

European Masters Squash Circuit

Quarterly Update

ISSUE 07—July 2017

WORLD
SQUASH

EUROPE



The History of EMIC by Martin Wren, ESF Advisor



With the next EMIC taking place in August 2017, I believe we now have an event that meets the status and expectations of all players wherever they play and that is due to the efforts of a few dedicated people who organise, manage and make this happen – your Masters Sub-Committee.

This championships provides players at all levels opportunities to play on an international basis and to meet and make new friendships. Much esteem and personal pride count for a lot and this will ensure the event continues to gain even more numbers in the future. Please contact us if you wish to raise any concerns - the committee is listening and will respond to your concerns.

The next Championship is scheduled to take place at the 32-court (yes, 32 courts) Hasta la Vista club in Wroclaw, Poland in August 2017 and I hope that as many of you as possible enter this event and help to further progress this fantastic Championships. To enter, please click [here](#).

In our next edition of our European Masters Circuit Newsletter, we will have a special edition covering the history of EMIC, the results, the tournament, the highs and lows. If you would like to share your photos and stories from EMIC, please send them to [Alicia Kulp](#).

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Czech Masters Open, Prague (GP)

April 2017

Sonja Brabcova

WORLD SQUASH

EUROPE

M35+

- 1 - [GER] Julian Wollny
- 2 - [ITA] Filippo Madella
- 3 - [SVK] Lubomir Solcansky

M40+

- 1 - [ISR] Dovik Haruzi
- 2 - [BEL] Dave De Beule
- 3 - [ENG] Paul Johnson

M45+

- 1 - [USA] John Musto
- 2 - [GER] Predi Fritsche
- 3 - [ITA] Alessandro Marcolini

M50+

- 1 - [SWE] Jonas Ulvsbäck
- 2 - [ENG] James Hyatt
- 3 - [GER] Oliver Janssen

M55+

- 1 - [GER] Armin Schmelz
- 2 - [GER] Felix Paal
- 3 - [ENG] Stephen Edmondson



M60+

- 1 - [FIN] Kale Leskinen
- 2 - [SCO] Paul Harris
- 3 - [ENG] Lou Van Talligan

M65+

- 1 - [SWE] Peter Karlsson
- 2 - [FIN] Markku Kaistinen
- 3 - [SUI] René Nuessli

M70+

- 1 - [GER] Bernd Götsch

2 - [FIN] Heikki Teräsvirta

3 - [GER] Dieter Jörn

W35+

1 - [GER] Melanie Kreisel

2 - [CZE] Sona Brabcova

3 - [CZE] Helena Vladyková

W45+

1 - [NED] Karin Thiel

2 - [GER] Iris Stockbauer

3 - [CZE] Denisa Linhartova



I love squash and Prague ...

... a motto which was chosen for the official T-shirt for the Czech Squash Masters Open 2017. This year the tournament was organised by a new team consisting of 3 ladies, 3 squash addicts - Denisa Linhartova, Renata Nejtкова and me (from right to left in title photo), Sonja Brabcova. The tournament hit an absolute record in ESF Masters Circuit history with a total number of 207 players; another record was achieved in the number of new local players and also new players from Europe to the Masters circuit.

Prague hosted players of 24 nationalities not only from all over Europe but some also coming from overseas. The player coming from the furthest distance was John Musto from the USA and Flemming Helgeland, a Norwegian living in Caracas. John as well as Julian Wollny played through the draw with confidence coming from being unknown and unseeded to winning their categories; John in the M45+ and Julian in the M35+ category still active in the German Bundesliga. For John it proved to be good training and prepared him for the Canadian Masters Championship 2 weeks later which he also won.

We had some fantastic finals, but also witnessed many great matches not only from an athletic point of view but also full of fair play. Not every player would admit to a double hit off his racket not seen by the referee nor his opponent, which meant he lost the set and the match. What a formidable gesture!!!

Players also enjoyed themselves during the party on Saturday evening with the last dancers leaving the dancing floor at 3.00 am to continue their matches not that much later.... ☺

There was not much missing in Prague. The organisers went the extra mile to bake home-made biscuits and cakes, and took away our 2018 calendar which contained photos from previous tournaments.

What could be improved for next year is the number of women players. We missed them playing as well as dancing. So maybe next year? Hope to see you all again next year! ☺

Click here for full [results/photos](#).



French Masters, Bordeaux (MO)

June 2017

Pierre Bernard

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EUROPE

M35+

- 1 - [UKR] Kostiantyn Rybalchenko
- 2 - [FRA] Julien Gramond
- 3 - [FRA] Nael Lardjane

M40+

- 1 - [FRA] Stephane Brevard
- 2 - [FRA] Bertrand Tissot
- 3 - [ESP] Jorge Carrera

M45+

- 1 - [FRA] Stephane Gallenne
- 2 - [ENG] Jeremy Krzystyniak
- 3 - [ENG] Matthew Stephenson

M50+

- 1 - [SWE] Jonas Ulvsbäck
- 2 - [ESP] Marcus Hall
- 3 - [POR] Carlos Mendes

M55+

- 1 - [BEL] Jean-Marc Fraipont
- 2 - [ENG] Mark Taylor
- 3 - [GER] Felix Paal

M60+

- 1 - [IRL] Charles Odonnell
- 2 - [ESP] Jose Luis Orizaola
- 3 - [SCO] Paul Harris

M70+

- 1 - [ESP] Jose Luis Alba
- 2 - [POR] Fernando Valentim
- 3 - [FRA] Martelly Vincent-Noel

W35+

- 1 - [FRA] Sabrina Belliot
- 2 - [GER] Stefanie Leiber
- 3 - [FRA] Ariane Paul

W45+

- 1 - [NED] Karin Thiel
- 2 - [ENG] Sam Mueller
- 3 - [SUI] Beatrice Walser

W50+

- 1 - [ENG] Karen Webb
- 2 - [FRA] Christine Gabarre
- 3 - [FRA] Elisabeth Wolf

The first French Masters took place 2-4 June 2017 at the Club de Bordeaux Nord

(SquashBad33) with 98 participants representing 17 European countries. From Friday morning to Sunday 231 matches were played on 10 courts in 10 age categories.

A high standard of squash was played over 3 days with a friendly atmosphere of veterans coming together all with the same passion of playing squash. During the 3 days players and friends were able to taste French food, namely oysters, and good French wine placed on two stands at their disposal.

On Sunday, a high level of squash was clearly evident in the finals:

- In the M35+ Kostiantyn Ribalchenko dominated his category winning all his matches 3.0.
- ◆ In the M45+ Stéphane Gallenne showed similar strengths with a great final against Jeremy Krzystyniak.
- ◆ As for the ladies, in the W35+ category Sabrina Belliot won her first title having conceded only one game.
- ◆ In the W45+ Karin Thiel played against Sam Mueller and eventually took the title winning 3:2.



During the prize giving ceremony, 1 minute of silence was dedicated to the victims of the London attack.

We also had the pleasure of having Jacques Fontaine, the president of the WSF, join us during the weekend.

Thank you to the Club de Bordeaux Nord and the N-AQUI league for organising our first Masters Tournament and thank you to ESF for their support.

All participants were happy with our first Masters event in France, but we also know that we can improve and therefore look forward to seeing you again next year.

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





The British Open Squash Championships

June 2017, Stuart Hardy

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The British Open dates back to 1930 and the Masters (age group) events started in the 1960s and from there more events and illustrious names were added.

Hashim Khan, Jonah Barrington, Qamar Zaman, Ross Norman to name but a few.

With that iconic pedigree the British Open Masters has always been an event that players want to be involved in. This year, taking place at Colets Health & Fitness Club, Thames Ditton, Surrey and being run by England Squash Masters, the event attracted 313 entries from 15 countries. Players from as far afield as Australia, South Africa and the USA all making the trip. This event was probably the strongest Masters Championship for several years with numerous World Champions and former World pro players.

her presence against Amina Helal of Lancs, whose father Moussa is a former Masters Champion. From two games down Helal got into her game and took the third and saved four match points in the fourth before, with some relief, Briggs closed it out 11/9.

WO40 - Keeley Johnson of Kent, one of the Masters Players of the Year was trying to add to her National title this year. Leicestershire's Rachel Calver was up to try and stop her and in a very even match the first two games were shared. The third was strange in that Johnson reeled off seven points in a row to 7/0 and the Calver did the same to level. The Kent woman held her nerve to take

seed and met Orla O'Doherty of Ireland in the final. Her route to the final eased by an injury to second seed Andrea Santamaria. But Hope was the favourite and duly delivered a powerful performance and a 3/0 win.

WO50 - Avon's Rose Bamber the National Champion again played Rachel Woolford in a final. It looked to be all Rose until a stunning fightback from Rachel took the third 17/15. Then the fourth. At two all Rose composed herself and managed to keep ahead through the fifth. Again, National and Open Champion.

WO55 - Fiona Mclean of Scotland and Mandy Akin of Kent are both new to their group and previous winners. This was always going to go to five and be a nail biter! So it proved, both players had match points in the fifth game and eventually it was Fiona that prevailed 19/17 in the fifth in 54 minutes of all over the court action.

WO70 - Ann Manley of Avon and Bett Dryhurst of Worcs have been rivals for years and competed many times. Manley has the edge at the present and so it was with the first and third games being level to around ten before Manley pulled away to take another title with a straight games win.

MO35 - The Men's 35 saw current PSA player Phil Nightingale take on Alex Preston of Bucks. In a match full of powerful hitting and wonderful court movement it was Preston who recovered from the loss of the first and impose himself on the

the game 11/9 and keep ahead. The fourth to become National and Open Champion.

WO45 - Hope Prockop of USA was the defending champion and top



WO35 - The Women's 35s had two former pro players and they duly reached the final. Lauren Briggs of Essex has a lot of National titles and early on stamped



The British Open Squash Championships cont.....

June 2017, Stuart Hardy

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match. In a fiercely contested final he won 3/1.

MO40 - Colets Director of Squash Dave Peck has asked one of his Pro team players Scott Handley to enter the British Open Masters at the home club and Scott happily agreed. All week he has put on a series of Masterclasses and smiled as he displayed his considerable talents. Ireland International Stevie Richardson got married yesterday, played the semi-final and went back to the Reception. His "honeymoon" was on No. 1 court with Handley but there was no happy ending as the Colets star proved too good winning in straight games.

MO45 - Jersey's Nick Taylor has won almost everything in the Masters game and was hot favourite here. Galen Le Cheminant had other ideas and the former England star now playing under the Stars and Stripes and coaching stateside is an immense talent. The first went to Taylor but Le Cheminant started making him and catching him out this his deception. Taylor took the second 12/10 and then had five match points in the third before, much to his relief closing it out 13/11. Nick Taylor World Champion, National Champion and is now British Open Champion.

MO50 - The 3/4 seeds both got through in this event. Eammon Price of Herts. a former Champion put out top seed Andy Cross of D&C while Hampshire's Steve McLoughlin outpaced 'Fast' Freddie Johnson of Sweden in a high octane match with dozens of 80 plus shot rallies.

The Final saw Price, economic, smooth and relentless and McLoughlin all pace and running literally powering around the court. The first two games were long and hard, and shared, but it was McLoughlin who emerged the stronger as he maintained the pressure to win in four games to add the Open to his National title.

MO55 - No one in England seems to be able to compete with Mark Woodliffe, a serial National and Open Champion. So with three time World Masters Champion Trevor Wilkinson of South Africa in the draw the clash was eagerly awaited. And it was the South African, playing with great pace who took the first game but Woodliffe got his range and started to control the match. Moving the ball around beautifully he maintained his grip and took the title 3/1.

MO60 - Defending Champion Clive London (Kent) took on Scotland No. 1 Robin Ridley, the latter having edged past No. 2 seed and former champion Mark Cowley. London started fast and controlled the first game but the Scot struck back to take a commanding lead in the second. London clawed it back but Ridley managed to hand on and take the game.. The effort seemed to drain him and London once again took control to win the next two and take the match 3/1.

MO65 - Steve Jackson of Surrey, just in the age group was always going to be a threat and so it came to

pass. After a tight 17/15 first game he took control of the match forcing National Champion Ian Graham of Sussex into errors to take his first open title.

MO70 - It all seemed to be going to script as top seed Phil Ayton (Sussex). who has won National Championships at every age group, took the first against second seed Rod Boswell of Cheshire, the defending champion. There it changed as Boswell started to catch Ayton with a mixture of firm hitting and clever short play to take the next two games 16/14, 16/14. It took a lot out of Ayton and Boswell powered through the fourth to retain his title. A rare loss for Ayton.

MO75 - A highly anticipated match between current World Champion Adrian Wright of Lecis and the 2014 World Champion Michael Gough of USA, who took the first game. Wright struck back to level and the third went point for point. Wright took it on his third game ball 17/15 then recovered 4/8 down to take the fourth.

MO80 - Over 80s! Remarkable and some remarkable players. Two matches that went to 19/17 in the fifth game in an hour of squash with John Woodliffe squeezing home against World Champion Malcolm Gilham and the Gilham winning by the same score against Pat Kirton of Surrey. The winner however was John Woodliffe who made it another father/son triumph as Mark won the 55s.

Click here for more details on the [British Open](#).



Player Interviews

Melanie Kreisel and Jonas Ulvsbäck

interviewed by Alicja Kulp

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For this issue, I interviewed Melanie Kreisel W40+ and Jonas Ulvsbäck M50+, two regular players in the Masters Circuit, and both with impressive winning track records. I caught up with them to find out what the secrets were to so many remarkable victories.



What motivates me? Well, isn't squash the most beautiful sport in the world? Which other sport would be exciting, fun and crazy at the same time! 😊

In addition of course, you can combine squash with travel – pleasure with sport, a perfect combination. Where else could you watch and play such great matches – the quality and

standard of play is impressive and then I want to train more – that's a good motivator!

If you're reading this and wondering whether to play, come and be part of it – you can improve your level and it will keep you fit as you train at home in preparation – another good motivator. You also meet so many different and interesting people on and off court. So ladies, come and join us – we need more of you! 😊

I don't really remember how many tournaments I've won 😊, but I do know the closest match I've ever had was when I had 12 (yes twelve) match balls and I lost! Then, I lost 19:21 in the 5th at the World Masters Championships in Cologne and finally, the International German Masters Tournament in Krefeld in 2014 – I was 0:2: down in games and 3:8 down in points in the 3rd game and I won....so sorry Iris (Iris Stockbauer), but what a match!!! All such memorable matches.

It is nice to see that so many countries want to be a part of the Masters Circuit, but I think that we have too many tournaments in the calendar, because they will start to compete with one another. I am particularly concerned that the Ladies Events will suffer – an alternative would be for each country to organise a tournament every 2 years. Unfortunately we do not have enough ladies in each category and often have to combine – a suggestion would be to extend the categories 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 etc. Maybe these are two suggestions the committee could consider. Speaking of which, a big thank you to the committee for their work in the Masters Circuit - I am sure this is not an easy job and takes much of your time, so thank you.

My next tournament is the International German Team Championships, a long standing tournament in Germany. I first played in this tournament in 2008 and have tried to play in it ever since. Apart from that, I look forward to seeing you all in the upcoming masters tournaments.



It all started in Helsinki at the World Masters in 2003. I then had a break as a result of family commitments for around 8 years but then restarted in earnest thereafter. Since then, I have won 16 tournaments in the M45+ and M50+ categories with some real battles on court, specifically with Frédéric Canot from France, Georgio Sorio from Switzerland and

more recently James Hyatt from England, all such great players – they made me work so hard for every point.

I love this circuit – it's great to meet people and play squash at the same time. It's really important to have a goal and the circuit gives me that goal, the target to aim for. The standard is high, and certainly over the last 5 years I have seen such an improvement in the standard and quality of squash. More and more people are attracted to the tournaments, particularly in the 40+ and above categories. I also regularly make a holiday out of the week-end too, and Isabel often joins me as well as my daughter, Anna.

I always hope that there will be new cities in the next season and am particularly looking forward to Bordeaux in June 2017. Not only are new cities good for sight-seeing 😊, but also to meet even more new people and to welcome them to the circuit. I often speak to friends in Stockholm to come and have a go – so many come for one tournament and then keep on coming!

Outside of Europe, I have played in Cairo, Egypt at the Gezira Club and in Tel Aviv, Israel at the Raanana Club – some of those Egyptians are such good players.

I'd really like to see official referees at the tournaments – it is one area which I feel can be improved and this would raise the quality of the tournaments even more. I have played in the British Open and hope that one day, they will also join the circuit – that is certainly one tournament where they always have official referees – it makes such a difference.

Overall, I'm really happy with the circuit and am looking forward to my next tournament, as always.

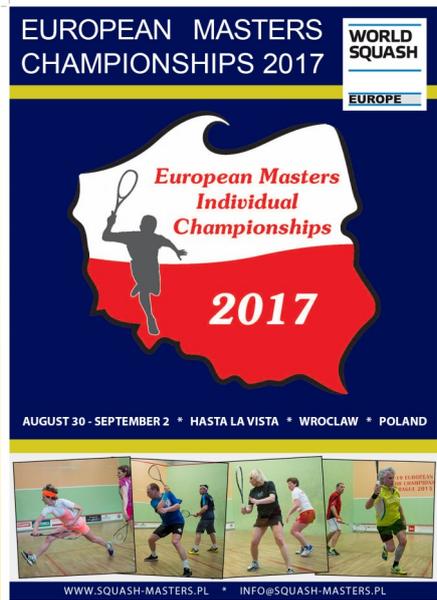


News and Updates

by Alicja Kulp

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PLEASE ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THE START OF
THE TOURNAMENT

10.00 Wednesday 30th August 2017

LATE ARRIVALS MAY HAVE TO FORFEIT THEIR
FIRST MATCHES

Dates for the Calendar

Upcoming Tournaments:

[MO - Helsinki, Finland - 4-6 Aug 2017 - New Venue!](#)

[European Masters Individual Championships](#)

[Wroclaw, Poland](#)

**Wednesday 30th August until
Saturday 2nd September 2017**

[MO - Italian Masters - 15-17 Sept 2017](#)

[GP - German Masters - 29 Sept-1 Oct 2017](#)

[GP - Polish Masters - 27-29 Oct 2017](#)

[MO - Belgian Masters - 3-5 Nov 2017 - New Venue!](#)

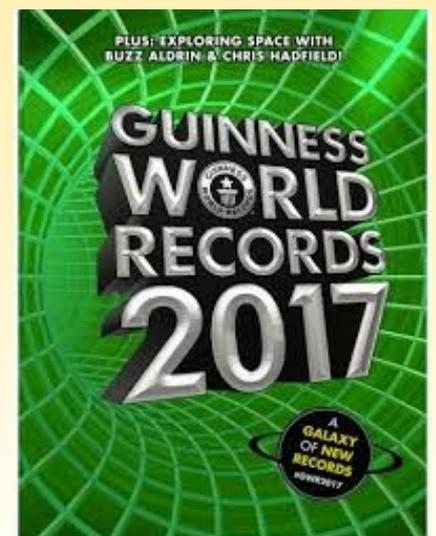
All dates are on our [ESF Website Event Calendar](#).

NEW SQUASH RALLY RECORD!

According to an Excelsior Sports Correspondent, at Jammu in India on April 10 2017: History was created in squash at Jammu as Superpositivity Movement Founder, Vickrant Mahajan and Jammu Club squash coach Krishan Sharma played the longest ever squash rally in the world. The world record rally started at 8.50 am and went on continuously for 33 minutes and 4 seconds.

A total of 1,098 shots was played in the rally by the two players, as they went past the previous Guinness World Record of 1,003 shots played by Ron Matthews and Andrew Pearce in London in July 2014. According to guidelines, neither of the players could hit the ball twice and the ball had to be in legitimate play throughout the rally, implying that it had to be within the out lines and above the tin line.

Also, as per standard game rules, the ball could not bounce on the floor twice before coming in contact with either player's racket. Speaking after the event, Vickrant said, "This was my 80th Guinness World Record within a year, and also the one that entailed the maximum number of tries. All my previous records were usually accomplished in my first or second try, but for this one, I had to perform 11 different attempts on 3 different days with 4 different players before we got it right."





Referee Tips - Foot-Fault

Jean-Marc Fraipont

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The Foot-Fault Convention Rule 5.7.2

This article covers a rule which never seems to be enforced. We see foot-faults all the time. We know what is written in the rules, and we know what should be done, yet we ignore it. Why bother with this rule? Will this change in the future? Who knows - but for now, we need to increase awareness and reflect amongst ourselves and we need to enforce it.



The vast majority of foot-faults go unnoticed – both by players

and by officials. Maybe during an assessment of a Referee things may be different, but.....! Why is that? Unlike a ball that goes out even a half-centimetre, the conventional feeling is that it really doesn't matter much if someone does a foot-fault. Other than the general difficulty of determining a foot-fault in contrast to a ball that is out of court, there's simply no real advantage if that foot is not in the right place – even a major foot-fault. Of course, we want the server to basically be in the box area, but other than that, I'd suggest that few people actually care.

Considerations

However, the rules are the rules, and we are there to enforce them. It would be difficult to have a rule and some-

how blatantly disregard it – even to the point of formally not teaching the enforcement of it. In addition, with constant disregard of the rule, or with no rule at all, the 'slippery slope' principle would no doubt rapidly kick in and the server could start serving from any and every conceivable place.

Suggestions

Let's change our attitude, let's start paying more attention, watch closely and call them early. Foot-fault not only gives players an advantage, but potentially can give rise to embarrassing queries from players, spectators, and other officials. Watch the feet as a routine at the start of every serve, then raise your view to the front wall as the ball is to be hit. Of course, missing a front wall fault lends to greater embarrassment since everyone can generally see that one, so the natural tendency is to look up at the front wall immediately.

Although not in the book, I feel that it is quite appropriate to give a warning (at the end of a rally of course) when a player was close to a foot-fault – the best time being at the start of the match. The warning can be directed to both players, advising them that they have a Referee who'll be paying attention. Of course, we don't go around warning players of the rules in advance of a match as a habit, but because of the generally scattered nature in its application, there's some merit to this approach. On the other hand, an outright call of a foot-fault both penalises and warns – which is even more effective.

PHOTOS

Volker Knerr, Konny Hoellein,
and Matthis Fuhrmann

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

[Pavel Sladecek](mailto:Pavel.Sladecek@european-squash.com)

Hungarian Masters, Budapest (GP) May 2017

M35+

- 1 - [UKR] Kostiantyn Rybalchenko
- 2 - [GER] Jill Witt
- 3 - [HUN] Balázs Lőrnczi

M40+

- 1 - [ENG] Grant Bryant
- 2 - [HUN] Attila Lőrnczi
- 3 - [HUN] András Kiss

M45+

- 1 - [HUN] Zsolt Kovacs
- 2 - [HUN] Peter Nagy
- 3 - [ENG] Peter Newman

M50+

- 1 - [SWE] Jonas Ulvsbäck
- 2 - [ENG] James Hyatt
- 3 - [IRL] Michael Cowhie

M55+

- 1 - [ENG] Stephen Edmondson
- 2 - [GER] Dietmar Jürschik
- 3 - [GER] Lothar Homburg

M60+

- 1 - [ENG] Lou Van Talligan
- 2 - [FIN] Jari Mether
- 3 - [ENG] Sam Balsdon

W35+

- 1 - [HUN] Zsuzsanna Kekesi
- 2 - [GER] Michaela Schneider-Niefer
- 3 - [HUN] Anita Pocsaji

W45+

- 1 - [CZE] Denisa Linhartova
- 2 - [HUN] Leonóra Udvardi
- 3 - [HUN] Judit Guti

W50+

- 1 - [AUT] Konny Höllein
- 2 - [FIN] Sari Ahlblad
- 3 - [HUN] Anna Divéky

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

CONTACTS

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