



WORLD SQUASH UPDATE

Issue 81

July / August 2019

FOR ALL WSF REGIONAL & NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

FROM WSF EXECUTIVE BOARD - WSF REGIONS AND NATIONS UPDATE

Strategy & CEO Appointment

In the May/June edition of the *World Squash Update* we reported that Andrew Shelley's stepping down would be a timely opportunity to initiate a strategic review to determine future WSF priorities and develop key criteria and a global process to identify and recruit a new Chief Executive Officer.

As a reminder from the last *Update*, it was said:

- 1. Because of the importance of making the right appointment - and while also determining the strategy and structure of WSF - this process would not be rushed.*
- 2. It was noted and welcomed that Andrew Shelley would be willing to offer office support after his finishing date (30 June), subject to discussion and agreement.*
- 3. President Jacques Fontaine along with Board members Peter Lasusa and Huang Ying How will lead the development of the framework for our in-depth strategic plan in tandem with the search for our new CEO.*

Since then the Board has had an e-Meeting during June to take the process forward and evaluated possible strategic review options.

Andrew has now stepped down, but as indicated earlier, has agreed to support the office during the transition on a part-time advisory basis while he explores other work options.

We can confirm that we are completing the process of placing an advertisement for the WSF CEO position with a specialist agency, and also engaging a branding agency to carry out a strategic review on our behalf. Both engagements are intended to be completed during week ending 12 July.

We will update all stakeholders with further news on the progress of the appointment process in due course.

Voting Review Group

This group has concluded its work and the Board have circulated the report for nations to consider.

AGM Motions

Nations and Regions are reminded that the deadline for receipt of motions for the WSF AGM on 6th November in Cape Town is Thursday 8 August 2019.

INDIA CELEBRATE AN HISTORIC DOUBLE

India celebrated an historic first ever double as Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa won the men's and women's crowns at the 20th Asian Individual Squash Championships in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

Chinappa successfully retained the women's title after fending off a strong challenge by top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong in the final at the National Squash Centre in Bukit Jalil.



The Indian number one was certainly fired up as she stuck to her game plan for a 3/1 win.

The match was a display of excellent shot-making and retrieval but it was Chinappa who drew first blood by taking the first game 11-5. World No.11 Au did well to keep herself in the game as she stepped with a more aggressive approach to level proceedings. But Joshna wasn't going to let this slip away and she took crucial points before sealing the win in 42 minutes.

Fabulous day

Buoyed by Joshna's success, world No.10 and top seed Saurav Ghosal went on and completed a fabulous day for India by beating 2015 winner Leo Au 3/0. It was a long hard match especially in the first game as Annie Au's brother Leo stuck close to Ghosal and picked up almost every shot.

The Indian showed his top-10 pedigree with a quick-fire grab of the second game before winning the points when it mattered to take the win, also in 42 minutes. In doing so, Ghosal becomes the first ever player from India to win the men's Asian title.

Saurav certainly exorcised some demons of old after falling short numerous times in Asian tournaments, most notably in the final of the Asian meet in 2017 and the final of the Asian Games in 2014.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Many supplied with thanks to SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

WSF ACCREDITATION

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

Contact details on the [WSF website](http://www.worldsquashfederation.org)

		
		
 CGG GuoGuang Squash		
		
		
		
		
		

FRANCE WIN EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CROWN

A dramatic finals day of the 2019 European Team Squash Championships, at Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham, saw hosts England reclaim the men's title and France dethrone 40-times Champions England to win the women's trophy for the first time.

England were hot favourites for the women's title, having beaten France in the last five finals and only having previously failed to emerge as Champions once - in 2010 - in the event's 41-year history.

Camille Serme put France ahead when she beat Sarah-Jane Perry in four games. But former world No.1 Laura Massaro levelled the tie after overcoming Coline Aumard. In the decider, Melissa Alves took the first two games 11-1, 11-3 against England's higher-ranked Victoria Lust.



Lust fought back to take the third, and again from 1-7 down in the fourth drew level at eight-all. But it was Alves who took the next two points and on her second match ball the impossible happened - a front court winner from Alves, a no let for Lust, and to French disbelief and delight they had finally become women's European Team Champions.

"We thought it was possible," said a delighted French manager Philippe Signoret (*pictured above, top right, with the jubilant French squad*). "Melissa can play very well and she was on fire in the first two games."



In the men's final, England faced Spain, the third seeds who had upset defending Champions France in the semis to reach the final for the first time in the event's 47-year history. England had beaten Spain (*pictured above at the presentations*) 4/0 in the pool

stages, but Spanish number one Borja Golan missed that tie and immediately made amends by beating England No.1 Declan James in the opening match to put the underdogs ahead.

James Willstrop, making his 16th appearance in the event, put the second seeds level with a straight games win over the previous day's Spanish hero Iker Pajares Bernabeu. Daryl Selby twice came from behind to put England ahead with a five-game win over Bernat Jaume - which left England needing just one game from the final match and Spain requiring a 3/0 win and points countback.

But England's Tom Richards was always ahead against Edmon Lopez, and clinched victory by taking the game 11-9 as Lopez dived in vain into the back corner.

Earlier in the day, sisters Nele Gilis and Tinne Gilis steered Belgium to victory over Scotland in the women's third-place play-off to win Bronze for the second year in a row. Scotland's men went one better by beating France in the men's third-place play-off.

In Division 2, Finland - led by 40-year-old Olli Tuominen, playing in his 22nd ETC in a row - returned to Division 1 after a three-year absence. Also promoted were Czech Republic who beat Finland.

Finland also celebrated their return to the women's Division 1 after reaching the Division 2 final where they lost to fellow promoted team Germany.

AUSTRALIAN GOLD CLEAN SWEEP



Australian cousins Cameron Pilley and Donna Lobban struck double Doubles gold on the final day of action in the WSF World Doubles Squash Championships as hosts Australia claimed eight at the Carrara Squash Centre on the Gold Coast.

Pilley and Ryan Cuskelly defended their world title, claiming gold in the men's event with victory over fellow Australians Zac Alexander and Rex Hedrick.



Cuskelly and Pilley set the tone early racing to a lead in the first game and taking it convincingly 11-5. In the second, Alexander and Hedrick fought hard with Cuskelly taking issue with a number of refereeing decisions. The experienced duo from New South Wales managed to prevail in the second to secure a second straight World Championship title.

"That second game was very much 50-50 and could have been anyone's but very happy that we pulled back that deficit at the end of the last one," Pilley said after the medal ceremony.



Pilley partnered Lobban to take gold in the mixed decider as well. The combination, which was victorious at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, again proved too strong against compatriots Ethan Eyles and Christine Nunn, winning 11-5, 11-8. 17-year-old Eyles, making

his Australian senior debut, was impressive in the final against his more experienced opponents.

Nunn added to her silver medal in the mixed and Lobban to her gold, with the pair teaming to win gold in the women's doubles event. The experienced duo, who were partnered for the first time in this tournament, were pushed by fellow Australians Sarah Cardwell and Jessica Turnbull.



Lobban and Nunn claimed a tight first game 11-9 and were up 2-0 in the second game before a heavy collision between Nunn and Cardwell sent the latter to the floor. Cardwell hit her head in the fall, but was cleared by medical staff and was able to resume the match.

Lobban and Nunn stayed composed despite the delay in play and went on to win the second 11-4. "I'm really happy with how we played and stayed focus throughout the tournament," Nunn said.

Women's Doubles:

GOLD: Christine Nunn/Donna Lobban (AUS)
SILVER: Sarah Cardwell/Jessica Turnbull (AUS)
BRONZE: Selena Shaikh/Taylor Flavell (AUS) & Maria Tovar/Laura Tovar (COL)

Men's Doubles:

GOLD: Ryan Cuskelly/Cameron Pilley (AUS)
SILVER: Zac Alexander/Rex Hedrick (AUS)
BRONZE: Jean-Pierre Brits/Christo Potgieter (RSA) & Andrés Herrera/Juan Camilo Vargas (COL)

Mixed Doubles:

GOLD: Cameron Pilley/Donna Lobban (AUS)
SILVER: Ethan Eyles/Christine Nunn (AUS)
BRONZE: Zac Alexander/Alex Haydon (AUS) & Catalina Pelaez/Matias Knudsen (COL)

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

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

More programme details are welcomed.

AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME REPORT

Not a Four Day Thrill

"It's not just a four-day thrill," said Gakuo Ndirangu, a driving force of squash in Kenya, as the 2019 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to the country's capital Nairobi drew to a close at the Nairobi Club after a comprehensive programme of squash activities led by three of the sport's leading players.

An action-packed programme of coaching sessions, refereeing workshops, player clinics, exhibition matches and media conferences were the focus of the World Squash Federation initiative, led this year by Malaysia's former world No.1 and record eight-time World Champion Nicol David, France's world No.3 Camille Serme, Spaniard Borja Golan, a former world No.5, together with Belgian national coach Ronny Vlassaks and international referee Marko Podgorsek, from Slovenia.



"I cannot find the words to express our feelings about the huge success of this visit, and our gratitude to the WSF team for coming to Kenya to inspire our players," added Ndirangu (*pictured above, second from the left, with the WSF Ambassadors at the Nairobi Club*). "But this is just the foundation and now we need to build on it."



Players young and old from all over Kenya - including three who travelled for 29 hours on a bus from Rwanda to participate in the event - converged on both the Parklands Sports Club and the Nairobi Club for the eighth edition of the annual WSF initiative.

The three international stars duly thrilled the local squash enthusiasts (*Serme and Golan above with leading Kenyan players Otto Kwach and Keriri Muya*) with opportunities to play with them, learn from them and, of course, be photographed with them.

Kenya's top two players, siblings Khaaliqa Nimji and Muqtadir Nimji (Muqs) (*pictured below with Nicol David and leading Kenyan player Aston Guto*) both took full advantage of the visit.



"It's been a really good experience, playing with world-class players - and it's been a lot of fun as well," said Khaaliqa.

Muqs pits his wits

Younger brother Muqs pitted his wits against Serme and Golan and plans to further his love for squash at Birmingham University in UK.

The coaching workshops created a good deal of interest and were well-attended. "The sessions were a big success," said Vlassaks, now the Director of Squash at Squash on Fire in Washington DC. There's only one way to take this forward - for the federation, or maybe the clubs here, to organise a structure for coaches so they can develop more players."

Process for decision-making

Marko Podgorsek's workshop attracted significant interest. "There isn't a single qualified referee in the whole country but hopefully that's going to change in a short time, especially with their involvement in the WSO ('World Squash Officiating') online courses and the exams," Podgorsek (*pictured below with his workshop participants*) explained. "Hopefully they will undertake those."



"I think I have managed to give them a basic insight into the technicalities of squash refereeing and the process of decision-making, which hopefully should raise their standard of refereeing and understanding of the game."

Travelling from Rwanda

Rwanda, without a national federation, boasts just two courts in the whole country. But, despite a 1,200 Km journey, enthusiasts Gafirita Emmanuel, 25, Habimana Christian, 28, and 20-year-old Christian Shema (*the trio pictured below with Vlassaks*) took full advantage of the Kenya visit, discovering world-class squash for the first time and participating in both the coaching and refereeing workshops.



"Coming here was very important for us," said Shema. "We have gained a lot of knowledge about squash and the way to teach people how to play. We will be working hard to grow squash in Rwanda in the provinces - not just in the capital Kigali. We want to be ambassadors in our own country and show Rwandans that squash is a very good game."

Launching an academy

At the press conference at Parklands Sports Club, club chairman Sam Waweri announced that the club was launching a sports academy. The private club is opening its doors for youngsters to come in free to learn how to play squash. "We want to take squash to the next level, and we are privileged to have you WSF Ambassadors here."

David, Golan and Serme thrilled the local players and, as a result, have undoubtedly earned an army of Kenyan fans.



'We've had a great few days at the two different clubs where we have seen many, many people showing up to share time on court with us and asking lots of

questions," said Serme (*pictured above with a Kianda School pupil*)."

Golan added: "There are some good players here, juniors and seniors, and some who want to go professional like Muqs, the number one. The main thing here is that everyone here is really interested, very enthusiastic and want to improve their game. They ask questions all the time - what they can do to improve and how they can prepare for the game."

"We had some great days of squash and learnt a lot from them", continued the 16-time Spanish national champion. I was very happy to be here and help them in some way."

A very bright future

In summing up the impact of the Kenya visit, Gakuo Ndirangu said: "The future here now is very bright. We have always had a lot of enthusiasm for the sport, but it has needed to be energised - and your team has done this over the past few days."

An exceptional year

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley (*pictured below, flanked by Golan and Serme, together with pupils from local schools Braeburn, Peponi, Kianda, Banda, Hillcrest and Chalaw Academy*) concluded: "Year-on-year, the WSF Ambassadors Programme has allowed us to link with and support squash nations. This year has been no exception - but was exceptional."

"The local leadership, the volunteers, players and clubs are all completely aligned in wanting to develop squash in Kenya - something that we were able to support in a small way with coaching and refereeing workshops, our wonderful players integrating with the community and helping raise the profile of the sport in the media. The hospitality we received was superb too. "We can be certain that an energising of squash is now well underway in Kenya."



IMPORTANT READING FOR COACHES & ADMINISTRATORS

Please go to the World Squash website to read information about player protection. Titled *Safeguarding Athletes from Harassment & Abuse in Sport*. It can be found [here](#)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & SPIN ADOPT CLUB LOCKER IN NEW PARTNERSHIP



The World Squash Federation (WSF) has adopted Club Locker as its exclusive World Championship Event Software, and also database management provider. Now the SPIN (Squash Personal Identification Number) worldwide player and official licensing system will also be housed on the Club Locker technology platform.

Application programming interfaces (APIs) will allow the import of results from other WSF Certified Software providers and management of the world squash coaching platform will also transfer onto Club Locker.

Commenting on the WSF partnership with Club Locker, WSF President Jacques Fontaine said *"We have been impressed by the range of integrated functions and capabilities that Club Locker offers and are delighted to begin this new relationship with them"*.

The Club Locker technology platform was initially developed for use in the United States by US Squash and is now being offered to squash organisations globally through an international Technology Collaborative in support of the shared mission of growing participation and encouraging lifelong engagement in squash.

The comprehensive Club Locker system offers a range of integrated functions including all aspects of tournament and league management as well as a globally relevant rating and ranking system, membership and database management capabilities and facility reservation and program management modules.

Finland Squash, England Squash and Squash Canada have all adopted Club Locker as the software to operate their national federations systems. Each country is in a different phase of rollout given the varied legacy technologies involved.

For SPIN details go to: www.worldsquash.org/spins

For more information on Club Locker, visit [here](#).

Squash 57 Poster & Video

The new WSF Squash 57 Abridged Rules poster is available for downloading and printing [here](#).

An introductory video produced in conjunction with England Squash is also in the Squash 57 section of our website. The direct link is [here](#).

These events form part of the WSF and PSA Satellite Tours.



- ≈ *WSF World and WSF Regional Junior Championships*
- ≈ *National Senior & Junior Championships*
- ≈ *National Junior Opens*
- ≈ *Satellite Tournaments*

General details and event registration [here](#)

World Junior ranking lists can be seen [here](#)

WSF APPROVED BALLS

Dunlop provide the WSF Adopted Ball, which is used for all WSF World and Regional Championships.

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:

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



The published calendar with event contact listings that will enable players to plan their competing from information all in one place has now begun and can be seen [here](#).

The components are:

Tier 1. *WSF World Masters Championships.*

Tier 2. *Regional Open Championships.* (It is hoped that each Region will run a Regional Masters Open annually or biennially)

Tier 3. *Regional Closed and National Open Masters Championships.*

Events may be registered [here](#)

WORLD SQUASH DAY APPROACHES



World Squash Day (WSD) returns on Saturday 12 October with ambitious plans to attract one million new players to the game over the next decade. The theme for

2019 is for every club on the planet to open their doors and hold a free taster session called The Big Hit.

Clubs and federations will be supported by social media campaigns and a new WSD website is being set up to provide further ideas and promotional material which can be downloaded free of charge.

For details please go to www.worldsquashday.net

Current WSF Accredited Companies are



WSF CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2019

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.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL	
	Artengo SPG 100 Size S Artengo SPG 100 Size L	
	Baller Coverage Crunch Dominance	Swag Field Homerun League Playoff
	Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)	
	Grays GT Eyewear	
	Shield Pro R16 Covet R615 Radar R43 Radar Jr R717JR	
	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)	
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2)	
	P360(1-5)	
	Split Vision Type II	
	R615	

PSA JULY RANKINGS



TOMLINSON TAKES TOP 20 SLOT



England's Millie Tomlinson has broken into the top 20 of the PSA Women's World Rankings for the first time in the July rankings.

Tomlinson began the 2018/19 PSA World Tour season ranked at No.27 in the world, but has risen steadily up the rankings over the past 10 months and reached two semi-finals throughout the campaign.

The Duffield-based 27-year-old has risen a spot after eight-time World Champion Nicol David was removed from the rankings due to her retirement. Egypt's Yathreb Adel (No.16), Hong Kong's Joey Chan (No.17), Belgium's Nele Gilis (No.18) and America's Olivia Blatchford Clyne (No.19) also move up a place as a result.

The rest of the women's rankings are unchanged. Egypt's Raneem El Welily retains top spot for an eighth successive month ahead of compatriot Nour El Sherbini at No.2, while Camille Serme (No.3), Nouran Gohar (No.4) and Nour El Tayeb make up the rest of the top five.

New Zealand's Joelle King (No.6), England's Sarah-Jane Perry (No.7), America's Amanda Sobhy (No.8), Wales' Tesni Evans (No.9) and Hong Kong's Annie Au complete the top 10.

PSA Women's Rankings – July 2019

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

MARCHE MARCHES ON



France's Gregoire Marche has risen two spots to a joint career-high ranking of No.16 in the PSA Men's World Rankings for July.

The 29-year-old from Aix en Provence closed out his season by winning the 5R Montpellier Metropole Open last month, taking the title without

dropping a single game throughout the event, while he got the better of England's former World No.1 James Willstrop in the final.

Marche moves up two spots from No.18, while Willstrop moves up a spot from No.19 to take the Frenchman's place.

Egypt's Ali Farag has seen out the season as the World No.1, enjoying his fifth successive month atop the World Rankings. He leads an unchanged top five, including compatriots Mohamed ElShorbagy (No.2), Tarek Momen (No.3), Karim Abdel Gawad (No.4) and Germany's Simon Rösner.

The rest of the top 10 is also unchanged as New Zealand's Paul Coll (No.6), Egypt's Mohamed Abouelghar (No.7), Peru's Diego Elias (No.8), Colombia's Miguel Rodriguez (No.9) and India's Saurav Ghosal (No.10) retain their places.

PSA Men's Rankings – July 2019

1	Ali Farag	EGY
2	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
3	Tarek Momen	EGY
4	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
5	Simon Rösner	GER
6	Paul Coll	NZL
7	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
8	Diego Elias	PER
9	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL
10	Saurav Ghosal	IND
11	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
12	Omar Mosaad	EGY
13	Joel Makin	WAL
14	Zahed Salem	EGY
15	Fares Dessouky	EGY
16	Gregoire Marche	FRA
17	Declan James	ENG
18	James Willstrop	ENG
19	Daryl Selby	ENG
20	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS

SQUASH

PLAYER HANDOUT

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FAREWELL TO THE GREATS

Squash Player's special issue on the retirements of eight-time world champion Nicol David, three-time world champion Ramy Ashour and double British Open winner Laura Massaro

FEATURES

RAM RAID

Ashley Davies reviews Ramy Ashour's new scoring system

EGYPT AT THE DOUBLE

Ian McKenzie reports on Egyptian success at the British Open

SQUASH AT THE HUB

Squash is fronting Warwick University's new sports Hub



NEWS

WSF accuses IOC of 'closing off' Games entry; David's campaign

EDITORIAL: New role for David

OBITUARY: Andy Bunting

OFF COURT

Dunlop's new Revelation; Competition winners

WSF

Chief executive Andrew Shelley looks back at his 43 years in the sport in his final column before retiring

HALL OF FAME

Mahmoud el Karim, Egypt's former British Open champion, is the latest entry to our Hall of Fame



WORKSHOP

MOHAMED'S MATCH POINTS:

Ian McKenzie talks squash with Mohamed ElShorbagy, Egypt's world no.2



WYCLIFFE WONDERS: Head coach Jonny Harford tells Mike Dale about Wycliffe School's rich squash heritage

TACTICS: Use the lob and other high shots to create time to recover the T

PHYSIO'S THERAPY: Phil Newton talks to James Willstrop about his recovery from a serious hip injury

COLUMN: Lee Drew analyses Camille Serme's early short shot

ON COURT

Round-up; Performance of the Month; Quote of the Month; Short Shots; Rankings

EVENTS

European breakthroughs; Australia eye doubles sweep; Best-of-three at NetSuite Open



CALENDAR

Selected events coming up, including the WSF World Doubles and World Junior Championships

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

APRIL

Ali Farag and Nour El Sherbini complete an Egyptian double at the PSA World Championships and with *Squash Player*

MAY

It's another Egyptian double in May after Nouran Gohar and Fares Dessouky impress at the El Gouna Open

JUNE

Egypt make it three Player of the Month braces in a row, after Nouran Gohar and Mohamed ElShorbagy win the British Open

FROM THE GALLERY

Squash Stories founder Jamie Maddox provides a personal view of events on and off court



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Recognition of Prior Learning - RPL

A question that is often asked is whether a person who already has a coach qualification can transfer it to become a World Squash Coaching (WSC) Programme registered coach.

The answer is that a key element of the WSC Programme is RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).

RPL allows candidates who already have recognised national qualifications to join WSC courses at their appropriate level, not forcing them to start at Level 1 if they already have sufficient coaching experience.

(Similarly, WSC provides the opportunity for national coach tutors to upgrade and become WSF Tutors and be able to deliver WSF certified courses).

For example, candidates with a national qualification considered to be roughly equivalent to WSC Level 1 can join a WSC Level 2 course, and if they are successful become a WSC Level 2 coach without needing to take WSC Level 1. (WSC Level 1 would not be awarded as the course has not been taken, so the RPL is used to help a coach to gain a WSC qualification without starting at the lowest level.

For enquiries about your RPL options, where courses will be held or any other WSC information please go to www.worldsquash.org and look in the COACH/DEV section or contact the WSC Programme Manager Michael Khan coaching@worldsquash.org.

FIJI'S LEVEL 1 COURSE

Fiji Squash committee are working hard to make squash a sport of choice in the Island nation and are starting with upskilling coaches to provide quality experience for young people.



Supported by Oceania Squash, 16 coaches attended the WSF Level 1 course run by WSF Tutor Jason Fletcher from New Zealand hosted at the Defence club in Suva.

It was clear from the feedback from the coach group that this was a very successful course that will enable the attendees to be able to increase the standards and enjoyment of the island players.

Quotes from some of the coaches on the course:

"The way it is run between court and classroom is excellent – good mix practical and theory"

"I would recommend all aspiring coaches to take this course to be able to be better coaches"

"This course has opened my eyes into a whole different concept of teaching"

"Can't wait for the next level"

"Very informative course that not only helps you become a better coach but coach in a more effective way"

WSF World Coaching Conference announced alongside Women's World Championship

Egypt will host the WSF Coaching Conference 2019 alongside the Women's World Championship in Cairo.

The annual WSF event, hosted by the Egyptian Squash Federation, takes place from 31 October to 2 November. The sessions on the first two days will precede the semi-finals and final of the CIB PSA Women's World Championship and accompanying Men's Platinum event.

The conference has been held in Malaysia, Colombia and Australia over the last three years and now comes to the country that leads the way in the elite player scene – providing an opportunity for international coaches to learn more about what is behind the success from their coaches, as well as to hear from internationally-known squash personalities.

Confirmed presenters already include Egyptian celebrated coaches Omar Elborolossy and Ashraf Hanafi, together with England's Joey Barrington.

For registration details, visit: [here](#)

WSF AGM & CONFERENCE 2019

Squash South Africa will host the Meeting this year in Cape Town.

Dates are Tuesday 5 (conference) & Wednesday 6 November (AGM). Full details [here](#)

DATA TRACKING ARRIVES FOR RACKETS

With the launch of a new racket tracking device from Racketware specifically targeted at squash, we are entering an era where data is playing an ever growing role in the sport. This type of technology allows a player to accurately measure the motion of the racket at high speed and present the analysis and match stats straight to their phone. As it inevitably becomes cheaper over time, it's not unreasonable to think that in a few years' time all rackets will have these devices built in.

Opening Doors

But are we ready? According to Racketware founder Dr Paul Mellor, 'We have seen a steady rise in the use of stats from a fan engagement perspective in many sports, from football to snooker. Clearly technology like this would open the door to a lot of interesting data that could be presented to live TV squash audiences: how hard was that last kill..., how much cut did they get on that drop...?'

This type of device is never going to replace a coach, but it can help coaches and players alike to track matches and monitor performance. Having objective and accurate data for each player's swing live in coaching sessions can also greatly aid the coaching process.

But the opportunities go much further than this, into the realms of "big data" for example. Imagine collecting data from many thousands of players all over the world each time they play.

If we could automatically rank people, compare different segments and demographics, see how we are progressing.

Gamification

At the opposite end of the spectrum the "gamification" of the sport through sensors and their associated apps can help generate more participation, especially with younger players: setting monthly challenges, keeping personal bests, challenging your friends, tracking progress over time – all these things help to hook players in'.



(See www.racketware.co.uk for device details)

WSF CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS 2019

The current World Championship Regulations applicable for World & Regional Championships can be reached on the World Squash website [here](#)

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'IT'S MINE' CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED

PSA, in partnership with recently retired eight-time World Champion Nicol David, have unveiled a new joint awareness campaign titled 'It's Mine' - created to help foster a greater sense of belonging and ownership amongst squash players and the PSA Tour.



Malaysian icon David, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest players to ever pick up a squash racket, is a key driving force behind the campaign, with the former World No.1 wanting to leave behind a legacy following her retirement from the sport.

The PSA, along with David, have developed the campaign in an effort to increase awareness of, and engagement with, the women's tour, increase the participation of female athletes on the PSA Tour and create a more sustainable women's tour.

The campaign will initially feature seven different ambassadors, Egyptian trio Raneem El Welily, Nour El Sherbini, Nour El Tayeb, France's Camille Serme, England's Sarah-Jane Perry, United States' Amanda Sobhy and Welsh Tesni Evans.

These ambassadors have each selected a different value which they feel belongs to them and epitomises the qualities found amongst their peers on the PSA World Tour. These values will be unveiled in a multimedia campaign consisting of videos, graphics and candid interviews, while



players across the PSA Tour will be encouraged to engage with the campaign and showcase their own values. In addition, the ambassadors will travel to tournaments on the PSA World Tour and PSA Challenger Tour to hold talks with, and inspire, up-and-coming players.

"Since accepting that I was going to retire, I didn't want to leave without giving something back to the sport that has given me so much," said David.

The PSA will expand on the campaign with a men's initiative set to be launched at a later date.

FARAG & EL WELILY TAKE TOP HONOURS

Egyptian World No.1s Ali Farag and Raneem El Welily were crowned the 2018/19 PSA Players of the Year in Cairo on the eve of the CIB PSA World Tour Finals.

Farag picked up the PSA Men's Player of the Year award after a superb season that saw him become World No.1 for the first



time and claim six titles. Meanwhile, El Welily won the PSA Women's Player of the Year award for the second time after a campaign that saw her win five titles and dethrone last year's women's Player of the Year, Nour El Sherbini, as World No.1.

Farag and El Welily also took home the men's and women's PSA Spirit of Squash Awards. The award is voted for by PSA players and is presented to the players who best demonstrated true sportsmanship during the season. It is the third year in a row that El Welily has taken the honour, while Farag claims the men's award for the third time in four years.

Egypt's Nouran Gohar collected the PSA Women's Young Player of the Year for the third time in four years, two weeks after capturing the British Open crown. Her fellow Egyptian Youssef Ibrahim took the men's honour after winning six season titles.



Another award went to PSA Event Director Tim Garner, who was presented with the PSA Services to Squash award. The award, presented by the PSA Foundation, came in recognition of his outstanding commitment and service to the sport over the past 12 months.

PSA Men's Player of the Year. Winner: Ali Farag (EGY), Runner-up: Tarek Momen (EGY). PSA Women's Player of the Year. Winner: Raneem El Welily (EGY), Runner-up: Joelle King (NZL). PSA Men's Young Player of the Year. Winner: Youssef Ibrahim (EGY), Runner-up: Mostafa Asal (EGY). PSA Women's Young Player of the Year. Winner: Nouran Gohar (EGY), Runner-up: Yathreb Adel (EGY). PSA Men's Spirit of Squash Award. Winner: Ali Farag (EGY). PSA Women's Spirit of Squash Award. Winner: Raneem El Welily (EGY). PSA Services to Squash. Awarded to Tim Garner. PSA Men's Shot of the Season. Winner: Baptiste Masotti (FRA). PSA Women's Shot of the Season. Winner: Raneem El Welily (EGY). PSA Men's Match of the Season. Winner: Ali Farag (EGY) 3-2 Paul Coll (NZL) - 2019 Allam British Open, Semi-finals. PSA Women's Match of the Season. Winner: Raneem El Welily (EGY) 3-2 Nour El Sherbini (EGY) - 2019 DPD Open, Final

Work continues apace on the development of WSO (World Squash Officiating), in partnership with PSA.

Recent developments include:

- The requirements analysis has been completed by the website providers and the site functionality fully mapped out.
- The website build is now underway with an achievable timeline in place to launch at the end of 2019.
- The site will be a resource, education and assessment portal for all levels of referee.
- Everyone who registers will have their own account where they can track progress and take online tests to progress to the next level.
- Largely video based to make it as interactive as possible using annotated clips from the SquashTV library.
- This will make the refereeing pathway clearer and more accessible for everyone.
- Having singular, worldwide levels where everyone completes the same coursework will help to increase the overall standard of refereeing.

SQUASH ON FIRE PREPARING



The entry deadline for nations who will participate in the WSF Men's World Team Championship in Washington USA has just passed and the list will soon be announced.

The whole event will now be held at *Squash on Fire*, the state-of-the-art membership-free facility in Washington, DC, a superb new 'pay to play' facility, which opened above Washington's newest fire station. It boasts eight squash courts, including an all-glass showcourt. An application from the hosts just to use their all-glass court rather than a larger external showcourt too was recently accepted.

Dates are 15 – 21 December, and in the last major event of the year, Egypt will be defending the title they won in 2017 in Marseille.

For ticketing information please go to:
<https://worldteamsquashdc.com/tickets/>

WORLD JUNIORS SET TO START IN KL



Almost 200 players representing 30 nations have confirmed entry to the 2019 WSF Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Squash Championships which will be staged in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur from 30 July to 4 August.

Hosted by the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM), the World Squash Federation Championships will take place at the National Squash Centre, followed by the biennial WSF Women's World Junior Team Championship from 5-9 August which will feature 18 nations, including debutants Chinese Taipei.

Both individual titles are likely to stay in Egypt, with world No.15 Hania El Hammamy expected to be top seed in the women's event and world No.29 Mostafa Asal (left) who is the predicted favourite to take the men's Championship. After finishing as runner-up in 2017 and 2018, El Hammamy will be hoping for 'third time lucky', while Asal will be



looking to become the fourth Egyptian since 2006 to win the men's title twice in a row.

The full seedings and draws will be announced by the WSF shortly.

www.wsfworldjuniors.com

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](#)

EGYPTIAN DUO CROWNED PSA WORLD TOUR FINALS CHAMPIONS

Egypt's Raneem El Welily and Karim Abdel Gawad became the 2018-2019 CIB PSA World Tour Finals Champions, as they rose to respective wins over France's World No.3 Camille Serme and World No.7 Mohamed Abouelghar at Cairo's Mall of Arabia to take the honours at the final tournament of the PSA World Tour season.



El Welily, the 30-year-old from Alexandria was off the pace against Serme in the early stages of their final clash. Nerves looked to have got the better of El Welily, meaning the World No.4 stormed into a two-game lead.

However, the finals reverted to the traditional best of five scoring after earlier matches were best of three, and that played into El Welily's hands as the Egyptian displayed the trademark winners that have seen her dominate the tour this season to come back and take two games in a row, drawing level.

A tenacious Serme left it all out there on the court in the fifth and was forced to do a lot of running as El Welily moved into the ascendancy, and she soon closed out to make it seven wins in a row against the French player.

Meanwhile, World No.4 Gawad captured his second major title of the season as he got the better of compatriot Abouelghar in the men's final, a week to the day after he got married.

After sharing the first four games the battle continued into a dramatic fifth. Gawad surrendered two Championship balls as Abouelghar came back to force a tie-break, but converted on his third match ball as the younger Egyptian struck the tin to hand the match to his opponent.

Men's Final: [4] Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) bt [8] Mohamed Abouelghar (EGY) 3-2: 12-10, 11-6, 5-11, 8-11, 12-10 (92m)

Women's Final: [1] Raneem El Welily (EGY) bt [4] Camille Serme (FRA) 3-2: 3-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-6 (61m)

SEA APPROACHES 25th ANNIVERSARY



**SQUASH+
EDUCATION
ALLIANCE**

The Squash and Education Alliance (SEA) launches and leads youth programs

that combine academics, squash, travel, mentoring, college prep and career readiness. With the most recent additions of SquashBond in Israel and 716 Squash in Buffalo, NY, SEA's membership has grown to include 19 U.S. based programs and five international affiliates.

Together, these organisations provide consistent, year-round support to nearly 2,500 young people in under-resourced communities. Just this spring, 145 students graduated from high school and 44 SEA alumni earned Bachelor's degrees.

SEA programs follow an intensive youth development model, working year-round with students beginning in elementary or middle school and extending all the way through college graduation. Students attend practices and academic sessions three or four days a week during the school year and much of the summer, regularly volunteer in their communities.



Students at Williams College for SEA's hallmark Urban Individual Nationals tournament.

To date, 948 students from SEA member programs have graduated high school and 96% of these graduates have matriculated to colleges and universities. 154 students have played intercollegiate squash, one has gone on to compete on the professional tour and another currently works as head coach of a college squash program!

Over two decades ago, SquashBusters launched in Boston was the first program of its kind to combine the sport of squash with academic support, mentoring, and community service. Today, the model has spread to 28 cities, with international affiliates in Canada, South Africa, India, Colombia, and Israel. Next January, SEA will celebrate the 25th anniversary of this movement and the amazing success of its programs, students, and alumni.

HOSTS CANADA STRIKE PANAM JUNIOR GOLD

Canada, hosting the event for the first time, struck gold on the final day of the Pan American Junior Squash Championships with success in the Women's Team event in Toronto.

The 17th staging of the Championships - including singles, doubles and team events - was held at the Mayfair Lakeshore Racquet Club, where Canada recovered from a match down in the women's team final to beat Ecuador 2/1.



It was a similar story in the Men's Team final where Argentina fought back to beat Mexico 2/1 after the runners-up conceded the second match.

Mexico and Ecuador jointly topped the medals tables, each with one gold, two silvers and one bronze (*Medallists pictured above*).

It was in the men's singles final that Mexico struck historic gold when Leonardo Vargas beat Juan Carlos Vargas in the first ever final between twins.

Colombia came away with four medals - winning gold in the Women's Doubles when Lucia Bautista & Amalia Rios fought back from a game down to overcome Nina Mital & Molly Stoltz of the USA in the final.

There was a surprise gold for Barbados in the Mixed Doubles when Meagan Best & Khamal Cumberbatch upset both the No.1 and No.2 seeds to claim the title.

Peru came away with a single medal - but it was gold when Rafael Gálvez & Martin Leon also defeated the top two seeds to triumph in the Men's Doubles.

RESULTS:

Men's Final: [1] Leonardo Vargas (MEX) bt Juan Carlos Vargas (MEX) 12-10, 11-9, 11-8.

Women's Final: Maria Moya (ECU) bt Meagan Best (BAR) 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8.

Men's Doubles Final: Rafael Gálvez & Martin Leon (PER) bt [2] Nicolas Serna & Andres Villamizar (COL) 5-11, 11-7, 11-10.

Women's Doubles Final: Lucia Bautista & Amalia Rios (COL) bt Nina Mital & Molly Stoltz (USA) 6-11, 11-6, 11-10.

Mixed Doubles Final: Meagan Best & Khamal Cumberbatch (BAR) bt [1] Maria Moya & David Costales (ECU) 11-6, 9-11, 11-7.

Men's Team Final: ARGENTINA bt MEXICO 2/1

Women's Team Final: CANADA bt ECUADOR 2/1

AND IN OTHER NEWS:

Xavier Koenig

Sad news reported by Mauritius Association President Adrien Wehrli:



'It is with a heavy and saddened heart that we announce that our number 1, Xavier Koenig, passed away on the 30th May. Xavier had been diagnosed with brain cancer last year end of October. Since, he has been fighting

like a champ he has always been. He never gave up, even at his last hours.

It is a great loss for the local squash community as Xavier was a natural leader and it will take long time to find a person like him again.

He was always proud to represent Mauritius abroad and gave his utmost best on the court and outside the court.

He is also the one who brought to Mauritius our biggest sponsor and who created the Necker Squash open, third edition to be held in July and which has been awarded the right to be a demo sport at the Indian Ocean Games. We will always remember him'.

Squash Activation at SportAccord

When SportAccord, the world of sports international convention and meetings week, took place at Gold Coast in Australia recently, Squash Australia took the opportunity to run an activation using an inflatable mini-court. Running alongside Olympic and other sports being featured, as part of the Olympic 32 Brisbane bid, it was an opportunity for delegates from around the world to see a fun introductory tool used for squash.



Pictured with the Squash Australia activation team were their CEO Richard Vaughan (third left) and next to him WSF President Jacques Fontaine and Vice President Pablo Serna.

Best of three, Chateau-style

The Open de France - Nantes 2019 presented by Tailor Capital will also use a best-of-three games scoring format up to and including the quarter-finals when the tournament takes place at the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne between September 9-14.



Formerly known as the Open International de Squash de Nantes, this year's Open de France has been upgraded to a PSA World Tour Silver tournament and will boast its highest ever prize purse of \$147,000, which will be split equally between the men's and women's draws.

The Open de France aims to combine culture and squash and last year took place at the Théâtre Graslin, where over 4,000 spectators witnessed world-class squash at the stunning 18th century opera house throughout the week, as England's Declan James and Belgium's Nele Gilis claimed silverware.

The opening round of the Open de France will be held at the La Maison du Squash, while round two will be split between there and the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne. All matches from the quarter-finals onwards will be held at the impressive Chateau des ducs de Bretagne.

Laura Massaro retires

The British Open signalled the end of a sparkling career for England's Laura Massaro, aged 35.

Massaro became the first Englishwoman in 15 years to lift the PSA World title in 2014.



She also won the historic British Open twice, ending a 22-year wait for a female English player in 2013, while she captured her second British Open crown in 2017, becoming the first Englishwoman since 1951 to win squash's longest-running tournament on two occasions.



WHO NEEDS A SPIN?

1. PLAYERS:

- i. All players in all World Individual and Team Championships
- ii. Major and Multi Sport Games
- iii. Regional Team & Individual Championship entries
- iv. WSF and PSA Satellite Circuit (U19/17 age groups)
- v. World Masters Tour Registered Event entries
- vi. All PSA members

2. TEAM OFFICIALS:

All designated Team Officials attending with teams or individual players at World / Regional Championships (this requirement covers anybody with access to the playing area, so, primarily, managers, coaches, physios – binding them to the Code of Conduct).

3. WSF REGISTERED COACHES AND TUTORS

Pre-requisite to register as a coach.

Record check



When Joshna Chinappa won her 17th Indian National Women's title at Pune last month she set a national record but not quite a world one.

Finn Tuula Myllyniemi won twenty national crowns.

Meanwhile on the Men's side Belgium's Stefan Castelyn took 19, Jan Koukal from Czech Republic has 18 and another Finn, Olli Tuominen has 17 at this point. Have these totals been beaten elsewhere?

GOT A SPIN? GET A DISCOUNT. SAVE 20% ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION [HERE](#)



Parke Plays

Former World No.3 Simon Parke was amongst 240 players in twenty three grades ranging from U13 to O80 competing in the 36th UK National Squash 57 Championships at Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham. Arguably the largest and most diverse event held.

The Men's Open kept the crowds entertained throughout with some epic encounters including Parke's. In the end it was the final many expected with Tim Vail (10 times National Champion) taking on Mike Harris (2 times Champion) which saw Vail make a strong start but ultimately beaten 3-1 by Harris.

The Nationals certainly exemplified the fun as well as competition that 57 offers!

What's the story?



Is Hollywood's Mark Wahlberg giving Peruvian star Diego Elias acting lessons for an appearance in an upcoming movie? Or is Diego helping Mark on his way to squash stardom?

Whichever way round, it is great to see the great actor enjoying playing squash!

Nigeria aims to 'Catch Them Young'

The Nigeria Squash Federation (NSF) began its grassroots development programme at the Squash Court of the Kwara Stadium Complex, Ilorin, North Central Nigeria recently, with the aim of building a new generation of players in the sport.



NSF President, Boye Oyerinde, said that the 'Catch them Young' initiative was primarily designed for students.

The programme, he said, would involve technical officials from all the states of the federation and Abuja, adding that the exercise in Ilorin, which involves officials from 19 states, will be the first batch. We distributed the kits to coaches (*pictured*) across 16 states of the federation after a two day training program at the Squash Courts, Kwara Stadium Complex, Kwara State, he added.

Oyerinde said that the federation would introduce competitions, as a follow-up to the grassroots development programme.

Kits were donated to the Nigeria Squash Federation by Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency.

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