

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 Companies

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The huge disappointment of Tokyo 2020 not proposing squash to the IOC for the programme of their Games has hardly dimmed after several months, and though we now understand that there may be an opportunity to showcase our sport at the 2020 Games, details of this consolation prize have not been confirmed. Should it be offered it may be a step on the path to future participation, but for now we still feel bruised by the rebuff.



We discussed this at the WSF AGM in Nice, France last November, and while there were some recriminations I was buoyed by the support I received about the bid effort. However, it was also clear that the bruising also provided a backcloth to suggestions that WSF needs to consider in our structure and strategy. I accept and embrace this.

A French Federation motion enabling the WSF Constitution to be updated to reflect changing times via an EGM in the coming months was agreed.

To take this forward a Working Group was set up by the French Federation, featuring involvement from Nation Federations that had expressed an interest - and we await the fruits of their labour to ensure that we have updated views in place that are functional within our limited funding. The intention is that motions are set by the end of March to have an EGM to follow in around three months' time so that the provisions can be incorporated in time for the next WSF AGM.

Yours in Squash,

N. Ramachandran

N Ramachandran
President

SETTING COURT STANDARDS

Many products come in various shapes and sizes – but that shouldn't be the case for squash courts! The size of courts are precise and detailed in the WSF Squash Court Specifications, but the playing surfaces need to be appropriate for squash too. That is why for many years the WSF has had an *Accreditation* programme in place for products.

WSF Accreditation enables manufacturers to give customers an assurance of quality and standard, and it gives confidence to architects or specifiers of courts that the materials meet the requirements. Vitally, it also helps to assure that players using the courts have the right environment for their matches, and even reassures centre operators that they have used appropriate materials should there be an accident.

More recently a new element was added - in conjunction with PSA and Regions - insisting that newly built courts holding WSF, PSA, Regional, Junior Circuit and other events must be built only using *Accredited* products; thus reassuring players who travel to events that when playing on newer courts they are of a really good standard. (This requirement does not extend to courts built before 2013, which are only required to be built to specification and of suitable playing characteristics). Compliant courts can be WSF Registered, and so allowable for these events.

To reinforce the push to ensure that the stock of new and replacement courts are of as high a quality as possible, WSF has now also introduced *WSF Accredited Company* status. This is open to any company that can demonstrate relevant experience and expertise in providing squash courts - using only *WSF Accredited* Products. They will need to offer a five-year guarantee covering both materials and workmanship, use experienced and qualified court installers and sub-contractors and fulfil other terms that provide both assurance and reassurance. Registration can only take place if the court has been constructed by an *Accredited Company* or if it is endorsed by the WSF.

Taken together, the sport, the players and the quality products and constructors are all supported.

HUGO HANNES STANDS DOWN



WSF Vice President stepped down as a Vice President in January, as notified to WSF Member Federations by WSF President Ramachandran as follows:

'I regret to report that at the WSF Board meeting a few days ago WSF Vice President Hugo Hannes from Belgium

announced his intention to stand down with immediate effect after holding the position for over three years.

It is a blow for us and squash in general to have lost the service of such a knowledgeable, trusted and respected volunteer of the sport. Even before joining WSF, Hugo was the European Squash Federation President for six years and overall has a very long history of giving his time and energy.

As Member Federations will know, in the recent past our Constitution and Management has been discussed, leading to some acrimony and frustration, which has caused Hugo to question his involvement in such an atmosphere.

WSF is changing and I had really hoped that he would be part of this. However, I must respect his decision. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to him for all the support he has given to me, his Board colleagues, the WSF office and to the committees that he has led. Hugo has worked tirelessly for squash over the years and will be greatly missed by WSF'.

RACKETBALL RE-NAMING

WSF, supported by England Squash, are embarking on a project to rename Racketball.

There are a few reasons driving this. One is to clearly identify Racketball as a recognisable part of the squash family; another to distinguish the name from the North American version (Racquetball), which is played on a larger court with no tin and different, harder, balls.

The name, when finalised, will differentiate the sport to eliminate confusion, and using the word 'squash' as part of the new name for Racketball, will establish it as a variation of squash played on a squash court.

It will also remove the need for national bodies and clubs to identify it separately in their titles.

The consultation process is underway, firstly to understand the thoughts and views of the playing public, commercial stakeholders and ultimately the sport itself, and secondly to develop a new name in line with these insights.

TONY PARKER

Sadly, WSF referee and assessor Tony Parker passed away on 19 February after a short illness at the age of 76. Only last year the Englishman stepped down from international involvement after being at the top of his game for over three decades, including the last twenty years as a world level WSF referee and assessor.



Tony had the respect of all the players on the Professional Tours – they knew that when they saw his face behind the court they can focus on their own play without worrying about the quality of decisions.

He also had the gratitude of so many referees as he has been a great mentor and confidant to so many

of the current referees – for whom his guidance has been invaluable. He has not only led by example, but helped aspiring referees; the next generation.

The world of squash will miss a great stalwart of the game, and a great friend and colleague to so many.

(Tony is pictured receiving a retirement memento from the WSF last September at the British Grand Prix).

WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT

The current WSF World Junior rankings are at:
<http://wsf.tournamentsoftware.com/ranking/ranking.aspx?rid=101>.

Forthcoming events on the World Junior Circuit:

March '16

04 – 06 German Junior Open

11 – 13 Spanish Junior open

19 – 27 European Junior Ind & Team Champs

25 – 28 Australian Junior Open

25 – 31 All-African Junior Champs

April '16

08 – 09 Croatian Junior Open

08 – 10 Luxembourg Junior Open

15 – 17 Norwegian Junior Open

22 – 23 Slovenian Junior Open

22 – 24 New Zealand Junior Open

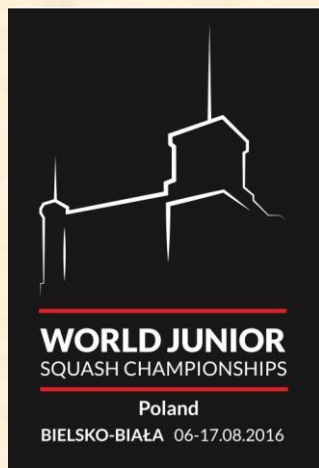
May '16

14 – 15 Liechtenstein Junior Open

20 – 22 Ukraine Junior Open



JORDAN & POLAND MAKE DEBUTS



Jordan and hosts Poland will make their debuts when 26 nations – representing all five continents – contest the 2016 WSF Men's World Junior Team Squash Championship in the city of Bielsko-Biala from 12–17 August.

The World Squash Federation event will be staged at the 10-court Enjoy Squash facility, and a glass show court is

planned to be erected in the city centre immediately following the Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships (from 6-11 August).

Champions Egypt will be bidding for a fourth successive title – and their sixth championship win since 1994.

The full list of nations competing in the event is:

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong China, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA and Zimbabwe.

WSF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Chris Herridge (*pictured*) has been at the helm of this committee as Director for over twenty-five years, and would like to start the process of handing over knowledge to a person who might eventually take over from him.

So, if you are aware of an architect who knows squash in your country and who might be interested in

taking on such a role, do let us know so that we can discuss details with him or her.



Official WSF Magazine

Peter Barker talks about his new role with England Squash after retiring from the PSA Tour

Also, Greg Gaultier and Laura Massaro are crowned *Squash Player's* Players of the year.

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

SOUTH EAST ASIA CUP



The South East Asian (SEA) Cup took place in Naypyidaw, Myanmar, featuring players from the host country and visitors from

Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Malaysia dominated in the singles with Sivasangari beating countrywoman Aika Azman in the women's, while Valentino Bong beat Singaporean Samuel Kang in the Men's.

Singapore narrowly took Gold in the Team event, beating off the Malaysian Challenge.

(The finalists are pictured).



Photographs:

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

OCEANIA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

While these championships played in Labrador, Queensland, Australia not surprisingly were dominated by Australian and New Zealand entries, the women's event was won by Nazibah Hanis, a 'guest' from Malaysia, who beat Kiwi Abbie Palmer in the final; while the men's was an all-Aussie affair with Alex Eustace prevailing over Alex Oswald

WSF APPROVED BALLS



COACHING CONFERENCE REPORT



THE LIFE OF 'P'
(Player Programmes,
Peak Performances)

**WSF COACHING
&
DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
19-21 February 2016
Holiday Villa Hotel &
Suite Subang Jaya



Supported by

More than 60 coaches from all five continents attended this year's WSF Coaching & Development Conference in Subang near Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur, very well hosted by Squash Malaysia.

The conference is traditionally held every two years with the last edition having been held in 2014 in Krakow, Poland.

The Holiday Villa Hotel & Suites proved an excellent venue for this kind of event with hotel, restaurants, meeting rooms and squash courts plus swimming pool and jacuzzi all in one place.

Peak Performance
This year the conference was themed, **The Life of P** (Player Programmes,

Peak Performances) and was centred around Long Term Player Development, starting with talent-finding, followed by skill building for intermediate players and leading up to elite level for women and men. Lectures on psychology, strength training and injury prevention completed the programme. The speakers were a mix from Malaysia's excellent National Sports Institute (ISN) and the WSF Coach Education Programme (CEP) and topped by Malaysian star players Low Wee Wern and Ong Beng Hee.



Prior to the conference WSF held a two-day tutor workshop, where the nine regional tutors in attendance were re-trained to deliver coaching courses according to the new WSF Level 2 Syllabus in their respective four regions.

As for Level 1 there will be a number of short video clips supporting the course content and

soon these new Level 2 resources will be available online for all registered coaches.

WSF Coaching Committee met

The day after the conference the WSF Coaching & Development Committee met in order to plan for future activities. Apart from agreeing on the core content for a WSF Level 3 Syllabus there was a review of the conference. The positive reception voiced by many participants resulted into the committee considering holding a conference annually rotating between all regions.



[Pictured at the WSF Level 2 Tutor Training (back, L to R) Chris Clark (HKG), Renato Gallego (BRA), Cyrus Poncha (IND), Michael Khan (Programme Co-ordinator), Graham Prior (RSA), Colin White (HUN), (front L to R) Ronny Vlassaks (BEL), Major Maniam & Linda MacPhail (WSF Coaching & Development Committee Director and Chairman), Peter Hirst (Panel member).

For more photos please go to: <http://malaysia-squash.org/index.php/2016/02/22/wsf-coaching-and-development-conference-2016-2/>

2016 PSA MEN'S WORLD INDIVIDUAL FOR CAIRO

The 2016 PSA Men's World Championship will take place in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.



Taking place from October 25 - November 4 at the renowned Wadi Degla Club, the 38th staging of squash's pinnacle Men's individual event, will bring 112 of the world's best players to Cairo to compete for over \$300,000.

The PSA have also confirmed that a new women's PSA W50 tournament will run parallel to the PSA Men's World Championship, allowing Egyptian squash fans the opportunity to watch the best players of both sexes in action across what will be a truly unique week of competitive action, in one of the world's most iconic cities.

TOWARDS 500 ALREADY!



through the four hundred barrier and are marching towards five hundred!

The WSF World Masters Championships feature men's and women's events from Over-35 to Over-80 and entry information can be found at: <http://wsfworldmasters.com/>.

Entries close on 12th August.

On the website you can scroll down the list of entries so far, featuring players from all the world continents already. There are current Masters Champions, past Champions and those who just want to participate and enjoy the squash, the social and the general ambience of the World Masters.



One legend who has entered and needs no introduction is Sarah Fitz-Gerald (pictured), the Australian five-times winner of the Women's World Open.

South Africa has already hosted two previous World Masters Championships - in 1997 in Johannesburg and 2006 in Cape Town - and boasts numerous World Masters Champions ranging from the Over-35 to Over-80 events themselves. As Steven Doeg, President of Squash South Africa said, "I know the Championship Director Chris Grainger, and his experienced Local Organising Committee, will make South Africa proud with their efficient organisation of the Championships.

"Hosting it in South Africa also gives our Masters players, who have such a successful history at these Championships, the chance to take on the World on their home courts. We look forward to welcoming players from around the world to South Africa." Will that include you?

WORLD DOUBLES ENTRIES OPEN



The WSF World Doubles will be played in Darwin, Australia, hosted by Squash Australia, on 15 - 18 August this year; entries are open. The championships, featuring Men's, Women's and Mixed events, will take place at the Darwin Squash Centre.

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) |
| 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 |

MASSARO EXTENDS LEAD

Current World No.1 incumbent Laura Massaro of England has maintained her place at the summit of the world rankings for a third consecutive month and has extended her lead over closest rivals Nicol David and Raneem El Welily to over 600 points in the March 2016

PSA Women's World Rankings.

Massaro had a disappointing J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions campaign in January, losing at the last eight stage, but watched on as David and El Welily both failed to reach the title-decider and eat into Massaro's grasp on the No.1 slot.



Frenchwoman Camille Serme, who beat Massaro

to the British Open title last May, is the only riser inside the top five, moving up one place to No.4 after winning the Cleveland Classic - her first title since that British Open.

Alison Waters of England returns to the top ten after finishing as runner-up to Serme in Cleveland while compatriot Emily Whitlock also moves up inside the top 20, climbing one place to No.17.

After falling out of the top twenty in February for the first time in 223 months dating back to 1997, Australian Rachel Grinham returns to occupy the No.20 position and rounds out the elite list.

PSA Women's Rankings - March 2016

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

MOMEN & GAWAD REACH CAREER HIGHS

Egyptian duo Tarek Momen and Karim Abdel Gawad have soared up the March PSA Men's World Rankings to occupy their highest ever rankings of World No.6 and No.7, respectively.

After finishing as runner-up to Gawad in the UCS Swedish Open PSA M70 tournament, which was the highest profile title of Gawad's career, and then reaching the semi-finals of the Taek Colombia Open PSA M100 tournament, Momen has moved up five places from No.11 to hold the No.6 spot - improving on his previous high of No.7 which he last held in April 2015.



As a result of the pair moving up, Colombia's Miguel Angel Rodriguez falls two places to No.8, his lowest ranking in over a year, while Germany's Simon Rösner (No.9) and Frenchman Mathieu Castagnet (No.10) also fall one place inside the top ten.

Elsewhere inside the top 20, the Australian pairing of Cameron Pilley and Ryan Cuskelly both move up to find themselves inside the top 15, with Pilley holding the No.12 slot and Cuskelly at No.15.

PSA Men's Rankings: March 2016

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

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.



A great shot of the show court in the stunning setting of the Plaza De La Anduana in Cartagena for the Colombian Open, won by Mohamed ElShorbagy.

GRAHAM WATERS RETIRES



Thirty years ago Canadian referee Graham Waters became a WSF Referee, and has now decided that the time is right to retire from the central chair.

Not only has he refereed every top player of the period, but has handled them in pinnacle matches such as World Championship finals – and always with calm authority that reassured even the most volatile of player.

Such was the esteem that he was held in that in addition to assessing and mentoring, Graham spent many years managing the WSF Referees Committee.

Now he says that the continued lure of travel means that he just doesn't have the time available to continue. He just has one more event to officiate at - that being the 2016 Bluenose Classic, in his Canadian home city of Halifax.

All of squash will want to thank Graham for such wonderful and extended service to refereeing, and wish him a long and travel-filled retirement!

CALENDAR UPLOADED



The WSF World Calendar featuring World, Regional, PSA and National Open Championships is updated monthly and can be found 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.

WSF APPROVED RACKET



SNIPPETS

Remarkable Rachael



The February PSA Women's Rankings saw Australian Rachael Grinham end a remarkable 223 month unbroken run in the Women's Top Twenty. 39 year old Grinham included 16 months in the number one spot during 2004 / 5 and her winning the World Open in 2007. A sparkling span of nearly 20 years from July 1997.

Cook Islands Push Junior Participation

The Rarotonga Squash Club in Oceania's Cook Islands are hosting a great local initiative, the 'BSP Kids Squash' coaching programme.

"The children who have participated so far ranged in age from 3 to 14 years old, and seemed to really enjoy themselves," said co-ordinator Hayley Anderson.



"They enjoyed activities such as throwing and hitting balls at targets, racket skills, running races and fitness games, followed by a complimentary ice-block and awesome goodie bags from our very generous sponsor BSP," she said.



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