

## APPENDIX C

### EUROPEAN SQUASH FEDERATION ANNUAL REPORT January to December 2014

**WORLD  
SQUASH**

ANNUAL REPORT  
2014

**EUROPE**

#### Overview

15 Member Nations were represented at the AGM held in Riccione, Italy on 3 May 2014. Pavel Sladeczek (CZE) was elected as a new Vice-President and Marcel Borst (NED) re-elected for a second term as Vice-President.

The ESF Board from May 2014 comprised Zena Wooldridge (President), and Marcel Borst, Jacques Fontaine, Reidun Ribesen and Pavel Sladeczek as Vice-Presidents, supported throughout the year by Peter Derrick (ESF Treasurer and Company Secretary). The Board met 4 times in 2014, twice in Birmingham, once during the European Team Championships in Riccione, Italy and alongside the WSF Conference in Philadelphia in October. ESF was represented by its President at 2 WSF Board meetings in London and Philadelphia.

The ESF office, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year located just outside Birmingham, continues to operate effectively by our 2 part-time colleagues, Zoe Reece and Jody Jones, and we thank them for their continued support and flexibility.

The ESF Board has followed with interest during 2014 the emergence of the IOC's Agenda 2020, and we continue to be optimistic with regard to squash's presence in some form in Tokyo 2020. We recognise the huge personal commitment of WSF's President Mr Ramachandran to squash's campaign, and would like to record ESF's appreciation.

In November, ESF responded to a request to contribute to the production of a WSF strategic plan. ESF is very supportive of such a plan, and the value it will bring to the development of the sport world-wide if we have an effective strategy with buy-in from Member Federations and all 5 Regions. We look forward to seeing the completed draft, and contributing further to its completion and roll-out.

#### Key Agenda Items for the ESF Board during 2014

The ESF Board's agenda over the last 12 months has included the following key areas:

- Review of the fee structure for ESF Championships (entry & package fees), driven partly by the Board's concern over the lack of tenders for our major championships.
- Redesign of all medals and plaques (with new logo)
- Successful introduction of the European Masters' Circuit, led by Director Jackie Robinson
- On-going discussions with PSA regarding: i) introduction of more PSA satellite events across Europe; ii) discussions on urgent need for PSA protected dates for the European Individual Closed Championship; iii) the proposal of a European Under 23 Circuit
- Complete re-writing (streamlining) of ESF Championship Regulations
- Introduction of on-line entries
- Consideration of the requirement for proxy voting at General Meetings

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## ESF Membership

ESF had 45 full members during 2014 following the acceptance of Romania, Bulgaria and Jersey as full members at the AGM in 2014.

## Finance

The financial year 2014 resulted in a surplus of just under €29,000 some €13,000 greater than the Budget plan. The main reasons for the over-performance were savings on Office Overheads (€3,000) and Committee Expenses (€12,000) offset by additional Exchange Rate costs (€2,000). This has increased Reserves to a much more prudent level of €66,000. However in 2015 ESF is likely to face further exchange rate losses as the Euro weakens.

## Senior Championships

### European Team Championships 2014

	<u>Division 1</u> (host: Italy)		<u>Division 2</u> (host: Italy)		<u>Division 3</u> (host: Croatia)	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>England</b>	Switzerland	Belgium	Hungary	Hungary
SILVER	France	France	Wales	Spain	Poland	Sweden
<b>BRONZE</b>	Germany	Czech Rep	Sweden	Germany	Malta	Ukraine

### European Individual Closed Championships

The event was hosted by France in June 2014 the city of Valenciennes. The finalists were:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>Gregory Gaultier (France)</b>	<b>Camille Serme (France)</b>
SILVER	Mathieu Castagnet (France)	Line Hansen (Denmark)
<b>BRONZE</b>	Gregoire Marche (France)	Lucie Failova (Czech Republic)

### European Club Championships

The event was held in September 2014 in Nottingham, England comprising 12 men's teams and 8 women's teams. The medallists were:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>B&amp;W RC Worms (Germany)</b>	<b>Mulhouse (France)</b>
SILVER	Paderborn SC (Germany)	Newlands (Scotland)
<b>BRONZE</b>	Mulhouse (France)	Pontefract (England)

## Championships Committee

The committee comprises Marcel Borst (Chairman), Martin Wren (Director), Michael Khan (AUS), Peter Koeck (GER), Thomas Troedsson (SWE), Barry Brindle (GIB) and Davide Babini (ITA). It held its annual meeting alongside ETC 1&2 in Riccione Italy in late April.

Members of the committee have been involved as Technical Delegates with the events and the committee condensed each championship's regulations into one set of regulations for all Championships. Other responsibilities include technical inspection visits, AGM motions, changes to regulations, discussions with PSA/WSA and review of championship fees.

### **Masters Sub- Committee**

The Masters Committee can celebrate a landmark year, despite a range of challenges regarding committee composition and ranking system. The committee, comprising Jackie Robinson (Chairman), Martin Wren, Pavel Sladeczek, Colin White, Peter Koeck, Mark Woodliffe and Davide Babini steered the introduction of the ESF Masters' Circuit with the following inaugural tournaments:

April	Czech Masters
May	Budapest Masters
September	Italian Masters
October	German Masters
October	Polish Masters
November	Dutch Masters

The Masters Committee has been frustrated in not being able to get the masters ranking system up and running, as this also helps with seeding events. This has now been picked up by Pavel Sladeczek, and will be fully operational for the 2015 season, along with the first ESF Masters' Newsletter.

ESF colleagues and masters players generally are heartened to hear of Peter Koeck's steady recovery from serious illness, and wish him well. His expensive knowledge and expertise has certainly been missed within ESF since his illness.

## **Juniors**

### **Junior Championships**

The 2014 European Junior Under-19 Individual and Team Championships took place in Helsinki, Finland in April. Richi Fallows from England won the Boys' Individual Final while Nele Gilis, Belgium, won the Girls' Individual Final. In the Under-19 Team Championships England beat Spain 3-0 in the Final.

The 2014 European Junior Under-15 and Under-17 Team Championships were held in May in Prague, Czech Republic. In the Under-15 Championships, with 18 countries, England beat France 3-0 in the Final and in the Under-17 Championships, also with 18 countries, England beat France 3-0 in the Final.

### **Junior Circuit**

The European Junior Circuit continues to grow in the number and strength of entries. A number of 3684 entries were recorded for the 2013-2014 Junior Circuit.

In July 2014, the top 4 U-19 boys and top 4 U-19 girls on the 2013/14 season's Junior Circuit received valuable PSA and WSA membership prizes. Congratulations to Angus Gillams, England and Nele Gilis, Belgium for winning the ESF Tour 2013-2014.

During the 2013/14 season there were 27 tournaments in 26 different countries - the tournaments attracted 3684 entries. The 2014/15 season has attracted 28 tournaments in 27

different countries. The European Junior Committee would like to thank the PSA and WSA for the prizes for the top 4-players in the circuit. We also like to thank all organizers.

### **Juniors Committee**

The Juniors Committee comprises Reidun Ribesen (Chairman), Thomas Troedsson (Director) and Ronny Vlassaks (Belgium), Michael Müller (Switzerland), Frederic Lecomte (France), Fiona Geaves (England), David McAlpine (Sweden), Oliver Pettke (Germany), Pavel Sladeczek (Czech Republic) and Andrew Evans (Wales).

The committee has been involved with the seeding of the European Junior Championships and the Junior Circuit Super Series events. It has also been responsible for the selection and grading of the tournaments on the European Junior Circuit. The Juniors Committee has been working on an update of the current Junior Circuit Guidelines and Junior Championship Rules. It meets once a year during the European U19 Championships. Future plans include the introduction of an Under 23 tour during 2015, recognising the importance of supporting our transitional players (junior to senior).

### **Coach Education & Development**

The committee met in April 2014 in Vienna to review the L1 syllabus and discuss the possible merging of the ESF and ASF L1 syllabi into a new WSF Level 1 course.

On behalf of WSF Peter Hirst produced a new syllabus for a WSF Level 1 Course that merges the ESF and ASF programmes. Following the completion of the new syllabus ESF invited all existing National and ESF Level 1 tutors for re-training. This was carried out together with WSF in January 2015 in Prague.

In May 2014 Pavel Sladeczek was elected as new ESF Vice-President and also became the new Chair of the Coaching Committee.

Members of ESF Coaching Committee participated in the realization of WSF Development and Coaching Conferences in June in Poland. Michael Khan, Ronny Vlassaks, Csaba Altvater and Peter Hirst held lectures in Krakow.

ESF coaching courses continued to attract candidates from all over Europe. Over the years we have had participants from 32 countries.

13 courses covering 150 participants were delivered by ESF tutors Peter Hirst, Colin White, Ronny Vlassaks, Michael Khan, plus various National Level 1 Tutors in their home countries.

#### **Level 1:**

January 14	National Course	Kiev/Ukraine	16 candidates
February 14	National Course	Helsinki/Finland	8 candidates
March 14	National Course	Malta	9 candidates
April 14	ESF Course	Budapest/Hungary	11 candidates
September 14	National Course	Gibraltar	12 candidates
October 14	National Course	Athens/Greece	15 candidates
November 14	National Course	Bucharest/Romania	16 candidates
December 14	National Course	Prague/Czech Rep.	5 candidates

### **Level 2:**

January 14	National Course	Kiev/Ukraine	10 candidates
April 14	National Course	Warsaw/Poland	14 candidates
June 14	ESF Course	Prague/Czech Rep.	10 candidates
September 14	ESF Course	Malmo/Sweden	12 candidates

### **Level 3:**

June 14	ESF Course, Part 1	Budapest/Hungary	12 candidates
September 14	ESF Course, Part 2	Rotterdam/NED	3 passes

## **Refereeing**

The ESF Referees Committee, led by Martin Wren (Committee Chairman) and Roy Gingell (Committee Director and WSF World Referee) is pleased to report on progress and some important successes achieved during 2014 – 2015,

The total number of formal referee assessments completed on a rolling 3 year basis since 2012 stands at **600** with an overall total of **1689** since the CBTA programme started in 2007. Over the last 12 months **159** assessments were completed as follows:

ETC Division. 3, Croatia:	32
ETC Divisions. 1 & 2, Italy:	90
British Open:	17
EICC, France:	6
Poland –Nationals	9
British Junior	3
British Nationals	2

ESF Refereeing Committee now has information on 177 European based Referees from 31 ESF countries since 2007. 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.

The current number of number of WSF Referees in Europe stands at 6, which is 27% of total WSF Referees, with the number of WSF Regional Referees at 7.

### **WSF Referees**

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

### **WSF Regional Referees**

Wendy Danzey -England  
Dean Clayton -England  
Jos Aarts -Belgium  
Jaques Wielandt -Netherlands  
Marco Van Den Berg -Netherlands  
Joe Ruddy -Ireland  
Torsten Maltzahn-Germany

ESF has a robust Assessment process and has targeted Referees in all area and will appoint further Regional Referees in the future in accordance with the WSF CBTA standards. . The ESF Referee Committee believes this reinforces our support and commitment to the WSF CBTA standards and the way forward for referee development.

An important objective for the Committee has been to fulfill commitments regarding referee development and delivering courses to meet the needs of WSF level 1 (introductory) and level 2 (national) referees. The Committee is pleased to report that during 2014/2015 training courses were held in the following countries:

Romania      Introductory Level, 11 candidates  
Sweden:      1 workshops, 10 candidates  
Poland:      National Level course, 15 candidates  
Greece:      Introductory level, 24 candidates  
Italy          National Level Course, 12 candidates

In addition courses are planned for later in 2015, with preparations ongoing with Gibraltar, Israel and Malta.

ESF has also been fully supportive and involved in WSF initiatives aimed at developing a global policy and strategic plan for referees and refereeing and some important progress has been made, in particular in developing and agreeing global standards for the appointment and re-appointment of all levels of referee. Europe is committed to playing a continuing role in debating and influencing issues and in agreeing the future policies and strategies.

Europe's achievements to date in referee development and its influence globally was recognized with the appointment in October of Roy Gingell as WSF Director of Refereeing. The Board would like to congratulate Roy on his appointment, and the urgency with which he has produced and published a new WSF Referee Strategic 4 year Plan.

It is evident that the ESF Referee Committee has had another successful year with regard to referee development, with some notable objectives achieved. However, the committee remains ambitious with regard to its future aspirations and targets, not only with regard to referee development in Europe, but also its role and contribution to WSF's referee development processes and plans.

### **Marketing**

To study and try to develop how to raise the profile of ESF Events. This in order to see how host clubs can elaborate the most possible welcoming context and evaluate the possibilities to "brand" the ESF events. Finding eventual new partners is also part of this process. The English version of the program of the European Masters Games has been forwarded to the board. The City of Nice desire to manage the complete event by itself.

### **ESF Management Board:**

Zena Wooldridge, Pavel Sladeczek, Reidun Ribesen, Jacques Fontaine, Marcel Borst  
March 2015

