

European Masters Squash Circuit

Quarterly Update

ISSUE 05—January 2017

WORLD
SQUASH

EUROPE



A Message from the Chairperson, Pavel Sladeczek

We have completed another year on the Masters Tour and I am very happy to see the results. Not only were there 11 great tournaments with 1,200 participants, but we were also able to enjoy squash, get to know new places, meet old and find new friends and have a great time.

This would not be possible without the hard work of the Masters Sub-committee members. I am more than satisfied to work with a such great team. A lot of things were invented or improved. They all work as volunteers, working in their free time and making superb progress - the Masters newsletters are published quarterly; seeding and draws are made for each tournament; post tournament surveys are sent and tournaments evaluated and assessed. In addition, we regularly update and publish information on the [ESF Website](#).

With regard to social media, the number of members in our Facebook Group, [European Squash Masters](#), is growing fast - more than 1,300 members to date! At the same time our guidelines and regulations have evolved and have been updated as a result. However, we still have to make some improvements - we have to correct the Masters rankings, now our focus and our priority.

I want to thank all players taking part in the tour and wish them all the best for next year and hope to see you at one of the upcoming tournaments. A special thanks to the Masters Sub-committee members for the big effort and a very good job done during 2016.

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Polish Masters Grand Prix, Wroclaw

October 2016

by Klaudyna Zarowna

WORLD
SQUASH

EUROPE

M35+

- 1 - [GER] Stefan Leifels
- 2 - [CZE] Karel Svoboda
- 3 - [NOR] Wiggo Olsen

M40+

- 1 - [ISR] Dovik Haruzi
- 2 - [NOR] Richard Larsson
- 3 - [CZE] Vít Barnáš

M45+

- 1 - [GER] Predi Fritsche
- 2 - [FIN] Esa Naukkarinen
- 3 - [NOR] Eyvind Strømsvåg

M50+

- 1 - [SWE] Jonas Ulvsbäck
- 2 - [SWE] Lennart Niklasson
- 3 - [GER] Marko Kruse

M55+

- 1 - [BEL] Jean-Marc Fraipont
- 2 - [GER] Felix Paal
- 3 - [CZE] Pavel Sladeczek

M60+

- 1 - [FIN] Kale Leskinen
- 2 - [GER] Uwe Marrek
- 3 - [FIN] Jari Methér

M65+

- 1 - [SWE] Peter Karlsson
- 2 - [SCO] Alex Allan
- 3 - [SUI] Claudio Hassler
- 4 - [CZE] Keith Crawford

W35+

- 1 - [GER] Melanie Kreisel
- 2 - [SWE] Joanne Elgood
- 3 - [POL] Dorota Grzechowiak

W45+

- 1 - [CZE] Denisa Linhartova
- 2 - [WAL] Lynne Davies
- 3 - [GER] Monika Weselkamp

Polish Squash Masters 2016 was held on 7-9 October 2016 at Hasta la Vista club in Wroclaw. There was a total of 104 players participating in 9 age categories.

This tournament was a small test before the **European Masters Championships** which will be held in the same club at the end of August 2017.

The event was played on 10 courts, but another 22 courts were still in reserve as Hasta La Vista, with its 32 courts, is the biggest squash club in the world.

There are still lots of things to improve but generally all players were satisfied and we are looking forward to seeing all masters players in Poland again in 2017.

Click for full [results](#) and [photos](#).





Belgian Masters Open, Bruges

October 2016

by Titia Posdijk-Wilmink (W45+)

WORLD SQUASH

EUROPE

M35+

- 1 - [BEL] Dave De Beule
- 2 - [ENG] Paul Johnson
- 3 - [BEL] Cedric Sadin

M45+

- 1 - [BEL] Stefaan Vereecke
- 2 - [FRA] Nicolas Barbeau
- 3 - [BEL] Adolphe Fernandez-Diez

M50+

- 1 - [POR] Carlos Mendes
- 2 - [ENG] Darren Withey
- 3 - [BEL] Lahourcade Guillaume

M55+

- 1 - [BEL] Jean-Marc Fraipont
- 2 - [GER] Felix Paal
- 3 - [GER] Joachim Gersdorf

W35+

- 1 - [GER] Iris Stockbauer
- 2 - [NED] Karin Thiel
- 3 - [ENG] Sam Mueller

W50+

- 1 - [WAL] Sian Johnson
- 2 - [GER] Felicitas Döhring
- 3 - [WAL] Wendy Norris
- 4 - [WAL] Lynne Davies

First Belgian Masters Open: great fun in Bruges!

This was the first Masters tournament held in Belgium, and it was a truly great experience! Over 100 players from 14 different countries were guests of the



very friendly crew of the Pyramid Squash Club, and the more than capable ladies from the Flemish Squash Federation. We all played at least three, but in most occasions four or five matches. Due to great

organization and planning, all matches ran on time. Quite an achievement for so many matches on just 7 courts!

A fantastic atmosphere amongst players

Work and family life make it difficult to attend all the Masters events, but when I do play, I always enjoy the spirit amongst the players. Hugs, kisses and enthusiastic stories upon arrival between old friends. Fanatic play, but always with a smile and a joke thrown in and true sportsmanship. Very few discussions with the refs. And

many beers afterwards – even if it's not noon yet!

UNESCO World Heritage city of Bruges

Of course, being in a nice city helps to experience the 3-day weekend as a small vacation. Bruges is a lovely his-



toric city, and it was only a 10-minute bike ride from the club. And yes, bikes were made available from the club for those who dared! Players could also sign up for dinner in town, or do a chocolate museum tour – Bruges is chocolate heaven! With quite a few Dutch players and their spouses, we had two fun-filled dinners in typical Flemish style “bier brasseries” – restaurants that have hundreds of beers to choose from. And of course we all had the famous Flemish Fries.

See you in 2017?

For those of you who couldn't make it this year: save the date for next year! Whether it's in Bruges or in the French-speaking part (Wallonia) next year, I'm sure you will have good times in Belgium. Thank you Kim, Tine and Petra and the ESF for making this happen. My husband and I have marked our calendars for next year!

Click here for [Photos](#) and [Full Results](#).

Dutch Masters Grand Prix, Rotterdam

November 2016

by Tom Lucas

WORLD
SQUASH

EUROPE

M35+

- 1 - [BEL] Dave De Beule
- 2 - [NED] Yasser Fayez
- 3 - [CRO] Manuel Fisticic

M45+

- 1 - [GER] Predi Fritsche
- 2 - [SUI] Daniel Werner Oeschger
- 3 - [BEL] Stefaan Vereecke

M50+

- 1 - [SWE] Fredrik Johnson
- 2 - [GER] Uwe Peters
- 3 - [ESP] Marcus Hall

M55+

- 1 - [ENG] Ian Bradburn
- 2 - [ENG] Robert Blair
- 3 - [ESP] Pedro Rios

M60+

- 1 - [ENG] Andrew Clarkson
- 2 - [GER] Uwe Marrek
- 3 - [NED] Marc Veldkamp

M65+

- 1 - [SWE] Peter Karlsson
- 2 - [ENG] Terence Norman
- 3 - [NED] Erik Kooijman

W35+

- 1 - [GER] Melanie Kreisel
- 2 - [HUN] Zsuzsanna Kekesi
- 3 - [NED] Lieke Bootsma

W45+

- 1 - [NED] Karin Thiel
- 2 - [HUN] Leonóra Udvardi
- 3 - [GER] Birgit Fichter

W50+

- 1 - [NED] Marjolein Houtsma
- 2 - [GER] Felicitas Döhring
- 3 - [NED] Marjon Dingemans

Dutch Open Masters 2016 successfully held in Rotterdam

With 79 entries even after a few withdrawals the Dutch Open Masters 2016 was a great success. The

players enjoyed one of the biggest clubs in the Netherlands, Victoria Rotterdam. Playing on the same courts as the World Open 2011, everyone enjoyed the quality of the courts and the bar area which made it a high-quality squash tournament.

Rotterdam known for its architecture and its big harbour made it a nice and enjoyable city to stay and play squash. The tournament hotel (Novotel) was only 1,5 kilometres from the venue. The Novotel had 17 floors which gave the players a nice view around the city Rotterdam.

Because of the large amount of courts we were able to plan many matches on Friday starting at 14:00. All categories were scheduled in groups, which meant that every single game counted. With a lot of great matches and some surprising winners Peter Karlsson (M65+), Andrew Clarkson (60+), Ian Bradburn (55+), Fredrik Johnson (50+), Marjolein Houtsma (W50+), Predi Fritsche (M45+), Karin

Thiel (W45+), Dave de Beule (M35+) and Melanie Kreisel (W35+) all proud winners of the Dutch Open Masters 2016.

We would like to thank all the participants and volunteers who made this event happen.

Also, a special thanks to Matthis Fuhrmann who made a lot of great pictures of this tournament. All the pictures are posted on his [online album](#).

We are already looking forward to the next tournament, the Dutch Open Masters 2017. Next year, we will organise some extra social events to make it an even better event which you will never forget. See you next year!

Tom Lucas
Tournament Director Dutch Open Masters 2016

Full [Results](#) and [Photos](#).





Welsh Masters Open, Cardiff

December 2016

by Nick Guard

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EUROPE

M35

- 1 - [ENG] Keith Timms
- 2 - [WAL] Alexis Cole
- 3 - [WAL] Michael Dickens

M40+

- 1 - [ENG] Jonathan Gallacher
- 2 - [ENG] Paul Johnson
- 3 - [WAL] Matthew Crowley

M45+

- 1 - [FRA] Nicolas Barbeau
- 2 - [ENG] Jason Foster
- 3 - [ENG] Peter Newman

M50+

- 1 - [ESP] Marcus Hall
- 2 - [WAL] Richard Murphy
- 3 - [WAL] Ian Fenner Evans

M55+

- 1 - [BEL] Jean-Marc Fraipont
- 2 - [ENG] Ian Bradburn
- 3 - [ENG] Stephen Edmondson

M60+

- 1 - [ENG] Mark Cowley
- 2 - [ENG] Geoff Redfern
- 3 - [WAL] Alan James

M65+

- 1 - [ENG] Ian Graham
- 2 - [ENG] Terry Belshaw
- 3 - [ENG] Terence Norman

M70+

- 1 - [WAL] Leighton Jenkins
- 2 - [WAL] Brian Phillips
- 3 - [WAL] Eric Robinson

W35+

- 1 - [ENG] Natalie Lawrence
- 2 - [SWE] Joanne Elgood
- 3 - [WAL] Rachel Cooper

W45+

- 1 - [ENG] Andrea Santamaria
- 2 - [WAL] Helen Barnard
- 3 - [ENG] Alison Goy

W50+

- 1 - [WAL] Sian Johnson
- 2 - [SCO] Eunice Bond
- 3 - [WAL] Lynne Davies

W65+

- 1 - [ENG] Ann Manley
- 2 - [WAL] Lynne Mckenna
- 3 - [ENG] Bett Dryhurst

Wales European Squash Masters Open 2016 – Age is but a number!

Over the weekend of 9th-11th December Cardiff welcomed 130 squash players from all over Europe for the Wales leg of the 2016 European Squash Federation's



(ESF), European Masters Circuit. The first time the Wales Masters Open has been included on the European Circuit.

Masters Squash is for all players over the age of 35 with tournaments and competitions for both men and women in five year age categories from 35+, 40+, 45+....etc up to 75+. Many participants are ex full international squash players with a desire to continue a high level of competition after their earlier achievements, although many participants could also be late developers or players who took up the game later on in life. But all have one thing in common, and that is that they

have achieved a high standard in the sport.

With the large entry the tournament was dually hosted by Squash Wales at Sport Wales National Centre in Sophia Gardens and Cardiff Squash Rackets Club just a few hundred metres away, and with the official tournament hotel being The Angel, the set-up provided an excellent combination, right in the heart of Cardiff City Centre with its numerous visitor attractions and some

superb Christmas shopping close at hand to compliment the Squash.

The weekend kicked off at mid-day Friday with some close encounters going on until late in the evening. After a quick shower, the 'just as important' social side got into swing with a buffet and for those who perhaps hadn't exerted too much energy during the day there was plenty of late night dancing to an excellent Welsh singer.

An early start Saturday for some, saw matches on court at 9am although one or two did need rousing by the organisers, forever looking at their watches with such a busy schedule to get

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Welsh Masters Open , continued

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through. Again matches continued throughout the day and well into the evening before the competitors and their guests were treated to a traditional Welsh Pub experience and meal in the Castle Bar below the Angel Hotel. The meal together with a disco and some short speeches again saw those fitter souls leave just as much sweat on the dance floor as the squash court. In fact it could be argued that one or two of the 70+ category put to shame their younger counterparts in the weekend stamina stakes...it's amazing what a beer or two can do for those aching limbs!

Again an early start on Sunday morning saw some players regretting their antics the night before, but all were present and began battling out the final stages of the tournament, right up to the early afternoon finals. It was inter-



esting to walk around the courts watching the different age groups competing and recognising that age only really affects the sometimes brutal, physical aspects of

the game.... the racket skills however never leave!

Following the final matches, presentations to the winners, runners-up and third place players in each category was performed by Christina Rees MP, a great supporter of Squash in



Wales and herself an ex Welsh International Player.

All competitors had only good things to say about their first Welsh tournament experience and the City of Cardiff generally.

A vote of thanks must go out to all of those who made this tournament a great success with special thanks to Lynne Davies and Mike Workman of Squash Wales, the Wales Masters Committee, the referees, the front desk staff in both venues, the sponsors, and of course the players for coming to Cardiff and making the first Wales European Masters Open a resounding success. Bring on 2017!

Words by Nick Guard, Wales Masters Chairman.

Click here for [Photos](#) and [Full Results](#).

European Masters Individual Championships 2017



We now have all details on the biggest masters event in 2017.

European Masters Individual Championships 2017 will start **Wednesday 30th August 2017 in Wrocław, Poland until Saturday 2nd September 2017**. The club, Hasta La Vista, is ready to welcome a large number of players. It has 32 squash courts, YES 32, and is the biggest squash venue in the World!

The open date for entries is 1 January 2017 and entries will close on 31st July 2017. There will not only be squash celebrations in Wrocław. - the organizers will offer an interesting touristic program for your free time - Old Town Tour, Street Art, Foods of Wrocław, Beer Craft Tour, Odra River Cruise, Hydropolis, Illuminated Fountain etc. More details about the championship are available on www.squash-masters.pl as well as on the [ESF website](#).

ENTRIES NOW OPEN





Player Interviews

Marko Kruse and Birgit Fichter interviewed by Alicja Kulp

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In our October 2016 issue of the newsletter, we informed you that Marko Kruse and Birgit Fichter were top of the leader board in the number of tournaments they have played in; at that time Marko Kruse had played in all 18 tournaments over last 2 years and Birgit Fichter led the way with 12 tournaments in the ladies. I met up with them at the Belgian tournament and asked what motivated them!



I always have good matches and playing against a variety of players helps my game. Of course, it's a great way of socialising and meeting friends.

The circuit is expanding and now includes more cities, so I take the opportunity of visiting some of these cities.

Next year, for example, I look forward to going to Bordeaux and Helsinki.

I don't only play in the Masters Circuit, I also play in other opens such as Moscow and St Petersburg, and I hope to play in Odessa in the Ukraine. It is incredible to see how many women play in these tournaments.

I enjoy all tournaments but the two which stand out for me are Oporto, having a city tour followed by evening dinner right next to the squash courts! It was a lovely setting and an enjoyable tournament; and Budapest - it's great when the organisers arrange a city tour.

My most memorable matches are against Monika Wesselkamp, Renata Nejtkova and Denisa Linhartova, such great opponents.

With more and more people playing, the days for playing are getting longer and longer. I would therefore ask the organisers to give us as much advance notice of matches as possible so that we can plan around our matches and I can get myself organized with transport and food.

Going forward, I look forward to playing as much as possible subject to work commitments and accessibility to locations.

I like the competitions and these tournaments are getting better and better with more tournaments in the circuit and with more and more players. There are new players every time. It started off with only 50 players, and now we see 100 players regularly every time, even when there were 2 tournaments in October this year with Poland and Belgium competing against each other.



With more tournaments, that gives people some flexibility as to which ones they want to play in.

Poland was really well organized, and of course Germany always stands out for me. Italy seems to lose out with the timing of this tournament, but it's always well organized.

I have made a lot of friends from many countries and, with English being the common language, my English is improving - I couldn't speak a word of English 2 years ago!

I plan to go to as many tournaments as I can, but it may be difficult as we all need rest and we're all getting older.

I think 4 matches is enough, 5 matches are a lot and sometimes we see injuries as a result. I personally prefer the Monrad System rather Groups, but I know it's difficult to please everyone and Alan does a great job in trying to make the best draws possible for everyone.

Looking forward to the next!



News and Updates

by Alicja Kulp

Have Your Say!

If you've been playing in some of the tournaments recently, you will have received a questionnaire after the tournament. This is your chance to have your say, your chance to make a difference, your chance to let us know your views. Please take every opportunity as we all strive to improve our Masters Tournament Circuit. It will only take 5 minutes.

Alternatively, please feel free to write to me at Alicja.kulp@europeansquash.com.



Dates for the Calendar

Upcoming Tournaments:

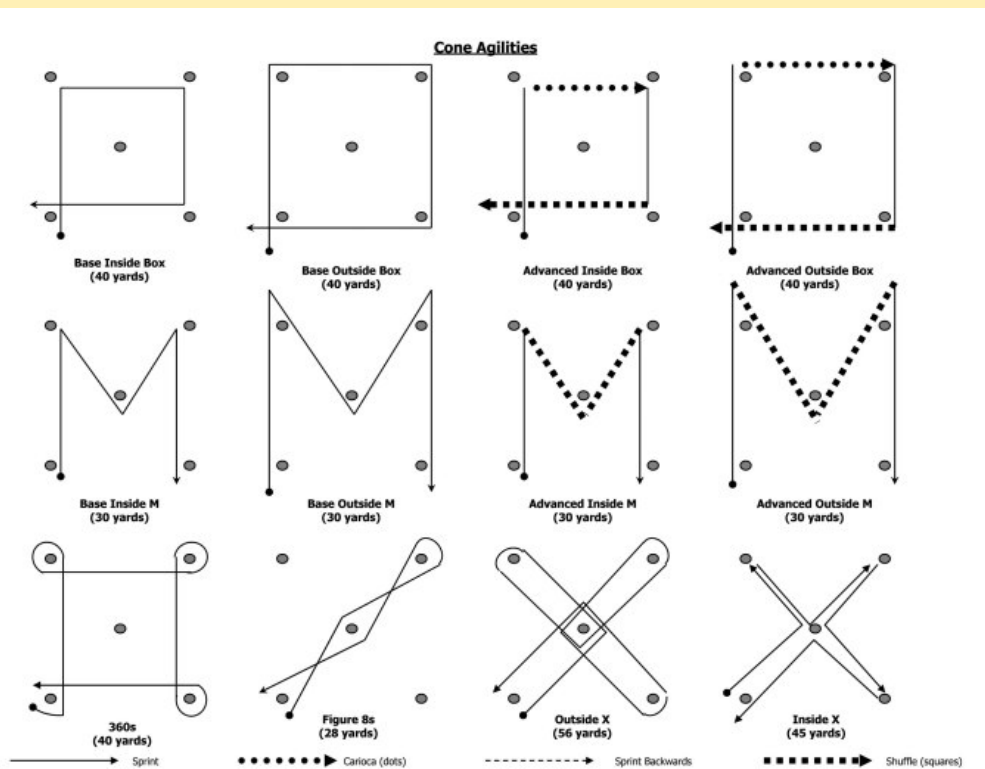
- Oporto, Portugal - 20-22 January 2017
- Santiago, Spain - 10-12 March 2017
- Prague, Czech Republic - 21-23 April 2017
- Budapest, Hungary - 19-21 May 2017
- Bordeaux, France - 2-4 June 2017 - **New Venue!**
- Uster, Switzerland - 30 June - 2 Jul 2017
- Helsinki, Finland - 4-6 August 2017 - **New Venue!**

European Masters Individual Championships

Wednesday 30th August until Saturday 2nd September 2017

All dates are on our [ESF Website Event Calendar](#).

Squash Drills, by [Mark Potter](#)



These drills are referred to as Cone Agilities.

Any of these or combination will promote speed, agility and quickness 3 x 10 repetitions of one or more of the drill patterns, place the cones on the court and follow the patterns at speed focusing and slowing down and turning powerfully.



Tendering for Tournaments

by Claudio Hassler

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One of the main tasks of the Masters Sub-Committee is the ongoing improvement and coordination of Masters Events. We have a commitment to everyone involved to reach a high standard of all tournaments offered as part of the Masters Circuit. We start this commitment by adopting a "Tendering Process" in the use of a registration form, known as the 'Tender'.

Associations Invited To Tender

Members of the National Associations, Tournament Directors and Organisers are invited to complete a

Tender Form which gives details on some of the requirements needed to host a tournament. It includes information about what venues have to offer - technical facilities, number of courts, equipment, accommodation and transport.

During the tournament the smooth running, the attendance of the participants and ongoing online information are key points in ensuring tournaments of the highest standards. That is why we try to define these details in advance in the tender document - details such as refereeing, updated results, audience capacities

(room behind the courts) or the balls used - small details in themselves but together offering a high quality for everyone involved – the organisers, the players and the supporters.



Tenders Are Evaluated

The tenders received are then checked and evaluated by us in a pre-defined process, the same for all countries offering to host a Masters Tournament. We can draw tournament directors' attention to missing points and ask them to correct them. A post-tournament evaluation then provides a guide on its success and allows us to compare each tournament enabling identified improvements for the following year should organisers wish to host another tournament in the following year.

For full details on the form, please refer to the [ESF site](#). Due dates for the next year are as follows:

1st January – Deadline to invite organisers to provide tender

1st March – Deadline for receipt of tender

1st May – Deadline for organisers to be informed if successful or not

1st June – Publication of tournaments for the following year

Ultimately, we focus on a very detailed and complete tendering process, to guarantee the participants a high standard before, during and after the tournaments.

Should you have any questions regarding the tendering process, please do not hesitate to contact [me](#).

PHOTOS

Volker Knerr, Konny Hoellein,
and Matthis Fuhrmann

If you want to receive a copy of the
newsletter via E-Mail, please contact
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