

WSF INSTANT UPDATE

ISSUE 74**MAY / JUNE 2018****To: ALLWSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS****cc: WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Commssion Members, PSA members, Accredited Products and Companies**

CHINA'S HISTORIC FIRST

The first world squash championship ever to be held in China will take place in September when the city of Dalian hosts the 2018 WSF Women's World Team Championship.

Dalian, a major city and seaport in the south of Liaoning Province, will stage the biennial WSF championship at the Xigang Gymnasium, from 11-16 September, in another example of the worldwide reach of the sport as squash makes its case for Olympic inclusion.

The venue will feature all-glass showcourts, with arena seating, plus four permanent all-glass courts.

Entries are Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and USA.



On awarding the rights to the event's new hosts, WSF President Jacques Fontaine said: "China is a member of the world squash family that is showing its maturity with this hosting. There have been major international championships held on showcourts in iconic settings such as the Bund in Shanghai (*pictured*), and now women players from across the globe are excited about playing the World Team Championship in the city of Dalian.

"We are very grateful to the Chinese Squash Association,

Dalian Squash and the city authorities who have collaborated to bring this premier event to China. We know that the teams, officials and spectators will have a memorable time in Dalian."

Mrs Zhao Liping, Vice-Dean of the Multiball Center of the General Sports Administration of China said: "The Women's World Team Championship 2018, which will be held in Dalian city of Liao Ning Province, is welcoming elite lady players from all over the world to compete together. The great squash event will definitely be a successful one, contributing to the development of the sport of squash in China as well as the world."

On behalf of Dalian Squash, Mr Wang Guoguang (*pictured*) looks forward to the event, saying: "It is our pleasure and honour to welcome so many elite women players from around the world to our XiGang Centre, where they will inspire the passionate Chinese squash community. Squash in China is growing quickly and hosting this prestigious championship demonstrates our capability."



WSF PRESIDENT OLYMPIC GAMES UPDATE – MAY 2018

We are firmly focussed on achieving a place on the programme of the Olympic Games 2024.

Although previous bids were strong efforts, only now do we feel that we have a real chance. Squash has changed in approach, and so has the perception of it by the IOC. Also, with Paris and LA as the next two hosts, we have countries where squash has a high level of recognition and legitimacy.

Real Team Effort

There is now a real team effort within the WSF and in full partnership with PSA, which has been well received. I know this from the many interactions I have had with key influencers on behalf of the bid, having travelled in recent months to meet IOC and others in Lausanne, at SportAccord in Thailand, The Commonwealth Games in Australia, the Winter Olympics in Korea, and the Egyptian Sports Minister in Cairo. A great deal of time taken, but important to keep listening and learning as well as telling our story.

Also, as a current Board member of the French National Olympic Committee I am in regular contact with them and the Paris 2024 Organising Committee on behalf of squash. It provides for a good understanding of what Paris 2024 and France want to achieve through hosting this historic event and the legacy the Games would like to leave for future generations in the country and abroad.

Resonating well

Our messages also resonate well with those I meet - of what we bring to the Games in terms of low cost, few additional athletes, great broadcast; constant innovation and youth focus; and all the other aspects that the IOC would like to be considered as part of Agenda2020 and the New Norm.

As Regions and Nations know, we and PSA have jointly engaged the services of a very capable campaign agency - Weber Shandwick, and with their advice have set out a campaign that allows us to engage with multiple stakeholders in the Olympic movement in France and beyond to explain why squash is the right choice to be added to the Paris 2024 Olympic Programme.

Momentum is progressive

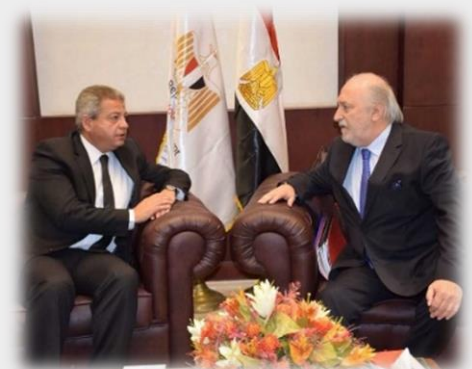
At this point the timing of the nomination period has yet to be finalised by Paris/the IOC but we are pushing ahead now as momentum is progressive and needs to be built over time .

- ***We know we have a strong case, and know we must present it differently***
- ***We know the whole sport is behind us***
- ***With your help WSF & PSA will do our best to tell the squash story globally***
- ***Thank you for supporting squash for the Olympic Games***



Jacques Fontaine
President, WSF

WSF President Jacques Fontaine (right) in Cairo briefing Egyptian Sports Minister Khaled Abdelaziz on squash's Olympic Games 2024 bid, while also confirming that Cairo will host the WSF AGM in October.



POLAND SECURES WORLD MASTERS 2020



WSF has awarded the rights to host the 2020 World Masters Squash Championships to Poland. Fittingly, the world championships boasting the biggest field will take place at the world's biggest club - the 33-court Hasta La Vista Club in the historic city of Wrocław.

The event, which is expected to attract players from all over the globe, aged from 35 to over 80, will take place from 25-31 August 2020 - following the 2018 championships in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, from 29 July to 4 August this year.

The Hasta La Vista Club (*the showcourt of which is pictured above*) hosted the World Junior Championships in 2013, then the squash action of the 2017 World Games, before attracting the continent's top senior players for the European Masters Championships in September last year. This month the region's top players converged on the Hasta La Vista to compete in the annual European Team Championships.

Thousand or more players

"With the possibility of a thousand or more players of all ages participating in the World Masters it seems fitting that the world's largest club should host the matches," said WSF CEO Andrew Shelley. "The championship, played in five year age bands features a great blend of past champions, age group stars and masters players who will simply enjoy taking part.

"2020 World Masters will truly showcase the wide geography of Squash - played today across more than 185 countries all over the world, and its intergenerational profile - two of the reasons why we believe the sport would be a strategic choice for inclusion in the Olympic programme as well.

"Doubtless so many of the players going to Charlottesville will be marking up their diaries for 2020 straight afterwards. They can be sure of a great welcome in Poland."

Hasta La Vista owner Zenon Waniak (*pictured*) added: "I would like to cordially invite all of you to Hasta la Vista in Wrocław, Poland to World Masters

Championships 2020! "Squash is my great passion, that is why the place, in which we can host the best

players from around the world, was created. Above all, I am very pleased, when people do not give up playing squash even despite their age.

"For several years I have been dreaming to organise the World Masters Championships, so I am waiting with great anticipation for year 2020. I hope that this event will be the great meeting of many nationalities in the atmosphere of sport competition, interesting conversations, good vibes and friendship.



SQUASH INCLUDED IN WORLD GAMES 2021



A total of 30 official sports, including squash as previously, will be showcased at the multi-sport event, to be held from 15 to 25 July 2021 in Birmingham, Alabama, USA.

2021 is the 11th edition of the World Games, and follows the 2017 staging in Wrocław, Poland, where the squash was played at the Hasta La Vista Club.

ASIA PACIFIC WORLD MASTERS 2018



Registration is open for the Asia Pacific Masters Games being played on the Malaysian island city of Georgetown Penang. Events and dates:

Squash Singles (male and female, 35+ to 80+, Open and recreational categories) 8 – 12 September. **Squash Mixed Team** (35+, 45+, 55+, Open and recreational categories) 12 – 14 September.

Squash 57 (male and female, 35+ to 80+, one category) 11 – 14 September

Full details can be found at www.apmg2018.com

WSF & PSA PARTNER THE OLYMPIC CHANNEL

PSA, in collaboration with WSF, has reached a cooperation agreement with the Olympic Channel in a partnership that will see all three organisations collaborate on content for the multi-platform global media destination.

The agreement will provide the Olympic Channel, launched by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2016, with access to highlights from the world's biggest squash tournaments including WSF World Men's & Women's Team Championships, a range of feature video content featuring the sport's greatest athletes and an array of written content for its global platforms, ensuring that squash will reach a bigger audience than ever before.

"We are delighted to officially launch our relationship with Olympic Channel, which is a key step for squash as we continue to work toward our goal of bidding for inclusion in future Olympic Games," said PSA Chief Executive Alex Gough.

"The Olympic Channel is a pioneering multi-media platform and we feel that squash, with its commitment to innovation, will make a fantastic addition to their existing content output".

Over 65 sports

The agreement with WSF & PSA means that squash has joined more than 65 international governing bodies who have partnered with the Olympic Channel, strengthening the profile of squash amongst fans of other sports.

WORLD'S TOUGHEST RACKET SPORT?

New data captured through innovative PSA partnerships with Sports Data Labs and interactiveSquash that suggests squash could be the most physically demanding racket sport in the world.

Through the use of pioneering new technology, data captured during recent PSA World Tour events in Chicago, Sweden and Zurich saw player heart rates regularly exceeding 190bpm - with players covering up to five kilometres in a single match, combined with hundreds of lunges, multi-directional movements and explosive bursts of acceleration.

For the first time quantifying the physicality of top flight squash, the data has shone a light on the supreme physical demands required of professional squash players when competing at the sport's elite level - whilst reinforcing squash's position as one of the healthiest sports in the world.

The data has simultaneously placed squash at the forefront of conversations surrounding biometric data

with Sports Data Labs tracking player heart-rate data in real-time, providing it for in-broadcast use to improve viewer experience and translate the intensity of lengthy rallies, and the players' recovery abilities, into homes around the world - emphasising the sport's commitment to enhancing athletes' and viewers' experiences, a cornerstone as squash vies to be included in the Olympic programme.

Heart rates approaching nearly 200bpm

Their systems saw players peaking regularly between 190-199 beats per minute - with the average recorded heart rate throughout the monitoring period 171 bpm.

During one match recorded by interactiveSquash's distance-tracking programme 'MoTrack', Egyptian Tarek Momen was followed as he won a 97-minute five-game match over Frenchman Mathieu Castagnet. Momen covered just shy of 5 kilometres during a total of 100 contested points - an average of 49 meters per point - whilst striking the ball almost 1000 times. The longest single rally recorded during the time period, a 141 second affair won by another Egyptian, Ramy Ashour, saw the 30-year-old cover 235 meters and complete a dozen lunges of 90 degrees or greater - whilst striking the ball almost 50 times.

Through an average 52 minute match players can expect to cover 2.5 kilometres, execute over 100 lunges and strike the ball over 500 times - with the ball in play 63 per cent of the time for an average of 33 minutes - a figure that pushes squash towards the very top of the relative time-in-play tables.

JAHANGIR'S AWARD



Record-breaking squash player Jahangir Khan joined the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Mutiah Muralitharan and MS Dhoni in receiving the honour of Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award at the 8th edition of the Asian Awards in London in April.

This year the Asian Awards in partnership with Payswiff honoured WSF Emeritus President Khan with the Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award.

Khan's career reads like a record book. He became the youngest ever World Open Champion at 17, going on to win the title total of six times; he won the prestigious British Open a record 10 times; he played the second longest match in squash history and was unbeaten over 5 years and 8 months. In the words of Time Magazine, "if winning is everything, then Khan is the greatest."

PSA MAY RANKINGS



EL WELILY CUTS GAP



Raneem El Welily's title win at the inaugural women's El Gouna International in April has cut the gap between her and current World No.1 Nour El Sherbini to under 250 points after the PSA Women's World Rankings for May were released.

An imperious display inside the all-glass showcourt held on El Gouna's marina saw El Welily defeat El Sherbini 3-1 in the title decider with the points gap between the two now at its lowest since January of this year.

El Sherbini, El Welily and their compatriot Nour El Tayeb make up an all-Egyptian women's top three which, after Marwan ElShorbagy joined older brother Mohamed and U.S. Open champion Ali Farag in the top three of the men's World Rankings, the top ranking spots in both the men's and women's rankings being taken up by Egyptian trios for the first time in history.

New Zealand's Joelle King is the only non-Egyptian in the top five as she stays at No.4, a place ahead of Nouran Gohar, who remains at No.5. The rest of the top 10 is unchanged as Camille Serme (No.6), Laura Massaro (No.7), Sarah-Jane Perry (No.8), Nicol David (No.9) and Alison Waters take up the final spots.

PSA Women's Rankings – May 2018

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

EGYPTIAN MEN'S TOP 3 AGAIN



Egyptian Marwan ElShorbagy, currently Bristol based, has overtaken France's Gregory Gaultier to reach a career-high World No.3 ranking and complete the first all-Egyptian presence amongst the world's top three positions on the men's tour since April 2009.

The 24-year-old defeated World No.2 Ali Farag last month to lift his maiden World Series title at the El Gouna International to join Farag and older brother Mohamed – the current World No.1 – inside the world's top three as they become the first brothers to reside in the top three at the same time since Brett and Rodney Martin in May 1994.

Gaultier's drop down to No.4 marks his lowest ranking since April 2013 and he sits a place ahead of Tarek Momen, who retains his place inside the top five.

Germany's Simon Rösner stays at No.6 ahead of 2016 World Champion Karim Abdel Gawad, three-time World Champion Ramy Ashour, Egypt's Mohamed Abouelghar and New Zealand's Paul Coll, who complete the top 10.

PSA Men's Rankings – May 2018

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

NEW ZEALAND TOP GOLD COAST MEDAL TABLE

While Squash relished its sixth appearance in the Commonwealth Games since making its debut in Malaysia in 1998, hosts Australia together with New Zealand and England shared the gold medals at Oxenford Studios in Gold Coast - with New Zealand topping the medals table for the first time since 2002.

105 athletes from 28 nations, officiated by 26 referees from 11 Commonwealth nations, competed in some 140 Singles and 115 Doubles matches - the busiest and most successful athlete being Kiwi star Joelle King who compressed 15 matches into the period en-route to collecting two gold and one bronze medal.



(Individual Gold winner King with R/U Sarah-Jane Perry and Bronze medalist Tesni Evans)

Athletes from India returned home with a best-ever two medals, while Malaysia celebrated its first men's singles medal thanks to unexpected bronze medal success by Nafiizwan Adnan *(pictured right with winner James Willstrop and losing finalist Paul Coll)*.

Australian veterans David Palmer and Rachael Grinham, both aged 41 and former world number ones, also had much to celebrate. With a successful defence of his Men's Doubles gold medal - this time in front of a packed and partisan home crowd, and with Zac Alexander, a different partner from 2014 - Palmer extended his tally over six Games to nine medals, more than any other squash athlete.



(Women's Doubles medalists)



Queenslander Grinham *(pictured left with Palmer)* became the most decorated female athlete after a Women's Doubles bronze took her total to eight medals, thereby maintaining her record as a medalist in each Games in which she has competed.

The spectacular all-glass showcourt, plus the six side courts which can easily be converted to four doubles courts, will be moved to a new National Squash Centre as a legacy of the Games.

Transitioning the courts

"For the next six weeks we're going to be busy transitioning these courts into our new Squash Stadium in Carrara," Squash Australia CEO Richard Vaughan commented. "We've been missing a really good venue with a glass court. This will give us a solid foundation to host major events in the future."



Australian legend Geoff Hunt, the eight-time British Open and four-time World Open champion between the 60s and 80s *(pictured with WSF President Jacques Fontaine and fellow Australian legend Michelle Martin)*

was overwhelmed by the spectacle of the event and the unprecedented home crowd - some 2,500 spectators surrounding the glass court on all sides.

"The great thing about a court like this is that you can see the squash from everywhere. You've got a good view wherever you sit. Also, the quality of the TV coverage now is fantastic - it's made a huge difference. It's one of the best things to have happened for our sport."

Hunt, who presented the Men's Doubles medals added: "I coached the Australian team in the 1998 Games. I would love to have been involved in my day as a player - but it wasn't to be!



"The people like me, Jonah Barrington, Ken Hiscoe, Gogi Alauddin and Hiddy Jahan were the pioneers - we started the PSA Tour.

To see the sport to develop to where it is now is exciting for us because we all started it off!"

Cyrus Poncha, the Indian National Coach, said: "We were very disappointed not to get another gold in the Women's Doubles, but our pair was beaten by the two-time world champions.



"But we are delighted to be going home with two medals rather than one. Joshna (Chinappa) and Dipika (Pallikal) in the women and Saurav (Ghosal) above in the men have done great honours for Indian squash over the past ten years - and it's testament to the system we started in 2000."

Speaking about the success of the New Zealand team, manager Wayne Werder said: "We've got such a small team. But it's been a brutal week - Joelle's had 15 matches and Paul (Coll) 14. We started our preparation for this two years ago. I think our strength is our team culture - all the players get on so well with each other."

The Malaysia perspective

Major Maniam, now a Director of the Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia but from 2002-2016 the Director of Coaching in India, said: "I was delighted to be involved in the historic debut of squash as head coach in the 1998 Commonwealth Games in KL.

"We did not earn any medals at the Games but that's when we enhanced our long-term elite training programme to do well in the coming years. Nicol David went on to win gold in 2010 and 2014. No other Malaysian had won a medal until Nafiizwan's bronze this year. We are absolutely thrilled with this result and hope to better it the next time around.

"I'm also pleased with all our doubles pairs as they put up creditable performances. We'll be there with a vengeance at the next games I'm sure.

The bar continues to rise

World Squash Federation CEO Andrew Shelley summed up the sport's Gold Coast experience: "When squash started its Commonwealth Games journey 20 years ago, the staging and presentation bar were set high in Kuala Lumpur - and it has been nothing but

continued progress ever since. The spread of nations, the innovation on and around the court, superb broadcast and general sports presentation are general features that grow edition upon edition.

"Squash will evolve still further and Birmingham will doubtless rise to the challenge in four years' time - but the splendid Gold Coast Games will give them something to think about!"



(The worldwide band of Games referees who presided at Gold Coast pictured on the show court)

Singles:

Men's. Final: [4] James Willstrop (ENG) bt [2] Paul Coll (NZL) 11-9, 11-4, 11-6. Bronze medal play-off: [12] Nafiizwan Adnan (MAS) bt [11] Joel Makin (WAL) 11-7, 6-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-5

Women's. Final: [2] Joelle King (NZL) bt [4] Sarah-Jane Perry (ENG) 16-14, 11-8, 6-11, 11-13, 11-8. Bronze medal play-off: [6] Tesni Evans (WAL) bt [3] Nicol David (MAS) 11-7, 3-11, 12-10, 11-7

Doubles:

Men's Final: [5] Zac Alexander & David Palmer (AUS) bt [7] Daryl Selby & Adrian Waller (ENG) 11-9, 3-11, 11-6. Bronze medal play-off: [4] Declan James & James Willstrop (ENG) bt [2] Alan Clyne & Greg Lobban (SCO) 11-9, 11-9

Women's Final: [1] Joelle King & Amanda Landers-Murphy (NZL) bt [3] Joshna Chinappa & Dipika Pallikal Karthik (IND) 11-9, 11-8. Bronze medal play-off: [4] Rachael Grinham & Donna Urquhart (AUS) bt [7] Laura Massaro & Sarah-Jane Perry (ENG) 11-6, 11-8

Mixed Final: [4] Donna Urquhart & Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [5] Dipika Pallikal Karthik & Saurav Ghosal (IND) 11-8, 11-10. Bronze medal play-off: [1] Joelle King & Paul Coll (NZL) bt [2] Alison Waters & Daryl Selby (ENG) 11-6, 11-6

Games images courtesy of Toni Van der Kreek

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

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

More programme details are welcomed.

HONG KONG CELEBRATE HISTORIC DOUBLE

Hong Kong China claimed both the men's and women's titles in the Asian Squash Team Championships for the first time in the event's 37-year history in the 2018 championships in Cheongju in the Republic of Korea.

The 19th staging of the biennial event attracted 15 men's teams and 11 women's teams from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Hosts Korea made history in the women's championship by reaching the final for the first time after upsetting second seeds Japan in the semi-finals. However, Hong Kong were too strong for the fifth seeds, winning 2/0.

Fifth Women's title

The victory marked Hong Kong's fifth women's title in their seventh final appearance in the last eight events. The bronze medals went to Japan and Malaysia.

The men's final was a repeat of the last Asian Team Championships two years ago in Chinese Taipei, but this time favourites Hong Kong gained revenge over title-holders Pakistan to beat the second seeds 2/0.



"This is a massive achievement and it proved that our bronze medal at the World Championships last year was no fluke," Max Lee (*picture above, right, in Asian final action*) later told the South China Morning Post.

Iran also made history by winning its first-ever bronze medal in the Asian Team Championships after the fifth seeds beat Japan in the quarter-finals. Malaysia also finished co-third.

David Mui, the ASF President was grateful to Korea Squash Federation for hosting the Asian Championships: "The Cheongju International Squash Stadium that was used for the championships is superb. There are 7 single courts with glass back wall

and one all-glass court, which make it a perfect venue for both training and competition. The event was also well organised.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Korea Squash Federation, who made the Championships all the success. My thanks would also be extended to all the officials, referees and helpers."

At the 38th ASF AGM, which was held during the championships, the Mongolian Squash Federation became an ASF member.



Pictured above celebrating the occasion are (L to R): Kim Won Kwan, ASF VP; Altankhuyag Otgon, Secretary General of Mongolian Squash Federation; David Mui, ASF President

Men's semi-finals: [1] Hong Kong China bt [5] Iran 2/0, [2] Pakistan bt [4] Malaysia 2/0. Final: [1] Hong Kong China bt [2] Pakistan 2/0 (Max Lee bt Farhan Zaman 11-9, 11-9, 11-7, Leo Au bt Tayyab Aslam 11-6, 8-11, 11-0, 11-7).

Women's semi-finals: [1] Hong Kong China bt [3] Malaysia 2/0, [5] Republic of Korea bt [2] Japan 2/1. Final: [1] Hong Kong China bt [5] Republic of Korea 2/0 (Annie Au bt Ahn Eun Tschan 11-4, 11-5, 11-5, Joey Chan bt Ji-Hyun Lee 8-11, 11-0, 11-2, 11-7).

Current WSF Accredited Companies are



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.squashsite.co.uk)

 DOUBLEPLAY A Best Enterprises, Inc.	 AACER SPORTS FLOORING	 Action FLOOR SYSTEMS
 ARMOURCOAT SURFACE FINISHES	 ASB	 BOEN SPORT
 CONNOR SPORTS FLOORING	 courtcraft SPORTS & FITNESS COURT CARE	 COURTTECH WE MAKE COURTS
 ellispearson GLASSWALLS	 FIBERESIN INDUSTRIES, INC.	 GSG Hardware Trading Company
 HARO Sports Flooring	 HARRISON SPORTS SYSTEMS	 QUALITY HOLLMAN SINCE 1976
 JUNCKERS	 McWIL SQUASH COURTS	 PSS PRESTIGE SPORTS SYSTEMS
 Kobound	 ST	 Tarkett SPORTS
 THE COURT COMPANY SINCE 1977		

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

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES GETS CLOSER



Squash has been given an opportunity to be a 'showcase' sport at the Youth Olympic Games being held in Buenos Aires in October, and the 18 young male and 18 young female Ambassadors, squash ambassadors from all

over the world have been nominated by regions. They will be announced later this month.

They will play on the showcourt, meet the influencers who will attend, support the introductory clinics and help out at the inflatable court.

Most importantly, to be our representatives, our ambassadors.

Squash will be a part of an Olympic event for the first time.

The participation dates are 7 - 12 October 2018 inclusive (six days of activity), and Squash Ambassadors will be able to attend the opening ceremony and access to all the other sports.

We would emphasise again how important this opportunity is, and thank Regions and Nations for their support in providing World Squash Ambassadors who will play such a positive role promoting our sport on this very important world stage.

DOUBLES RULES INTERPRETATION



In conjunction with the WSF Rules Commission, updated referee interpretation notes have been produced using a series of clips that will be applicable for players and referees in doubles events, starting with the recent Commonwealth Games.

The link to the clips is [here](http://www.squashsite.co.uk).

WSF WORLD JUNIORS IN CHENNAI

Entry for the Individual events of the WSF World Junior Championships in Chennai, India is 30 May. At



that point we will know the composition of these

events to add to the teams participating in the Men's Junior

Team Championship

(Argentina,

Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech

Republic, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, USA & Zimbabwe).

The 20th edition of the biennial World Squash Federation team event at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai takes place from 24- 29 July following the Individual Championships from 18-23 July.

India will be hosting the championship for the second time since the inaugural event in 1980, and with the finals taking place at the Express Avenue Shopping Mall, there will be wide public viewing as well as the streaming output that is in place.

WSF PARTNER PSA FOR NATIONAL & JUNIOR SATELLITE TOUR

Following on from last year's partnership agreement between the bodies, the WSF & PSA Satellite Tour will be formed, which will integrate sanctioned World, Regional, National and Junior tournaments into the PSA World Rankings to create a pathway to the professional circuit for aspiring, up-and-coming players, strengthening the link between the global governing body for squash and the professional tour.

Comprising the WSF National Championships, Satellite Tournaments, World & Regional Junior Championships, National Junior Opens and National Junior Championships, the WSF & PSA Satellite Tour will run throughout each calendar year.

Players will earn PSA World Ranking points based on their results at tournaments on the PSA World Tour, PSA Challenger Tour and the WSF & PSA Satellite Tour.

Bringing WSF & PSA closer together

WSF President Jacques Fontaine said: "It was an important intention for me to bring WSF and PSA closer together when I became WSF President - as a unified sport we will progress even more strongly. Our MoU has achieved this aim. Now joining together to

allow players competing in our member nations' national and junior championships to have the

opportunity of ranking points is an example showing the benefits of this unity.

"Our priorities as a sport are to offer leadership in education, accessibility and sustainability, and competition too - and our strong bond with PSA addresses the last pillar especially. I am sure that the WSF & PSA Satellite Tour will go from strength to strength."

Event registration












[Events can be registered here.](#)

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
	Taiball Yellow Dot Ball
	Tecnifibre Squash Ball
	Victor/VICTEC Doppel-Gelb Squash Ball

CHARLOTTESVILLE BECKONS



As the 2018 WSF World Masters approaches this summer, the McArthur Squash Center at the Boar's Head Resort marks significant progress leading up to hosting the championship, July 29-August 4, in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

"We still have over a month until entry closes on June 15, so we are very pleased that it's about to hit 500 participants," said Mark Allen, World Masters Championship Director. "Our goal of 800 total entries was an ambitious one, but we think we are tracking close to that number, which will make for a fantastic week of squash and social activity here at Boar's Head Resort."

In order to field the large draws, the McArthur Squash Center is constructing five additional courts—including a second glass court—for a total of fourteen international singles courts. Five additional courts are available at the nearby St. Anne's Belfield School and another two at the University of Virginia's North Grounds Recreation Center.

"Our five court expansion is moving along nicely and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the ASB courts from Germany on May 3," Allen said. "The completion date for construction is July 2, which will give us a few weeks of play on the new courts before the tournament gets underway on July 29."

Players should note that the men's and women's start dates are staggered, with the men's draws set to begin July 29 and the women's draws on July 31 in an effort to provide travel and cost flexibility. In a tournament first, the intention is to play out for the last sixteen finishing positions in larger draws. An estimated 70% of players will have at least four matches over the course of the week.

Register and book accommodation [here](#), and look at all the information including FAQs too. Players can also sign up to the World Masters newsletter [here](#)

CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2018

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are the only brands permitted for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events.

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

WSF RENEWS FISU PARTNERSHIP

The International University Sports Federation (FISU) partnership with WSF has been extended for a further four years.

The extension of the collaboration was signed by FISU President Oleg Matytsin and WSF President Jacques Fontaine at the SportAccord Convention recently.



FISU reported that the collaboration with WSF has seen the level of its events grow, which offers an ideal platform for university squash athletes.

The extension of the deal between the two organisations was followed by PSA offering ranking points for the Individual Championships.

WSF chief executive Andrew Shelley said the new deal was an important step in the strong link with FISU. "The World University Squash Championships are already important and popular events in the squash calendar, and to give players the added incentive of ranking points offered as part of the WSF and PSA Satellite Tour can only enhance that," he said.

"Some past World University Championship winners such as France's Thierry Lincou, along with Egyptians Karim Darwish, Raneem El Welily and Ramy Ashour have scaled the heights and have amassed so many ranking points since that they have become great champions – while this starting point will surely be welcomed by current students."

This year's World University Squash Championships are being played in Birmingham, England from September 6 until 12; the city which will host the Commonwealth Games in 2022.



James Zug interviews Englishman Mark Allen about hosting the 2018 World Masters Squash Championships in the U.S. in July.

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

ESF'S HISTORIC FEMALE-MAJORITY BOARD

The European Squash Federation, has voted in its first female-majority board at the Federation's Annual General Meeting in Wroclaw in Poland.

Rosie Barry (Ireland), Hugo Hannes (Belgium) and Thomas Troedsson (Sweden) were elected to join existing Vice-President Jackie Robinson (England) and President Zena Wooldridge, OBE (England).



"We were very fortunate to have such excellent candidates for this year's Vice President elections," commented Ms Wooldridge. "I'm particularly pleased to lead a new Board which is 60% female, which reinforces the sport's commitment to gender equality as part of its campaign for Olympic inclusion."

"It is also a Board with significant and complementary experience, and will give new impetus to the continued growth of squash across ESF's 46 member nations."

One of the key tasks of the ESF Board over the next year will be mobilising support behind squash's Olympic campaign.

"Europe is the largest and most active of the five squash regions, with 46 member nations," explained President Wooldridge. "The importance to our Members of becoming an Olympic sport was very evident at our recent AGM weekend."

"The new ESF Board will play an important role in leading a collective European support behind WSF's Olympic bid, for a sport which aligns so well with Olympic ideals and values."

NORWAY'S AWARD



The Norwegian Squash Federation celebrate their inclusion as one of the national sports bodies in the country who have achieved 'Clean Federation' status from Ant-Doping Norway. Pictured are (left) Otto Kalve (Norwegian Federation President), General Secretary, Bente Staven, and ADNO's Linda Olsen.

WSF AGM 2018 TO BE HELD IN CAIRO



The 48th Annual General Meeting of WSF will take place in Cairo, Egypt, on 24 – 27 October, being hosted by the Egyptian Squash Association.

The daily programme will be
24: Board & Executive Committee,

25: WSF Commission Meetings, 26: Conference Day,
27: WSF AGM.

Booking arrangements will be circulated during May.

WORLD SQUASH DAY 2018

**WORLD
SQUASH
DAY**
OCTOBER 13
2018

A reminder that Saturday 13 October is the date set for World Squash Day this year, the date on which players and clubs worldwide come together to promote the sport and

support charities.

One of the main aims this year, as well as simply encouraging clubs to open their doors to encourage participation, is to use empty daytime courts for projects to welcome disadvantaged young people.

For further information do contact World Squash Day coordinator Alan Thatcher at: alan@squashmad.com

EUROPEAN HONOURS SHARED AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST SQUASH VENUE

For the fifth year in a row, England and France contested both the men's and women's European Team Championships' finals – the outcomes remaining the same, with France successfully defending the men's title in Wroclaw, Poland, and England retaining the women's trophy for the eighth successive year.

Poland is experiencing huge growth, with an estimated 300,000 squash players currently, and the Hasta La Vista Club which hosted the action, boasts a record 33 courts plus an all-glass showcourt. This was the showcourt used for the 2017 World Games and on which feature matches at the WSF World Masters 2020 will be played.



Seeded one and two in the men's draw, France and England duly lined up in the final for the 11th time since 2008 – former world number ones Gregory Gaultier (France), James Willstrop and Nick Matthew (both England) celebrating their 18th, 15th and 12th appearances in the annual event, respectively.

A mathematical conclusion

37-year-old Matthew was unable to mark his farewell appearance in the event with a win, however, going down to Gaultier, as France took a 2/0 lead over their perennial regional rivals. Daryl Selby reduced the deficit by beating Frenchman Lucas Serme in straight games – but when Frenchman Baptiste Masotti clinched the second game against Declan James (having needed to either take a game or win 18 points) in the fourth and final match, that was enough to give France the title for the third time in four years.

With all four squad members boasting world top 20 rankings, England were firm favourites to triumph in the women's event – but had to come from behind in

when Camille Serme, France's six-time European Individual champion beat England number one Laura Massaro in straight games in the opening match. Udaunted, Massaro's team-mates Alison Waters and Victoria Lust soon restored order for the favourites, beating Coline Aumard and Melissa Alves, respectively, in straight games to keep the trophy in English hands.

REGISTER AT WWW.SQUASH.ORG.AU OR WWW.WSF.COACHCONFERENCE.COM

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- PAUL PRICE FORMER WORLD NO.4 & AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COACH
- LIZ IRVING FORMER WORLD NO.2 & NICOL DAVID'S COACH

Spain take first bronze

Both Bronze medallists had much to celebrate – Spain's 3rd place in the men's event being their highest-ever finish in 40 appearances in the championship since 1979, while Belgium, led by sisters Nele Gilis and Tinne Gilis, outshone their previous best 4th place finish in 2004 in the women's event.

The top two teams in the Division 2 championships earned promotion to next year's main event. For Spain and Scotland in the women's championship, it means a return to the elite group after a brief absence – as it does for Switzerland in the men's event amongst, the 46 nations in European membership.

NEW YORK BOASTS WORLD'S FIRST OUTDOOR PUBLIC COURT

The unveiling of the world's first public squash court in New York City has generated considerable public interest in the US city.

The pioneering project is the initiative of the Public Squash Foundation, whose goal is to offer free access to squash in public places.

The inaugural all-glass court, manufactured by ASB Squash, is modelled on the ASB ShowGlassCourt used at top tier PSA World Tour events, WSF World Championships and Commonwealth Games around the world - but modified for the outdoors.

The new court, at Hamilton Fish Park on Lower East Side, was officially opened by NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver. Installed on one of the park's four handball courts, the squash court is the latest addition to the NYC Parks' Adopt-a-Park program.



The New York breakthrough likely to be followed in other American cities and countries, ASB suggest.

"It is exciting to work with the Public Squash to bring an amenity as unique as outdoor squash to one of our city parks," said Commissioner Silver at the launch. "Athletic activity benefits us mentally and physically; and falling in love with a sport like squash can expose us to worlds we may never have otherwise come into contact with."

Access to all

Ryan Wall, director of Public Squash, added: *"Bringing squash outside, and making it free to the public, is the best way to give access to all, and increase the visibility of the game."*

In a news story in the New York Times, under the headline *Squash Without the Ceiling*, New York stylist Danielle Brown told reporter Amy Sohn: *"It's amazing being outside the whole community has been dying for this. I like it better than playing inside."*



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WSF COACHING CONFERENCE 2018

WSF World Coaches Conference takes place on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia from 21 to 23 September this year. The general theme is "Excellence – A Global Perspective" and will allow attendees to learn from various coaching methods practiced all over the world.

The WSF World Coaches Conference is an annual event aimed at sharing knowledge between coaches hence improving the overall standards of squash coaching. Recent editions have seen the event held in Poland, Malaysia, and Colombia, and have involved some of the world's very best squash coaching minds and this one is no different with a very exciting line-up of presenters already lined up including but not limited to the following:

Ashraf Hanafi - Egyptian National Coach

Rodney Eyles - Former World Champion

David Palmer - Former World Champion

Paul Price - Former World #4 & Australian National Coach

Liz Irving - Former World #2 & Nicol David's Coach

Mike Way – Harvard University Head Coach & Former Coach of Jonathon Power

The Conference will include presentations and on court sessions which will be held at the brand new Carrara Squash Centre which is a legacy of the GC2018 Commonwealth Games.

For details please click [here](#)

WILLSTROP IS WG ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



James Willstrop's career at The World Games begun in 2005, when he shared bronze in Duisburg with Nick Matthew. When Matthew later triumphed at The World Games 2009 in Chinese Taipei, it was Willstrop he beat in the final.

James Willstrop, the new Commonwealth Champion

has become the World Games Federation April Athlete of the Month.

The next World Games will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, 15-25 July 2021.

WSF NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – **FIRST RANKINGS APPEAR IN AUGUST**

A reminder about details for these events that form part of the WSF and PSA Satellite Tours.

Covered are:

- *WSF World and WSF Regional Junior Championships*
- *WSF National Junior Opens*
- *WSF National Junior Championships*

- Results from all WSF Satellite Tour tournaments will count towards the PSA World Rankings.

The National Junior Open and National Junior Championship tournament of a WSF Member Nation may be registered.

- All Satellite Tour tournaments are run by WSF Members or sanctioned independent promoters. (Where there is a Junior Regional Circuit in place regional authorisation will be required for events not included in that circuit).

- There are no requirements or restrictions for WSF Members or sanctioned promoters with regards to draw size, tournament format, etc. for any Satellite Tour tournament.

The Satellite Tour for Juniors comprises Under-19 and Under-17 age group tournaments

- PSA members and non-members can compete in all Satellite Tour tournaments. (To earn points for the PSA World Rankings, players will have to join the PSA).
- All players competing in all WSF & PSA Satellite Tour junior tournaments will need a WSF SPIN registration.
- There will be WSF World Junior Rankings at Under-19 and Under-17 level, separated out of the PSA World Rankings using results from all the PSA World Tour, PSA Regional Tour, WSF & PSA Satellite Tour. These begin at the start of August and will be published monthly.

Register your event [here](#).



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