



# WSF INSTANT UPDATE

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**To: ALLWSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

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

## SQUASH DREAM FULFILLED FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

On the eve of World Refugee Day on 20 June, initiated by the United Nations in 2001, a unique effort to enable Syrian refugees to build upon their squash and educational support and participate in international squash events was provided by the World Squash Federation.

*Squash Dreamers* is a non-profit initiative, conceived by Jordan-based American Clayton Keir, which is dedicated to training refugee Syrian girls in Squash and English.

### Backing of Jordanian Federation

The WSF, with the backing of the Jordan Squash Federation, has welcomed these displaced Syrians - *pictured left with coaches Reem Nyaz (left) and Hamza al-Zubaidi (right)* - by giving them a route to participate in international events. In the absence of a Syrian squash federation, the WSF will create a neutral *World Squash* flag to enable them to enter such championships.

### Supported by Hong Kong

Furthermore, Hong Kong Squash has already agreed to sponsor these players to participate in the 2018 Hong Kong Junior Open by providing complimentary accommodation for four players and officials.

"We believe that sports and education can empower young women to rise above difficulties, improve their lives, and make positive impacts in their community," explained Keir. "Through squash and English, we are offering these girls opportunities to enrol in or be recruited by prestigious academic institutions. We are grateful to both the World Squash Federation and Hong Kong Squash that the girls can now participate in a world-class tournament."

WSF President Jacques Fontaine added: "The World Squash Federation looks to provide all athletes with equal opportunities and a safe environment for training and competition. The refugee team's participation in the 2018 Hong Kong Junior Open is just one example of what Squash is doing around the world to reach this goal."

### IOC Spirit

"As Squash bids to be included in the Olympic Programme, the sport is proud to share the same spirit with the IOC when it comes to supporting displaced communities and assisting young people in their integration through sport."

"The combined efforts of Clayton Keir, Jordanian Squash and Hong Kong Squash means that these girls have an opportunity that until now they could only have dreamed of! We are happy to help all the way."

David Mui, MH JP, Chairman of Hong Kong Squash, concluded: "To echo the great initiative of Squash Dreamers, Hong Kong Squash is very delighted to welcome the junior Syrian Refugee players to our largest international junior tournaments 'Hong Kong Junior Squash Open 2018' held in this summer."

For further information about Squash Dreamers or to offer support they can be contacted at [squashdreamers@gmail.com](mailto:squashdreamers@gmail.com) - or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SquashDreamers/](http://www.facebook.com/SquashDreamers/)



## WSF & PSA REVEAL *SquashFORWARD* LINE-UP

The WSF and PSA have announced the line-up of their joint initiative *SquashFORWARD*.

The programme brings together eight top young squash players (four young women and four young men), all under 23 years old, with the aim to further actively engage with the next generations and shape the future of squash as a vibrant and healthy sport. Quite symbolically, the announcement came on the eve of the Olympic Day, envisioned to encourage young people to move, learn and discover new sports.



The SquashFORWARD members selected from across the world each bring her or his own perspective on the future of their sport. They will become the ambassadors of thousands of young players internationally and will aim to capture the aspirations of their generation. Nour El Sherbini from Egypt (WR #1) and Diego Elias (*above*) from Peru (WR #11) will co-chair the group.

The development follows on the announcement made by WSF president Jacques Fontaine in April 2018 in Bangkok during the SportAccord Convention.

**The eight young players** selected internationally to take the pulse of their generation:

- Victor CROUIN (France, aged 18)
- Diego ELIAS (Peru, 21)
- Nour EL SHERBINI (Egypt, 22)
- Eain Yow NG (Malaysia, 20)
- Marina STEFANONI (United States, 15) (*photo, right*)
- Dimitri STEINMANN (Switzerland, 20)
- Nadia USENKO (Ukraine, 18)
- Satomi WATANABE (Japan, 19)

The group will meet regularly over the next few months to share their vision of the sport and discuss how to make the game even more innovative, inclusive and sustainable than it is today.

SquashFORWARD will kick off its activity at the Dutch Junior Open, which will be held in Amsterdam from 12-15 July. Members of the initiative will host a focus group with junior players from all over the world and gather their ideas focusing on four major topics: innovation, sustainability, inclusiveness and accessibility. SquashFORWARD will analyze the ideas

in the weeks that will follow the tournament and turn them into a set of practical recommendations.

It is envisioned that SquashFORWARD will share their findings and forward-looking recommendations during the Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games in October where squash will be present as a showcase sport.



Nour El Sherbini, WR #1 and SquashFORWARD co-chair, said: "Being on top of the World Rankings is a huge responsibility and I feel that I have to give back what I've learnt, to give back for the future of the sport which means so much to my life and the lives of so many young people around the world. Through the SquashFORWARD initiative, I'm sure we can capture a dialogue between continents and generations and shape how squash should develop in the next years."

WSF President Jacques Fontaine said: "SquashFORWARD is an initiative truly driven by the youngest stars of squash, many of whom dream one day to become Olympic champions. I'm sure this programme will create new thought leaders and help our sport remain at the forefront of what young people seek today from a sport that matches their lifestyles and aspirations." PSA CEO Alex Gough added: "One of the core missions of squash is to provide access to sport to young people all around the world. In dialogue with young players on the SquashFORWARD group we can ensure that we do it in the best possible way."

WSF CERTIFIED SOFTWARE 2018/9	
	<b>ClubLocker</b>
	<b>RankedIn</b>
	<b>SportyHQ</b>
	<b>Tournament Software</b>

## OLYMPICS NEWS

WSF, in partnership with PSA and campaign partners Weber Shandwick; led by President Jacques Fontaine and supported by the WSF Olympic Commission, have been preparing in many ways before the bid takes a defined shape.

That will occur shortly when the IOC confirm the deadline that the Paris 2024 Organising Committee will be required to work to for sports that they wish to nominate to the IOC as sports for their programme in 2024. Our intention is that squash features on it!

We also expect to hear the process that they will adopt as they move towards their decision.

Our focus is based upon showing that we are a sport that has moved with the times, is innovative and has youth and sustainability at our heart. To make clear how closely aligned we are with the IOC's Agenda2020. To demonstrate that we would bring something new and exciting to Paris.

While the groups mentioned above will play leading roles in shaping and executing policy, what is so important, and already evident, is how the whole worldwide squash community is behind squash being part of the Olympic Games in 2024 and beyond. This drives the bid.

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## THE GOLD COAST LEGACY TAKES SHAPE

The six glass-backed courts and the all-glass showcourts that were built in Gold Coast's Oxenford Studios for the Commonwealth Games in April were taken down and now have been re-built at nearby Carrara Squash centre.



It is part of the Carrara Sports Precinct which was a main venue for the Commonwealth Games, and now as well as the courts office

space for Squash Australia will be in the same building.

The new National Squash Centre for Squash Australia which was opened earlier this month and will host the WSF World Coaches Conference in September 2018 and future World, Regional and National events as well as providing a training base.



## TARAK & ARABY PREPARE TO DEFEND

Egyptians Marwan Tarek and Rowan Reda Araby are set to retain their titles in the WSF World Junior Individual Squash Championships next month in India according to the draws revealed by WSF

The Men's & Women's individual championships will take place at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai from 18-23 July, followed by the biennial Men's World Junior Team Championship from 24-29 July.

It was after ousting the top seed in last year's semi-finals that Tarek (pictured below with Araby at the 2017 trophy presentations) went on to claim the 2017 men's title in New Zealand. The 18-year-old from Cairo also won the 2018 British Junior U19 Open title early this year.



But Tarek, ranked 280 in the world, will have a tough job on his hands if he meets second seed Mostafa Asal, as predicted, in the final. His 17-year-old compatriot, also from Cairo, has made great strides on the PSA World Tour this year, winning three titles as a qualifier in May after clinching the British Junior U17 Open title in January. This month he leapt more than 100 places in the senior world rankings to reach No.75.

### Still only 17

Araby, still only 17, has already claimed five PSA titles and may make the world junior final this year for the third time in a row. Her success in the 2017 final came against top seed Hania El Hammamy whom she is again predicted to face in the 2018 climax.

All Egyptian semi-finals are predicted in both events - and an Araby success would take Egyptian ownership of the women's title into an eighth successive year.

**Draws at [www.wsfworldjuniors.com](http://www.wsfworldjuniors.com)**

**See the great championship preview film at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqT9ia-ddcE&feature=youtu.be>**

## WSF AMBASSADORS INSPIRE IN ARMENIA & UKRAINE

Launched in 2011, the World Squash Federation international promotional initiative takes two leading squash players, together with an international coach and referee, into younger squash nations to inspire and help raise the sport's profile through clinics, exhibition matches, refereeing and coaching seminars, and media presentations.

### Starting in Yerevan



World squash stars Ramy Ashour, the three-time world champion from Egypt, and Camille Serme, British and US Open winner and six-time

European champion from France, thrilled fans of the sport in Armenia on the first leg of the 2018 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to the country's capital Yerevan in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe.

Armenia, proud to be the first state in the world to adopt Christianity as its official religion early in the 4th century AD, formed its squash federation in 2011 with the construction of three courts – one of which a state-of-the-art all glass showcourt – at the Grand Sport complex in Yerevan.

Grand Sport Company's founder is Mikayel Vardanyan, a keen squash player and President of the Armenian Squash Federation.

While Belgian national coach Ronny Vlassaks conducted coaching workshops with Armenian players, and the Slovenian international referee Marko Podgorsek explained the finer points of the rules to budding local referees, Ashour and Serme gave junior and senior players at the club the experience-of-a-lifetime by playing with them on court.



Mikayel Vardanyan hosted a press conference for the WSF Ambassadors which attracted widespread media interest, including Armenia TV, Kentron TV and AR TV. Much of the interest was in squash's bid to join the Olympic Games programme.



*Mikayel Vardanyan (centre) pictured above with (L to R) WSF CEO Andrew Shelley, WSF referee Marko Podgorsek, Grand Sport Deputy Director Haik Buniatyan, Ramy Ashour, Camille Serme, Armenian Federation Secretary General Astghik Aghababyan, and WSF coach Ronny Vlassaks]*

"When we were building the Grand Sport complex and the squash courts in 2011 only one per cent of Armenians knew what squash is," Vardanyan told the media. "I myself regularly play squash as it is very healthy, dynamic and is very good for mental work.

### Armenian Federation applaud

The visit was hailed as a great success by the Armenian Federation: "It's been very helpful having such great champions as Ramy and Camille with us here. They are our players' heroes," said Secretary General Astghik Aghababyan.

"The visit helped us to get interest from the media and we hope that it will inspire more people to play squash.

"We need to begin to focus on our schools and persuade them to bring pupils to our courts, so that they can see that squash is not only a physical and mental sport, but also healthy.

"Your visit has given us more self-confidence that we can engage with the world of squash," Aghababyan concluded. "This has been such a boost for us and our junior players."

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley added: "We mount these visits to inspire national squash communities, but they energise the Ambassadors too. To join with such an energetic and motivated group of squash leaders and players has been a great experience for the group as they gave their time freely in every sense of the word. I have no doubt that squash in Armenia will flourish in the years to come."

## Next to Kiev

The WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Ukraine was a 'dream come true' for squash in the country said the Ukrainian Squash Federation President Anastasiia Netrobchuk at the end of an action-packed two-day series of events in the capital Kiev led by Egypt's three-time world champion Ramy Ashour and France's British and US Open champion Camille Serme, when the group moved on from Yerevan.

It was standing room only at a packed press conference at Grand Prix, where Ukraine Sports Committee President Illia Shevlyak told the media representatives: "I will do everything I can to support squash in Ukraine.

"Squash and the Olympics is a perfect fit – I think squash will be in Paris," added Shevlyak, who oversees the 47 non-Olympic sports in Ukraine. "It's a very dynamic sport.

Squash in Ukraine can trace its roots back to 2000 when Anastasiia Netrobchuk and Semen Lazutenkou both played squash on the country's sole court at Kiev Sports Club. So enthusiastic was property developer Lazutenkou after a visit to Amsterdam in 2008 to support Ukraine's first appearance in the European Team Championships that he decided to build the four-court Grand Prix club.



*Grand Prix owner Semen Lazutenkou (seated) flanked by Ukrainian Squash Secretary General Alena Ogonesan, USF Vice President Maksim Urakin; Camille Serme; Anastasiia Netrobchuk; Andrew Shelley; and Ramy Ashour*

"Last year was a highlight for Ukrainian squash as we competed for the first time in the World Games in Poland," said Netrobchuk, now the federation's President. "And now this year our top junior player Nadiia Usenko has been selected as a SquashFORWARD ambassador by the WSF.

"And to top it all, we now have this Ambassador Programme visit. It's a dream come true for us," said Netrobchuk. "It's big step towards developing squash in our country.

## Usenko, a SquashFORWARD Ambassador



"The current success of players like Nadiia Usenko and 17-year-old Alina Bushma, will give other juniors here a focus."

*Serme & Ashour with (L to R) Nadiia Usenko, Alina Bushma and Ukraine coach Kostiantyn Rybalchenko*

Usenko is Ukraine's most successful junior. Currently ranked No.2 in the European U19 rankings, she moves to the USA later this year autumn to start studying at Trinity College in Connecticut.

Later, a farewell reception for the team was attended by Yaroslav Madriy, State Coach of the Sports Ministry, who said: "Squash has really come on in this country in the last few years.

"This Ambassador Programme has been a very good initiative for the sport here. But what makes it so special is that your top athletes are not just visiting us but also giving our players the chance to be with them on court."

Camille Serme was delighted with her maiden appearance as a WSF Ambassador: "It was an honour to be chosen, for me and for French Squash, and to be here with Ramy made it extra special – he's such a champion.

With his impressions of the Ambassador Programme initiative, Ashour added: "It's very healthy for the sport, going around the world and having this kind of coverage and being on TV in different countries and different cultures – showing the world what we have got and how cool the sport is. The more we do these things and get the word out there, the more people around the world will understand us.

"I think the WSF is doing a great job promoting the sport by getting us there and pursuing the Olympic dream. It's really been a delight and pleasure to meet so many enthusiastic people. I am very humbled and very grateful to be part of this – it's been amazing."

WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley summed up the leadership of Ukraine Squash and their community in general at the media conference, saying: "You have a strong tradition of boxing in Ukraine - we know the career of the Klitschko brothers, of course - and to borrow a phrase from that sport, Ukrainian Squash definitely punches above its weight!

Since 2011, the WSF Ambassador Programme has visited Latvia, Malawi, Namibia, Panama, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Romania, Croatia, Dalian and Macau in China and now Armenia and Ukraine.

## YOUTH OLYMPIC AMBASSADORS ANNOUNCED



36 young squash players from 27 nations spread across the globe will experience the sport's first taste of Olympic competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina in October.

Squash has been chosen as a 'showcase' sport at Buenos Aires 2018, from 7-12 October. 18 young male and 18 young female Ambassadors, have been nominated by the five regions (Asia, Europe, Pan America, Africa and Oceania) of the World Squash Federation.

### 27 nations

"These players, all under-18, will play on the all-glass showcourt at Technopolis Park, meet the young people who will attend and encourage them to try squash at the introductory clinics," said WSF President Jacques Fontaine. "Most importantly, they will be our representatives, our ambassadors.

"This is an exciting opportunity for squash to be a part of an Olympic event for the first time - hopefully a stepping stone towards achieving our dream of a place on the Olympic Games Programme."

### The chosen athletes:

Jeremías Azaña, Dylan Tymkiw, Valentina Portieri & Abril Pellizari (Argentina); Ethan Eyles & Alex Haydon (Australia); Meagan Best (Barbados); Charlotte Toogood (Bermuda); Gabriel Pederiva (Brazil); James Flynn (Canada); Luis Alejandro Mancilla (Colombia); Viktor Byrtus (Czech Republic); Maria Paula Moya (Ecuador); Mostafa Asal & Jana Shiha (Egypt); Erika Parker (El Salvador); Sam Todd & Alice Green (England); Toufik Mekhalfi (France); Alejandro Enriquez (Guatemala); Chung Yat Long & Chan Sin Yuk (Hong Kong China); Tushar Shahani (India); Conor Moran (Ireland); Jonathan Walker (Jamaica); Erisa Sano Herring (Japan); Siow Yee Xian & Chan Yiwen (Malaysia); Dina Anguiano Gomez (Mexico); Fleur Maas (Netherlands); Matthew Lucente & Kaitlyn Watts (New Zealand); Lujan Palacios (Paraguay); Rafael Gálvez (Peru); Georgia Adderley (Scotland); and Ambre Allinckx (Switzerland).

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

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

More programme details are welcome

## WSF ACCREDITATION

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

Contact details on the [WSF website](#)


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

# PSA JULY RANKINGS



## EL SHERBINI'S 26 MONTHS



Egypt's Nour El Sherbini has made it 26 successive months at World No.1 after topping an unchanged top 20 in the July PSA Women's World Rankings.

22-year-old El Sherbini is already the fifth-longest serving World No.1 in history and last month capped a successful

season with victory over World No.2 Raneem El Welily in the ATCO PSA Dubai World Series Finals title decider.

Nour El Tayeb completes an all-Egyptian top three, while New Zealand's Joelle King and France's Camille Serme round off the top five.

Egypt's Nouran Gohar stays at No.6, with England's Laura Massaro (No.7), Sarah-Jane Perry (No.8), Malaysia's Nicol David (No.9) and Alison Waters taking up the remainder of the spots inside the top 10.

Hong Kong's Annie Au sits at No.11 ahead of Wales' Tesni Evans, England's Victoria Lust, United States' Olivia Blatchford and Egypt's Salma Hany.

## HONG KONG DUO MAKE HISTORY



Hong Kong have two male players in the top 20 of the PSA Men's World Rankings for the first time ever this month ever after 28-year-old Leo Au rose a place to sit behind compatriot Max Lee, who currently occupies the World No.19 spot.

Au claimed two PSA World Tour titles throughout the 2017/18 season with wins at the HKFC International on home soil and the Malaysian Open and his ranking of World No.20 is a career-high.

Egypt's Mohamed ElShorbagy celebrates his 33rd month at the summit of the World Rankings - which brings him level with the legendary Amr Shabana as the longest-reigning Egyptian World No.1 - and is one of four Egyptians residing in the top five ahead of compatriots Ali Farag, younger brother Marwan, Tarek Momen and Germany's Simon Rösner.

The rest of the top 10 is unchanged, with Colombian Miguel Angel Rodriguez (No.6), France's Gregory Gaultier (No.7), Karim Abdel Gawad (No.8), Ramy Ashour (No.9) and Paul Coll retaining their places inside the top 10.

### PSA Women's Rankings – July 2018

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

### PSA Men's Rankings – July 2018

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

## EGYPT TAKE TOP HONOURS AT PSA AWARDS



Egyptian World No.1s Mohamed ElShorbagy and Nour El Sherbini were the big winners at the 2017/18 PSA Awards as they collected the Player of Year Awards in recognition of their exploits over the past season on the PSA World Tour during a gala dinner on the eve of the season-ending ATCO PSA Dubai World Series Finals.

ElShorbagy was presented with the men's trophy following an empathic return to the top of the game that saw him win seven major titles, including the 2017 PSA World Championships crown, during the campaign.

El Sherbini, meanwhile, was honoured with the women's award after a season that saw her claim four PSA World Series titles - the Hong Kong Open, inaugural Saudi PSA Women's Squash Masters, Tournament of Champions and British Open - as one of only two female players, alongside Nour El Tayeb, to collect multiple World Series title this season.

Egyptian Women's World Champion Raneem El Welily collected the Female Spirit of Squash Award. Chosen by her fellow players, the prize goes to the player who best demonstrated sportsmanship throughout the season both on and off court - while Rodriguez collected the men's award.

### Malaysian winner

Rising Malaysian talent Sivasangari Subramaniam was named Women's Young Player of the Year following a season that saw her impress in front of the SQUASHTV cameras at the Open International de Squash de Nantes and the El Gouna International - during a season that also saw her reach the world's top 40.

Peruvian Diego Elias, the former World Junior Champion, was named Men's Young Player of the Year for the second year running.

The final prize of the evening went to PSA Chairman Ziad Al-Turki, who was presented with the PSA Services to Squash Award by the PSA Foundation in recognition of his contribution to the sport during the past twelve months.

The year saw Al-Turki mastermind the staging of the Saudi PSA Masters, bringing professional women's sport to Saudi Arabia for the first time in history and creating a legacy in the country to help promote women's sport to a wider audience, while he also secured the staging of the ATCO PSA Dubai World Series finals for the third consecutive year in Dubai.

Men's Player of the Year Winner: Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY), Runner-up: Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL). Women's Player of the Year Winner: Nour El Sherbini (EGY), Runner-up: Joelle King (NZL). Men's Young Player of the Year Winner: Diego Elias (PER), Runner-up: Mostafa Asal (EGY). Women's Young Player of the Year Winner: Sivasangari Subramaniam (MAS), Runner-up: Hania El Hammamy (EGY). Spirit Of Squash – Men's Winner Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Women's Winner Raneem El Welily (EGY). Services To Squash Awarded to Ziad Al-Turki. Shot of the Year – Men Winner Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL), Women Winner Nour El Tayeb (EGY). Match of the Season – Men Winne: Raphael Kandra (GER) 3-2 Marwan ElShorbagy (EGY) – 2018 Allam British Open, Quarter-final. Women: Winner Nour El Tayeb (EGY) 3-2 Joelle King (NZL) – 2018 Windy City Open, Final



### WSF LEVEL 3 DEBUTS

The very first WSF Level 3 Coaching Course was held in mid-June over a period of five days in the Hungarian capital Budapest. WSF Tutors from around the world gathered to together deliver the new syllabus written by Peter Hirst, who unfortunately due to health issues could not be there himself.

The course aims to teach coaches how to work up to a national squad level. This attracted 19 candidates from Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Ukraine.



After a recap of the L1 and L2 content Jon Swain, senior lecturer of Canterbury University in England, conducted an eye-opening session on a games based approach of skill learning, covering anticipation, perception, decision making and deception.

Further session covered physical training, tactical progressions, coach development, match analysis and annual planning and periodisation. All sessions were run as a mix of on court activity and off court lectures and discussions.

A practical assessment ended five days of intensive interaction. Candidates were sent away to work on their post-course assignments, which needed to be submitted in written form including a detailed annual plan and a videoed lesson with a player of their choice but appropriate standard.

Dates set for the next WSF L3 Courses:

23-27 September – Bucaramanga, Colombia  
26 Nov -01 December – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### WORLD SQUASH DAY 2018



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

to promote the sport and support charities. One of the main aims this year, as well as simply encouraging clubs to open their doors to encourage participation, is to use empty daytime courts for projects to welcome disadvantaged young people. For further information do contact World Squash Day coordinator Alan Thatcher at: [alan@squashmad.com](mailto:alan@squashmad.com)

### 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
	Artengo SPG 100 Size S Artengo SPG 100 Size L
	Turbo (AC 114), Turbo Junior (AC 114 Jr) Lasers (AC 111) Sight Guard (AC 112) Kona (AC 119) Kona Junior (AC 119 Jr) Lynx (AC 122) Stiletto (AC 620) Air Frame Small (AC641SM) Guardian AV (AC 660)
	Baller, Coverage Crunch, Dominance Swag, Field, Homerun League, Playoff
	Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)
	Grays GT Eyewear
	Shield Pro R16 Covet R615 Radar R43 Radar Jr R717JR
	i-Mask
	2500 (9903Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43) Overspec (KA642)p
	Mantis Protective Eyewear
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
	ASTM F803
	R615

## GRAINGERS FOR GOLD?



*Natalie Grainger pictured with parents Chris & Jean at the 2014 World Masters*

Former world No.1 Natalie Grainger is set to provide the sole gold medal for the hosts of the 2018 WSF World Masters Squash Championships in Virginia, USA, next month according to the seedings revealed today by the World Squash Federation.

The 15th edition of the biennial championships – but the first to be held in the USA – will take place at the McArthur Squash Center at the Boar's Head Sports Club in Charlottesville from 29 July to 4 August 2018, with 802 athletes from a record 63 nations have entered the 19 men's and women's events in categories ranging from Over-35 to Over-80.

Grainger, who topped the world rankings in 2003, is favourite to lift the Women's Over-40 title. The UK-born and South Africa-raised 41-year-old is a two-time World Masters champion after prevailing in the Over-35 championship both in 2014 and 2016.

Natalie's mother Jean Grainger is also expected to triumph in Charlottesville. With four World Masters titles to her name between 1999 and 2014, the now 75-year-old from Johannesburg is seeded to win gold in the Women's Over-75 event.

Five-time world champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald leads the Australian charge in Virginia where she is seeded to win a third successive Women's Over-45 title.

### Top 2018 World Masters seeds:

Men's Over 35: 1 Laurens Jan Anjema (NED), 2 Alister Walker (BOT), 3/4 Wael El Hindi (EGY), Clinton Leeuw (RSA)

Men's Over 40: 1 Liam Kenny (IRL), 2 Mick Biggs (ENG), 3/4 Lazarus Chilufya (USA), Patrick Chifunda (ZAM)

Men's Over 45: 1 Nick Taylor (JEY), 2 Zuko Kubukeli (RSA), 3/4 Christian Borgvall (SWE), Adrian Hansen (RSA)

Men's Over 50: 1 Michael Tootill (RSA), 2 Chris Walker (ENG), 3/4 Hansi Wiens (GER), David Sly (CAN)

Men's Over 55: 1 Willie Hosey (IRL), 2 Fredrik Johnson (SWE), 3/4 Peter Gilbee (AUS), Brett Martin (AUS)

Men's Over 60: 1 Geoffrey Davenport (AUS), 2 Jeremy Goulding (ENG), 3/4 Udo Kahl (GER), Pierr Roodt (RSA)

Men's Over 65: 1 John Macrury (CAY), 2 Ian Graham (ENG), 3/4 Robert Jan Anjema (NED), Wayne Weatherhead (CAN)

Men's Over 70: 1 Brian Cook (AUS), 2 Barry Featherstone (ENG), 3/4 Norbert Kornyei (USA), Ian Ross (SCO)

Men's Over 75: 1 Adrian Wright (ENG), 2 Gerald Poulton (CAN), 3/4 John Nelson (USA), Desmond Sacco (RSA)

Men's Over 80: 1 Lance Kinder (ENG), 2 Barry Gardiner (NZL), 3/4 Edward Burlingame (USA), Stanley Fanaroff (RSA)

Women's Over 35: 1 Lauren Briggs (ENG), 2 Selina Sinclair (ENG), 3/4 Leah Boody (CAN), Zhenzhen Wu (CHN)

Women's Over 40: Natalie Grainger (USA), 2 Melissa Martin (AUS), 3/4 Samantha Herbert (RSA), Jacqueline Ryder (RSA)

Women's Over 45: 1 Sarah Fitz-Gerald (AUS), 2 Rachel Calver (ENG), 3/4 Shayne Baillie (ENG), Susan Davis (AUS)

Women's Over 50: 1 Sarah Nelson (AUS), 2 Andrea Santamaria (ENG), 3/4 Hope Prockop (USA), Karen Webb (ZIM)

Women's Over 55: 1 Susan Hillier (AUS), 2 Fiona McLean (SCO), 3/4 Mandy Akin (ENG), Sue Williams (AUS)

Women's Over 60: 1 Jill Champion (ENG), 2 Karen Hume (ENG), 3/4 Carole Grunberg (USA), Shirley Whitmore (RSA)

Women's Over 65: 1 Laura Ramsay (CAN) 2 Faith Sinclair (SCO), 3/4 Gaye Mitchell (AUS), Gail White (USA)

Women's Over 70: 1 Ann Manley (ENG), 2 Robyn Prentice (CAN), 3/4 Bett Dryhurst (ENG), Marilyn Kennedy (AUS)

Women's Over 75: 1 Jean Grainger (RSA), 2 Barbara Sanderson (IRL), 3/4 Alma Cave (RSA), Joan Witton (ENG)

Official event website, including full draws:

<http://wsfworldmasters.com/>



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

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

*Covered are:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

- PSA members and non-members can compete in all Satellite Tour tournaments. (To earn points for the PSA World Rankings, players will have to join the PSA).

- All players competing in all WSF & PSA Satellite Tour junior tournaments will need a WSF SPIN registration.

- There will be WSF World Junior Rankings at Under-19 and Under-17 level, separated out of the PSA World Rankings using results from all the PSA World Tour, PSA Regional Tour and WSF & PSA Satellite Tour. These begin at the start of August and will be published monthly.

Register your event [here](#).

**ALEXENDRIANS WIN WORLD SERIES**

Egyptians Mohamed ElShorbagy and Nour El Sherbini – both from the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and current men’s and women’s World No.1s - triumphed at the 2017/18 ATCO PSA Dubai World Series Finals to claim the prestigious season-ending titles.



Overcoming compatriots Ali Farag and Raneem El Welily - the respective men’s and women’s World No.2s, ElShorbagy successfully defending the title he won twelve months ago and El Sherbini claiming the coveted crown for the first time in her career.

In the tournament’s third consecutive season ending staging in Dubai, it was Farag who started stronger against ElShorbagy in the men’s final to take the opening game as he looked to exploits the tired legs of ElShorbagy - with the 27-year-old having reached 12 finals from 14 events played during the campaign.

**The Beast!**

But ElShorbagy showed just why he’s known as ‘The Beast’ on tour as he showed tremendous fighting spirit to level the match before prevailing in a physically punishing third game to set up the platform for victory - which sees him end the season as World No.1, World Champion and World Series Finals champion.

El Sherbini, the 22-year-old from Alexandria who has occupied the World No.1 position unchallenged for the past 26-months, underlined her dominance over the rest of the field as she swept El Welily aside in a one-sided 11-3 opening game.

El Welily, who scalped El Sherbini to win the 2017 World Championship final, managed to find her footing in the second game but it proved to be in vain as El Sherbini regained the upper hand to move 2-1 ahead, before controlling the fourth game to seal the win.

Final Results:[1] Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY) bt [2] Ali Farag (EGY) 3-1: 9-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-8 (51m) [1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [2] Raneem El Welily (EGY) 3-1: 11-5, 9-11, 11-8, 11-5 (41m)

**Current WSF Accredited Companies are**





**ONLY TWO MONTHS TO GO .....** until the first world squash championship ever to be held in China; when the city of Dalian hosts the 2018 WSF Women's World Team Championship.

Dalian, a major city and seaport in the south of Liaoning Province, will stage the biennial WSF championship at the Xigang Gymnasium, from 11-16 September, where holders Egypt (below) will be hoping to retain the title they won in Paris two years ago.



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

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

Event information is [here](#)

REGISTER AT [WWW.SQUASH.ORG.AU](http://WWW.SQUASH.ORG.AU) OR [WWW.WSFCOACHESCONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.WSFCOACHESCONFERENCE.COM)

# WSF WORLD COACHES CONFERENCE

21-23 SEPTEMBER 2018

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT COURSE (WSF LEVEL 2)

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 SARAH FITZ-GERALD FORMER WORLD CHAMPION  
 PAUL PRICE FORMER WORLD NO.1 & AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COACH  
 LIZ IRVING FORMER WORLD NO.2 & NIGEL DAVID'S COACH

## 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:

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

## WSF AGM 2018 TO BE HELD IN CAIRO



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

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

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

Booking details are [here](#).

## SNIPPETS

### MATTHEW'S SECOND BOW



England's Nick Matthew played the final match of his glittering 20-year-career after he lost out to World No.2 Ali Farag on a day that saw an Egyptian quartet claim victories to reach the title deciders at the ATCO PSA Dubai World Series Finals.

37-year-old Matthew was set to retire after defeat to Germany's Raphael Kandra at the Allam British Open meant he failed to qualify for the World Series Finals, but a hamstring injury sustained by World No.3 Marwan ElShorbagy saw the Yorkshireman get a late call-up.

Three wins out of three saw Matthew top Group A but his tournament - and career - came to an end at the hands of Farag as he fell to a 11-5, 11-7 defeat. Matthew, the most successful male English squash player of all time, bows out with 35 PSA World Tour titles – including three PSA World Championship crowns – to his name, while he also claimed a trio of Commonwealth Games gold medals.

Matthew will now take on an ambassadorial and coaching role at England Squash.

"A few people this week have been trying to talk me out of retirement but that's not happening. I'm 100 per cent going to stay in squash, I'm going to have a rest this summer, I've got some camps in the US and I'll have a lot of family time and regroup.

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



## FIRST FOR PHILIPPINES



When Jemyca Aribado beat Kiwi Emma Millar in the final to win the Women's SquashGym International Classic in New Zealand she become the first ever PSA World Tour title-winner from the Philippines. Jemyca Aribado (PHI) bt [5] Emma Millar (NZL)

## MIGUEL WINS ORDER OF MERIT TOO!



After beating top seed Mohamed Elshorbagy in a stunning final to win the Allam British Open, he returned home to Colombia where the Major of Bogota, Enrique Peñalosa presented him with the Order of Merit, the highest decoration for a Citizen from the city.

## AIFA STRECHES & SHIFTS



Malaysian Aifa Azman, stretches on court and tries to shift views too. As she says, "In a society rampant with body shaming, now is

the time for all young women to shift their views of themselves. Squash is a great way for me to keep fit. It can reinforce positive body image and self-esteem and allows me to make new friends around the world too.

To all young women out there, we are stronger than we think we are! Let's make our dreams come true!!"

  	<p>Executive Office: Maison du Sport International, Avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland Administrative Office: 25 Russell Street, Hastings, East Sussex, UK TN34 1QU Tel: +44 1424 447440 Fax: +44 1424 430737 Website: <a href="http://worldsquash.org">worldsquash.org</a></p> <p>Chief Executive – Andrew Shelley: <a href="mailto:andrew@worldsquash.org">andrew@worldsquash.org</a> Operations Manager – Lorraine Harding: <a href="mailto:lorraine@worldsquash.org">lorraine@worldsquash.org</a> Assistant Operations Manager – Jasmine Pascoe: <a href="mailto:jasmine@worldsquash.org">jasmine@worldsquash.org</a> Operations Assistant – Carol Hackett: <a href="mailto:carol@worldsquash.org">carol@worldsquash.org</a></p>  
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