

WSF INSTANT UPDATE

ISSUE 73**MARCH / APRIL 2018****To: ALLWSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

cc: WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Commission Members, PSA members, Accredited Products and Companies

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES 2018

Squash has been given an opportunity to be a 'showcase' sport at the Youth Olympic Games being held in Buenos Aires in October.

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

As a showcase sport we are not permitted to hold an actual event, so we cannot play to a finish and no medals will be awarded. However, we are permitted to invite squash ambassadors to play on the showcourt, meet the influencers who will attend, support the introductory clinics and support our use of an inflatable court.

Most importantly, to be our representatives, our ambassadors.

Many details were confirmed at a recent Organising Committee (OC) and WSF meeting in Buenos Aires.



L to R: Facundo Nahas, Anabella Espíndola, Ezequiel Etchegaray (OC), Juan Tonelli (Argentina Squash), Anabela Moccia (OC), Pablo Serna, Andrew Shelley (WSF), Juan De Arma (OC)

The participation dates are 7 - 12 October 2018 inclusive (six days of activity), and will include attendance at the opening ceremony and access to all the other sports taking place.

Regions and nations have been given the details, a precis of which are:

The core of the squash presentation will be the 18 invited young male and 18 invited young female Ambassadors, showing the sport by playing exhibition games with the other five players in their pool. (There will be three pools for each gender). However, it should be stressed that these matches are to showcase the dexterity, strength and athleticism of our sport so results will not be recorded and published.

In terms of detail, each region is offered the opportunity to send players, all of whom must be aged 15 - 18 years of age on 31 December 2018.

Asia, Europe and Pan America*: 4 boys and 4 girls

Africa and Oceania: 2 boys and 2 girls

*excluding Argentinian players

Argentinian (host) players: 2 boys and 2 girls.

With the exception of Argentina, only one male and one female from a country may be included (so a maximum of one boy and girl per nation).

Each Region may also nominate reserves - up to two boys and two girls from any nations, including those already represented, if they wish, to fill any places that may not be taken by another region.

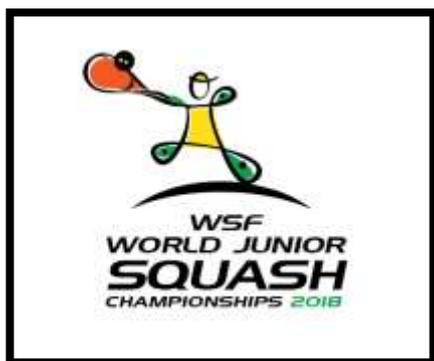
The cost of travel, accommodation and meal package for the player and accompanying personnel must be covered by the region, nation or via local funding as agreed within the region. We are working on reasonable package costs now, and if any sponsorship funding can be found towards this they will be passed on. (Fundraising for the showcourt rental, staging, presentation and management is ongoing).

World Squash Ambassador shirts (which must be worn when at the venue) will be provided.

Questions concerning selection procedure should be addressed to Regional Federations.

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.

SAUDI ARABIA'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP DEBUT



Saudi Arabia will participate in a World Team Squash Championship for the first time when a team from the Arab state competes in the 2018 WSF Men's World Junior Team Championship in India, in July.

The hosts will lead 23 nations in the 20th edition of the biennial World Squash Federation event at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai from 24 - 29 July.

India will be hosting the Championship for the second time since the inaugural event in 1980.

The team event will follow the Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships from 18-23 July.

Pakistan will look to defend the title they won for the fifth time in the 2016 Men's Team Championship in Poland - where India finished in sixth place.

Commenting on the first appearance of a Saudi Arabian team in a World Championship, Saudi Squash Federation President Ziad Al-Turki said: "The Saudi General Sports Authority under its new leadership has different goals than in previous years - it now concentrates on mass participation, wanting to take participation in sports amongst Saudis from 17% to 40% by 2020.

"Concentrating on junior athletes and developing a strong grassroots foundation is key - setting long-term goals for achieving medals is what now allows us to send juniors across all Federations to participate in international junior tournaments worldwide."

The full list of nations competing in the team championship in Chennai is: **Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, USA and Zimbabwe.**



WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING

The WSF, in partnership with the PSA, have embarked on a world-wide structure to handle referee training, qualification, development and assessment.

Planning and development of the resource material has been progressing, with the initial levels due to go live in only a few months.

For fuller details, please go to the latest newsletter [here](#), but for an overview:

The WSO Consultant Group, led by Roy Gingell and Lee Drew, is a team of specialists from each of the Regional Federations around the world; Tahir Khanzada (Asia), Marko Podgorsek (Europe), Rich Wade (Pan America), Mike Collins (Africa) and Jordan Till (Oceania). Co-ordinating the activities of the consultant group is Steve Eccles.

The WSO Consultant Group is the body that carries overall responsibility for identification, analysis and subsequent specification of the technical solution and any other activities associated with WSO.

The Officiating Levels, numbers of referees and assessors, referee quality and match management are all within the remit of the consultancy group.

WSO covers five levels (1-5) of formal qualification, as well as an introductory Level 0 (details below):

INTRODUCTORY RULES TEST

Level 0	Level 0 is a pre-cursor to the formal qualification structure recognised by the WSO and is available to anyone wishing to safely play, referee and supervise squash in any basic capacity. Level 0 is an online basic rules and match management test and will be free to take.
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QUALIFICATION LEVELS

Level 1	Entry qualification level to referee, supervise, and officiate squash at a club event / state / province or county leagues (equivalent to the current initial qualification)
Level 2	Qualification level for selection to referee or supervise at junior competitions
Level 3	Qualification level for referees to officiate at both junior and senior matches at National Level. (equivalent to the current National level)
Level 4	Qualification level for referees to officiate up to both junior and senior matches at National and International competitions
Level 5	Highest level of referees who officiate at WSF and PSA events around the World (equivalent to the current World qualification)

National Federation Managed Qualifications

The following table provides a summary of Levels 1 to 3 which represent the three levels of formal qualification that are managed and maintained by National Federations.

Level 3 represents the highest National grade.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Course Descriptor	Introductory Level Refereeing Course Providing a Basic Standard of Officiating Skills for anyone (including Juniors) wishing to referee who already participates in Squash in some capacity.	Developing the Referee and further expanding. Aimed at referees of u17 and u19 junior events and senior players in local competitions.	Comprehensive and in-depth course further developing Officiating Skills and interpretation of the rules. Specific for developing referees with the skills and knowledge needed to referee both junior and senior matches at National Level.
Who is it for?	Open to anyone who wishes to referee, supervise, and officiate squash at: I. Club event/state/ province or county leagues	Open to anyone who wants to be considered for selection to referee or supervise at: I. Junior competition at state /county /province level II. Senior competition at state/county/province level	Open to anyone who wants to be considered for selection to referee or supervise at: I. National Level junior and senior competitions II. Entry level WSF/PSA events
Accreditation achieved by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Modular course work and periodic online testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Modular course work and periodic online testing Production of relevant activity Level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Modular course work and periodic online testing Competency based Assessment using formal transcript Production of approved activity Level
On successful completion, a referee will be able to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate basic refereeing skills based on appropriate theoretical knowledge. Referee aspects of the game within a competition framework. Awareness of communication skills required with players 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the rules and their application. Understand player movement and play. Have good presentation and control of the match. Have good communication with players. Understand the roles of the Referee / Marker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a comprehensive understanding of the rules and their application. Beginning to show understanding of elite level player movement and play. Have very good presentation and control of the match. Have good composure and body language under stress. Have clear communication with players. Undertake the roles of the Referee/Marker.

Online examinations for each WSO Officiating Level are subject to a qualification course fee which will be published prior to the launch of the website – of which 20% will be rebated to the nation of the person taking the course.

WSO Managed Qualifications

The following table provides a summary of Levels 4 and 5 which represent the levels of formal qualification that are managed and maintained by WSO.

	Level 4	Level 5
Course Descriptor	Course developing the attention to detail required of experienced Officials. Appropriate for referees with the skills and knowledge needed to officiate both junior and senior matches at National and International competitions	Highest Level of Refereeing achievable in Squash, developing an intricate understanding of Officiating Skills. Suitable for Referees with the skills and knowledge to referee Squash at the pinnacle of the game, including WSF and PSA events around the World.
Who is it for?	Open to Referees who want to be considered for selection to referee or supervise at: I. Junior and Senior matches at National and International competitions. II. Appropriate WSF/PSA events	Open to Referees who want to be considered for selection to referee or supervise at: I. The highest level including WSF and PSA events around the World.
Accreditation achieved by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Modular course work and periodic online testing • Competency based Assessment using formal transcript • Production of approved activity Level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Modular course work and periodic online testing • Competency based Assessment using formal transcript • Production of approved activity Level
On successful completion, a referee will be able to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an excellent understanding of the rules and their application. • Show understanding of elite level player movement and play. • Have excellent presentation and control of the match. • Have very good composure and body language under stress. • Have clear communication with players. • Undertake the roles of the Referee/Marker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate advanced understanding of the rules and their application. • Demonstrate advanced understanding of elite level player movement and play. • Demonstrate advanced presentation and control of the match. • Demonstrate advanced composure and body language under stress. • Demonstrate Clear communication with players. • Understand and accept the roles of the Referee/Marker.

Online examinations for each WSO Officiating Level are subject to a qualification course fee which will be published prior to the launch of the website.

For fuller details, please go to the latest newsletter [here](#).



THE SQUASH OLYMPIC GAMES PUSH

While the timings for sport nominations by the Paris hosts of the Olympic Games 2024 have yet to be finalised, arrangements for the squash bid for a place on the Programme are well under way with campaign partner agency Weber Shandwick. The Bid management Group (pictured here) met for a full day workshop in January, followed by regular discussions to finalise our strategy, details of which will soon be provided to stakeholders.

(LtoR: Tommy Berden, Jacques Fontaine, Anna Chuvasheva, Stephen Finch & Stevlana Picou (WS), Alex Gough, Andrew Shelley)

WSF MEMBER NATION VOTING REVIEW

Following the WSF AGM last year in Marseille the WSF Board decided to initiate a review of the WSF voting structure that will consider possible alternatives that best fit with our mission, provide good governance and fair representation too. Vice President Huang Ying How was asked to lead it.

The intention was that a number of specialists with wide knowledge of governance and electoral systems would look at the WSF Articles, WSF and National Federation needs, take submissions from Member Federations views on the subject and bring forward recommendations for the WSF Board and Member Federations to review and consider.

The Review Group has been formed using the above criteria and comprises:

Huang Ying How (Chair): WSF Vice President
Andrew Shelley (coordinator): WSF Chief Executive
HRH Prince Tunku Imran: IOC member, President Olympic Council Malaysia, Past President of

Commonwealth Games Federation and WSF. Now, Patron WSF.

Sir John Curtice: Professor of Politics at the University of Strathclyde (Scotland) and Senior Research Fellow at National Centre for Social Research.

Jean Christophe Rolland: IOC member, President of FISA, the International Rowing Federation.

Diogo Jurema: Brazilian sport management specialist, Masters thesis for the IOC NOC Relations department about the governance standards of a set of selected NOCs. Past Head Of Development of the International Volleyball Federation.

Dr Chris Prosser: Research Fellow on the British Election Study at the University of Manchester.

The group will consider the way that they wish to carry out the review and the timeline, so that Member Federations can be updated with these details and the form - in which submissions of views can be made to the Group to ensure that the fullest possible opportunity to provide perspectives - is available.

ANDREW SHELLEY WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION



The WSF Board discussed with Andrew Shelley his resignation made in November when the Board met last month. They stated concerns about the complexities of the situation, the timing of his possible departure in relation to Olympic bid involvement and the need for reflection. There were full and frank discussions centred around Board focus and operation – both of which were agreed as needing recalibration; and clarification concerning the Chief Executive role.

Following this Andrew Shelley was requested to withdraw his resignation as Chief Executive, which he did; and so continues in his current role.

WSF AGM 2018



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 programme will be 24: Board & Executive Committee, 25: WSF Commission Meetings, 26: Conference Day, 27: WSF

AGM. Booking arrangements will be circulated in due course.

WSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP & SPIN MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

As already communicated to Member Federations, Club Locker have been agreed as the preferred bidder for this provision and a formal agreement in two months is envisaged. Regional and National Federations will be free to choose WSF Certified Software that will integrate with the WSF SPIN management software.

OLYMPIC BID ADVOCATES

One element that the Olympic Bid Management Group are preparing is a list of celebrities who play squash, along with potential advocates for the bid.

So, if you know of celebrities who play squash in your country do let us know please. They can come from sports, business, politics, music or film – and ideally resonating with youth.

Potential advocates could include prominent business leaders connected to squash globally or locally through their sponsorship, technologies etc. Influencers on topics such as gender equality, community development etc. that you have interacted with.

Suggestions welcomed please, to me at andrew@worldsquash.org.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WARM UP

WSF World Championships and Major Games e.g. Commonwealth Games next month, will be aligned with the PSA Tour that has introduced a slightly shorter warmup before matches. The details are below, but it should be emphasised that this is not a change to the Rules of the Game where a maximum of five minutes is permitted.



(similarly, in 2016 we and PSA extended the maximum break between games to two minutes for PSA and WSF events, while for general play 90 seconds continues to be stipulated).

WARM UP

The warm up before the start of matches will be four minutes in duration (decreased from five minutes), followed by a one minute interval*.

**The warm up interval may be increased to 90 seconds if the player areas are situated in what is deemed by the Championship Referee to be an excessive distance from the court door.*



**GOT A SPIN? GET A DISCOUNT.
SAVE 20% ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
[HERE](#)**

GOING TO CHARLOTTESVILLE?



If you are a Masters player don't forget that entries for the WSF World Masters 2018 taking place in Charlottesville, USA are open. From 35+ to 80+ why not enjoy the competition and fun of the event taking place 29 July – 4 August. Over

300 players are already entered. Entry details [here](#)

There is no minimum standard for entry, so don't be daunted by the event title – there are plate events to ensure that all players have at least three matches.

MALAYSIA CONFIRMED AS 2019 WSF WORLD JUNIOR HOST



The World Squash Federation has awarded Malaysia the rights to host the World Junior Squash Championships in 2019.

The event, featuring the WSF Women's World Junior Team Championship from 5-9 August and preceded by the Men's & Women's WSF World Junior Individual Championships from 30 July to 4 August, will take place at the Bukit Jalil National Squash Centre in Kuala Lumpur, home of the sport's Commonwealth Games debut in 1998.

Third Time for Asia

Malaysia has hosted several WSF world championships - 2019 marking the third time the Asian nation has staged the Women's Junior Team event, following the 1993 edition in Kuala Lumpur and 2001 in Penang.

The biennial event was last staged in New Zealand in July 2017 where Egypt won the title for the sixth time in a row, and Malaysia recorded their best-ever finish as runners-up for the third time.

PSA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2019 IS THE FIRST MILLION DOLLAR TOURNAMENT

The 2018/19 PSA World Championships will become the first squash tournament to award a \$1 million prize as part of a multi-year sponsorship deal with the Chicago-based Walter Family.



As part of the agreement, the City of Chicago will host the tournament for the next two cycles, in winter 2019 and 2021, and

it will be renamed The Walter Family PSA World Championships in those years. The new prize money amounts to a doubling of the 2017 purse and will be split equally between the men's and women's events.

"The women's and men's prizes are the same — and that has been the case since my wife and I became involved — because it reflects the value we place on gender equality, and it recognises this incredibly talented group of athletes," said Mark Walter, who lives in Chicago with his wife, Kimbra, and their daughter.

Under a separate agreement with the Walter Family, the Windy City Open, the PSA World Series tournament, will return in 2020 to Chicago with a \$500,000 prize pool - making it the most lucrative PSA World Tour event outside of the World Championships.

[Mark Walter (centre) along with Windy City Open 2018 winners Mohamed ElShorbagy and Nour El Tayeb]

REGISTER AT WWW.SQUASH.ORG.AU OR WWW.WSF08DACHESCONFERENCE.COM

WSF WORLD COACHES CONFERENCE

21-23 SEPTEMBER 2018

TALENT DEVELOPMENT COURSE (WSF LEVEL 2)

17-20 SEPTEMBER 2018 - \$699 AUD

CARRARA SQUASH CENTRE, CARRARA INDOOR STADIUM
GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

3 and 4 night packages available from \$679 AUD.

Direct routes to Brisbane and Gold Coast airport from KL, HK, NZ.

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- ASHRAF HANAFI EGYPTIAN NATIONAL COACH
- ROD EYLES FORMER WORLD CHAMPION
- DAVID FALMER FORMER WORLD CHAMPION
- SARAH FITZ-GERALD FORMER WORLD CHAMPION
- PAUL PRICE FORMER WORLD NO. 9 & AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COACH
- LIZ IRVING FORMER WORLD NO. 2 & NICOL DAVID'S COACH

Current WSF Accredited Companies are



SQUASH IN THE FILM STUDIO



The squash events at April's Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast in Australia will be played in a unique environment – on one of the sound stages of Oxenford Film Studios. In fact, in the largest sound stage in the Southern Hemisphere!

A show court surrounded by 2,500 seats, along with six glass backs, all built by ASB, will fill the building. There will also be a bank of three training courts in another of the stages that dot the studios, where boxing and table tennis will be held too.

The action begins on 5 April with the Men's and Women's singles, after which the showcourt is widened and the six singles courts become four doubles ones for Men's, Women's and Mixed events.



The entry deadline is not until 7 March, but already it is clear that around 30 countries will have players flying into Brisbane to compete.

Holdings Nicol David and Nick Matthew will be defending their titles, England's Matthew doing so for the last time before retirement. Dangerous in the draws will be two players who have come into their prime since the last Games in Glasgow four years ago. Welsh girl Tesni Evans beat England duo Laura Massaro and Alison Waters to take the British National title, while New Zealander Paul Coll, is sitting just outside the top ten in the rankings.

Evergreen Australian David Palmer who retired several years ago and is now aged 41, will be hoping to repeat his feat of winning the Men's and Mixed Doubles titles as he did in Glasgow four years ago. Countrywoman Rachael Grinham, herself now also aged 41 plans to defend the Mixed, while Indian Women's holders Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal-Karthik will hope to repel challengers too.

While contenders from other countries are hoping to get among the medals, it is also a great opportunity for nations whose players are all amateurs to come, participate, watch and learn.

INNOVATIONS ABOUND

Tracking

At the Swedish Open recently a statistical tracking system was used. It was called "MoTrack", a motion tracking system featuring four cameras and a series of sensors placed around and above the all-glass court, enabling instant analysis of player and ball behaviour.

It showed just how fit and athletic squash players are, via measurement of physical characteristics such as movement, speed and distance covered by players during games; alongside tactical elements such as heat maps and ball tracking data.

Interactive Courts

German developers interactiveSQUASH (iSquash) launched new technology that can project interactive training modules on the front wall of the court, as shown by Markos Kern who conceived it, at the last WSF AGM.

"With our system, squash will in time become the first to achieve a full merger between sport and technology in truly real time - with data instantly available to fans and players," he said.

Athlete Data

Meanwhile PSA teamed up with international technology company Sports Data Labs to capture data on performances at the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions in January.

Sports Data Labs provided the technology and supporting infrastructure to enable in-game capture, analysis and distribution of real-time human data and will track player's heart rate data by utilising a sensor placed on the chest of players competing at the TOC.

The results were fed into the SquashTV broadcast of TOC and February's Windy City Open in Chicago

WORLD SQUASH DAY 2018



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

ZUG GOES BACK IN TIME

When James Zug researched and provided "The History of Squash in 10½ Chapters" and a history timeline, both of which are at the WSF website: <http://www.worldsquash.org>, he came across a fleeting mention of an article on squash in *The Boy's Own Paper*.



He reports: After much sleuthing, I tracked down the article. *Boy's Own Paper* was a major British literary magazine aimed at teenage boys. The article "Squash Racquets" was published on 9 June 1894 and is one of the earliest mentions of the game in print.

The author was Somerville Gibney. He and his brother Gerald had attended Harrow from 1865 to 1867 (in Head Master's House). Their father was a reverend in Lincoln in the East Midlands and a founder of the Lincoln College of Art (he died in 1875 when he fell through a skylight at the school into the model room).

Somerville Gibney was a popular playwright and novelist: he produced shows for the West End and the *Spectator* said of his 1891 novel, *The Trial of Parson Finch*: "It is certainly a well-told, healthy, and by no means uninteresting story."

Persuading Readers

Gibney's article on squash had a proselytizing streak, as it mostly was about persuading readers to build their own courts. He runs through the squash customs at Harrow, the rules and the required equipment (a new racquet for ten shillings, a second-hand one for five shillings; and new balls for four pence, although Gibney sometimes would go back to Harrow and buy eight or ten used balls from students for six pence).

He said that when he and his brother were at Harrow, "we were both devoted to squash" so when they returned to Lincoln they created a court in a high-roofed loft over a disused stables. Their father cut a wall out, put a door on the spiral staircase that led to the loft and added, ironically, a skylight. The floor was plaster, uneven and at least a hundred years old; the side walls were rough and an oak beam ran over the court. Both the brothers and their father played many games there for years to come.

Squash, Gibney declared, is "a capital game, which, without requiring any large expenditure of pocket-money or amount of apparatus, can be played almost anywhere where there are walls. Give a Harrow boy a wall—if a blank one so much the better—and two others or even one other, at right angles to it, with a clear space between, and the probability is it won't be long before he is busy at squash."

Read more at: <http://squashword.com>

WSF ACCREDITATION

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

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

PSA MARCH RANKINGS



SOBHY RETURNS TO TOP 20



United States star Amanda Sobhy has risen 12 places to No.18 in the PSA Women's March World Rankings to break back into the world's top 20 for the first time since October 2017.

A ruptured achilles sustained last March saw Sobhy face 10 months on the sidelines, with the

former World No.6 dropping as low as No.30 last month.

But the 24-year-old Harvard-graduate reached a semi-final at the Cleveland Classic and then a quarter-final at the Windy City Open in February to facilitate a return to the top 20.

Elsewhere, the rankings are headed up by an Egyptian top three for a second successive month, with Nour El Sherbini, Raneem El Welily and Windy City Open champion Nour El Tayeb sitting ahead of England's Laura Massaro and fellow Egyptian Nouran Gohar, the latter returning to the top five after spending last month outside it.

Kiwi Joelle King rises to seven pushing eight times World Champion Nicol David down to eight.

PSA Women's Rankings – March 2018

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

ELSHORBAGY RETURNS TO WORLD NUMBER 1

Egyptian World Champion Mohamed ElShorbagy has overtaken Frenchman Gregory Gaultier at the summit of the PSA Men's World Rankings to claim the World No.1 spot for the first time in 12 months.



The Bristol-based 27-year-old first rose to World No.1 in November 2014 and spent 15 consecutive months atop the rankings between January 2016 - March 2017 before a loss of form and motivation saw him concede top spot to 35-year-old Gaultier.

Gaultier, who missed out on defending his Windy City Open and Swedish Open titles this month due to injury, drops down to World No.2, while Ali Farag, Marwan ElShorbagy and Karim Abdel Gawad complete the top five.

A semi-final finish in Chicago is enough to see Tarek Momen swap places with Tournament of Champions winner Simon Rösner to go up to a joint-career high No.6 ranking, with Rösner dropping down to No.7.

PSA Men's Rankings – March 2018

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

NZ HAVE THE EDGE IN OCEANIA JUNIORS

The Oceania Junior Championships were held at Redcliffe PCYC in Australia in January, seeing 153 of the best junior players from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Papa New Guinea battle it out to become the Oceania Champion.

Final Results:

U13 M: Tom Marshall (NZL) beat Freddie Jamison (NZL) 13-11 5-11 11-9 11-5.

U13 W: Ella Lash (NZL) beat Sophie Hodges (NZL) 7-11 8-11 13-11 12-10 11-7.

U15 M: Greg Chan (Aus) beat Brendan MacDonald (Aus) 10-12, 8-11, 11-1, 16-14, 11-5

U15 W: Natalie Sayes (NZL) beat Jena Gregory (NZL) 11-8 11-7 11-4.

U17 M: Kerwin Teh (Mas) beat Elijah Thomas (NZL) 12-10 9-11 11-5 11-9.

U17 W: Winona-Jo Joyce (NZL) beat Mackenzie Sleep (Aus) 11-6 11-8 9-11 11-4.

U19 M: Lwamba Chilsehe (NZL) beat Eugene Heng (Aus) 13-11 12-10 11-4.

U19 W: Anika Jackson (NZL) beat Alex Haydon (Aus) 3-11 11-8 11-6 6-11 11-8



U19 winners Lwamba Chilsehe & Anika Jackson



Richard Eaton talks to Raneem El Welily about becoming world champion for the first time.

For this feature and more, please click here:

<http://www.squashplayer.co.uk>

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
	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

BURGEONING BOLIVIA

Bolivia is not the first place that comes to mind as a squash nation. With its two capital cities – La Paz the seat of government - considered to be the highest 'capital' in the world at over 3,500m - and Sucre the actual capital at only slightly lower 2,800m, it may be an environment needing altitude balls, but has a new Federation that is flying high too!

As recently as 2013 Bolivian Rene Cervantes sent an Email when away in London saying to the Cochabamba Country Club board that they should start squash. According to board member Alba Gamarra de Guardia 'we said yes, and we kept our word'.

Up until then a little squash had been played on racquetball courts, with their different dimensions, so the building of the courts at the club was the start. The kick start that the game needed.

Three courts built

Three courts were built and only a year later the 2015 South American Championships were played on them. The Central American country has in a few short years really established itself as a very active participant and host.

By 2017, passionate and energetic Alba had become President of the fledgling Federation and this June the three courts and five new courts in the city – including the first international doubles width court - will see Cochabamba being able to include squash in the South American Games.



No financial support

Pictured are the large squad of players at the just ended South American Squash Junior Championships held in Lima (*with Alba right of middle row*), who participated without any financial support. Indeed, as Alba says somewhat amazingly 'There is no budget for clothing, flights, nothing. Sports are not recognised by the Bolivian sports authorities – except chess!' She is at a loss to explain the conundrum.

Plans abound. She is looking to have courts in each of the nine regions of the country and she is well on the way to achieving that, although in some places racquetball courts are used for squash as are a few concrete floored facilities. There is such enthusiasm that is just a minor inconvenience. As was the problem for her of funding a flight to Tortuguitas in Buenos Aires for an event so she took a 96 hour coach round trip.

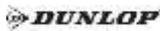
You cannot keep a good country or a good person down! Look out for Bolivian success from their juniors now, and seniors to follow.

WSF APPROVED BALLS

Dunlop provide the WSF Adopted Ball, which is used for all WSF World Championships, along with all Regional events.

A number of manufacturers make balls that have been tested to conform to the WSF Squash Ball Specifications and so are quality assured.

They are all listed here:

	Artengo SB 990 Squash Ball
	Black Knight Ball
	Dunlop XX Yellow Dot Championship Ball
	Eye Squash Ball
	HEAD Sport AG Yellow Dot Ball
	Huashen Double & Single Yellow Dot Balls
	Karakal Squash Ball
	MR Price Sport Maxed Squash Ball
	Prince Rebel Pro Ball
	Taiball Yellow Dot Ball
	Tecnifibre Squash Ball
	Victor/VICTEC Doppel-Gelb Squash Ball

CHINA HOSTS WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Dalian, a major city and seaport in the south of Liaoning Province, will host the biennial World Squash Federation Championship at the Xigang Gymnasium, from 11-16 September.



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

Since its launch in 1979, the Women's World Team Championship has been held in 11 different countries across all five continents – the most recent being in 2016 when Egypt (*pictured*) won the title for the third time, beating former Champions England in the final in the French capital Paris.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL DATES 2019

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 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:

11 - 17 February 2019

29 April - 5 May 2019

10 - 16 June 2019

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

EGOLISQUASH & LAUREUS START AN ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMME

Egolisquash, one of Squash & Education Alliance's four international affiliates, has launched an entrepreneurial training initiative for female students, graduates and their mothers in the Johannesburg, Soweto and Alexandra communities that they serve. With support from the Laureus Sport For Good Foundation, the Sew Egoli program equips over 100 participants with basic sewing, pattern making, dressmaking and design skills in a year-long training program. The women in the Sew Egoli program manufacture clothing and sporting apparel that are sold to the wider community, and have already benefited from sustainable employment options stemming from their new skills.

Sew Egoli

Sew Egoli is an outreach program of the Central Gauteng Squash Association and was established to provide girls, young women, and families with opportunities for self-employment, financial independence, and leadership development. "It's not about charity," notes Egolisquash Chief of Operations Sharon Sibanda. "It's about helping to empower women to help themselves. By providing resources and tools, we can level the playing field for women entrepreneurs, and help them to establish businesses that will benefit their families, their communities and their nation."



Sew Egoli is one of the many enrichment offerings of Egolisquash, an international affiliate that joined the SEA network in 2014. Egolisquash was established in 2009 by Program Director Glenn Lazarus, and has served over 5,000 youth since it launched. In 2016, Egolisquash won the Recreation Program of the Year at the South Africa Sports Awards.



Sharon Sibanda (above), lovingly referred to as "Ma Egoli Squash", is the program's Chief of Operations and has led the development of the Sew Egoli initiative.

El Sherbini Claims First Saudi Women's Crown



World No.1 Nour El Sherbini triumphed over compatriot Raneem El Welily to win the inaugural Saudi PSA Women's Squash Masters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in a historic moment in squash history. In what was the first professional women's squash tournament ever to take place in

Saudi Arabia, the duo stormed through the field to reach the title-decider but it was El Sherbini who controlled proceedings to prevail a comfortable 3-0 winner and become the first female athlete in any sport to win a professional tournament staged in the country.

Tournament wildcard Nada Abo Alnaja became the first Saudi woman ever to compete on the PSA World Tour after the Riyadh-born 32-year-old featured on day two of the 2018 Saudi PSA Women's Squash Masters, World Series tournament, losing to France's Camille Serme.

SNIPPETS

Did CCI Set a Record ? No!

Naval Pandole, from the Cricket Club of India (CCI), Mumbai wrote saying that the CCI has been conducting the CCI Western India Squash Tournament for the last 74 years and the 2018 event will be their 75th consecutive uninterrupted year of holding the event. He asked whether any other organisation in the world that has conducted a Squash tournament uninterrupted for the last 74 years.

Word reached us from Canada that the Canadian and US Jesters are hosting the 97th consecutive Lapham Grant Matches in Chicago this April. (The Lapham-Grant Trophy is an annual singles and doubles squash event contested between the United States and Canada. The location rotates between the U.S. and Canada, and features the top singles and doubles players from each country).

 **Teuton**

Bad Kissingen - Germany
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Website: www.teutonSports.com

Wish it - Dream it - Do it

High Performance Squash Shoe



Teuton 5027 (NAVY/BLACK)

Teuton 5027 (WHITE/NAVY)

Teuton 5027 (RED/NAVY)

Squash57 in Iran



During February British coach Mo Sarwar travelled to Iran to give the coaches there a first very well received workshop for their coaches as the branch of squash continues to grow and expand there.

Listen to Line online!

Steve Line, the name behind Squashpics, has been photographing squash events sublimely since the 1980s, and you can hear his reminiscences of how he started and his snapping career at this podcast in conversation with James Zug:

<https://soundcloud.com/outsidetheglass/ep-26-steve-line>



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