

EUROPEAN SQUASH ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Overview

At the AGM in Birmingham, England on 4 May 2019 19 Member Nations were represented. ESF has 46 Member Nations.

The AGM elected Hugo Hannes (BEL) as President and Jim Hay (SCO) as Vice-President and Jackie Robinson (ENG) was re-elected as Vice-President.

The ESF Board from May 2019 comprises President Hugo Hannes (BEL) and Vice - Presidents Rosie Barry (IRE), Jackie Robinson (ENG), Thomas Troedsson (SWE) and Jim Hay (SCO), supported by Peter Derrick (ESF Treasurer and Company Secretary). Claire Leech is the ESF Office Manager and Joanne Collins is the part-time Office Administrator.

The AGM agreed unanimously with the Board's proposal to make Zena Wooldridge Honorary Member of the ESF.

Key Areas of Business for ESF during 2018-19

Four Board meetings were held during the year in October, February, early May and late June.

Olympic Bid 2024: Together with the entire world of squash, ESF was very disappointed with the decision of the IOC not to include squash in the Olympic Games of Paris 2024. We hope that WSF and the regions can focus on the development of our game in the regions and the countries. In many countries, squash for various reasons is not doing well.

The ESF AGM: The AGM appointed Volker Bernardi (GER) as the chairman of the European Disciplinary and Appeal Panel (EDAP).

The AGM was in agreement to change the 3 terms of 2 years into 2 terms of 3 years for the Board Members in order to help the incoming officer.

The ESF Board:

Established the European Disciplinary Panel that will deal with the first complaints on disciplinary offenses by using the Code of Conduct. The new chairman is Richard Bennett (WAL).

Established a Marketing Group chaired by Thomas Troedsson

The portfolios are:

- Championships Committee: Thomas Troedsson
- Junior Committee: Jackie Robinson
- Master Committee: Rosie Barry
- Referees & Coaching Committee: Jim Hay

The ESF Board has been concerned about its role in the WSF Executive Committee. This Committee should offer the regions a platform where decision are made. In

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many occasions the regions are not involved or consulted at all with the consequences that the regions are too late when the decisions have been made (Dunlop contract, change of SPIN policy, protection of the data of European players by ClubLocker, Voting Review etc). The ESF sent 2 Officers to have an open conversation with the WSF Board in Lisbon to foster a better relationship. The meeting was a constructive one and the ESF underlined that the ESF is a separate organisation with its own responsibilities towards all its Members, not only those that are a member of WSF, but wishes to achieve common objectives.

We hope that this ongoing discussion will come to an end, and that all regions can be a constructive member of the Executive Committee.

In order to have full control over the data of the European players, the ESF created its own identification tool (ESID). All players from all over the world who wish to play the European Junior or Masters circuit must have an ESID. All European players who wish to play in any individual European Championship need to have a SPIN according to the regulations of WSF. It is up to the host of a ESF Junior or Masters event to register the event at the WSF and then ensure the players have a SPIN.

In May 2018, the European Union introduced far more stringent data protection rules (General Data Protection Regulation : GDPR) which affects all organisations which handle personal information of individuals. Last year, we highlighted the implications of transferring SPIN records of European citizens outside the European Union, (via Club Locker) which was under investigation. It was only in July 2019 that we saw the 3 online statements required to be ticket by SPIN candidates. Reading through the statements, the ESF Board felt the data of our players was not protected according to the GDPR. Since this topic is specialised, the Board of the European Squash Federation were advised to obtain legal advice, which we did. We also suggested that our MNFs contact a GDPR specialist in their own country to establish whether these statements were compliant with European legislation.

We were promised a reply by December 15, 2019, but as at the time of publication, ESF has received no reply to its letter.

ESF was invited by WSF to a meeting in Brussels on December 12, 2019 to meet with the new WSF CEO William Louis-Marie, who was introduced by the WSF President Jacques Fontaine. We were able to discuss issues such as the WSF priorities, the relationship between WSF and its regions and especially ESF being the largest region, Club Locker and the European Games. We wish the new WSF CEO a lot of luck and creativity in his job.

Finance

The result for the financial year 2019 was an underlying surplus of €47,848, some €38,000 more than the budget plan. This arises from a net increase in income of €16,700, mainly from Junior and Masters ranking levies (€8,500), ESID fees (€14,350) offset by reduced income of €6,250. In addition there was net underspend of €21,500 mainly on Committee budgets. The exchange rate variance was a marginal cost of €814.

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During the year, one payment was made from the Capital Fund; further acquisition of Livescore equipment (€2,195).

In view of the scale of the underspend, the Board decided to make a further contribution to the Capital Fund of £40,000 (€45,600). After making this contribution, the net surplus is €2,248. The Capital Fund now stands at €100,717 and the accumulated surplus is €174,200.

Senior Championships

European Team Championships 2019

	<u>Division 1</u> (England)		<u>Division 2</u> (England)		<u>Division 3</u> (Portugal)	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
GOLD	England	France	Czech	Germany	Poland	Russia
SILVER	Spain	England	Finland	Finland	Austria	Austria
BRONZE	Scotland	Belgium	Belgium	Czech	Ukraine	Norway

European Individual Closed Championships 2019

The event was hosted by Romania at Bucharest. The finalists were:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
GOLD	Raphael Kandra (GER)	Nele Gilis (BEL)
SILVER	Borja Golan (ESP)	Coline Aumard (FRA)

European Club Championships 2019

The event was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. The medallists were:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
GOLD	Paderborn (GER)	Edgbaston Priory (ENG)
SILVER	Black & White Worms (GER)	Pontefract (ENG)
BRONZE	Edinburgh (SCO)	Paderborn (GER)

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Junior Championships

European Individual Championships U19 2019

The event was hosted by Prague, Czech. The finalists were:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
GOLD	Viktor Byrtus	Karina Tyma
SILVER	Yannick Wilhelmi	Katie Malliff

European Team Championships U19, U17 and U15 2019

	<u>U19</u> (Czech)	<u>U17</u> (The Netherlands)	<u>U15</u> (The Netherlands)
GOLD	England	England	England
SILVER	Switzerland	France	Ireland
BRONZE	Czech	Belgium	Netherlands

Championships Committee

Thomas Troedsson (VP) chaired this committee comprising Michael Gaede (Director), Michael Khan (AUS), Barry Brindle (GIB), Davide Babini (ITA), Rosie Barry (IRE) and Jackie Robinson (ENG). Its annual meeting took place alongside ETC1&2 in Birmingham in May 2019 which Zena Wooldridge (ESF former President) and Claire Leech (ESF Office Manager) also attended. A second meeting took place in Amsterdam in October 2019, attended by the full committee. Martin Wren retired from the Championships Committee in September 2019.

Future Events:

ESF 2020 Championships allocated, some subject to an inspection visit: ETC U15/U17 (Nottingham, England), U19 (Eindhoven, The Netherlands), European Team Championships 1&2 (Eindhoven, The Netherlands), European Team Championships 3 (Ljubljana, Slovenia), European Club Championships (Riccione, Italy) and European Individual Closed Championships (Prague, Czech). ESF 2021 Championships have been allocated, subject to an inspection visit: to U19 (Langnau am Albis, Switzerland) and European Team Championships 1&2 (Helsinki, Finland).

Live Scoring:

This service was launched in Spring 2019, led by Pavel Sladeczek, Live Score Project Lead. A Technical Software Operator is nominated to run each event, providing a live scoring system, using tablets and TV monitors. Marcel Borst and Pavel Sladeczek provided this service at all 2019 Championships.

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Masters

Masters Committee

The committee comprises Rosie Barry (Chairman), Claudio Hassler (Director), Stuart Hardy, Domagoj Spoljar and Petros Tzamaloukas. Thanks to former committee members Manuel Febles and Martin Wren.

The committee hold meetings by Skype and also met in person during the Oporto Masters Open in January 2019.

Masters Circuit

The committee oversee the running of ESF Masters Circuit events. In the past 12 months, a total of 17 tournaments were held (an increase of 2 from last year) catering for over 1,980 player entries (increase of +14% on 2018). The committee assist with the smooth running of these events and in particular, work closely with tournament organisers with seeding and draw composition. Tournament evaluations are also carried out by the committee, including an online player survey.

- Portugal Grand Prix 2019
- Swedish Masters Open 2019
- Spanish Masters Open 2019
- Slovenian Masters Open 2019
- Czech Masters Grand Prix 2019
- Hungarian Masters Open 2019
- French Masters Open 2019
- Swiss Masters Grand Prix 2019
- Belgian Masters Open 2019
- Finnish Masters Open 2019
- Italian Masters Open 2019
- German Masters Super Series 2019
- Polish Masters Open 2019
- Malta Masters Open 2019
- Dutch Masters Open 2019
- Welsh Masters Open 2019
- Slovenian Masters Open 2019

The European Masters ranking list is updated by the Director of the Masters committee after each event.

The biennial European Masters Individual Championships was hosted by Austrian Squash in Vienna in August 2019. Over 470 European masters players from 25 nations competed in this successful event.

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Juniors

Juniors Committee

The Juniors Committee comprises Jackie Robinson (Chairperson), Lee Drew (England), Jan Mutina (Czech Republic), David McAlpine (Denmark), Oliver Pettke (Germany) Andrew Evans (Wales), Pascal Bruhin (Switzerland) and Kim Hannes (Belgium), Michael Gaede (Germany) and Thomas Troedsson (Sweden).

The committee is involved with seeding European Junior Championships and Junior Circuit Super Series events. Michael Gaede is Director of seeding. It has also been responsible for the selection and grading of the tournaments on the European Junior Circuit. The Juniors Committee meets in person once a year during the European U19 Championships.

In January 2019, an updated ranking system was introduced and well received, combining ranking results different age categories.

Junior Championships

The 2019 European Junior Under-19 Individual and Team Championships took place in Prague. Local hero Viktor Byrtus secured the boys title beating Yannick Wilhelmi of Switzerland while Karina Tyma claimed a first title for Poland overcoming Katie Malliff England in the final. Toufik Mekhalfi, France, had a successful run taking the bronze medal from Sam Buckley of Ireland and in the girls the top 2 seeds from England saw Elise Lazarus defeat Alice Green for the bronze medal. In the Under-19 Team Championships, England overcame Switzerland in the final with the local Czech Republic taking the bronze.

The 2019 European Junior Under-15 and Under-17 Team Championships were held in Eindhoven with 39 teams from 22 different nations. In the Under-15 Championships once again England beat France in the Final, with Belgium winning the bronze, and in the Under-17 Championships England beat Ireland in the Final with the Netherlands taking the bronze.

Junior Circuit

During the 2019/20 season there were 31 tournaments in 30 different countries. In September 2019 the top four U-19 boys and top four U-19 girls on the 2018/9 Junior Circuit received valuable PSA membership prizes, together with the top U17 players. The European Junior Committee would like to thank all tournament organisers and the PSA for the prizes for the top 4-players in the circuit.

Regular communications are being sent out to Members and Organisers, and the Guidelines and tender documents for running these events have recently been revised. All circuit event participants are invited to complete an online player survey, whereby the responses are collated and shared with the host and Committee.

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Coach Education & Development

The ESF Coaching Committee comprises Jim Hay (Chairman), Michael Khan (director), Peter Hirst, Ronny Vlassaks, Csaba Altvater and Colin White.

Coaching L1

March 2019 - Moscow Russia (17)
March 2019 - Budapest, Hungary (16)
June 2019 - Bucharest, Romania (6)
August 2019 - Tel Aviv, Israel (14)
August 2019 - Moscow, Russia (12)

Coaching L2

May 2019 - Beverwijk, The Netherlands (7)

Future Plans

A coaching conference is planned for 2020 which ESF is part funding. A level 3 course is planned which ESF is part funding.

Refereeing

ESF donated £25k towards the WSO project.

The ESF Referee Committee comprises Jim Hay (Chairman), Tomas Forter (director), Roy Gingell, John Massarella, Marko Podgorsek, Martin Roberts and Marc Palmieri. Martin Wren is no longer a member of the Committee but will act as a consultant when required.

Assessments

During 2019, 149 assessments were completed as follows:

ETC Division. 3 - Lisbon:	19
ETC Divisions. 1 & 2 - England:	74
U19 Individual/Team - Czech:	27
U15/U15 - Netherlands:	11
BJO/Czech Open & French Nationals:	18

This is a notable achievement and thanks are extended to the team of assessors who worked long hours undertaking assessments, providing feedback and mentoring; and to the referees who have responded in the best way possible by welcoming the assessment process and helping to make it workable and effective.

WSF Referees

Roy Gingell - Wales
John Massarella – England
Ralf Harenberg – Germany
Tomas Wachter- Austria
Marko Podgorsek- Slovenia

WSF Regional Referees

Wendy Danzey - England
Dean Clayton - England
Torsten Maltzahn - Germany
Jacques Wielandt - Netherlands
Marco Van Den Berg - Netherlands

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Tomas Forter – Czech Republic
Marc Palmieri - France

Joe Ruddy - Ireland

Future Plans

A referee conference is planned for 2020.

Many Thanks

The ESF Board would like to convey it's thanks to the ESF Treasurer, Committee Directors and their members, whose huge time commitment and expertise is such a critical factor in driving ESF forward, supporting Member Nations and ensuring players have a high quality squash experience. Thanks also to our Championship and tournament hosts for their enthusiasm and commitment.

Finally to Claire and Joanne in the ESF office for the efficient administrative and financial support through the year, to the Board, committees and Member Federations.