EGYPT RECLAIM WOMEN’S WORLD TEAM TITLE
Hot favourites Egypt, whose three-woman team boasts the top three players in the world, beat defending champions England in the final of the WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship in the French capital Paris to reclaim the World Squash Federation title they lost to their opponents in 2014.

But it was second seeds England who took the lead on the all-glass court at Palais Des Sports Robert Charpentier in the Paris suburb of Issy-les-Moulineaux where Laura Massaro, the world No.4, recovered from a game down to inflict the event's first defeat on Nour El Sherbini, the world No.1

Former world champion Massaro, who went into the match 5/3 ahead in her head-to-head battles with the Egyptian, won in 49 minutes to put England ahead. The lead was short-lived, however, as Egyptian number two Nouran Gohar, the 19-year-old world No.3 making her debut in the championship,

WSF MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS REVIEW
Along with general procedures and policy, the WSF Board are currently reviewing the WSF Committee/Commission structure, and general management, operation and interaction in advance of the next WSF Board meeting on 11/12 February.

A report will follow when these are completed.

WSF PRESIDENT SETS OUT HIS STALL
Read about WSF President Jacques Fontaine’s fresh approach, Olympic plans and general intentions for his Presidency here. How he aims to position the sport for the Olympics with the help of our partners:

http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/features/2016/SP166_WR_President%20(1).pdf
despatched England's experienced Alison Waters to force a decider. Londoner Waters had a game ball in the third, but three successive balls into the tin handed victory to the Cairo teenager.

Squad number threes lined up for the decider - England's Sarah-Jane Perry, the world No.11 who had played in all the ties in Paris, facing Raneem El Welily, the former number one now ranked two in the world.

Decider needed

It took 31 minutes for the title to be decided - El Welily keeping on top throughout the match before emerging victorious. "I have never played a decider for Egypt before and I was hoping I wouldn't have to," admitted the jubilant El Welily minutes later. "I didn't know what to expect.

"But I decided to be selfish - I didn't think of the team, only of myself, to stop the pressure getting to me. This was the tactic I planned - even if everything went wrong. I had to do a lot of running, but it worked out in the end. England national coach David Campion admitted: "Egypt were just too strong. Raneem and Nouran played at their best levels - but they needed to as our girls performed well".

(Raneem El Welily with her Gold medal)

Beaten semi-finalists France (pictured below) and Hong Kong China both secured Bronze medals - the fifth-seeded hosts recording a top four finish for the first time and Hong Kong celebrating a second successive last four place.

USA Topple Malaysia

It was the play-off for fifth place which entertained the crowd earlier in the day when USA, the No.7 seeds bidding for a second successive fifth finish, took on Malaysia, the third seeds who were runners-up in the 2014 championship in Canada.

The top string battle promised to be close - Malaysia's greatest player of all-time Nicol David, currently ranked 6 in the world, taking on Amanda Sobhy, the world No.7 who defeated David for the first time only a month earlier in the USA.

David twice came back from a game behind, but in the decider it was Sobhy who ultimately prevailed, winning 11-6, 5-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-9 in 53 minutes to put USA ahead.

The two opponents in the next match had never met before - Malaysian Delia Arnold an experienced 30-year-old ranked 17 in the world and American Reeham Sedky an inexperienced and unranked 19-year-old yet to embark on a professional career.

Arnold led 2/1 but the hard-hitting US teenager battled back, taking the fourth after a tie-break and fighting from 4-6 down in the decider to win 11-7, 9-11, 11-13, 12-10, 11-8 after 77 minutes.

Speechless!

"I'm in shock, I'm speechless," said Sedky, who had never before played on a glass court in a major competition. "I'm so proud to be in Team USA - we all worked so hard for this and all credit to our coach Thierry (Lincou) for what he has done."

Sobhy's win over the world number one player for a record 109 months ended David's incredible 38-match unbeaten run in the championship since 2004.
RESULTS:
Final:
Nour El Sherbini lost to Laura Massaro 11-9, 5-11, 6-11, 6-11, Nouran Gohar bt Alison Waters 11-6, 11-4, 12-10, Raneem El Welily bt Sarah-Jane Perry 12-10, 11-4, 11-6
5th place play-off:
Amanda Sobhy bt Nicol David 11-6, 5-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-9, Reeham Sedky bt Delia Arnold 11-7,9-11,11-13, 12-10 11-8
7th place play-off:
Joelle King bt Donna Urquhart 11-6, 12-10, 11-9, Megan Craig lost to Rachael Grinham 11-6, 10-12, 8-11, 11-9, 4-11
Amanda Landers-Murphy bt Tamika Saxby 11-6,12-10, 11-1
9th place play-off:
Joshna Chinappa bt Hollie Naughton 13-11, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7, Dipika Pallikal Karthik bt Samantha Cornett 11-7, 11-5, 11-2
11th place play-off:
Misaki Kobayashi bt Natalie Grinham 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-7 (32m), Satomi Watanabe bt Milou van der Heijden 13-11, 11-7, 19-17 (43m), Risa Sugimoto lost to Tessa ter Sluis 12-10, 8-11, 12-14, 13-15 (44m)
13th place play-off:
Xisela Aranda bt Sharon Sinclair 11-6, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8, Cristina Gomez bt Franziska Hennes 12-10, 11-9, 11-9
15th - 17th place play-off:
Nayelly Hernandez lost to Birgit Coufal 4-11, 4-11, 7-11, Luz López Dominguez bt Sandra Polak 11-8, 11-3, 11-7, Dina Anguiiano Gomez bt Sabrina Rehman 11-4, 11-8, 6-11, 11-4
Final positions: 15 Mexico; 16 Wales; 17 Austria

FROM THE PARIS SIDEWALL....

Abdel Kawy Sets New World Squash Record
After making her championship debut as a 13-year-old in 1998, Egypt's Omneya Abdel Kawy establishes a new world record at the 2016 WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship by representing her country for a 10th successive time.

Now 31, the former world No.4 remains unbeaten in the world team championship since December 2010. In recognition of her unique achievement, Abdel Kawy received a special trophy from World Squash Federation President Jacques Fontaine, supported by her Egyptian team-mates.

Overwhelmed, she said: "It's always an honour to play for your country - and a privilege to play for Egypt. I am so surprised to discover that I am the only person that has played in ten world team championships - and I am honoured to receive this acknowledgement."

Sisters in opposition

While Rachael was battling for Australia, her younger sister Natalie Grinham was in action on an adjacent court fighting on behalf of Netherlands, the country in which she has resided since 1999.

It is the first time in the championship's history that two siblings (pictured together above) have competed for separate nations - and Natalie duly led the 11th seeds to a 3/0 win over Austria courtesy of an 11-2, 11-5, 11-3 victory over the 10-time Austrian champion Birgit Coufal.

Two Decades from Harding Marked

Howard Harding, World Squash Media Director for twenty years, had the milestone marked at the Championship with another presentation made by WSF President Jacques Fontaine.

During the period his output has been the bedrock upon which media coverage for squash has been built, for many years including both the Men's and Women's Professional Tours as well as WSF. He also set up and maintains his www.squashinfo.com website that links together results from all international events.
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS 2017
Several Regulation amendments have been approved to be incorporated into the WSF World Championship Regulations from 1 January 2017. Click here to see the Regulations on the website (on page 5 there is the full list of amendments), but here are a few main changes:

- A new tender evaluation process has been initiated, providing bid criteria and a transparent procedure to review them (Reg. D4 - 6)
- The Team entry deadline is moved from 7 to 6 months before event the Championship (D11).
- The Team entry fee payment deadline will 5 months before the start (D14).
- The SPIN requirement for coaches is extended to all designated team officials who would have field of play access e.g. managers, medical (so not guests, partners, media) (K9).
- Shorts can be worn by female players (L2).
- Clothing advertising permitted on back of shirts/tops as well as front/sleeves (L6).
- There is a new seeding process in place which introduces an appeal stage (N & R).
- The requirement to only use players from Men's/Women's Doubles pairings for the Mixed event is dropped (V2).
- There is clearer Junior Individual entry formula wording and the maximum number of players for the 'stand-alone' Individual event is raised from 5 to 6 (X3).
- A Junior Individual event reserve can be seeded or shadow seeded (X7).

SQUASH REDUCES RISK OF DEATH BY 47%!!
Playing squash, tennis and badminton is the best way to reduce the risk of suddenly dying, a study has found. The racket sports reduce the risk of death by 47 per cent compared to doing nothing, researchers discovered.

The study, which looked at the impact of different sports on health of people with an average age of 51, found swimming cut the risk of death by 28 per cent, aerobics by 27 per cent and cycling by 15 per cent.

Interestingly, it discovered that taking part in running and jogging, or football and rugby did not have a significant effect on cutting the chance of death. The study was based on 11 annual health surveys for England and Scotland from between 1994 and 2008.

Senior author Associate Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis at the University of Sydney said: ‘Our findings indicate that it’s not only how much and how often, but also what type of exercise you do that seems to make the difference.’ He added: ‘We found robust associations between participation in certain types of sport and exercise and mortality, indicating substantial reductions in all-cause and CVD mortality for swimming, racquet sports and aerobics and in all-cause mortality for cycling.’

The study, in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, aimed to quantify the impact of six different sports on the odds of beating death. It examined 80,306 adults over 30 who were questioned on how much exercise they had had in the preceding four weeks, and if had been enough to make them ‘breathless and sweaty’. Participants were tracked for an average of nine years, in which time 8,790 died from all causes and 1,909 from heart disease or stroke.

WSF COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO FLOURISH
The WSF Coach Education Programme (CEP) showed healthy growth in 2016 with 467 participants in various courses in Africa, Asia, Europe and Pan America as compared to 369 in 2015. In another step to CEP becoming a truly global programme Australia will be coming on board. Their tutors will be re-trained to the WSF-syllabi during a workshop and conference in March in Townsville.

Currently the WSF CEP consists of Levels 1 and 2 with Level 3 in preparation. The planned rollout date is September 2017 in conjunction with the intended next WSF Coaching Conference in Colombia. Conferences are now planned to be held annually rotating through the regions.
**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](http://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.

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**WSF WORLD DOUBLES IN MANCHESTER**

There will be a number of countries already preparing pairs to take part in the WSF World Doubles in Manchester, England, which take place 1 – 5 August.

With the Commonwealth Games 2018 in Australia, together with other events such as PanAm Championships, the timing works well for team selection. The event follows the World Games in Poland so a double entry for a number of nations.
Evans into Women’s Top 20, Gohar up to No.2

Tesni Evans has become only the second Welsh female player ever to break into the World's Top 20 following publication of the January PSA Women’s World Rankings. It sees her occupy the No.20 position as part of an elite group that also seeds teenage Egyptian sensation Nouran Gohar start the new-year as World No.2.

Evans, the 24-year-old from Cardiff, enjoyed the best performance of her professional career to date during November's Wadi Degla Women’s Open when she reached the semi-finals in Cairo, and sees her become the first Welsh player since Tegwen Malik in 2007 to rank inside the Top 20. Gohar meanwhile, who ended the Welsh player's run in Cairo, overcomes compatriot Raneem El Welily to begin the year at a career high No.2 while another Egyptian, Nour El Sherbini, maintains her place atop the rankings for a 9th consecutive month.

One year on from topping the World Rankings for the first time in her career England's Laura Massaro, the 32 year old from Preston, falls down to No.5 - her lowest ranking since 2015 - while her long-time rival and former World No.1 Nicol David falls to her lowest position since November 2004 as she drops below American Amanda Sobhy to occupy the No.7 spot.

Elsewhere inside the top ten there's upwards movement for England's Alison Waters as the former World No.3 moves up one place to No.8 while Australian Donna Urquhart is the only other mover up inside the Top 20 as she climbs a place to No.19.

Kiwi Coll Starts New Year inside Top 20

After securing the biggest title win of his career during December’s PSA M100 Channel VAS Championship, New Zealand’s Paul Coll has jumped a colossal 13 places on the January PSA Men’s World Rankings, to break into the World’s Top 20 for the first time in his career and become the first New Zealander since Ross Norman in 1995 to break the Top 20.

Coll stunned the field to triumph in Weybridge, England, coming through qualification before by downing a succession of higher ranked opponents to claim the prize and is rewarded with a huge rankings leap that also sees him become just the sixth Kiwi man ever to reach the Top 20 after Norman, who reached a career high of No.2, Stuart Davenport (3), Bruce Brownlee (6), Rory Watt (14) and Paul Steel (18).

Egyptian Tarek Momen, the man Coll beat in last month's title-decider, also jumps up three places to World No.8 - his highest position since May 2016 - as part of a seven strong Egyptian contingent in the Top 10, led by 25-year-old Mohamed ElShorbagy who maintains his place at the top of the Men’s Rankings for a 14th consecutive month.

A recent return to form for former World No.1 James Willstrop, the 33-year-old Englishman, see him sitting on the cusp of breaking into the Top 10 for the first time since undergoing career-threatening hip surgery in 2014 as he climbs four places to No.11, just ahead of rising Egyptian talent Fares Dessouky, who rises two places to No.14.

PSA Women’s Rankings – January 2017

1. Nour El Sherbini EGY
2. Nouran Gohar EGY
3. Raneem El Welily EGY
4. Camille Serme FRA
5. Laura Massaro ENG
6. Amanda Sobhy USA
7. Nicol David MAS
8. Alison Waters ENG
9. Omneya Abdel Kawy EGY
10. Joelle King NZL
11. Sarah-Jane Perry ENG
12. Annie Au HKG
13. Joshua Chinappa IND
14. Emily Whitlock ENG
15. Nour El Tayeb EGY
16. Victoria Lust ENG
17. Delia Arnold MAS
18. Joey Chan HKG
19. Donna Urquhart AUS
20. Tesni Evans WAL

PSA Men’s Rankings – January 2017

1. Mohamed ElShorbagy EGY
2. Karim Abdel Gawad EGY
3. Gregory Gaultier FRA
4. Nick Matthew ENG
5. Ramy Ashour EGY
6. Marwan ElShorbagy EGY
7. Ali Farag EGY
8. Tarek Momen EGY
9. Omar Mosaad EGY
10. Simon Rösner GER
11. James Willstrop ENG
12. Fares Dessouky EGY
13. Mathieu Castagnet FRA
14. Miguel Angel Rodriguez COL
15. Daryl Selby ENG
16. Borja Golan ESP
17. Max Lee HKG
18. Cameron Pilley AUS
19. Ryan Cuskeley AUS
20. Paul Coll NZL
The World Games, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sport event - designed for sports or disciplines or events within a sport that are not contested in the Olympic Games. Contested every four years, they are organised and governed by the International World Games Association (IWGA), under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Four years ago the Canas Gordas Comfenalco Club in Cali, Colombia hosted the action and squash players from 20 countries competed.

Malaysian holder Nicol David beat Dutch rival Natalie Grinham 11-6, 11-9, 11-8 in a repeat of the 2009 final in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, while Gregory Gaultier beat German opponent Simon Rosner 9-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 to give the gold medal to France.

(Men's medallists Rosner, Gaultier Miguel Angel Rodriguez)

This year the Polish city of Wroclaw hosts the Games, and squash will be played at the massive Hasta La Vista Club which hosted the WSF World Juniors in 2013. Enlarged since then it features over 30 courts as well as its’ own three sided permanent show court, to which will be added an all-glass show court erected in the club’s badminton hall.

The draws for the Men’s and Women’s singles have been enlarged to 32 players in each, with entries being taken in a combination of finishing positions in the last respective Men’s and Women’s World Team Championships and wildcards.

Entries close on 17 March.

WSF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT

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

View the current WSF World Junior rankings click here.

January ’17
02 – 06 British Junior Open
07 – 09 Scottish Junior Open
12 – 15 Australian Junior Open
20 – 22 Czech Junior Open

February ’17
16 – 19 French Junior Open
24 – 26 Austrian Junior Open
24 – 26 St Vincent & Grenadines Junior Open

March ’17
03 – 05 German Junior Open
30 Mar – 02 Apr Norwegian Junior Open

WSF APPROVED BALLS

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

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WSF EYEWEAR PROTECTION POSTER

In order to minimise the small danger of eye injury to youngsters WSF makes the wearing of suitable protective eyewear mandatory for juniors, as well as encouraging players of all ages to consider doing so. To help promote awareness of eye protection still further we have this scalable poster that can be downloaded by centres and placed on court doors, notice boards or in changing rooms. It can be downloaded here.

![WSF Eyeewear Protection Poster](image1)

National Federations can have the wording translated into their language and their own logo included so that they can circulate it themselves as a joint initiative too.

WSF SQUASH COURT SPECIFICATIONS 2017

The extensively updated WSF Squash Court Specifications with various new clauses and drawings have been uploaded onto the WSF website – click here to view them.

Do please pass the link on to centres, builders and anybody who may need to know the details.

Member nations are reminded that for all WSF & Regional events, courts to be used that were built after 2012 (as announced in 2011) i.e. from 2013 onwards, must have been built using only WSF Accredited Products to assure standards.

WSF DIRECTORY

The current edition of the WSF Directory with updated National Federation addresses, WSF Committee /Commission details, and much more besides is on the WSF website here.
South Africa’s Egoli Squash Wins Award

Egolisquash have won South African Recreation Body of the Year in the annual Department of Sport and Recreation Department Awards. It was given to Egolisquash as a sporting organization that has successfully introduced active recreational activities in communities that do not have active recreation programmes, advocated for active recreation, its benefits, and its contribution to improvement of wellness. Utilised active recreation for bringing people together who would not necessarily participate in active recreation activities.

Egolisquash was established in 2009 in South Africa to focus on an intensive and long term programme; incorporating squash, fitness, tutoring, community service and mentoring in order to change children’s lives for better.

Over the years, Egolisquash has managed to be one of the largest innovative programmes that effectively help 5000 youths aged 8-19 years of age to start, stay and succeed through the sport of squash in South Africa.

Referee violence!

Fun with Balls

Fun with Balls GmbH, the German company behind InteractiveSquash who have used new projection technology to turn squash courts into interactive areas - have claimed an award at ISPO BRANDNEW 2017 convention.

InteractiveSquash took the best new product award in the fitness category section at the awards, which recognises newcomers to the sports industry for their ingenuity.

Using a modified tin, motion sensors and an overhead projector - housed in the ceiling and projecting imagery onto the front wall - InteractiveSquash turns the front wall into an artist’s canvas, allowing players to choose from a variety of games in order to hone their skills, improve conditioning or compete in an interactive leader board.