

# WSF Instant Update

ISSUE 60

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

WORLD  
SQUASH

WSF

**To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

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

## WSF MEMBER UPDATE – OLYMPIC GAMES

Dear colleague,

Those of you who were at the WSF AGM in Nice will remember from my report that, although Tokyo had not proposed Squash for their edition of the Olympic Games in 2020, I had stated that I would continue to push for the inclusion of our sport in future Olympic Games Programmes.



Recently, at a meeting in Lausanne with the IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach, IOC Director General Mr. Christophe De Kepper, the Sports Director Mr. Kit McConnell and others, the following points emerged from the discussions:

While Squash was not proposed by the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee, it was made clear that there may be showcasing opportunities available to Squash at these Olympic Games. The IOC's Agenda 2020 also has highlighted the importance to have a "Sports lab" at the Olympic Games. Once the IOC completes

their review and takes a decision related to the proposed additional events, which will be done at the 2016 IOC Session, they will move forward with detailed planning for additional showcasing and promotional opportunities. The Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee has confirmed that they would appreciate having the chance to discuss these with Squash.

The IOC has also stated that it is equally likely there will be showcasing opportunities available at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. This has been discussed with the Organizing Committee of these Games who are also keen to work with the IOC and the WSF.

The strategic review of the Youth Olympic Games was outlined in IOC Agenda 2020 Recommendation No.25, wherein it said that changes to the composition of the programme of the Youth Olympic Games would also be decided at the 2016 IOC Session. Once this is done, the IOC have stated that they would like to explore this opportunity with the World Squash Federation.

I will report back to Member Nations as and when there is news, but for now let me conclude with an extract from a letter sent to me by Mr. Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to illustrate how the IOC views us:

### **"Quote"**

*'Rami please be assured of the value the IOC places on the relationship with World Squash and the strength of our partnership for the development of your sport and your athletes. We greatly look forward to the possibility of exploring the opportunities outlined above for the global promotion of your sport, the reiteration of the importance of squash within the Olympic Movement and the showcasing of your athletes.'*

### **"Unquote"**

My best wishes to all Member Nations in the New Year.

Yours in Squash,

*N. Ramachandran*

**N Ramachandran  
President**

*(Above left, Mr Ramachandran pictured with Dr Bach at the meeting in Lausanne)*



## POLAND IS HOSTING WSF JUNIORS 2016



Just three years after first hosting a world championship in the sport, Poland has been selected by the World Squash Federation to stage the 2016 World Junior Squash Championships.

Under the auspices of the Polish Squash Federation, the event will be held in the city of Bielsko-Biala from 6 - 17 August.

The event will comprise the Men's and Women's Individual Championships, followed by the Men's Team Championship.

"Hosting the World Juniors next year is a huge challenge for all my team and we're very happy to bring such an event to our squash-booming region," said Maciej Klis (*pictured above*), owner of Enjoy Squash, the venue for the championships.

"We see massive potential in this event and so our modern 10-court facility will be well prepared!

"We will try to provide the highest level of Polish hospitality and make things as easy as possible for all the young players, parents and coaches. Also there will be an all-glass court provided by Squash Promotion Group and installed in the heart of Bielsko-Biala city right under our classic castle.

### The motto .....

"The motto for the whole event will be *"work hard to get exposure"* as we think the need of presenting squash to the public is a strong desire of any player," Klis continued. "We're also sure that the level of our beloved sport will be very high, so all our squash community will be looking forward to seeing all the great matches."

The World Junior Championships have long been a stepping stone to adult success since the first championship took place in 1980: The current Egyptian world number ones are both double World Junior Individual title winners - Mohamed Elshorbagy in 2008 & 2009, and Raneem El Welily the women's champion in 2005 and 2007.

## WSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

The WSF World Championship Regulations have been updated following decisions taken at the recent WSF Board and Championships Committee meetings, and the 2016 edition is now available for downloading from the WSF website. The direct link to them is at: <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Championship-Regulations-V7.pdf>

The Version Control on page 5 lists all the latest amendments for easy indication of the updated ones.

## AUSTRALIA TO HOST 2016 WORLD DOUBLES

Australia will host the 2016 WSF World International Doubles Squash Championships.

Featuring Men's, Women's and Mixed events, the event will take place at the Darwin Squash Centre from 15-19 August.

The hosts will defend both the Men's and Mixed gold medals – and seek to reclaim the Women's title lost to New Zealand in the previous championships.

The 2016 championships will provide ideal preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast, as well as the 2019 Pan-American Games. Australia were also double Doubles gold medallists in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland.



Squash Australia CEO Richard Vaughan (*left*) commented: "Squash Australia are delighted to be welcoming the World Doubles Championships to Darwin. Australia has a proud Doubles history and once again we will be hoping to challenge for medals. "The new Darwin

Squash Centre will be a great venue, close to the airport and as Darwin is only a few hours flight from Asian hub Singapore we would be hopeful of getting many nations competing."

## WSF COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMME (CEP)

During the eight months of 2015 after the Programme started we have qualified 262 WSF Level 1 coaches and 65 WSF Level 1 tutors.

To see information about the WSF CEP courses, tutors and Regional / National Course Manager lists please go to:

<http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/coaching-development/coach-education-programme>

You can also see a list of WSF Level 1 Coaches and Tutors at:

<http://wsf.tournamentsoftware.com/view/coaches.aspx>

WSF Level 2 will begin in three months' time.



### Official WSF Magazine

Gregory Gaultier talks about his long journey to a first world title after four previous final failures.

Also, Ian McKenzie remembers revered Egyptian Coach Dardir El Bakary, who died recently.

For these features and more, please click here:

<http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/features/features.htm>



## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IS GREGORY GAULTIER'S ..... AT LAST!



32-year-old Frenchman Gregory Gaultier ended nine years of heartbreak to win the most prestigious tournament in squash at the fifth time of asking, defeating Egyptian Omar Mosaad in the final of the 2015 PSA Men's World Squash Championship in Washington, USA.

Gaultier had tasted bitter defeat in four previous finals, none more so than in 2006 when he squandered five match balls against Australian David Palmer, but produced a masterclass performance to defeat the hard-hitting Egyptian in straight-games to seal the title and trigger scenes of emotional celebration.

"It's unbelievable, there's no words that can describe this feeling," said Gaultier.



### My head was frozen!"

It's better late than never. Since I was a kid it was always my dream to win this tournament. Maybe in the past I put too much pressure on myself. I remember my first experience at 23-years-old in front of the pyramids in Egypt. I had five match balls and I remember at that point I started to feel like a kind of asthma. My head was shaky and frozen.

"I couldn't finish off the match but you always learn from losses and it was an experience. I lost four times and I kept wondering if it was ever going to happen. I just kept on believing in myself, kept on working hard. I was always disciplined."

The victory propelled him to the top of the PSA World Rankings. "It's my fourth time as World No.1, it's always a target," added the man who triumphed in the wake of the Paris attacks in his home country.

"I train to become the best and it's magic when it happens. It is the cherry on the top of an amazing day and it's amazing to share it with the people around me who work so hard as well.

### Heartbreaking .....

"Our hearts were broken with what happened in Paris - all the French people and all around the world. So many people came to talk to me and support me about it. There should be peace in this world and respect. Whoever you are you have to give respect to people. There should be no terror and today we put on a great fight, but it was a fight with respect on and off court."

Defeated finalist Mosaad added: "Gaultier is such an experienced player and to play against him is really hard. He played really well, put me in trouble but I think I did a good job this tournament. I'm really happy to have reached the final and I'm looking forward to my next tournament."

Gaultier had produced a masterclass against giant-killer James Willstrop (*below*) to secure his berth in the title-decider. Willstrop had already taken out top seed and pre-event favourite Mohamed Elshorbagy and World No.5 Miguel Angel Rodriguez in stunning style to reach the last four but Gaultier was impeccable as he saw out the match in straight-games.

Opposing finalist Mosaad had followed up his huge quarter-final upset win over 2014 champion Ramy Ashour with a classy straight-games victory over compatriot Tarek Momen.

Final: [3] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) bt [7] Omar Mosaad (EGY) 3-0: 11-6, 11-7, 12-10.

Semi-finals: [3] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) bt James Willstrop (ENG) 11-1, 11-8, 11-8, [7] Omar Mosaad (EGY) bt [8] Tarek Momen (EGY) 11-4, 11-4, 11-8 (50m)



## PSA CANCEL WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The Women's version scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur was cancelled at the last minute, the reason given to players by PSA being 'We regret to announce that the 2015 Women's World Championship will not be staged this calendar year following notification from the tournament promoters Hallmark Events Group'.



## **MEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP POSTPONED**

The Championship, scheduled to be played in Cairo from 12 – 18 December was unfortunately postponed by the Egyptian Federation following the withdrawal of several teams. The statement:

*The Egyptian Squash Federation have informed WSF today that due to earlier team withdrawals and concerns of others about security they wish to postpone their hosting of the WSF World Men's Team Championship. The WSF Referee Conference which was due to precede it is similarly postponed.*

*Federation President Assem Khalifa stated 'We request this postponement with a heavy heart as Cairo is a safe city. All arrangements for the holding of the event are in place, including full government support to ensure protection as would be afforded to visiting VIPs, and so there is no reason for the championship not to proceed.*

*However we are mindful that some teams did not wish to attend the championship for their own reasons and wish to end any uncertainty for other nations in a positive way by postponing until a later date. It pains us to do so as there is no reason for this and many teams have incurred costs, but it is something we must do to be fair to all'.*

*WSF President N Ramachandran responded saying, 'It is distressing that this event in the wonderful city of Cairo is being postponed. We can only thank the Egyptian Federation again for stepping in to take it on at short notice after the Kuwait NOC suspension by IOC required us to relocate.*

*We will now liaise with all member nations after we have taken stock of the position. For now we accept the decision of our esteemed Egyptian partners and express our disappointment to them and the many nations that were in expectation of what would have been a superb championship.'*

### **Next step .....**

The WSF Board have taken forward the intended playing of the event during 2016 by writing to all WSF member nations in December as follows:

***The withdrawal of several nations from the WSF Men's World Team Championship scheduled to take place in Cairo last week due to their perception of security issues in the city caused the Egyptian Squash Federation to postpone the event.***

***The WSF Board has reviewed the reasons given by the withdrawing nations and the viewpoints received from those who still intended to participate in order to move forward to give players and their national federations the opportunity to take part in the event during 2016.***

***We have agreed revised Men's Team Championship dates of 30 May – 5 June with***

***PSA to ensure player availability, so these are provisionally notified to you here.***

***In terms of venue the Egyptian Federation have kindly offered to revive their arrangements for Cairo. No other offers have been received and there is no doubt that the plans they already have in place for great facilities and hospitality would lead to a highly successful time for all attendees. We must be mindful though that some nations withdrew despite Cairo not recently experiencing any significant terrorist problems unlike European cities, USA cities and elsewhere.***

***The WSF Board have therefore decided that we would wish to take account of concerns of any nations before finalizing the requirements imposed upon the host if we are to proceed with reinstituting the event in Cairo.***

***It was confirmed that the Egyptian Government Interior Ministry would provide a full security service as used for visiting VIPs, covering airport, transport, hotel and venue – to maximize reassurance. Full details were provided to all entered nations. The Egyptian Government have given a formal written commitment to provide the service again if the event is reallocated to Cairo. Copies are available for Federation review.***

***Member nations now have the opportunity to let us know if they still have specific concerns about Cairo, or other measures that would wish to be taken too, by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January. A final decision whether to proceed or not will be taken at the WSF Board meeting the following week.***

***We can confirm that if the event proceeds in Cairo all the nations who wish to re-enter (including those who withdrew) can have their entry fee carried over for the 2016 staging. We suggest that nations who were participating in Cairo when the event was postponed place a hold on deciding whether to carry forward their fee until the decision is taken.***

***We hope that our intentions to provide this competitive opportunity via consultation are well received and look forward to receiving feedback.***

### **Photographs:**

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



## WORLD ANTI-DOPING PROHIBITED LIST 2016

### ***For all Federations, coaches and players:***

The World Anti-Doping 2016 Prohibited List will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. There are no substantive changes compared with the 2015 version of the Prohibited List. A few additions, a replacement and clarifications occurred. If you need to refer to the List, make sure it is the 2016 version, which can be found at:

<https://wada-main-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/files/wada-2016-prohibited-list-en.pdf>

Remember, that as an athlete you are responsible for what you ingest. Avoid taking any medications unless you are certain that they are permitted. Supplements may contain prohibited substances as there is no regulation regarding the contents or quality of their manufacture, so inaccurate labelling and contamination can occur. It is not possible to be certain what is in a supplement, so be very careful and avoid all but simple B, C and D vitamins.

### **'Say NO! to Doping'**



Planned Anti-Doping education has been carried out at the two Sheffield venues used for the just completed British Junior Open, via DFSU (Doping-Free Sport Accord Unit) on behalf of the WSF.

Everyone that visited

the *Outreach* booth was given the opportunity to participate in an online WADA quiz and given a free squash ball incorporating the logo: "Squash says No! to Doping".

There was also a competition for the best slogan on anti-doping; prizes for which are squash balls signed by high-ranking players.

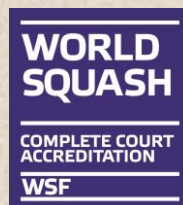
The WSF is very grateful to Fu-Jen Chemical Company Ltd., the manufacturer of the WSF Approved Taiball Yellow Dot Ball, for printing and providing the "***Squash says No! to Doping***" balls absolutely free.



### **CALENDAR UPLOADED**

The WSF World Calendar featuring World, Regional, PSA and National open Championships is updated monthly, and can be found at <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wsf-calendar>. To add your national championships to it please go to <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/national-event-registration>

## COURT ACCREDITATION / REGISTRATION



The WSF Accreditation scheme ensures that centre operators know that they are buying courts of a good standard, and their users will be playing in the right conditions. Full information on WSF Court Accreditation can be found at:

[www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/150206\\_WSF-ACCREDITATION-INFORMATION-2015.pdf](http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/150206_WSF-ACCREDITATION-INFORMATION-2015.pdf)

For all World, Regional, PSA Tour and Junior Circuit events using newly built courts, and expanding to other events run under the auspices of national federations, there is a requirement that they are Registered as being Complete Court Accredited (CCA) i.e. that all the main components are Accredited and are appropriate for competitive use.

Details of this, are at:

[www.worldsquash.org/ws/resources/accreditation/complete-court-accreditation-cca/scheme](http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/resources/accreditation/complete-court-accreditation-cca/scheme)

Court Registration is at:

[www.worldsquashcourts.org/addAccredited.aspx](http://www.worldsquashcourts.org/addAccredited.aspx)

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* their 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.

## 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:

### **January '16**

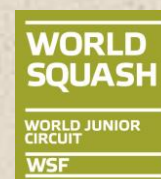
- 02 – 06 British Junior Open
- 08 – 10 Scottish Junior Open
- 15 – 17 Czech Junior Open
- 15 – 17 Oceania Junior Championships

### **February '16**

- 18 – 21 French Junior Open
- 19 – 21 St Vincent & Grenadines Junior Open
- 26 – 28 Austrian junior Open

### **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 African Junior Championships





## OUTDOOR SQUASH INITIATIVE STATESIDE

A new initiative to develop the squash market in the USA is being supported by ASB, one of the world's leading court manufacturers.

"Squash is an extremely healthy, fun, sport that is growing in popularity, yet remains one of the most inaccessible sports in the United States," said Alex Wakefield Wessner, co-founder of Public Squash, a non-profit foundation. "We are determined to change that by building public outdoor courts in NYC Parks, to meet a growing demand at lower costs and promote healthier communities.



"Public Squash was founded to accomplish a single goal; make squash more accessible and visible to the public. We came up with a simple idea to build outdoor courts on underutilized park grounds. Squash can be played on multiple surfaces. Focusing on playability, durability and safety, the courts will offer a professional outdoor experience.

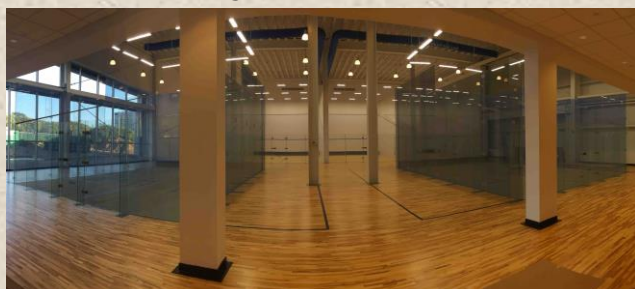
The first ASB PublicSquashCourt will be unveiled in East River Park in New York City this spring.

"I really enjoy the work we do with Public Squash," said ASB Managing Director Christof Babinsky. "The guys are brave enough to bring disruption to the market and make a big impact. We have therefore set out to create the ASB PublicSquashCourt to meet the requirements of the public outdoor environment Public Squash imagines.

For more details of the project, go to: [www.publicsquash.org](http://www.publicsquash.org)

## SCHOOLS SQUASH SUPREME!

December saw the opening of six stunning new additional squash courts at the Poly Prep Country Day School in New York. Not only four glass-backed courts but two, all-glass courts too.



The six new McWil built courts are added to the existing three and give coaches Meredith Quick and

Ben Oliner so much more opportunities for hosting students and matches alike.

Poly Prep is also home of the Nicol Squash Academy, for former World Squash Champion Peter Nicol.

## A UNIQUE COMBINATION?

The Roehampton Club in London used Courtwall to build a court that give them the options of playing,



singles, competition doubles and to use it for other sports too. This court not only has a moveable side wall but the singles back wall can open out to create a larger area too. The area behind the court has moveable seating for a few rows, with the seating being able to fold under the gallery.

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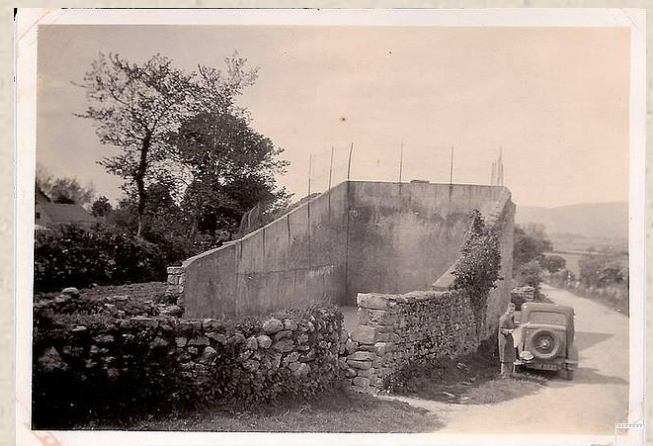
## HISTORICAL CORNER

### The world's first nuclear reactor

Yes, it was built in a squash court. In USA, more specifically Chicago, even more specifically, in University of Chicago's Hyde Park Campus. In 1942 the squash court sitting beneath the bleacher seating for the football field became the home for the world's first working nuclear reactor.

It cannot be seen now as the experimental reactor was dismantled and relocated to Red Gate Woods, while the location became a library. No court but a statue on the site commemorates the experiment.

.....and another bygone court



Location and date are unknown with the only clues being the date of the car which may mean 1920's, and the GB car number plate so either in Great Britain or in Europe where the car had travelled to.



## CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS

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
<b>Black Knight</b> 	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)
<b>Dunlop</b> 	Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)
<b>Grays</b> 	Grays GT Eyewear
<b>Harrow</b> 	Shield Pro R16 Covet R615 Radar R43 Radar Jr R717JR
<b>i-Mask</b> 	i-Mask
<b>Karakal</b> 	2500 (9903 Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43)
<b>Reydon (Mantis)</b> 	Mantis Protective Eyewear
<b>Oliver</b> 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
<b>Prince</b> 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
<b>Salming</b> 	ASTM F803
<b>Tecnifibre</b> 	R615

## SPIN INFORMATION

**For players** who wish to play in all World Individual and Team Championships, Regional Events and World Junior Circuit events at all age levels, they need to be registered. A 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](http://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.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018-2019

WSF would be delighted to discuss hosting opportunities for 2019 World Championships:

- World Junior Individuals followed by Women's Junior Team Championship
- Men's World Team Championship

Tenders for both these events close on 31 Dec 2016.

Also available are the World Junior Individuals, followed by the Men's Junior Team Championship 2018, which can be immediately allocated to an appropriate tenderer.

## WSF APPROVED SQUASH RACKET





## PSA SIGN EUROSPOORT DEAL



PSA have agreed a long-term partnership with the major multiplatform sports destination Eurosport that will really boost squash's visibility and profile across Europe.

Under the five-year agreement Eurosport will become the new home of SQUASHTV in Europe, through their online on-demand channel Eurosport Player, and show close to 500 hours of world class squash action on the OTT platform per year.

Beginning January 1st, 2016 all SQUASHTV tournaments will be shown live and exclusively in their entirety throughout Europe via Eurosport Player while selected highlights from major tournaments such as the British Open, U.S. Open, PSA World Series Finals and PSA World Championship will be broadcast throughout Europe via the network's mainstream linear channels.

## WORLD MASTERS ENTRIES OPENING



Time to think about the Masters highlight of 2016. 24 – 30 September sees the WSF World Masters being played in Johannesburg, South Africa – and entries for the event are about to open. So, if you would like to enter any of the

five year age bands from 35 to 80, then go to [www.wsfworldmasters.com](http://www.wsfworldmasters.com) where you will find all the event details and online entry. The "Early Bird" Package featuring a lower fee is available until 29 February 2016.

## WSF WORLD COACHING CONFERENCE

This conference, confirmed for Kuala Lumpur on 19 – 21 February, is hosted by Squash Malaysia. There will be a great range of presentations around the theme 'Life of P' (Player Programmes, Peak Performances). Delegate package details can be found at <http://malaysia-squash.org/index.php/2015/11/20/wsf-coaching-and-development-conference-2016/>

## WSF CHAMPIONSHIPS – NATION NAMES

For all WSF World Championships from the start of 2016 onwards, it will now be mandatory for players to have the name of their nation on their shirts / tops. (Their name may be added too, but is not mandatory).

Here is the relevant extract from the WSF World Championship Regulations, with the full set at:

<http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Championship-Regulations-V7.pdf>.

### Shirts or tops:

**L6 c.** In all WSF World Individual and Team Championships - with the sole exception of World Masters, shirts or tops must carry a national identification title as defined below.

i a) National Identification / Player name.

A national identification title, the whole to be contained within an area at least 200 square centimetres and not exceeding 300 square centimetres on the back of the shirt or dress.

b) The player's name may also be displayed within an additional area not exceeding 150 square centimetres.

c) Lettering must be in one colour that strongly contrasts with the shirt colour.

ii Specifications.

a) National identification / player names must be strongly visible and in Anglicised alphabet capital letters.

b) Players' names shall be their family name. Forenames may be added above or alongside the family name, and initials may be used in front of family names. Size may be smaller or same size as the family name.

c) The minimum lettering width for national and player names will be 20cms and height 5cms, except in the case of names with fewer than five letters for which the following minimum widths will apply, four letters 16cms, three letters 13cms two letters 11cms.

iii) Country names flags may be added at the discretion of the player/nation.

## TOKYO 2020 PRESENTERS STAR IN U.S.



Satomi Watanabe and Ryunosuke Tsukue, the two Japanese teenagers who both spoke at squash's presentation to Tokyo 2020 of their desire to compete in their home country, showed again

why they would have had medal potential for the hosts by both reaching the Under 19 finals of the US Junior Open, and Watanabe winning hers to follow up her Under 17 title last year.

*(They are pictured here with Nicol David at the presentation)*



## Elshorbagy Regains World No1 Ranking

Egypt's Mohamed Elshorbagy (*below*) has regained top spot in the January 2016 PSA Men's World Rankings just one month after losing the top Ranking to 2015 World Champion Gregory Gaultier.



A disappointing third-round exit at the World Championship in USA saw Elshorbagy's 13-month reign atop the rankings come to an end, but an emphatic victory at December's Hong Kong Open, when he dropped just one game en-route to the title, sees the 24-year-old English-based star move back to the summit of the

rankings.

"Winning in Hong Kong in 2014 was what first took me to World No1 so I was very determined to go back there this year and regain my place at the top of the World Rankings and I'm delighted I was able to do that," said Elshorbagy.

Surprise Hong Kong Open finalist Cameron Pilley, who defeated Gaultier and World No3 Nick Matthew on his way to a maiden World Series Final, is the biggest mover inside the top 20, rising 11 places to occupy the World No13 position – his highest ranking since 2013.

After hitting a ten year low at No24 in October former No1 James Willstrop continues his resurgence, rising three places to No12 while Egypt's Tarek Momen moves up two in the January Rankings to No8.

## PSA Men's Rankings

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

## Massaro Crowned World Number One

Laura Massaro has become just the third Englishwoman ever to occupy the coveted World No1 position after leapfrogging Egyptian Raneem El Welily to top the January 2016 PSA Women's World Rankings.

The 32-year-old (*below*) ended 2015 in a rich vein of form claiming three World Tour titles and competing in four of a possible five finals to surge to the top and become World No1 for the first time in her career, following in the footsteps of compatriots Cassie Jackman (2004) and Lisa Opie (1988).



*"I've been close for a very long time and to now be World No.1 is very, very special. There's no trophy lift or one moment of winning like at a tournament but there's a huge sense of satisfaction that another box has been ticked."*

Massaro secured her place at the summit of the World Rankings

with victory over El Welily, who occupied the position from September – December, in the semi-final of the Hong Kong Open.

Elsewhere inside the World Top Ten American Amanda Sobhy moves up three places to a career high of World No8 while New Zealand's Joelle King continues her rise up through the rankings, also moving up three places to No12.

## PSA Women's Rankings

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



## SNIPPETS

### AMBASSADOR FITZ-GERALD



Five times world squash champion Australian Sarah Fitz-Gerald, one of the world's greatest ever players, has joined World Masters Games 2017 as its newest ambassador. Squash is one of 28 sports taking place across 45 competition venues during World Masters Games in Auckland, New Zealand.

The squash competition will take place at the North Shore Squash Club on the shores of picturesque Lake Pupuke. For entry information please go to <http://www.worldmastersgames2017.co.nz>.

### DJOKOVIC IS A SQUASH PLAYER!



We often hear tennis commentators describe a shot as a squash shot..... and maybe we now know for sure that the tennis players are playing squash on a tennis court!

When he puts down his tennis racket on his winter break tennis star Novak Djokovic clearly likes to still keep a racket in his hand while on holiday. A new

player for the Serbian squash team?

### ENGLAND BOASTS POSITIVE FIGURES

The latest figures from Sport England's Active People Survey (APS) reveal 224,000 adults are playing squash

at least once per week in England, an increase of more than 27,000 compared to last year. Participation amongst the 16-34 age category saw the biggest increase of almost 40%

### UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

FISU, the International University Sports Federation, have awarded the 2018 World University Squash Championships to Birmingham, England. The event features individual events followed by a Mixed Team Championship. Past individual event winners have included Thierry Lincou and Raneem el Welily so quite a pedigree.

### FIVE REFEREES, ONE PLAYER!



When Greg Gaultier won the World Championship he shared a moment with the trophy and the five WSF Referees who had officiated at the event in Seattle. Left to right: Roy Gingell, Nathan Turnbull, Gaultier, Tomas Forter, Damien Green, John Massarella.

### FINALLY .....

**The WSF Board and staff wish everybody a happy, healthy, peaceful and safe 2016, thanking you all for your support in 2015.**



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