



# WSF INSTANT UPDATE

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## **FOR ALL WSF REGIONAL & NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

cc: WSF Regional Presidents, WSF Commission Members, PSA members, Media, Stakeholders, Accredited Products and Companies

## **SQUASH SHOWCASE LEAVES A LASTING IMPRESSION**

WSF President Jacques Fontaine believes that squash's recent Showcase at the Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games 2018 will have left a lasting impression on both the population of Buenos Aires and the Olympic family following a successful week of action that saw over 25,000 people witness squash in the flesh.

Over 2,000 children tasted their first experience of squash during the week through introductory sessions on a miniature outdoor activation court - while the Showcase all-glass court, situated in the heart of Technopolis Park, attracted almost 5,000 visitors each day with many witnessing squash for the first time in their lives.



Joining the thousands of locals to watch the squash showcase were high-profile IOC members such as HRH Tunku Imran, former President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, and Olympic Games Executive Director Christophe Dubi, who had the chance to step onto court and experience the sport first-hand (*pictured below*) - an experience shared by hundreds of lucky locals who were given the chance to play a suite of new interactive games on the centrepiece court.



## More from Buenos Aires ....



"The Squash Showcase in Buenos Aires has exceeded all expectations and we are delighted with the reaction from the local population, the participating athletes and the wider IOC family," said Fontaine.

"Along with enjoying what could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many, our athletes embraced the local spirit and it was fantastic to see them engaging with young fans and to see so many smiles on the young schoolchildren's faces.

"To have so many children step onto a court for the first time is very encouraging for the development of the sport in Argentina. The number of people stopping to watch in awe at both the athleticism of our athletes and the eye-catching displays of the interactive court have shown us that, as a sport, squash can offer something different.

"The feedback we have received so far has been universally positive and we now look forward to working with all parties to show that squash can replicate this success at Paris 2024."

### Olympism in Action

In parallel to the Showcase event, squash was also represented amongst wider Olympic initiatives during the Youth Olympics, with Maria Toorpakai Wazir, a professional player from Pakistan, sharing her remarkable story during a panel session at the inaugural *Olympism in Action* Forum on the same day that Shahd Bshara, a young squash player from Israel, was chosen as one of four athletes from around the world to form the first *Sport at the Service of Humanity Young Leaders Mentoring Program*.



Inspired by their experiences at the event, all 38 athletes participating in the squash showcase (*pictured here*) also contributed to the on-going SquashFORWARD initiative by participating in sessions led by Mexico's PanAm Games Gold Medal winner Samantha Teran - sharing their thoughts and opinions on a host of topics covering all aspects of the game.

Their feedback will be combined in the following months with that collected during previous sessions conducted over the summer to formulate a forward-looking roadmap.



## The interactive front wall featured



The interactive wall, developed by German company interactiveSquash in partnership with the PSA & WSF, has transformed the court into a colourful and engaging playground that has delighted and awed fans of all ages.

Throughout the week, the court has come alive with player tracking and reactive displays showing the location of ball impacts on the wall - while hundreds of school children have had the opportunity to step onto the court for the first time in their lives and experience the interactive gaming modules first hand.

Through a series of introductory activities on both courts, aimed at encouraging children to get active and become acquainted

with being on a squash court, a new generation of Argentinian children have been inspired to get involved in sport. These youngsters are given the opportunity to develop their love affair with squash at local centres as part of the integrated programme.

"To see so many children becoming involved with squash for the first time in their lives this week, and to have so much fun doing so, has been a huge success for us and we hope it will have encouraged a new generation of future champions in Argentina," said World Squash President Jacques Fontaine (*seen here in Buenos Aires with IOC President Thomas Bach*).

"The future of sport lies with this generation of children and to have thousands of youngsters stepping onto a squash court, holding a squash ball and experiencing the joy of hitting a squash ball for the first time in their lives, has been very rewarding for everyone involved. As we are vying to be included in the Olympic



programme, I hope that this generation could one day shine at the Olympic Games."

Argentinian Squash Federation President Juan Pablo Garcia said: *"The activation programme, both on the miniature outdoor court and on the stunning glass-court, has been a huge success and we hope that squash's participation here in Buenos Aires will have a lasting legacy for the community here and for the sport worldwide."*

*"Squash is a very fun sport to play which mixes exercise and fitness with social interaction. It is our hope that we will have inspired a new generation of children to become more active*

*and to engage with the sport of squash."*

Markos Kern, founder of interactiveSquash, added: "This is squash plus gaming. We are bringing fun back to sport and we are already seeing that, as a result, squash is becoming more popular and more people are being introduced to the sport.



"This system turns the actual sport of squash into an interactive experience - it's fitness, sport, fun and technology all coming together to encourage activity and put fun into activity.



*Colombian Squash Ambassador Luis Mancilla signs squash balls for eager fans*



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## LASUSA ELECTED AT WSF AGM – the first WSF Board Member from the United States.



American Peter Lasusa has been elected as World Squash Federation (WSF) Vice President at the WSF AGM held in the Egyptian capital Cairo. Lasusa (*left*), a former Chairman of US Squash is the President of Management Leadership Resources Inc.

Upon his election, Lasusa commented: "I would like to congratulate my predecessor Gar Holohan who did so much work for the last two years, and now I look forward to applying my broad experience in many aspects of our sport to help WSF achieve its vision. I am genuinely excited!"

Holohan had completed a two-year term, in which he involved himself fully across all facets of WSF business, with a special interest in governance and branding. Following the vote, WSF President Jacques Fontaine paid tribute to the Irishman for his commitment

to the role.

Vice President Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the five-time World Champion from Australia, was returned unopposed for a second term for the other Vice President position that was being contested by rotation. (The President and other two Vice President terms end in 2020).

The Federation AGM, with 45 nations represented and superbly hosted by the Egyptian Squash Federation, was presided over by President Fontaine, and also dealt with formal business. This included amendments to the Articles of Association (reinforcing safeguarding policy); adopting updated World Squash Anti-Doping Rules; reducing the general warm-up period before the start of matches from five to four minutes; Forward Plan and accounts.

The conclusion of the meeting saw Fontaine make a presentation to Chris Herridge, the retiring Chairman of the WSF Courts and Equipment Commission after thirty years as the world authority on everything related to court construction and products.

The President also acknowledged the Egyptian Federation, presenting President Assem Khalifa (*below*) with a plaque recognising their hosting.

Closing the meeting, Fontaine said: "Squash is united to move forward to see the sport flourish, and achieve an Olympic Games place in Paris in 2024. I devote myself to both these objectives."



The preceding day had seen the important wide-ranging WSF Conference where delegates heard about and discussed such topics as the squash bid for a place on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Programme, and an updated strategic outline - both in partnership with PSA.

Other topics included the review into the delegate voting formula at AGMs; updates on general areas of activity such as World Squash Officiating, Coach Education and Championships, amongst others.

Naturally, with the AGM being held in Egypt, the opportunity was also taken to include a presentation to give delegates an insight into the Egyptian pathway to great international squash success.

## EGYPT'S CHINESE WORLD TITLE



Defending champions Egypt fulfilled their seeding in the CGG WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship in China, successfully retaining their title by beating perennial rivals England, the No.2 seeds, 2/0 in the final of the biennial World Squash Federation championship at the Xigang Gymnasium in the seaport city of Dalian.

It was the two nations' fifth meeting in the final since 2006 and Egypt's fourth triumph over the seven-time champions.



Things looked to be going the way of the favourites early in the opening match between the third strings Nouran Gohar and Londoner Alison Waters (*both pictured left*). Such is the might of the

Egyptian squad that they were able to rest their number one - the world No.1 Nour El Sherbini - yet still field at third string Nouran Gohar, the squad number four who is ranked six in the world!

Gohar raced to a two-game lead - but Waters, earning her 140th international cap for England, battled back to level the match. It took just less than an hour but Gohar finally nailed her opponent, winning 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 7-11, 11-7 in 55 minutes. Experienced Egyptian world team championship campaigner Raneem El Welily then faced England's Laura Massaro - both former world number ones.

El Welily, the reigning world No.2, took a two-game lead over Massaro (*both pictured below*) before the Lancashire lass reduced the deficit by winning the third game. But the fourth game was a short affair, El Welily dropping just three points before winning 11-3, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3 to give the title to Egypt.

"You always forget about how hard it is for managers and coaches to watch the players - especially on the women's side where it's all about tactical squash," said Egypt coach Amr Shabana, the four-time world champion afterwards. "The attrition and speed has gone up in the last ten years. But at the end of the day it's very tactical - and you can see the tactics going back and forth.



"So I am very proud of the girls especially after Nour El Sherbini messed up her Achilles tendon yesterday - so I am very happy that they stuck together and kept it together."

Earlier in the day, USA and Malaysia replayed the 2016 battle for 5th place - again to decide the same position in the 2018 standings. Seeded three and four, respectively, both teams won their pools - then came unstuck in the quarter-finals.

### Sobhys succeed

With the day's ties being played in team orders 3-1-2, third string Sabrina Sobhy put the USA ahead after being 16-year-old Malaysian Aifa Azman 3/0 before older sister Amanda Sobhy clinched the tie for the third seed - and retained their 5th position - by repeating her win over Nicol David exactly two years ago, surviving a tight clash against the former world number one 6-11, 11-9, 11-3, 12-10 in 32 minutes.

"I'm very proud of the team - we're still a young team, we're still learning in this competition," explained US team coach Thierry Lincou, the former world champion from France later. "Even though USA have featured in several world team events, this team is very new - new to the culture of getting used to the pools, and the concept of getting out of the pool into the second stage - which is like another competition. So we are really learning".

After the disappointment of failing to make the quarter-finals, former champions Australia fulfilled their seeding by winning the play-off for 9th place. But



despite losing, 12th seeds South Africa exceeded their seeding and recorded their best finish since 2010.

The most dramatic tie took place in the battle for 11th place - in which 10th seeds Japan came back h against India, the No.11 seeds, to win 2/1.

"We were seeded ten and disappointed not to achieve at least that position," said Japan number one Satomi Watanabe. "It's been a good experience for us being here and, with a young team in Dalian, including my 16-year-old sister, we can look forward to being more successful in two years'.

It was in June 2016 that the Dalian Squash Association first revealed its plan to bid for the 2018 championship: "I would like to show my appreciation to the city by bringing the World Championship here,"



said Secretary General Wang GuoGuang (*pictured with the Egyptian squad*) at the time. "It would be a great milestone in my life and would make me very proud."

## To Kuala Lumpur next



The final act of the closing ceremony was left to WSF Vice President Huang Ying How who handed over the WSF flag to 2020 hosts Malaysia, represented by former world


number one and nine times World Team Championships' player Nicol David (*both pictured*).

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley commented: "These WSF Women's World Championships have shown that China is not just growing in squash, but actually leading the way! The first-ever world championship played entirely on glass showcourts - the six CGG courts providing a memorable Dalian staging to complement the superb overall arrangements and hospitality the visiting players and officials experienced'.


In his capacity as founder of Dalian GuoGuang Sports Facilities Engineering Co Ltd, the company which produced the Xigang Gymnasium glass courts and is the only Asian court manufacturer to be accredited by the WSF, Wang added: "*Our hope is produce more glass courts in our country to help squash grow in China.*"

**Final:** [1] EGYPT bt [2] ENGLAND 2/0: Nouran Gohar bt Alison Waters 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 7-11, 11-7, Raneem El Welily bt Laura Massaro 11-3, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3. **Bronze medallists:** [5] HONG KONG CHINA & [6] FRANCE. **5th place play-off:** [3] USA bt [4] MALAYSIA 2/0 Sabrina Sobhy bt Aifa Azman 11-5, 15-13, 11-8, Amanda Sobhy bt Nicol David 6-11, 11-9, 11-3, 12-10. **7th place play-off:** [8] CANADA bt [7] NEW ZEALAND 2/0: Nikki Todd bt Abbie Palmer 4-11, 11-5, 11-8, 12-10, Samantha Cornett bt Amanda Landers-Murphy 11-9, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7. **9th place play-off:** [9] AUSTRALIA bt [12] SOUTH AFRICA 2/1: Sarah Cardwell bt Milnay Louw 11-6, 11-6, 11-4, Donna Lobban lost to Alexandra Fuller 12-10, 8-11 ret., Christine Nunn bt Elani Landman 11-2, 11-6, 9-11, 11-6. **11th place play-off:** [10] JAPAN bt [11] INDIA 2/1: Ayumi Watanabe lost to Aparajitha Balamurukan 6-11, 3-11, 5-11, Satomi Watanabe bt Sunayna Kuruvilla 11-5, 11-9, 11-9, Risa Sugimoto bt Tanvi Khanna 9-11, 11-5, 3-11, 12-10, 13-11. **13th place play-off:** [13/16] SWITZERLAND bt [13/16] GERMANY 2/0: Celine Walser bt Saskia Beinhard 11-3, 11-7, 6-11, 11-4, Nadia Pfister bt Franziska Hennes 9-11, 15-13, 11-9, 11-8. **15th place play-off:** [13/16] FINLAND bt [13/16] CHINA 2/1: Riina Koskinen bt Ying Dou 11-1 ret., Emilia Soini lost to Li Dongjin 9-11, 6-11, 6-11, Emilia Korhonen bt Jenny Peng 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-2


*Dalian images courtesy of Guoxiaoming*



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## COACHES COAST CONFERENCE HAILED AS A SUCCESS



Almost 50 coaches from Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Malaysia, USA, Egypt, Botswana, South Korea, Macau, Pakistan, England, Guatemala and China took part in the 2018 WSF World Coaches Conference on the Gold Coast (Australia).

The general theme of the conference was "Excellence – A Global Perspective", with the aim of allowing attendees to learn from various coaching methods practiced all over the world.

World-renowned sports performance consultant and mindset coach Allistair McCaw was a guest speaker at the event and says it was great to share experiences with those involved in squash.

"It was the experience of a lifetime, I thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt a lot". There was so many coaches learning and investing in themselves and so many relationships built up over the week.

"It was fantastic organisation by Squash Australia and WSF." McCaw said

McCaw, Harvard University Coach Mike Way and Egyptian Coach Ashraf Hanafi were all involved in sessions with Australian players following the conference, sharing their experiences and knowledge with the next generation of players.

Before the Conference Squash Australia hosted the first WSF Level 2 Coaching Course in Oceania – attracting seventeen candidates from the region.

### WSF EYEWEAR POSTER

In order to minimise the small danger of eye injury to youngsters WSF makes the wearing of suitable protective eyewear mandatory for juniors, as well as encouraging players of all ages to consider doing so.

To help promote awareness of eye protection still further we have a scalable poster that can be downloaded by centres and placed on court doors, notice boards or in changing rooms.

It can be found [here](#)

## PSA PRIZE MONEY POOL FOR REAL-TIME PHYSIOLOGICAL DATA SENSORS

PSA, in partnership with global technology provider Sports Data Labs, has announced the creation of the first-ever prize money pool for players that have consented to allow the PSA to commercialise their in-match physiological data.

The prize pool for the 2018-19 season will consist of \$100,000 USD initially and will be allocated across the PSA's major Platinum and World Championship events, while that figure is subject to increase as new forms of revenue are generated throughout the season.

The pool has been created through revenue secured on behalf of the PSA by Sports Data Labs and designed to centralise the distribution of player data and align both tour and player interests in developing use cases for human data.

The goal is to reward players that enable the PSA to tell entirely new stories around the sport using this data, creating higher visibility for the tour and driving new revenue streams for both the players and the PSA.

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## STARS SHINE ON WORLD SQUASH DAY

Squash centres in all corners of the globe hosted a wide variety of events to highlight the sport's appeal to mark the 16th edition of World Squash Day.

The breathtaking skills of the sport's leading players took centre stage on finals day at the FS Investments US Open in Philadelphia - where Egypt's world champions Mohamed Elshorbagy and Raneem El Welily took the PSA World Tour Platinum titles, Elshorbagy claiming the honours for a third time.

Responding to a World Squash Day Tweet about women players enjoying parity in prize money and raising the bar in a phenomenal era for the game, the new US Open champion El Welily said: "I feel blessed to be playing among such great athletes."

Teenage squash ambassadors from all over the world impressed spectators at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Squash was enjoying its status as a Showcase Sport in its first involvement with Olympic movement.



Watched over the six days by thousands of enthusiasts (*see above*), the youngsters competed in a demonstration event on a spectacular all-glass showcourt with a high-tech front wall developed by German company interactiveSQUASH in partnership with WSF and PSA.

### Eiffel Tower video

Continuing the Olympic theme, young players recorded a video at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in support of squash's bid for a place in the Paris 2024 Games.



In Iran, a special World Squash Day event to provide fun squash games for children suffering from Downs Syndrome (*see above*) was partnered with a campaign

to protect the Iranian Cheetah, a species facing extinction.

At the Nicol David Squash Centre in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, national juniors from the Bukit Jalil Sports Schools and the national coaches came together for a friendly match (*see below*), where the total points from all players win. The red team, led by national coach Ajaz Azmat overcame the blue team led by national junior coach Andrew Cross.

There were at least five known events in the country, but the one with the biggest fanfare has to be the one held in Seri Menanti, the royal town of the Negeri Sembilan state, where squash was born in Malaysia.

Top Malaysian player Nafiizwan Adnan and former pro Sharon Wee were hosted by the ruler of the state Tunku Muhriz ibni Tunku Munawir and crown prince Tunku Zain Al-Abidin, and played a couple of games of doubles.



In the English county of Northamptonshire, players were joined by newly-ordained curate Phil Nightingale, a PSA member who is based at the picturesque village church in the market town of Higham Ferrers.

The former world No.141 joined in a fun challenge event to promote plans to build a new squash club in Corby.

World Squash Day events included several creative themes, featuring fancy dress and wooden-racket competitions, and others reached out into their communities to set up programmes for underprivileged children.

This was repeated on different continents, with several taking place in South Africa, others in India and the UK, and also at the Scenic City Squash Club in Chattanooga, USA.

World Squash Day 2018 was also marked by the release of an Official Single *Africa*, a song written by squash-loving composer Stuart Sharp and sung by the late American star Oliver Cheatham during a charity concert in Zambia in 1990.

Proceeds from the royalties will be going to deserving causes in squash.

Exhausted World Squash Day founder Alan Thatcher stayed awake for more than 48 hours to co-ordinate events across the globe.

He said: "I wanted to support two 24-hour marathon events in England, taking place at Warrington and the Warwick Boat Club, plus another in Cape Town, and kept in touch with hundreds of other events via social media.

"Fittingly, the day finished with fireworks at midnight after a squash festival in Poland, and that was followed by two brilliant finals of the US Open in Philadelphia.












"The response from the global squash community was absolutely phenomenal, as was the support from the WSF and PSA members."

## WSF APPROVED BALLS

**Dunlop provide the WSF Adopted Ball**, which is used for all WSF World Championships, along with all Regional events.

A number of manufacturers make balls that have been tested to conform to the WSF Squash Ball Specifications and so are quality assured.

They are all listed here:

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	<b>Taiball Yellow Dot Ball</b>
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## CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2018

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.

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	i-Mask
	2500 (9903Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43) Overspec (KA642)p
	Mantis Protective Eyewear
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
	ASTM F803
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## BRITISH SUCCESS AT WORLD UNIVERSITIES

It was a national double for only the second time in the event's history when Great Britain claimed both singles titles, against expectations, in the FISU World University Squash Championships in the English city of Birmingham.

Victories for Joshua Masters and Lily Taylor in the men's and women's events, respectively, at the University of Birmingham were not only a first for the hosts, but also for the University of the West of England in Bristol where they both study.

Masters, the No.2 seed from Kent, recovered from a game down in the men's final to overcome top seed Yip Tsz Fung, the defending champion from Hong Kong, while third seed Taylor - who ousted second-seeded Malaysian Aika Azman in the semis - defeated surprise South African opponent Alexa Pienaar, the No.8 seed, in the other final.



Masters, the 23-year-old world No.53 (*pictured above, second from left, with fellow medallists*), described his success as "probably the best moment of my career so far."

Yip, ranked 28 places higher, was generous in defeat: "I think Josh played very well today, he deserves it! I'm going to try and recover for tomorrow, and I hope for the win in the team event."

Fellow UWE student Taylor, who reads Business with Accounting & Finance, had become the sole British hope in the women's event after the quarter-final stage, which had seen her top-seeded compatriot **Grace Gear** knocked out in straight games by eighth seed Pienaar.

The 24-year-old Johannesburg University student subsequently reached the final after seeing off another higher-ranked opponent, **Zoe Foo Yuk Han**, seeded six. But there was to be no hat-trick of such upsets, as third seed Taylor - three years Pienaar's junior - started strongly in each of their three games, and proceeded for the most part to stay in front before clinching gold.



**Men's quarter-finals:** [1] Yip Tsz Fung (HKG) bt [13] Jakub Solnický (CZE) 11-5, 11-3, 12-10, [4] Addeen Idrakie (MAS) bt [6] Sanjay Singh Chal (MAS) 11-9, 14-12, 4-11, 11-5, [3] Mohd Syafiq Kamal (MAS) bt [7] Henry Leung (HKG) 11-8, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7, [2] Joshua Masters (GBR) bt [5] Wong Chi Him (HKG) 11-3, 11-4, 11-3. **Semi-finals:** [1] Yip Tsz Fung (HKG) bt [4] Addeen Idrakie (MAS) 11-4, 11-6, 11-9, [2] Joshua Masters (GBR) bt [3] Mohd Syafiq Kamal (MAS) 11-3, 11-7, 13-11. **Final:** [2] Joshua Masters (GBR) bt [1] Yip Tsz Fung (HKG) 8-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-5

**Women's quarter-finals:** [8] Alexa Pienaar (RSA) bt [1] Grace Gear (GBR) 11-6, 12-10, 13-11, [6] Zoe Foo Yuk Han (MAS) bt [4] Shehana Vithana (AUS) 11-7, 11-7, 11-4, [3] Lily Taylor (GBR) bt Hayley Ward (RSA) 11-6, 15-13, 11-6, [2] Aika Azman (MAS) bt [5] Ho Ka Wing (HKG) 12-10, 11-8, 11-3.

**Semi-finals:** [8] Alexa Pienaar (RSA) bt [6] Zoe Foo Yuk Han (MAS) 11-7, 7-11, 11-5, 11-6, [3] Lily Taylor (GBR) bt [2] Aika Azman (MAS) 11-1, 7-11, 11-2, 7-11, 11-8. **Final:** [3] Lily Taylor (GBR) bt [8] Alexa Pienaar (RSA) 11-7, 11-8, 11-6.



## GB Round it off in Teams

Hosts Great Britain rounded off their World University Squash Championships campaign with success in the Team event to complete a maximum triple gold-medal haul in the English city of Birmingham.

Victory for Great Britain over defending champions Malaysia in the team event final at the University of Birmingham came three days after individual successes by home players Joshua Masters and Lily Taylor.

And by way of fittingly neat symmetry, the newly-crowned men's and women's champions - who are also fellow students at the University of the West of England in Bristol - gained the two necessary match-wins to ensure gold for their team.

The Malaysian side, who had also won the event on home soil in Kuala Lumpur two years ago, featured three individual bronze medallists in its Final team - although Mohd Syafiq Kamal and Aika Azman had been beaten in their respective men's and women's semi-finals by Masters and Taylor.

For the second time, the two pairs lined up each other again – and the recent history was to repeat itself. In the opening match 23-year-old Masters beat his Malaysian opponent 11-5, 11-8, 11-6 - after which Taylor clinched victory for GB (negating the need for a third match) by overcoming Azman 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8.

**Semi-finals:** [3] GREAT BRITAIN bt [2] HONG KONG CHINA 2/1: Joshua Masters lost to Yip Tsz Fung 8-11, 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 8-11, Grace Gear bt Ho Ka Wing 11-5, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10, Adam Auckland bt Wong Chi Him 11-6, 12-10, 11-9, [1] MALAYSIA bt [4] FRANCE 2/0: Mohd Syafiq Kamal bt Auguste Dussourd 11-8, 11-6, 11-5, Aika Azman bt Julia Le Coq 8-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-9. **Final:** [3] GREAT BRITAIN bt [1] MALAYSIA 2/0: Joshua Masters

## WSF ACCREDITATION

WSF Accredited Products available from these companies mean assured standards when building or renovating squash courts.

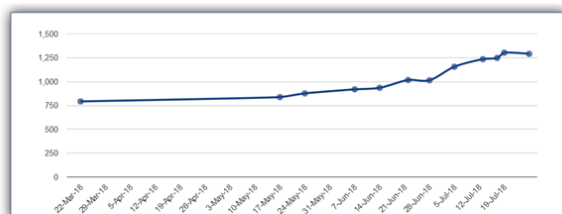
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## NICK MATTHEW SPECIAL

Introduction; Hall of Fame; Secret to his success; Making of a champion; Records; Dunlop Q & A; Poster; My racket

## CALL IN THE ARMY

England's young hopefuls are sent for Army training

## MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Nineteen players become world champions



## ZUKO MASTERS BRITISH OPEN

Zuko Kubukeli's fascinating journey to a British Open title

## PSA'S PULSE

The PSA's TV coverage goes interactive and Rod Gilmour tests it out

## MORE FEATURES

Who has the most international caps; Mike Dale investigates squash podcasts

## NEWS

Egypt's title; David seeks more glory; Matthew-Willstrop head-to-head

**EDITORIAL:** Diminished competitive opportunities; Sumner remembered

**NEWS:** Miguel Angel Rodriguez's British Open win covered by the South American media; Nick Matthew's honour; Pro stoppages down

## OFF COURT

Competition winners; El Tayeb joins Dunlop; Wearwell courts approved; three Ashaway signings

# SQUASH

## PLAYER HANDOUT

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## WSF NEWS

Andrew Shelley welcomes squash's appearance in the Youth Olympic Games; Chinese milestone; Different views on the service rule

## WORKSHOP

**NEWS:** New University of Warwick centre

**MY GAME:** Prince brings Ramy Ashour to Squash Player

**TACTICS:** Length in depth is the next in our series of the top 10 tactics in squash

**VISUALISATION:** Squash Player interviews British Open champion Miguel Angel Rodriguez's mental coach, Maxim P. Weithers

**HEART RATES ON TV:** What do the stats mean?

**PRINCE RULES POSTER:** The key rules you should know

**prince**  
Squash

# RULES

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

**THE ABC OF RIGHT OF WAY**  
There are clear right of way rules in squash which are designed to prevent traffic jams.

**A. KEEP THE GAME SAFE**  
Stop and play a let (i.e. play the rally over again) if any dangerous situation arises - for example, where you risk hitting your opponent with the racket or ball, or risk barging your opponent.

The rules provide penalties for dangerous and unsporting play.

**No. 2 means:** A player must provide room for a reasonable swing and for the striker to play any shot.

**No. 3 means:** A player must allow the striker to play to any part of the front wall. That is, the player cannot stand or recover in such a way that the striker's shot is restricted to just part of the front wall.

**C. NO BLOCKING, CROWDING OR RESTRICTING**  
In summary, the incoming striker has the right of way.

**COLUMNS:** Lee Drew analyses Nour El Sherbini's backhand volley; Phil Newton advises on curing groin pain

## ON COURT

Round-up; News & Reviews; Quote of the Month; Performance of the Month; Profile: Low Wee Wern; Short Shots; Tour roundup; Nottingham the Nationals centre in Britain; PSL welcomes Welsh Wizards and Newcastle



**JUNIOR CHAMPIONS** Rod Gilmour profiles the newly-crowned world junior champions, Rowan Elaraby and Mostafa Asal

## CALENDAR

Selected events coming up, including the Qatar Classic and the Black Ball Open

## PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

### JULY

Ivan Yuen wins successive PSA Tour events and Annie Au claims seventh Hong Kong national title

### AUGUST

Abdulla Al-Tamimi has biggest PSA Tour win and Low Wee Wern returns to form after injury

### SEPTEMBER

Leo Au wins first Asian Games gold and Nicol David picks up her fifth in Games finale

## HALL OF FAME

Nick Matthew is inducted into the Squash Player Hall of Fame. Richard Eaton remembers



## HISTORY

Australia lifted the women's world team title as recently as 2010

## FROM THE GALLERY

Beer, short shorts, floor champion, coaching penalties and an urgent café



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# PSA NOVEMBER RANKINGS



## WALES EVANS BREAKS INTO TOP 10



Rhyl-based Tesni Evans has become the first Welsh woman ever to break into the world's top 10 after the November PSA Women's World Rankings were released. Evans made history in Philadelphia as she became the first Welsh player to reach the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

Her performances at that tournament have helped her rise three places to No.9, making her the first Welsh player, male or female, to feature in the top 10 since David Evans in 2002.

Egypt's Nour El Sherbini marks her 23rd birthday with a 31st successive month at World No.1, but she could lose top spot to compatriot Raneem El Welily if the older Egyptian can get further than El Sherbini in the Hong Kong Open later this month.

Nour El Tayeb stays at No.3 ahead of France's Camille Serme in No.4, while England's Laura Massaro moves up a place. Massaro's compatriot Sarah-Jane Perry rises two spots to No.6 after winning the Oracle NetSuite Open last month, while New Zealand's Joelle King has dropped two places to No.7.

Egypt's Nouran Gohar falls to No.8 to sit a place ahead of Evans, while Malaysia's eight-time World Champion Nicol David returns to the top 10 after last month saw her record 177-month run in the top 10 ended.

## PSA Women's Rankings – November 2018

1	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
2	Raneem El Welily	EGY
3	Nour El Tayeb	EGY
4	Camille Serme	FRA
5	Laura Massaro	ENG
6	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG
7	Joelle King	NZL
8	Nouran Gohar	EGY
9	Tesni Evans	WAL
10	Nicol David	MAS
11	Alison Waters	ENG
12	Annie Au	HKG
13	Amanda Sobhy	USA
14	Joshna Chinappa	IND
15	Salma Hany	EGY
16	Victoria Lust	ENG
17	Donna Lobban	AUS
18	Olivia Blatchford Clyne	USA
19	Joey Chan	HKG
20	Hania El Hammany	EGY

## JAMES BECOMES ENGLAND'S NUMBER 1



Nottingham-based Declan James has moved up four places to World No.16 to become England's No.1 male player in the PSA Men's World Rankings for November.

James reached the third round of the FS Investments U.S. Open Squash Championships and the second round of the Channel VAS Championships during October, where he proved to be a stern test for World No.3 Tarek Momen and World No.2 Ali Farag, respectively.

Those performances have seen him leapfrog compatriot and former World No.1 James Willstrop in the rankings, while the current holder of the World No.1 spot - Egypt's Mohamed ElShorbagy - tops the rankings for a ninth successive month.

Ali Farag (No.2), Marwan ElShorbagy (No.3), Tarek Momen (No.4) and Simon Rösner retain their places in an unchanged top five, while France's Gregory Gaultier moves up a place to No.6, trading places with Colombia's Miguel Angel Rodriguez.

New Zealand's Paul Coll stays at No.8, while former World Champion Karim Abdel Gawad rises to No.9 to overtake fellow Egyptian Mohamed Abouelghar, who completes the top 10.

## PSA Men's Rankings – November 2018

1	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
2	Ali Farag	EGY
3	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
4	Tarek Momen	EGY
5	Simon Rösner	GER
6	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
7	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL
8	Paul Coll	NZL
9	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
10	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
11	Saurav Ghosal	IND
12	Diego Elias	PER
13	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS
14	Max Lee	HKG
15	Ramy Ashour	EGY
16	Declan James	ENG
17	Omar Mosaad	EGY
18	James Willstrop	ENG
19	Nicholas Mueller	SUI
20	Raphael Kandra	GER



PLAYERS ADVOCATE SPORT INCLUSIVITY



Maria Toorpakai Wazir, a professional squash player from Pakistan, and Shahd Bshara, a member of the Israel-based urban squash programme SquashBond, participated in two inaugural initiatives launched in Buenos Aires alongside the Youth Olympics, which saw them advocate for inclusion through sport by sharing their inspiring stories.

Disguised as a boy

Toorpakai Wazir, whose remarkable journey to become a professional athlete saw her disguise herself as a boy in order to train, compete and attend school in defiance of imposed Taliban rule in her home region of Waziristan, Pakistan, spoke during a working session entitled "Spark Talk: Fighting for the Right to Play Sport" at the inaugural Olympism in Action Forum - a newly launched IOC programme focused on building a better world through sport.

The world-ranked number 116 is a renowned gender equality advocate and serves on the IOC Women in Sport Commission, aiming to promote equal opportunities for girls and women to participate in, and benefit from sport and physical activity.

"It was very exciting to be part of the Olympism in Action Forum ahead of the Youth Olympic Games this week," said Toorpakai Wazir

"I also cannot wait to see squash being showcased at the Games. I want to see squash, the sport that I love the most, becoming part of the Olympic programme soon and the process is very exciting."

15-year-old Bshara (right), meanwhile, was chosen as one of four athletes from around the world to form the first Sport at the Service of Humanity Young Leaders Mentoring Program, launched at the Young Leaders Forum, which aims to prepare athletes and young leaders in sport to "Win in Life" and inspire their communities through the power of their example.

SquashBond, of which Bshara is a member, is a cross-community organisation that helps to bridge the gap between Jewish and Arab cultures in Israel and teaches life skills and leadership through the game of squash. The organisation aims to help children and teenagers grow into confident, mature adults who can

venture beyond their communities, pursue educational achievements and ultimately jointly promote a shared community.



"I fell in love with squash the moment I first played it five years ago and through squash so many new opportunities and doors have opened for me," said Bshara, who lives in an Arab town in Israel.

"The opportunity to travel to Argentina and be part of Young Leaders Mentoring Program is a great honour and has been very exciting. Learning how sport can help promote peace and empower people is very important and I hope that I can help bring the sport of squash to our community in the future."

Jacques Fontaine, the World Squash Federation President who led the squash delegation in Buenos Aires, commented: "We are very honoured to have such strong voices advocating for inclusion through sport on behalf of the squash family here in Buenos Aires, in a demonstration of squash being at the forefront of breaking cultural and gender barriers through sport. As WSF and PSA are jointly vying for squash to be included in the Olympic Programme, we are proud to have this opportunity to share our ideas and vision with the IOC, Paris 2024 Organising Committee and other Olympic, sport and civil society representatives gathered here in Argentina."

*Toorpakai Wazir imagery courtesy of IOC*

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## THE WORLD'S FIRST WOODEN SQUASH CLUB?



Slovenia may only be a country of two million people – but what they lack in numbers they make up for in innovative ideas!.

Goran Miličević (*below*), the man behind the the new Squashland is one such person.

He opened the first Squashland in Ljubiana in a rented warehouse in 1991. The club had eight courts and flourished for a decade and a half, only to close it's doors in 2006 when the landlord sold the building.

But he was relentless. It took him 12 years of accruing property, gathering permits, seeking investors and taking up loans to finally see his dream come to life – a brand new Squashland.

Dedicated to healthy, natural way of life, he decided to use as many environment-friendly materials as possible.

The building is self-sufficient in many ways: energy passive, heated with water to water heat exchange technology and solar panels on the roof. The roof will also be a home for



the vegetable garden, which will provide vegetables for the vegan restaurant on the ground floor. All used and served products will tend to produce zero waste. The Sports bar will not serve sweet, unhealthy carbonated drinks!

Squashland has six Courttech courts with the possibility to add a glasscourt when required. With a hotel, free climbing centre and indoor soccer hall for neighbours, Squashland is set to be a popular venue for international events and summer squash camps.

Miličević says that this is not about him, but about squash but that hasn't stopped a question!

When asked why he built it entirely from wood, Why did he decide to make it completely out of wood? 'To build an energy - economical facility considering sustainable guidelines in construction seemed to be

the logical choice, since I am promoting squash as a healthy way of life' he said.

Following up about his passion and Slovenian squash generally Miličević added, 'I've always been involved in many different sports. In 1990 I came across squash and you could say it was a love at first sight, which still lasts today.

Slovenia has approx. 30 courts, scattered all over the country. The biggest facility has four, others have one or two courts. In spite of that squash is growing, mainly due to some well organised clubs, which are doing wonders on one or two courts. There's no doubt that a six-court centre will be a big push for Slovenian squash'.

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## NINTH WORLD DEAF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canada hosted the ninth edition of the World Deaf Squash Championships in October at the Toronto athletic Club. Players from England, Sweden, USA, Pakistan and Canada played on the 36<sup>th</sup> floor four courts of TAC.

This round robin format made for some very interesting but very tough matches over the three days, it undoubtedly would sort out who deserved to be challenging for the title, reported Brian Rawlinson, President of English Deaf Squash Association.

The inaugural O55 final between long time rivals Shane Pletts and Rawlinson facing off, with Rawlinson taking the title with a 3/1 scoreline.

The open final, had the experienced Englishman, Matthew Hewitt taking on younger Swede, Alex Johansson. Experience counts for a lot, and Johansson lost in three close games, leaving a relieved Hewitt retaining his title won two years ago in Durban.

The next World Deaf Squash Championships in 2020 will be held in Sweden.



Player group: left to right back row: Matthew Hewitt; Mike Easton; Dan Easton; Brian Rawlinson; Aftab Khan; Musa Huq; Alex Johansson; From row, kneeling: Jonathon Cota; Noah Duckworth; Shane Pletts.



## WSF SELECTS CLUB LOCKER AS TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

The WSF has appointed **Club Locker** as its exclusive World Championship Event Software and SPIN (Squash Personal Identification Number) Database Management Provider.



In addition, Club Locker will be among several providers to serve as a WSF Certified Event Software, enabling SPIN verification and allowing import and export of results.

Commenting on the partnership WSF President Jacques Fontaine said: "After a formal evaluation process we are certain that WSF now has an excellent long term partner for the coordination of our registration systems and management of our event processes."

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley has detailed the timeline for the rollout of Club Locker, including transitioning the SPIN database and importing World Championships results which are being completed later this year. Event registrations, via a revamped SPIN profile management interface and application programming interfaces (APIs) for importing results from other systems, will be in place early next year.

The Club Locker technology platform was initially developed for use in the United States by US Squash and is now also being offered to squash organizations globally through an international Technology Collaborative. Countries such as England, Canada, Finland and the United States have all committed to using the software.

For more information on Club Locker, visit [www.clublocker.com/about](http://www.clublocker.com/about)

## HONG KONG OPEN COMMITS TO EQUAL PRIZE MONEY

The 2018 Everbright Sun Hung Kai Hong Kong Squash Open has committed to offering equal prize money for the first time, with \$329,000 split equally between the men's and women's draws at the PSA World Tour Platinum event, which takes place November 19-25.

This means that every Platinum tournament on the PSA Tour that runs a men and women's event simultaneously - comprising the U.S. Open, Tournament of Champions, El Gouna International, British Open and now the Hong Kong Open - have all committed to equal prize money.

## AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CENTRE READY FOR WORLDS 2019 & 2020

Originally constructed in the Oxenford Film Studios in Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in April, the six ASB glass-backed courts together with the state-of-the-art all-glass showcourt have now become a superb legacy for Squash Australia in nearby Carrara, Queensland.

Over a further 30 working days, a six-man ASB team reconstructed two EventGameCourts (leaving the third one in storage for use later in a further legacy facility) plus the ShowGlassCourt at the Carrara Sports Complex to become the heart of Australia's first national centre.

At the opening of the country's new National Squash Centre - which has now hosted its first PSA World Tour event, the Q Open, for men and women - Squash Australia Chief Executive Richard Vaughan said: "The National Squash Centre at Carrara is an amazing legacy outcome for the Gold Coast and Queensland."



"The Gold Coast will now be home to the Squash Australia High Performance program, host national events and over the next five years host multiple world championship events with the first being the World Coaches Conference at the Carrara complex, followed by the World Doubles Championships in June 2019 and the World Junior Championships in July 2020."

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley added: "The Commonwealth Games this year is another great example of why squash is such a good fit for all major events, not least the Olympic Games."

"Courts can be built in days, and in the case of a showcourt, taken down in less than 24 hours, returning the facility to normal use. Then the legacy options, as have already been seen around the world, can kick in to support development. A classic win-win!"

"We look forward to the WSF World Championships, already booked for Carrara in the next two years, with great anticipation."

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The WSF Development Commission have collected details of several national development programmes as a resource for all member nations. They are on our website [here](#).

More programme details are welcome

## CHRIS HERRIDGE RETIRES

Chris Herridge, the undisputed world authority on court components and products, indeed anything 'court technical', retires at the end of this year after 28 years being responsible for this area for WSF as chairman of the WSF Courts & Technical Commission.



For the last three decades, Herridge, an architect by profession in Winchester, England until his recent retirement, has been inspecting courts and products wishing to be WSF Accredited, evolving court specifications, liaising with the industry and dealing with all manner of enquiries.

### Standing ovation

Respected by the whole world of squash, it was hardly surprising that the presentation made to him by WSF President Jacques Fontaine (*right, above*) at the WSF AGM to mark his impending retirement saw delegates give him a prolonged standing ovation.

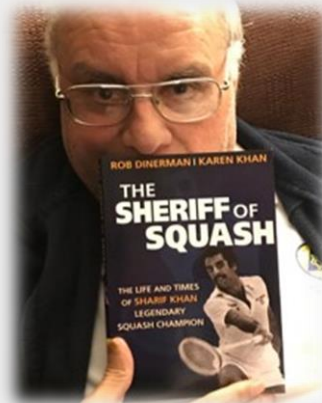
WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley paid tribute to quiet and self-effacing Herridge saying, 'To describe Chris as the font of all technical knowledge sums him up nicely. But not only is his head awash with experience but he is solution driven, impartial and wanting to help. To gain the respect of the range of manufacturers in a highly competitive industry is no mean feat, and he is certainly held in the highest esteem, even by those he has had to chastise in order to maintain standards.

Thankfully, Herridge, will be passing on his knowledge to his successor who takes up the reins at the start of next year, and who will be introduced in the next edition of the instant Update.

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## SHARIF'S STORY



Outside North America especially, when you talk of playing hardball, people assume that you are indulging in a bargaining session. But when it comes to paying the form of squash that is hardball, the fact that legend Sharif Khan reached his first North American Hardball

Open Final 50 years ago is being celebrated.

Thus began Sharif Khan's unprecedented record 12-time North American Open victories during his amazing professional squash career that spanned three decades.

Born in Pakistan, he was uprooted from his childhood at age eleven and sent to the posh public school of Millfield in England. The eldest son of the Hashim Khan who won seven British Open titles, once reach the semi finals himself, while focussing on hardball, rather than 'softball'.

Working with sports journalist and squash historian Rob Dinerman, Sharif's wife Karen have crafted **The Sheriff of Squash, The Life and Times of Sharif Khan Legendary Squash Champion**, a biography commemorating his career. His story is not only compelling, but compellingly told too. Details at <https://sharifkhan.net/>

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