

Instant Update

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**WORLD
SQUASH**

WSF

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

OLYMPIC GAMES UPDATE



In early June WSF submitted squash's questionnaire answers to the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee (OC), after which we were included amongst the extended list of 26 sports that applied to the OC to be considered by them for nomination. The next stage was that the OC announced a shortlist of eight sports on 22nd June that they will consider nominating. These sports in addition to squash are baseball/softball, bowling, karate, roller sports, sports climbing, surfing and wushu. We will need to present our case to the OC in Tokyo in early August.



Welcoming the news, WSF President N Ramachandran commented, 'We are confident that squash would bring something special to the Programme of the Olympic Games. Squash is a fine gladiatorial sport played all over the world and features great

athleticism, competition and broadcast output; and we are very grateful to the Tokyo 2020 Additional Event Programme Panel for including us in the shortlist from which nominations to the IOC will be made'.

He added, 'There is a long and strong squash tradition in Japan, with the Japanese Squash Association closing in on its' fiftieth anniversary, Tokyo hosting some of the biggest professional events in the world a little while ago and now having great juniors such as Satomi Watanabe and Ryunsuke Tsukue who are doing so well at world level. The Olympic Games in 2020 would be perfect timing for them!'

At the end of September the OC will confirm which sports that they are nominating to the IOC for inclusion. There is no defined number, but whatever sports go forward, squash is making every effort to be on the list!

The IOC will review the Tokyo OC's nominations and next year they will propose which sports they would like the IOC membership to accept at their Rio 2016 meeting.

So, while there is more time to wait for a final decision, everybody can be assured that with the support of the Japanese Squash Association WSF is doing its' utmost to encourage the Tokyo OC to include squash as a nominated sport for their Games.

QATAR & IRAQ MAKE MEN'S WORLD TEAM DEBUTS



Qatar and Iraq will make their debuts in the 2015 Men's World Team Squash Championship which will take place for the first time in Kuwait, from 12-18 December.

The 25th biennial World Squash Federation Championship will feature 25 nations: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, India, Iraq, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and USA.

England will be defending the title they won for the fifth time, but first time since 2007, in France - where they beat three-time champions Egypt in a dramatic final. The 2013 Championship was staged at the Palais de Sports in the Eastern French city of Mulhouse, where action was held on three side-by-side glass show-courts and hosts France won the bronze medal.

The 2015 line-up also includes eight-time champions Australia and six times winners Pakistan. Stage one of the championship is a group phase before the knock-out ties of stage two will decide all the finishing positions.

Hosts Kuwait will be looking for a top eight finish for the first time, while newcomers Qatar will be moving up to the senior ranks after making their debut in the World Junior Team Championship in 2012.



The 45th WSF Conference & AGM takes place 4-6 November 2015 in the French city of Nice, hosted by the French Squash Federation.

Full details can be seen at: www.ffsquash.com/agm-wsf-2015/ where there are forms to book attendance.

18 NATIONS WILL CONTEST THE WOMEN'S WORLD JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP



18 nations - from Australia to Zimbabwe and representing all five continents - will compete in the 2015 WSF Women's World Junior Team Squash Championship, which will be held in the Netherlands for the

first time in the biennial event's 30-year history.

Action will take place at the Squashtime Centre in Eindhoven from 31 July to 4 August, following the World Junior Individual Championships for both Men and Women between 26 and 30 July.



The previous Championship took place in 2013 in Wroclaw, Poland, where Egypt won the title for a fifth time, beating two-time runners-up USA in the final. *(The 2013 medalling teams are pictured above promoting squash's push for a place on the Olympic programme).*

The nations represented in Eindhoven (in alphabetic order) will be Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Guyana, Hong Kong China, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, USA and Zimbabwe.

Individual Titles up for grabs:

This year's World Junior Individual Squash Championships titles will be shared by Peru and Egypt according to the men's and women's draws published by the WSF - with Lima-based Diego Elias and Alexandria-born Habiba Mohamed (pictured opposite) expected to retain the titles they won for the first time last year in Namibia.

The WSF World Junior Championships 2015, comprising men's and women's under 19 age individual events played before the biennial junior women's team event takes place from 26-30 July, followed by the Women's Team Championship from 31 July to 4 August.

Elias made history in 2014 by becoming the sport's first world champion from Peru. The 18-year-old has gone on to pick up three titles on the PSA World Tour and now boasts a career-high world ranking of 46.

The Peruvian is expected to meet Egypt's All-Africa Junior champion Amr Arafa in the semi-finals before a final clash with Tayyab Aslam, the No.2 seed from

Lahore who is bidding to become the event's first winner from Pakistan since the legendary Jansher Khan in 1986.

The draw for the women's championship predicts an all-Egyptian semi-final line-up for the third year in a row - with 16-year-old world No.18 Habiba Mohamed expected to face Cairo-based compatriot Nouran Gohar, the 17-year-old second seed, in a repeat of the 2014 final.

Both Mariam Metwally, a 3/4 seed from Egypt, and Sabrina Sobhy, a 5/8 seed from the USA, are celebrating fifth successive appearances in the championship. Metwally, an 18-year-old from Alexandria, has made at least the quarter-finals in all her previous outings and was runner-up in Poland in



2013 - while New Yorker Sobhy, sister of 2010 champion Amanda Sobhy, will hoping to make the quarter-finals for the third time in a row.

The 2015 World Individual Championships will bring together more than 170 players from 34 nations.

WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT:

July/August 15

July

- 09 – 12 Dutch Junior Open
- 10-13 Botswana 'Ali Walker' Junior Open
- 18 – 26 Caribbean Junior Open
- 26 – 30 World Junior Individual Championships
- 31 - 02 Japan Junior Open

August

- 12 – 16 Hong Kong Junior Open
- 14 – 18 Iran Junior Open
- 23 – 27 Asian Junior Ind. Champs
- 28 - 30 Finnish Junior Open
- 31 – 06 Argentina Junior Open



WSF FACEBOOK PAGE



The more people who 'like' our Facebook page, the better it is for our status, as we push forward for Tokyo 2020. Please encourage all your contacts to go to www.worldsquash.org and click 'like'.

##

WSF AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME IN A TRIO OF SUCCESSES



Launched four years ago, the inspiring WSF international promotional initiative takes two leading squash players, together with an international coach and referee, into younger squash nations to help raise the sport's profile - through clinics, exhibition matches, refereeing and coaching seminars, and media presentations.

Malaysia's world No.1 Nicol David and Spain's highest-ranked squash player of all-time Borja Golan led the latest World Squash Federation initiative into Serbia; the first leg of a week-long trip that also took in Romania and Croatia.

Serbia Targets National Centre Following WSF Ambassadors Visit

A new National Squash Centre in Belgrade, and considerably more clubs throughout Serbia, could be the legacy of the 2015 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to the Balkan country this month, according to the Serbian Squash Association (SSA) President Cedomir Vitorovic.

David, who has participated in all but one of the 'Ambassador' programmes, and debutant Golan ranked 12 in the world, visited the SquashLand Club in central Belgrade, running coaching clinics and playing against the country's top seniors and juniors.

Lana Prokić, the reigning Serbian girls' Junior Champion was overjoyed at the chance to share a court with David. "We all admire Novak Djokovic, the world number one tennis player from Serbia - but Nicol David is the idol for juniors like me," said the 17-year-old. "I try to watch her on SquashTV as much as can".



The three-court SquashLand club - the first squash club in Belgrade and Serbia - was opened in 2003. Set in the heart of parkland in the Serbian capital, the venture was the inspiration of Serbians Cedomir Vitorovic and Ivan Djordjevic (both pictured above with the two WSF Ambassadors).

With the threat of closure hanging over their heads - the park owners want to redevelop the whole site, including the club - the SSA are seeking government support to open a National Squash Centre in Belgrade, which would also be the SSA's base.

After hosting a meeting for the WSF Ambassadors at his government offices, Assistant Minister for Sport Uros Zekovic also attended a press conference staged at the newly-opened Radisson Blu Old Mill Hotel - joint sponsors of the WSF visit to Belgrade.



Zekovic pictured above, 2nd left, in his office with (L to R) Golan; David; Vitorovic and Shelley)

Aleksandar Sostar, President of the Sports Association of Serbia, also spoke at the conference. "Squash is so lucky that the WSF is taking such good care of its members - supporting events like this," said the Serbian Water Polo star.

After seeing the extensive national TV coverage provided by Sport Network, SSA President Vitorovic told the WSF Ambassadors: "Your visit has been the biggest boost we have ever had. We couldn't have hoped for anything better than this".

Visit Heralds 'Massive Boost' for Squash in Romania

Squash is on the verge of a 'massive boost' in Romania according to TV news anchor man Valentin Butnaru, following the 2015 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to the country's capital Bucharest.

"I feel that squash is going to have a massive boom here in Romania. I have trained lots of women over recent years - and not one has given up the sport!" said Butnaru.

AeroSquash, boasting five courts and owned by inspirational Costas Bogdan, is currently the biggest club in Bucharest - but a new facility in the city was due to open in June. The Infinity Sports Arena, owned by Romanian businessman Abbas Tawil, will also feature five glass-back courts and be the new base for the Romanian Squash Federation.

"Abbas Tawil (pictured right, with Constantinescu) is a great supporter of squash in Romania - he is the Honorary President of the Federation - and without his help it would be impossible for us to grow the sport in our country."

While David and Golan played a series of matches at Stejarii, refereeing and coaching seminars attracted candidates from all over the country, as well as from neighbouring Bulgaria.



"To run refereeing and coaching programmes together like this in this part of the world is great" said WSF Refereeing Committee Director Roy Gingell. "There was a refereeing course staged in this region just before the recent Balkan Championships and this was a natural follow on from that".



Ronny Vlassaks (pictured above, left, with Gingell) directed the coaching workshop in Bucharest. "I had a good group of very keen coaches - the message I was trying to convey is that squash is not just about hitting the ball, but playing the game" explained the Belgian and Dutch National coach.

"It's not only about technique but other aspects of the game like movement, tactics and the physical and mental approach. I am sure the people we had will go away with a new vision of the game and bring a more professional approach to their coaching - they were so keen to learn more".

The climax to the trip was a visit to AeroSquash, where the party were warmly greeted by a large group of enthusiastic fans who had come from far and wide to see the international squash stars.

Federation Honorary President Abbas Tawil was delighted with the event at AeroSquash: "It's been so good for our juniors. They will remember this day for many years and will want to be like Nicol and Borja - it will inspire them".

In summing up the value of the WSF visit to Romania, President Constantinescu said: "It was a great honour to host you - we were all so surprised at how generous Nicol and Borja were to our players.

"I hope this visit will be the push for junior squash in Romania," continued Constantinescu. "In five years' time, I hope we will have more than 200 juniors around the country - a new generation of players competing in European and World championships".

Croatia Crowns WSF Ambassadors' Balkans Tour

The Croatian Squash Federation brought the 2015 WSF Ambassador Programme tour to the Balkans to a mighty climax with an action-packed two-day visit to the Croatia capital Zagreb.

A 7.00am start on the opening day saw David and Golan discussing the appeal of squash live on the HRT1's "Good Morning Croatia" - and less than an hour later, the WSF Ambassadors were welcomed in the Zagreb Town Hall by the city's dynamic Mayor Milan Bandic.

"It's a great honour to host you here in Zagreb," said



the sport-loving Mayor (pictured left with David and Golan) who is in his fifth four-year term. "We are more than ready to host more events in squash here."

The group's next appointment was with the Croatian Olympic Committee and Vice President Morana Palikovic Gruden. "Squash is a great sport", said Ms Gruden, who is also Chairwoman of the Women in Sport Commission.

The WSF party also met Croatian Olympic Committee President Zlatko Matesa, a keen squash player (pictured below, centre, with [L to R] Režić, Golan, David and Shelley). "The success of squash in Croatia is all down to Vedran Režić," said Matesa.



Media interest in the sport's Zagreb visit continued unabated back at the city's biggest club - SquashTower - where a press conference attracted a variety of media including HRT1, Nacional, HRT Radio, Zdrava Krava, 24H, Radio Kaj, Radio Martin, Radio Z1 and Jabuka TV.

The climax of a six-month wait for Franka Vidovic came when the 10-year-old stepped onto court with Nicol David.

"I want to be like Nicol," gushed the local prodigy who only took up the game two years ago and won the Croatian U13 title when she was nine years old - and is already No8 in the European U13 rankings!



Roko Voncina (pictured left with David and Vidovic) is another promising Croatian junior, also coached by Vedran Svonja. After playing Golan, the 14-year-old from Zagreb said:

"Before the match, I just was thinking about playing squash full-time - but now I have decided that I will!"

In summing up the success of the Croatia visit, federation President Režić said: "The WSF Ambassador Programme is a great opportunity for squash countries that are developing squash. It helps and gives hope for young players to train more and achieve better results, maybe one day as Nicol and Borja".

Nicol David, a 'veteran' of all but one of the WSF Ambassador visits, said: "This is my first time in the Balkan region and the moment I landed at our first stop in Belgrade, I knew I was going to experience something pretty special. The squash people that have hosted us throughout our tour have been really hospitable in every sense of the word".

Ambassador debutant Borja Golan added "Firstly, I want to thank the World Squash Federation for giving me the opportunity to participate in this great event. I had never visited Serbia, Romania and Croatia before and I was surprised how nice these three places were.

"Squash still has a short life and tradition in these countries but the hard work they are spending to put the sport in another level is simply admirable and I'm sure they will have great players in the near future", explained the former world No.5.

WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley concluded: "The countries we visit tend to say that having the WSF Ambassadors group there inspires them - but we are hugely inspired too. The enthusiasm and passion of the players and the Federations is infectious. They love squash, they want it to grow and they will not rest until it does.

"More courts will be built, young champions nurtured and we will certainly see the initials of the Balkan countries after more names in Tour event draws. Our help in enabling media and player interaction is only a small thing compared with the efforts made on an ongoing basis by the local sports leaders.

"We are blessed by having players such as Nicol and Borja, along with referee Roy (Gingell) and coach Ronny (Vlassaks) freely giving their time and the relationships made will only grow in the coming years. We are blessed having the catalysts in the countries".

The WSF Ambassador Programme first visited the Baltic country of Latvia in 2011, followed by a trip to the African countries of Malawi and Namibia, then Panama and Venezuela in 2013, before last year journeying to Papua New Guinea.

WSF APPROVED BALLS



SALUTING 19 YEARS FOR HOWARD HARDING

World Squash Media Director Howard Harding has sent out more than 8,000 media releases since he took on the role in 1996. He has also provided invaluable assistance to everybody involved in the sport via his knowledge and records – his website www.squashinfo.com provides the sport's integrated record and results information.



Now though, the PSA/WSA merger has led to that side of the role being taken 'in house', so his output will be reduced while he just continues handling media for WSF.

Not surprisingly, there has been a great outpouring of thanks from players, promoters and media alike. These were exemplified by one sports outlet: "You have been the most consistent of all reporters of any sport since we started the magazine 15 years ago, personally I think you have done an amazing job and if all the sports associations could be as reliable as you have been media within all sports would be a whole lot better".

Meanwhile, another summed up his work: "Your contributions to squash have been extraordinary. We will miss you terribly!"

Enough said, but thankfully the Howard Harding flow will continue from WSF.

WSF REFEREES' CONFERENCE 2015



Please ensure that your referees are aware that the next WSF World Referees Conference is taking place in Kuwait on 10 - 11 December (immediately prior to the WSF Men's World Team Championship there). Bookings are already being taken and details of

the package can be found at:

<http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/2015-conference>



Official WSF Magazine

Triple World Champion Ramy Ashour talks about his injury-plagued, stop-start career to Richard Eaton.

Also, Dominic Bliss investigates squash court floors, a vital part of the game that is often taken for granted.

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

NICOL DAVID –

NINE YEARS IN TOP SPOT

31-year-old Malaysian Nicol David has maintained her hold on the Women's World No.1 ranking for a remarkable 108th consecutive month, and 111th month altogether, after topping the July 2015 Women's World Rankings - meaning the Penang-born star celebrates an incredible nine-years uninterrupted as the number one player in women's squash.

David's unprecedented streak began in 2006 and since then she has dominated the women's game, collecting eight World Championships in what has been a trophy-laden decade.

"It certainly feels special and I can't believe that I have been World No.1 for nine years - the time has flown by," said David.

However, Egyptian shot-making sensation Raneem El Welily has narrowed the gap between herself and David to within touching distance following her impressive romp to the title at the Alexandria International Open, Women's International 100 event in June.



El Welily saw off compatriot and best friend Omneya Abdel Kawy (pictured), who climbs two places to World No.7 in the July list.

Elsewhere American starlet Amanda Sobhy, who recently celebrated graduating from Harvard University with a degree

in social anthropology, returns to the top ten to occupy the World No.10 position courtesy of her last 16 finish at the Alexandria Open.

PSA Women's Rankings - July 2015

1	Nicol David	MAS	3,241.176
2	Raneem El Welily	EGY	3,198.824
3	Camille Serme	FRA	1,668.528
4	Laura Massaro	ENG	1,537.353
5	Nour El Tayeb	EGY	1,403.500
6	Alison Waters	ENG	1,371.667
7	Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY	1,159.842
8	Nour El Sherbini	EGY	1,125.625
9	Low Wee Wern	MAS	935.000
10	Amanda Sobhy	USA	796.875
11	Annie Au	HKG	741.316
12	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG	642.765
13	Emma Beddoes	ENG	623.824
14	Rachael Grinham	AUS	613.625
15	Nouran Gohar	EGY	571.237
16	Jenny Duncalf	ENG	562.381
17	Delia Arnold	MAS	556.053
18	Dipika Pallikal	IND	539.000
19	Habiba Mohamed	EGY	521.813
20	Emily Whitlock	ENG	452.600

MEN'S TOP TWENTY UNCHANGED

Egyptian Mohamed Elshorbagy maintains his hold on the coveted World No.1 slot for the ninth consecutive month, in an unchanged top 20 in the July Men's World Rankings.

Elshorbagy, aged 24, has sat unopposed atop the rankings since November 2014 and having captured the prestigious Allam British Open title in May, the biggest title win of his career to date, the Bristol-based star will begin the 2015-16 season with a commanding lead over World No.2 Nick Matthew.

Injury-plagued World Champion Ramy Ashour remains in the World No.5 position, behind enigmatic Frenchman

Gregory Gaultier and Colombian Miguel Angel Rodriguez (pictured) - the highest ranked South American player of all time at World No.4.

Ashour is in danger of being overtaken by the next four players in the rankings who are bunched up very closely behind him with similar averages.

Each of highest ever ranked German Simon Rosner, English left hander Peter Barker and the Egyptian due of Omar Mosaad and Tarek Momen will be coveting fifth place when the events of the second half of the year get underway.

PSA Men's Rankings - July 2015

1	Mohamed Elshorbagy	EGY	1764.000
2	Nick Matthew	ENG	1173.500
3	Gregory Gaultier	FRA	1140.500
4	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL	706.000
5	Ramy Ashour	EGY	581.500
6	Simon Rösner	GER	565.500
7=	Peter Barker	ENG	541.500
7=	Omar Mosaad	EGY	541.500
9	Tarek Momen	EGY	537.500
10	Amr Shabana	EGY	462.000
11	Mathieu Castagnet	FRA	429.500
12	Borja Golan	ESP	428.636
13	Marwan Elshorbagy	EGY	398.000
14	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY	395.500
15	Daryl Selby	ENG	363.500
16	Max Lee	HKG	332.273
17	Stephen Copping	RSA	332.000
18	James Willstrop	ENG	313.500
19	Cameron Pilley	AUS	306.364
20	Fares Dessouki	EGY	295.500



MALAYSIA MASTER SEA GAMES



The South East Asian (SEA) Games, held in Singapore, produced a set of four Gold medals for Malaysia, but also a surprise Silver for

Indonesia in the Women's Team event.

Meanwhile, in the Jumbo Doubles - an SEA local game on especially large courts - Singaporeans Vivian Ramanan and Marcus Phua clinched Gold when they defeated the Indonesian duo of Ade Furkon and A Sandi Perdana 2-0 (11-3, 11-8) in the Men's jumbo doubles final. Their triumph was Singapore's first SEA Games squash Gold medal in 20 years.



Men's Individual:

Final: [1] Sanjay Singh Chal (MAS) bt [2] Muhammad Bahtiar (MAS) 11/7, 11/3, 12/10.

Semi Finals: [1] Sanjay Singh Chal (MAS) bt [3/4] Samuel Kang (SIN) 11/5, 11/3, 11/4, [2] Muhammad Bahtiar (MAS) bt [3/4] Bryan Koh (SIN) 11/7, 7/11, 11/5, 3/11, 11/7.

Women's Individual:

Final: [1] Rachel Arnold (MAS) bt [2] Vanessa Raj (MAS) 11/13, 11/9, 11/3, 11/5.

Semi Finals: [1] Rachel Arnold (MAS) bt [3/4] Mao Shi Yuan (SIN) 11/4 11/8, 11/8, [2] Vanessa Raj (MAS) bt Jamyca Aribado (PHI) 11/3, 11/7, 11/6



Men's Team:

Final: [1] MALAYSIA bt [2] SINGAPORE 2/0.

Semi Finals: [1] MALAYSIA bt [3] INDONESIA 2/0, [2] SINGAPORE bt [4] PHILIPPINES 2/0

Women's Team:

Final: [1] MALAYSIA bt [3] INDONESIA 2/0.

Semi Finals: [1] MALAYSIA bt [2] SINGAPORE 2/0, [3] INDONESIA bt [4] THAILAND 2/0

EGYPTIANS DOMINATE WORLD SQUASH AWARDS

2014 Men's World Champion Ramy Ashour, the talented maverick from Cairo who returned to competition action following a six month injury lay-off to win the sport's most prestigious title, was crowned the PSA Men's Player of the Year at the annual World Squash Awards, which took place during the 2015 Allam British Open in Hull.

Ashour twice returned from injury to defeat World No.1 Mohamed Elshorbagy in breath-taking finals during the course of the 2014-15 season, also triumphing in the El Gouna International, during what was a remarkable year for the injury-plagued player.

"It's an honour and a pleasure to be nominated and selected as the Men's Player of the Year", said Ashour, who could not attend the dinner due to an on-going Achilles tendon injury.

The PSA Women's Player of the Year award was won by dynamic Egyptian World No.2 Raneem El Welily, who capped a breakthrough year in which she finished runner-up in the 2014 Women's World Championship by winning the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions and the 2015 Windy City Open.

"I'm very, very happy to win this award", said El Welily. "It's been a great year and I've achieved so much that I didn't think that I would".



(Pictured, L to R: El Welily, Marshall, Dessouki)

Young Egyptian Fares Dessouki, who broke into the top 20 for the first time in his career this month, collected the PSA Young Player of the Year award while American Amanda Sobhy, who broke into the top ten this year whilst still a student at Harvard University, picked up the PSA Women's Young Player of the Year award.

There was also special recognition of Peter Marshall, who picked up the Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to squash.

2014-15 World Squash Awards - Winners:

Men's Player of the Year

Ramy Ashour (EGY)

Women's Player of the Year

Raneem El Welily (EGY)

Men's Young Player of the Year

Fares Dessouki (EGY)

Women's Young Player of the Year

Amanda Sobhy (USA)

Lifetime Achievement Award

Peter Marshall (ENG)

SOUTH AFRICA TO HOST THE WORLD MASTERS 2016

WSF has awarded the 2016 World Masters Squash Championships to South Africa. The biennial event - which will be jointly sponsored by Assore and Standard Bank - will take place in Johannesburg, from 24-30 September 2016.



Founded in 1983, the WSF World Masters Championships feature men's and women's events from Over-35 to Over-80.

South Africa has a strong squash background. The country has hosted two previous World Masters Championships - in 1997 in Johannesburg and 2006 in Cape Town - and boasts numerous World Masters Champions, ranging from the Over-35 to Over-80 events.



"On behalf of Squash South Africa and South African Masters Squash, I am delighted to welcome Assore and Standard Bank as sponsors of this prestigious event" said Steven Doeg, President of Squash South Africa (*pictured*). "I know the Championship Director - Chris Grainger - and his experienced

Local Organising Committee, will make South Africa proud with their efficient organisation of the Championships.

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

Johannesburg is the economic hub of South Africa and the gateway to the country and its many world-class tourist attractions, ranging from game parks to mountain ranges and wine farms. The squash venues and hotels are all situated in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg and late September should mean lovely warm spring weather.

COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Programme is live for candidate coaches to register for WSF Level 1 courses and course registration. For details go to:

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



To see a list of National Course Managers go to:
http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/150226_RCM-NCM.pdf

TURKEY TAKE OFF

Güven Karakus, VP for Squash for the Developing Sports Federations has very ambitious plans to make Turkey a future influential nation in squash, and quickly!

These are starting at the Turkish resort city of Bodrum, where a two strand project intends to make Bodrum an important centre for squash, for the public, tourists and events; but already there are also discussions with the Governors of other cities to build public facilities too.



With Bodrum a rapidly growing exclusive resort, squash development in hotels is an important strand of the overall plan, and the Bodrum Group of hotel owners has signed a pre-protocol with 21 Hotels (5 star hotels) for court building. The second strand is for the building of a public squash facility, worthy of hosting international events.

To offer support and provide information to Karakus, the Mayor of Bodrum and other parties, ESF (European Squash Federation) President Zena Wooldridge travelled to the city recently.

She reported that there is great momentum with the project, which is likely to become a flagship initiative that others will certainly wish to emulate. She commented "Bodrum has an exciting and ambitious plan to put Bodrum and Turkey on the international squash map. It's a rapidly growing high-end stylish resort, which has a good fit with the squash market. Bodrum has ambitions to attract a major squash event to the resort to help the visibility of the sport. It certainly has all the infrastructure of airport and hotels to support big events. It now needs a squash centre of the size and design to match their ambition; and Güven, Bodrum's Mayor and the team supporting them are keen to learn from the best squash venues in Europe. I'm certainly looking forward to the opportunity to return to Bodrum sometime soon to experience Bodrum's first big squash event".

Wooldridge is pictured above with the Mayor of Bodrum, Mr. Mehmet Kocadon, and the President of Turkey's Developing Sports Federations, Mr. Hasan Öztürk.

SPIN INFORMATION



For players, all players who wish to play in all World Individual and Team Championships, Regional Events and World Junior Circuit events at all age levels will need to be registered. Their SPIN (Squash Personal Identification Number)

stays with them for life.

For individual events where national federations enter their players they will do so using the SPIN of the players. Similarly, in those events where players enter themselves e.g. World Masters, they will do so using their SPIN.

For team events of all ages in World and Regional Championships, Member Nations will enter their teams into the event using the on-line system. Squad and Team submissions can also be made on-line.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

Any player, irrespective of age, can register themselves - or their federation can do so on their behalf - by completing the on-line registration form. They should also let their national federation know that they are doing so.

The current SPIN registration fee - paid on-line - is a once only lifetime fee of GBP10.00 (not annual).

Notes: Half of all the fees paid by the players (or Member Nations on their behalf) are split equally between the five Regional Federations to help fund development initiatives.

Tournament Planner software is used to take entries for National Junior Opens, with players at U19 level able to claim World Junior ranking points.

WHERE DO PLAYERS REGISTER?

Simply go to www.worldsquash.org/spin

MEMBER NATION LOGIN

Separately, all WSF Member Nations have their login so that they can view all registrations from their country, enter WSF Championships and do so for WSF individual events.

PROTECTED DATES 2016

In conjunction with PSA, next year there will again be designated protected dates when it is highly recommended that Regional and National Championships are held - allowing hosts more confidence when making arrangements; giving regions and nations certainty about player participation - that is not possible at other times - and players the opportunity to commit knowing that there will be no conflicting events.

The 2016 protected weeks are:

National championships:

7 days from second Monday in February and June

Regional championships:

7 days from the last Monday in April*

*Where there is regional agreement that one of the designated National Championship weeks is not used then an additional Regional Championship can be held then, of course.

COURT ACCREDITATION / REGISTRATION



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

www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/150206_WSF-ACCREDITATION-INFORMATION-2015.pdf

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

Details of this, are at:

www.worldsquash.org/ws/resources/accreditation/complete-court-accreditation-cca/scheme

Court Registration is at:

www.worldsquashcourts.org/addAccredited.aspx

Recognising that there will be occasions where the court owner does not wish all or some of the courts to be *Registered*, where they are not intended for national and international competition, in these circumstances they can *List* their courts using the same form but without paying a fee. The *List* will not be published but will be on our database making it easy to upgrade in the future from 'non-competition' to 'competition' use if required.



The Bibliotheca provided the stunning backdrop in the Egyptian city of Alexandria for a new PSA Women's Championship, won by home favourite Raneem El Welily.

CALENDAR UPLOADED



The WSF World Calendar is updated monthly and can be found at: www.worldsquash.org/ws/wsf-calendar.

To add your national championships to the WSF World Calendar please go to:

www.worldsquash.org/ws/national-event-registration.

WSF APPROVED RACKET



IOC PRESIDENT IN INDIA



Visiting India for the first time after being elected as IOC President in 2013, Thomas Bach met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his official residence in Delhi (*pictured together*) recently.

He also met top Indian sporting officials including WSF President N Ramachandran, who is also President of the Indian Olympic Association.

Pictured (Left to Right) – Ms. Marina Baramia (IOC), Mr. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (Minister of State for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India), Ms. Poonam Mahajan (Member of Parliament, India), Dr. Thomas Bach (IOC President), Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal (Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India), Mr. N. Ramachandran (President, World Squash Federation / Indian Olympic Association), Mr. Christophe De Kepper (IOC) and Mr. Pere Miro (IOC).



SNIPPETS

Nick Matthew - Three-time PSA Men's World Champion, has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty the Queen of England in her Birthday Honours List for his services to the sport of squash.



One of most successful British squash players of all time, the 34-year-old from Sheffield has collected 33 PSA World Tour titles, three Commonwealth Games

Gold Medals and seven British National Championship titles during an accolade-laden career to date.

"It's incredibly special for me personally but it's also great to see squash recognised like this", said the World No.2.

Squash & Art Scores Again - Squash & Art Festival, the annual event connecting Polish Squash League Finals with artistic activities was another great success - stunning taking over the Krakow city centre area in front of the Galeria Krakowski Shopping Mall. Top international stars playing included Gregory Gaultier, Simon Rosner and Alison Waters. What a setting!



The Commonwealth Games Federation - Chief Executive David Grevemberg recently concluded a visit to Samoa, to support and see first-hand the final preparations for the 5th Commonwealth Youth Games, taking place in the nation's capital, Apia, from 5-11 September.

The Delaware Investments - U.S. Open Squash Championships renewed its commitment to the world's best squash players in 2015 by raising the total prize money purse from \$230,000 to \$300,000.

The world's top men and women will vie for equal prize money for a third year at Drexel University in October, with \$150,000 prize purses at stake in each draw.

ASB Takes Squash Development Into Soccer - Squash court manufacturer ASB has taken its pioneering glass floor concept successfully into soccer. Earlier this month, Nike installed "the coolest football pitch ever" on the roof top of the Bikini Mall in Berlin for the finals of the German Nike Football X Cup and the European Nike Football X Cup.



The arena, custom-built for the three-day event, featured a 150 sq. metre sports floor football pitch - equipped with an LED screen over the entire surface. The 10m x 15m pitch (*pictured above*) incorporated the technology of the "ASB Glass Floor", the state-of-

the-art squash court floor recently launched by the German company.

The unique floor featured more than 15 million LEDs - 10,000 per square metre. The ASB Glass Floor glass made it possible to walk on the surface - the non-reflective high-performance glass equipped with a special cushioning layer and applied to the top of the LED surface.

"The result of the cutting-edge technology is breathtaking," said ASB MD Christof Babinsky. "A pitch for small field soccer that can be used as a screen across the whole of the surface. The 'screen' was used to imitate several different surfaces - like sand, grass, concrete, gravel and even outer space. The score was displayed live on the floor and different graphic animations in foul, goal or attempt situations made the fast game even more exciting".

Armenia Squash has new HQ – Not only that, but an all-glass court built by CourtTech at the Grand Sports Complex in the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

Photographs:

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



Squash Stars Wed

Australian international Cameron Pilley and Danish number one Line Hansen decided on neutral territory for their June wedding – Las Vegas. Congratulations to them both.

Korean Ko Makes History -

Australian Joshua Larkin celebrated his first PSA World Tour title at the recent City of Perth WA Open – but runner-up Ko Youngjo made history by becoming the first Korean man to reach a Tour final at the PSA Challenger 5 squash event in Australia.

STOP PRESS:

Peruvian World Junior Champion Diego Elias has been selected to carry the flag of Peru, leading in his countrymen and women at the opening ceremony of the Pan American Games in Toronto this month. An honour for him and squash.



Executive Office: Maison du Sport International,
Avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

Administrative Office: 25 Russell Street, Hastings,
East Sussex, UK TN34 1QU

Tel: +44 1424 447440 **Fax:** +44 1424 430737

Website: worldsquash.org

Chief Executive – Andrew Shelley: andrew@worldsquash.org

Operations Manager – Lorraine Harding: lorraine@worldsquash.org

Assistant Operations Manager – Jasmine Pascoe: Jasmine@worldsquash.org

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