seeding, third seeds France recorded their best finish since 2000 after beating India in the play-off for fifth place.

Five-time former champions Australia also had much to celebrate; winning the seventh place play-off against Trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand to mark their best finish since 2002.

Perhaps the most impressive outcome in the lower positions was achieved by Jordan, who finished in 10th place in their championship debut!

Guatemala marked their fifth appearance in the event since 2008 with their best finish - 18th place.

The biggest disappointment was recorded by 2014 semi-finalists Malaysia who, despite being the 7th seeds and boasting the World Individual Champion Eain Yow Ng, finished in 13th place - their lowest position since 1984.

RESULTS: VDC Dental-Care WSF Men's World Junior Team Squash Championship, Bielsko-Biala, Poland

Final: [2] PAKISTAN bt [1] EGYPT 2/1

Israr Ahmed bt Saadeldin Abouaish 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, Ahsan Ayaz lost to Youssef Ibrahim Abdallah 11-13, 13-11, 5-11, 6-11, Abbas Shoukat bt Marwan Tarek Abdelhamid 11-7, 11-9, 11-8

3rd place: [5] ENGLAND & [6] USA

5th place play-off: [3] FRANCE bt [4] INDIA 2/1

7th place play-off: [10] AUSTRALIA bt [9] NEW ZEALAND 2/1

9th place play-off: [11] HONG KONG CHINA bt [12] JORDAN 2/1

11th place play-off: [8] CANADA bt [17] SOUTH AFRICA 2/1

13th place play-off: [7] MALAYSIA bt [14] SWITZERLAND 3/0

15th place play-off: [19] SPAIN bt [16] ISRAEL 2/1

17th - 21st place play-off: [15] GERMANY bt [20] ZIMBABWE 3/0

Final positions: 17 GERMANY, 18 GUATEMALA, 19 ARGENTINA, 20 POLAND, 21 ZIMBABWE

WSF COACHING COURSE UPDATE

Some players might seek to stay away from the courts in the summer months and pursue off-court activities – but not so the coaches! The WSF Coach Education Programme (CEP) continued without break throughout the months of July and August with courses in Brazil (*pictured, photo Marcello Pretto*), Peru, Austria, Latvia and Israel.



To date there have been 211 participants in a total of 15 courses worldwide in 2016. With another 10 courses confirmed for later this year on 3 continents, the Programme looks set to reach or maybe beat 2015's figures of 369 participants and 22 courses.

For CEP details please go to:

<http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CEP-Information-Update-February-2015.pdf>

To see a list of National Course Managers go to:

http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/150226_RCM-NCM.pdf

OLYMPICS POST-SCRIPT

While the recent Olympic Games took place in Rio, the disappointment was that the IOC has continued to resist the squash case for inclusion.

This was echoed even in the UK Parliament where before the Games a member urged the British government to take action for her favourite sport by delivering a paper *Squash and the Olympic Games* for discussion at the UK Houses of Parliament in London.



Christina Rees is the MP for Neath in Wales and a former Welsh squash number one who represented her country more than 100 times.

"Many people are surprised to learn that squash is not an Olympic sport; they assume that it has been in the Olympics for many years," the Labour MP told her fellow MPs. "Sadly, that is not the case.

"Squash is gladiatorial, dynamic, physically demanding and mentally challenging; it is like chess on legs. It teaches players strategy, tactics and how to outmanoeuvre an opponent, so it is an ideal grounding for a political career. Squash is a sport for life!

"Why is squash not in the Olympics? It is a complete mystery to me," Rees continued. "Squash is a genuinely global sport that is played by millions of people all over the world. There have been male and female world champions from every continent. Last year, 47 countries hosted professional senior tour events, featuring players from 74 nations. We now have over 50,000 courts in more than 185 nations, from the Arctic Circle to the bottom tips of South America and Australia."

Exciting, dynamic

Tracey Crouch, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, responded: "There is no doubt that the case to include squash as a future Olympic sport has been made with great passion and conviction today."

Delighted by this governmental hearing, World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran added: "It's good to know that our case to try to secure a place for squash on the Olympic Games programme is being made at parliamentary level.

"We continue to believe that squash is a great fit for the Olympics and dream of the time when the Games could become the pinnacle aspiration for all our athletes."

COACH SPIN REQUIREMENT



As was notified to Regions and Nations during 2015, it has become an increasing necessity to ensure that the Code of Conduct operated by each sport, especially for multi-sport events, embraces coaches. So we incorporated coaches into the WSF Code of Conduct while attending

events by requiring them to have a SPIN when at WSF and Regional events from 1 January 2016.

This ensures that they are officially recognised and fall under the formal management of squash.

Some coaches will already have a SPIN as players or as WSF Registered Coaches, of course, but if not will need to secure one. There is a small once-in-a-lifetime payment for this, as regions and nations know.

We would emphasise that this is a SPIN as a personal identification, and there is not a requirement for a WSF Coach qualification to be able to attend.

Hosts of events will need to include the requirement for accompanying coaches to give their SPIN number, as they now do for players.

Here is the wording of the requirement:

WSF WORLD & ALL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - COACH REGISTRATION (SPIN REQUIREMENT)

All team or individual player coaches designated by their nation as part of their event onsite management team (solely, or in attendance with an appointed team manager*) at any Championship** held under the auspices of WSF and all Regional Federations must be WSF Registered i.e. have a WSF Squash Personal Identification Number (SPIN), as their licence to attend in a formal representative role. This is required at the time of them being registered to attend by their national federation.

Where a person already has a SPIN as a player, they would use their existing number.

This Rule will ensure that all coaches formally fall under the WSF Code of Conduct while in formal attendance at a World or Regional Championship.

SPIN's will be required for all events taking place from 1 January 2016 onwards.***

NOTES:

* *There is no requirement for designated team managers to be WSF Registered.*

** *Championships include any team or individual events where the attending national or other team / individual coaches are formally nominated to accompany those participating*

*** *The cost of a SPIN is a once-for-life GBP10, obtained online at <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/spins>*

SQUASHTV SET FOR BIGGEST SEASON EVER



PSA have confirmed that the upcoming 2016/17 PSA World Tour season will see more live tournaments than ever before broadcast on SQUASHTV and Eurosport Player, the official home of live and on-demand squash.

Over 450 matches, spread across 20 tournaments, will be broadcast throughout a season that will see new tournaments such as the Open International de Squash de Nantes, the Al Ahram International - held in front of the stunning Great Pyramid of Giza - and the Wadi Degla Women's Open join the SQUASHTV calendar alongside some of the world's most prestigious tournaments, including the Delaware Investments U.S. Open, both the Men's and Women's World Championships, the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions and the Allam British Open.

"We have worked tirelessly to improve every element of SQUASHTV over the past 12 months and are delighted to showcase our world-class sport on an even bigger scale next season," said PSA Chief Operating Officer Lee Beachill.

2016/17 SQUASHTV & Eurosport Player Schedule:

Cathay Pacific Sun Hung Kai Financial Hong Kong Open: August 23-28

Open International de Squash de Nantes: September 7-11

Al Ahram International: September 19-23

NetSuite Open: September 27 - October 1

Delaware Investments U.S. Open: October 8-15

Wadi Degla Women's Open: October 31 - November 4

Wadi Degla PSA Men's World Championship: October 27 - November 4

Qatar Classic: November 12-18

AJ Bell British Grand Prix: December 2-5

Channel VAS Championship at St George's Hill Open: December 8-12

J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions: January 12-19

UCS Swedish Open: February 2-5

Taeq Squash Colombia PSA Open: February 16-19

Guggenheim Partners & EquiTrust Windy City Open: February 23 - March 1

Canary Wharf Classic: March 6-10

Allam British Open: TBC

El Gouna International Squash Tournament: TBC

Grasshopper Cup: May 3-7

PSA Women's World Championship: TBC

PSA Dubai World Series Finals: June 5-9

Current WSF Accredited Companies are:



CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2016

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 here.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL
Black Knight 	Turbo (AC 114) Turbo Jnr (AC 114 Jr) Lasers (AC 111) Sight Guard (AC 112) Kona (AC 119) Kona Junior (AC 119 Jr) Lynx (AC 122) Stiletto (AC 620) Air Frame Small (AC 641SM) Guardian AV (AC 660)
Dunlop 	Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)
Grays 	Grays GT Eyewear
Harrow 	Shield Pro R16 Covet R615 Radar R43 Radar Jr R717JR
i-Mask 	i-Mask
Karakal 	2500 (9903 Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43)
Reydon (Mantis) 	Mantis Protective Eyewear
Oliver 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
Prince 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
Salming 	ASTM F803
Tecnifibre 	R615

KING'S DOUBLE DOUBLES DARWIN WINS

Success in two of the finals in the WSF World Doubles Squash Championships in Australia led New Zealand's Joelle King to become the first player to win two gold medals in the same championships since 2004.

The climax of the World Squash Federation event took place at the Darwin Squash Centre in Darwin, where King went into both finals in a third-seeded pairing against the events' No.2 seeds.



(NZ squad with Coach Glen Wilson in the foreground)

Partnering Amanda Landers-Murphy in the Women's Doubles final, world No.9 King, from Cambridge on North Island, beat home hopes Rachael Grinham & Donna Urquhart 11-7, 11-4. It was Grinham who, 12 years ago, won gold in both the Mixed and Women's finals in India.

Indian pair Dipika Pallikal Karthik & Saurav Ghosal were King and Paul Coll's opponents in the Mixed Doubles final. The Kiwis rose to the occasion in fine style, despatching the higher-seeded duo 11-8, 11-8 to give double gold to New Zealand.

"We thought we were in with a chance," said King after both triumphs. "I don't think we knew we could win two golds - but it's pretty good to take them back to New Zealand!"

Second seeds Alan Clyne & Greg Lobban faltered in an earlier qualifying round of the Men's Doubles when they went down to the third-seeded New Zealand pair.

But there was no stopping the Scots in the final where they dashed Australian hopes of a championship gold medal by beating the fourth-seeded pair David Palmer & Zac Alexander 11-8, 11-4.

RESULTS:

Men's final: [2] Alan Clyne & Greg Lobban (SCO) bt [4] David Palmer & Zac Alexander (AUS) 11-8, 11-4.

Semi-finals: [2] Alan Clyne & Greg Lobban (SCO) bt [1] Ryan Cuskelly & Cameron Pillely (AUS) 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, [4] David Palmer & Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [3] Paul Coll & Campbell Grayson (NZL) 11-9, 7-11, 11-6

Women's final: [3] Joelle King & Amanda Landers-Murphy (NZL) bt [2] Rachael Grinham & Donna Urquhart (AUS) 11-7, 11-4.

Semi-finals: [2] Rachael Grinham & Donna Urquhart (AUS) bt [1] Joshna Chinappa & Dipika Pallikal Karthik (IND) 11-5, 11-10, [3] Joelle King & Amanda Landers-Murphy (NZL) bt [4] Delia Arnold & Rachel Arnold (MAS) 11-5, 11-3

Mixed final: [3] Joelle King & Paul Coll (NZL) bt [2] Dipika Pallikal Karthik & Saurav Ghosal (IND) 11-8, 11-8

Semi-finals: [3] Joelle King & Paul Coll (NZL) bt [4] Donna Urquhart & David Palmer (AUS) 11-9, 11-7, [2] Dipika Pallikal Karthik & Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [5] Joshna Chinappa & Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (IND) 10-11, 11-7, 11-6

WORLD MASTERS GAMES 2017



As over 800 players prepare for the WSF World Masters in South Africa next month, there is the World Masters Games next year to look forward to.

With more athletes than the Olympics, the World Masters Games is the largest multi-sport event on earth. In April 2017, it is heading to one of the world's sportiest places – Auckland, New Zealand.

Squash is one of 28 sports to feature in the 10-day festival of sport that will see 25,000 competitors from around the world descend upon Auckland. There is no qualification criteria for the World Masters Games – as long as you're over the minimum age, you can compete.

The Squash competition is open to ages 35+, with male and female players competing in 5-year age categories, right up to 80+. Three team categories will also be contested: 35+, 45+ and 55+. North Shore Squash Club will host the Squash competition – just under 10km north of Auckland Central. Entry form and information is at www.worldmastersgames2017.co.nz



The New Zealand Government has announced it is investing \$110,000 through the Major Events Development Fund, with Tauranga City Council also contributing \$60,000 through its Major Events Fund for the World Junior Championships in July next year.

The World Junior Championships feature male and female Individual events followed by the Women's Team Championship and will be held 19 – 28 July 2017.

Entries are already open for the Women's Team Championship, with individual event entries opening in the new year. It will be the largest international sporting championships to be held in Tauranga, with a portable glass court and live-streaming to be used to showcase the city.

Organising committee chairman Wayne Werder said the funding announcement will allow the tournament to be run to the highest standards, ensuring the athletes, management staff and supporters arriving from around the world enjoy the best experience possible.

"We want our visiting athletes to taste the hospitality that New Zealand is renowned for and to leave with exceptional memories, while at the same time enjoying a tournament of the highest standard," Werder said. "This funding will help take the Championships to the next level and we're delighted to be working in with both Major Events and the Tauranga City Council to help achieve that."

The tournament will be the first time New Zealand has hosted a world junior squash event since 2006, with three venues - the Devoy Squash & Fitness Centre in Tauranga and the Te Puke and Mount Maunganui clubs - hosting the 10-day tournament.



CALENDAR UPLOADED

The WSF World Calendar featuring World, Regional, PSA and National Open Championships is updated monthly is at: www.worldsquash.org/ws/wsf-calendar. To add your national championships to the WSF World Calendar please go to: www.worldsquash.org/ws/national-event-registration

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. Their SPIN (Squash Personal Identification Number) 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 in World and Regional Championships, Member Nations will enter their teams into the event using the on-line system. Squad and Team submissions can 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) are 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 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.



Don't forget the date Saturday 22 October.
Details at [facebook.com/WorldSquashDay/](https://www.facebook.com/WorldSquashDay/)

WORLD MASTERS ENTRY CLOSE TO A THOUSAND



South Africa host the 2016 World Masters Squash Championships in Johannesburg this month (24 to 30 September) and will be welcoming a huge entry of 960 to the event.

Seeding is underway at the time of writing. The last Championships were held in Hong Kong in 2014 and over 750 players from 46 countries participated.

Managing the event will be Championship Director Chris Grainger, his wife Jean Grainger (current World Masters O70 Champion). Craig van der Wath the current World O45 Masters Champion and his wife Angelique Clifton-Parks a former World Masters Champion, Liz Addison (Squash SA Director), Ian Paterson (SA Masters Chairman), Roy Kirby (Gauteng Masters Chairman), John van Heeswijk (CCJ Squash Chairman), Glenn Lazarus (Director Egoli Squash), John Shannon (Chairman Chamber Exiles Squash) and Keith Willows (Treasurer World Masters). WSF Technical Delegate will be Martin Wren.

Nations Cup

A new perpetual trophy will be launched at the 2016 World Masters Squash Championships, going to the country whose players produce the best overall performance in the Championships, taking the results in all age groups of both men's and women's events into account. Called 'The Nations Cup', its aim is to generate team spirit amongst each country's players, and to give all entrants – not just medal winners – the chance to achieve for his/her country by reaching the round of last 16 or better in his/her age group.

There will be two separate sections in the competition: one for large countries with a total of six or more individual entrants and one for small countries with a total of five or less individual entrants (men + women).



Official WSF Magazine

Joelle King, the world No9 from New Zealand talks about changes she has made to her game in issue 4, out now.

Meanwhile, Steve Line, squash's top photographer, calls for the sport to be covered differently on Television.

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

WSF APPROVED BALLS

Squash balls which have been tested and approved as meeting WSF Specifications:

	Artengo SB 990 Squash Ball
	Black Knight Ball
	Dunlop XX Yellow Dot Championship Ball
	Eye Ball Squash Ball
	HEAD Sport AG Yellow Dot Ball
	Huashen Double & Single Yellow Dot Balls
	Karakal Squash Ball
	MR Price Sport Maxed Squash Ball
	Prince Rebel Pro Ball
	Taiball Yellow Dot Ball
	Tecnifibre Squash Ball
	Victor / VICTEC Doppel-Gelb Squash Ball

WSF WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2016 WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship will be staged in the suburb of Issy-les-Moulineaux and the French capital Paris from 28 November to 3 December.

17 nations will compete in the biennial World Squash Federation event, hosted by the Fédération Française de Squash, which will take place at the historic Jeu De Paume and St Cloud Squash Clubs, with final stages being held on an all-glass court at the Palais Des Sports Robert Charpentier.

Competing in the Championship will be Australia, Austria, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, USA and Wales.



Women's September Rankings See Gohar Claim Top Four Berth



Egypt's Nouran Gohar (pictured left) has overtaken compatriot Raneem El Welily to move up to a career-high World No.4 in the PSA Women's World Rankings.

The 18-year-old lifted her first World Series title last week at the Cathay Pacific Sun Hung Kai Financial Hong Kong Open just 17 days after being crowned the World Junior Champion for the second successive time.

Gohar's move to No.4 means that former World No.1 El Welily, who suffered a second round defeat in Hong Kong, moves to No.5 in what is her lowest World Ranking since May 2012.

World Champion Nour El Sherbini holds on to top spot, while England's Laura Massaro and Malaysian eight-time World Champion Nicol David stay at No.2 and No.3, respectively.

American Amanda Sobhy – Hong Kong Open finalist - is rewarded for a fine week by moving up a place to a joint career-best No.7 ranking, swapping places with Egypt's Omneya Abdel Kawy, who drops to No.8.

Camille Serme stays at No.6, while Alison Waters and Joshna Chinappa both rise two places to their respective rankings of No.9 and No.10.

Egypt's Nour El Tayeb, meanwhile, was the biggest riser in the top 20, moving from No.16 to No.12, with Emily Whitlock also on the move to a joint career-high of No.15.

New Zealand's Joelle King drops out of the top 10 to No.11, while Hong Kong's Annie Au and English duo Sarah-Jane Perry and Victoria Lust fall to No.13, No.14 and No.16, respectively.

PSA Women's Rankings – September 2016

1	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
2	Laura Massaro	ENG
3	Nicol David	MAS
4	Nouran Gohar	EGY
5	Raneem El Welily	EGY
6	Camille Serme	FRA
7	Amanda Sobhy	USA
8	Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY
9	Alison Waters	ENG
10	Joshna Chinappa	IND
11	Joelle King	NZL
12	Nour El Tayeb	EGY
13	Annie Au	HKG
14	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG
15	Emily Whitlock	ENG
16	Victoria Lust	ENG
17	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
18	Delia Arnold	MAS
19	Dipika Pallikal Karthik	IND
20	Joey Chan	HKG

Ashour Returns to Top Five in Men's September Rankings

Egyptian three-time World Champion Ramy Ashour (pictured) has returned to the world's top five for the first time since April in the PSA Men's World Rankings.



Ashour (made a successful return from a hamstring injury during last week's Cathay Pacific Sun Hung Kai Financial Hong Kong Open and powered to his first World Series title in 16 months, beating compatriot Karim Abdel Gawad in the final.

Meanwhile, a surprise second round exit in Hong Kong wasn't enough to knock Ashour's long-term rival, Mohamed ElShorbagy, off top spot, while World Champion Gregory Gaultier stays at No.2 despite also falling to a second round loss.

World Championship runner-up Omar Mosaad and England's Nick Matthew are the other players to reside in the world's top five at No.3 and No.4, respectively, while Gawad's runner-up finish is rewarded with a move up to a career-high No.6, two places higher than last month.

Marwan ElShorbagy moves down a place to No.7, while Miguel Angel Rodriguez's shock first round defeat to wildcard Tsz Fung Yip last week sees him slip to No.8. Frenchman Mathieu Castagnet, who moves down two places to No.9, and Ali Farag completes the top 10.

Elsewhere, Ryan Cuskelly's impressive semi-final finish in Hong Kong sees him rise to a career-best No.13, swapping places with Spain's Borja Golan to sit behind Tarek Momen at No.11 and Simon Rösner at No.12.

PSA Men's Rankings – September 2016

1	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
3	Omar Mosaad	EGY
4	Nick Matthew	ENG
5	Ramy Ashour	EGY
6	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
7	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
8	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL
9	Mathieu Castagnet	FRA
10	Ali Farag	EGY
11	Tarek Momen	EGY
12	Simon Rösner	GER
13	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS
14	Cameron Pilley	AUS
15	Fares Dessouky	EGY
16	Borja Golan	ESP
17	Max Lee	HKG
18	James Willstrop	ENG
19	Daryl Selby	ENG
20	Mazen Hesham	EGY

RACKETBALL BECOMES SQUASH 57 IN GLOBAL REBRANDING

Racketball, a form of squash sport played on a squash court which has grown significantly in popularity in England and has begun to take hold elsewhere, will be rebranded as **Squash 57** in an initiative spearheaded by the **World Squash Federation**.

It was earlier this year that the WSF, in partnership with **England Squash**, signposted a change of name for the game, which is played with a larger ball and a shorter racket. The new name focuses on the key difference to squash - the larger ball, which has a maximum diameter of 57mm (compared with 40mm for a squash ball).

The game is a popular introduction to squash and can keep generations of players fit and active, and playing on court well into later years.

Following consultation including a questionnaire to more than 20,000 England Squash members, focus groups and consultation with other stakeholders - including international federations and equipment manufacturers - the new name has been selected.



The rebrand will ensure that the game is seen as part of the squash family, whilst also eliminating any confusion with 'racquetball', a primarily North American game played on much larger courts with no tin and a different type of ball.

WSF Chief Executive **Andrew Shelley** said: *"There is no doubt that the game, already popular in England with 12,000 weekly participants, will grow to complement squash in many other countries."*

"Whilst current players will doubtlessly still call Squash 57 by its old name, the change has formally been made. As it grows, Squash 57 will be seen more clearly as a discipline of squash, and may even give us greater chance of adding it to major events such as the Commonwealth and other major Games in future."

England Squash CEO **Keir Worth** added: *"We support the WSF's position and hope that an increased synergy between squash and Squash 57 will broaden appeal and create a stronger playing community. We are excited to be working in partnership with the WSF and will drive Squash 57 to the widest possible audience."*

The game will become Squash 57 from 1 October and the Squash 57 registered logo, which is available for product and general use, is shown above (and available in higher-res by request).

Photographs:

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

ASB & iSQUASH INTRODUCE SQUASH VIRTUAL REALITY

An exciting new promotional initiative has been launched in Munich, Germany, following a new joint venture between Munich-based developer Fun with Balls GmbH and squash court manufacturer ASB.

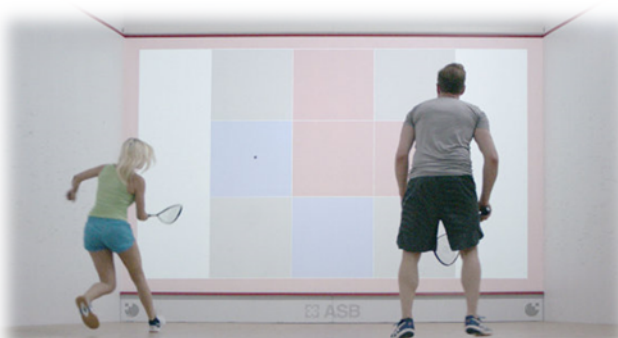
The interactive Squash (in short iSquash) concept transforms standard squash courts into interactive training and games centres - for the benefit of both regular squash players as well as newcomers looking for fun in an interactive squash workout.

iSquash uses regular squash equipment and a conventional court. The pioneering system is powered by a unique ball-tracking and projection system that transforms any regular squash court into a digitally-augmented playground or training facility.



A range of options is available - from simple games where images on the wall disappear when hit, to sophisticated coaching programmes designed for top professionals.

An accompanying interactive Squash smartphone app, used to select a training module or game, also offers a wide range of attractions - with access to a growing selection of games to training programmes. Court-side, players can control which games they play from their phones.



Games are designed to be as engaging as possible with multiple levels, lively graphics and sounds. Training programmes - designed to hone skills and techniques that are specific to competitive players - will receive instant visual feedback and assessments on their performance.

WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT



Events that are part of the WSF World Junior Circuit take place throughout the year. Here are the forthcoming ones.

The current WSF World Junior rankings can be viewed at:

<http://wsf.tournamentsoftware.com/ranking/ranking.aspx?rid=101>.

September '16

06-09 Iran Junior Open
09-11 Welsh Junior Open
20-24 Asian Junior Championships
30-02 Serbian Junior Open
30-02 Danish Junior Open

October '16

07 – 09 Nordic Junior Open
14 – 16 Hungarian Junior Open
27 – 30 East Caribbean Junior Open

November '16

03 – 06 Belgium Junior Open
18 – 20 Polish Junior Open
25 – 27 Irish Junior Open

SNIPPETS

Former player Receives AISTS Athlete Scholarship

Former professional squash player, David Wardle, has become an AISTS (*International Academy of Sports Science & Technology*) Athlete scholarship recipient.

Aimed at supporting professional athletes in their second career, the scholarship funds half the tuition fee to the AISTS Master of Advanced Studies in Sport Administration & Technology programme in Lausanne, Switzerland. The former junior British National Champion made his professional debut in 2012 on the Professional Squash Association World Tour, reaching a career high ranking of 179 before retiring at the end of 2015.

Currently based in China with sports management start-up, ADIsports, David aims to further develop his international career, relocating to Lausanne in September for the 15-month programme.

World University Championships



**SQUASH
2016**

**Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia**

September 5 - 11

FISU World University Championship



The 9th World University Individual Championships take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 5 – 11 September. The Championships, which are held every two years, will take place at the Nicol David National Squash Centre in Bukit Jalil, Malaysia. The last edition, in 2014, took place in India where there were 11 countries represented.

Darwin Development

Darwin Squash Centre, which has just hosted the WSF World Doubles Championships, will be home to Australia's premier squash facility with the announcement that the Government has provided a \$4.5 million grant to upgrade the facilities in Marrara.



Minister for Sport & Recreation Gary Higgins said the extension of the centre will see a 900sqm multi-function space built to house a state-of-the-art moveable glass court.

"The new glass centre court is a game changer for squash in the Northern Territory," Mr Higgins said.

"The competition area will be constructed to world standards, enabling Darwin to host major tournaments, both national and international."

Sue Shearer, president of Squash NT, said "The addition of a full-glass centre court with seating capacity for over 500 people, along with our existing 12 glass-backed courts, transforms Darwin into Australia's premium squash facility".

China Open Bigger Than Ever In 2016

The 2016 Stars on the Bund China Open is set to be the biggest professional squash tournament ever to take place in China after it was today announced that prize money for this year's tournament will increase; with \$100,000 on offer in the Men's tournament and \$70,000 in the Women's tournament.



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