SQUASH CELEBRATES WORLD GAMES SUCCESS

The WSF celebrated a highly successful presentation of the sport at the World Games in Poland, where Germany claimed a first gold and France became the first country to sweep the board with gold, silver and bronze.

Squash was making its fifth appearance in the multi-sport event for non-Olympic programme sports in the city of Wroclaw - at the 33-court Hasta la Vista club, the largest squash club in the world.

Before a packed and exuberant crowd surrounding the all-glass showcourt, Camille Serme crowned the French success by beating surprise opponent Joey Chan of Hong Kong in the women's final, before top-seeded German Simon Rösner denied France double gold by beating Gregoire Marche in four games in a dramatic men's climax.

Malaysian Nicol David, the former world number one who went into the Games with three gold medals to her credit, won a record fourth successive medal after claiming bronze in the women's championship.

"Squash is a fast-growing sport in Poland and the local federation, led by President Tomasz Banasiak, did a great job in promoting the event," said World Squash Federation President Jacques Fontaine. "Rösner's run attracted significant media interest in his homeland and various members of the French NOC board witnessed the country's success on finals day after also attending last year's Women's World Team Championships in Paris."

Pictured on the Hasta la Vista showcourt on finals day (L to R): Mike Joyce, Sports Coordination Manager, Sports Department, IOC; Jacques Fontaine, President of the World Squash Federation; José Perurena, President of the IWGA & IOC Member; Pablo Serna, Vice President, World Squash Federation; & President, Squash Colombia; Tomasz Banasiak, President of the Polish Squash Federation; & Jean-Denis Barbet, President, Fédération Française de Squash.
Frenchman Fontaine was accompanied by WSF Vice President Pablo Serna, President of the Colombian Squash Federation, throughout the World Games.

Rosner goes forward.
"We met various IOC members and were delighted that both IWGA President and IOC member José Perurena, and IOC Sports Coordination Manager Mike Joyce, were able to join us on finals day.

"Squash is enjoying growing status in multi-sport events and can look forward to forthcoming Pan American, Asian & Commonwealth Games participation," added Fontaine. "The news that we will now be part of the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires next year has been widely-welcomed around the world and has undoubtedly promoted squash in the Sport & Olympic fraternity.

"Our showcase at the Wroclaw World Games, at a superb venue with great crowds, was an overwhelming success," Fontaine concluded.

"I feel that WSF has produced a new ‘face’ based on a ‘real team’ here in Wroclaw. We have also put the sport of squash and its athletes at the centre of all discussions."


**EUROPEAN INDIVIDUALS HONOURS SHARED**
The perennial squash rivalry between England and France surfaced in both finals of the 2017 AJ Bell ESF European Individual Championships in the English city of Nottingham where honours were ultimately shared.

Top seed Camille Serme, the world No.3 from France, coasted through the women’s draw without dropping a game. In the final at the University of Nottingham, Serme dispatched England’s event debutante Millie Tomlinson, the second seed ranked 20 places lower, 11-1, 11-3, 11-3.

It was the 28-year-old from Creteil’s seventh successive appearance in the final - and her sixth title in a row.

Compatriot Gregory Gaultier was celebrating his 13th appearance in the men’s final since 2004 and looking for his 10th title, while it was Willstrop’s first appearance in the event since losing to Gaultier in the 2004 semi-finals.

In their 42nd meeting since contesting the British Junior U16 Open semi-finals in 1998, the top-seeded Frenchman faced Englishman James Willstrop, the No.2 seed - and took the opening game. But former world number one Willstrop reclaimed the initiative against the world’s current top-ranked player, ultimately closing out the match 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 2-11, 11-8 after 68 minutes.


SEPTEMBER’S WORLD HARDBALL DOUBLES

The three World Hardball Doubles Squash Championships titles will change hands according to the seedings and draws for the 2017 event which will be held in St Louis, in the US state of Missouri, from 21-24 September.

The 12th edition of the biennial championships, featuring Men's, Women's and Mixed events and organised by the Squash Doubles Association (SDA) and Women's Squash Doubles Association (WSDA) Pro Tours under the auspices of the World Squash Federation (WSF), will take place at the Racquet Club of St Louis and Missouri Athletic Club.

Englishmen Michael Ferreira & Jonny Smith are seeded to win the men's title for the first time - yet keep the trophy in English hands, after the 2015 success by Clive Leach & John Russell. The pair is expected to line up against sixth-seeded Canadians Viktor Berg & Justin Todd in the quarter-finals, en-route to a final clash with Indians Manek Mathur & Parth Sharma, the second seeds.

Natarsha McElhinny is expected to provide Australian success in both the Women's and Mixed championships. The former Natarsha Tippett pairs up with her younger sister Narelle Krizek in the women's event where the 2011 runners-up are predicted to face England's Suzie Pierrepont & Tina Rix in the final. Pierrepont won the 2015 title with Carrie Hastings (pictured below during the 2015 final).

Natarsha partners Scott Arnold in the mixed event where the Australians are expected to emulate the success of compatriots Narelle Krizek & Paul Price in the 2013 championships.

But it is Natarsha's sister Narelle who is expected to be on the other side of the court in the mixed final where she and Matt Jenson are the No.2 seeds. The reigning champions from Canada, Stephanie Hewitt & Viktor Berg, are third seeds in St Louis.

Predicted quarter-final line-ups, according to the draws and seedings:


Full draws are available at www.worlddoubles.com/draws. The prize fund is more than $70,000 - with parity offered in the men's and women's draws. The matches will be streamed live on the tournament website worlddoubles.com

Hardball is a variation of squash developed in North America and played on a larger court with a harder ball.

DAVID HOWMAN TO CHAIR WSF ETHICS COMMISSION

Former World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) director general David Howman has been elected chairman of the World Squash Federation’s (WSF) Ethics Commission.

The New Zealander was voted in at the WSF World Doubles Championships held in the English city of Manchester. Howman held the key role at WADA for 13 years.

The barrister was in charge when WADA launched its Independent Commission, chaired by its former chairman Richard Pound, which discovered evidence of state-supported doping in Russian athletics.

That revelation led to Russia’s ongoing suspension from the International Association of Athletics Federations, with Howman since appointed as chair of the new Athletics Integrity Unit.

Howman will be joined by four other members. They are South Africa’s Alison Burchell, Robert Dolman of Wales, Jim Hay of Scotland and Debendranath Sarangi of India.
KING LEADS FOR THE DEFENCE

New Zealand retained both the Women's and Mixed WSF World Doubles gold medals whilst Australia reclaimed the Men's title after upsetting the defending champions in the climax of the event at the National Squash Centre in Manchester, England.

Kiwi Joelle King was the star of the day, first partnering Amanda Landers-Murphy in the Women's final to beat English outsiders Jenny Duncalf & Alison Waters, saving three match-balls from 10-8 in the decider to win 2-1 in 46 minutes.

Immediately afterwards, the 28-year-old world No.12 from Cambridge linked up with Paul Coll to face England pair Alison Waters & Daryl Selby in the Mixed final - Londoner Waters celebrating her 109th cap for England but a second silver medal in less than an hour after the Kiwi conquerors grabbed an 11-8, 9-11, 11-6 victory in 47 minutes.

"That was so tough," said Landers-Murphy after her second gold medal since first winning the title with King in Darwin, Australia, a year ago. "We were ahead in all the games, just glad that we could stay strong and keep it together at the end."

Coll, also a gold medallist for the second time in a year, said after his Manchester gold: "We felt good together again today. We dropped off a bit in the second, but managed to get early leads in the first and third, which always takes the pressure off.

Englishman Selby, like Waters a World Doubles finalist for the first time, said: "We were seeded five so to win a silver medal is a fantastic achievement - to push the reigning world champions as hard as we did is really pleasing."

Continuing the Antipodean run in Manchester, Australians Ryan Cuskelley & Cameron Pilley took gold in the Men's event - despatching Scotland's reigning champions and top seeds Alan Clyne & Greg Lobban 11-6, 11-3 in 34 minutes.

"We've had a lot of tough matches with them," said Australian number one Pilley, renowned as the one of the hardest hitters of the ball. "They beat us last year so it was good to turn the tables this time. There were some brutal rallies in the first, but we stuck to our game plan and it worked out, then in the second we continued to execute and they made a few errors which helped our cause."

Bronze medals were awarded to the losing semi-finalists - so, India and Wales won them in addition to New Zealand, Australia, England and Scotland.

MEN'S

Women's

MIXED

Bronze Medal:


MIXED

Bronze Medal:
EGYPT DOMINATES IN NEW ZEALAND

Completing a clean sweep of all three world titles contested in New Zealand, top seeds Egypt claimed the WSF Women’s World Junior Team Squash Championship title for the sixth time in a row after beating second seeds Malaysia in the final at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre in Tauranga.

Just days after winning both the men’s and women’s individual trophies, hot favourites Egypt went into the final with a squad featuring the top four ranked players in the championship.

But Malaysia made the favourites work for their success. Top string Hania El Hammamy (pictured above) put Egypt into the lead - but needed 44 minutes to see off Malaysian Sivasangari Subramaniam 11-8, 11-8, 6-11, 11-9.

Women’s champion Rowan Reda Araby celebrated her 17th birthday in the perfect way by sealing victory with a 3-1 win over Andrea Lee.

Egypt coach Omar Abdel Aziz said it had been hard to motivate the players after the individuals tournament because with the four top seeds, they had all hoped to win. "I had to get them back up psychologically. It was step by step, match by match to get here. We didn't talk about the trophy, just the matches."

The Egyptian Powerhouse

For some time now, Egypt has been seen as the powerhouse of junior squash and Aziz admitted the bar was high in terms of selections. "And the production line is always there," Aziz said.

Earlier at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre, hosts New Zealand improved on their eighth seeding, finishing seventh with a comprehensive 2/0 win against Germany - Kaitlyn Watts beating Saskia Beinhard 3/1 before Anna Hughes despatched Kacenka Tycova 3/0.

USA beat India 2/1 to finish fifth - while losing semi-finalists Hong Kong China and England both shared the bronze medal.

Speaking at the medal presentations, WSF CEO Andrew Shelley said: "More than one team manager told me that this is the best World Junior Championship that they have ever attended. New Zealand has set a very high bar for next hosts India, but they are up to the task and I am sure that they will clear it rather than limbo under it! "For now the squads leave Tauranga having had a great welcome, hospitality and efficiency, while the hosts should wave them off having done a fantastic job."

(Susan Devoy & Andrew Shelley hand over the WSF flag to 2018 host representatives Deepak Mishra & Surbhi Misra)

RESULTS:

Final Playoffs:

The superb Tauranga refereeing team .....

Page 5
It was an Egyptian double - the fifth in the history of the tournament - when Marwan Tarek and Rowan Reda Araby won the men's and women's titles, respectively, in the WSF World Junior Championships.

16-year-old Araby, the runner-up in Poland a year ago, pulled off a significant upset - leading in all games before beating top-seeded compatriot Hania El Hammamy 11-7, 11-9, 11-8. The pair had contested three British Junior Open finals since 2013, all of them won by El Hammamy - but Araby made her breakthrough a year ago in Poland, beating her older rival for the first time in the 2016 World Junior semi-finals.

Seventh in Succession ....

Spurred on by her most recent success, the Alexandria-based Araby charged to a straight games triumph over world No.35 El Hammamy - also 16, but from Cairo - in 33 minutes, becoming the seventh successive Egyptian winner of the women's title.

Both men's finalists pulled off upsets in the semis - leaving the climax devoid of the event's top two seeds for the first time since 2004.

Incredibly, Tarek was facing Victor Crouin for the first time since meeting the Frenchman in the British U13 Junior Open in January 2012! The match went the full distance, with 18-year-old Crouin - bidding to become the first ever world junior champion from France - twice drawing level after 18-year-old Tarek won the first and third games.

But after losing the first point in the decider, Tarek reeled off eight points in a row to take the match 11-9, 3-11, 11-6, 3-11, 11-2 in 58 minutes.

"I can't think right now, I'm the world champion, I'm the world champion," said the 17-year-old from Cairo repeatedly. "Dreams do come true."

Tarek revealed he was feeling the effects of his semi-final win against top seed Youssef Ibrahim. "I wasn't 100 percent ready. My body was weak but this is the world championships and you have to survive."

The Tauranga climax marked the first Egyptian double since 2013 - when Karim El Hammamy and Nour El Sherbini won the titles in Poland - but the fifth since the breakthrough success by Mohamed Elshorbagy and El Sherbini in 2009.

RESULTS:


MEN’S WORLD TEAMS - 50 YEARS ON

In 1967, the first Men's World Team Championship took place in Melbourne, Australia. Six nations took part and the final order was 1. Australia 2. Great Britain 3. New Zealand 4. South Africa 5. India 6. Pakistan (It was the end of the next decade when the British nations split into England, Scotland and Wales).

Now, a half century later there will be 24 nations battling it out in France for the title. Egypt and France, neither in Melbourne will be favourites when the action gets underway in Marseille (planned host of the Paris 2024 Games sailing competition), from 27 November to 3 December, at Modern Squash and Salle Vallier, with the final stages presented on two all-glass show-courts.

Iraq and Jamaica make their debuts. The full entry list features 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 and Wales.
DC's SQUASH ON FIRE HOST WORLD IN 2019
For the first time in the event's 50-year history, the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship will be staged in the USA in 2019.

The biennial WSF championship - the 2017 edition of which will take place later this year in Marseille, France - will be held, under the auspices of US Squash, at Squash On Fire, the new state-of-the-art membership-free facility in Washington, DC.

Since its launch in 1967 in Australia, the Men's World Team Championship has been staged in 12 countries - including Canada in 1977 - but not before in the USA.

USA has competed in the championship each year since first recording a fifth-place finish in the 1973 event in South Africa.

Squash On Fire, a superb new 'pay to play' facility which opened in May above Washington's newest fire station, boasts eight squash courts, including an all-glass show-court and a full service restaurant and bar.

We can't wait ....

Commenting on hosting the championship featuring up to 32 countries, Squash On Fire co-founder Philippe Lanier said: "Hosting the WSF Men's World Team Championship at Squash On Fire, is an honour - and that it's happening in DC is also very exciting. We want to make DC the squash capital of the US, and we can't wait to welcome players from around the world to our game-changing facility."

WSF President Jacques Fontaine also expressed his delight in the initiative: "The United States is a very strong and growing squash nation, so it is very fitting that they have the opportunity to host this Championship. I am sure that the visiting teams will have a great experience at the venues and the American capital generally."

A nearby show-court arena will be used for a spectator all-glass court and seating.

Further details of the 2019 championship, including the event dates, will be announced later.

SQUASH TO FEATURE AT THE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
Squash has been confirmed as a showcase sport for the Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games - due to be held between October 6-18, 2018 - following the fourth International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coordination Commission visit to the Argentinian capital.

Following on from the IOC's "Sports Lab" concept which was launched at Nanjing 2014 and saw skateboarding and sport climbing feature - sports which have since been added to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games programme - the inclusion of squash in Buenos Aires 2018 could have a huge impact on squash's aspirations to join the Summer Olympic Games roster.

The WSF, in conjunction with the Argentinian Squash Federation, were warmly received by the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee (BAYOGOC) during the extended discussion period leading to this superb outcome.

First Time for Squash
Buenos Aires 2018 will mark the first time ever that squash will appear on an Olympic programme.

Commenting on the news, WSF President Jacques Fontaine said: "To be added to the Youth Olympic Games for 2018 is a great moment for squash and a step in the right direction towards our ultimate aim of Olympic Games inclusion.

"The Youth Games displays the very best in rising sporting talent as well as the very best in youth sports. We believe we have one of the most unique sporting products in the world and some of the most compelling athletes in the world; and we look forward to working closely with the host in the build up to Buenos Aires 2018 to ensure we make the most of the opportunity."

"We are delighted that squash will feature as part of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in what is a hugely positive development for the growth of squash worldwide," added PSA CEO Alex Gough.

The dates for the squash, within the 6-18 October 2018 overall programme and the format of the junior 'showcase' event which is expected to feature players drawn from each region playing on a show-court, will be announced later.
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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BRAND NAME</th>
<th>APPROVED MODEL</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)</td>
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<td><em>Tecnifibre</em></td>
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PARIS POISED TO BE CONFIRMED

Paris is set to be confirmed as the host city for the 2024 Olympic Games, as will Los Angeles for 2028 when the International Olympic Committee meet at their Session in Lima, Peru this month.

Of course our interest is in securing a place on the Games Programme in Paris and then LA.

The formula that was introduced for 2020 after Tokyo was awarded the hosting in 2013 (and squash lost out to wrestling in the voting for the ‘new’ sport) will continue. In 2015 Tokyo were permitted to nominate sports that they wished to propose to the IOC be added, and Paris will have the same opportunity.

There is no bidding period set yet, but squash is readying itself to make its case.

The WSF Olympic Games Commission under the leadership of WSF President Jacques Fontaine – who is a member of the French National Olympic Committee - is a completely integrated unit with PSA, whose Tour is squash’s shop-window and brings so much to the table. That is our starting point.

Rebuilding and strengthening still further the relationship with the professional sector of our sport was a key intention of the President, in order to create a strong wide base for our new bid. The relationship with and support from PSA is already an evident success.

We recognise that although the sport deserves a chance on its merits, we have to offer something different, a view of squash that can resonate with the host and IOC. The great squash product needs to be wrapped in new vibrant packaging. Our youthful appeal has already been recognised with squash’s inclusion as a showcase sport at the Youth Olympic Games when it is held in Buenos Aires next October.

Securing the services of a campaign agency to partner us on the bidding road is being sorted, fund-raising to make our offering as comprehensive and compelling as possible is starting. Squash intends to mount a vigorous campaign!

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

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.
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.

Keep up with World Squash on Twitter: click here

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

PHOTOGRAPHS: Many with thanks from SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com
JORDAN & JAPAN MAKE HISTORY

Japan and hosts Jordan achieved historic breakthrough successes in the 24th Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in the Jordanian capital Amman.

After finishing as runner-up in 2016, home town boy Mohammad Al Sarraj (pictured below) clinched the 2017 men's U19 title after beating surprise Pakistan opponent Mansoor Zaman (Jnr) in the final at the Al Hassan International Squash Centre - thus becoming the first Jordanian winner of the trophy in the event's 34-year history.

Zaman, a 5/8 seed, made his breakthrough in the quarter-finals, seeing off second-seeded Indian Abhay Singh in five games. And the 17-year-old from Karachi took Al Sarraj the full distance before the top seed, aged 18, closed out the match 5-11, 11-3, 7-11, 11-3, 11-2 after 45 minutes - much to the delight of the partisan crowd.

After surviving a five-game semi, top seed Satomi Watanabe became the first ever Japanese Asian Junior champion after beating Hong Kong's No.2 seed Ho Ka Wing 13-11, 11-6, 11-9 in the women's U19 final (both pictured below), Malaysia won all but one of the six other titles at U17, U15 and U13.

Macau China also made history by claiming their first medal in the championships when Yeung Weng Chi finished co-third with Navmi Sharma of India in the Girls' Under-17 event.

Asian Squash Federation President David Mui said: "My congratulations would also like to extend to Macau who also won its first-ever Asian Junior Individual Championships medal after its player Yeung Weng Chi won a bronze medal.

"I'm glad to see that more different member nations have attained good results in the tournament. This is really encouraging and rewarding as junior development has always been our top priority in the region."

The five-day championships attracted the top junior squash players from 13 Asian countries.


**PRESIDENTS MEET!**

David Mui (President, Asian Squash Federation) is pictured with Thomas Bach (President, IOC) and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah (President, Olympic Council of Asia), during the quadrennial National Games of China being held in the city of Tainjin (27 August – 8 September.)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Model Name</th>
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WSF WORLD COACHING CONFERENCE

This month sees the WSF World Coaching Conference in the city of Bucaramanga, Colombia, hosted by Sergio Becerra of the Colombian Federation.

The facilities at the Club Campestre are superb, the range of presenters, including Australian ‘legends’ Sarah Fitz-Gerald and David Palmer, will certainly stimulate the attendees from Central and South America, and beyond.

There is still just time to grab a place for the 14 – 16 September event by registering [here](#): To get a flavour of the conference why not look at the video [here](#).

Taking place immediately prior to the Conference will be another step in the continuing roll-out of the WSF Coach Education Programme. Levels 1 & 2 are being used internationally already, with Level 3 nearing completion. At Bucaramanga a Level 3 Tutor Workshop will be held, led by Peter Hirst, Major Maniam and Michael Khan, with attendees from world regions, who will be taking these courses when the top tier comes on stream early next year.

ISQUASH IN DRESDEN

The new BallsportArena in Dresden, Germany, featuring ASB courts using the iSquash – interactive Squash – system, which upgrades standard squash courts with digital training and games functionality, is the latest step in bringing new technology and great vitality to centres.

The interactive games are designed to get players active and engaged in a new way. They can choose from a wide range of solo, cooperative and competitive games with full-colour graphics and sound – all of this using the same racket and balls as in regular squash. Interactive squash training modules assess and coach players and now they can track their performance with insightful statistics and analysis.

Special training modules are designed to hone skills and techniques directly related to competitive squash. Players receive visual cues, feedback and audio instructions so they can improve step by step. Players are also given realtime feedback and assessment on their performance.

Games are designed to be fun and engaging with multiple levels, bright graphics and sounds. They have been created according to the motto “Focus on the Fun and not the Burn”. The result is one of the most enjoyable and engaging sports-based workouts on the market. The system uses the very latest generation of Panasonic laser-diode projectors to produce a clear, crisp image even in the bright lighting conditions required by squash courts.

In combination with the high-tech features and LED marking lines of the ASB MultiSports, iSquash in the BallsportArena Dresden shows off a great new dimension in sports to the player.
USA & HOSTS SHARE AFRICAN TITLES

USA and hosts South Africa shared honours in the inaugural African Junior Open Squash Championships at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town which attracted more than 100 players.

Top-seeded South African Blaine Verhage emerged victorious in the Men's U19 event without conceding a game. In the final, the 17-year-old from Pretoria defeated fellow countryman Nathan van der Westhuizen, the No.3 seed, 3-0. (pictured above).

USA's Emily Rose arrived in Cape Town fresh from her success in last week's South African Junior Open in Johannesburg. After overcoming compatriot Haley Aube in the Women's U19 semi-finals, the 18-year-old from Greenwich then faced her sister Claire Aube in the final after the third seed's surprise win over home hope Helena Coetzee in the other semi.

Rose (pictured below) secured her second successive title in South Africa after beating Aube.

Rose was one of a party of 13 USA players from the Chelsea Piers Athletic Club, brought over by Natalie Grainger, the former world No.1 from South Africa.

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.

September '17
05 – 08 Iran Junior Open
08 – 09 Welsh Junior Open
27 – 29 Argentinian Junior Open

October '17
05 – 08 Nordic Junior Open
06 – 08 Serbia Junior Open
13 – 15 Danish Junior Open
19 – 22 Hungarian Junior Open

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

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.


For this story and more, please click here: http://www.squashplayer.co.uk
DAVID RETURNS TO TOP 5

Malaysia’s eight-time World Champion Nicol David has returned to the world’s top five in September for the first time since November.

David, who celebrated her 34th birthday last week, topped the rankings for an unprecedented nine-year reign between 2006-2015 but a period of mixed form then followed for the 81-time Tour title winner and she dropped out of the top five for the first time in over a decade last December.

However, the Penangite will begin September in a top five headed by two-time World Champion Nour El Sherbini, who makes it 17 successive months at No.1, and also containing Raneem El Welily (2), Camille Serme (3) and Laura Massaro (4).

Egypt’s Nouran Gohar falls out of the top five to No.7 after the ranking points she claimed after winning the Hong Kong Open last August were removed from her record, while United States No.1 Amanda Sobhy - who lost to Gohar in the final - also loses points and drops to No.9.

English duo Sarah-Jane Perry and Alison Waters benefit from Gohar and Sobhy’s points loss as they move up to No.6 and No.8, respectively, with Perry rising to a career-high World Ranking. Hong Kong’s Annie Au props up the top 10 for the fourth consecutive month.

PSA Women’s Rankings – September 2017

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

COLL REPLACES ASHOUR IN TOP 10

Greymouth-born Paul Coll has become the first male New Zealander since Ross Norman in 1995 to reach the top 10 of the PSA Men’s World Rankings after the 25-year-old claimed his place amongst the world’s elite at the expense of Ramy Ashour in September.

Coll - who is now the third-highest ranked Kiwi man ever - experienced a breakthrough campaign during the 2016/17 season with a landmark title victory at the Channel VAS Championship in December of last year.

Former World No.1 Ashour suffered an injury-ravaged 2016/17 season and he falls six places to No.14, with the three-time World Champion currently sitting at his lowest ranking since September 2006.

Frenchman Gregory Gaultier stays at World No.1 for a fourth successive month and 15th month overall, eclipsing the reign of compatriot Thierry Lincou who topped the rankings for 14 months between 2004-2005. World Champion Karim Abdel Gawad follows at No.2, while the rest of the top five is completed by Mohamed ElShorbagy, Nick Matthew and Ali Farag.

Marwan ElShorbagy leapfrogs newly crowned European Champion James Willstrop, moving up a place to sit at No.6, while Tarek Momen and Dessouky sit at No.8 and No.9 ahead of Coll.

PSA Men’s Rankings – September 2017

1 Gregory Gaultier FRA
2 Karim Abdel Gawad EGY
3 Mohamed ElShorbagy EGY
4 Nick Matthew ENG
5 Ali Farag EGY
6 Marwan ElShorbagy EGY
7 James Willstrop ENG
8 Tarek Momen EGY
9 Fares Dessouky EGY
10 Paul Coll NZL
11 Simon Rösner GER
12 Daryl Selby ENG
13 Mohamed Abouelghar EGY
14 Ramy Ashour EGY
15 Ryan Cuskelly AUS
16 Borja Golan ESP
17 Diego Elias PER
18 Cameron Pilley AUS
19 Stephen Coppinger RSA
20 Zahed Mohamed EGY
MEXICO EXCELS IN PAN AM JUNIORS IN PARAGUAY

Mexico claimed the lion's share of the gold medals in the 2017 Pan American Junior Squash Championships - in all cases winning against expectations at Club Internacional de Tenis in the Paraguay capital Asuncion.

Second-seeded Mexicans Leonel Cardenas and Dina Anguiano Gomez brushed aside all opposition in the men's and women's individual U19 championships, respectively: 17-year-old Cardenas overcoming Colombian Matias Knudsen 11-6, 9-11, 11-2, 11-8 in the men's final (both pictured above), whilst in the other final Gomez recovered from a game down to upset US favourite Sumrin Muddgil 9-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-5.

Gomez, aged just 15, was again in winning form against her 18-year-old US rival in the Women's Team Championship final (both pictured below) - leading Mexico to a 2/1 victory over top seeds USA.

Mexico also outplayed the top seeds in the Men's Team Championship final - upsetting Colombia 2/1 to claim the fourth gold in the week.

However, there was double success for Colombia in the Doubles championships - Colombian pair Matias Knudsen & Ronald Palomino claiming gold in the Men's event and compatriots Sophia Giraldo & Maria Tovar Perez prevailing in the Women's event.

Ecuador bagged the Mixed Doubles gold medal when Maria Paula Moya & David Costales upset top-seeded Mexican duo Miriam Alejandra Ortiz Rubio & Carlos Alejandro Ayala Jauregui in the final.

After the region's major annual junior event drew to a close with the Team championship finals, Paraguayan Tournament Director Esteban Casarino said: "They were probably one of the best finals to date for the PanAm Juniors - all three matches of both finals were the perfect end to a great week. "The weather was great, the atmosphere among players was fantastic, brutal fights but fair all the time, the squash community in Asuncion is very, very, thankful!"


Men's Team Championship Final: [2] MEXICO bt [1] COLOMBIA 2/1. Leonel Cardenas lost to Ronald Palomino 8-11, 11-9, 9-11, 7-11, Carlos Alejandro Ayala Jauregui bt Inaki de Larrauri 8-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, Jorge Gomez bt Matias Knudsen 11-9, 12-10, 10-12, 9-11, 14-12

Women's Team Championship Final: [2] MEXICO bt [1] USA 2/1. Dina Anguiano Gomez bt Sumrin Mudgil 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8, Miriam Alejandra Ortiz Rubio lost to Jane Pincus 9-11, 9-11, 3-11, Fabiola Cabello Gomez bt Riya Mital 12-10, 11-9, 8-11, 4-11, 11-8

USA INITIATES A NATIONAL CENTRE

The US Squash Board has backed a National Centre project, which would include eighteen singles courts – two four-glass-walled exhibition courts and two or more North American Hardball Doubles courts, a state of the art Learning and Innovation Centre, the U.S. Squash Hall of Fame and the latest in streaming and media opportunities for the sport, all in the heart of University City in Philadelphia.

This was initiated after overwhelmingly positive responses about the National Centre from the US squash community at large; together with strong fundraising momentum. To date, two-thirds of the estimated $26 million goal has been committed.

The Centre’s twenty courts will create a hub of thirty-nine courts within a three-block radius that includes Drexel University’s seven courts and the University of Pennsylvania’s twelve courts.
WSF SQUASH COURT SPECIFICATIONS

The extensively updated WSF Squash Court Specifications 2017 with various new clauses and drawings are on 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.

MINNEAPOLIS PAIRS WITH COURTTECH

Todd Iliff, developer and founder of Boast Squash, a brand new eight court facility in suburban Minneapolis, Minnesota USA, is looking to kickstart growth locally.

Iliff explained “my vision for Boast Squash is to expand the game locally, for both new and existing squash enthusiasts. I believe that squash in Minnesota and in the United States is primed for growth. With Boast Squash’s eight new courts, more and more people will have an opportunity to experience the game. Our courts and our facilities will provide the Minnesota squash community with more and more prospects for the growth of squash.”

He added, "After intensive research and investigation, Boast Squash zeroed in on CourtTech Squash Courts with Juncker’s Squash flooring".

Opened in June, the popularity of the facility gives Boast a lot to boast about!

ZENON’S NEW COURTWALL COURT

Hasta La Vista, hosted the squash at the World Games at the world’s largest squash club, and owner Mr. Zenon Waniak added a demountable all-glass showcourt he bought from Courtwall for the event.

The man who has singlehandedly overseen massive squash interest in Wroclaw and beyond explained "The reason why I decided to buy this Courtwall show glass court was I want to host many big events, European and World range, in my club having the best quality to offer for players and spectators. On the other hand I’ve heard Europe needs more show glass court for rental, as other clubs are looking for that."

ASB ACTIVE IN ARMENIA

The Reebok Sports Club in Armenia’s capital city of Yerevan is another new state-of-the-art facility that will help promote the sport there.

It features three ASB Game Courts with automatic movable side walls, ASB TopSquash Scoreboards and an ASB Glass Floor configured to show floor marking lines for squash singles/doubles, volleyball, badminton, mini-football, basketball.

Cleverly, the floors are operated from a single digital control panel which enables the area to change from squash to another sport in seconds.
McWIL’s STATESIDE PUBLIC COURTS

McWil are in the process of building four courts at Bosse Sports in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

The layout and design brief was to fit four new public courts into a former tennis bubble. The framework on outside courts is customized to make sure the giant bubble does not come down and smother the courts!

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