

WSF INSTANT UPDATE

ISSUE 71 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017**To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS****cc:** WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Commission Members, PSA members, Accredited Products and Companies**FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

In September we received the confirmed news that the IOC had awarded the 2024 Olympic Games to Paris, followed by Los Angeles four years later.

Speaking as a member of the French National Olympic Committee I am delighted that my home city will have the chance to host the Games. As WSF President I will use every opportunity at my disposal at home and internationally to push for squash to be part of the Paris edition.

Squash is a well-respected sport in France, with current very top players such as Camille Serme and Gregory Gaultier, along with great coaches who are developing strong juniors who may be medalists in seven years' time. This is a bid sales point.

Importantly though, there are many other reasons why we should be hopeful. Squash is united behind our dream at every level, and essentially, we have full collaboration with PSA to jointly make our bid.

I should report that at this time the process and timing for Paris to nominate sports as happened for Tokyo for the first time has not been finalized. Several meetings will take place in November and we expect to have a better view of arrangements by the end of this year.

However, please be assured that we have already begun our preparations, including selecting a campaign agency to assist us prepare our case. Since the announcement in Lima and through ongoing contacts we already know that we must offer new and innovative features in our bid and we are working on it.

The WSF Olympic Games Commission, featuring PSA representatives, will meet in Marseille at the time of our AGM to take discussions forward.

Once we have confirmation of the process we will refine our plans and provide information to the squash world e.g. bid messages. Strong international support from all the squash family will be vital. At the same time it is also clear that we will also have to ask for help with funds to ensure that we and PSA can compile the fullest possible bid.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Jacques Fontaine
President

FRENCH SPORTS MINISTER ENTHUSES

France's Minister of Sport Laura Flessel, hosted by French Squash Federation President Jean Denis Barbet, visited the French Squash National Training Centre in Creteil to watch Camille Serme, World No.2 (and WSF Olympic Commission member) playing in a League match.

Flessel was impressed by the athleticism of the players. The former Olympic fencing champion explained to Serme that she had played squash during her time competing internationally, as it is an excellent sport for reflexes, fitness and stamina.

World Squash Federation President Jacques Fontaine, who also attended the meeting (*pictured right, with Flessel and Barbet*), said: "We really hope that our Olympic dream will be realized here in Paris in 2024 and are very grateful that our Minister of Sport Mdm Flessel has shown her interest in squash by visiting us."

PSA & WSF SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Professional Squash Association (PSA) and World Squash Federation (WSF) have signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* that will see the two bodies work in unison towards achieving a joint vision for the future of Squash on a global scale.

Following a series of meetings between the International Federation, led by President Jacques Fontaine and Chief Executive Andrew Shelley, and the PSA, led by Chief Executive Alex Gough, both organisations have agreed to tackle the sport's future in a united and cohesive manner - by means of a unity that will lead to greater support for and interaction between all levels of the sport.

Central to the partnership will be the development of a global strategy, focusing on objectives such as, securing a place on the Olympic Games programme; maintaining squash's presence on other international multi-sport games programmes; growing participation levels around the world; and encouraging the development of court facilities in conjunction with centres, local associations and national federations.

"We are delighted to have reached an agreement with the PSA which we have now signed, that will see both organizations work side-by-side throughout the coming years to help squash achieve greater visibility and profile around the world. This was a key objective for me since my election as WSF President last November," said WSF President Jacques Fontaine.

"It is vital for the future of the sport that the governing body of the professional game and the international federation representing the nations and their players, coaches and referees, work in unison towards joint objectives that will ultimately help ensure squash continues to expand its global profile. The ability to plan for our future together, developing clear roles and responsibilities for the PSA, WSF and other key stakeholders within the sport, is an exciting moment for squash and we look forward to a very bright future working together."

PSA Chief Executive Alex Gough said: *"Our ambition, aligned with that of the WSF, is to create a more stable and successful platform from which to market squash around the world. Creating a unified refereeing structure, expanding squash's commercial profile and improving working relationships with all stakeholders are key to the future success of squash and we are pleased to begin a new WSF working relationship."*

There are definitive partnership priorities, including developing and enacting a global strategy, but all are important.

1. To develop a joint and overarching vision and global strategy for squash, with clear roles and responsibilities for the PSA, WSF and other key stakeholders within the sport such as regions and nations.
2. To achieve a place on the Olympic Games Programme, maintain places on other multi-sport

games programmes and secure them where squash is not already featured.

3. To produce major PSA and WSF sanctioned tournaments through SQUASHTV, with broadcast costs (for production and distribution) for WSF sanctioned tournaments to be based upon a scale of costs agreed and communicated to hosts, and any broadcast income accruing from WSF sanctioned tournaments to be split by agreement between both parties.
4. To work together on anti-doping policies, co-ordinated by the WSF, and disciplinary matters using the Integrated Disciplinary Process to preserve the integrity of the sport via integrated implementation.
5. To utilise a single international player licencing system via SPIN as default for the sport.
6. To explore developing one worldwide database of players and followers.
7. To grow participation levels around the world for squash through innovation, media appeal, marketing efforts and to encourage the development of (new) court facilities in conjunction with centres, local associations, national federations and court manufacturers.
8. To create a long-term global squash calendar for major PSA and WSF sanctioned tournaments with a view to achieve a good balance for the players between ranking/earning events and to enable their participation in national/regional events.
9. To work together on the successful delivery of World Championships.
10. To put in place a pathway for talented young players to fulfil their ambitions in the sport, including becoming professional squash players.
11. To develop and execute a joint public relation, communications, media, marketing and sales strategy for squash, including potential collaboration with regards to (new) sponsorship and partnership opportunities.
12. To support key stakeholders within the sport, including individual member nations and players, with developmental and/or marketing templates.
13. To review the Parties' constitution to formalize the collaboration and to ensure that they reflect best practice, both for general good governance and to maximise the likelihood of fulfilling the criteria required by the International Olympic Committee.
14. To share resources to work together more efficiently and reduce costs for both the PSA and WSF.
15. To increase the number of referees and improve the standard of officiating at all levels around the globe.
16. To make SquashRef the standard system used for refereeing at major PSA and WSF sanctioned events.
17. To work together to provide an aligned system for event management, results, player records and information availability under PSA and WSF auspices.
18. To grow the worldwide number of qualified coaches via the WSF Coach Education Programme.
19. To establish a joint Athletes Commission.
20. To promote WSF Approved Products as the benchmark for court manufacturers.

EYEWEAR POSTERS

To help promote awareness of eye protection, don't forget the scalable poster that can be downloaded by centres and placed on court doors, notice boards or in changing rooms.

It can be found at:

www.worldsquash.org/ws/resources/eyewear-poster

MEXICO CELEBRATE TRIPLE PANAM GOLD



Hosts Argentina scored two gold medals in the 2017 Pan American Squash Championships in Buenos Aires, but

Mexico came away with a triple gold haul in the annual Panamerican Federation event.

It was in the Women's Individual event that Mexico secured their first gold when Tour veteran Samantha Teran beat Diana Garcia in an all-Mexican final to win the title for a record eighth time since 2002.



Teran, the 36-year-old former world No.11 (*pictured above, right, with Garcia*), went on to lead her country to title success in the Women's Team Championship with a 2/1 win over Colombia.

Mexico's third gold came courtesy of brothers Cesar and Arturo Salazar who mounted a 2/0 upset for the second seeds over favourites Argentina in the Men's Team Championship final.

Pezzota's Silver

Argentina celebrated an unexpectedly impressive start to their 2017 campaign when outsider Robertino Pezzota, a 9/16 seed (*pictured below*) who reached the Men's Individual final following upsets over the three higher seeds including the No.2 seed, despatched compatriot Gonzalo Miranda, a 3/4 seed, to win gold for the first time.



Miranda came back to strike gold with Antonella Falcione when the Argentine pair defeated Guatemala duo Winifer Bonilla & Mauricio Sedano in the Mixed Doubles final.

A sole gold came for Chile in the Women's Doubles event when Giselle Delgado & Anita Pinto beat Mexicans Diana Gasca & Karla Urrutia Gomez in the final.

Men's Semi-Finals: [3/4] Gonzalo Miranda (ARG) bt [1] Christopher Gordon (USA) 12-10, 11-6, 11-4 [9/16], Robertino Pezzota (ARG) bt [3/4] Leandro Romiglio (ARG) 11-3, 9-11, 11-7, 11-4 **Final:** [9/16] Robertino Pezzota (ARG) bt [3/4] Gonzalo Miranda (ARG) 11-4, 11-9, 11-6

Women's Semi-Finals: [1] Samantha Teran (MEX) bt [9/16] Laura Tovar (COL) 11-9, 11-2, 11-6, [3/4] Diana Garcia (MEX) bt Karla Urrutia Gomez (MEX) 9-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-1 **Final:** [1] Samantha Teran (MEX) bt [3/4] Diana Garcia (MEX) 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 11-6

Men's Doubles Semi-Finals: [1] Eric Galvez & Arturo Salazar (MEX) bt [5/8] Chris Hanson & Faraz Khan (USA) 11-8, 11-9 [5/8] Andrés Herrera & Juan Camilo Vargas (COL) bt [2] Rafael Allendes & Sebastian Gallegos (CHI) 11-8, 11-8 **Final:** [5/8] Andrés Herrera & Juan Camilo Vargas (COL) bt [1] Eric Galvez & Arturo Salazar (MEX) 11-6, 10-11, 11-8

Women's Doubles Semi-Finals: [1] Giselle Delgado & Anita Pinto (CHI) bt [3/4] Laura Tovar & Maria Tovar Perez (COL) 8-11, 11-9, 11-10 [2] Diana Gasca & Karla Urrutia Gomez (MEX) bt [3/4] Mariam Kamal & Haley Mendez (USA) 11-9, 11-8 **Final:** [1] Giselle Delgado & Anita Pinto (CHI) bt [2] Diana Gasca & Karla Urrutia Gomez (MEX) 11-8, 11-9

Mixed Doubles Semi-Finals: [1] Antonella Falcione & Gonzalo Miranda (ARG) bt [3/4] Winifer Bonilla & Mauricio Sedano (GUA) 11-5, 11-9 [3/4] Diana Garcia & Alfredo Avila (MEX) bt [2] Catalina Pelaez & Edgar Ramirez (COL) 11-10, 11-6 **Final:** [1] Antonella Falcione & Gonzalo Miranda (ARG) bt [3/4] Diana Garcia & Alfredo Avila (MEX) 11-9, 11-3

Men's Team Championship final: [2] MEXICO bt [1] ARGENTINA 2/0 Cesar Salazar bt Leandro Romiglio 11-8, 11-7, 11-8 Arturo Salazar bt Robertino Pezzota 7-11, 12-10, 14-12, 11-7 **Bronze medallists:** [3/4] COLOMBIA & [3/4] USA **Remaining final positions:** 5 GUATEMALA, 6 CHILE, 7 BRAZIL, 8 CAYMAN ISLANDS, 9 BARBADOS, 10 BERMUDA

Women's Team Championship final: [1] MEXICO bt [2] COLOMBIA 2/1 Samantha Teran bt Catalina Pelaez 11-5, 11-6, 11-7 Diana Garcia lost to Laura Tovar 9-11, 11-8, 10-12, 6-11 Karla Urrutia Gomez bt Maria Tovar Perez 11-6, 11-3, 11-4 **Bronze medallists:** [3/4] ARGENTINA & [3/4] USA **Remaining final positions:** 5 CHILE, 6 BARBADOS

HISTORIC SAUDI PSA WOMEN'S MASTERS

The world's top female players are set to take part in the 2017 Saudi PSA Women's Squash Masters, World Series event between 26 November – 1 December, as professional squash returns to Saudi Arabia for the first time since 2010.



Held at the Princess Nora bint Abdul Rahman University in Riyadh, the Saudi Women's Masters will be the first professional women's squash tournament ever to take place in Saudi Arabia and it will be headed up by World Champion Nour El Sherbini as she heads the battle for the \$165,000 prize fund.

ENGLAND DOUBLE IN WORLD HARDBALL



England claimed two of the three titles on offer - for the second time in a row - when Clive Leach & John Russell and Suzie Pierrepont & Georgina Stoker struck gold in the Men's and Women's events, respectively, in the Stifel World Hardball Doubles Squash Championships in St Louis in the US state of Missouri.

Despite being the title-holders, Leach & Russell were the fourth seeds - but made their breakthrough in the semi-finals where they despatched No.1 seeds Michael Ferreira & Jonny Smith.

The established English duo - appearing in the final for the fourth time in five years - took a two-game lead against their younger Canadian opponents Thomas Brinkman & Robin Clarke. The unseeded pair soon drew level to force a decider - but it was the seasoned English pair, aged 43 and 38, who reached match-ball first at 14-12.

Sudden death

After two match-balls were saved, it was sudden death at 14-all. With Leach pressuring Brinkman to hit the ball back to himself and give away a stroke, it was the English duo who retained their title.



Women's favourites Narelle Krizek & Natarsha McElhinny (*above right*), the Australian sisters formerly known as Narelle and Natarsha Tippet, duly reached the final - but the title remained in English hands.

It was a joyful climax for second seeds Suzie Pierrepont & Georgina Stoker (*above left*) who competed in the 2015 final - on opposite sides of the court. After dropping the first game, the England pair stormed back to take the title 3/1 - marking a successful defence for 2015 champion Pierrepont.

"I lost to Suzie in the final two years ago in the final," said Stoker. "So it was really great to have won with her this time".

Seasoned hardball doubles campaigner Natalie Grainger, the 40-year-old former world No.1, was partnered by 28-year-old Christopher Callis in the Mixed final. The USA pair had already accounted for the No.4 seeds in the first round and now faced third-seeded Canadians Stephanie Hewitt & Viktor Berg.

After taking the opening game, Grainger and Callis fell 2/1 behind - then had to save three match-balls in the fourth to force a decider. But experience shone through as the home duo marched on to win 3/2.

"We knew we had to be on high alert with Viktor on the court as he is so dangerous," said Grainger. "We had to up the pace and add variety - we are so pleased to have got the win."

Men's Final: [4] Clive Leach & John Russell (ENG) bt Thomas Brinkman & Robin Clarke (CAN) 15-10, 15-10, 3-15, 7-15, 15-14. **Women's Final:** [2] Suzie Pierrepont & Georgina Stoker (ENG) bt [1] Narelle Krizek & Natarsha McElhinny (AUS) 12-15, 15-11, 15-3, 15-7. **Mixed Final:** [6] Natalie Grainger & Christopher Callis (USA) bt [3] Stephanie Hewitt & Viktor Berg (CAN) 15-9, 10-15, 11-15, 15-14, 15-7

NATIONAL & REGIONAL DATES 2018

As Regions will be aware, PSA provide protected dates in the calendar to support Regional and National Championships that want to avoid Tour event conflict for their players. PSA have confirmed those applicable for 2018 to enable you to plan. As previously PSA set aside dates as follows:

Regional Championships

Protection for a period of 7 days, following from the last Monday in April, from all PSA tournaments in the same region and from PSA 15 and above elsewhere.

Regional/National Championships.

Protection for a period of seven days, following from the second Monday in February and second Monday in June, from all PSA tournaments in the same country, if requested to the PSA a minimum of six months before the respective Monday of the denoted week, and from tournaments of PSA 35 and above in the same region and from tournaments of PSA 50 and above elsewhere.

Next year using the formula the weeks will be:

12 - 18 February 2018

30 April - 6 May 2018

11 - 17 June 2018

Regions and nations are encouraged to use these dates for events.

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

COACHES CONGREGATED IN COLOMBIA

The Club Campestre Resort in Bucaramanga was a hive of squash activities during September when coaches from all over the world met for the now annual WSF Coaching Conference.

Action kicked off with a Level 2 Coaching Course delivered by WSF Tutor Esteban Caserino (Paraguay), attended by 30 coaches from Peru, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela and Guatemala. A day later WSF Tutors from Brazil, Malaysia, New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, England, Hungary and Ireland met to discuss the new WSF Level 3 Syllabus that was presented by Peter Hirst (England). The WSF Tutors joined Esteban for the practical assessments of the Level 2 Course, which most participants successfully passed.

A real mixture

Events continued with the three day Conference. A total of 45 participants were welcomed by WSF Vice-



President Sarah Fitzgerald. Busy days were filled with a mix of lectures and practical sessions covering topics such as skill acquisition, tactical progressions, physical and mental training. The highlight of the conference was Sarah's presentation on "Becoming a World Champion" that was followed by lots of questions in the open forum.



A gap in the programme actually allowed for her to step on court and take on the boys for a fun session (*above*). How often do you get the opportunity to play against a world champion?! The following photo session was almost longer than the playing time!

Organizer Sergio Becerra superbly arranged a great week at an excellent venue with simultaneous translation, good food and two parties with lots of music and dancing.

The Conference presentations can be viewed [here](#)

What they said:

"The love for this beautiful sport united us in the city of Bucaramanga, in the week of the World coaching congress of squash, learning and experiences.

Thanks world federation and welcome to Colombia the country of the open doors." **Freddy Bennites (Colombia)**



"We grew up as coaches in a great squash week, in knowledge and perfection, in Bucaramanga with great squash masters"

Ricardo Settembrini (Argentina)

Thanks for a great week of learning and camaraderie at a world squash coach conference" **Cristian Shulz (Chile, left)**

If you missed this years' conference make sure to book your place for next year when the Gold Coast in Australia will be the place to be for a squash coach. Coincidentally exactly the same dates as this year, 13-16 September 2018.

BEST OF THREE TRIAL

PSA have confirmed that the Canary Wharf Classic next year will be the first ranking PSA World Tour event to be played using a best-of-three games scoring format. The PSA M70 event, which takes place in London from March 5-9, will see all round of sixteen and quarter-final matches played under the best-of-three format, while the semi-finals and final will revert to traditional best-of-five scoring.

"The best-of-three scoring system has featured in the season-ending World Series Finals for the past few years and has contributed to what have been some of the most intense and exciting matches of recent seasons," said PSA's Lee Beachill.

"Every point matters under the shorter format, a scenario that increases the intensity of the match from the opening exchange and as a sport it would be foolish not to explore the wider opportunities this format could bring to an event. For fans it will deliver a more intense viewing experience - with matches played at a higher, more explosive pace - while best-of-three matches also allows players greater recovery time between matches, essential for them to perform at their best day-in, day-out.

WSF DIRECTORY

The current edition of the WSF Directory with updated National Federation addresses, WSF Commission details and much more besides is on the WSF website [here](#).

WHICH NATION WILL FINISH SECOND!

The seeding for the WSF Men's World Team Championship from 27 November until 3 December in the French city of Marseille will not be known for a couple of weeks – but the top slot is not in doubt!

Egypt have six players in the November world top ten, and Ramy Ashour too! With recent World number ones Karim Abdel Gawad and Mohamed Elshorbagy, plus US Open winner Ali Farag and Marwan Elshorbagy, Tarek Momen and Fares Dessouky all in the top ten second place is all the rest of the participating nations can realistically target, barring a major collapse.



Hosts France have current World Number one Gregory Gaultier and are expected to be filling their squad with Gregoire Marche, Mathieu Castagnet and Lucas Serme (*above*). A strong group, and with the vocal support of the public at Modern Club and the showcourt arena at Salle Vallier, will hope for a place in the final.

Meanwhile, no country can match the player experience of England, who are likely to field 'veterans' Nick Matthew, James Willstrop and Daryl Selby as they try to retain their title.

There will be a number of other top players leading the 24 nations who will be in Southern France too. However, there will also be a great welcome for debutants Iraq, Israel and Jamaica too.

The following 24 countries are participating:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, China, India, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA, Wales.



Keep up with World Squash on Twitter: click [here](#)

CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2017

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
	Turbo (AC 114), Turbo Junior (AC 114 Jr) Lasers (AC 111) Sight Guard (AC 112) Kona (AC 119) Kona Junior (AC 119 Jr) Lynx (AC 122) Stiletto (AC 620) Air Frame Small (AC641SM) Guardian AV (AC 660)
	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)
	ASTM F803
	R615

WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING PROGRAMME ON THE WAY

Developing a cutting edge worldwide structure to handle referee training, qualification, development and assessing is quite a project, but that is exactly what WSF, in partnership with PSA, are embarking upon. Planning has been ongoing, costings compiled and now, subject to sign-off of the arrangements, the 'build' will begin.

Here is a flavour of what is intended for the programme, which will be called WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING (WSO):

The tag line for WSO will be *LEVEL UP*, and in total there will be six *levels*.

~ The first *level*, an introductory online quiz-based course for players of all ages and playing standards, which will provide an insight into rules and match management.

~ There will be five *levels* of qualification, from an initial refereeing *level*, running upwards to those who have reached the highest global *level*.

Much will be web-based, but at higher *levels* assessment will feature too.

It will help kick-start refereeing structures nationally where they may not exist and provide resources that other countries may adopt. It will also enable countries that have established programmes to transfer referees into equivalent levels in the initial period.

The introductory level will be free to take (encouraging maximum worldwide take up)

A significant percentage of all online course fees for the five qualification *levels* are planned to be rebated to the nation of the candidate to support further local refereeing resourcing.

Nations will not be required to replace their national courses and qualifications with WSO ones, though encouraged to do so.

The full description of *level* requirements and procedures, along with full general details is intended to be published in early 2018, before the first *levels* go live in May 2018.

A Resource Centre for all players, coaches, administrators and squash enthusiasts generally as well as referees will be incorporated

The preparation is being done by the WSO Consultant Group, featuring representatives from each Region and led by Roy Gingell and Lee Drew.

The funding for WSO development is a joint investment from WSF and PSA.

WSO will soon be live, and with it the impetus to increase Rules and match management knowledge, improve player conduct, enlarge the refereeing pool and raise officiating standards.

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 GBP15.00 (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**

TEAM OFFICIALS

All designated team officials attending with teams or individual players must be WSF Registered with a SPIN at the time of attendance. (This Regulation covers anybody with access to the playing area, so, primarily, managers, coaches, physios).

MEMBER NATION LOGIN

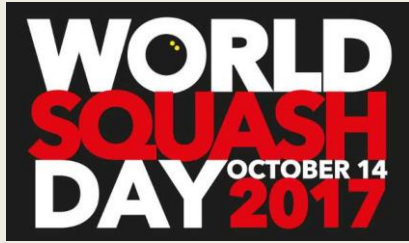
Separately, all WSF Member Nations have their login so that they can view all registrations from their country, enter WSF Championships and do so for WSF individual events.



Former world champion and world no.1 Laura Massaro talks about her preparations for the 2017 PSA World Championship.

For this feature and more, please click here:
<http://www.squashplayer.co.uk>

WORLD SQUASH DAY WORKS ITS MAGIC



World Squash Day brought the sport together "like one big global family" according to the organisers.

England's Daryl

Selby flew home from the US Open, and instead of resting, travelled to Bishop's Stortford Club in Hertfordshire to support their open day.

Selby took to Twitter to announce his appearance at the event and many fellow players also used social media to express their love for the sport.

Canadian No.1 Samantha Cornett said: "So grateful for squash and the amazing community we get to be a part of on this Day."

American No.1 Amanda Sobhy, who is recovering from injury, Tweeted: "Happy World Squash Day everyone! I will always love this sport and continue to play even though it has destroyed my body a little bit!"



Former world junior champion Diego Elias, from Peru, posted a Twitter message wishing everyone a happy World Squash Day alongside a picture of himself

with former world champions Amr Shabana (Egypt) and the mercurial Jonathon Power from Canada.

Another squash legend, World Squash Day Founding President Peter Nicol, originally from Scotland but now based in New York, visited the Access Youth Academy in San Diego on World Squash Day for an exhibition fund-raiser with Irish professional Arthur Gaskin.



In Malaysia....

World Squash Day coincided with the National Sports Day of Malaysia. The University Kebangsaan Malaysia coordinated the activities along with support from the Squash Malaysia management. Director Maj(R) S. Maniam, welcomed everyone and joined in the fun activities including Squash57, table tennis and badminton in the squash court amongst others.

World Squash Day founder Alan Thatcher said: "World Squash Day brings together the global squash community like one big happy family. "From tiny youngsters to the world's leading professionals, we have seen so many fun-filled events taking place across the planet where players and coaches have shared their love of the game with a new generation of participants.

WSF ACCREDITATION

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

For a full list of all Accredited Products please click [here](#)

SQUASH 57 GROWS IN IRAN



The Iran Squash Federation have mounted a big push to grow Squash 57, especially looking to recruit female players.

Using the media, including Instagram and using famous actors and actresses to play and promote, their 57 Committee has also held coaching and refereeing courses, and ran men's and women's events.

The intention is that all regions of the country will become active with 57.

WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT UPDATE

WORLD SQUASH

WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT
WSF

Events that are part of the WSF World Junior Circuit take place throughout the year. Here are the forthcoming ones.

November '17

02 – 05 Belgian Junior Open
17 – 19 Polish Junior Open
24 – 26 Irish Junior Open

December '17

01 – 03 Barbados Junior Open
07 – 10 Swiss Junior Open
09 – 12 Canadian Junior Open
28 – 30 Scottish Junior Open

January '18

03 - 07 British Junior Open
18 – 21 Czech Junior Open

WSF AGM AND CONFERENCE 2017



The 47th WSF AGM, Conference, Board and other meetings all take place alongside the WSF Men's World Team Championship in Marseille, France, with the AGM on Sunday 3 December. Over 40













nations are expected to be represented and details will be reported in the next WSF Instant Update.

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:

	Artengo SB 990 Squash Ball
	Black Knight 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

EL TAYEB RETURNS TO TOP 10



Nour El Tayeb's maiden PSA World Series title at last month's U.S. Open has seen the Egyptian return to the world's top 10 for the first time since October 2016 after the PSA Women's November rankings, saw her rise six places to No.8.

The 24-year-old wrote her name into the record books in Philadelphia as she defeated compatriot Raneem El Welily to claim the women's title, while husband Ali Farag took the men's title just hours later to ensure that the pair became the first married couple in sporting history to win the same major sports title on the same day.

El Tayeb also appeared at the Carol Weymuller Open in October, where she lost out to World Champion Nour El Sherbini, who celebrates her 22nd birthday by retaining the No.1 spot for a 19th successive month ahead of El Welily, who swaps places with France's Camille Serme to take the No.2 spot.

England's Laura Massaro and Egypt's Nouran Gohar hold their places in the top five, while Nicol David and Sarah-Jane Perry stay at No.6 and No.7, respectively.

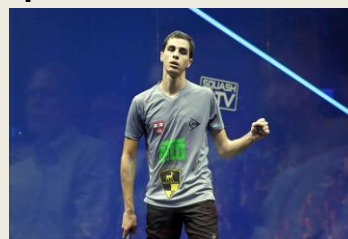
Courtesy of a run of form that saw her reach the semi-finals of the U.S. Open and the final of the Carol Weymuller Open, New Zealand's Joelle King is rewarded with a move up to No.9, with England's Alison Waters dropping two places to complete the top 10.

PSA Women's Rankings – November 2017

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

FARAG REACHES TOP 4

Egypt's Ali Farag has moved into the world's top four for the first time in his career after the PSA Men's World Rankings were released in November.



Farag, a 25-year-old Harvard-graduate, lifted his maiden PSA World Series title last month at the U.S. Open, shortly after his wife, Nour El Tayeb, won her first World Series title on the same night in Philadelphia, ensuring that they became the first married couple in sporting history ever to win the same major sports title on the same day.

A week later, Farag made it to the final of the Channel VAS Championships at St George's Hill, however he fell to the man he beat in the U.S. Open final, Mohamed ElShorbagy, who stays at No.3 but cuts the points gap between himself and World No.2 Karim Abdel Gawad.

Frenchman Gregory Gaultier stays at World No.1, while three-time World Champion Nick Matthew drops a place to No.5 - his lowest World Ranking in 12 months.

Egyptian trio Marwan ElShorbagy, Tarek Momen and Fares Dessouky take the No.6, No.7 and No.8 spots, respectively, with Dessouky sitting at a career-high ranking. New Zealand's Paul Coll also moves up a spot to a career-high No.9 ranking, while England's James Willstrop falls three places to close out the top 10.

PSA Men's Rankings – November 2017

1	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
2	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
3	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
4	Ali Farag	EGY
5	Nick Matthew	ENG
6	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
7	Tarek Momen	EGY
8	Fares Dessouky	EGY
9	Paul Coll	NZL
10	James Willstrop	ENG
11	Ramy Ashour	EGY
12	Simon Rösner	GER
13	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
14	Diego Elias	PER
15	Daryl Selby	ENG
16	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS
17	Cesar Salazar	MEX
18	Borja Golan	ESP
19	Cameron Pilley	AUS
20	Omar Mosaad	EGY

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

As has been published, squash has secured a slot as a 'showcase' sport at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires next year (the Games dates are 6 – 18 October, squash dates are provisionally 7 – 12 October).



This is a very important step as we try to secure a place in the Paris 2024 Olympics, but it should be emphasized that Squash will not be a medal sport. The hosts will permit us to stage a small exhibition event showing off our

glass court and presentation, as well as featuring our athletic young players.

Ongoing discussions....

While there are ongoing discussions with the Games hosts about arrangements, it is most likely that invitations will be extended to every Regional Federation to select up to four boys and girls to participate, possibly in sixteen player round. As for age, in all probability Under 18 at the time of the Games to link to usual Youth Olympic age restrictions for medal sports.

No finishing positions

Details will be conveyed to all Regions and Nations as soon as finalized by the hosts, but for now this indicative information is provided to stress that this will not be a World Junior Open large scale event, not a competition at all as it will not be played to finishing positions, but a great opportunity for squash to really boost our Olympic credentials.

Current WSF Accredited Companies are



ALTANHUYAG LEADS THE WAY IN MONGOLIA

Squash in Mongolia was introduced in late 2014 with the first of the current two squash courts built at the Encanto Sports Complex in the capital Ulaanbaatar.

Coaching is available for anyone who requests when booking, and with coach Altanhuyag Otgon (*seen here with a group of young players*) in attendance full time it is readily available. The centre shows coaching videos for players to watch and learn from when they are not on court themselves.



With the support of the Mongolian Tennis Squash Federation, a Mongolian Squash Association is being formed to support the increasing interest in squash, and a website currently being setup.

As Student Ambassador Maralmaa Erdenebat explained, "Since we started, many people have developed an interest in the game and the association has been eager to expand its influence and members. Due to the cold winters and increase in a healthy lifestyle, many people are drawn to indoor activities and we believe that this could aid our goal. We have held a few nationally open interest competitions that have had a great turn out, especially from younger members. We have been encouraging the participants to keep playing squash and keep in touch with the winners of the competitions for future opportunities".

If you are interested in playing squash in Ulaanbaatar, Altanhuyag Otgon is contactable at sramongolia@gmail.com.

SNIPPETS

HEAR HOWARD HARDING

World Squash Media Director Howard Harding can be heard telling American journalist Jim Zug how he became involved in squash media work in a podcast in the 'Outside The Glass' series at:

<https://soundcloud.com/outsidetheglass/ep22-howard-harding>

ARCHER & SIMPSON ELECTED



At the Barbados Olympic Association elections held last week, Pan American Squash Federation Vice President Craig Archer (*left*) became a Director, while squash referee Orson Simpson was elected as Treasurer.

MATTHEW SIGNALS RETIREMENT



Nick Matthew has announced that the 2017-2018 squash season will officially be his last playing season. The 37 year-old from Sheffield, Yorkshire is already classed as one of the most successful squash players of all time with three World Championship titles, three British Open crowns and three Commonwealth Games Gold Medals as well as 35 PSA World Tour titles and 19 months ranked No.1 in the PSA World Rankings.

RAHIM GUL PASSES

Rahim Gul, Pakistani professional player and later Singapore national squash coach has died aged 66 in



Rawalpindi in the Pakistan province of Punjab, after a battle with diabetes that led to liver complications.

As a player, Rahim was ranked among the top 20 in the world (*seen here playing Jansher Khan*), a feat considering that he played with just one eye, a handicap few noticed. He had lost his right eye while playing outside as a child and grew up with a glass eye.

As a very popular and successful coach, Rahim spent more than 15 years in Singapore having a hand in grooming the likes of Zainal Abidin and Peter Hill amongst others.



Rahim (*left*) was in the family squash business as he is mourned by brothers Fahim (*Right*) and Jamshed Gul (*centre*), both similarly high level players and renowned coaches.

MARIA TOOR PAKAI FILM

See the film on Pakistani player Maria's upbringing made by Economist Films [here](#)

AN OATH FOR PLAYERS

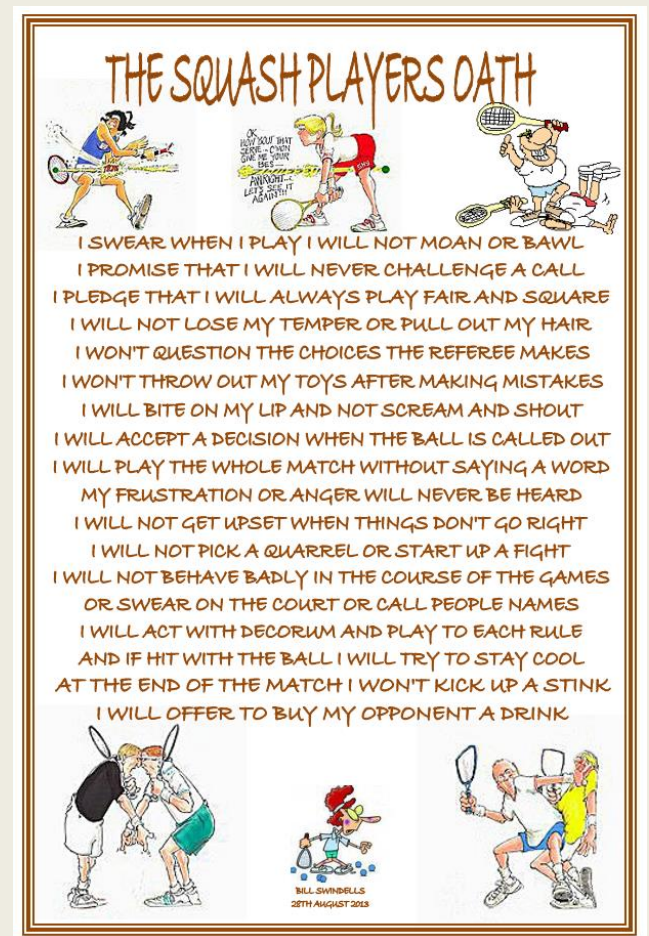
Bill Swindells is 70 years old and has been playing squash for the past 40 years (a little slower than I used to), he reports.

I still play business league at my local squash club in South Africa, and in 2013 at the awards giving ceremony I was awarded the prize of winner of the year. I thought that it meant that I drink too much wine, but it was pointed out later that it was because I had a reputation for disputing calls etc. and wining about the referees' decisions!

The following morning I decided to change my ways and I sat down and wrote a poem about how I would behave in the future. The poem is called THE SQUASH PLAYERS OATH and it applies to all squash player from beginners to professional.

Here it is and he is happy for it to be reproduced. He can be contacted at:

billandpaulineswindells@gmail.com





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